

Sect Master's Immortal Journey #Chapter 761: Settling - Read Sect Master's Immortal Journey Chapter 761: Settling

Chapter 761: Settling

Originally, True Monarch Mountain Peak could still contend with Xu Mengying back and forth. He actually had hidden cards and was far from being in dire straits.

Now, with the assistance of the Yin Yang Dao Soldiers, he started to feel an unstoppable force against him.

In the distance, Meng Zhang was healing, and no one knew when he would recover and join the battle again.

True Monarch Mountain Peak joined the Dali Dynasty for various reasons. One of them was to borrow Marshal Zhao from the Dali Dynasty to help him obtain treasures.

Now that Marshal Zhao is dead, he doesn't know how to explain this to the higher-ups of the Dali Dynasty.

The reason the Dali Dynasty values True Monarch Mountain Peak is not only because of his Cultivation Base but also his status in the Yellow Lotus Sect.

The Yellow Lotus Sect used to be the third major force in the Jiuqu League, and though it has declined, it still holds significant influence.

With the help of the Dali Dynasty, True Monarch Mountain Peak could easily control the Yellow Lotus Sect and serve the Dali Dynasty's interests.

This would play a crucial role in the Dali Dynasty's efforts to subdue the Jiuqu League.

Xu Mengying is the biggest obstacle to True Monarch Mountain Peak's control of the Yellow Lotus Sect.

Unexpectedly, before True Monarch Mountain Peak even had a chance to act against Xu Mengying, she preemptively launched a surprise attack with Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang, who was once insignificant in his eyes, has now grown to the point where he poses a serious threat.

If it weren't for Jin Li True Monarch's protection in the past, Meng Zhang, along with his Taiyi Sect, would have been wiped out by True Monarch Mountain Peak long ago.

Thinking of this, True Monarch Mountain Peak becomes even more annoyed.

Now, he feels somewhat caught between a rock and a hard place.

If he retreats, the treasure he has sought so hard for will likely fall into Xu Mengying's hands.

Ironically, it was himself and Marshal Zhao who helped her clear the obstacles to obtaining the treasure.

The feeling of working so hard and finally preparing a wedding dress for someone else is unbearable.

But if he stays, he knows he cannot defeat Xu Mengying and Meng Zhang alone.

Especially after witnessing Meng Zhang's attack that killed Marshal Zhao, he feels a chill in his heart and is wary.

True Monarch Mountain Peak is usually a decisive person. If it weren't for his unwillingness to give up on this treasure, he would have already made a decision.

Fine, the longer he delays, the more unfavorable it is for himself. Realizing this, True Monarch Mountain Peak decides to retreat temporarily.

Even if Xu Mengying seizes the treasure today, she won't be happy for long. With the assistance of the Dali Dynasty, he can easily defeat her and take back the treasure from her hands.

Consider the treasure temporarily kept in her hands, he will reclaim it along with all its benefits sooner or later.

By then, he will also reap her life.

Thinking this, True Monarch Mountain Peak prepares to leave.

However, just as he didn't leave before, it is not so easy to leave now.

Of course, True Monarch Mountain Peak won't be troubled by this matter. He has his own plan.

True Monarch Mountain Peak unleashes his full power of Grand Dao, and the weight of a mountain presses down on Xu Mengying, temporarily suppressing her. ㄖㄚ́□ōēēē

True Monarch Mountain Peak chose the direction where the team of Yin Yang Dao Soldiers was positioned as his escape route.

A strong earthy yellow light enveloped him, as if he had put on a thick layer of armor.

The black and white Qi flows from the Yin-Yang Two Qis Formation surged towards him, but they were temporarily blocked by the earthy yellow light.

The Yin-Yang Two Qis exhibited by the group of Gold Core stage dao soldiers, relying on the Formation to cheat, were much weaker than the Primordial Spirit True Monarch's version that could consume all things in the world.

True Monarch Mountain Peak used his profound knowledge in the Grand Dao of earth to forcefully resist the consumption caused by the Yin-Yang Two Qis.

In no time, True Monarch Mountain Peak arrived not far from the Formation formed by the dao soldiers.

There was a fundamental gap between Gold Core stage dao soldiers and Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, so once their Formation's power was blocked, they didn't have many effective means left. Although these dao soldiers had some intelligence, they were essentially puppets created by Meng Zhang, completely controlled by his thoughts.

With the current situation, no matter what, Meng Zhang wanted to keep True Monarch Mountain Peak and complete his plan.

As for the life and death of these dao soldiers, he didn't care.

Dao soldiers are just tools to fight against enemies. While their loss is regrettable, it is their role to be consumed.

The nine Yin Yang Dao Soldiers began to burn their own essence, fully stimulating every bit of potential in their bodies. The power of the Yin-Yang Two Qis, which had been blocked by True Monarch Mountain Peak, suddenly increased, rapidly consuming the Grand Dao power he used to defend himself.

Bang! Bang! A series of explosions rang out as the nine Yin Yang Dao Soldiers exploded one after another. They used their lives to bring out the maximum power of the Yin-Yang Two Qis.

True Monarch Mountain Peak had to stop his retreat and withstand the black and white Qi streams entwining around his body.

The Grand Dao of earth is naturally adept at defense. True Monarch Mountain Peak activated the power of the Grand Dao of earth and successfully withstood the attack.

After this delay, Xu Mengying broke free from the pressure and came attacking from behind.

Worried that True Monarch Mountain Peak might escape, she took out her long-hidden killer move.

She produced a short piece of wood and threw it lightly towards True Monarch Mountain Peak.

This seemingly inconspicuous piece of wood caused True Monarch Mountain Peak's face to change drastically as if facing a great enemy.

"Rootless Wood, how do you have this treasure?"

Xu Mengying didn't answer True Monarch Mountain Peak; instead, she fully activated the treasure.

The wooden piece rapidly expanded in the air, turning into a green stream of energy that instantly entangled True Monarch Mountain Peak.

Immediately, True Monarch Mountain Peak felt it became incredibly difficult to mobilize the power of the Grand Dao of earth. His connection with the Grand Dao of earth between him and the world seemed to be sealed.

The Five Elements restrain and generate each other; this is the principle of the world.

By consuming a precious wood attribute treasure, Xu Mengying temporarily suppressed True Monarch Mountain Peak's Grand Dao of earth.

Although he still had backup methods, being suppressed, his strength inevitably decreased.

Xu Mengying crazily lunged towards True Monarch Mountain Peak, attacking without defending, with a determination to keep him completely.

Meanwhile, Meng Zhang, who was healing on the side, forcibly suppressed his injuries, ignoring the raging power of Slaughter within him, struggling to join the fight.

He successively used Dao Techniques and Divine Abilities such as Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword, Sun and Moon Divine Light, Yin-Yang Two Qis, and Yin Yang Great Millstone.

After a bitter battle, Xu Mengying suffered heavy injuries, and Meng Zhang's wounds worsened, eventually falling to the ground, unable to get up.

In the end, True Monarch Mountain Peak could not escape death and perished there.

Xu Mengying's long-standing hatred with True Monarch Mountain Peak finally came to an end.

She sat on the ground, her eyes vacant, lost in thought.

