

Sect Master 581

Chapter 581: Conflict escalation

Currently, Taiyi Sect appears to be flourishing, with an air of growth and prosperity. However, in reality, it faces an extremely perilous situation, where even the slightest disturbance could lead to its downfall.

Flying Swan Sect, this unreliable ally, is too weak to ensure its own survival. Whether Jin LiDaoist Master can achieve Primordial Spirit is also an unknown variable.

Every potential help is like a lifesaving straw, and Taiyi Sect must firmly grasp them.

Great Wind City has only sided with Taiyi Sect secretly due to their mutual interests. Facing the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, Great Wind City may not be able to make any significant contributions.

However, Great Wind City is the only external aid that Taiyi Sect can find, and Meng Zhang certainly wouldn't easily let this opportunity slip away.

Furthermore, although the term "interest-based relationship" might not sound pleasant, it is a highly reliable form of association, far more dependable than friendship, benevolence, or morality.

Every time Meng Zhang visits Great Wind City, he actively pays visits to important figures of the Gu Yue Family. During the conversations, he subtly or directly tries to instigate discord among the Fire Cloud Sect members.

Gu Yue Family, as the second family in Great Wind City and one of its two controllers, shares both glory and loss with the city. If Great Wind City's interests are damaged, it naturally means Gu Yue Family's interests are harmed as well.

However, the Gu Yue Family is known for its subtle actions and may not easily react strongly to this situation. On the other hand, the Lu Family has openly expressed dissatisfaction with both Fire Cloud Sect and Taiyi Sect on several occasions.

If not for Gu Yue Family's face, Meng Zhang might have bypassed them and visited the Lu Family already.

Gu Yue Huaidie and Meng Zhang share a longstanding friendship, and she knows him well. When talking to her, Meng Zhang doesn't play any tricks and straightforwardly tells her that Taiyi Sect and Fire Cloud Sect are becoming increasingly incompatible.

As the strategist of Gu Yue Family, Gu Yue Huaidie is well-informed about the situation in the Endless Sea of Sand. Emotionally, she leans towards Meng Zhang, and from an interest perspective, she is willing to support Taiyi Sect.

However, the internal situation of the Jiuqu League is complicated, and the surrounding situation of Great Wind City is not stable. It is not a time for Gu Yue Family to act recklessly.

Gu Yue Huaidie doesn't hide Gu Yue Family's stance and openly tells Meng Zhang that they won't directly intervene in the conflicts in the Endless Sea of Sand for now. This is a sentiment Meng Zhang has heard from other Gu Yue Family cultivators before. He is not discouraged, knowing that regardless of the outcome, he must do what he has to do.

He believes that conflicts of interest are the most challenging to reconcile. There will come a time when Great Wind City can no longer endure, and at that moment, without his persuasion, the city will naturally align with Taiyi Sect.

After visiting Gu Yue Huaidie, Meng Zhang inspects Taiyi Sect's commercial situation in Great Wind City.

In Great Wind City, Meng Zhang doesn't need to hide his identity and can now show himself openly.

Apart from organizing numerous merchant caravans to travel to Great Wind City, Taiyi Sect has also established a trading guild and acquired shops to engage in various businesses within the city.

The headquarters of Taiyi Sect's trading guild in Great Wind City is a tall building named Hengyuan Building, personally named by Meng Zhang. In the past, Taiyi Sect struggled to establish its own commercial organization in the small markets of the Endless Sea of Sand and had its first Hengyuan Building. Now, as Taiyi Sect continues to grow and expand, there are many Hengyuan Buildings scattered throughout various markets. And now, they even have one in Great Wind City.

Currently, Taiyi Sect's strength ranks among the top in the Gold Core sects. Coupled with their vast territory in the Demon Wind Gobi and abundant cultivation resources, as well as the strong

management abilities of their disciples, their business naturally expands, bringing a significant profit to the sect.

If Taiyi Sect cannot establish itself in the Demon Wind Gobi, the trading business in Great Wind City will be a fallback option.

After a careful inspection and receiving reports from the resident stewards, Meng Zhang feels that there are no major issues and begins his journey back.

Taiyi Sect has already moved its main gate to Hundred Grass Slope.

The Grand Lion Ridge retains its original spirit field and medicinal garden since Jin Qiao'er is currently cultivating there. Taiyi Sect has not stationed any other Gold Core cultivators there during her stay.

While passing through the Grand Lion Ridge, Meng Zhang visits Jin Qiao'er.

Jin Qiao'er's successful Core Formation this time was a great help to Taiyi Sect.

Regardless of whether Taiyi Sect's assistance was due to Jin LiDaoist Master's face, Jin Qiao'er acknowledged the favor and warmly received Meng Zhang's visit.

Although Meng Zhang is the local lord here, Jin Qiao'er is only temporarily staying here.

The main purpose of Meng Zhang's visit to Jin Qiao'er this time is to have a thorough exchange with her.

Since forming her core, Jin Qiao'er has been busy consolidating her cultivation base and practicing various Divine Abilities that only Gold Core cultivators can master. With the guidance of Jin LiDaoist Master, she lacks nothing in her primary cultivation and Divine Abilities, and her skills are excellent.

However, practicing alone cannot compare to exchanging and learning from fellow cultivators.

Before forming her core, Jin LiDaoist Master imparted all her knowledge and even left behind many jade slips for Jin Qiao'er to study. However, under the guidance of Meng Zhang, a mid-Gold Core expert, Jin Qiao'er still benefits greatly.

During their exchange, Meng Zhang not only discussed profound Dao principles with Jin Qiao'er but also helped her improve her combat experience.

Meng Zhang stayed in the Grand Lion Ridge for over two months. During the exchange with Jin Qiao'er, he also gained some valuable insights.

Jin Qiao'er's inheritance is extremely profound, and with Jin LiDaoist Master's guidance, she has mastered many advanced techniques. Many times, she surprised Meng Zhang with her knowledge and skill.

After the exchange, before leaving, Meng Zhang casually asked Jin Qiao'er if she knew anything about Jin LiDaoist Master's current situation or if there was any way to contact her.

Jin Qiao'er sincerely told Meng Zhang that ever since Jin LiDaoist Master entered the small world of Purple Gold Sect, she lost all contact with her and has no idea about her current situation.

Seeing Jin Qiao'er's sincerity, Meng Zhang sighed in his heart and then bid farewell.

Time passed quickly, and now it has been over thirty years since Jin LiDaoist Master entered that small world to seclude herself. However, there has been no word from her, and nobody knows if she succeeded or failed.

With Jin LiDaoist Master not appearing around the Endless Sea of Sand for such a long time, some people have started to suspect her. However, if the situation involving True Monarch Tian Zhu becomes questionable, that would be a real disaster.

After returning to Hundred Grass Slope, apart from cultivating diligently and striving to improve his combat strength, Meng Zhang has no better option at hand.

Another ten years have passed, and Meng Zhang's Cultivation Base has become even more profound. Even after reaching the mid-Gold Core stage, his cultivation speed has not slowed down.

Taiyi Sect's current financial resources and connections have grown to the point where they can purchase some Third Rank items from the Jiuqu League. These include Third Rank magic tools, Third Rank spiritual items, and Third Rank elixirs, among others.

As the Sect Master of Taiyi Sect, Meng Zhang naturally receives offerings from the sect. Disciples spare no effort to collect items he might need. From time to time, Meng Zhang can take Third Rank elixirs or refine Third Rank spiritual items.

Although the supply of cultivation resources is far from sufficient, it is already invaluable for Meng Zhang. During Taiyi Sect's rise, he often faced shortages of cultivation resources.

Taiyi Sect has reached a point where it can now support high-level cultivators within the sect instead of relying on them for subsidies.

Meng Zhang hasn't audited Taiyi Sect's treasury in a long time, so he's not entirely sure about their current assets.

As his Cultivation Base grows, Meng Zhang devotes more time to cultivation. Most of the sect's affairs have been delegated to the disciples, particularly to his top disciple, Niu Dawei, who perfectly fulfills the role of acting Sect Master and handles most of the daily matters.

Meng Zhang only gets involved in significant matters concerning the sect's future and destiny, and he speaks up during crucial moments.

At less than 200 years old, Meng Zhang reached the mid-Gold Core stage, one step away from advancing to the late Gold Core stage. At this point, he encountered a bottleneck, and his Cultivation Base temporarily stalled.

Although his Cultivation Base had stalled, his cultivation couldn't stop. He had too many spells and Divine Abilities that he needed to learn and practice. The more spells he mastered, the more methods he had to deal with enemies, thus enhancing his combat strength.

Facing formidable external enemies, Meng Zhang needed to possess formidable combat capabilities. In recent years, other members of Taiyi Sect have also made progress.

Yang Xueyi had almost completely integrated the rune weapon inherited from a senior of the Purple Gold Sect's Gold Core stage, and she now wielded many advanced talisman techniques.

After becoming a Gold Core Daoist Master, Wen Qiansun finally found the most suitable path for himself. He incorporated his excellent formation techniques into his cultivation, mastering various ways to enhance combat power through formations.

Two elders of the sect, the former Beast Controlling Hall Master, Hu Jing, and the current War Hall Master, Zheng Chao, both completed their Foundation Building stage cultivation and entered the process of breaking through to the Gold Core stage.

Taiyi Sect now has a considerable number of Gold Core cultivators. According to Meng Zhang's plan, the sect's elders should all be Gold Core cultivators in the future. Foundation Building cultivators, except for a few special cases, are unlikely to become elders.

Of course, the previous Foundation Building elders will retain their positions, and they are still considered elders of the sect.

Over time, those Foundation Building elders who are unable to advance to the Gold Core stage will eventually be phased out.

True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind, who fled from the Endless Sea of Sand, have started to doubt True Monarch Tian Zhu's situation.

Although Primordial Spirit True Monarchs have long lifespans and can disappear for decades or even hundreds of years, it's unusual for True Monarch Tian Zhu not to react at all after being betrayed by True Monarch Mountain Peak and calculated by True Monarch Profound Wind.

True Monarch Tian Zhu has never been known for his magnanimity but rather for being vengeful and vicious.

True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind communicated several times and felt that True Monarch Tian Zhu might not be in good condition.

However, they dare not personally investigate the situation in the Deadly Sea of Sand. They fear that this could be a trap set by True Monarch Tian Zhu, leading them straight into danger.

They are hiding within the territory of the Jiuqu League. As long as True Monarch Tian Zhu hasn't advanced to the Return to Emptiness stage, he wouldn't dare to risk a war with the entire Jiuqu League and provoke them.

To ascertain True Monarch Tian Zhu's condition, they once again ordered their Gold Core Daoist Masters to use various means to probe and determine his true status.

More and more Gold Core Daoist Masters infiltrated the Deadly Sea of Sand to investigate the battlefield where True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit fought.

Jin Li Daoist Master, who is in seclusion in the small world of Purple Gold Sect, has not emerged to stop them.

However, the residual Grand Dao power in the center of the battlefield has not dissipated. Even Gold Core Daoist Masters could be severely injured if touched by that power.

These Gold Core Daoist Masters circled around the periphery but dared not approach the core area of the battlefield recklessly.

They are not fools; they are cunning old foxes who know not to risk their lives, even if they are loyal to the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

In some cases, when some Gold Core Daoist Masters act recklessly, trying to take advantage of the situation and provoke the other side, their opponents' Gold Core Daoist Masters respond promptly.

Fortunately, both sides' Gold Core Daoist Masters restrained themselves, stopping at a superficial level without escalating the conflict into a full-scale war.

Meng Zhang ordered Taiyi Sect to firmly retaliate against the enemy's provocations and never retreat during conflicts. At this moment, Taiyi Sect must appear strong and not reveal any signs of weakness.

Without Jin Li Daoist Master and Fei Shi Daoist Master, Taiyi Sect is still at a disadvantage in terms of Gold Core combat strength, even with the addition of Jin Qiao'er and Deep Earth Spirit General.

Thankfully, Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch still have their reservations and are not eager to initiate a full-scale war.

Although the conflicts continue to escalate, with more forces involved, they still exercise restraint and haven't launched an all-out attack. The battles are still limited to localized areas.

Chapter 582: Results in the Treasure

As long as there is no outbreak of an all-out war, Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect can still hold on. Without Jin Li Daoist Master and Fei Shi Daoist Master, Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect are at a clear disadvantage in terms of Gold Core combat power. However, in the struggles between their low-level disciples, they can both attack and defend, putting up a strong fight.

This destined-to-be-long-lasting conflict is a trial of blood and fire for the disciples of Taiyi Sect. Numerous disciples are depleted in successive battles, but many outstanding disciples have also emerged.

Meng Zhang and several Gold Core cultivators from the sect take turns supervising the frontline, closely monitoring the changes in the battle situation. Teams of low-level disciples from the four sects step onto the battlefield, struggling for survival in the bloody meat grinder.

At this point, no one has an escape route; everyone must persevere until the end. Although they know sacrifices are unavoidable in war, seeing Taiyi Sect's meticulously nurtured disciples being rapidly consumed on the battlefield feels heartbreaking for Meng Zhang.

Both Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch, as the initiators of the war, are reluctant to witness this scene. Especially Fire Cloud Sect, which suffered heavy losses in the previous invasions of the Endless Sea of Sand and has not yet fully recovered.

Setting aside the Gold Core Daoist Masters, Fire Cloud Sect's low-level disciples are not significantly stronger than those of Flying Swan Sect. However, Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch, as the fresh reinforcements, not only possesses formidable strength but also has enlisted several affiliated forces to participate in the war.

Before the split, Yellow Lotus Sect was one of the powerful forces in the entire Jiuqu League. Even after the split, each sub-branch's power surpasses that of most Gold Core sects in Jiuqu League.

Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch is primarily responsible for the main offensive and has dispatched a continuous stream of cultivators into battle. Nonetheless, despite being a powerful force, the casualties incurred in this war are a considerable blow to them.

Both Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch had few choices but to engage in this battle with Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect. They have been seeking various excuses to delay initiating an all-out war, trying to minimize their losses.

This time, their active engagement in the fight is part of a probing mission. If they cannot determine True Monarch Tian Zhu's true strength, the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs behind them will undoubtedly force them to launch an all-out war.

It remains unknown how much longer the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs can endure. While letting the sect's disciples gain experience in battle is one thing, having them die in meaningless fights is another. After staying at the frontline for a while, Meng Zhang couldn't bear to sit idly by.

The initiative of the war is not in Meng Zhang's hands, and he is even less willing to escalate it. Despite the heavy casualties, the overall situation can still be maintained for now. However, if the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters join the battle, Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect will likely be unable to resist.

In preparation for such a battle, Taiyi Sect invested heavily to purchase a large amount of war materials from Great Wind City, distributing them to the participating disciples. However, even with the enhanced combat power of their disciples, the losses could only be reduced to some extent without solving the fundamental problem.

