

Sect Master 521

Chapter 523: Attacks the mountain

With the care of the Gold Core Daoist Master, the safety of the cannon fodder cultivators is somewhat guaranteed. Every time the great formation launches an attack and begins to counter, the Gold Core Daoist Master is able to react promptly and block the counterattack of the great formation. Seeing their own Gold Core Daoist Master being so powerful, the morale of the cannon fodder cultivators is boosted, and they start to attack more fiercely.

The Flying Swan Sect has ruled the Endless Sea of Sand for hundreds of years and has extensive experience in commanding cannon fodder cultivators. In fact, many of the participating cultivators have previous experience fighting under the banner of the Flying Swan Sect. When the Flying Swan Sect commands these cannon fodder cultivators, they do not simply suppress them or let them die in vain. All the cannon fodder cultivators take turns to go into battle, and after each team of cultivators completes their attack mission, they are given a chance to rest.

The efficiency of the cannon fodder cultivators' attacks has greatly improved, and they are starting to exert more and more pressure on the great formation. The Fire Cloud Sect cultivators naturally cannot just stand by and do nothing. They have many means at their disposal, taking advantage of their position behind the great formation.

When it was Qi Nanfei Daoist Master's turn to take care of these cannon fodder cultivators, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame personally controlled the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation and unleashed multiple changes. Not only did it cause a large number of casualties among the cannon fodder cultivators, but even Qi Nanfei Daoist Master himself was left embarrassed and almost injured. Fortunately, Daoist Master Fei Shi and the others reacted in time and launched a counterattack on the great formation, helping Qi Nanfei Daoist Master out of the predicament.

Qi Nanfei Daoist Master, who had been humiliated, became furious. As for those cannon fodder cultivators, they saw that under the care of the Gold Core Daoist Master, they suffered heavy casualties, and their morale immediately collapsed. In the face of life and death, they abandoned their loved ones and fellow disciples and only cared about saving themselves. Wu Mingwei took the initiative to fly over and personally executed a group of people who were the first to flee, which deterred the others.

Then the supervising cultivators from the Flying Swan Sect made efforts to reorganize these cannon fodder cultivators. However, after this incident, it was no longer possible to continue the attack that day, and time was wasted in vain. After a night of rest, the Flying Swan Sect, relying on its rich experience in commanding subordinates, barely managed to control the teams of cannon fodder cultivators. Early the next morning, they continued to drive them into battle.

In the following time, the four Gold Core Daoist Masters continued to attack the mountain-guarding great formation, and the cannon fodder cultivators kept rushing forward desperately. The damage to the mountain-guarding great formation was limited, and the Fire Cloud Sect cultivators remained unharmed. It was the cannon fodder cultivators recruited by the Flying Swan Sect who suffered heavy losses, and even the supervising cultivators suffered significant casualties.

Teams of cultivators dispatched by the Flying Swan Sect were still running around in the Endless Sea of Sand, but it was becoming increasingly difficult to recruit cultivators for battle. The speed of

replenishing the cannon fodder cultivators was far behind the speed of their losses, and it was almost impossible to continue.

Having suffered such great losses, the Taiyi Sect and the Northern Desert Qi Family naturally could not just stand by. It was time for the Taiyi Sect to take action. Although Meng Zhang felt a little reluctant, faced with the current dire situation, he reluctantly ordered the Taiyi Sect to join the battle.

The approach of the Taiyi Sect was similar to that of the Flying Swan Sect, with Taiyi Sect cultivators driving the cannon fodder cultivators into battle. Not only were the newly joined cultivation forces of the Taiyi Sect recruited, but even the members of the Hanhai Alliance and the loose cultivators hired from the Jiuqu League were not spared.

Due to his young age and some remnants of his mindset from before crossing over, Meng Zhang still retained a bit of kindness in his heart. Of course, in the eyes of those decisive cultivators, this was considered weakness. The members of the Hanhai Alliance even regarded him as hypocritical and pretentious. Regardless of what others thought, Meng Zhang tried to act according to his own conscience and make his intentions clear.

Before the war broke out, he spent a lot of money to purchase a large number of mechanical puppets from the Clever Machine Sect. He shamelessly requested Gu Yue Huaidie to intervene and asked the Clever Machine Sect to sell some of their unreleased Mechanical Creations to the Taiyi Sect. The Taiyi Sect had frequent dealings with the Clever Machine Sect over the years and was a rare major customer.

The Taiyi Sect needed the Clever Machine Sect's Mechanical Creations, and the Clever Machine Sect needed various spiritual materials provided by the Taiyi Sect, especially some unique mineral resources from the Endless Sea of Sand. Faced with the strong request from the Taiyi Sect and the face of the Gu Yue Family, the Clever Machine Sect sold some rare Mechanical Creations to the Taiyi Sect and specifically instructed them that these items could only be used internally and must not be leaked.

Before the cannon fodder cultivators launched their attack, the Taiyi Sect cultivators released countless mechanical puppets. In addition to a large number of First Rank puppets, there were also many Second Rank puppets. With the cover of these puppets, the cannon fodder cultivators began to launch attacks on the mountain-guarding great formation.

Meng Zhang spent a huge amount of spirit stones this time, almost emptying the Clever Machine Sect's inventory. Stimulated by the high price of spirit stones, the Clever Machine Sect is now working overtime to produce various Mechanical Creations for the Taiyi Sect.

The cannon fodder cultivators of the Taiyi Sect are also divided into different levels. The newly joined cultivators can be used at will, and even if they are completely consumed, the high-level members of the Taiyi Sect will not feel distressed, at most, Meng Zhang will feel a little reluctant. As for the members of the Hanhai Alliance and the hired loose cultivators from the Jiuqu League, they need to be cherished and cannot be consumed casually. These cannon fodder cultivators, besides the commonly used talismans and magic tools, also have many Mechanical Creations bestowed upon them by the Taiyi Sect. Mechanical Creations like the Rushing Thunder Crossbow and Flaming Blunderbuss do not require the consumption of true qi. They can be easily activated by installing spirit stones. With ample preparation and proper armament, the number of cultivators

mobilized by the Taiyi Sect is far fewer than that of the Flying Swan Sect. However, the pressure they exert on the great formation is not much less.

Especially the Mechanical Creations personally operated by some Taiyi Sect cultivators, specifically designed to attack and defend the great formation. For example, the Shocking Thunder Cannon can be activated from a far distance from the mountain protection great formation. Each activation produces a thunderous sound and shoots out lightning-like spheres, heavily striking the mountain protection great formation. There is also the Mountain-Crushing War Chariot, dozens of zhang long and nearly ten zhang high. Controlled by Taiyi Sect cultivators, it charges from a distance, crashing onto the mountain protection great formation like a collapsing mountain, causing the protective barrier of the great formation to continuously shake.

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As members of the Jiuqu League, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and the others naturally recognized the Mechanical Creations of the Clever Machine Sect. They secretly cursed the Clever Machine Sect for disregarding the alliance and only caring about earning spirit stones, selling Mechanical Creations to the enemies of the Fire Cloud Sect. In the eyes of Daoist Master Scarlet Flame, a Gold Core Daoist Master, he had never held the Clever Machine Sect's Mechanical Creations in high regard. He believed that these clever devices were of no help in enhancing a cultivator's cultivation base. If low-level cultivators became obsessed with these things, it would only hinder their cultivation progress. These devices may appear powerful, but they can only show their might among low-level cultivators.

Now, these Mechanical Creations have fallen into the hands of the Taiyi Sect and have unexpectedly played a significant role, posing a great threat to the mountain protection great formation. Seeing how useful the Clever Machine Sect's Mechanical Creations are, both the Flying Swan Sect and the Northern Desert Qi Family are preparing to purchase them from the Clever Machine Sect. In the absence of available stock, they even shamelessly request that the Taiyi Sect share some with them.

Now, everyone is like grasshoppers on the same rope, all striving for the same goal. Meng Zhang made an effort and provided them with a batch. The Divine Workshop of the Taiyi Sect has developed well. Not only can it maintain many Mechanical Creations purchased from the Clever Machine Sect, but it also has a certain refining ability to produce some relatively simple items. Because Meng Zhang values the manufacturing ability of the mechanical engineers, and the sect does not lack their combat power, the cultivators of the Divine Workshop rarely participate in battles.

In this major battle, the stored Mechanical Creations of the sect were quickly depleted. The cultivators of the Divine Workshop exerted all their efforts. In addition to daily maintenance, they also desperately refined Mechanical Creations to provide assistance to the frontline army as much as possible.

The attack on Feihong Mountain continues relentlessly, and the losses of the three factions are becoming increasingly heavy. After suffering significant losses among the cannon fodder cultivators, the three factions have no choice but to send their core disciples onto the battlefield, despite their reluctance. Although the use of Mechanical Creations has reduced the losses on the attacking side, after more than a month of siege, not only have most of the cannon fodder

cultivators suffered heavy losses, but the core disciples of the three factions have also been seriously injured or killed.

Of course, all these lives sacrificed have not been in vain. The details of the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation have been mostly figured out by the four Gold Core Daoist Masters. Even the Third Rank mountain protection great formation is not indestructible. After prolonged high-load operation, even if the great formation can still hold on, many parts within the great formation have started to have problems. The three factions have finally caused some damage to the great formation after paying such a high price.

Now, the situation depends on who can continue to bear the losses and persist until the end. Will it be the depletion of the lives of the three factions or the collapse of the Fire Cloud Sect's mountain protection great formation that comes first?

In addition to the bloody battles taking place on the battlefield, there are also hidden currents and constant struggles off the battlefield. The Clever Machine Sect, which has been selling Mechanical Creations to the Taiyi Sect, sent a message through intermediaries stating that their trade with the Taiyi Sect would be temporarily suspended. They will no longer sell Mechanical Creations to the Taiyi Sect, and all previously placed orders have been canceled.

The Clever Machine Sect, as a Gold Core sect, attaches great importance to its reputation as a big merchant family within the Jiuqu League. To let the Clever Machine Sect forgo earning a large amount of spirit stones and willingly sacrifice their own interests, the pressure behind it can be imagined. Shortly after, Gu Yue Huaidie sent a messenger to inform Meng Zhang of the situation. The Clever Machine Sect was forced to break the agreement due to the intervention of True Monarch Profound Wind. Faced with the pressure of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, not to mention the Clever Machine Sect, even the Gu Yue Family had to step back. The messenger regretfully informed Meng Zhang that the Gu Yue Family had to temporarily sever ties with the Taiyi Sect and could no longer provide assistance in the future.

And that's not all. Not long after, bad news came from Great Wind City. The city officials announced the suspension of all transactions with the Taiyi Sect, Flying Swan Sect, and Northern Desert Qi Family.

Chapter 524: Interrupt

The official of Great Wind City prohibits the commercial caravans of Flying Swan City and two other forces from going to Great Wind City for shopping. Before the war ends, no commercial caravans from Great Wind City are allowed to step into the Endless Sea of Sand.