Chapter 762: Bamboo Rhyme Chart

After quite a while, Xu Mengying's emotions finally settled down. Once she regained composure, she attended to the aftermath matters. Meng Zhang didn't have the leisure to dwell on the past or any grudges between Xu Mengying and True Monarch Mountain Peak. At this moment, all his focus was on dealing with his injuries.

The Slaughter Grand Dao's power, which had been raging inside his body, had not yet been completely cleared when the destructive force of the Earth Grand Dao added to the damage. Even a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, who could manipulate Grand Dao power, would not easily recover from injuries inflicted by it.

Xu Mengying's injuries were much lighter, and as the Holy Maiden of the Yellow Lotus Sect, she was far wealthier than Meng Zhang. She took out several pills, swallowed them, and adjusted her breath to temporarily suppress her injuries.

Seeing Meng Zhang in a sorry state, Xu Mengying hesitated for a moment, took out a jade bottle, and sprinkled its contents on Meng Zhang's head. Meng Zhang didn't sense any ill intent, so he didn't resist and allowed her to act.

A green liquid fell from the sky and turned into green spots of light, rapidly permeating Meng Zhang's body. He felt his vitality surge, and even the life force previously annihilated by the Slaughter Grand Dao began to slowly recover. Meng Zhang's spirit was invigorated, and he seized the opportunity to activate the Yin Yang Grand Dao power, temporarily suppressing the external Grand Dao force.

Only then did Meng Zhang regain his ability to move. He looked at Xu Mengying with inquiring eyes, wanting to know her next plan.

"Yue Feng, the evil thief, has been killed, and Sect Master Meng has fulfilled his promise," Xu Mengying said.

"Since we are already allies, I won't say much in thanks. I just hope that we can continue to cooperate and support each other in the future."

After saying this, Xu Mengying paused for a moment before continuing, "There are many things I haven't told Sect Master Meng, not because I intend to hide them, but they involve personal privacy, so it's not appropriate to disclose them."

"As for other matters, I won't hide anything from Sect Master Meng."

"Like this treasure in front of us, I'm willing to share it with Sect Master Meng."

"However, I'm afraid Sect Master Meng might not be interested in this treasure."

As she spoke, Xu Mengying approached the mound in front. The monsters that were once there had long been exterminated, so she encountered no obstacles and arrived below the tall mound.

She extended her right hand and drew symbols in the air, forming several runes that glowed brightly and flew into the mound ahead.

After a moment, accompanied by a rumbling sound, the mound split apart, revealing a path. Xu Mengying took the lead and walked in, and Meng Zhang followed without hesitation.

The path wasn't long, and at its end lay an unremarkable bamboo forest. In such an environment, no matter how ordinary it seemed, a bamboo forest could not be an ordinary thing. With Meng Zhang's perception, he knew at a glance that this bamboo forest was a spatial magic tool.

"Although the Bamboo Rhyme Chart is just a Third Rank magic tool, its ability to create an independent space is remarkable," Xu Mengying directly explained the origin of the magic tool in front of them.

Xu Mengying and Meng Zhang entered the bamboo forest without encountering any obstacles. Inside the bamboo forest, there were several bamboo houses of various sizes. On the shelves within the houses, there were piles of heritage scriptures. According to Xu Mengying, the owner of this Bamboo Rhyme Chart was a senior Primordial Spirit cultivator with significant connections to the Yellow Lotus Sect.

This senior Primordial Spirit cultivator left behind his most cherished possession, the Bamboo Rhyme Chart, and all his knowledge before dying during meditation in this place. True Monarch Mountain Peak is determined to obtain this treasure in hopes of gaining the knowledge of this predecessor to improve their cultivation and advance further.

Relying solely on the heritage techniques of the Yellow Lotus Sect Mountain Branch, Yue Feng couldn't even reach the Primordial Spirit stage. Although True Monarch Tian Zhu's assistance temporarily compensated for the deficiencies in his techniques and allowed him to enter the Primordial Spirit stage, True Monarch Tian Zhu couldn't expend too much energy on him, and it was only a partial enhancement. The cultivation technique practiced by True Monarch Mountain Peak didn't have a complete scripture even in the Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar.

Passing on flawed and incomplete techniques to various branch altars was a common tradition in the Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar.

Later, True Monarch Mountain Peak learned about the treasure left behind by that senior predecessor. The cultivation technique he practiced was related to the one True Monarch Mountain Peak practiced. If they could obtain his cultivation technique, it would fill in the gaps in their own.

After explaining these matters, Xu Mengying didn't say much more. She made a copy of all the techniques, leaving the original for Meng Zhang. Apart from these heritage scriptures, there were no other gains inside the bamboo house. ránǒbEş

Meng Zhang couldn't help but think, is this tiny amount of stuff really worthy of being called a treasure? However, for different people, the same things can have different uses. For True Monarch Mountain Peak, the heritage scriptures here were invaluable.

As for the Bamboo Rhyme Chart that created the bamboo forest, Xu Mengying left it to Meng Zhang with a condition: True Monarch Mountain Peak's body and everything on it would belong to her.

Meng Zhang had no objections. For a long time, he had been searching for an outstanding spatial magic tool. Even when he reached the Primordial Spirit stage, he hadn't found a satisfactory one. Although this Bamboo Rhyme Chart was of a lower grade, just a Third Rank magic tool, its independent space inside was large enough for Meng Zhang's daily use. Even in his heavily injured state, Meng Zhang easily integrated the Third Rank magic tool.

The entire bamboo forest disappeared, and a scroll appeared in the air. Meng Zhang casually stored the scroll and left with Xu Mengying.

Returning to the battleground, Xu Mengying said, "The situation here won't last long. The Black Fiend Lake water that was originally pushed away will soon flood back. By then, it will be difficult for us to leave."

Furthermore, they noticed that with the passage of time, the water vapor that True Monarch Mountain Peak had expelled using a disposable magic tool was slowly gathering around them. The fiend qi here was extremely eerie and had a corrupting effect on the Primordial Spirit.

Meng Zhang made a mental note of this place, and they both left. They followed the path they came through and returned to the lake's surface, then left Black Fiend Lake, arriving at a distant empty area nearby.

Watching the turbulent Black Fiend Lake water, the original path was slowly disappearing. Meng Zhang felt fortunate that the battle didn't last too long, and he and Xu Mengying managed to deal with the enemy in time. Otherwise, after the path disappeared, they would have been trapped at the bottom of Black Fiend Lake, and it would have been difficult to leave safely.

Both of them were in a less than ideal condition, especially Meng Zhang, who barely suppressed his injuries, leaving him with significantly diminished power. This place was relatively safe, so they decided to stay temporarily, address their injuries first, and then make further plans.

Chapter 763: Leisurely and Carefree

#764: Great Change

In the following days, Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying stayed in this place, healing at their own pace. After the battle, their relationship grew much closer, and they developed a lot more trust in each other than before. Consequently, they felt more at ease in seeking each other's help for their respective recoveries. The effectiveness of healing, with or without external assistance, varied greatly for both of them. Especially in Meng Zhang's case, the power of the Slaughter Grand Dao and the Earth Grand Dao wreaked havoc inside him. It would have taken him an unknown amount of time to expel these forces on his own.

Having Xu Mengying, also a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, aiding him from the outside made it possible to combine their efforts and drive out the foreign forces within Meng Zhang's body. This significantly increased the efficiency of Meng Zhang's healing process.