After much thought, Meng Zhang believed the best solution was to have other forces participate in the war, replacing their sect's disciples in the consumption of resources.

At the beginning of the war, Taiyi Sect had already offered a generous reward, hiring cultivators from the Jiuqu League to join the battle. Given the rich heritage of Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch, their financial power was not inferior to Taiyi Sect's.

If Taiyi Sect could hire cannon fodder, the others could do the same or even offer better terms, attracting more cannon fodder. Taiyi Sect has many cultivation forces in the Hanhai Dao League that can be employed, and both Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch have their own affiliated forces.

However, as the war continues, it becomes increasingly challenging for both sides to hire new cannon fodder. Even with higher rewards, there still must be people willing to take the risk. The combat power of the affiliated forces is limited, and they need to send their core disciples to undertake the main combat tasks.

Unable to find a better solution for the time being, Meng Zhang's thoughts turned to his skill in Tianji Art (Heavenly Calculation).

As his mastery of Tianji Art deepens, Meng Zhang finds it increasingly difficult to employ it carelessly. The more he delves into the heavenly path, the more cautious and vigilant he becomes.

Using Tianji Art to peer into the changes of the heavenly path and calculate the past and future will inevitably lead to backlash from the heavenly path. Although Meng Zhang has not yet experienced the backlash due to insufficient accumulation of counter-force, it will inevitably occur if he continues to employ Tianji Art recklessly.

Secondly, due to his previous slaying of Demonic Cultivator Ye Feifan and earning merits from the heavenly path, he can offset some of the backlash to a certain extent.

Now, when it comes to employing Tianji Art, Meng Zhang has become increasingly cautious. He will not use it easily unless there is a definite need. Moreover, for problems with high difficulty in calculation, he will avoid dealing with them proactively.

Just like the perilous situation Taiyi Sect is facing now, which involves the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs. If he rashly attempts to calculate a solution, the consequences of getting nothing and being subjected to heavenly backlash are not light. It might even cost him his life.

Therefore, Meng Zhang can only deal with problems one step at a time, finding solutions one by one.

After careful consideration and weighing the pros and cons, Meng Zhang believes that his calculations should not bring adverse consequences and can solve the problem. He prepares to use Tianji Art.

Since neither side's Gold Core cultivators are directly participating in the battle, Taiyi Sect still has a relatively ample manpower. Meng Zhang leaves the frontline and returns to the sect.

Upon returning to Hundred Grass Slope, Meng Zhang enters seclusion to perform the Grand Evolving Fortune. After a thorough calculation, he finds the answer.

Instructing the disciples of the sect, he departs from Hundred Grass Slope, flying towards the Deadly Sea of Sand. Without any delay along the way, he arrives at the central area of the Deadly Sea of Sand, not far from where True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit had perished.

Due to their intense battle, this place was like doomsday, with space torn apart and numerous spatial fissures intermittently appearing. Storms from different spaces howl through, and the earth frequently trembles violently. Deep abysses cover the ground, with magma flowing from the depths. The sky is filled with black smoke and toxic fires, thick dark clouds blocking out the sunlight.

The most terrifying aspect is that both sides freely wielded the power of the Grand Dao, distorting the rules of the surrounding heavens and earth. Chaos reigns over various rules in this place.

Magma flows upward like a reversed waterfall, and flames and rain intertwine without affecting each other. If an ordinary cultivator enters this place, their sense of space would be completely inverted, and they would quickly lose their bearings.

Casually taking a step could lead to entering another space, and those with bad luck could be sliced apart by spatial fissures.

Gold Core Daoist Masters who come here only dare to hover around the periphery and never venture too deep. The closer they get to the center of the battlefield, the stronger the remaining power of the Grand Dao becomes, making it easy to harm Gold Core Daoist Masters. Meng Zhang stands at a distance, looking in the direction of the battlefield, his expression grim.

Since the great battle years ago, Meng Zhang has periodically come to this place to investigate the changes. Compared to the time when True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit perished together, the situation here has improved significantly. By carefully sensing the surroundings, one can feel that the residual Grand Dao power is weakening as time passes.

After the Grand Dao power subsides, there is no longer anything to prevent outsiders from entering the center of the battlefield. With True Monarch Tian Zhu's demise, even without True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind taking action, their subordinates alone could easily destroy Taiyi Sect.

Meng Zhang estimates that Taiyi Sect has at most thirty more years before the Grand Dao power completely disappears. If by that time Jin Li Daoist Master has not successfully achieved Primordial Spirit, Taiyi Sect will need to make other plans.

Temporarily putting these worries aside, Meng Zhang focuses on his present task. He circumvents the battlefield, following the results of his calculations, carefully searching as he advances. After several days of searching the surroundings, Meng Zhang finally discovers his target when passing by a sand dune. Using his Deception Breaking Eye, he observes through the hundred-zhang-deep yellow sand and finds a strange crystalline structure buried underground, about the size of a human head.

With a gentle wave of his hand, the entire sand dune is blown away by invisible force. Countless yellow sand rises from the ground and is scattered far away, revealing the crystal.

Meng Zhang once again employs his Deception Breaking Eye but cannot see the inside of the crystal. He uses his Divine Sense to probe repeatedly but finds nothing amiss. His Spiritual Awareness does not signal any danger, indicating that the crystal is not a dangerous object.

Meng Zhang gently retrieves the crystal with his right hand. After a series of observations and even using Grand Evolving Fortune for calculation, he finally manages to grasp the general nature of the treasure.

This treasure is not a magic tool or spiritual item but rather a unique item within the Cultivation World, often possessing special effects.

Such treasures are either refined with great power or born from the heaven and earth. They contain magical powers that cannot be classified using the usual ranks in the Cultivation World.

Meng Zhang has yet to fully comprehend the function of this treasure, and this place is not suitable for calm research. He flies to a higher altitude, carrying the newly acquired treasure, and returns directly to Taiyi Sect's mountain gate, Hundred Grass Slope.

After returning to the mountain gate, Meng Zhang first contacts the rotating Gold Core cultivators at the frontline to confirm that there have been no new changes in the battle. Then, he focuses on studying the treasure with a calm mind.

This study takes more than three months before Meng Zhang manages to roughly understand the treasure's origins.

This treasure is not a product of the Grand Dust World but rather comes from another world in extraterritorial space. It was not naturally produced by the heaven and earth but rather artificially refined.

As for its exact origin and refining process, Meng Zhang is not entirely sure, and many of his understandings are mere speculations.

Grand Evolving Fortune is not omnipotent. Even if Meng Zhang sets aside his reservations and employs it to the fullest, he can only deduce a part of the information.

Based on various information and his own conjectures, this treasure somehow fell into the hands of the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit, who brought it to the Grand Dust World.

This treasure possesses a miraculous ability to derive and reproduce, creating various life forms based on different templates. The earliest sand monsters were born from this treasure.

The abilities of the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit far surpass those of a Gold Core cultivator like Meng Zhang. It not only fully utilizes the power of this treasure but also imitates it to create the sand monster nests, taking inspiration from many characteristics of the Earth Spirit tribe.

The initial speed at which this treasure created sand monsters was too slow to meet the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit's demands. Therefore, it created seeds of sand monster nests based on the treasure's model. These seeds were dispersed throughout the entire Deadly Sea of Sand and grew into sand monster nests, giving birth to countless sand monsters.

Additionally, many seeds of sand monster nests were spread into the Endless Sea of Sand, giving rise to sand monster nests there. This caused a series of calamities in the history of the Endless Sea of Sand, inflicting significant losses on the Cultivation World.

If it weren't for the effective response of the Flying Swan Sect and the covert assistance from Jin Li Daoist Master, the entire Endless Sea of Sand might have been overrun by an endless horde of sand monsters.

The treasure was likely carried by the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit. After it was defeated by True Monarch Tian Zhu and exploded, the treasure was somehow thrown out and landed on the periphery of the battlefield.

Chapter 583: Soldier Nest

Whether it was fate or just Meng Zhang's incredible luck, he used his Grand Evolving Fortune Calculation technique to determine the location of this rare treasure and collected it for himself.

As the saying goes, "heaven does not give what is not taken" and since the treasure was presented to him, Meng Zhang had no qualms about accepting it. As for any potential consequences of possessing this rare find, Meng Zhang did not concern himself with them at the moment.

Meng Zhang's use of Grand Evolving Fortune Calculation was to calculate new combat forces and reduce the losses of low-level cultivators in their ranks. After understanding the rough function of this rare treasure, he had a rough idea of how to use it.

In the world of cultivation, powerful sects have methods for raising and refining dao soldiers. Depending on the method and lineage, dao soldiers have complex sources and a variety of types. Humans, demon beasts, and even some spiritual beings can be used as materials to refine dao soldiers.

During its prime, the Taiyi Sect naturally had some unique dao soldiers. Strictly speaking, the Guardian Spirit General in the Taiyi Sect was also a type of dao soldier. However, many of Taiyi Sect's lineages have been lost over time, including methods for refining dao soldiers.

Meng Zhang obtained the Purple Gold Sect's inheritance in the small world, which included two methods for refining dao soldiers unique to the sect. However, refining dao soldiers requires a large investment of resources, including a vast amount of cultivation resources. Moreover, there are not many cultivators in the Taiyi Sect who practice the Purple Gold Sect's inheritance techniques. Therefore, Meng Zhang had not previously refined any unique dao soldiers of the Purple Gold Sect.

When this rare treasure was in the hands of the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit, it could be used to refine sand monsters, which are also considered a type of dao soldier. Sand monsters are puppets, not living beings, but they can serve as effective weapons of war.

Meng Zhang could also use this rare treasure to refine dao soldiers. With this rare treasure, the process of refining difficult-to-refine dao soldiers could be simplified, and the difficulty of refining them could be reduced.

Meng Zhang spent some time figuring out how to use this rare treasure. To use it to refine dao soldiers, two conditions must be met. First, a template for the dao soldier must be provided. For

example, the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit created the sand monster by incorporating some features of the Earth Spirit race and adding his own creativity to create the template.

The second condition is to provide sufficient resources. Among them, spirit stones are an essential basic resource. The Fifth Rank Earth Spirit was adept at manipulating the earth and could easily extract spiritual energy from spirit veins to condense spirit stones. He could even communicate with the earth's veins and, at the cost of consuming spirit veins, create treasures like spirit marrow.

The main components of sand monsters are sand and some minerals mixed in. With the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit's abilities, extracting various minerals from the earth's crust was a piece of cake.

Meng Zhang pondered for a long time to come up with the dao soldier template. He even consulted the most knowledgeable Extreme Sword Spirit General in the sect for advice. Meng Zhang did not hide his thoughts about the origin and function of this rare treasure from the high-level members of the sect.

Although the Extreme Sword Spirit General and the Shocking Thunder Spirit General only had a Foundation Building Period cultivation base, they were strong enough to sweep all Foundation Building Period cultivators and even exchange a few moves with Gold Core Period cultivators. However, Meng Zhang was afraid that using them to sweep low-level cultivators on the enemy's side would be too stimulating for the Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch, so he did not send them to the battlefield.

The Extreme Sword Spirit General, who had been staying in the sect, soon appeared in front of Meng Zhang. The Extreme Sword Spirit General did not disappoint Meng Zhang and provided many valuable opinions. The Extreme Sword Spirit General was practically a living fossil of the Taiyi Sect, very familiar with many of its lineages. He had seen and fought against many kinds of dao soldiers.

Meng Zhang dreamed of refining the Guardian Spirit General of the Taiyi Sect. Although he had the help of this rare treasure and the Extreme Sword Spirit General could provide detailed refining methods, the current Taiyi Sect was still far from being able to provide the necessary conditions for refining.

Meng Zhang could only settle for refining dao soldiers that could compete with Foundation Building Period cultivators. After discussing, weighing the pros and cons, and considering cost-effectiveness, Meng Zhang and the Extreme Sword Spirit General agreed on two dao soldier templates.

One was the sand monster created by the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit. The template of the sand monster was still in this rare treasure, but some adjustments needed to be made. First of all, the appearance of the sand monster needed to be changed and not copied exactly. Sand monsters had caused countless catastrophes in the past, and if Meng Zhang were to use them openly, it would attract too much attention and cause unnecessary trouble for the Taiyi Sect.

The other template was a type of phantom beast, called the Shadow Leopard. The Shadow Leopard was known for its speed and agility, and it was also a fierce predator. The Extreme Sword Spirit General had encountered this type of phantom beast before and had some understanding of its abilities and weaknesses. Meng Zhang believed that the Shadow Leopard would be a great addition to the Taiyi Sect's arsenal.

Meng Zhang used the rare treasure to refine the sand monster and the Shadow Leopard. The process was time-consuming and required a lot of resources, but with the rare treasure's help, it was much easier than traditional methods of refining dao soldiers.

Finally, Meng Zhang succeeded in refining the sand monster and the Shadow Leopard. The sand monster was now a humanoid figure made of sand and minerals, and its body was covered with a layer of golden light. The Shadow Leopard was a black leopard with shimmering silver stripes, seemingly made of shadows.

Meng Zhang was satisfied with the result and felt that he had made a significant contribution to the Taiyi Sect's strength. He had no intention of revealing the existence of these dao soldiers to outsiders, and even within the Taiyi Sect, only a few high-level members knew about their existence.

Meng Zhang knew that possessing such powerful dao soldiers could bring both benefits and risks to the Taiyi Sect. He would use them cautiously and only when necessary. After all, the Taiyi Sect's ultimate goal was to achieve peace and stability, not to dominate the world through force. Meng Zhang doesn't have that ability, even with the help of rare treasures, it can only greatly weaken this aspect of ability. Meng Zhang and the Extreme Sword Spirit General chose a special template for the dao soldier, which uses specially made yellow soil as the main material and incorporates various spiritual materials, such as scarlet copper and mysterious iron. After being strengthened by this rare treasure, the dao soldier created is named the Yellow Earth Strongman by Meng Zhang. The Yellow Earth Strongman mainly takes on a human form, but can also transform into other forms when necessary. Compared to sand monsters, the Yellow Earth Strongman's combat instincts are weaker and it appears more rigid, with poor independent combat capabilities. In Meng Zhang's plan, the Yellow Earth Strongman serves as a servant to the disciples of the sect and collaborates with them in battle. It can serve as a meat shield or cannon fodder and its main role is to enhance the disciples' combat power and survival ability.

The materials for refining the Yellow Earth Strongman are not difficult to find and are mostly found in the Demon Wind Gobi region. The most valuable material is the spiritual stone used to activate the Yellow Earth Strongman. Although the Demon Wind Gobi region does not produce high-quality spiritual stones, middle-grade and low-grade spiritual stones can still be occasionally found. For the production of the Yellow Earth Strongman, middle-grade and low-grade spiritual stones are sufficient.