The regulations of the Great Wind City officials are very detailed and leave no room for any loopholes, effectively blocking all external trading channels for the three forces.

Great Wind City is the nearest major trading city to the Endless Sea of Sand, making it difficult for the caravans from the Endless Sea of Sand to bypass Great Wind City and continue trading in other parts of the Jiuqu League. Even if they enter the Jiuqu League, it is unlikely that any force would risk offending a Primordial Spirit True Monarch for just a small business deal.

As one of the prominent trading cities in the Jiuqu League, Great Wind City holds a significant position. If it had a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, it would have become one of the top forces in the Jiuqu League long ago.

For True Monarch Profound Wind to subdue Great Wind City, it would also require a considerable amount of effort. He raises the banner of unity within the Jiuqu League, emphasizing the alliance and claiming that Great Wind City and Fire Cloud Sect are both members of the Jiuqu League and should support each other. If Great Wind City trades with the enemies of Fire Cloud Sect, it would be considered aiding the enemy.

Apart from using these righteous excuses for moral coercion, True Monarch Profound Wind has also done a lot of work behind the scenes.

Although the Lu Family and Gu Yue Family, who are in charge of Great Wind City, do not have a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, with their background, they can find a Primordial Spirit True Monarch to help them. However, the favor of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch is extremely valuable, and they are unwilling to use their family's trump cards for just the trade from the Endless Sea of Sand. The benefits brought by the forces like Flying Swan Sect are not worth the risk of offending a Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

The severance of trade between Great Wind City and the Endless Sea of Sand has had a significant impact. The war in the Cultivation World also places great importance on logistics, with significant consumption of various war supplies. The three forces now consume a large amount of pills, talismans, mechanical creations, and more every day. Losing the supplies from Great Wind City, they can only rely on their own stockpile for a limited time.

Among the three forces, Flying Swan Sect has the deepest background and once had the most powerful production capacity in the entire Endless Sea of Sand. However, after experiencing multiple disasters, even their mountain gate was lost, and most of their production capacity dissipated. Although Flying Swan Sect left some cultivators to stay in Yellow Sand Ridge, and these cultivators work day and night to produce various necessary supplies, their meager production capacity is far from enough to meet the frontline consumption.

Taiyi Sect's flaw is that it has risen too recently, and its foundation is too shallow. The internal production system developed by Meng Zhang with full effort is only in its infancy and far from enough to support such a large-scale war.

As for the Qi Family in the Northern Desert, it goes without saying. Being in the remote and barren area of the Northern Desert, the most desolate part of the Endless Sea of Sand, they rely on the blood transfusion from Qi Mingyun True Monarch to survive. The entire family's production capacity still cannot catch up with Taiyi Sect at present.

Originally, the three forces thought they would have more than three months to conquer Feihong Mountain. However, with True Monarch Profound Wind causing such a disturbance, the war supplies of the three forces can only support them for another two months at most. Furthermore, since True Monarch Profound Wind has already made a move, it is likely that things are not as simple as they seem. They fear that he may have some follow-up measures that they cannot withstand.

Their biggest hope now is for True Monarch Tian Zhu to intervene in time. However, when True Monarch Tian Zhu will make a move and how the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs will compete

with each other is beyond their interference. The only thing the four Gold Core Daoist Masters can do is to continue fighting and strengthen their attack on Feihong Mountain.

The situation is dire, and at this time, the three forces dare not hold back and have brought out their last resources.

Originally, several Guardian Spirit Generals of Taiyi Sect were staying at the mountain gate to refine the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects. However, when the sect urgently needed combat power, Meng Zhang had to call them over.

Except for Delicate Water Spirit General, who was refining the Tianyi True Water at a critical moment and couldn't leave, the other three Guardian Spirit Generals quickly arrived at the battlefield.

Among the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects bestowed by True Monarch Tian Zhu, besides the Tianyi True Water being refined by Delicate Water Spirit General, there are two spiritual objects for Shocking Thunder Spirit General and Extreme Sword Spirit General to refine.

The two Guardian Spirit Generals who successfully refined the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects have made significant progress in their cultivation bases. Shocking Thunder Spirit General is still a bit short of fully recovering to the Gold Core stage, while Extreme Sword Spirit General has restored their cultivation base to the completion of the Foundation Building stage.

Deep Earth Spirit General had already restored their cultivation base to the completion of the Foundation Building stage. Recently, they have been overseeing the repair of the Third Rank spirit vein in the Crow's Nest area.

After a period of repair work, which required a lot of manpower and resources, they finally achieved some small results.

After receiving Meng Zhang's message, Deep Earth Spirit General quickly arrived at the front line with a group of subordinates. Once Deep Earth Spirit General arrived at the front line, Meng Zhang specifically consulted them to see if there was a better way to break the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation set up by the Fire Cloud Sect.

As a Geomancer, Deep Earth Spirit General has a deep understanding of formations. Moreover, as a former Gold Core expert, they are familiar with Third Rank guardian formations.

Although Wen Qiansun, the formation expert in the sect, has a high level of formation attainment, they are limited to the Foundation Building stage and have no way to deal with a Third Rank guardian formation.

When attacking the Forest Spring Watch mountain gate, Deep Earth Spirit General used the method of severing the earth veins to break a Second Rank guardian formation. Meng Zhang now wants to know if Deep Earth Spirit General can use the same method again and come up with some shortcuts to break the formation.

Deep Earth Spirit General spent some time carefully surveying and exploring the surroundings of Feihong Mountain, pondering for a long time.

Finally, they told Meng Zhang that Feihong Mountain is not like the Forest Spring Watch back then. The earth veins around here are stable, and even if the three forces go all out and spend ten or eight years, they may not be able to sever the earth veins.

Although Deep Earth Spirit General has some unique methods as a Geomancer, they are limited by their current cultivation base and cannot be used.

The Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation is very sophisticated, with very few flaws. To break the formation, there is probably no other shortcut besides slowly consuming it through direct confrontation.

Since Deep Earth Spirit General said so, Meng Zhang was disappointed but also knew that if they wanted to consume the great formation, they would have to sacrifice lives.

Deep Earth Spirit General, as one of his trump cards, did not bring him any surprises.

However, the arrival of the three Foundation Building stage completion Guardian Spirit Generals greatly enhanced the combat power of Taiyi Sect.

Although they do not have the strength of the Gold Core stage, they have the vision and experience of Gold Core cultivators. Their significant role on the battlefield far surpasses that of ordinary Foundation Building stage cultivators.

The three forces intensified their attack on Feihong Mountain, resulting in heavy casualties not only among the cannon fodder but also among their own core cultivators.

Although Meng Zhang tried his best to take care of the disciples in the sect, on such a brutal battlefield, Taiyi Sect disciples still suffered significant losses.

Chapter 525: Breaking the Formation . . .

Less than two months remained before the deadline given by True Monarch Tian Zhu, the ultimate stage of their endeavor.

During this period, the three allied forces had launched relentless attacks, sparing no expense and disregarding all losses. Although they achieved some success, the costs they incurred were tremendous.

The depletion of materials was one thing, but the human toll was unbearable to witness. The majority of the cannon-fodder cultivators had been lost, and those who remained were mostly severely wounded. Even those lucky enough to be unharmed had lost all morale, wandering listlessly like the walking dead.

The core cultivators from the three forces suffered devastating losses as well. In the Taiyi Sect alone, despite the deliberate protection of three Guardian Spirit Generals, the casualties were substantial, with several Foundation Building cultivators falling in battle.

Now, within the Taiyi Sect, mid-stage Foundation Building cultivators were qualified to vie for positions of elders. The loss of several at this level was a crippling blow, despite the sect's recent advancement to Gold Core status, which still left the number of Foundation Building cultivators limited.

Fortunately, the losses were primarily among guest cultivators. The direct disciples favored by Meng Zhang had been carefully preserved.

The Fire Cloud Sect's cultivators had largely been spared, and their Third Rank protective mountain formation, the Flaming Ground Array, had not been fundamentally breached.

If the battle continued in this vein, even if the cultivators of the three forces bled themselves dry, they would not overcome the Fire Cloud Sect entrenched on Feihong Mountain.

The war, although short, had been brutally intense. Exhaustion gripped the cultivators from the three forces, and even the four Gold Core Daoist Masters felt a sense of despair.

The sacrifices were immense, the gains, minimal. How could they continue this warfare?

If only their supply lines were robust, they might have strained forward. But with supply lines faltering, further conflict would only lead to greater losses and minimal victories.

In fact, during the clashes, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame had sharply discerned the enemy's weakening state. Had it not been for the cautious nature of Daoist Master Dark Cloud, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame might have already initiated a counteroffensive.

Despite heavy losses, as long as the Gold Core Daoist Masters remained, they still held an advantage over the Fire Cloud Sect. The sect, relying on their Third Rank protective mountain formation, kept adversaries at bay. However, if they took the battle outside, the scenario would change dramatically.

The Fire Cloud Sect's cultivators, unyielding and cautious, gave no quarter. Without external intervention, the three forces were incapable of altering the tide.

While habitually launching assaults, the four Gold Core Daoist Masters knew in their hearts that hope for victory was dwindling.

Meng Zhang, unsure of others' thoughts, had already begun contemplating retreat.

True Monarch Tian Zhu was known for his resoluteness. Failure to accomplish their mission meant the Taiyi Sect could no longer sustain its presence in the Endless Sea of Sand, nor could it hold its foundation in the Demon Wind Gobi. The only path left was to wander in exile.

Meng Zhang wasn't the only one considering retreat. The other Gold Core Daoist Masters were visibly distracted, no longer fully invested in the conflict.

Seeing no hope for victory, Meng Zhang refused to continue the futile struggle, unwilling to waste the lives of his sect's disciples.

Under his influence, the allied forces' assault on Feihong Mountain slowed as everyone consciously conserved their strength.

Almost a month passed, and the deadline set by True Monarch Tian Zhu loomed closer.

The attack from the three forces grew increasingly feeble, and all four Gold Core Daoist Masters contemplated retreat.

How could they, having provoked a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, withdraw intact while ensuring the survival of their sects and families?

As the four Gold Core Daoist Masters wrestled with anxiety, Jin Li Daoist Master appeared before them once more.

Over the years, Jin Li Daoist Master had served True Monarch Tian Zhu, acting almost as his spokesperson.

Meng Zhang and the others initially feared Jin Li Daoist Master had come to reprimand or supervise them, meeting him with palpable guilt.

Fortunately, he had come to offer assistance.

The underhanded tactics of True Monarch Profound Wind had not escaped True Monarch Tian Zhu, nor had the plight of the three forces on the battlefield.

Ever competitive, True Monarch Tian Zhu couldn't ignore this challenge, particularly as it affected his centuries-old plans. He wouldn't stand idly by while adversaries schemed.