Of course, not only did Meng Zhang need Xu Mengying's assistance, but Xu Mengying also benefited from him. True Monarch Mountain Peak had fought desperately before his death, and Xu Mengying, as his most despised and hated target, bore the brunt of his attacks. She, too, suffered from injuries caused by the Earth Grand Dao's power.

Once Meng Zhang's injuries stabilized somewhat, he helped Xu Mengying to expel those external forces from her body. During their healing, they also engaged in discussions about the challenges they encountered in their cultivation.

Before this encounter, Xu Mengying had waited in Taiyi Sect for quite some time, and she had some interactions with Meng Zhang. However, at that time, they both lacked sufficient trust and held back information. The focus of their communication was mainly on how to coordinate their actions and confront True Monarch Mountain Peak.

Now, while healing, they discussed matters related to their individual cultivation. Meng Zhang possessed the inheritance scriptures left by Taiyi Sect's ancestors, so he had a wealth of theoretical knowledge but lacked guidance from predecessors. Many times, he had to explore and progress on his own.

Yellow Lotus Sect's heritage was not as rich as Taiyi Sect's during its prime, but it still had a complete lineage of cultivation, having produced some Primordial Spirit True

Monarchs. As the Saintess of Yellow Lotus Sect, Xu Mengying enjoyed the best cultivation conditions from a young age, including personal guidance from senior True Monarchs. Having received hands-on guidance and teachings from experienced practitioners, she benefited greatly, gaining precious experiences and insights that couldn't be learned from books.

Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying let down their guards and engaged in deep communication. They both benefited immensely from each other, learning a lot and complementing each other's weaknesses. Despite their injuries, they felt mentally relaxed. The gains they obtained from each other would have a significant promoting effect on their future cultivation.

This place was naturally remote and scarcely disturbed by outsiders. Occasionally, a few unwise cloud beasts came by, but they were easily driven away by the duo. After being frightened off by Marshal Zhao, the beast with Primordial Spirit-level combat strength had not returned to this place.

In this relatively peaceful place, Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying could concentrate and meditate on their respective gains. Both of them advanced to the Primordial Spirit realm through orthodox cultivation methods. They thoroughly studied Dao scriptures, comprehended Dao teachings, and slowly grasped the power of the Grand Dao, making steady progress and breakthroughs.

Though this type of cultivation might be a bit slower and lacked thrilling twists, its foundation was solid, and their future prospects were promising, ensuring they could go even further. In contrast, those cultivators who sought shortcuts to advance to the Primordial Spirit realm might spend much more time trying to compensate for the flaws left behind in their hasty progress.

During their time here, Meng Zhang lived leisurely. Apart from daily routines, he spent his time exchanging ideas with fellow daoist Xu Mengying. He seemed to have forgotten everything about Taiyi Sect and the tense situation Jiuqu League was facing.

Xu Mengying's situation was somewhat similar. After the death of True Monarch Mountain Peak, she should have hurried back to Yellow Lotus Sect to take advantage of the opportunity to unify the sect and gather its strength while it was leaderless. However, her delay here had wasted a golden opportunity.

Of course, their peaceful days didn't last long as they were abruptly interrupted by an external force. On that day, after they finished meditating and healing, they were discussing profound matters as usual when suddenly, in the distance, came a series of thunderous explosions.

Their interrupted discussion left them both displeased. As the explosions drew nearer, they couldn't ignore the situation.

Meng Zhang remained seated in place, activating his Divine Ability, Deception Breaking Eye, to look in the direction of the sound. Since advancing to the Primordial Spirit realm, his Deception Breaking Eye had also improved, becoming more powerful and mystical.

Back in the Gold Core realm, Meng Zhang's Deception Breaking Eye was restricted within the Nine Heavens. But now, he could look far and wide, and various scenes from afar came into his view. With just a few glances, his expression changed drastically, and he stood up in shock.

Xu Mengying, who was not paying much attention at first, saw Meng Zhang's expression and knew something was wrong. She also used a secret technique to observe the distance, and her expression changed drastically as well. Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying exchanged a glance, and the rapport they had established during this time allowed them to understand each other's thoughts.

Both felt the urge to retreat and avoid the impending trouble. However, they realized it was too late to react. By the time they noticed the situation in the distance, the people over there had already spotted them without any concealment.

"Sect Master Meng, please lend me a hand," came a booming voice, and He LuoTrue Monarch, who they hadn't seen in a long time, flew toward Meng Zhang like a gust of wind. He LuoTrue Monarch was not alone; beside him was the Primordial Spirit of Azure Origin Sect's True Monarch Azure Mist.

It seemed Azure Mist's physical body had encountered problems, leaving only the Primordial Spirit fleeing with He LuoTrue Monarch. In pursuit behind them were people that Meng Zhang recognized—Dali Dynasty's envoy, Wen DongTrue Monarch, and the undercover True Monarch Crossing Blade from Jiuqu League.

Wen DongTrue Monarch and True Monarch Crossing Blade were hot on their heels, determined to completely capture He LuoTrue Monarch and True Monarch Azure Mist.

Although Meng Zhang had unpleasant experiences with He LuoTrue Monarch and even had fierce battles with him before, and True Monarch Azure Mist belonged to an opposing faction, they should understand the importance of standing together when facing Dali Dynasty. Despite the fact that they were once allies in Jiuqu League and the principle of lips and teeth being interdependent, Meng Zhang knew where he should stand.

If He LuoTrue Monarch and the others hadn't seen Meng Zhang, he could have just turned and left, and it wouldn't matter. But now that they had noticed him and He LuoTrue Monarch had set aside his pride to seek his help, Meng Zhang couldn't simply ignore it and walk away.

Seeing Meng Zhang decide to stay, Xu Mengying naturally wouldn't flee in the face of danger either. However, facing such strong enemies made her feel nervous.

Chapter 764: Great Change

The speed of Primordial Spirit True Monarch was incredibly fast. Even before He Luo True Monarch finished speaking, he was already charging towards Meng Zhang and his group not far away.

"Sect Master Meng, a wise man knows the current affairs. Jiuqu League has already been destroyed, and even Azure Origin Sect has changed sides. You should know what to do," Wen Dong True Monarch spoke loudly, having had prior contact with Meng Zhang, attempting to join Dali Dynasty. However, they hadn't reached an agreement due to Meng Zhang finding the conditions too demanding.

In Wen Dong True Monarch's view, Meng Zhang probably didn't have a firm will to fight. He only needed a few casual words to make him stay out of the situation.

"Sect Master Meng, it's not too late to join our Dali Dynasty now. I can guarantee you a place within the court," said Wen Dong True Monarch, not realizing that Meng Zhang had gained insight after their previous unsuccessful negotiations and would no longer easily pledge allegiance. To avoid being underestimated by Dali Dynasty, even if he had no choice but to join them in the end, he wanted them to see his strength first.

Especially later, when Meng Zhang concealed his identity and joined forces with Red Pig True Monarch from the Dark Alliance, operating under the code name "Flying Cat," to confront Wen Dong True Monarch and his group.

Wen Dong True Monarch believed he had given Meng Zhang enough face and offered sufficiently generous terms. But in Meng Zhang's heart, there was a sense of anger at being underestimated.