Taiyi Sect has close trade relations with Great Wind City, and various materials can be obtained from there. Especially after Taiyi Sect and Fire Cloud Sect went to war, Great Wind City intentionally or unintentionally increased its supply of materials to Taiyi Sect.

This rare treasure looks like a beehive on the outside and its main function is to refine dao soldiers. Meng Zhang named it Soldier Nest. When folded up, the Soldier Nest is only the size of a human head. Once it is refined with True Essence and placed on a spirit vein, it can slowly expand after absorbing enough spiritual energy. The Third Rank spirit vein in Hundred Grass Slope has been strengthened by the Deep Earth Spirit General and has a stable supply of spiritual energy from an underground river. In addition to meeting the spiritual energy needs of Hundred Grass Pavilion, it can also support 2-3 Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Now, placing the Soldier Nest on this Third Rank spirit vein and with no Gold Core Daoist Masters in the sect, it doesn't take long for the Soldier Nest to absorb enough spiritual energy and start expanding. In a small valley, a huge building resembling a beehive appears, squeezing the nearly hundred-acre flat land full. Various materials for refining dao soldiers are quickly collected and put into the Soldier Nest. The Soldier Nest is highly spiritual and as long as the dao soldier template is set in advance and enough materials are provided, it can automatically start refining.

At the beginning, all the Yellow Earth Dao Soldiers produced were First Rank dao soldiers, and their forms were incomplete, with missing limbs. Meng Zhang, after gaining experience, controlled the operation of the Soldier Nest and slowly adjusted it until the situation began to improve. It didn't take long for the Soldier Nest to manufacture Second Rank Yellow Earth Dao Soldiers. In terms of strength, the Second Rank Yellow Earth Dao Soldier is at least as strong as a typical Foundation Building cultivator. Its preset combat mode and magical skills are not too bad either.

Meng Zhang intentionally recruited Foundation Building cultivators who were staying in the sect to try to command these Yellow Earth Strongmen in battle. After some testing, they gained a better understanding of the Yellow Earth Strongman's combat power.

Taiyi Sect had previously purchased various puppets from the Clever Machine Sect in the Jiuqu League, which played a huge role in battle. Unfortunately, relying on external purchases of puppets was not very convenient and was subject to restrictions. Taiyi Sect also tried to cultivate a group of

mechanical engineers in the sect to learn how to refine mechanical puppets, but so far, they could only refine First Rank mechanical puppets. Meng Zhang did not know the cost of Clever Machine Sect for refining Second Rank puppets, but the cost of producing a First Rank Yellow Earth Strongman with the Soldier Nest was only one-tenth to two-tenths of the cost of producing a First Rank puppet in Taiyi Sect. The cost of producing a Second Rank Yellow Earth Strongman was even less than one-tenth of the cost of purchasing a Second Rank puppet.

What's more important is that Yellow Earth Strongmen can be mass-produced. As long as the materials are sufficient, the Soldier Nest can operate at high speed and continuously produce Yellow Earth Strongmen. Although the Yellow Earth Strongman has a single type and limited combat methods, and is not very intelligent, it has the advantage of low cost and is produced independently by Taiyi Sect. Furthermore, after many tests, Meng Zhang and the disciples of the sect have also summarized many tactics for using the Yellow Earth Strongman. The best way to take advantage of the Yellow Earth Strongman is to use them as a supporting force in battle. They can serve as a distraction, draw the enemy's attention away from the main force, and create opportunities for the disciples to attack the enemy's weaknesses. In addition, the Yellow Earth Strongman's physical strength is formidable, and it can also serve as a shield to protect the disciples from harm.

Overall, the Yellow Earth Strongman is a valuable asset for Taiyi Sect, and it greatly enhances the sect's combat power. With the Soldier Nest, Taiyi Sect can produce a large number of Yellow Earth Strongmen, which can be used in various battles and expeditions. As Meng Zhang and the disciples of the sect continue to improve their tactics for using the Yellow Earth Strongman, they are confident that their sect's strength will only continue to grow.

Chapter 584: True Monarch with no Shadow

Meng Zhang and Extreme Sword Spirit General had originally selected a different type of dao soldier template to make up for the Yellow Earth Strongman's shortcomings and complement their use. However, due to the Soldier Nest's production speed, they were unable to produce anything else while producing Yellow Earth Strongmen at full capacity, so they had to temporarily shelve the other type of dao soldier.

Within a year of the Soldier Nest's production, they had accumulated more than twenty Second Rank Yellow Earth Strongmen. Although these Yellow Earth Strongmen were lifeless puppets, they still possessed some spirituality and were more intelligent than ordinary cats and dogs.

During their creation, these Yellow Earth Strongmen were imbued with combat instincts and infused with a lot of combat experience. Once they were created, they would unconditionally obey the commands of the Soldier Nest's master, Meng Zhang.

With Meng Zhang's permission, Taiyi Sect disciples only needed to squeeze a few drops of blood onto the Yellow Earth Strongman and recite a few incantations to establish a simple blood contract and gain control over these Yellow Earth Strongmen.

Some Taiyi Sect disciples who had rotated from the front lines began practicing how to control these Yellow Earth Strongmen and how to coordinate their combat with them. After they finished their rest and recuperation, these Taiyi Sect disciples returned to the battlefield with their assigned Yellow Earth Strongmen, and the casualties of Taiyi Sect disciples began to decrease with the use of these disposable troops.

The low cost and ease of production made the Yellow Earth Strongman surpass talismans, puppets, and demon pets, becoming the preferred choice of many Taiyi Sect disciples. As more and more Yellow Earth Strongmen were created, they became the servants of Taiyi Sect disciples and joined them on the battlefield.

Cultivators from Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch soon noticed the changes in Taiyi Sect disciples and even fought against Yellow Earth Strongmen. Although the sudden appearance of the Yellow Earth Strongmen surprised them, it did not shock them. There were countless similar puppets and servants in the Cultivation World, and it was difficult to say how many types of them there were.

However, one thing was the same: whether they were self-made or purchased from the outside, they all had costs. They did not believe that Taiyi Sect, such a young sect, could have so much accumulation to consume.

In fact, with the Soldier Nest's production speed, the Yellow Earth Strongmen produced could not keep up with the consumption on the battlefield. However, their replenishment on the battlefield never stopped, and their numbers far exceeded the enemy's expectations.

While Meng Zhang was busy using the Soldier Nest to produce Yellow Earth Strongmen, two Taiyi Sect cultivators who had been closed-door in preparation for the Gold Core stage came out of seclusion one after another. Elder Hu Jing, who was proficient in animal husbandry, successfully formed her core and became another Gold Core Daoist Master of Taiyi Sect. The War Hall's master, Elder Zheng Chao, who was brave and adept in battle, failed to form his core and was slightly injured in the process.

Forming a core was always an unpredictable thing, and even if everything was prepared in advance and all the conditions were mature, it was still impossible to achieve a 100% success rate. Everyone in Taiyi Sect actually had higher hopes for Zheng Chao and believed that his chances of success in forming a core were much greater than Hu Jing's.

Unexpectedly, it was the other way around in the end. Fortunately, those who were combative usually had strong willpower and were not easily discouraged or defeated. Zheng Chao's failure to form his core this time did not make him depressed or give up completely. He still had confidence in the Dao path and had enough ambition to attempt to form his core again.

At least half of Elder Hu Jing's abilities were on her demon pets, even after forming her core. She focused on consolidating her cultivation base and finding ways to enhance her demon pets' combat power. After spending some time recovering his energy, Elder Zheng Chao did not rush to form his core again but decided to settle down for a while and fully absorb the lessons of his failure.

After hearing about the brutal battle situation on the front lines, he couldn't sit still and took the initiative to request to join the fight from Meng Zhang. Knowing that he couldn't stop him, Meng Zhang readily agreed to his request and even prepared several Second Rank Yellow Earth Strongmen for him before he left.

The war between Taiyi Sect, Flying Swan Sect, Fire Cloud Sect, and Yellow Lotus Sect East River Branch had turned into a protracted battle, and both sides were completely mired in the quagmire of war and unable to extricate themselves in the short term. Although the fighting was intense and bloody, the scale of the war was always deliberately controlled by both sides and did not easily escalate.

In the border areas of both sides, scuffles and small-scale battles still occurred frequently, but they were incomparable to the large-scale battles that occurred in the main battlefield. Both sides were trying to weaken each other's strength and morale, but at the same time, they were also afraid of losing too much of their own strength.

As time passed, both sides had gradually become exhausted and their strength had been consumed to a certain extent. However, neither side was willing to easily admit defeat or withdraw from the war.

At this time, a sudden change occurred on the Taiyi Sect's side. Meng Zhang, who had been overseeing the production of Yellow Earth Strongmen, suddenly disappeared without a trace. The Taiyi Sect disciples who were responsible for managing the Soldier Nest were also missing.

At first, the Taiyi Sect disciples thought that Meng Zhang and the others had gone out to deal with some urgent matter, but after a few days, they still did not return. Taiyi Sect's Sect Master, Elder Hong, became anxious and ordered a search for them.

After searching for a while, Taiyi Sect finally found Meng Zhang and the others in a secret underground chamber. To their surprise, they found that Meng Zhang had successfully created a new type of dao soldier, which was completely different from the Yellow Earth Strongmen.

This new type of dao soldier was called the "True Monarch with no Shadow". It was a humanoid puppet that was about two meters tall and was made entirely of a special metal that was extremely durable and had a faint golden glow.

The True Monarch with no Shadow was not only much stronger than the Yellow Earth Strongmen, but it also had a much higher level of intelligence and combat ability. Unlike the Yellow Earth Strongmen, which were disposable troops, the True Monarch with no Shadow could be reused and repaired after being damaged.

The Taiyi Sect disciples were amazed by the True Monarch with no Shadow and couldn't help but admire Meng Zhang's talent and ability. However, they also couldn't help but worry about the cost of producing such a powerful dao soldier.

Meng Zhang smiled and said that he had found a way to solve this problem. He had discovered a special type of metal vein deep underground that contained a large amount of the special metal used to create the True Monarch with no Shadow. With the help of the Soldier Nest, they could easily mine and refine this metal, greatly reducing the cost of producing the True Monarch with no Shadow.

After hearing this, the Taiyi Sect disciples were overjoyed and felt that their sect's future was bright. With the True Monarch with no Shadow, Taiyi Sect's combat power would be greatly enhanced, and they would be able to turn the tide of the war.

However, Meng Zhang also warned them that the production of the True Monarch with no Shadow was still in the experimental stage and that there were still some problems that needed to be resolved. He hoped that everyone would work together to improve the True Monarch with no Shadow and make it even stronger.

With the appearance of the True Monarch with no Shadow, the situation on the battlefield began to change. Taiyi Sect's combat power had greatly increased, and they were able to gain the upper hand in many battles. However, the other sects were not willing to sit idly by and watch Taiyi Sect dominate the war. They also began to make their own preparations and come up with countermeasures. When the time came, True Monarch Tian Zhu's life and death could no longer be concealed. If Jin Li Daoist Master had not achieved his Primordial Spirit, Taiyi Sect would have to

make other plans. However, unexpectedly, Meng Zhang found that crises always came unexpectedly, and Taiyi Sect did not have thirty years to spare.

One day, an old man dressed in white with a kind and peaceful face, like a friendly old neighbor, arrived in the Deadly Sea of Sand. This old man was called True Monarch Thousand Shadow, a Primordial Spirit True Monarch from the Dark Alliance.

When True Monarch Tian Zhu was entangled with the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit in the Deadly Sea of Sand, he was not disturbed much, except for True Monarch Profound Wind, who had a deep grudge against him, and the Qi Family brothers who coveted the Earth Spirit's body.

One important reason for this was that True Monarch Tian Zhu paid a great price to ask the Dark Alliance to help him block many potential opponents. Without the Dark Alliance's secret help, there would have been more opponents seeking trouble for him in the Deadly Sea of Sand.

According to the agreement between True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Dark Alliance, as long as he accepted the Dark Alliance's help, regardless of success or failure, he would have to serve the Dark Alliance for a certain number of years.

As True Monarch Tian Zhu's creditor, the Dark Alliance was naturally concerned about his success or failure. True Monarch Thousand Shadow was responsible for communicating with True Monarch Tian Zhu within the Dark Alliance.

Years ago, when the Deadly Sea of Sand underwent a great change, True Monarch Tian Zhu was first betrayed by True Monarch Mountain Peak, then he displayed his divine power and defeated all his opponents. The Dark Alliance was interested in investigating the situation and confirming True Monarch Tian Zhu's status.

However, True Monarch Thousand Shadow, who was in charge of this matter, was tied up by something and couldn't get away for a short time, so the matter was delayed.

It wasn't until recently that True Monarch Thousand Shadow was finally able to free up his hands and come to the Deadly Sea of Sand to have a good talk with True Monarch Tian Zhu.

Looking at the various visions of heaven and earth not far away and sensing the residual power of the Grand Dao, True Monarch Thousand Shadow frowned. The front was an insurmountable gap for a Gold Core Daoist Master, but it was just a little more effort for him.

True Monarch Thousand Shadow strode forward, as if walking in the air, and quickly advanced. Everywhere he passed, the residual power of the Grand Dao was easily removed, and all kinds of visions of heaven and earth began to slowly calm down.

True Monarch Thousand Shadow seemed easy, but it was actually a bit difficult for him. It took him more than an hour to reach the core of the Deadly Sea of Sand, where True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit perished together.

He didn't need to continue forward and already knew the result. Two black holes appeared in the sky ahead, not far apart. The rich spiritual energy of heaven and earth spewed back and forth in the black holes, causing strong spiritual energy tides.

This was the phenomenon of the demise of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, and from the phenomenon, at least two Primordial Spirit True Monarch-level powerhouses had fallen.

In the Deadly Sea of Sand, could there be any other Primordial Spirit True Monarchs who died here? Moreover, one of the phenomena revealed an aura that True Monarch Thousand Shadow was very familiar with, which was clearly the aura of True Monarch Tian Zhu, who had been gone for a long time.

The other phenomenon of the demise of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch had a strange and unpredictable aura, which should belong to the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit.

If a Fifth Rank great power born in the Grand Dust World perished here, there might still be a rare phenomenon of heaven and earth mourning together. The Fifth Rank Earth Spirit was an outsider from extraterritorial void. After its complete demise, it couldn't trigger the phenomenon of heaven and earth mourning together, at most, it would only cause the phenomenon of the demise of the Grand Dao.

Looking at the two phenomena of the demise of the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs ahead, True Monarch Thousand Shadow imagined the general process of the matter.

When True Monarch Tian Zhu reached an agreement with the Dark Alliance, many people in the Dark Alliance did not look favorably upon him, thinking that he was probably wasting his effort. However, it was unexpected that True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit would perish together, which was beyond True Monarch Thousand Shadow's expectations.