Though he couldn't take direct action, True Monarch Tian Zhu still had means to turn the tide.

In the presence of the four Gold Core Daoist Masters, Jin Li Daoist Master cautiously presented a golden bamboo leaf.

True Monarch Tian Zhu possessed many treasures, but finding one that could both shatter the Third Rank protective mountain formation and be controlled by Gold Core Daoist Masters was a dilemma.

In the end, True Monarch Tian Zhu, through his avatar, sacrificed his own Cultivation Base, severing a finger that transformed into the golden bamboo leaf before them.

Besides this leaf, Jin Li Daoist Master brought two Third Rank Formation Breaking Talismans, exceptionally rare and precious talismans within the Cultivation World.

Crafting a Formation Breaking Talisman requires the collaborative efforts of a skilled Talisman Master and Formation Master, utilizing numerous precious materials before successful creation is possible.

A First Rank Formation Breaking Talisman might still be purchasable with enough spirit stones, but acquiring a Second Rank Formation Breaking Talisman becomes much more challenging. A Third Rank Formation Breaking Talisman, in contrast, is considered a critical strategic resource, scarcely seen on the open market.

In the Taiyi Sect, Talisman Master Yang Xueyi and Formation Master Wen Qiansun had once collaborated in crafting Formation Breaking Talismans. They exerted immense effort and resources to produce only a few Second Rank talismans.

The success rate of crafting these talismans is exceptionally low, and the cost, in terms of materials, is prohibitive—making it an economically unfeasible venture.

However, the value of Formation Breaking Talismans cannot be measured solely in spirit stones.

Before the onset of war, the three major powers had foreseen the necessity of breaching a Third Rank protective mountain great formation. They expended significant efforts attempting to acquire Third Rank Formation Breaking Talismans, but neither the profound Flying Swan Sect nor the Taiyi Sect, closely affiliated with the Gu Yue Family, met with success.

After they began their assault on the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation, Meng Zhang solicited the Gu Yue Family's assistance once again.

Whether the Gu Yue Family was unwilling to help or simply incapable, Meng Zhang consistently failed to acquire a Third Rank Formation Breaking Talisman.

Even Jin Li, a Daoist Master in the late stage of the Gold Core cultivation, lacked the means to obtain such talismans. The two she possessed were treasures from True Monarch Tian Zhu's collection.

Initially helpless against the Third Rank protective mountain formation known as the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation, the four Gold Core Daoist Masters found their spirits revitalized and their fighting will reignited upon seeing the treasures Jin Li produced.

In recent days, while Meng Zhang and others engaged in fierce battles, Jin Li was not idle.

She had been stealthily observing the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation from hidden positions, noting all its changes and seeking any vulnerabilities. Subsequently, she returned to the Deadly Sea of Sand to meet with True Monarch Tian Zhu. After reporting her findings, they deliberated together.

With Jin Li's keen perception and True Monarch Tian Zhu's profound insight, they swiftly devised a strategy to breach the formation, leading to Jin Li's current mission.

After entrusting the talismans to Meng Zhang and the others, she provided detailed instructions.

Listening intently, Meng Zhang and his colleagues dispersed to begin their respective preparations. The allied forces of the three powers also temporarily ceased their assault, taking time to regroup.

Given the operation's gravity, Jin Li didn't depart after delivering her instructions. Instead, she ascended a nearby mountain, observing the situation in silent vigil.

Three days later, the four Gold Core Daoist Masters, having adjusted themselves to peak condition, convened near the hovering protective mountain formation.

The higher echelons of the three powers had been specially briefed.

Today, all the elite forces were mobilized. Senior members led numerous disciples and initiates towards the protective mountain formation in a decisive assault.

On the surface, this offensive appeared no different from previous attempts, with expendable cultivators leading, followed by the direct descendants of the three powers overseeing the battle and serving as reserves.

The battle soon intensified. The Fire Cloud Sect cultivators, controlling the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation, displayed layer upon layer of transformations, repelling all foes.

Outside the battlefield, Jin Li, who had been closely monitoring the situation, suddenly frowned, berating without any courtesies.

"You dead fat pig, come out! Or do you need this Daoist Master to invite you personally?"

Accompanying her scolding, a corpulent male cultivator, resembling a meat mountain, appeared out of thin air.

He glared at Jin Li, retorting, "Jin Li, your mouth is as foul as ever."

"Unhappy? We can practice if you wish, Pig Daoist Master," Jin Li emphasized the word 'pig'.

This male cultivator, Zhu Liangyu, was a disciple of True Monarch Profound Wind. Due to his porky physique and a name phonetically similar to 'pig,' rivals had mockingly bestowed upon him the title of 'Pig Daoist Master'.

Zhu Liangyu detested this nickname, and those not wishing to openly offend him would only dare utter it behind his back.

As a high-level cultivator in the Gold Core late stage and on opposing sides, Jin Li naturally showed no courtesy. Depending on her mood, she would call him either 'Pig Daoist Master' or 'dead fat pig.'

Unable to best her in combat, Zhu Liangyu could only endure each time.

Now, facing Jin Li's provocation, Zhu Liangyu didn't retreat or rage as before; instead, he laughed triumphantly.

"Jin Li, it seems that these three powers are unable to contend with the Fire Cloud Sect and cannot reclaim Feihong Mountain," said a voice, breaking the tense silence.

"Your master, True Monarch Tian Zhu's plan has been thwarted. I wonder how he will punish you, his ineffective servants," Zhu Liangyu taunted, a disciple of True Monarch Profound Wind, privy to the intricate plans of True Monarch Tian Zhu.

Over the years, following his master's orders, Zhu Liangyu had often been involved in schemes against the Flying Swan Sect. Given True Monarch Profound Wind's stature, he couldn't directly negotiate with the Fire Cloud Sect. Instead, Zhu Liangyu acted on his master's behalf, playing a significant role in the numerous wars between the Fire Cloud and Flying Swan Sects, not just as an observer but also as an instigator.

Daoist Master Jin Li glanced at Zhu Liangyu disdainfully, choosing not to engage in a war of words. The unfolding events would soon teach Zhu Liangyu a harsh lesson.

On the nearby battlefield, as the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation was unleashed, the cultivators assaulting the mountain were swiftly put at a disadvantage. Even the four Gold Core Daoist Masters in the air seemed overwhelmed.

After a prolonged struggle, they finally seized an opportunity when the great formation underwent a brief transformation. Having attacked many times before, the Gold Core Daoist Masters were somewhat familiar with this Third Rank mountain-protecting great formation. Daoist Master Jin Li had provided them with critical insights, pointing out a clear path.

This opportunity was precious, their treasures sufficient only for one attempt. Failure meant the loss of their last glimmer of victory.

Without hesitation, the four Gold Core Daoist Masters sprang into action. Wu Mingwei and Qi Nanfei surged forward, daringly flying into the protective range of the great formation—a perilous move, for even Gold Core Daoist Masters risked their lives at such proximity.

Seeing this, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame prepared to activate the great formation's killing move. Even if they couldn't capture them, inflicting severe injuries was crucial. However, Wu Mingwei and Qi Nanfei acted faster, each deploying a Third Rank Formation Breaking Talisman.

The talismans transformed into streaks of light, striking the great formation, causing its movements to falter and momentarily stagnate. Though their power alone couldn't fully neutralize the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation, they could immobilize it briefly, preventing it from functioning.

With the great formation suddenly exposed, defenseless, the attacking cultivator army's morale boosted. Led by the three Guardian Spirit Generals of the Taiyi Sect, they charged towards Feihong Mountain.

Daoist Masters Scarlet Flame and Dark Cloud began channeling their True Essence, striving to dissipate the power of the Formation Breaking Talismans and restore the great formation's function swiftly.

Meanwhile, the Fire Cloud Sect's defending cultivators mobilized, readying themselves for the imminent clash with the incoming enemies.

At this moment, with the great formation's power diminished, Meng Zhang, using his Deception Breaking Eye and following instructions previously given by Daoist Master Jin Li, located the core of the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation.

Daoist Master Fei Shi and Meng Zhang, pooling their True Essence, activated the golden bamboo leaf in Meng Zhang's possession. With a determined lift of his right hand, Meng Zhang fiercely launched the leaf.

After this attack, Meng Zhang felt as if his strength had been drained, landing weakly on the ground.

The golden bamboo leaf, transformed into a sharp arrow, shot towards the formation core like lightning.

The numerous Fire Cloud Sect cultivators maintaining the great formation, including the two Gold Core Daoist Masters, couldn't react in time.

Following an earth-shattering explosion, the entire Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation began to collapse. This wasn't a temporary deactivation but a complete breakdown, rendering the formation irreparable.

With the mountain-protecting great formation's demise, many Fire Cloud Sect cultivators, who had been upholding the formation, were caught in the backlash.

One after another, the cultivators were knocked to the ground, blood trickling from their orifices, incapacitated, their fates unknown.

Chapter 526: Breaking through

In a flash, Wu Mingwei and Qi Nanfei released the Formation Breaking Talisman, and Meng Zhang shot out that golden bamboo leaf. By the time anyone reacted, it was all over.

Hearing the earth-shattering sound not far away, witnessing the collapse of the Third Rank mountain-protecting great formation, Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation, Zhu Liangyu found it hard to accept.

"How, how is this possible? This is the Third Rank mountain-protecting great formation."

"That's right, an attack with such power can only be the work of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch. A Gold Core Daoist Master couldn't accomplish this."

Zhu Liangyu pointed at Jin Li Daoist Master and said, "You cheated, you tampered with things behind our backs."

Jin Li Daoist Master sneered, "Didn't you do the same? You can do fifteen, so don't blame others for doing the first."

Zhu Liangyu struggled to accept the reality. In his eyes, the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation was absolutely impenetrable by a mere rabble, yet it was easily broken.

In reality, even if Meng Zhang discovered the formation's core, relying solely on attacks at the Gold Core Daoist Master level might not have been enough to break the entire great formation in one strike, especially by directly hitting the core, the vital point.

The seemingly inconspicuous golden bamboo leaf contained the unique power of True Monarch Tian Zhu. In terms of sheer strength, it already exceeded the limits that the Third Rank great formation could withstand. Moreover, Meng Zhang's strike directly hit the core, striking at the heart of the matter.

With the loss of the mountain-protecting great formation's protection, Fire Cloud Sect cultivators were now directly exposed to the enemy.

The sudden collapse of the great formation not only caused many Fire Cloud Sect disciples to suffer significant casualties, but even those who were not affected by the blast were in a state of chaos, unsure of what to do.

Wu Mingwei and Qi Nanfei, who had already rushed into the great formation, charged inside first, followed closely by Fei Shi Daoist Master. Only Meng Zhang was recovering his True Essence slowly.

The morale of the three allied forces soared, and they fiercely attacked Feihong Mountain, engaging in battle with Fire Cloud Sect cultivators.