Before Wen Dong True Monarch and his group got close, black and white streams of energy fell from the sky, transforming into two black and white sharp swords, slashing towards them. The Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword already had immense power, and combined with Meng Zhang's years of diligent sword cultivation, it became even more extraordinary.

Simultaneously, Xu Mengying also activated the Moon Mirage Gauze, causing countless stings to descend upon Wen Dong True Monarch and his group, creating a bewildering illusion.

He Luo True Monarch was a straightforward person and didn't run away faster, abandoning Meng Zhang and the others while they helped him fend off pursuers. Instead, he stopped on his own initiative and joined the fight, assisting Meng Zhang and his group against the enemies.

Waterfalls poured down from the sky, and blazing flames surged from the ground as He Luo True Monarch fought with all his might, employing his main cultivation of water and fire Grand Dao.

True Monarch Azure Mist had lost his physical body, leaving only his Primordial Spirit, severely injured, and his foundation destroyed. Nevertheless, he persisted, utilizing the power of his Primordial Spirit and integrating with the Grand Dao of heaven and earth to join the battle.

With only a Cultivation Base at the early stage of Primordial Spirit, He Luo True Monarch had managed to escape this far, which was already quite a feat. True Monarch Azure Mist, having only his Primordial Spirit remaining, had virtually lost all his strength.

Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying were both at the early stage of Primordial Spirit cultivation, and their injuries were far from healed, far from their best condition.

On the other hand, Wen Dong True Monarch and True Monarch Crossing Blade were both at the mid-stage of Primordial Spirit cultivation. They had roamed the Cultivation World for many years, experienced countless battles, and possessed formidable combat power.

Although Meng Zhang seemed to have the advantage in numbers, if they were to engage in a real fight, they had almost no chance of winning.

Meng Zhang knew the power disparity between the two sides and never expected to defeat them.

His proactive action was only to save He Luo True Monarch and True Monarch Azure Mist. Taking advantage of Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying's cover, He Luo True Monarch and True Monarch Azure Mist flew over and joined them.

Then, the four of them cooperated in battle, gradually retreating, attempting to escape from the pursuers' hands.

Wen Dong True Monarch and True Monarch Crossing Blade chased the remnants all the way here, already considering He Luo True Monarch and others as their prey. How could they willingly give up now?

The Dali Dynasty places great importance on military achievements and often rewards them handsomely. Enemies at the level of Primordial Spirit True Monarchs are not weak but rather formidable foes of the Dali Dynasty, and naturally, there are high bounties on their heads.

The Dali Dynasty is wealthy, and the royal family has always been clear in their rewards and punishments. The rewards they offer are often tempting even for Primordial Spirit True Monarchs like Wen Dong True Monarch.

From every aspect, Wen Dong True Monarch and his companions will not let go of the spoils before them. Meng Zhang, seeking to interfere, is seen by them as merely adding an extra piece to the loot. Wen Dong True Monarch and True Monarch Crossing Blade relentlessly press forward, determined to take down all the enemies present.

Despite Meng Zhang's injuries, he forces himself to use the Yin Yang Grand Dao with all his might. Black and white streams of energy descend from the sky, swirling towards the two attackers.

Meng Zhang and his group are aware of the formidable opponents they face and start fighting desperately. Although Wen Dong True Monarch and his group have the upper hand, they are unable to overcome their foes completely.

"Sect Master Meng, the one beside you is Miss Xu from the Yellow Lotus Sect, right?"

"Perhaps Miss Xu is not aware that your sect's True Monarch Mountain Peak has already pledged allegiance to our Dali Dynasty."

"Currently, the entire Yellow Lotus Sect is loyal to our Dali Dynasty."

"Miss Xu, you should make a wise choice about your future path as soon as possible."

Wen Dong True Monarch's words, half true and half false, not only fail to sway Xu Mengying, but instead ignite a strong killing intent within her, causing her attacks to intensify.

Little do Wen Dong True Monarch and True Monarch Crossing Blade know that True Monarch Mountain Peak, which has been absent from their actions, was actually defeated by Xu Mengying and Meng Zhang a few days ago. He had casually deceived Xu Mengying with his words, and Meng Zhang couldn't be bothered to expose the truth.

"Sect Master Meng, you probably don't know this, but during a major battle a few days ago, the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs of the Azure Origin Sect and its affiliates were mostly wiped out by our Dali Dynasty, with only a few escaping."

"Our Dali Dynasty's armies are currently hunting down the remaining enemies and exterminating them."

"Now, our Dali Dynasty's forces have penetrated into the Jiuqu League and are sweeping across the region. Any cultivation force that doesn't join our Dali Dynasty will face a dead end."

"Sect Master Meng, even if you disregard your own life, shouldn't you consider the fate of your Taiyi Sect?"

"Do you really want to witness the complete annihilation of Taiyi Sect by the Dali Dynasty?"

"As a Sect Master, are you not afraid of your sect being wiped out or your heritage being cut off?"

Wen DongTrue Monarch sternly questions Meng Zhang, attempting to shake his determination.

Meng Zhang doesn't know how much of Wen DongTrue Monarch's words are true or false. However, judging from the situations of He LuoTrue Monarch and True Monarch Azure Mist, not everything he said is a lie. Jiuqu League and Azure Origin Sect must have experienced some kind of significant change, and the situation is undoubtedly developing unfavorably.

Despite Wen DongTrue Monarch and True Monarch Crossing Blade's arrogance and grandiose claims, Meng Zhang is already committed to taking action and will not be swayed by their words.

Chapter 765: Escaping

Wen DongTrue Monarch saw that for the time being, he couldn't take down Meng Zhang and his group, so he wanted to shake their determination by using a bunch of ambiguous words that were hard to distinguish between true and false. However, both Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying were not easily swayed by words and remained calm as they dealt with them.

True Monarch Crossing Blade saw Wen DongTrue Monarch blabbering for a long time, but it had no effect at all. Dawei couldn't stand it and shouted, "Old Wen, why waste so much time talking to these guys? Jiuqu League is already destroyed, and they can't escape death."

While speaking, he increased his attacks.

Although Meng Zhang and his team felt immense pressure, they managed to maintain their formation for the time being, not getting scattered and providing mutual support. Especially He LuoTrue Monarch and True Monarch Azure Mist seemed to have been stimulated by something, fighting like madmen, giving a sense of recklessness.

Wen DongTrue Monarch and True Monarch Crossing Blade were confident of their victory and were unwilling to fight desperately with their enemies. They only needed to act step by step, and naturally, they could defeat the enemy.

The opponents' attacks became fiercer, and Meng Zhang, who was the most heavily injured among them, felt increasingly overwhelmed. If nothing changed, he would soon be unable to suppress the injuries inside his body.

Xu Mengying was truly full of surprises. At a critical moment, she threw out a Fourth Rank talisman, temporarily forcing the opponents to retreat and buying some time for their side.

In the Cultivation World, especially in Jiuqu League, Third Rank Talisman Masters were not common, let alone Fourth Rank Talisman Masters. Based on Meng Zhang's knowledge, he had never heard of any nearby Primordial Spirit True Monarch proficient in talisman-making or being a Fourth Rank Talisman Master.

He had no idea where Xu Mengying got this Fourth Rank talisman, but it played a significant role at a crucial moment.