With True Monarch Tian Zhu's death, the Dark Alliance's investment in him was all for naught, and the Dark Alliance had suffered a great loss this time.

Without saying a word, True Monarch Thousand Shadow turned around and left the Deadly Sea of Sand, his expression calm and peaceful as if nothing had happened. In fact, he had already made up his mind to report the matter to the Dark Alliance and ask for instructions.

The Dark Alliance was a powerful force that existed in the shadows of the Grand Dust World, and its members were all Primordial Spirit True Monarchs. It had a strict hierarchical structure, and True Monarch Thousand Shadow was just a member of the lowest level.

However, as a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, he had a strong sense of responsibility to the Dark Alliance and would never allow any loss to the Dark Alliance's interests.

After True Monarch Thousand Shadow left, the Deadly Sea of Sand returned to its usual calm. The residual power of the Grand Dao dissipated, and the visions of heaven and earth disappeared without a trace.

The Qi Family brothers and True Monarch Profound Wind who were still waiting nearby were shocked by the sudden changes, and they couldn't help but be a little afraid. They had never expected that True Monarch Tian Zhu's death would cause such a big disturbance.

As for the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit, it was already completely gone. Its body had turned into sand and dispersed in the wind, leaving no trace behind.

The only thing left was the two black holes in the sky, which were gradually closing. The aura of True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit had completely dissipated, and everything had returned to silence.

Meng Zhang, who had been observing from afar, quietly left the area, not wanting to attract any attention. He knew that the situation was beyond his control, and he had no choice but to wait and see what would happen next.

Chapter 585: The crisis arrives

Around the outskirts of the Deadly Sea of Sand, there are often Gold Core Daoist Masters wandering, constantly monitoring the situation inside.

A long time ago, both True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind ordered their subordinate Gold Core Daoist Masters to explore the Deadly Sea of Sand. However, these Daoist Masters feared the remnants of the Grand Dao's power and didn't dare to approach too closely. But if they were to return without reporting back, it would anger the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

As a result, these Gold Core Daoist Masters mostly patrol the area near the Deadly Sea of Sand, appearing busy and diligent while doing little actual work.

When True Monarch Thousand Shadow arrived at the Deadly Sea of Sand, some Gold Core Daoist Masters had already spotted him. True Monarch Thousand Shadow did not conceal his Cultivation Base, and his aura as a Primordial Spirit True Monarch was awe-inspiring. These Gold Core Daoist Masters didn't dare to disturb a Primordial Spirit True Monarch of unknown origin.

True Monarch Thousand Shadow dispersed the Grand Dao's power, creating a safe passage, and proceeded in and out securely, catching the attention of these Daoist Masters.

True Monarch Thousand Shadow's actions were open and straightforward, without any intention of hiding his tracks.

After True Monarch Thousand Shadow left, some daring Gold Core Daoist Masters followed his route and successfully avoided the remnants of the Grand Dao's power, entering the core area of the Deadly Sea of Sand.

Upon entering, they were met with an obvious sign of the Dao's disappearance.

With their intelligence and some gathered information, it was not difficult for these Gold Core Daoist Masters to deduce the truth: True Monarch Tian Zhu and the Fifth Rank Earth Spirit had perished.

The Gold Core Daoist Masters on the outskirts of the Deadly Sea of Sand had a significant responsibility. Figures like Meng Zhang and Taiyi Sect's Gold Core cultivators had previously patrolled nearby, intentionally avoiding each other, and thus, there were no conflicts.

Now that they discovered the true situation of True Monarch Tian Zhu, they had finally accomplished their mission.

Soon, this news spread through various channels and quickly reached True Monarch Profound Wind and True Monarch Mountain Peak.

They carefully interrogated their Gold Core Daoist Masters, making sure this was not a ploy by True Monarch Tian Zhu to lure them.

A few days later, True Monarch Profound Wind and True Monarch Mountain Peak joined forces and came to the Deadly Sea of Sand.

Boldly, the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs entered the core of the Deadly Sea of Sand and easily found the sign of the Dao's disappearance.

The sign of the Dao's disappearance couldn't be faked. True Monarch Tian Zhu had not played any tricks; he had genuinely perished, and the Dao had vanished.

Both Primordial Spirit True Monarchs felt uncontrollable joy rising in their hearts.

Especially for True Monarch Mountain Peak, who had betrayed his former allegiance and knew the methods of True Monarch Tian Zhu, he had carried a great burden on his heart for years, fearing retaliation.

Now that they confirmed True Monarch Tian Zhu's demise, it was as if a massive mountain had been lifted from his heart, and he felt much relieved.

On the other hand, True Monarch Profound Wind first experienced bursts of delight, followed by an uncontrollable sense of confusion and loss.

This long-standing archenemy, whom he had loathed for years, the enemy whom all his schemes and efforts couldn't overcome, had fallen just like that.

For a moment, True Monarch Profound Wind felt a sense of emptiness and didn't know what to say.

Both Primordial Spirit True Monarchs remained silent for a while, then exchanged a look.

Regardless of how True Monarch Tian Zhu had met his end, they had achieved their goal. With no obstruction from True Monarch Tian Zhu, they could now act as they pleased and do as they wished.

As for the events that followed, such as the ownership of the Endless Sea of Sand and the presence of Taiyi Sect, Flying Swan Sect, and others, they were considered trivial matters in the eyes of the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

After staying here for half a day, the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs set out on their return journey and left the Deadly Sea of Sand.

Having learned of True Monarch Tian Zhu's fall, the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs acted without restraint.

On the Taiyi Sect's side, due to continuous frontline battles, the Gold Core Daoist Masters had to take turns monitoring, and for a moment, they didn't notice the changes in the Deadly Sea of Sand.

However, the Taiyi Sect's high-ranking members soon deduced the enemy's significant mobilization from the enemy's troop movements.

Considering that Flying Swan Sect's Gold Core strength was insufficient, with only Wu Mingwei holding the fort, Meng Zhang dispatched the sect's Deep Earth Spirit General and Delicate Water Spirit General to reinforce Flying Swan Sect.

The two Guardian Spirit Generals were among the most powerful Gold Core stage cultivators within Taiyi Sect, besides Meng Zhang himself. Their presence would allow Flying Swan Sect to hold on in case of a large-scale invasion, while they awaited Taiyi Sect's rescue.

Before they left, Meng Zhang specifically instructed them that if the enemy proved too strong, they should prioritize their own safety and not foolishly sacrifice themselves for Flying Swan Sect.

Following the departure of Deep Earth Spirit General and Delicate Water Spirit General, Meng Zhang began mobilizing Taiyi Sect, deploying their main force cultivators, and also recruiting numerous cultivators from the Hanhai Dao Alliance.

Meng Zhang, Yang Xueyi, Wen Qiansun, Jin Qiao'er, and the recently formed core, Hu Jing, all gathered on the frontline, ready to face any unforeseen circumstances.

The enemy didn't keep Meng Zhang waiting for long. The speed at which the Cultivation World mobilized their forces far exceeded that of mundane mortal armies.

In a short time, Fire Cloud Sect and Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch launched a full-scale attack with all their might.

In the eyes of True Monarch Mountain Peak, both Taiyi Sect and Flying Swan Sect were already nothing more than withered bones in the tomb, not worth much attention. He aimed to use this large-scale battle to weaken East River Branch and suppress their arrogance.

Under True Monarch Mountain Peak's orders, the East River Branch of Yellow Lotus Sect not only mobilized all their forces stationed in the Endless Sea of Sand but also transferred all the remaining forces at their sect to the Endless Sea of Sand.

The previous deceptive actions by Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch hadn't escaped True Monarch Mountain Peak's scrutiny.

His attention had been focused on the life and death of True Monarch Tian Zhu before, so he hadn't bothered to deal with these guys slowly.

Now, he sent a group of cultivators from Yellow Lotus Sect's Mountain Branch to form a supervisory team and urge East River Branch and Fire Cloud Sect to engage in battle.

This time, they couldn't afford to be sneaky; they had to fully open the war and quickly eliminate Flying Swan Sect and Taiyi Sect.

Fire Cloud Sect was relatively better off since they had True Monarch Profound Wind's protection. As for the cultivators of East River Branch, no one cared about their life or death. It suited True Monarch Mountain Peak's intentions for them to perish in large numbers.

The will of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch could not be disobeyed, and even if Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch were unwilling, they had to muster all their strength.

With significantly reinforced forces, the two allied sects advanced, one heading straight for Flying Swan Sect and the other blocking Taiyi Sect's cultivator army.

Taiyi Sect's high-ranking members had been closely monitoring the enemy's movements, so when the enemy initiated their attack, Taiyi Sect also gathered a considerable force of cultivators and set off to the battlefield.

Though unsure why the enemy had opened a full-scale war so early, Meng Zhang responded confidently and personally led Taiyi Sect's forces to the battle.

The cultivators from Fire Cloud Sect, backed by the support from East River Branch, actively sought out Taiyi Sect's army, trying to prevent them from reinforcing Flying Swan Sect.

Chapter 586: The enemies' siege

The Fire Cloud Sect's army, led by Daoist Master Scarlet Flame, received support from the East River Branch, making their strength only slightly weaker than the cultivator army of Taiyi Sect. Daoist Master Scarlet Flame, an experienced Gold Core Daoist Master, was not content with merely blocking Taiyi Sect's cultivator army. He had ambitious plans to defeat the enemy head-on. Leading his army, he took the initiative to confront the enemy, and on the vast sea of sand, fierce battles unfolded between his forces and Taiyi Sect's army.

Daoist Master Scarlet Flame entrusted the command of his cultivator army to others and personally stepped forward to challenge Meng Zhang. In the battles of the Cultivation World, there were both group fights between cultivators and one-on-one challenges. Engaging in one-on-one combat was not just an act of heroism but also crucial for the morale of both armies. If the strong were not restrained, they could ruthlessly target ordinary cultivators.

Meng Zhang handed over the command of his army to Wen Qiansun and flew into the sky to personally respond to Daoist Master Scarlet Flame's challenge. Both of them were mid-stage Gold Core cultivators, but Daoist Master Scarlet Flame was over twice as old as Meng Zhang, having become a renowned Gold Core cultivator when Meng Zhang was still in his mother's womb.

Daoist Master Scarlet Flame, who had been through countless battles, acknowledged Meng Zhang as a formidable opponent but did not believe he was weaker. He considered Fei Shi Daoist Master from the Flying Swan Sect to be his true rival; Meng Zhang still lacked the necessary experience.

Years of bloodshed and injuries among their fellow disciples had fostered deep animosity between the two sides. Once the war started, it was an all-out confrontation without mercy. Soon after the battle began, significant casualties occurred on both sides.

In the sky, aside from Meng Zhang and Daoist Master Scarlet Flame, several other Gold Core Daoist Masters fought against each other in pairs. Among the various battlefields, Meng Zhang and Daoist Master Scarlet Flame were the first to determine the winner.

Meng Zhang first used the "Strange and Upright Sword Art" to attract Daoist Master Scarlet Flame's attention, then employed the "Sun and Moon Divine Light" to immobilize him, and finally wounded him with the "Spiritsnake Spear." Although Daoist Master Scarlet Flame was injured and forced to retreat, he still fought desperately, and Meng Zhang couldn't finish him off.

The battle between Gold Core Daoist Masters of similar cultivation bases was easy to determine the outcome but difficult to decide life and death. After his defeat and injuries, the cunning Daoist Master Scarlet Flame remained calm and gradually stabilized his position, fighting while retreating.

With the other Gold Core Daoist Masters of Fire Cloud Sect, along with the assistance of the cultivators from the East River Branch, they fought and retreated, making Taiyi Sect's army unable to make a bold advance.

While Daoist Master Scarlet Flame led the army to block Taiyi Sect's army, the East River Branch concentrated its forces and launched a full-scale attack on the Flying Swan Sect. Due to the vast disparity in strength, the cultivator army of Flying Swan Sect nearly collapsed, and they had to fall back to Yellow Sand Ridge and rely on the Third Rank mountain protection great formation to hold their ground.

Originally, according to Wu Mingwei Daoist Master's plan, with the aid of the Third Rank mountain protection great formation, Yellow Sand Ridge could withstand the Taiyi Sect's reinforcements for a considerable period. However, at the Gold Core Daoist Master level, Flying Swan Sect was too far behind. Even with the assistance of Deep Earth Spirit General and Delicate Water Spirit General, they could not reverse the situation.

Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch was powerful and had many hidden cards. Confronted with the Third Rank mountain protection great formation, the cultivators of East River Branch immediately took out a stack of Third Rank Formation Breaking Talismans. Leading the charge was Daoist Master Smiling Lotus, a late-stage Gold Core cultivator, who led the cultivator army to fiercely attack Yellow Sand Ridge.

The Third Rank mountain protection great formation could only hold on for less than ten days before being completely broken through. Prior to this, Deep Earth Spirit General and Delicate Water Spirit General had received instructions from Meng Zhang and, realizing the situation was unfavorable, immediately abandoned the cultivators of Flying Swan Sect and made a desperate breakout.

The East River Branch cultivators were in a hurry to take Yellow Sand Ridge, and they didn't try to intercept the fleeing spirits.

After capturing Yellow Sand Ridge, East River Branch showed no mercy and executed all the captured and injured cultivators. Apart from a small number of cultivators left to chase the remnants, East River Branch cleared the surrounding area and, with Daoist Master Smiling Lotus leading the main forces, urgently rushed to another battlefield.

Following these events, Flying Swan Sect was nearly annihilated. They only had a few disciples stationed at Dustfall Mound, and they were left to see if there were any last-ditch efforts from Flying Swan Sect.

While Meng Zhang encountered Deep Earth Spirit General and Delicate Water Spirit General, the Taiyi Sect's cultivator army was relentlessly pursuing and attacking Fire Cloud Sect. Despite anticipating a certain outcome, hearing the news of Yellow Sand Ridge's fall still left Meng Zhang with mixed emotions.

Given the critical situation, it was not the time for grief or hesitation. Meng Zhang put aside other thoughts and began considering the next course of action. The most prudent approach would be to immediately lead the Taiyi Sect cultivators and flee as quickly as possible, but Meng Zhang couldn't bring himself to abandon everything before him.

Taiyi Sect's achievements had not come easily. All the territories had been hard-won. Meng Zhang was unaware of the changes at Deadly Sea of Sand, so he clung to the hope that True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind might not have succeeded in finding True Monarch Tian Zhu.

After much deliberation, Meng Zhang made what he considered a compromise. On one hand, he called several trusted individuals to discreetly leave Demon Wind Gobi with some outstanding young disciples and seek refuge within Jiuqu League's territory. On the other hand, he ordered the army to cease pursuit and initiate a strategic retreat.

With Taiyi Sect's army no longer pressing them, the enemy, who had been on the defensive, didn't immediately catch up, allowing Meng Zhang time to adjust his deployment.