Ever since Meng Zhang severely wounded Daoist Master Fiery Cloud before, he had not fully recovered. Despite trying various methods and consuming numerous elixirs, he couldn't get rid of the injuries inflicted by the Spirit Snake Spear.

Daoist Master Fiery Cloud couldn't participate in the battle. Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud mustered their spirits and temporarily set aside their shock and doubt, leading their disciples into the fight.

As the defenders, Fire Cloud Sect cultivators couldn't set up a proper formation due to the sudden disruption of the great formation. The allied forces, coming from diverse origins and being busy charging forward, also couldn't form a proper formation.

As a result, both sides of cultivators were scattered and forced into a chaotic melee.

Although it appeared to be a melee, well-trained elite cultivators managed to quickly form small teams, cooperating and covering each other.

Among them, Taiyi Sect cultivators stood out on the battlefield.

Taiyi Sect had risen to prominence recently and had a shallow foundation. Precisely because they were a new force, Taiyi Sect cultivators exuded a thriving aura, without the taint of bad habits and the stale air of veteran sect cultivators.

Even after suffering heavy losses and setbacks in previous battles, when confronting Fire Cloud Sect cultivators, they displayed high morale and formidable combat strength.

The formation of these small teams seemed simple but was the result of practical formations passed down by Taiyi Sect over the years, refined through thousands of trials and real combat experiences.

Almost all Taiyi Sect disciples had undergone training in the Formations Hall, under the guidance of Hall Master Wen Qiansun, who had often directed them in rehearsing various commonly used formations.

In this battle, Taiyi Sect's Foundation Building cultivators served as the backbone, leading groups of Refining Qi stage disciples. Like sharp knives, they inserted themselves ferociously into the ranks of Fire Cloud Sect cultivators.

Especially the three Guardian Spirit Generals - Deep Earth Spirit General, Extreme Sword Spirit General, and Shocking Thunder Spirit General - easily disrupted the organization of Fire Cloud Sect cultivators.

They slayed the leaders and dispersed the ordinary disciples, moving through the battlefield virtually unhindered.

Fire Cloud Sect's Gold Core Daoist Masters couldn't free their hands, and surprisingly, there was no one from Fire Cloud Sect capable of stopping them they were left to wreak havoc among the enemy.

Even the Gold Core Daoist Masters in the heat of battle couldn't help but glance at the three Guardian Spirit Generals, who were demonstrating their might on the battlefield.

This time, Qi Nanfei no longer held back, coordinating with Fei Shi Daoist Master and Wu Mingwei, suppressing Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud, preventing them from supporting the lower-level Fire Cloud Sect cultivators.

The battle had been going on for a not-too-long period of time, and the allied forces of the three factions began to gain the upper hand. Under their fierce assaults, the Fire Cloud Sect cultivators were showing signs of weakness and seemed to be on the verge of collapse.

Zhu Liangyu, who was observing the battle not far away, had an increasingly unpleasant expression on his face.

After a brief recovery of his True Essence, Meng Zhang regained most of his strength. Instead of joining the siege against Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and others, he disregarded his status and started attacking the lower-level Fire Cloud Sect cultivators, killing them.

If the Fire Cloud Sect cultivators could form a formation and pool their strength, they might have been able to barely exchange a few moves with Meng Zhang. However, amidst the chaotic battle, they had lost their best means of countering a Gold Core Daoist Master. Even the most outstanding Foundation Building cultivator couldn't withstand a Gold Core Daoist Master under such circumstances.

Seeing Meng Zhang wreak havoc, Zhu Liangyu couldn't bear it any longer.

"Taking advantage of the weak, relying on strength to bully the weak, this is shameless! This person is a disgrace to Gold Core Daoist Masters and a disgrace to cultivators!"

He berated Meng Zhang while raising a flying sword, intending to fly over and slay him.

The flying sword turned into a streak of light, about to strike Meng Zhang, but Jin Li Daoist Master flew up to the sky and blocked its path.

The flying sword couldn't change direction in time and directly stabbed Jin Li Daoist Master, but her True Essence deflected it gently.

Jin Li Daoist Master showed no sign of anger due to the accidental strike. Instead, she had an excited expression on her face.

"You fat pig, how dare you take the initiative to attack this Daoist Master? You truly don't know any better."

"Since you attacked first, this Daoist Master can only retaliate."

Jin Li Daoist Master laughed proudly and attacked Zhu Liangyu.

"It's been a while since I had a good fight. Today, this Daoist Master will surely make you bloom with peach blossoms all over your face."

Zhu Liangyu yelled in frustration he had unintentionally given Jin Li Daoist Master a reason to strike back.

In just a short moment of exchanging blows, Zhu Liangyu found himself falling behind.

"You fat pig, aren't you smug? Aren't you quick-witted with your words? Why, now you've become dumb?"

Jin Li Daoist Master was not the kind of person with a magnanimous personality. Being a woman, she wouldn't lack the petty nature even with a Gold Core-level Cultivation Base.

With a bitter expression on his face, Zhu Liangyu found himself caught in a storm of attacks.

On Feihong Mountain, the battle raged on.

Zhu Liangyu being entangled by Jin Li Daoist Master left Fire Cloud Sect without any support and lost their final chance of victory.

As time passed, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud gradually fell behind, and the low-level Fire Cloud Sect cultivators suffered heavy losses, leading to a collapse.

Many surviving Fire Cloud Sect cultivators forgot the strict orders of their sect and the lives of their fellow disciples and started fleeing for their lives.

Daoist Master Fiery Cloud, who was heavily injured and unable to act earlier, had been observing for a while and could clearly see the situation. Regardless of whether others accepted reality or not, he knew that the overall situation was lost, and there was no turning back.

The best option for Fire Cloud Sect at this point was to withdraw from the battle as soon as possible and escape. Especially for Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud, they must escape immediately to preserve the vitality of Fire Cloud Sect.

However, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud were still in the midst of the battle, and they didn't see the situation as clearly as Daoist Master Fiery Cloud. They also harbored some illusions and were unwilling to believe that the situation had completely deteriorated.

As an elder with a Gold Core level of cultivation in the sect, leaving so many low-level disciples here to die while only focusing on their own escape would not only be unacceptable to them but also cause them to lose face both inside and outside the sect.

Moreover, even if Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and the others wanted to break out, it was not an easy task. Fei Shi Daoist Master and the others had them tightly surrounded, leaving no room for escape. Meanwhile, Meng Zhang, who was slaughtering the lower-level Fire Cloud Sect disciples, also had a significant portion of his attention focused on the battle between the Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Knowing that the situation was hopeless, Daoist Master Fiery Cloud's face showed a decisive expression. He took out a pill, about the size of a fingertip, entirely red in color, and swallowed it. Then, he activated the True Essence within his body according to a secret method.

After a moment, an unusual flush appeared on Daoist Master Fiery Cloud's face, and his aura began to rise steadily. Despite his severe injuries that had left him exceptionally weak before, he not only largely recovered but also greatly improved his Cultivation Base.

Daoist Master Fiery Cloud took the initiative to fly toward the battle between the five Gold Core Daoist Masters. While secretly sending a voice message to Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and the others, urging them to retreat quickly, he also helped them fend off Fei Shi Daoist Master and the others.

Seeing Daoist Master Fiery Cloud looking so vigorous and lively, both Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud showed grief on their faces.

Daoist Master Fiery Cloud's quick recovery of combat strength came at a cost. Using a secret technique to activate the sect's secret medicine, he would lose his life irretrievably after a brief burst of power due to the medicine's effects wearing off. freewebnovel.com

Daoist Master Fiery Cloud was risking his life to preserve the vitality of the Fire Cloud Sect.

Understanding Daoist Master Fiery Cloud's intentions, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud gave up all unrealistic fantasies, disregarding all concerns, and prepared to break through.

Meng Zhang had been monitoring the battle between the Gold Core Daoist Masters. After Daoist Master Fiery Cloud joined the fight, he gave up bullying the weaker opponents and actively flew towards the battle between the Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Meng Zhang had great confidence in the killing power of the Spiritsnake Spear, and he could clearly sense the forced surge in Daoist Master Fiery Cloud's strength.

Based on Meng Zhang's experience, any secret technique or elixir that forcibly suppressed injuries and hastily restored strength would come with serious adverse consequences. It seemed like Daoist Master Fiery Cloud was willing to risk everything.

Having been severely injured by Daoist Master Fiery Cloud, Meng Zhang naturally didn't want him to escape successfully. Since a great enmity had already been established, it was best to take advantage of the situation and eliminate him to prevent future troubles.

Fei Shi Daoist Master and the other two also noticed Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud's intention to retreat and were unwilling to let them go freely. With Meng Zhang joining the fray, the four of them intensified their attacks, hoping to trap Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and his companions.

Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud were both Gold Core cultivators once the intention to retreat arose, it was difficult to stop them.

Especially when Daoist Master Fiery Cloud knew that his end was near, he desperately delayed the enemy. This tit-for-tat exchange, where injuries were exchanged for injuries and lives were exchanged for lives, indeed presented a headache for everyone.

After a bitter battle, Daoist Master Fiery Cloud managed to hold off the enemy at the cost of his own life. Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud escaped successfully, carrying not light injuries.

Before fleeing, Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud secretly informed a few trusted disciples of the Fire Cloud Sect. However, they did so discreetly to prevent the situation from completely collapsing.

Around the same time as Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud's escape, the Fire Cloud Sect cultivators completely fell apart. Almost everyone had no intention to fight and only thought about escaping in a panic.

The cultivators from the three factions took advantage of the situation and pursued, leaving the escaping Fire Cloud Sect cultivators with no way out.

After Daoist Master Fiery Cloud's death, Meng Zhang and the four Gold Core Daoist Masters continued to chase after Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud. The pursuit continued until the two managed to enter the territory of the Fire Cloud Sect and successfully escape from the Endless Sea of Sand.

Only after Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud successfully left did Meng Zhang and the others reluctantly give up the chase and return.

Even though they all wanted to kill Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and his companion to completely eliminate the threat, they were unwilling to rashly intrude into the territory of the Jiuqu League, a behemoth of an organization. Even True Monarch Tian Zhu would hesitate to provoke them lightly.

Helplessly watching the four Gold Core Daoist Masters escape, they were left with a burning anger inside.

Upon returning, out of frustration, all four of them disregarded their identities and joined the pursuit of the fleeing Fire Cloud Sect cultivators.

These cultivators at most had a Foundation Building-level Cultivation Base, and escaping successfully from the Endless Sea of Sand was by no means an easy task.

In the end, apart from Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and Daoist Master Dark Cloud, who had escaped earlier, almost all of the Fire Cloud Sect cultivators were left in the Endless Sea of Sand forever.

From the initial overwhelming victory to the final crushing defeat, the invasion of the Endless Sea of Sand only took a few years for the Fire Cloud Sect.