Taking advantage of the enemy being forced back, they quickly retreated. Unfortunately, the Fourth Rank talisman didn't buy them much time. They had only flown a short distance when the enemies caught up from behind.

Seeing that they couldn't escape this way, a resolute expression appeared on He Luo True Monarch's face, and he was about to rush over and fight the enemies.

Just at that moment, scrolls of books fell from the sky, firmly trapping the two pursuers.

"Go quickly," the voice of Book Mountain True Monarch came from behind.

Seeing someone helping them out, Meng Zhang and the other four didn't dare to be careless and immediately accelerated their escape.

Although Book Mountain True Monarch was only a Primordial Spirit initial-stage cultivator, he was not inferior to a mid-stage cultivator. He possessed an Innate Sacred Virtue Grand Dao, which was one of the rare Grand Daos ranked among the top three thousand. In terms of Grand Dao power alone, he was stronger than Wen Dong True Monarch and his group.

Wen Dong True Monarch and True Monarch Crossing Blade saw Book Mountain True Monarch and knew that he was a powerful individual from the Dark Alliance.

"You little fish that slipped through the net, you dare to come out and court death instead of hiding in your rat hole," True Monarch Crossing Blade scoffed.

Though his tone was disdainful, after several exchanges, True Monarch Crossing Blade had become wary of Book Mountain True Monarch. With Book Mountain True Monarch joining the battle, Meng Zhang's side gained a significant boost. They not only changed their previously defensive stance but also showed signs of a counterattack.

Fortunately, Meng Zhang and his team kept a clear head, knowing that although they had more people, each one of them was wounded and not in their best condition. It was not the right time to face the enemy.

However, as formidable as Book Mountain True Monarch was, he couldn't single-handedly turn the tide and defeat the opposition. As a result, under Book Mountain True Monarch's protection, everyone fought and retreated, slowly leaving the battlefield and gradually departing from Nine Heavens.

Wen Dong True Monarch and True Monarch Crossing Blade made several attempts and exhausted all means, but they had to leave begrudgingly when they realized they couldn't overcome their opponents. The Dali Dynasty had other plans, and they were carrying military orders; they couldn't linger here for too long.

After leaving Nine Heavens, Meng Zhang and his group descended rapidly from the high altitude and landed in a desolate wilderness. Upon landing, before they could stabilize themselves, He Luo True Monarch and True Monarch Azure Mist urgently released message talismans and communication flying swords.

After completing all this, He Luo True Monarch said to Meng Zhang's group, "I won't speak empty words of gratitude. Today's kindness and favor will be repaid by me in the future. There's little time left; I can't explain everything now. I must escort Junior Brother Qinglan's Primordial Spirit out. I will explain everything to you later."

With that, he hurriedly took True Monarch Azure Mist's Primordial Spirit and left.

Seeing Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying's puzzled expressions, Book Mountain True Monarch said from the side, "Let them go. If you have any questions, I'll explain slowly."

Book Mountain True Monarch's tone was low, and there was a profound weariness in his expression.

Meng Zhang didn't hide his curiosity and immediately asked what had happened to He Luo True Monarch and True Monarch Azure Mist. Why were they being pursued by the people from the Dali Dynasty on Nine Heavens? Moreover, which parts of Wen Dong True Monarch's speech were true and which were false?

After listening to Meng Zhang's questions, Book Mountain True Monarch organized his thoughts before slowly explaining.

It turned out that within the Azure Origin Sect, there was a tradition. Every once in a while, the Azure Origin Sect would send out Primordial Spirit True Monarchs to organize a group of their own camp's Primordial Spirit True Monarchs to venture together to Nine Heavens to collect Nine Heavens Refined Essence and other valuable resources. The resources needed by Primordial Spirit True Monarchs were rare, and Nine Heavens was an effective way to obtain them.

Of course, obtaining these resources was not easy and required facing many difficulties.

This tradition had been going on for 1,000 to 2,000 years. Nowadays, every time a group of Primordial Spirit True Monarchs was sent out, there were usually more than ten individuals, forming a formidable force.

With so many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs entering Nine Heavens together, not to mention being invincible, at least they wouldn't encounter much danger, and everyone could confidently collect various resources.

Apart from Nine Heavens Refined Essence, there were many other useful resources in Nine Heavens. Rare Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects, for example, could be found there.

Meng Zhang had only achieved the Primordial Spirit stage for a short time and had not entered Nine Heavens many times. When he went there, his priority was to obtain Nine Heavens Refined Essence, so he temporarily overlooked other resources.

The Azure Origin Sect probably had a thorough understanding of the distribution of resources in Nine Heavens. Every time they organized a large group to go, they could gain substantial income.

Originally, this tradition had been going on for so many years without any issues. Firstly, they kept their whereabouts secret. Before setting off, only the cultivators of Azure Origin Sect knew the exact destination. Secondly, with so many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs going together, who would dare to come and seek trouble?

Unexpectedly, what everyone believed to be an absolutely unproblematic operation turned out to be a big problem this time. The Dali Dynasty somehow learned about their whereabouts and set up an ambush in Nine Heavens. Once they entered the ambush circle, the hidden troops of the Dali Dynasty struck suddenly. Dali Dynasty dispatched no less than twenty Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, all elite forces.

Chapter 766: Recounted

This contingent from the Azure Origin Sect fell into the ambush set by the Dali Dynasty without any preparation. Lately, the Azure Origin Sect had been trying to win over the Dark Alliance branch. So, when organizing this activity, True Monarch Azure Mist took the initiative to invite members from the Dark Alliance.

Although they didn't want to get involved in the conflicts between the Azure Origin Sect and Jade Sword Sect, the Dark Alliance couldn't easily reject the friendly gesture from the Azure Origin Sect. Therefore, Book Mountain True Monarch joined the team and acted together with everyone else.

Initially, Book Mountain True Monarch didn't take it seriously and treated it as an opportunity to explore the Nine Heavens. If they had encountered the forces of the Dali Dynasty in any other place, even if the enemy outnumbered them and had many powerful cultivators, everyone would have focused on breaking through, and many could have escaped.

However, the Dali Dynasty had planned meticulously and set up a deadly ambush, deploying top-tier experts to eliminate the enemy entirely and drastically weaken the upper echelons of the Jiuqu League.

Book Mountain True Monarch reacted swiftly, realizing the ambush and immediately using a treasured item to hide using the unique terrain of the Nine Heavens. Then, they slowly searched for an opportunity to escape.

Feeling a bit embarrassed, Book Mountain True Monarch knew that leaving the team behind and focusing solely on their own escape wasn't an honorable act. No matter how thick-skinned a person was, they couldn't help feeling ashamed when talking about their dishonorable actions. Book Mountain True Monarch was not someone shameless; they valued their reputation.

If it weren't for being forced into a corner, knowing that the disparity between their strength and the enemy's was too great, and having no chance of winning, Book Mountain True Monarch wouldn't have abandoned their teammates and hidden alone.

Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying were understanding and didn't blame Book Mountain True Monarch. They didn't have the position to criticize or look down on others either. In the Cultivation World, the prevailing trend was selfishness and self-centeredness. In the face of a great enemy, it was not uncommon for people to abandon their fellow sect members or kin and flee.

Someone like Meng Zhang, who was willing to lend a helping hand to others, was already a rare benevolent person in the Cultivation World. Book Mountain True Monarch had no strong connection with the others in the team, so naturally, they wouldn't sacrifice themselves for them.