Meng Zhang swiftly led the Taiyi Sect cultivator army, retreating and falling back directly to Hundred Grass Slope. He then began to concentrate all their forces, having Taiyi Sect disciples

abandon all peripheral strongholds, including Grand Lion Ridge, and retreat into Hundred Grass Slope.

The main cultivators of the members of the Hanhai Alliance were also summoned to follow suit and take refuge in Hundred Grass Slope. The place now held the main force of Taiyi Sect, even the entire Hanhai Alliance, with over six thousand cultivators.

Although in the Cultivation World, a large number of low-level cultivators could hardly pose a threat to high-level cultivators, having a larger number of cultivators had its significance, especially when backed by the Third Rank mountain protection great formation.

Since being selected as Taiyi Sect's mountain gate, the high-level leadership had invested considerable efforts into developing Hundred Grass Slope. The defense facilities here were the result of many years of labor and resources.

After Wen Qiansun became the core Formation Master, he quickly gained the ability to independently deploy the Third Rank great formation. As long as he had enough materials, he could even refine new Third Rank great formations.

Once Deep Earth Spirit General's cultivation base recovered to the Gold Core stage, he could finally unleash the full power of the Geomancer's various Divine Abilities, fully showcasing his abilities. He communicated with the underground veins of Hundred Grass Slope, channeling the power of the spirit veins, changing the surrounding terrain while greatly reinforcing the defense, and coordinating with Wen Qiansun to set up protective great formations.

Wen Qiansun acquired two Third Rank mountain protection great formations from Great Wind City, personally dismantled them, and, along with some prepared formation flags and plates, constructed a brand new Third Rank mountain protection great formation - the "Five Elements Reversal" great formation.

The mountain protection great formation relied on the underground veins and fully absorbed the spiritual energy of the spirit veins. Once deployed, it was nearly impenetrable.

Meng Zhang nearly concentrated all available forces at hand and relied on this mountain protection great formation to hold off the joint forces of Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch. Taiyi Sect knew that this battle was a matter of survival for the sect, so everyone was on high alert, awaiting the enemy's arrival.

Without making Taiyi Sect cultivators wait for too long, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus personally led the joint forces of the two sects and quickly advanced towards Hundred Grass Slope. He easily ascertained Taiyi Sect's latest movements and understood that only by breaking through the current mountain gate and completely eliminating the defending cultivator army could they determine the final outcome of this battle.

Daoist Master Smiling Lotus concentrated all available forces, not even bothering to send troops to sweep nearby Taiyi Sect strongholds to avoid dividing his forces. He even disregarded Grand Lion Ridge, which had already been abandoned by Taiyi Sect. As for other members of the Hanhai Alliance, he paid them no attention.

Once the joint forces of the two sects were in position, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus wasted no time and commanded the army to launch a fierce attack. At this stage of the war, it was a life or death situation, and actions like trying to persuade surrender had no meaning.

As soon as the joint forces of the two sects began their attack, they encountered strong resistance and suffered significant casualties. However, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus continued to press on without any hesitation, ordering the army to keep attacking.

Among the joint forces of the two sects were military supervisors from the Mountain Branch, who didn't care about East River Branch's casualties but only whether East River Branch obeyed True Monarch Mountain Peak's orders and fought to end the battle as soon as possible.

Although Zhu Liangyu had returned to True Monarch Profound Wind's side, there was still Daoist Master Smiling Lotus, a late-stage Gold Core cultivator, among the forces. East River Branch had dispatched two mid-stage Gold Core cultivators as reinforcements. Together with Daoist Master Scarlet Flame, who suppressed his injuries, there were three mid-stage Gold Core cultivators in their ranks. In terms of Gold Core cultivators, the joint forces of the two sects far outnumbered Taiyi Sect.

If Taiyi Sect had not relied on the Third Rank mountain protection great formation to hold their ground, they would have been completely overwhelmed by the joint forces of the two sects.

Next, the attacking side used various means without regard for casualties to attack Hundred Grass Slope's mountain protection great formation relentlessly. On the other hand, Taiyi Sect defended their mountain gate, responding to attacks while fully defending it.

Once this fierce attack and defense battle started, it quickly escalated into a white-hot stage. Yellow Lotus Sect, as a Primordial Spirit major sect, still possessed many trump cards, even with East

River Branch only being a branch. In the eyes of ordinary cultivators, the seemingly indestructible Third Rank mountain protection great formation had various countermeasures in the hands of East River Branch.

The continuous attacks greatly depleted the power of the mountain protection great formation and weakened its defense. The Third Rank Formation Breaking Talisman could stall the great formation's operation and create vulnerabilities.

During these brief moments, the daring cultivators from the two sects tried their best to break into the great formation from the inside and completely destroy it. At this point, it was time for Taiyi Sect cultivators to resist face-to-face.

After several intense battles, Taiyi Sect always managed to drive back the cultivators who managed to break into the great formation, albeit at a great cost. This was because the vulnerabilities exposed by the great formation were not significant, and only a limited number of cultivators could enter it at once. Moreover, the power of the Formation Breaking Talisman was limited and could only temporarily stall the great formation's operation. As soon as the great formation resumed normal operation, it quickly closed the gaps and restored its defense.

Several times, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus risked his life to personally enter the great formation, relying on the power of the Third Rank Formation Breaking Talisman. However, under the leadership of Meng Zhang, the Gold Core cultivators of Taiyi Sect fought with all their might and drove Daoist Master Smiling Lotus out.

This Third Rank mountain protection great formation could enhance the fighting power of Taiyi Sect cultivators and suppress the enemy's fighting power. Even Extreme Sword Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General, with the help of the great formation, could even suppress the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters. Even Zheng Chao, the Hall Master of War Hall, who was much weaker, could temporarily hold off the enemy's Gold Core Daoist Masters with the power of the formation.

Daoist Master Smiling Lotus knew that the war couldn't be ended in a short time. He led the joint forces of the two sects to surround Hundred Grass Slope from all directions and launched a desperate attack.

The siege continued for over three months, but they still couldn't overcome Hundred Grass Slope's mountain protection great formation. It seemed impossible to break through this place.

Though heavily besieged, Meng Zhang found a way to maintain communication with the outside world at this point. It was then that he finally learned of his mistake from Jiuqu League.

After True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind left Deadly Sea of Sand, news soon spread that True Monarch Tian Zhu and Fifth Rank Earth Spirit had perished together. Without True Monarch Tian Zhu's deterrent, True Monarch Profound Wind and True Monarch Mountain Peak could directly attack Taiyi Sect.

Taiyi Sect's current defense had lost its meaning. Even if they could hold off the current enemy and block Fire Cloud Sect and East River Branch, Mountain Branch and Crane Song Sect could still continue their attack here.

Worst case scenario, even if Taiyi Sect performed exceptionally and held Hundred Grass Slope against numerous strong enemies, everything would be in vain once a Primordial Spirit True Monarch made a move.

Chapter 587: Appearance

Although Meng Zhang knew that his own misjudgment had led the entire sect into a dangerous situation, he still forced himself to stay alert and carefully consider countermeasures. No matter what, even if the enemy was powerful, they had to persist until the end.

The Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch's actions against the surrendered cultivators from the Flying Swan Sect were not a secret. If Taiyi Sect were to surrender now, it would be like placing the entire sect at the mercy of the enemy.

Meng Zhang's plan was simple – to hold on until the end and never give up. He still clung to the hope that the enemy's Primordial Spirit True Monarch might refrain from attacking due to their identity, leaving a chance for the Hundred Grass Slope to hold its ground.

Additionally, not all of Taiyi Sect's disciples were trapped at the Hundred Grass Slope. Some were located in Jiuqu League, especially in Great Wind City, where there were Taiyi Sect's businesses and disciples whom Meng Zhang trusted. He contacted these disciples through a secret method and asked them to seek help from the Gu Yue Family. If Gu Yue Family was willing to assist, Taiyi Sect would agree to any condition.

At this point, they had to grasp at any straw for survival. Meng Zhang had considered the idea of a full-scale breakout, but he quickly dismissed it. Relying on the power of the protective mountain great formation, Taiyi Sect could barely hold their ground. Once they gave up their biggest advantage and fled to the wilderness, they would undoubtedly face the enemy's relentless pursuit. In

that scenario, most of Taiyi Sect would be wiped out, and even Meng Zhang, a cultivator at the Gold Core level, might not escape unscathed.

Leaving aside all distractions, Meng Zhang focused on defending the Hundred Grass Slope with all his might. Two more months passed, and Daoist Master Smiling Lotus led the joint forces of the two sects but still couldn't break through the protective mountain great formation to reach the Hundred Grass Slope. The joint forces suffered heavy casualties, and their vital energies were depleted. Not only did they lose many low-level disciples, but several Gold Core Daoist Masters were also seriously injured.

As time went on, even the cultivators from Yellow Lotus Sect's Mountain Branch, who were originally there to supervise the battle, couldn't bear watching any longer. Many of them voluntarily joined the attack on the mountain.

Unfortunately, the Hundred Grass Slope held its ground firmly, impregnable like a golden soup, repeatedly driving back the attackers without success.

Of course, as the defending side, they also paid a high price. The protective mountain great formation, after constant attacks, was being patched up by Taiyi Sect's cultivators under Wen Qiansun's lead, but the repair speed couldn't keep up with the damage. The great formation was now riddled with holes and weaknesses, seemingly on the verge of complete collapse.

The losses among the defending cultivators were even more severe. They weren't merely hiding behind the protective mountain great formation but actively strengthening it, filling the gaps, and driving the infiltrating enemies out of their formation. Often, they had to take the initiative and disrupt the enemy's attack rhythm.

After days of intense battles, nearly half of the mountain's cultivators were lost, and those who survived were almost all injured and exhausted. If it weren't for Meng Zhang's strong strength and influence, many cultivators from the Hanhai Alliance would have collapsed.

At this point, both the attacking and defending sides were exhausted and had a sense of being unable to continue. Especially for the attackers, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus felt trapped in a difficult situation.

This battle to annihilate Taiyi Sect was not only commanded by True Monarch Mountain Peak but also driven by his own will. For a mere Gold Core sect like Taiyi Sect to occupy such vast and prosperous territories, not to mention their territory in the Endless Sea of Sand, just the Demon Wind Gobi's territory alone surpassed East River Branch's current holdings.

In the Cultivation World, it was originally a world of survival of the fittest and constant fighting over resources. In the eyes of Daoist Master Smiling Lotus, Taiyi Sect was so weak and certainly didn't deserve everything they currently possessed. If the East River Branch could seize Taiyi Sect's territory, their strength would undoubtedly skyrocket. The abundance of resources would not only support a sufficient number of Gold Core Daoist Masters but also give him hope of breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage.

However, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus never expected this attack to be so difficult, and Taiyi Sect's resilience was unexpectedly strong. He was beginning to feel discouraged, wondering if there was any point in persevering.

After days of bitter fighting, the enemy remained immovable. Even if all the blood of the attacking side was drained, they might not be able to break through the enemy's mountain gate. They had paid such a heavy price that even if they eventually succeeded, the East River Branch would be almost ruined.

If it weren't for the cultivators from Mountain Branch in their ranks, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus would have been tempted to give up the attack. As for Fire Cloud Sect, they had long lost their fighting spirit. Although the main force in this operation was the East River Branch, Fire Cloud Sect suffered heavy losses as well.

Daoist Master Scarlet Flame's resentment grew heavier and almost uncontrollable. If it weren't for his remaining reason, he would have ordered Fire Cloud Sect to retreat. In his view, the commanding Daoist Master Smiling Lotus didn't know when to advance or retreat, and the orders from True Monarch Mountain Peak were nothing but nonsense. He had secretly sent a message to Daoist Master Zhu Liangyu, asking him to speak in front of True Monarch Profound Wind and let him know that Fire Cloud Sect was on the verge of collapse and couldn't hold on any longer.

Meanwhile, within the Hundred Grass Slope, Meng Zhang, who was still gritting his teeth to persevere, had no idea that the enemy was also considering a retreat. After days of exhausting battle, he was starting to feel numb. Especially with no response from Gu Yue Family, it made him increasingly anxious. Despite their seemingly close relationship, they were unreliable when it mattered most.

This brutal battle had exhausted both the attackers and defenders, and even the bystanders couldn't bear to watch. True Monarch Mountain Peak didn't pay much attention to the situation here after giving the order. It was only later when he inquired incidentally that he learned about the East River Branch's prolonged and costly attack.

True Monarch Mountain Peak intended to make the East River Branch suffer a bit, weaken them, and break their arrogance for future training. He had never planned to severely weaken the East River Branch or harm their foundation. After all, once the East River Branch was completely under his control, they would serve under him, and he certainly didn't want to disable them and witness their vitality greatly diminished.

Taiyi Sect's tenacity and resilience had affected his plans, and as broad-minded as he was, he would not turn a blind eye. A few days later, True Monarch Mountain Peak ventured alone into Demon Wind Gobi and arrived on the battlefield.

He appeared leisurely, slowly striding through the sky, seemingly slow but swift, and soon arrived over the Hundred Grass Slope. His grand entrance did not escape the attention of both attackers and defenders.

Meng Zhang had witnessed True Monarch Mountain Peak's appearance before during their encounter in the Deadly Sea of Sand when he had ambushed True Monarch Tian Zhu's external avatar.

Now that he saw True Monarch Mountain Peak arrive, his heart was filled with despair. Even though there was a protective mountain great formation separating them, he still couldn't feel the slightest sense of safety. No wonder his impulsive ability didn't warn him; it turned out that Primordial Spirit True Monarch personally made a move, surpassing the level he could sense.

Both the East River Branch and the Mountain Branch of Yellow Lotus Sect, along with the Gold Core Daoist Masters from Fire Cloud Sect, were terrified but eager to go and pay their respects to True Monarch Mountain Peak.

High above in the sky, True Monarch Mountain Peak paid no attention to others and did not utter a single word before taking action. A faint mountain peak illusion appeared over the Hundred Grass Slope and slowly descended, lightly touching the Third Rank protective mountain great formation. The already severely damaged and perforated great formation instantly crumbled like paper.

As soon as Meng Zhang spotted True Monarch Mountain Peak's figure, he knew things were not looking good. Nevertheless, he didn't give up and struggled in his final effort. Together with a large group of Taiyi Sect disciples, including several Gold Core cultivators, they tried to support the great formation with all their strength. However, the protective mountain great formation had almost no resistance and was completely destroyed. Many cultivators directly connected to the great formation, especially those like Meng Zhang who were maintaining the operation of the formation, were immediately gravely injured, spitting blood, and collapsed helplessly on the ground.

Lying on the ground, Meng Zhang's heart was filled with bitterness. He had underestimated Primordial Spirit True Monarch after all. The Divine Ability of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch was beyond what a Gold Core cultivator could fathom.