The invading army was almost entirely wiped out, and even a Gold Core Daoist Master was lost. This defeat indeed dealt a heavy blow to the vitality of the Fire Cloud Sect. Without long-term recuperation, they would not be able to recover.

It could be imagined that for a long time to come, nobody needed to worry about the threat of the Fire Cloud Sect.

At the same time of the Fire Cloud Sect's major defeat, Zhu Liangyu, the disciple of True Monarch Profound Wind, was also harshly taught a lesson by Jin Li Daoist Master. He left Endless Sea of Sand with a swollen face, looking embarrassed and desolate.

Chapter 527: After the Battle

Though Zhu Liangyu appeared disheveled and in disarray, his life was not in danger.

Thanks to his master's protection, Jin Li Daoist Master had never harbored an intent to kill him.

Jin Li Daoist Master served and championed the cause of True Monarch Tian Zhu. She had already offended many and did not wish to further antagonize another Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

Seeing the joint forces of the three factions retake Feihong Mountain and with Fire Cloud Sect unable to continue the fight, she made sure no further mishaps would arise. Then she flew towards the Deadly Sea of Sand to report back to True Monarch Tian Zhu.

Despite some hiccups along the way, the three factions successfully completed the task given by True Monarch Tian Zhu. They finally felt a sense of accomplishment.

After reclaiming Feihong Mountain, there were naturally many matters the three factions had to address.

Tending to the wounded, cleaning up the battlefield, pursuing remaining enemies, and organizing rest and recovery kept the top leaders of the three factions busy for most of the day.

Only after all these tasks were completed could they begin to plan for the post-war arrangements.

Having taken back Feihong Mountain, the Flying Swan Sect naturally intended to reestablish it as their main base. This location was incomparably better than their old base at Yellow Sand Ridge in every respect.

Both Taiyi Sect and Northern Desert Qi Family had aided in the battle for Feihong Mountain, yet they reaped few benefits and paid a heavy price.

When Meng Zhang assessed the gains and losses, he set aside the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Object gifted by True Monarch Tian Zhu and focused solely on the Taiyi Sect's losses. He didn't even consider the material and spiritual stone expenditures. The casualties alone were a major concern.

Taiyi Sect had always faced a shortage of manpower. Despite occupying the vast territory of Demon Wind Gobi, they lacked the manpower for significant development. The recent heavy loss of disciples was a huge setback that would take time to recover from.

The other members of the Hanhai Alliance suffered even more devastating losses.

Traditional allies of the Taiyi Sect, like Qiaoshou Sect, faced heavy losses especially when Taiyi Sect itself was in peril.

To maintain the Hanhai Alliance, Taiyi Sect needed to appease their allies and offer numerous compensations.

The forces newly allied with Taiyi Sect almost faced total annihilation.

Meng Zhang, always a man of his word, had no intention of abandoning these factions.

Survivors from the battle would be rewarded by Taiyi Sect. All forces that contributed could join the Hanhai Alliance.

While it seemed that the members of the Hanhai Alliance had increased, the alliance's strength had dramatically decreased due to the recent losses. It would take a long time to recuperate.

Only after handling internal matters did Meng Zhang turn his attention to external affairs.

Taiyi Sect's assistance in helping Flying Swan Sect reclaim their base was an enormous favor.

Meng Zhang didn't particularly care about the perception of such favors. After all the trials and tribulations, the Flying Swan Sect was now depleted and couldn't possibly offer anything substantial in return to the Taiyi Sect.

Although Taiyi Sect, Flying Swan Sect, and Northern Desert Qi Family had jointly combated under the strict order of True Monarch Tian Zhu, their relationships remained unchanged.

After the great battle, Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect still remained competitors. The enmity between Northern Desert Qi Family and Flying Swan Sect was also unforgettable.

However, Taiyi Sect and Northern Desert Qi Family shared a common adversary in Flying Swan Sect, which laid a foundation for cooperation. Even with mutual distrust, they had no choice but to form a temporary alliance.

Shortly after reclaiming Feihong Mountain, the armies of cultivators from the Taiyi Sect and Northern Desert Qi Family embarked on their respective journeys home.

The Flying Swan Sect had forcibly conscripted many cultivators, of which over half suffered casualties, leaving only a small portion of survivors. Instead of releasing these conscripts, the Flying Swan Sect compelled them to continue serving, tasking them with mining abandoned mineral deposits and tending to the neglected spirit fields.

The heavily damaged Flying Swan Sect was in desperate need of manpower. These uncommitted cultivators were exploited to their limits by the sect.

Now, the Flying Swan Sect was at its weakest point in centuries, its strength plummeting to an all-time low. The sect's top priority was to recover as swiftly as possible.

To achieve this, the reputation of being an upright major sect could be easily cast aside.

There would undoubtedly be animosity from the conscripted cultivators and the forces they represent toward the Flying Swan Sect. However, the sect's leadership was undeterred.

Having ruled the Endless Sea of Sand for so many years, had the Flying Swan Sect not amassed its share of adversaries? How many had cursed and loathed them? Yet, had any of them genuinely harmed the sect?

In the Cultivation World, power always reigns supreme. Even if maligned by multitudes, so what?

Unless there exists a force capable of opposing the Flying Swan Sect, they would continue to be oppressed, with rebellion remaining a mere dream.

Both Meng Zhang and the Taiyi Sect, recent risers to power, lacked the cunning tactics of the experienced Flying Swan Sect. Moreover, Meng Zhang always maintained a moral boundary, refusing to resort to any means necessary.

Upon their return to Demon Wind Gobi, the entire Taiyi Sect was licking its wounds.

Meng Zhang harbored a lingering concern. He had inflicted significant damage on Daoist Master Fiery Cloud and later personally dismantled the Blazing Flames Overturning Earth Great Formation, thereby becoming the primary cause of the Fire Cloud Sect's defeat.

He had now become mortal enemies with the Fire Cloud Sect, severing all ties. Any previous connection with Daoist Master Scarlet Flame had evaporated.

Becoming adversaries with an established Gold Core sect like the Fire Cloud Sect would inevitably bring future complications. Thankfully, the Flying Swan Sect bore the brunt of most issues.

After rewarding his sect's cultivators, allowing all disciples to rest, many interrupted tasks were resumed.

Subordinates of the Taiyi Sect in the Endless Sea of Sand expedited their migration to Demon Wind Gobi. The environment there was more hospitable for human survival and ideal for cultivators.

Grand Lion Ridge became the new entrance for the Taiyi Sect. Construction and development projects there began in full swing.

Deep Earth Spirit General resumed repairing the Third Rank spirit vein near the raven's nest. Meng Zhang increased his support, permitting him to mobilize more resources.

The Hundred Grass Pavilion urgently needed a Third Rank spirit vein, whereas the one at Grand Lion Ridge was sufficient only for Meng Zhang's personal cultivation.

Upon returning to the Northern Desert, Qi Nanfei Daoist Master indeed dispatched covert envoys to Demon Wind Gobi to establish regular communication with the Taiyi Sect.

Given the current situation in the Endless Sea of Sand, the Flying Swan Sect was unable to continue its campaign against the Taiyi Sect and Northern Desert Qi Family. Moreover, due to the easing relations between True Monarch Tian Zhu and Qi Mingyuan True Monarch, there was no need to target the Northern Desert Qi Family for eradication.

However, among the Taiyi Sect, Northern Desert Qi Family, and Flying Swan Sect, with one being dominant and the other two weaker, the two weaker factions naturally allied against the dominant force.

Chapter 528: Business

Between Taiyi Sect and Northern Desert Qi Family, even though there seems to be a faint alliance when facing Flying Swan Sect, they still maintain a high level of caution towards each other. To avoid provoking Flying Swan Sect, the two factions refrain from overt interactions on the surface. In the current state of the Endless Sea of Sand, the possibility of an internal war breaking out is small, so the alliance between Taiyi Sect and Northern Desert Qi Family is more of a precautionary measure.

However, Meng Zhang's primary focus has shifted beyond the Endless Sea of Sand. After the defeat of Fire Cloud Sect and the conclusion of the war, True Monarch Profound Wind, the mastermind behind Fire Cloud Sect, has remained inactive for the time being. Yet, trade between Great Wind City and Endless Sea of Sand has not immediately resumed, and this is certainly not the intention of Great Wind City.

Great Wind City became a major trading hub largely due to its strategic location, situated at the crossroads of the Northern Desert and the core region of Jiuqu League. It faces the vast sea to the west and boundless grasslands to the east. The various special resources produced in the Endless Sea of Sand are mainly exported to Great Wind City, while the city continually supplies a variety of cultivation resources to the Endless Sea of Sand.

Especially after Taiyi Sect took control of a large area in the Demon Wind Gobi, they began acquiring the resources from the region and selling them in Great Wind City. Losing this trade would result in a decline of at least thirty percent in the overall trading scale of Great Wind City. Naturally, Great Wind City is unwilling to permanently lose these benefits. While True Monarch Profound Wind is not someone to be trifled with, the interests at stake cannot be easily abandoned.

During the invasion of Fire Cloud Sect into the Endless Sea of Sand, Great Wind City, according to the will of True Monarch Profound Wind, cut off all trades with the region. Even though the war has now ended, they must still consider the face of Primordial Spirit True Monarch. Great Wind City has not publicly resumed trade with the Endless Sea of Sand, but a large number of smugglers have suddenly emerged in the border areas between the two regions, engaging in secret trade activities.

Between the Demon Wind Gobi and Great Wind City, where the border is not too long, there are also many smuggler caravans appearing. Last time, when Meng Zhang hired many loose cultivators from Great Wind City to participate in the war in the Endless Sea of Sand, they suffered heavy casualties. However, after the war, Meng Zhang honored his promises and generously rewarded those who survived and even distributed the promised rewards to the families and friends of the deceased cultivators as per their wishes.

Though this placed a heavy financial burden on Taiyi Sect, it also brought numerous benefits. Many of the surviving loose cultivators expressed their willingness to continue serving Taiyi Sect. Some of them who were familiar with the situation in Jiuqu League joined the smuggling caravans dispatched by Taiyi Sect.

The reputation of Taiyi Sect, known for keeping its promises, gradually spread in Jiuqu League. Reputation, though intangible, can have unexpected impacts at certain times. A sect known for its reliability and honesty in dealings with other forces and in commercial exchanges will enjoy many intangible conveniences.

Officially, Great Wind City has not restored its trade with Taiyi Sect, Flying Swan Sect, and others. However, through these smuggling caravans, trade has partially resumed. Gu Yue Family also secretly sent envoys to Grand Lion Ridge to visit Meng Zhang and express the family's apologies.

The envoy was Gu Yue Youlan, an acquaintance of Meng Zhang. She humbly explained the difficulties faced by the family in the past to express the family's remorse. As compensation, Gu Yue Family was willing to reduce a portion of the interest on the large amount of spirit stones borrowed from Taiyi Sect using the resources of the Demon Wind Gobi. They also extended the repayment period and offered more benefits in their business dealings.