While Book Mountain True Monarch managed to escape the ambush, the same couldn't be said for the rest of the team. Facing the well-prepared Dali Dynasty ambush, the three Primordial Spirit True Monarchs of the Azure Origin Sect led a fierce resistance. After a brutal battle, many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs fell on the spot, and the scene was extremely tragic.

Except for Book Mountain True Monarch, who had hidden from the beginning, the rest of the team was nearly annihilated, and only a few managed to escape.

True Monarch Azure Mist's two junior brothers died in the battle, and not even their Primordial Spirits managed to escape. True Monarch Azure Mist's physical body was crushed on the spot, leaving only their Primordial Spirit.

The surrounded cultivators fought with all their might to create a gap in the encirclement. He Luo True Monarch escorted True Monarch Azure Mist's Primordial Spirit, barely managing to break out of the ambush.

Taking advantage of the opportunity, Book Mountain True Monarch also slipped away through the gap.

Afterward, He Luo True Monarch and his group were chased relentlessly by Wen Dong True Monarch and True Monarch Crossing Blade. Fortunately, they coincidentally met Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying. The four of them supported each other and managed to escape from the Nine Heavens.

Upon hearing Book Mountain True Monarch's account, even the usually composed Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying were shocked and their faces turned pale. The scale of the Dali Dynasty's operation was enormous, mobilizing so many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs for a decapitation strike in the Nine Heavens, targeting the high-level cultivators of their enemies.

Although the Jiuqu League had already split into northern and southern factions, their attitudes were still aligned when it came to resisting the Dali Dynasty. Losing so many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs in one fell swoop left the camp where the Azure Origin Sect was situated depleted and severely weakened. How could they face the Dali Dynasty in the future?

Over the years, after knowing that the Dali Dynasty had set their sights on the Jiuqu League, many cultivators, including Meng Zhang, had gathered various intelligence about the Dali Dynasty, studying their style of conduct and war tactics.

The Dali Dynasty was known for striking fiercely like a thunderbolt, launching devastating attacks to inflict maximum damage and strike at the enemy's core.

Having launched this ambush, it was likely that the Dali Dynasty would soon launch a full-scale attack on the Jiuqu League. In fact, while they were talking, the Dali Dynasty's forces might already have invaded, spreading havoc.

Thinking about this, Meng Zhang and the others' expressions changed dramatically. Taiyi Sect was somewhat better off since it was located in the far north of the Jiuqu League, serving as a rear defense.

If the Dali Dynasty followed a systematic approach, it would probably take some time before they reached Taiyi Sect.

However, the numerous branches of the Yellow Lotus Sect were scattered throughout the Jiuqu League, with their Main Altar positioned at the border between the north and south.

Having heard all they could from Book Mountain True Monarch, Xu Mengying hastily bid them farewell. Ignoring her injuries, she flew directly towards the direction of the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

Although Book Mountain True Monarch had already sent a messaging flying sword to relay the events back to the Dark Alliance branch, there were still things that required his personal account to make accurate judgments for Red Pig True Monarch and the others.

As Meng Zhang was now allied with the Dark Alliance branch, he slightly delayed his departure to explain the situation to them.

Having narrated the events and seen that Meng Zhang had no further questions, Book Mountain True Monarch took his leave and hurriedly flew back to the Dark Alliance branch.

With Xu Mengying and Book Mountain True Monarch gone, Meng Zhang was also worried about the situation in Taiyi Sect. Suppressing his injuries for the time being, he rushed back to the Hundred Grass Slope at Taiyi Sect as quickly as possible.

The Demon Wind Gobi was located almost at the northernmost part of the Jiuqu League, making it too far from the Azure Origin Sect. As of now, news of the Azure Origin Sect cultivators being ambushed by the Dali Dynasty had not yet reached Taiyi Sect.

Upon returning to Taiyi Sect, Meng Zhang didn't dare to be complacent and immediately sent out messaging talismans to inform the nearby sects, such as Great Wind City and Beast King Mountain.

Jade Sword Sect probably knew about this already. Nevertheless, Meng Zhang still sent a message to Jade Sword Sect as a matter of courtesy.

At the same time, he gathered the Gold Core elders of Taiyi Sect and told them the whole story.

Considering Taiyi Sect's strength and circumstances, there wasn't much they could do. Preparing for battle actively was something Taiyi Sect had been doing for a while; their cultivators, together with those from the Hanhai Alliance, were on high alert.

Meng Zhang had injuries, and he couldn't act recklessly. He had Niu Dawei, one of his top disciples, issue mobilization orders to prepare the entire Taiyi Sect and Hanhai Alliance cultivators for war.

Meanwhile, Meng Zhang secluded himself, focusing on healing his injuries, hoping to recover fully before the impending battle.

Chapter 767: Comprehensive Invasion

Upon receiving Meng Zhang's message, sects like Great Wind City and Beast King Mountain quickly sent replies, expressing their gratitude for the information. The response from Jade Sword Sect was a bit slower, with a simple message acknowledging the situation at Azure Origin Sect and requesting Meng Zhang to mobilize the entire Taiyi Sect for potential large-scale warfare. Meng Zhang had clearly stated in his previous message that he and Xu Mengying had rescued He Luo True Monarch and confronted Wen Dong True Monarch head-on, resulting in severe injuries that temporarily incapacitated him from participating in battles.

Jade Sword Sect showed understanding and did not press him further or rush to enlist his aid, only urging him to focus on healing and recovering as quickly as possible to prepare for the upcoming war. After Meng Zhang entered seclusion for recovery, his senior disciple, Niu Dawei, took charge of mobilizing the entire Taiyi Sect and the entire Hanhai Dao League.

Many cultivators were conscripted and gathered at Hundred Grass Slope, forming a vast army of cultivators. Taiyi Sect's intelligence network worked tirelessly, continuously relaying the latest news from the southern region of Jiuqu League.

Taiyi Sect had long become a Primordial Spirit sect and had invested significant resources in institutions like Secret Hall, maintaining close cooperation with the Dark Alliance's branches. When it came to gathering information, their capabilities were not inferior to those of the older sects.

Despite being in seclusion for healing, Meng Zhang remained in contact with the outside world, receiving all the latest news to stay informed. As each piece of information arrived, the current situation in the southern region of Jiuqu League gradually unfolded before Meng Zhang's eyes.

The ambush conducted by the Dali Dynasty in the Nine Heavens was indeed just a part of a massive plan. Of the three Primordial Spirit True Monarchs sent by Azure Origin Sect, aside from True Monarch Azure Mist, whose physical body was destroyed while his Primordial Spirit escaped, the other two were killed on the spot.

Additionally, nearly ten Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, who were closely associated with Azure Origin Sect, fell victim to the ambush in the Nine Heavens. Except for He Luo True Monarch and the other two, almost all of them died there.

The southern region of Jiuqu League fell under the influence of Azure Origin Sect. The loss of so many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs severely affected the foundation of Azure Origin Sect. While the ambush was set, the cultivator army of the Dali Dynasty entered from the borders, launching a comprehensive invasion against Jiuqu League.

Jiuqu League's southern region became the front line of the invasion, and in normal circumstances, even with the absence of so many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, the various cultivation forces in Jiuqu League should have organized a strong resistance.