Once True Monarch Mountain Peak succeeded with one strike, the cultivators from both attacking and defending sides cheered thunderously. They had paid an unimaginable price and tirelessly attacked for days, but they couldn't even make a dent in the enemy's protective mountain great formation. True Monarch Mountain Peak appeared and effortlessly shattered the great formation. To him, the results of the battle were not worth mentioning.

True Monarch Mountain Peak was about to continue, intending to completely destroy the enemy's mountain gate. Suddenly, his expression changed, and he looked towards the empty sky behind him. Though it appeared empty to others, there was a faint disturbance that escaped their senses but not his.

With a cold snort, True Monarch Mountain Peak distorted the seemingly empty sky with great force, causing ripples to surge through it. A figure leaped out of the ripples and arrived not far in front of True Monarch Mountain Peak.

"Why is it you?" True Monarch Mountain Peak was quite surprised. He never expected this person to appear before him in such a manner.

The cultivator who had just appeared was the long-absent Jin Li Daoist Master. No, now she should be addressed as Jin Li True Monarch.

In the past, Jin Li Daoist Master could barely contend with True Monarch Mountain Peak by relying on the power of the Fourth Rank magic tool, Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart, but it was never this easy. Now, Jin Li had a commanding presence and an imposing demeanor, holding her ground against True Monarch Mountain Peak without showing any sign of weakness, looking eager for a challenge.

She could stand on equal footing with True Monarch Mountain Peak for only one reason—she had broken through the Gold Core stage and had become a Primordial Spirit True Monarch herself.

Chapter 588: Favorable turn

Everyone is a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, at the same realm, and Jin Li, the True Monarch, is truly not empty at all at the True Monarch Mountain Peak.

Jin Li, the True Monarch, achieved the Primordial Spirit without anyone knowing when and appeared promptly outside the Hundred Grass Slope. The people of Taiyi Sect, who had already been in despair, looked at Jin Li, the True Monarch, in the sky, filled with joy in the face of adversity.

Many cultivators relaxed immediately, even sitting on the ground.

Even Meng Zhang, who was already unable to move, struggled to sit up and looked at the scene in the distance.

This Jin Li, the True Monarch, really achieved the Primordial Spirit True Monarch without notifying anyone, causing so many people to worry and be afraid. If they had known that Jin Li, the True Monarch, had broken through to the Primordial Spirit cultivation base, they would not have been so desperate.

Of course, now Meng Zhang and the others are still far from being worry-free.

Jin Li, the True Monarch, showing up, may not necessarily make the True Monarch Mountain Peak retreat.

The specific outcome depends on how the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs resolve the situation.

We can only hope that Jin Li, the True Monarch, can make the True Monarch Mountain Peak wary and not continue to press forward but instead accept a favorable turn. After all, among the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, as long as there is no deep hatred or significant interests at stake, they usually won't fight to the death.

However, the negotiations between the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs have been tense from the beginning.

"I thought your master, Tian Zhu, was dead, and you became a bereaved dog. If you were smart, you should have fled from here early and gone as far away as possible."

"Unexpectedly, you still have the courage to stay here. How could it be that you think breaking through to the Primordial Spirit realm gives you the qualifications to challenge me?" said the True Monarch Mountain Peak disdainfully.

He seems to look down on Jin Li, the True Monarch, but in reality, he feels quite complex.

He knew Jin Li, the True Monarch, to some extent. Initially, both of them were subordinates of True Monarch Tian Zhu, but one was in the open, and the other operated secretly.

At that time, Jin Li, as a Gold Core Daoist Master, openly served under True Monarch Tian Zhu and worked around the Endless Sea of Sand and Deadly Sea of Sand.

Yue Feng, as a cultivator of the Yellow Lotus Sect Mountain Branch, was noticed by True Monarch Tian Zhu due to some fortuitous events and had been supported wholeheartedly by him.

After achieving the Primordial Spirit, True Monarch Mountain Peak seemed loyal to True Monarch Tian Zhu on the surface, but he had other thoughts in his heart. This was one of the reasons for his eventual betrayal.

True Monarch Mountain Peak seemed to be dismissive of the matter of betraying True Monarch Tian Zhu, but deep inside, he was still haunted by it.

Now, seeing Jin Li, another confidant of True Monarch Tian Zhu, he couldn't help but feel mixed emotions.

Facing True Monarch Mountain Peak, Jin Li, the True Monarch, was not feeling at ease either.

The fact that True Monarch Tian Zhu secretly nurtured Yue Feng as his pawn had been highly confidential, and Jin Li was initially unaware of it until later.

Regardless of the relationship with the sect or her contributions to True Monarch Tian Zhu, Jin Li felt that he should have been more devoted to her. However, she never expected that True Monarch Tian Zhu would secretly support Yue Feng to become a Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

When Jin Li was ordered by True Monarch Tian Zhu to contact True Monarch Mountain Peak, she, as a Gold Core Daoist Master, suffered a lot of grievances and was underestimated by the latter.

True Monarch Mountain Peak, whom True Monarch Tian Zhu had highly nurtured, betrayed him at a critical moment. At that time, Jin Li was not only shocked but also felt a strange sense of pleasure.

However, no matter what, Jin Li had been well taken care of by True Monarch Tian Zhu for many years. Achieving the Primordial Spirit True Monarch was also due to his guidance. Regarding Yue Feng, the traitor, there was no room for reconciliation, let alone any goodwill.

Now, True Monarch Mountain Peak's insolence further fueled her anger.

"The famous True Monarch Mountain Peak, is all you can do just talk?"

"If you have any ability, then show it."

"Enough of the nonsense, I'll be waiting for you above the Nine Heavens."

With her words still echoing, Jin Li, the True Monarch, soared into the sky, heading straight for the Nine Heavens.

When Primordial Spirit True Monarchs clash, if they don't deliberately control their power, it can cause great disturbances and spread devastating aftermaths, easily creating terrifying calamities in the surroundings. In the Cultivation World, such destruction is known as the 'Heaven-tilting calamity.'

Therefore, when many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs fight, they prefer to go above the Nine Heavens, where they can be unrestricted and freely engage in combat without worrying about collateral damage.

Seeing Jin Li, the True Monarch, actively challenging and flying up to the Nine Heavens, there is no way True Monarch Mountain Peak would back down in any aspect.

True Monarch Mountain Peak is relatively new among the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs of the Jiuqu League, having achieved the Primordial Spirit not too long ago. Compared to Jin Li, the True Monarch, who also recently achieved the Primordial Spirit, he is considered relatively inexperienced.

Without saying a word, True Monarch Mountain Peak followed Jin Li, the True Monarch, and flew up to the Nine Heavens.

Jin Li, the True Monarch, and True Monarch Mountain Peak were going to fight above the Nine Heavens. In theory, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus should have led the joint forces of the two sects and launched a fierce attack on the Hundred Grass Slope during this time.

Now, the Third Rank mountain protection great formation of the Hundred Grass Slope has been completely destroyed, and Taiyi Sect has lost its greatest reliance, making it the weakest moment.

However, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus seemed lost in thought, just standing there staring blankly at the sky.

The appearance of True Monarch Mountain Peak was shocking enough, and then another Primordial Spirit True Monarch showed up, engaging in a battle with True Monarch Mountain Peak above the Nine Heavens, leaving everyone stunned.

Before achieving the Primordial Spirit, Jin Li, the True Monarch, had interacted with many cultivators here, and Daoist Master Smiling Lotus was once defeated by her. He believed that after reaching the Gold Core stage, he would have a chance to defeat Jin Li, the Daoist Master, and erase his previous shame. However, to his surprise, Jin Li, the True Monarch, achieved the Primordial Spirit.

Feeling dejected and losing interest in everything, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus didn't know what to do. At this moment, a supervising cultivator from the Mountain Branch couldn't bear it anymore and flew in front of Daoist Master Smiling Lotus, quietly reminding him of the situation.

The battle was not over yet. True Monarch Mountain Peak and Jin Li, the True Monarch, were still fighting, and they could not stand idle and do nothing while their leaders were engaged.

Daoist Master Smiling Lotus should lead the joint forces of the two sects and seize the opportunity to attack the Hundred Grass Slope, completely annihilating Taiyi Sect. Perhaps, this would distract Jin Li, the True Monarch, and affect her actions.

Although Daoist Master Smiling Lotus also believed that Jin Li, the True Monarch, who had recently achieved the Primordial Spirit, was probably not a match for True Monarch Mountain Peak, one should not be overconfident. Anything could happen.

Reluctantly accepting the reminder, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus responded repeatedly, though inwardly, he cursed at the cultivators from the Mountain Branch for having ulterior motives and ill intentions.

Jin Li, the True Monarch, and True Monarch Mountain Peak were still locked in battle, with the outcome yet to be determined.

True Monarch Mountain Peak might be manageable, but if Jin Li, the True Monarch, were to win, it wouldn't be good for them to stay here. Although Daoist Master Smiling Lotus thought that Jin Li, the True Monarch, who had recently achieved the Primordial Spirit, was probably not a match for True Monarch Mountain Peak, one should not take any chances.

However, no matter how unwilling he was, the supervising cultivator had made it clear that they could not remain idle.

Moreover, the joint forces of the two sects and Taiyi Sect had been in a bitter battle for several days, and deep animosities had been formed. Seizing this opportunity to end it once and for all and completely destroy the enemy might not be a bad thing.

Under Daoist Master Smiling Lotus's command, the joint forces of the two sects began to form up, preparing for a new round of attack.

The cultivators on the Hundred Grass Slope immediately noticed the enemy's movements. They initially thought that with the appearance of Jin Li, the True Monarch, their side had a chance of survival. Unexpectedly, the enemy was still continuing their attack.

The mountain protection great formation had been completely destroyed, and the remaining cultivators inside the mountain gate were all heavily injured and had little combat power left.

Especially Meng Zhang and other top combatants in the sect, they could barely stand, let alone face the enemy.

Seeing the cultivators inside the mountain gate lacking fighting spirit, Meng Zhang struggled to take a pill, barely suppressing his injuries. He then stood up from the ground, flew into the air, and encouraged everyone, boosting their morale.

Wen Qiansun and Deep Earth Spirit General also took action, preparing to use talismans and the remaining formation flags to set up a temporary formation, providing some support for everyone.

The cultivators on the Hundred Grass Slope, despite their injuries, began preparing for battle.

Just as Daoist Master Smiling Lotus was about to lead the joint forces of the two sects in launching a new attack, an interfering party appeared.

In the sky, several figures quickly flew to the front of the joint army formation, loudly calling for Daoist Master Smiling Lotus.

Among these figures, the one in the front was Gu Yue Huaidie from the Gu Yue Family. Behind her, besides the Gold Core Daoist Master of the Gu Yue Family, there was also a Gold Core Daoist Master from the Lu Family of Great Wind City.

As members of the Jiuqu League, they knew each other and were neighbors. Daoist Master Smiling Lotus couldn't ignore them entirely.

With a few Gold Core Daoist Masters by his side, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus flew to the front of the formation and met with Gu Yue Huaidie and her group. The two groups of Gold Core Daoist Masters faced each other at a short distance in the air, sizing each other up.

Considering the close relationship between the Gu Yue Family and Taiyi Sect, they often interacted with each other. In recent years, there had been intense battles between Great Wind City and Taiyi Sect.

Daoist Master Smiling Lotus was well aware of the reason for Gu Yue Huaidie's visit.

In fact, Gu Yue Huaidie and her group had arrived here earlier and had been watching the battle from nearby. Initially, they had no intention of intervening, especially after the appearance of True Monarch Mountain Peak, they believed that Taiyi Sect was doomed.

Although they felt very regretful and unwilling, they could do nothing about it.

However, things changed when Jin Li, the True Monarch, showed up and engaged in a battle with True Monarch Mountain Peak above the Nine Heavens. This brought a new opportunity.

Gu Yue Huaidie was well aware that with Jin Li achieving the Primordial Spirit True Monarch, the situation had completely changed. After a simple discussion with her companions, they made a decision to help Taiyi Sect at this critical moment.

This decision was not only due to the interests between Taiyi Sect and Great Wind City but also a gesture of goodwill toward Jin Li, the newly-promoted Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

So, they appeared together in front of the joint army formation, preventing the two sects from launching an attack.

Chapter 589: Joining

Gu Yue Huaidie and Meng Zhang had an excellent relationship, and whenever there were significant negotiations between the clans and Taiyi Sect, she often represented them.

Although their relationship was strong, when True Monarch Mountain Peak personally intervened, she had neither the ability nor the authority to involve Gu Yue Family in the conflict and support Taiyi Sect. Even if she was unwilling, all she could do was watch Taiyi Sect face destruction. The only thing she could do was take care of the remaining disciples of Taiyi Sect in the future.

However, with the appearance of Jin Li True Monarch, the situation changed completely. After gaining the agreement of others, Gu Yue Huaidie made a new decision.

Gu Yue Huaidie and her group were determined to protect Taiyi Sect. They engaged Daoist Master Smiling Lotus and others in idle conversation, attempting to delay the situation. As time passed, the injured cultivators of Taiyi Sect gradually regained their strength, and there was a chance to repair the defense of Hundred Grass Slope.

Daoist Master Smiling Lotus was well aware of Gu Yue Huaidie's intentions. While he conversed with them without immediately turning hostile, he had his own thoughts. Great Wind City, with its considerable power and the formidable backgrounds of both Lu Family and Gu Yue Family, was not to be trifled with. True Monarch Mountain Peak's actions had already harmed Great Wind City's interests and would naturally invite retaliation from them. Both Lu Family and Gu Yue Family were not to be underestimated and possessed various covert methods.

True Monarch Mountain Peak didn't care about offending Lu Family and Gu Yue Family, but Daoist Master Smiling Lotus didn't have the same confidence. He dreamt of East River Branch breaking free from True Monarch Mountain Peak's control. Now that Lu Family and Gu Yue Family were clearly inclined to support Taiyi Sect, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus hesitated.

He didn't want to confront Gu Yue Huaidie directly, so he acted ignorant of her intentions and kept accompanying her in casual conversation. Daoist Master Scarlet Flame of Fire Cloud Sect saw the situation clearly and played along, pretending to be clueless alongside Daoist Master Smiling Lotus.

However, a cultivator from Mountain Branch with the Gold Core stage was dissatisfied and directly asked Gu Yue Huaidie and her group to step aside. This gave Gu Yue Huaidie the perfect excuse to initiate action. A Gold Core cultivator from Lu Family insisted that it was disrespectful to Lu Family and continued to confront them.

Several Gold Core cultivators from both sides joined the dispute, engaging in heated verbal exchanges. As time passed, the injured Taiyi Sect cultivators slowly recovered some of their combat strength. Wen Qiansun and Deep Earth Spirit General, in particular, made use of various materials from Taiyi Sect's treasury to set up temporary defensive structures around Hundred Grass Slope. Though far from the original Third Rank mountain-protecting formation, it provided some defense and support for the defending cultivators.