When Gu Yue Family had previously decided to sever ties with Taiyi Sect, Meng Zhang understood but was somewhat unable to accept it. He had thought that Gu Yue Family, especially due to his friendship with Gu Yue Huaidie, would be a reliable friend of Taiyi Sect. Now, it seems he had set his expectations too high. In the face of the pressure from Primordial Spirit True Monarch, there were no truly reliable friends.

This incident served as a lesson for Meng Zhang, making him understand that in the Cultivation World, relationships between different factions cannot be sustained solely based on personal emotions. Gu Yue Youlan also pointed out that she and Gu Yue Huaidie strongly opposed the family's decision at that time, but their influence was limited, and they couldn't change the minds of the other elders or the clan leader.

With cultivators like Gu Yue Youlan, who came from major families, it was difficult for Meng Zhang, as a Gold Core Daoist Master with the Mind Reading Divine Ability, to read their thoughts. They either practiced Heart-Locking Secret Arts or carried magic tools that prevented others from reading their minds, making it hard for Meng Zhang to determine the truth of what they said.

Regardless of Gu Yue Huaidie's attitude, from now on, Meng Zhang will be more cautious and secretly strengthen Taiyi Sect's defenses against Gu Yue Family. As the lord of a sect, regardless of his thoughts, Meng Zhang must still prioritize Taiyi Sect's interests outwardly. He expressed magnanimity, indicating that he bears no grudges against Gu Yue Family for their past difficulties and showed full understanding. Gu Yue Youlan and he had a good relationship since he was a Foundation Building cultivator, and he would never blame an old friend like her. Gu Yue Huaidie, as his senior, had provided significant help, and Meng Zhang never forgot it. Regardless of any unpleasant past between Gu Yue Family and Taiyi Sect, Gu Yue Huaidie would always be Meng Zhang's closest friend.

In front of Gu Yue Youlan, Meng Zhang displayed no pride as a Gold Core Daoist Master and maintained a friendly and equal demeanor. Naturally, Meng Zhang hoped for a swift restoration of interactions between Taiyi Sect and Gu Yue Family. Gu Yue Youlan was satisfied with Meng Zhang's attitude and had achieved the purpose of her visit.

Despite being only a Foundation Building cultivator, Gu Yue Youlan was Gu Yue Huaidie's disciple and the next generation Diviner groomed by the family. Within Gu Yue Family, her status was just below that of Gold Core elders. A Gold Core sect like Taiyi Sect, which had only one Gold Core Daoist Master, would not have been given much attention by her if not for Meng Zhang's relationship.

For Meng Zhang, Gu Yue Family was vastly different from Taiyi Sect. Although they might not be dependable, he still had to strive to hold onto this valuable connection. With Taiyi Sect occupying a

large area in the Demon Wind Gobi and having abundant resources, many families in Great Wind City saw Taiyi Sect as having significant development potential.

Jiuqu League had long been coveting the resources of the Demon Wind Gobi. However, in the past, no force dared to invade due to the association with True Monarch Tian Zhu, who was seen as controlling the Endless Sea of Sand, Demon Wind Gobi, and Deadly Sea of Sand.

The recent events proved that seemingly neutral trade hubs like Great Wind City could not be relied upon in crucial times. Taiyi Sect could not entrust its trade lifeline solely to Great Wind City. The next step for Taiyi Sect was to find ways to open new trade routes, but this task was easier said than done.

To the north was the Deadly Sea of Sand, which had no trade prospects. In the northeast was Northern Desert Qi Family. While they sought to repair their relations with Taiyi Sect, their territory was barren, and they lacked substantial production capacity to be of much help to Taiyi Sect. However, due to Taiyi Sect's strength and the resources of the Demon Wind Gobi, Northern Desert Qi Family still sought trade cooperation.

To the east was Flying Swan Sect, with overlapping resource production, but mutual exchange between the two was minimal. After experiencing significant changes, Flying Swan Sect's production capacity had greatly diminished. The trade with them did not provide much assistance to Taiyi Sect. Further east, there was a boundary with the vast grasslands. Trade with the grasslands was a forbidden area for Flying Swan Sect and not accessible to outsiders. freewebnovel.com

To the west was the remaining part of the Demon Wind Gobi, still dominated by demonic beasts, including Third Rank ones. Given Taiyi Sect's current strength, it was already challenging enough to defend against those demonic beasts, let alone expand in that direction. Moreover, the current discussion was about the sect's trade issues, not its next expansion direction. There could be no trade with those demonic beasts.

After much discussion, it became evident that Taiyi Sect had to find a way within Jiuqu League to open up new trade routes.

Chapter 529: Good News

Great Wind City is considered a formidable force within the Jiuqu League, and its influence makes others wary of offending it easily. The official authorities and major cultivation families of Great Wind City are currently the primary trade partners for Taiyi Sect. Naturally, they do not want to see Taiyi Sect establishing new trade routes.

For Taiyi Sect to bypass Great Wind City and find new trading partners within the Jiuqu League is undoubtedly not an easy task. Taiyi Sect's current relationships are mostly concentrated within Great Wind City and are of no help in such matters.

Meng Zhang shares a good rapport with Luo YeDaoist Master from the black market. However, such personal relationships do not have a decisive impact on the interaction between their respective factions. While Luo YeDaoist Master holds some influence in the black market of Jiuqu League, they are not the main decision-makers.

Luo YeDaoist Master had previously warned Meng Zhang that although the black market may seem cooperative, they are untrustworthy and can turn against others for their benefit.

If Taiyi Sect were to secretly contact the black market without involving Great Wind City, the most likely outcome is that the black market would betray Taiyi Sect to gain favor with the more powerful Great Wind City.

In addition, Meng Zhang had minor dealings with Jade Sword Sect in the past, but their relationship is insignificant. Jade Sword Sect, being a Sword Cultivator sect, holds a unique position within the Jiuqu League and cannot be relied upon by Taiyi Sect in this matter.

With no direct channels available, Taiyi Sect must patiently search for new avenues. They must not only avoid arousing suspicions from Great Wind City but also keep their activities concealed from Gu Yue Family.

For several years, Luo YeDaoist Master's disciple, Jue Ying, has been staying in Demon Wind Gobi, teaching An Moran various skills and assisting him in establishing and developing Secret Hall.

During the recent joint battle of the three forces against Fire Cloud Sect, Meng Zhang asked Jue Ying to stay in Demon Wind Gobi to help Taiyi Sect guard their territory.

Jue Ying has been with Taiyi Sect for quite some time, and she is preparing to leave. As a gesture of gratitude for her significant help, Meng Zhang entrusted her with an important task.

He selected two clever individuals from the Foundation Building stage of cultivation within Taiyi Sect and asked them to accompany Jue Ying to Jiuqu League. Their mission is to familiarize themselves with the situation in Jiuqu League under Jue Ying's guidance and slowly search for new trading partners.

If possible, they should also try to establish a branch of Secret Hall in Jiuqu League under An Moran's leadership, arrange informants, and gather various information.

After dealing with these matters, Meng Zhang can focus his primary energy back on his cultivation.

Meng Zhang's main cultivation technique, "Sun-Moon Wheel Turning Sutra," encompasses the entire journey from the Refining Qi stage to the Gold Core stage. He doesn't need to worry too much about his cultivation during the early, mid, or late stages of Gold Core.

The valuable experiences gained from exchanges with Gu Yue Huaidie and Luo YeDaoist Master have greatly benefited his cultivation.

After the awakening of the Extreme Sword Spirit General, Meng Zhang has actively sought his advice several times and gained significant insights and useful experiences.

The Third-Rank spirit vein at Grand Lion Ridge provides more than enough spiritual energy for him to cultivate alone.

Multiple battles with opponents at the Gold Core stage not only improved his combat experience but also deepened his understanding of his cultivation technique.

Just a few years after the battle to reclaim Feihong Mountain, Meng Zhang successfully advanced to the mid-stage of Gold Core at the age of one hundred and nine.

His cultivation speed remained swift, even after entering the Gold Core stage, which earned him a respectable position among Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Many Gold Core Daoist Masters, like Qin Hongying, a former guest of Taiyi Sect, could only reach the early stage of Gold Core until their lifespan was nearly depleted.

Meng Zhang's breakthrough to the mid-stage of Gold Core at this age truly marked him as a promising young cultivator.

With the advancement to the mid-stage of Gold Core, Meng Zhang's demand for spiritual energy from the heavens and earth increased significantly. At this point, the supply of spiritual energy from the Third-Rank spirit vein at Grand Lion Ridge was slightly inadequate.

After years of effort and substantial investment of resources, Deep EarthSpirit General achieved significant progress in repairing the Third-Rank spirit vein at Yachao. Although it hasn't been fully restored and is still insufficient to sustain Gold Core Daoist Masters, with some means, it can barely support the Hundred Grass Pavilion.

Deep EarthSpirit General utilized precious materials to establish a vast gathering formation, concentrating all the spiritual energy in one place. Then, Meng Zhang placed the Hundred Grass Pavilion within the formation.

Once established, the Hundred Grass Pavilion began operating autonomously. Besides a tall tower, there is also a spirit medicine garden covering an area of over one hundred acres.

The spirit medicine garden is filled with various types of spirit medicine, some of which have been growing for hundreds of years.

While the age of the spirit medicine is sufficient, the lack of adequate care and attention from skilled farmers results in poor appearance and reduced medicinal properties. Many spirit medicines are struggling and on the verge of losing their vitality.

Since the supply of spiritual energy from the Yachao spirit vein is insufficient, regular investments of a large number of spirit stones are necessary to sustain the growth of the spirit medicines.

To address the issue of inadequate care in the spirit medicine garden, Meng Zhang recruited the most exceptional farmers within the sect, instructing them to do their best to revive all the spirit medicines.

Maintaining this spirit medicine garden requires continuous investment of significant human and material resources, which poses a considerable burden on Taiyi Sect.

However, the diversity and age of the spirit medicines in the garden, including several main and auxiliary herbs for refining Foundation Building Pills, make it worthwhile for Taiyi Sect to keep it operational.

As long as Taiyi Sect has the production of this spirit medicine garden, they can guarantee the supply of Foundation Building Pills, which holds significant strategic importance for the sect's heritage.

In fact, due to several previous attempts to obtain materials for refining Foundation Building Pills, Taiyi Sect has already successfully produced Foundation Building Pills several times. As for the number of Lesser Foundation Building Pills produced, it is even higher.

Currently, Taiyi Sect has nearly forty Foundation Building stage cultivators. Other forces within the Hanhai Alliance have also benefited greatly. Those close to Taiyi Sect can purchase Lesser

Foundation Building Pills from them. Traditional allies like Qiaoshou Sect even have the privilege to purchase Foundation Building Pills.