Moreover, within the gates of Azure Origin Sect, there were always Primordial Spirit True Monarchs stationed as guardians. However, to everyone's surprise, something unexpected happened.

The Grand Elder of Azure Origin Sect, True Monarch Qing Gu, who was highly respected and held the supreme position, unexpectedly demanded that Azure Origin Sect surrender to the Dali Dynasty. True Monarch Qing Gu possessed an unparalleled status within Azure Origin Sect, and his late-stage Primordial Spirit cultivation base made him the strongest individual in both Azure Origin Sect and Jiuqu League.

Such a figure was not only the pillar of Azure Origin Sect but also an integral part of Jiuqu League. However, he chose to ally himself with the Dali Dynasty, leaving people astonished.

Azure Origin Sect was thrown into great turmoil due to True Monarch Qing Gu's actions.

Azure Origin Sect's Sect Master, Daoist Master Primordial One, was also resolute and openly opposed True Monarch Qing Gu. However, Qing Gu True Monarch promptly killed Daoist Master Primordial One, temporarily silencing all opposition. His actions caused a rift within Azure Origin Sect.

A Primordial Spirit sect like Azure Origin Sect, with thousands of years of history, had its own set of rules and regulations. No matter how high one's seniority or prestige, or how strong their Cultivation Base, they couldn't act as they pleased. Qing Gu True Monarch wielded significant power within Azure Origin Sect and could be considered its de facto leader. However, his insistence on having Azure Origin Sect submit to the Dali Dynasty damaged the overall interests of Azure Origin Sect and violated the sect's principles by killing its Sect Master.

Following the internal turmoil, True Monarch Azure Peak led a group of disciples to escape from Azure Origin Sect's gates. During the upheaval, Azure Origin Sect suffered heavy casualties and severe depletion of its resources. Qing Gu True Monarch, relying on his formidable Cultivation Base, forcibly suppressed dissent and, with the support of True Monarch Azure Gem, took control of the entire Azure Origin Sect.

The news of Azure Origin Sect, the leading force in Jiuqu League's southern region, voluntarily surrendering to the Dali Dynasty, shocked the entire Jiuqu League. As the

Dali Dynasty's army entered Jiuqu League, various cultivation forces they encountered eagerly greeted them and acted as guides. Those who hesitated or surrendered too slowly were quickly subdued by the Dali Dynasty's forces. The Dali Dynasty's army progressed effortlessly, annihilating all resistance along the way, and easily conquering the southern region of Jiuqu League. One could even say that the time spent marching was far greater than the time spent fighting.

With Azure Origin Sect acting as the leading guide, the Dali Dynasty's pacification of Jiuqu League's southern region proceeded smoothly and effortlessly. When Meng Zhang read this information, he couldn't understand why True Monarch Qing Gu chose to ally with the Dali Dynasty, but some other questions were also answered.

It turned out that the internal disagreements within Jiuqu League about how to deal with the Dali Dynasty were due to Azure Origin Sect repeatedly dragging its feet during critical moments. The reason was that the top figure of Azure Origin Sect had already defected to the Dali Dynasty.

The most powerful and respected figure within a sect turned out to be a traitor, causing immense harm to the entire sect and Jiuqu League. Initially, when a few people from Jade Sword Sect accused Azure Origin Sect of secretly allying with the Dali Dynasty, most disregarded it as an attack against Azure Origin Sect from Jade Sword Sect. Even within Jade Sword Sect, few believed such claims.

Now, it had turned out to be true. Fortunately, Jade Sword Sect timely severed ties with Azure Origin Sect and left Jiuqu League. Otherwise, Jade Sword Sect might have been betrayed by Azure Origin Sect and attacked by the Dali Dynasty.

Meng Zhang could easily guess that Azure Origin Sect's team heading to the Nine Heavens was betrayed, revealing their whereabouts and leading to the ambush by the Dali Dynasty. Otherwise, how could the closely guarded route of Azure Origin Sect leak? How could the Dali Dynasty have known and laid an ambush on their essential path in advance?

Meng Zhang felt intense hatred for Qing Gu True Monarch, an unprecedented traitor within Jiuqu League. He couldn't comprehend why someone of Qing Gu True Monarch's status and position would choose to align with the Dali Dynasty. What could the Dali Dynasty offer him? Instead of being content as a powerful leader within Jiuqu League, Qing Gu True Monarch chose to lead a lowly life serving the Dali Dynasty. This betrayal deeply angered Meng Zhang as a member of Jiuqu League.

Chapter 768: Integration

Originally, the strength of Jiuqu League was not as great as Dali Dynasty's, and now, with the southern region falling, nearly half of the cultivation forces are ruined. Relying

solely on the leadership of Jade Sword Sect in the north, it would be even more difficult to resist Dali Dynasty.

Under the collapsed nest, how can there be unbroken eggs? If the entire Jiuqu League is destroyed, Taiyi Sect will also find it hard to preserve itself. At that time, would Dali Dynasty spare Taiyi Sect?

At this moment, Meng Zhang's heart even had a hint of regret, wondering if he had chosen the wrong side. If, at the first contact with Wen Dong True Monarch, he had endured the harsh conditions and agreed to join Dali Dynasty, would Taiyi Sect have a better future?

This thought flashed through Meng Zhang's mind, but he quickly dismissed it. What use is there in thinking about this now when things have come to this point?

Moreover, even if it comes to the critical moment, Meng Zhang has reserved a retreat route for Taiyi Sect in the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle. However, if it comes to that, Taiyi Sect's losses would be extremely heavy. Not only might the sect be completely destroyed, but centuries of accumulated resources and progress would be lost, and they would have to start from scratch in many aspects.

Furthermore, considering the expansion momentum of Dali Dynasty, if Jiuqu League fails to stop its expansion, the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle might be their next target.

Thinking about all this is useless now. Meng Zhang returned his focus to dispelling the Grand Dao power in his body and healing his injuries.

Back when he was in the Nine Heavens, with Xu Mengying's help, his injuries had stabilized. With a bit of time and effort, he could fully recover. However, when he later had to make a move to save He Luo True Monarch and others, he had to fight with injuries, causing further harm. Now, he had to spend more time healing his wounds.

Fortunately, it seemed that Jade Sword Sect could still stabilize the situation for now and didn't force Meng Zhang to go to the battlefield.

In his spare time for healing, Meng Zhang casually flipped through the collection of scriptures he had brought back this time. Initially, he thought the Bamboo Rhyme Chart was his biggest gain. With the inheritance scriptures from Taiyi Sect, he didn't pay much attention to other scriptures, at most using them as references.

However, after a rough look at these scriptures, he realized that he had greatly underestimated this pile of stuff. The predecessor, Primordial Spirit, who left behind these scriptures, was truly extraordinary. There were two complete sets of cultivation techniques, reaching up to the Primordial Spirit realm. There were detailed descriptions of cultivation at the Primordial Spirit stage.

Especially the recorded Divine Abilities and cultivation insights, they were of great help to Meng Zhang.

Apart from cultivation techniques, there were also numerous contents related to various cultivation hundred arts, covering everything from alchemy to artifact refinement, and they were extremely detailed.