Daoist Master Smiling Lotus noticed Taiyi Sect's movements and their newly established defense, causing him to abandon the idea of attacking Hundred Grass Slope. He believed that if he ordered the attack, Gu Yue Huaidie and others would undoubtedly join the battle, and this could lead to further interference from Great Wind City, which was something they couldn't afford. The situation for East River Branch was already dire, and it was unwise to make enemies with Great Wind City.

Finally, after three days of chatting and bickering, the situation was still unresolved. But on the fourth day, Jin Li True Monarch and True Monarch Mountain Peak descended from the sky, arriving at the battlefield.

"Jin Li, this seat has not yet settled the grudges with you. Wait, this seat will come to find you in a few days," True Monarch Mountain Peak threatened before flying away without even caring about the joint forces of the two sects.

Jin Li True Monarch's expression was also grim as she watched True Monarch Mountain Peak's departure. Although she had recently achieved the Primordial Spirit True Monarch realm, she had already completely refined the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart left by his master. During the battle with True Monarch Mountain Peak, Jin Li Daoist Master activated this Fourth Rank magic tool and not only didn't fall behind but even gained a slight advantage.

After three days of fighting, unable to defeat Jin Li True Monarch, True Monarch Mountain Peak decided to withdraw and leave the area.

True Monarch Mountain Peak has left for now, but the next time he returns, it may not be so easy to deal with. Jin Li True Monarch temporarily set aside these matters and flew to the Hundred Grass Slope to meet with Meng Zhang and others. After their meeting, there were naturally many things to discuss.

Seeing that even True Monarch Mountain Peak had suffered defeat, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus had a better excuse to retreat. Ignoring the displeasure of the Mountain Branch cultivators, he happily bid farewell to the fellow Daoists from Great Wind City and led his army of cultivators in a complete withdrawal.

Daoist Master Smiling Lotus was a decisive individual who didn't dwell on the past or let emotions govern him. Despite returning empty-handed from the attack on Hundred Grass Slope and losing many cultivators, he certainly hated Taiyi Sect and wished to wipe them out. However, the situation had changed, and continuing the attack on Hundred Grass Slope was no longer feasible. He immediately gave up and cut his losses in time.

As Daoist Master Smiling Lotus led the retreat of the cultivators, Gu Yue Huaidie and her group went to Hundred Grass Slope to visit Jin Li True Monarch and Meng Zhang. Though Meng Zhang harbored some resentment for their lack of timely assistance, he understood that now was not the time to fall out. On the contrary, he needed to maintain good relations with them and continue to gain their support.

Gu Yue Huaidie and her group respectfully greeted the newly ascended Primordial Spirit True Monarch, Jin Li True Monarch. Although she had recently achieved the Primordial Spirit realm, Jin Li True Monarch was modest and didn't put on airs in front of these influential Gold Core cultivators.

Ten days later, the army led by Daoist Master Smiling Lotus did not reappear, but both True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind arrived at the outskirts of Hundred Grass Slope once again. True Monarch Profound Wind, being in the mid-stage of the Primordial Spirit realm, was also a formidable opponent. This time, even with all of Jin Li True Monarch's cards, it would be challenging to turn the tide. As for the cultivators of Taiyi Sect, they were reduced to mere pawns in the struggle between Primordial Spirit True Monarchs and had no qualifications to participate.

With an optimistic outlook, True Monarch Mountain Peak was determined to erase the previous shame. However, to his surprise, waiting for them beyond Jin Li True Monarch was someone else: True Monarch Azure Mist from Azure Origin Sect.

Azure Origin Sect was one of the top sects in Jiuqu League, ranking at the pinnacle in terms of power and prestige. Within Jiuqu League, only the Sword Cultivator sect Jade Sword Sect could directly contend with Azure Origin Sect.

Jade Sword Sect, in terms of disciple numbers and influence, was actually far inferior to Azure Origin Sect. It relied solely on a group of fearless sword fanatics to gain a prominent reputation and secure its position within Jiuqu League.

In truth, Azure Origin Sect was the true top sect within Jiuqu League, along with Jade Sword Sect. They were the true dominators of Jiuqu League.

Seeing True Monarch Azure Mist appear, both True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind felt a sense of unease. In any case, they took the initiative to approach and pay their respects to True Monarch Azure Mist.

True Monarch Azure Mist was very affable and did not display the arrogance typical of cultivators from prominent sects. After some casual conversation and pleasantries with True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind, he revealed his purpose for coming.

True Monarch Azure Mist was inviting Jin Li Daoist Master to join Jiuqu League during his visit to Demon Wind Gobi. Jin Li True Monarch happily accepted the invitation and agreed to become a member of Jiuqu League. From this point on, Jin Li True Monarch was officially a part of Jiuqu League.

Primordial Spirit True Monarchs generally have their own sphere of influence, and they often have vassal forces. For example, True Monarch Profound Wind, though a loose cultivator, had Fire Cloud Sect willingly submit to him, becoming his subordinate. Within Jiuqu League, if any other force had disputes with Fire Cloud Sect, they would have to consider True Monarch Profound Wind's influence.

Previously, Taiyi Sect and the entire Hanhai Alliance were under the protection of Jin Li True Monarch. With Jin Li True Monarch joining Jiuqu League, they also became members of the league. In the future, when dealing with matters concerning Taiyi Sect, the high-ranking members of Jiuqu League would respect Jin Li True Monarch's opinions and take her dignity into account.

Although True Monarch Mountain Peak sensed that things had changed upon seeing True Monarch Azure Mist, he was finding it hard to accept that his former enemy, Jin Li True Monarch, had suddenly become a member of Jiuqu League.

True Monarch Azure Mist seemed not to notice True Monarch Mountain Peak's displeasure and called Jin Li True Monarch over. In front of everyone, True Monarch Azure Mist spoke about the need for unity and mutual support among Jiuqu League members, urging them not to dwell on past grievances or engage in infighting.

Jin Li True Monarch loudly agreed with True Monarch Azure Mist's words and expressed that her previous unpleasant experiences with True Monarch Profound Wind were due to her service under True Monarch Tian Zhu. However, since True Monarch Tian Zhu had passed away, her relationship with him naturally ceased to exist. She didn't care about True Monarch Tian Zhu's past and no longer held any grudges.

This attitude from Jin Li True Monarch pleased True Monarch Azure Mist, and he commended her for it. True Monarch Profound Wind and Jin Li True Monarch had no deep-seated hatred despite their differences with True Monarch Tian Zhu. With True Monarch Tian Zhu gone, any lingering animosity was mostly dissipated. True Monarch Profound Wind had no intention of continuing to entangle with her and declared that the past should be left behind. From then on, they would go their separate ways without any enmity.

True Monarch Mountain Peak's face had been unpleasant ever since True Monarch Azure Mist appeared. He was reluctant to let Jin Li True Monarch go so easily. As a traitor, he wanted to erase all traces of True Monarch Tian Zhu from this world, as if he had never existed. In his eyes, Jin Li True Monarch was True Monarch Tian Zhu's successor, inheriting everything from him. Letting Jin Li True Monarch go troubled him deeply, and his thoughts couldn't find resolution.

However, Jin Li True Monarch had somehow connected with Azure Origin Sect, inviting True Monarch Azure Mist. Despite his dissatisfaction, True Monarch Mountain Peak had to suppress it forcefully. If the former Yellow Lotus Sect Cult Master hadn't disappeared, Yellow Lotus Sect would still hold some sway before Azure Origin Sect. However, since the Cult Master's disappearance, the sect had fallen into a fragmented state, with each branch acting independently.

True Monarch Mountain Peak, as a local power, had ambitious plans and didn't maintain good relationships with other branches and the Main Altar. Offending True Monarch Azure Mist would not only result in his fellow sect members not lending a hand but could also lead to them adding to his troubles.

Facing True Monarch Azure Mist from Azure Origin Sect, True Monarch Mountain Peak couldn't directly oppose him. Seeing True Monarch Mountain Peak's silence, True Monarch Azure Mist remained smiling, but a sharp glint flashed in his eyes.

Ignoring True Monarch Mountain Peak, True Monarch Azure Mist engaged in friendly conversation with Jin Li True Monarch and True Monarch Profound Wind. True Monarch Mountain Peak had to reluctantly give True Monarch Azure Mist some face and approached to say a few words.

True Monarch Azure Mist, being highly respected in Azure Origin Sect and usually very busy, chatted with everyone for a while, saving face for them. Before leaving, he warned them not to continue fighting.

Jin Li True Monarch and True Monarch Profound Wind naturally appeared harmonious, and even True Monarch Mountain Peak had to utter a few vague words. Only then did True Monarch Azure Mist leave satisfied.

Chapter 590: Damage control

True Monarch Azure Mist left with peace of mind. He wasn't worried at all that, after his departure, the three of them would act against his will and engage in conflict again.

He has enough confidence in Azure Origin Sect and his own deterrent power.

Watching True Monarch Azure Mist's figure flying further and further away, the remaining three exchanged glances but showed no interest in speaking.

True Monarch Mountain Peak glanced coldly at Jin Li True Monarch, snorted, and left like that.

True Monarch Profound Wind had no intention of continuing to trouble Jin Li True Monarch and chatted with her for a while before bidding farewell and leaving.

True Monarch Mountain Peak felt unwilling, and Jin Li True Monarch felt the same way.

If not for the situation forcing her, she wouldn't easily let True Monarch Mountain Peak go like this.

However, after achieving Primordial Spirit, her lifespan became long, and she would have plenty of time to settle scores with True Monarch Mountain Peak in the future.

A few days ago, when Gu Yue Huaidie discussed with Jin Li True Monarch, she pointed out the current situation.

Although True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind are relatively marginalized figures within the Jiuqu League, they are still Primordial Spirit True Monarchs of the Jiuqu League.

Unless Jin Li True Monarch escapes far from the vicinity of the Jiuqu League, she cannot directly confront them.

Gu Yue Huaidie suggested that Jin Li True Monarch should join the Jiuqu League.

Since Jin Li True Monarch doesn't have any sect or family restrictions, joining the Jiuqu League could not only resolve the crisis from True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind but also come with many other benefits.

Jin Li True Monarch is not so stubborn as to not recognize the situation, nor is she willing to leave just like that.

Gu Yue Huaidie's suggestion became a practical plan.

After pondering for a while and discussing it with Meng Zhang, Jin Li True Monarch finally accepted Gu Yue Huaidie's suggestion and agreed to join the Jiuqu League.

True Monarch Azure Mist from Azure Origin Sect has always been the biggest support behind Great Wind City. There is even a marital relationship between them and the Lu Family, who runs Great Wind City.

Great Wind City is one of the major trade hubs in the Jiuqu League, with vast amounts of wealth flowing through it. Without the support of strong individuals like True Monarch Azure Mist, it would be challenging to maintain this foundation with only a group of Gold Core Daoist Masters.

Of course, Lu Family and Gu Yue Family have never been stingy with their offerings to True Monarch Azure Mist. True Monarch Azure Mist has received a large amount of cultivation resources from Great Wind City.

True Monarch Mountain Peak's actions have seriously harmed the interests of Great Wind City, and the Lu Family has long been displeased with him.

The Jiuqu League still maintains some semblance of rules. True Monarch Mountain Peak's actions are hard to criticize, and True Monarch Azure Mist cannot easily intervene in the internal affairs of the Yellow Lotus Sect.

Even for a Primordial Spirit cultivator from Azure Origin Sect, interfering in the internal affairs of other sects is a big taboo.

After getting Jin LiTrue Monarch's reply, Gu Yue Huaidie contacted the Lu Family to invite True Monarch Azure Mist and ask him to invite Jin LiTrue Monarch to join the Jiuqu League.

Jin LiTrue Monarch is not an unknown person who appeared out of nowhere in the Endless Sea of Sand. Using the information-gathering methods of Azure Origin Sect, True Monarch Azure Mist already had some understanding of her.

It's not like True Monarch Azure Mist is being asked to fight other Primordial SpiritTrue Monarchs to the death; he just needs to invite Jin LiTrue Monarch to join the Jiuqu League, which is not a difficult task.

Moreover, Jin LiTrue Monarch joining the Jiuqu League would bring many benefits to True Monarch Azure Mist as well.

From a broader perspective, Jiuqu League has been facing increasing external pressure over the years and needs to strengthen its power.

Even a powerful force like Jiuqu League cannot underestimate the combat power of a Primordial SpiritTrue Monarch.

More importantly, if True Monarch Azure Mist invites Jin LiTrue Monarch to join the Jiuqu League, Jin LiTrue Monarch will be regarded as part of his faction within the alliance, thereby increasing his faction's strength.

As for using this opportunity to cause trouble for True Monarch Mountain Peak, it becomes a minor issue and not worth mentioning.

To show sincerity, True Monarch Azure Mist personally visited and gave Jin LiTrue Monarch face, while also resolving her conflict with True Monarch Mountain Peak.

Regardless of what everyone thinks in their hearts, at least on the surface, after True Monarch Azure Mist's intervention, both sides must cease fighting and cannot continue the conflict.

Watching True Monarch Mountain Peak and True Monarch Profound Wind leave one after the other, Jin LiTrue Monarch returned to the Taiyi Sect's gate.

Joining the Jiuqu League is not a bad thing for her.

In the Cultivation World, even someone as powerful as True Monarch Tian Zhu has connections with the Dark Alliance. As a solitary individual, Jin LiTrue Monarch, by joining the Jiuqu League, would have a backing.

Of course, enjoying benefits naturally comes with a price. In the future, she will inevitably have to serve the Jiuqu League.

Within the Hundred Grass Slope, cultivators from the Gu Yue Family and Lu Family are waiting for Jin LiTrue Monarch.

This time, Great Wind City played the middleman and formed a bond with Jin LiTrue Monarch. In the future, Great Wind City can be considered to have gained an additional backing within the Jiuqu League.

Cultivators from Great Wind City provided detailed explanations to Jin LiTrue Monarch about the internal situation of the Jiuqu League, especially regarding some taboos.

For a Primordial SpiritTrue Monarch to join the Jiuqu League, it is certainly not that simple.

Once everything is prepared, Jin LiTrue Monarch will go to the Jiuqu League, where various rituals and ceremonies await her.

According to True Monarch Azure Mist's intentions, a grand ceremony will be held to show the Jiuqu League's appreciation and welcome towards Jin LiTrue Monarch.

Although the fighting has stopped, there is still much post-war work to be done on Taiyi Sect's side.

The invading army of cultivators has already retreated and returned to the Endless Sea of Sand.

After learning that Jin LiTrue Monarch has joined the Jiuqu League, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus commanded his troops to withdraw and restored the borders between Taiyi Sect and their forces to the pre-war state. They returned all the previously occupied territories.