Throughout the Hanhai Alliance, apart from Taiyi Sect, there are over thirty Foundation Building stage cultivators. The presence of numerous Foundation Building stage cultivators not only solidifies the foundation of the Hanhai Alliance but also accelerates the development of Demon Wind Gobi. Moreover, having a sufficient number of Foundation Building stage cultivators allows them to set up special formations to resist the power of Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Additionally, the spirit medicine garden contains many Third Rank spirit medicines. Once Taiyi Sect has a Third Rank Alchemist, they will be able to refine Third Rank spirit pills that are useful for Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Less than two years after Meng Zhang broke through to the mid-stage of Gold Core, Delicate WaterSpirit General, who had been in seclusion refining the Tianyi True Water, finally came out of seclusion.

After coming out of seclusion, Delicate WaterSpirit General's Cultivation Base had restored to the early stage of Gold Core.

Among the four Guardian Spirit Generals, Delicate WaterSpirit General was the second to awaken, with far fewer years of experience compared to Deep EarthSpirit General and Shocking ThunderSpirit General. Yet, she was the first one to restore her Cultivation Base to the Gold Core stage.

This result had both innate and fortuitous reasons. If it weren't for the small bottle of Tianyi True Water obtained from True Monarch Tian Zhu, Delicate WaterSpirit General's return to the Gold Core stage would have remained a distant dream.

The other three Guardian Spirit Generals considered Delicate WaterSpirit General's return to the Gold Core stage as a matter of course. According to what Shocking ThunderSpirit General privately told Meng Zhang, Delicate WaterSpirit General was once the top cultivator of Taiyi Sect after its reconstruction. With a Cultivation Base at the Gold Core stage, she was the pillar of the sect.

However, an accident led to her losing all hope of breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage. Later, she voluntarily transformed into a Guardian Spirit General, and her Cultivation Base fell to the early stage of Gold Core.

While her return to the early stage of Gold Core was significant, Delicate WaterSpirit General didn't find it a reason to be happy. Before becoming a Guardian Spirit General, all four of them were talented cultivators in the sect, with a chance to become Primordial Spirit True Monarchs. However, after giving up on their breakthrough, they chose to become Guardian Spirit Generals to continue protecting the sect.

Although Guardian Spirit Generals had a long lifespan, they also faced many drawbacks. Among the four Guardian Spirit Generals, except for Extreme Sword Spirit General, the rest only had Cultivation Bases at the early stage of Gold Core.

Even though they tried their best to cultivate and made various efforts after becoming Guardian Spirit Generals, their Cultivation Bases remained stagnant, unable to advance.

To most cultivators in the Cultivation World, Gold Core stage cultivators were considered high-level and unattainable. But for these Guardian Spirit Generals, who were once strong Gold Core Daoist Masters, transforming into Guardian Spirit Generals with only the early stage of Gold Core was not something to be happy about.

Transforming from Gold Core Daoist Masters to Guardian Spirit Generals was not a simple task and had a high failure rate. Otherwise, Taiyi Sect would have continuously produced Guardian Spirit Generals.

Due to the extremely low success rate of transformation, Guardian Spirit Generals became precious and rare. Because Delicate WaterSpirit General had a Cultivation Base at the early stage of Gold Core before, her restoration to Cultivation Base didn't cause any significant changes, unlike when Foundation Building stage cultivators breakthrough to the Gold Core stage.

After recovering her Cultivation Base, Delicate WaterSpirit General hasn't interacted with anyone in the sect. Only the other three Guardian Spirit Generals know about it.

After discussing with the three Guardian Spirit Generals, Meng Zhang decided to temporarily keep this news sealed and use Delicate WaterSpirit General as a hidden trump card for Taiyi Sect.

Externally, including other cultivators in Taiyi Sect, it is strictly confidential. They only mention that Delicate WaterSpirit General is still in seclusion and has not come out yet. *freewebnovel.com*

For Foundation Building stage cultivators, going into seclusion for decades is not uncommon.

While Delicate WaterSpirit General's recovery to the Gold Core stage is a great thing, it has also brought a new problem.

The Third Rank spirit vein of Grand Lion Ridge was barely enough to support Meng Zhang alone, and now with the addition of Delicate WaterSpirit General, the spiritual energy was even more insufficient. The task of repairing the spirit vein by Deep EarthSpirit General was far from completion.

During regular days, Delicate WaterSpirit General tried to avoid absorbing the spiritual energy from the Third Rank spirit vein and instead used high-grade spiritual stones to set up gathering formations. As a Guardian Spirit General, her Cultivation Base was already difficult to advance. As long as she could barely maintain her daily cultivation and preserve her Cultivation Base from falling, it was considered satisfactory.

Meng Zhang knew that this was not a long-term solution. The vast consumption of high-grade spiritual stones by Delicate WaterSpirit General was a heavy burden on the entire sect. Furthermore, he, as well as the other Spirit Generals, hoped that Delicate WaterSpirit General would continue to progress in her Cultivation Base.

Among the young disciples of Taiyi Sect, individuals like Wen Qiansun and Yang Xueyi, with exceptional talent, had already reached the late stage of Foundation Building. Their breakthrough to the Gold Core stage was not far off.

Currently, Taiyi Sect's demand for the Third Rank spirit vein became an unavoidable issue. Throughout the Endless Sea of Sand, there were no unclaimed Third Rank spirit veins. Northern Desert Qi Family had one, but it seemed to have some significant flaws. Besides, Northern Desert

Qi Family was a potential ally, and Taiyi Sect couldn't possibly have hostile intentions towards them.

Flying Swan Sect had the best conditions, possessing two Third Rank spirit veins. Especially the Third Rank spirit vein in Feihong Mountain, which was originally owned by the Primordial Spirit sect, Purple Gold Sect, and had excellent quality.

Even if Flying Swan Sect currently only had two Gold Core Daoist Masters, even if they had a few more, the spiritual energy provided by that Third Rank spirit vein would still be more than enough.

Unfortunately, from all perspectives, Taiyi Sect couldn't take action against Flying Swan Sect right now.

As for the remaining areas in Demon Wind Gobi, firstly, it was uncertain whether there were any Third Rank spirit veins, and secondly, there were many Third Rank demon beasts within, making it difficult to clear them out.

After much thought, Meng Zhang came up with the only feasible solution: to return to the Deadly Sea of Sand and try to obtain the spirit essence once again. However, this time, he wouldn't go personally.

He had heard from Jin LiDaoist Master that the Deadly Sea of Sand was the battleground where the Fifth Rank great power and True Monarch Tian Zhu contended. The Fifth Rank great power kept a keen eye on the Deadly Sea of Sand through numerous sand monsters.

Foundation Building stage cultivators entering the Deadly Sea of Sand might not draw the attention of the Fifth Rank great power. However, Gold Core Daoist Masters had the strength to become pawns in the fight between the Fifth Rank great power and True Monarch Tian Zhu.

So, once a Gold Core Daoist Master entered the Deadly Sea of Sand, they would quickly be discovered by the Fifth Rank great power, attracting a continuous pursuit from sand monsters. Even if they managed to escape the chase of the sand monsters, the Fifth Rank great power might personally take action at the cost of some price.

This was also the reason why other Gold Core Daoist Masters didn't dare to enter the Deadly Sea of Sand.

Jin LiDaoist Master dared to enter and leave the Deadly Sea of Sand because he had an agreement with True Monarch Tian Zhu. Besides, within the Deadly Sea of Sand, he couldn't take the initiative to act.

Meng Zhang decided to select a group of elite Taiyi Sect Foundation Building stage cultivators and let them go to the Deadly Sea of Sand. This would be a kind of training for them, and they could also attempt to seize the spirit essence.

In fact, Taiyi Sect, along with other cultivators of the Hanhai Alliance, mainly focused on training in Demon Wind Gobi.

However, as the surrounding demon beasts were hunted in large numbers, Foundation Building stage cultivators found it increasingly difficult to gain sufficient training.

The other Foundation Building stage cultivators in the Hanhai Alliance could afford to be less concerned, but if Taiyi Sect cultivators had aspirations to break through to the Gold Core stage, various trials were inevitable.

Chapter 530: Informed and Experienced

In the current Taiyi Sect, many cultivators secretly enter the territory of the Jiuqu League through the channels of those smugglers and then travel around the area. The Great Wind City officials turn a blind eye to such activities. Even in the capacity of True Monarch Profound Wind, it is impossible to constantly monitor the lower-level Taiyi Sect cultivators.

The Fire Cloud Sect is occupied with tending to their wounds and cannot spare the attention. Moreover, within the Jiuqu League's jurisdiction, the Fire Cloud Sect cannot freely hunt other cultivators. Therefore, as long as these lower-level Taiyi Sect cultivators are not extremely unlucky or deliberately causing trouble, their safety within the Jiuqu League's territory is reasonably assured.

For Meng Zhang to use the Deadly Sea of Sand as a new training ground for Foundation Building stage cultivators from Taiyi Sect, there is a lot of preparation work to be done. These cultivators must undergo targeted training before entering the Deadly Sea of Sand to ensure their survival.

In addition, Meng Zhang also asked Jin Qiao'er to take care of these Taiyi Sect cultivators entering the Deadly Sea of Sand. Jin LiDaoist Master spends a significant amount of time within the Deadly Sea of Sand. While she may not be able to actively intervene, she can still find ways to assist these Taiyi Sect cultivators if she is willing.

When Meng Zhang spoke to Jin Qiao'er about this matter, Jin Qiao'er showed great interest. She herself had experienced multiple trials on the fringes of the Deadly Sea of Sand. Initially, Jin LiDaoist Master scolded her a few times, but as Jin Qiao'er gained more combat experience and improved her self-defense abilities, Jin LiDaoist Master stopped bothering her.

Although she rarely ventured deep into the Deadly Sea of Sand, Jin Qiao'er was very familiar with the situation inside. The Third Rank sand monsters within the Deadly Sea of Sand are mostly found around that Fifth Rank great power and rarely roam freely. As long as the teams of Foundation Building stage cultivators are cautious, avoid getting surrounded by sand monsters, and are not targeted by evil cultivators or demonic cultivators, their safety can be ensured.

After a lengthy discussion between Jin Qiao'er and Meng Zhang, she not only agreed to relay the information to her master, Jin LiDaoist Master, but also decided to have some excellent cultivators from the Qiaoshou Sect join in the experience.

Although the Deadly Sea of Sand appears extremely desolate with vast stretches of yellow sand, it is not devoid of resources. Before the arrival of that Fifth Rank great power, the Deadly Sea of Sand was not as desolate as it is today. It had oases, human settlements, cultivation forces, and resources.

After the arrival of the Fifth Rank great power, the cultivation forces within the Deadly Sea of Sand were wiped out, and humans disappeared without a trace. However, the underground mineral resources did not vanish into thin air.

Of course, the few Foundation Building stage cultivators who venture into the Deadly Sea of Sand cannot extensively exploit the various mineral deposits. At most, they can collect some valuable minerals.