As for Yellow Sand Ridge, Flying Swan Sect has already been wiped out, and all its assets have been naturally taken over by the Fire Cloud Sect.

Now, in the Endless Sea of Sand, Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch occupies most of the territory, including Fei Hong Mountain, which is the most prosperous area.

Fire Cloud Sect controls the surrounding area of Yellow Sand Ridge, gaining some benefits.

Due to the incident involving Jin LiTrue Monarch, True Monarch Mountain Peak left in anger and temporarily did not interfere with affairs in the Endless Sea of Sand.

The overseer cultivator from Yellow Lotus Sect's Mountain Branch is still under the control of True Monarch Mountain Peak and must not only pay substantial offerings but also follow his orders.

Despite suffering heavy losses, Taiyi Sect managed to defend its mountain gate and gradually recaptured lost territories after the enemy's voluntary retreat.

With the fall of Yellow Sand Ridge, Flying Swan Sect can be considered completely exterminated.

Originally, some low-level disciples from Flying Swan Sect were stationed at Dustfall Mound. However, after the fall of Yellow Sand Ridge, these disciples fled without a fight, escaping far away from the Endless Sea of Sand.

Meng Zhang is a strategist and did not directly allow Taiyi Sect to occupy Dustfall Mound but instead gave this place to Qiaoshou Sect.

In the eyes of Gold Core sects, Dustfall Mound is indeed a bit barren. But Qiaoshou Sect was originally just a Foundation Building sect, and its only Gold Core cultivator was not cultivated by the sect but rather Jin LiTrue Monarch's disciple.

Jin LiTrue Monarch is a person who cares about old acquaintances. Initially, she felt indebted to Flying Swan Sect because of Fei ShiDaoist Master's death and publicly promised to take care of Flying Swan Sect after achieving Primordial Spirit.

However, she never expected that after she achieved Primordial Spirit, Flying Swan Sect had already been wiped out.

After many years of experience, Meng Zhang has become skilled in handling relationships and knows how to navigate social situations.

After all, Flying Swan Sect used to be the dominant sect in the Endless Sea of Sand, with numerous disciples. Even after its mountain gate was breached and many were massacred, they could still find some survivors.

Meng Zhang spent considerable effort to gather some scattered disciples of Flying Swan Sect. In Demon Wind Gobi, he found a Second Rank spirit vein and a piece of unclaimed territory for them to rebuild Flying Swan Sect.

In the Cultivation World, preserving the continuation of a sect can be considered an act of benevolence and righteousness. Meng Zhang's generosity fully demonstrated the style of Taiyi Sect as a righteous major sect.

The rebuilt Flying Swan Sect naturally joined the Hanhai Dao Alliance and became a subordinate of Taiyi Sect.

Of course, Meng Zhang's actions were not just out of kindness; there were other considerations.

By keeping the former hegemonic Flying Swan Sect under close watch, Taiyi Sect can monitor their movements and also use it as a warning to its own disciples, making them aware of the consequences of a sect's decline. Even a dominant sect can fall to such a state.

Moreover, this approach also fully took into account Jin LiTrue Monarch's feelings.

After Jin LiTrue Monarch achieved Primordial Spirit, Taiyi Sect needs her care to survive and develop under her protection.

When Meng Zhang and the others accompanied Jin LiTrue Monarch into the Purple Gold Sect's small world and confronted the soul of True Monarch Vermilionwisp, Jin LiTrue Monarch promised in advance that after breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage, she would protect Taiyi Sect.

Jin LiTrue Monarch is a person who keeps her promises, and Meng Zhang also believes in her commitment. However, Taiyi Sect cannot solely rely on a promise.

If there is a chance to please her, to make her feel happy, and to improve her perception of Taiyi Sect, why not do it?

Feelings like these tend to fade over time. In addition to maintaining a good relationship with her, Meng Zhang also needs to find a way to bind both parties with mutual benefits.

If Taiyi Sect only takes from her without giving back, over time, Jin LiTrue Monarch may have some thoughts about it.

Qiaoshou Sect has always been loyal to Taiyi Sect, and they suffered heavy losses in this battle. Giving Dustfall Mound to Qiaoshou Sect not only rewards their efforts and sacrifices but also tacitly gains Jin LiTrue Monarch's acceptance of Taiyi Sect's handling of Flying Swan Sect.

As a newly promoted Primordial SpiritTrue Monarch, Jin LiTrue Monarch may not be able to obtain a Third Rank spirit vein immediately for her disciple, Jin Qiao'er. Dustfall Mound is more than enough for her cultivation.

With the Flying Swan Sect and Qiaoshou Sect issues resolved, the remaining internal affairs of the sect and matters concerning the Hanhai Dao Alliance become straightforward.

Everything can be done following precedents, such as rewarding based on merits and offering compensation and consolation. The specific details are not something Meng Zhang concerns himself with; he leaves that to his senior disciple, Niu Dawei.

At that time, Daoist Master Smiling Lotus led his army of cultivators to besiege the Hundred Grass Slope and did not have time to plunder and occupy territories everywhere. So the lands in Demon Wind Gobi did not suffer too much damage.

The foundation is still there, and even though there were significant casualties among the cultivators, with enough time, their vitality can slowly recover.

The Gold Core cultivators from Great Wind City saw that the situation here was gradually stabilizing and that there were no new variables to worry about, so they bid their farewells and left.

Taiyi Sect warmly bid them farewell, and Meng Zhang was particularly grateful, expressing his deep gratitude.

After experiencing this turmoil, within the Jiuqu League, Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Dao Alliance are considered to be affiliated with the Great Wind City faction.

Jin LiTrue Monarch stayed at the Hundred Grass Slope all the time, watching Meng Zhang handle various aftermath affairs.

Meng Zhang was considerate and thorough, which pleased Jin LiTrue Monarch.

Jin LiTrue Monarch has never been patient with dealing with various mundane matters. The experiences of serving under True Monarch Tian Zhu back then still make her feel annoyed.

Low-level cultivators need the care of high-level cultivators, and high-level cultivators also need low-level cultivators to work for them.

In this world without Fourth Rank spirit veins, if a Primordial SpiritTrue Monarch wants to absorb enough spiritual energy, they have two options: collect Nine Heavens Refined Essence above Nine Heavens or search for spiritual opportunities in the extraterritorial void.

When Jin LiTrue Monarch was cultivating in the Purple Gold Sect's small world, she used up a significant amount of the Nine Heavens Refined Essence stored in her body.

These Nine Heavens Refined Essence are not just her personal savings; they include the inheritance left by her master and the gift given by True Monarch Tian Zhu before his death.

When she broke through to the Primordial Spirit stage, she consumed most of these Nine Heavens Refined Essence.

Primordial Spirit True Monarchs are not immortal beings who don't need worldly possessions; they still have significant material needs.

After Jin Li True Monarch broke through to the Primordial Spirit realm, she would consume even more Nine Heavens Refined Essence.

Relying solely on what is available without making any contributions is certainly not viable. After stabilizing her Cultivation Base, Jin Li True Monarch would also have to go to Nine Heavens to collect more Nine Heavens Refined Essence.

Primordial Spirit True Monarchs have a long lifespan, but they also spend a lot of time on various activities. One retreat or expedition could easily consume several decades or even centuries.

With numerous Taiyi Sect cultivators serving her, collecting various resources on her behalf would save her a great deal of time.

Jin Li True Monarch might not yet realize this, but once her interests are thoroughly connected with Taiyi Sect's interests, she will understand that they need each other, and both parties will benefit.

In his spare time while handling various affairs, Meng Zhang repeatedly sought out Jin Li True Monarch and asked about her experiences in breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage.

Transmitting such experiences lightly is not allowed; the experience and secrets of breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage are the core secrets in any cultivation sect. Loose cultivators regard them as treasures and would never divulge them.

Jin Li True Monarch has known Meng Zhang for many years and holds him in high regard. However, when it comes to such sensitive secrets, there is no room for sentimentality.

Jin LiTrue Monarch didn't outright reject him but spoke vaguely and mentioned some general principles. Then she smoothly changed the subject and talked about other matters.

Meng Zhang is a tactful person and didn't persist but withdrew when he saw that the situation wasn't appropriate.

Jin LiTrue Monarch didn't stay at the Hundred Grass Slope for too long and returned to the Purple Gold Sect's small world, where she achieved the Primordial Spirit stage. She regarded that place as her blessed land.

Jin LiTrue Monarch decided to live there permanently in the future and make it her permanent residence for cultivation.

Since the ceasefire, not only did True Monarch Mountain Peak stop coming to cause trouble, but East River Branch and Fire Cloud Sect also behaved honestly and didn't have any disputes with Taiyi Sect.

Jin LiTrue Monarch secluded herself in the small world, cultivating various Divine Abilities and mastering unique methods of a Primordial SpiritTrue Monarch.

Meanwhile, Taiyi Sect enjoyed a period of peaceful development. After a life-and-death battle and facing dire circumstances, then suddenly gaining a turning point, Meng Zhang was deeply moved. Having recited scriptures and comprehended the Dao for many years, his Spiritual Awareness became increasingly keen.

Not long after Jin LiTrue Monarch left, he also put aside all his affairs and began seclusion to seek a breakthrough. Examples of breakthroughs during a life-and-death battle or shortly after such battles are not uncommon in the Cultivation World.

Shortly after Meng Zhang's seclusion, some cultivators in Taiyi Sect also entered seclusion one after another. Zheng Chao, who played a crucial role in the great battle, relying on the power of the mountain-protection great formation to resist the Gold Core cultivator War Hall Hall Master, Zheng Chao had been seriously injured and on the verge of death when the battle ended.

Meng Zhang spared no effort and took out the most precious healing pills from the sect's treasury, while several Gold Core Daoist Masters took turns to help, barely saving his life.

Seeing Zheng Chao's injuries reaching his foundation, and with Taiyi Sect's current capabilities unable to effectively treat him, Meng Zhang boldly requested Jin Li True Monarch's assistance, which ultimately saved Zheng Chao's cultivation base.

Zheng Chao, while slowly recovering within the sect, felt moved and immediately ignored his injuries to enter seclusion, aiming to achieve the goal he failed to accomplish during his previous seclusion - breaking through to the Gold Core stage.

His seclusion this time was not long, only eight years, before he formed his Gold Core successfully.

Taiyi Sect gained another Gold Core Daoist Master, and its strength increased significantly.

Meng Zhang's seclusion lasted for eleven years before he finally emerged. After coming out, his Cultivation Base had broken through to the Gold Core late stage. A master at the Gold Core late stage is considered a prominent figure among Gold Core cultivators.

After True Monarch Mountain Peak left Endless Sea of Sand last time, they did not set foot in the area again. Nevertheless, their control over Endless Sea of Sand and Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch remained undiminished.

Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch completely cut off all trade with Great Wind City. Caravans that set out from Endless Sea of Sand were willing to take longer, more circuitous routes, even at the cost of significant losses, to bypass Great Wind City and trade in Yellow Lotus Sect's Mountain Branch territory.

Although East River Branch is a neighboring sect to Taiyi Sect, the two sects did not interact and maintained no contact, let alone trade.

Both sides intentionally or unintentionally shifted the boundary line backward and advised their reduced patrol teams to stay away from the boundary line.

While both sides had formed a blood feud during the last great battle, they were not willing to provoke each other currently and even avoided any conflicts.

They were in a state of cold war, but both parties restrained their disciples from provoking each other.

True Monarch Profound Wind had no intention to continue hating Jin Li True Monarch, but he was also not rushing to make amends with her.

Fire Cloud Sect's attitude toward Taiyi Sect seemed similar to Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch. However, secretly, there were occasional small groups of cultivators from Fire Cloud Sect who engaged in smuggling between the borders of the two forces.

These cultivators were members of smuggling caravans, conducting illicit trade between the two powers.

In the last great battle, East River Branch played the main role and suffered the greatest loss. Naturally, they obtained the largest share of spoils after the war.

Daoist Master Scarlet Flame and other Fire Cloud Sect high-ranking members accepted this arrangement without protest because their strength had weakened significantly. But afterward, seeing East River Branch gain the most abundant spoils, plundering various cultivation resources, they couldn't help but have some thoughts in their minds.

On the side of Jiuqu League, the scope of influence has largely solidified, and Fire Cloud Sect finds it difficult to obtain further benefits. The sect's higher-ups are highly focused on the recently acquired territory in Endless Sea of Sand, viewing it as an opportunity for the sect's rise and advancement.

Fire Cloud Sect is no longer approaching this with a short-term mentality; instead, they see it as a foundational area to be carefully cultivated for long-term benefits. Unfortunately, the most prosperous region in Endless Sea of Sand, near Feihong Mountain, is firmly controlled by Yellow Lotus Sect's East River Branch. Fire Cloud Sect has no way to interfere and can only secretly covet and desire it.

To make matters worse, due to True Monarch Mountain Peak's demand, the cultivation resources that Fire Cloud Sect obtains in Endless Sea of Sand must be traded in Yellow Lotus Sect's Mountain Branch territory. This has led to Fire Cloud Sect losing a considerable amount of profit without gaining any benefits in return.

Daoist Master Scarlet Flame complained to Zhu Liangyu and sought help from True Monarch Profound Wind. However, True Monarch Profound Wind is aware that this is related to a major plan

of True Monarch Mountain Peak and is unwilling to offend them for the sake of Fire Cloud Sect's minor issue, so he did not interfere.

The area near Yellow Sand Ridge was originally Flying Swan Sect's territory and is not particularly prosperous within Endless Sea of Sand. Apart from developing this region, Fire Cloud Sect has sought other methods to increase their profits.

On one hand, Fire Cloud Sect wants to restore the trade between the former Flying Swan Sect and Yuantu Great Prairie. However, being newcomers, they lack connections, and this endeavor has not been smooth. In the short term, the trade between them and the Great Prairie not only fails to bring in profit but actually causes losses for Fire Cloud Sect.

On the other hand, Fire Cloud Sect secretly engages in trade with Taiyi Sect through smuggling caravans. Although the two sects have had multiple deadly battles and harbor deep grudges, lucrative business opportunities can transcend animosity.

Taiyi Sect's territory in Endless Sea of Sand is very barren, lacking many of the unique resources found elsewhere in the region. Fire Cloud Sect initially sends its distinctive resources from its own territory to Taiyi Sect through smuggling caravans.

As the business grows, they gradually extend their operations into East River Branch's territory. East River Branch is very vigilant about their border with Great Wind City, but they pay less attention to their border with Fire Cloud Sect.

Various vassal forces within East River Branch's territory are enticed by the lucrative profits and secretly transport various cultivation resources to Fire Cloud Sect's territory. Through the border between Fire Cloud Sect and Taiyi Sect, these resources ultimately reach Taiyi Sect's territory and are further sent to Great Wind City.