In addition, the Deadly Sea of Sand is teeming with countless sand monsters, and there are numerous sand monster nests. Those with courage can venture deep into these nests and obtain valuable Spirit Source Pearls.

Meng Zhang's intention for Taiyi Sect cultivators to undergo this experience is not solely to gather cultivation resources but primarily to give them ample training. Thanks to Jin Qiao'er's active involvement, this matter quickly fell into place. Jin LiDaoist Master agreed to Meng Zhang's request.

However, Jin LiDaoist Master made it clear that she is not their babysitter and cannot look after these cultivators all the time. She can only offer help when convenient. As a reciprocal gesture, Taiyi Sect should also take care of Qiaoshou Sect in the future.

Jin Qiao'er grew up in Qiaoshou Sect but received her inheritance from Jin LiDaoist Master. Jin LiDaoist Master never regarded Qiaoshou Sect, a Foundation Building-level sect, highly and did not want Jin Qiao'er to stay there forever. However, in recent years, Jin Qiao'er has been helping True Monarch Tian Zhu in the Endless Sea of Sand, so she did not leave with Jin LiDaoist Master.

Jin Qiao'er has a deep affection for Qiaoshou Sect, where she grew up. Because of this, Jin LiDaoist Master has been considerate towards Qiaoshou Sect. Being a staunch ally of Taiyi Sect and not a threat to them, Taiyi Sect will treat Qiaoshou Sect well, both out of respect for Jin LiDaoist Master and considering the potential benefits.

Meng Zhang readily agreed to Jin LiDaoist Master's request. Both Meng Zhang and Jin Qiao'er are decisive in their actions, and once the arrangements were made, they immediately set their plan in motion.

Among the Taiyi Sect cultivators are Extreme Sword Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General at the Foundation Building completion stage, as well as Wen Qiansun and Yang Xueyi at the Foundation Building late stage. Jin Qiao'er represents Qiaoshou Sect at the Foundation Building late stage. These five individuals, as the backbone, will lead the cultivators from both sects and form several teams to take turns exploring the Deadly Sea of Sand.

Delicate Water Spirit General, after recovering her Gold Core stage Cultivation Base, did not want to stay idle within the sect and decided to venture out. As Meng Zhang considers her as a hidden card for the sect, she cannot go to other places in the Cultivation World to avoid revealing her true identity. So, Delicate Water Spirit General chose to venture into the depths of the Demon Wind Gobi alone.

Currently, Taiyi Sect holds a significant portion of the Demon Wind Gobi's territory and has cleared most of the monsters there, firmly controlling the area. There are no Third Rank monsters here, only a few First Rank monsters deliberately kept around and some Second Rank monsters that have escaped the pursuit of human cultivators.

However, moving further into the depths of the Demon Wind Gobi leads to territories still occupied by a large number of monsters, including some Third Rank ones. Taiyi Sect had never paid much attention to the western part of the Demon Wind Gobi after occupying the eastern region.

Meng Zhang knows that there are still a considerable number of monsters in the deep parts of the Demon Wind Gobi, and among them are Third Rank monsters. Until now, these monsters have stayed in the western area and have never come to the east.

Previously, Taiyi Sect's main focus was on the Endless Sea of Sand. Human cultivators, not monsters, posed the biggest threat to Taiyi Sect. The monsters in the deep parts of the Demon Wind Gobi did not pose a threat to Taiyi Sect as they never ventured into the eastern region.

However, after Taiyi Sect moved its mountain gate to the Grand Lion Ridge, Meng Zhang decided to investigate the situation there and uncover the secrets of these monsters.

Delicate Water Spirit General, who is always eager for action, took the initiative to go to the depths of the Demon Wind Gobi, and naturally, Meng Zhang did not stop her.

With Delicate Water Spirit General's extensive experience, Meng Zhang didn't need to say much. After Delicate Water Spirit General's departure, Taiyi Sect was left with only Meng Zhang as a Gold Core Daoist Master. He presided over the Grand Lion Ridge and, aside from occasionally handling important sect matters, spent most of his time immersed in cultivation.

As a Gold Core mid-stage cultivator, Meng Zhang had practiced several Divine Abilities, but his Third Rank magic tool, the Spiritsnake Spear, was unsatisfactory due to severe damage. He couldn't use it freely, fearing further deterioration. Unfortunately, Taiyi Sect currently lacked a Third Rank tool refiner to fully repair the spiritual weapon.

Jiuqu League had Third Rank tool refiners, but Meng Zhang couldn't contact them, and he was unwilling to let outsiders repair his most powerful spiritual weapon, fearing the exposure of his trump card.

Later, Extreme Sword Spirit General came up with a solution. Many Sword Cultivators practiced the technique of nurturing their flying swords. Several skilled tool refiners also had methods for nurturing magic tools. Extreme Sword Spirit General combined the nurturing technique of a Sword Cultivator with some knowledge of tool refining to create a special technique that he passed on to Meng Zhang.

By regularly using this secret method, Meng Zhang could use his own True Essence to gradually nurture the Spiritsnake Spear. From time to time, he added precious materials for refining, allowing the spear to spontaneously integrate and be completely repaired. As the Spiritsnake Spear still possessed spirituality, it could repair itself with Meng Zhang's cooperation. frēewebnoveℓ.com

Extreme Sword Spirit General truly lived up to being the most experienced and knowledgeable senior in Taiyi Sect. After using the secret method for some time, Meng Zhang found it to be quite effective.

Since advancing to Gold Core mid-stage, Meng Zhang converted all his Sun and Moon True Qi into Sun and Moon True Essence, which not only became more pure and abundant but also possessed great spirituality.

While the Endless Sea of Sand and Demon Wind Gobi may lack other resources, they had various mineral deposits. Taiyi Sect derived a considerable income from mining these resources.

With Meng Zhang's status, he could mobilize the entire sect's power to obtain valuable spiritual materials for the refinement of the Spiritsnake Spear. The spear was repaired at a rapid pace, and its power gradually recovered.

Back at Myriad Layers Peak, Meng Zhang and Extreme Sword Spirit General had both obtained some Third Rank magic tools left by Layered Mystery Sect. Meng Zhang stored these magic tools in the sect's treasury for the use of Gold Core cultivators.

However, Gold Core Daoist Masters had a limited capacity to control Third Rank magic tools, and Taiyi Sect would likely have more Gold Core Daoist Masters in the future. Therefore, Meng Zhang only kept one defensive magic tool for personal use and didn't use the others.

Delicate WaterSpirit General, after recovering her Gold Core stage Cultivation Base, exchanged sect contributions for two magic tools.

During the explosion at Myriad Layers Peak, the invading cultivators gained various treasures. However, many light clusters storing various treasures disappeared completely with the explosion.

Taiyi Sect only obtained a partial inheritance left by Layered Mystery Sect. Qi Nanfei and Fei ShiDaoist Master might also have some of Layered Mystery Sect's treasures, and perhaps even other parts of their inheritance.

During the joint battle against Fire Cloud Sect, when they were still allies, Meng Zhang cautiously probed Fei ShiDaoist Master and Wu Mingwei several times to find out about their gains. But they remained tight-lipped and tried to explore Meng Zhang's gains in return.

Meng Zhang was well aware of Flying Swan Sect's desire for Layered Mystery Sect's inheritance and naturally did not reveal any details. He changed the subject and casually brushed off the matter.

After defeating Fire Cloud Sect, Meng Zhang also tried to probe Qi Nanfei. Qi Nanfei had entered Myriad Layers Peak alongside Hong Siming from Yellow Lotus Sect. Besides wanting to know about his gains, Meng Zhang also wanted to test his relationship with Yellow Lotus Sect.

However, Meng Zhang had no malicious intentions. If Qi Nanfei possessed Layered Mystery Sect's inheritance, Meng Zhang could propose a trade where they would exchange and borrow from each other. But Qi Nanfei didn't reveal his gains and directly declined Meng Zhang's trade request.

Not obtaining the complete inheritance of Layered Mystery Sect had been a regret for Meng Zhang. He tried to compensate for it but wasn't successful.

Of course, the partial inheritance of Layered Mystery Sect still brought significant benefits to the sect's disciples. An Xiaoran and An Moran, Meng Zhang's second and third disciples, previously practiced a partial technique from Layered Mystery Sect. After completing the technique, their cultivation bases advanced faster, and their combat prowess grew exponentially.

Meng Zhang studied various scriptures from Layered Mystery Sect and gained profound insights. The Endless Sea of Sand and Demon Wind Gobi were currently peaceful, with no foreign invaders. This rare tranquility allowed Meng Zhang to focus on his cultivation.

The teams of Foundation Building cultivators from Taiyi Sect and Qiaoshou Sect, after entering the Deadly Sea of Sand for training, made great progress. Some disciples, previously immature, returned with a special sharpness, akin to unsheathed swords.

Lucky disciples even managed to obtain spiritual treasures from the Deadly Sea of Sand. A team led by Extreme Sword Spirit General even destroyed a sand monster nest and brought back several precious Spirit Source Pearls.

Spirit Source Pearls were rare treasures that could improve the quality of spirit veins in the Cultivation World. They were in high demand. Moreover, Deep Earth Spirit General, who was currently organizing the repair of a Third Rank spirit vein, needed Spirit Source Pearls. Although the quality of these Spirit Source Pearls wasn't enough to directly upgrade a Second Rank spirit vein to a Third Rank, they were essential materials for repairing spirit veins.

Deep Earth Spirit General took these Spirit Source Pearls and proposed to Meng Zhang to invest more resources into the Deadly Sea of Sand to acquire more of them. With sufficient supply of Spirit Source Pearls, the repair speed of the Third Rank spirit vein would be greatly accelerated.

Meng Zhang rewarded this team of cultivators generously and encouraged them to continue their efforts to obtain more Spirit Source Pearls in the future.

Meng Zhang used various methods to encourage not only Taiyi Sect cultivators but also cultivators from the entire Hanhai Dao Alliance to go to the Deadly Sea of Sand and try to obtain Spirit Source Pearls from the sand monster nests.

While it was generally required for a cultivator to have at least a mid-stage Foundation Building Cultivation Base to venture into the Deadly Sea of Sand alone, having two Guardian Spirit Generals from Taiyi Sect leading the teams allowed for more flexibility. Some exceptionally talented early-stage Foundation Building cultivators could join the teams.

Thanks to Meng Zhang's encouragement, more and more Foundation Building stage cultivators began to join the teams and train in the Deadly Sea of Sand. Unfortunately, the region was infested with sand monsters, making it challenging for these teams to carve a path through and obtain the Spirit Source Pearls. Several teams of elite Foundation Building stage cultivators entered the Deadly Sea of Sand, but instead of finding more Spirit Source Pearls, they suffered casualties.

Meng Zhang didn't stop these cultivators from entering the Deadly Sea of Sand but instead focused on strengthening their combat capabilities and preparations for their expeditions.