With limited time, Meng Zhang couldn't read and organize these scriptures carefully. He just had a brief look and stored them in the Hidden Scripture Pavilion of the sect. He planned to sort and organize them slowly when he had time.

No wonder True Monarch Mountain Peak fought desperately to seize these scriptures. With these scriptures, not only could he make up for the shortcomings in his cultivation techniques, but he could even use them as the foundation to establish a completely new sect.

While Meng Zhang was in seclusion healing, the situation in Jiuqu League continued to change. After conquering the southern region of Jiuqu League, Dali Dynasty did not stop its conquest but continued its march northward.

The army broke through various obstacles on its way and arrived at the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar below the Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain.

At this point, Dali Dynasty finally encountered resistance. After returning to the Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain, the Holy Maiden of Yellow Lotus Sect, Xu Mengying, announced the death of True Monarch Mountain Peak.

True Monarch Mountain Peak colluded with Dali Dynasty, betrayed Jiuqu League, and attempted to assassinate Xu Mengying, but she successfully counter-killed him. Originally, Xu Haoran True Monarch, who had little time left to live, was waiting quietly for death. However, seeing the drastic changes in the Jiuqu League situation, he forced himself to stand up and help Xu Mengying stabilize the situation within Yellow Lotus Sect.

Although many within the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar still had doubts about the news of True Monarch Mountain Peak's death, Xu Mengying, with her Primordial Spirit cultivation base, forcefully gained control of the Main Altar and took command. After gaining control, Xu Mengying dispatched trusted aides to issue orders to various branch locations.

As long as the branches obeyed the Main Altar, she would forgive the past and accept them back into the fold. Without True Monarch Mountain Peak to oppose her, Xu Mengying, as a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, still had great authority and gained some verbal support from the branch locations.

The long-missing Elder Daoist Master Smiling Lotus from the East River Branch suddenly appeared and voluntarily pledged allegiance to Xu Mengying. Together with Xu Mengying's trusted aides, they returned to the East River Branch and regained control, making the East River Branch loyal to Xu Mengying. As the East River Branch was already a powerful and influential branch, its alignment towards Xu Mengying brought even more branches to her side.

At this time, the army of Dali Dynasty was attacking and conquering the southern cities of Jiuqu League, subduing those who resisted. Some southern branch locations of Jiuqu League were forced to surrender, while others abandoned everything and migrated northwards.

To be honest, with Dali Dynasty's harsh treatment of various cultivation forces, there were likely few cultivation forces willing to willingly submit to them. Dali Dynasty's ruthless and tyrannical nature was no secret, and the upper echelons of major cultivation forces were well aware of it. Especially after the hostilities between Dali Dynasty and Jiuqu League, there were people spreading propaganda throughout Jiuqu League's territories about how cruel and ruthless Dali Dynasty was towards their cultivators.

In the south of Jiuqu League, the newly-conquered territories of Dali Dynasty saw many cultivators unwilling to accept their rule, fleeing northwards in a panic.

While Xu Mengying was consolidating the entire Yellow Lotus Sect, she made her stance clear and chose the side of Jade Sword Sect. Initially, True Monarch Mountain Peak had vacillated between Azure Origin Sect and Jade Sword Sect, playing a waiting game while secretly siding with Dali Dynasty. However, when Xu Mengying took power, she actively aligned with Jade Sword Sect and invited Jade Sword Sect cultivators to join Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain to help resist Dali Dynasty's invasion.

Xu Mengying's attitude was exactly what Jade Sword Sect desired. In fact, after receiving news of the sudden change in Azure Origin Sect, Jade Sword Sect had already taken action. They ordered their various cultivation forces to prepare for battle and also recruited several Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

Upon receiving Xu Mengying's invitation, Jade Sword Sect's True Monarch Fei Guo led a group of Primordial Spirit True Monarchs to settle at Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain. Subsequently, the cultivator army organized by Jade Sword Sect gradually arrived to help construct defensive lines for Yellow Lotus Sect.

The various cultivators who had fled from the south were intercepted near Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain. After verification, only a few were allowed to continue northward. Most of them were recruited by Jade Sword Sect and joined the temporary defensive lines, ready to resist Dali Dynasty's invasion.

Through various means of coercion and inducement, Jade Sword Sect obtained many expendable soldiers.

Chapter 769: Purging

Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar is located near the middle-south region of the Jiuqu League, serving as a boundary between the north and the south.

Since its establishment, the Jiuqu League has been characterized by a subtle conflict between the two major powers: the Azure Origin Sect in the north and the Jade Sword Sect in the south, resulting in a long-standing dispute within the alliance.

Various aspects of cultivation power between the southern and northern factions have been subject to competition.

However, for the past two thousand years, these conflicts have been limited in scope and relatively low-level. It wasn't until recently that the two sides officially broke ties.

The actions of Qing Gu True Monarch from Azure Origin Sect just confirmed the accusations previously made by the Jade Sword Sect against the Azure Origin Sect.

At this moment, the remaining cultivation forces within the Jiuqu League, except those who joined Dali Dynasty, have all sided with the Jade Sword Sect.

True Monarch Azure Peak of Azure Origin Sect, along with a group of disciples, fled northward after leaving Azure Origin Sect and sought refuge in the territory controlled by the Jade Sword Sect.

Because of Qing Gu True Monarch's betrayal, many cultivators within the Jade Sword Sect and its camp expressed clear distrust towards True Monarch Azure Peak and his group.

Jade Sword Sect's Sect Master, Jade Sword True Monarch, personally rushed to the vicinity of Yellow Lotus Main Altar to meet with True Monarch Azure Peak.

After a detailed conversation, Jade Sword True Monarch and True Monarch Azure Peak made a public announcement.

They declared Qing Gu True Monarch a traitor to the Azure Origin Sect and to the Jiuqu League, deserving death. They also proclaimed that the Azure Origin Sect under his rule was nothing more than a puppet of the Dali Dynasty and not a genuine sect.

True Monarch Azure Peak vowed to rebuild the Azure Origin Sect and confront Qing Gu True Monarch and the Dali Dynasty at all costs.

Representing the legitimate Azure Origin Sect, True Monarch Azure Peak endorsed the Jade Sword Sect as the leader of the Jiuqu League and aimed to rebuild the league in the north.

The content of the conversation between Jade Sword True Monarch and True Monarch Azure Peak remained confidential. However, it was clear that they reached certain agreements, which led to subsequent events.

With the support of True Monarch Azure Peak, the Jade Sword Sect rightfully became the leader of the Jiuqu League.

Although the Jiuqu League suffered heavy losses, it had not yet been completely annihilated.

With the Jade Sword Sect leading the call to resist the invasion of the Dali Dynasty and the support of the rebuilt Azure Origin Sect, many cultivators from the southern regions who were close to the Azure Origin Sect migrated northward and joined the Jade Sword Sect's ranks.

Jiuqu League had existed for over two thousand years, boasting a long history and profound heritage. Despite the great changes it faced, its influence still lingered, and it had not yet reached the point of complete disintegration.

Especially for the Jade Sword Sect, as a prominent Sword Cultivator sect, they had been leading the Jiuqu League in external campaigns for many years, establishing a formidable reputation and impressive achievements.

Many cultivators within the Jiuqu League still had confidence in the combat strength of the Jade Sword Sect.

In the eyes of many, the Jiuqu League's defeat and loss of territory were primarily due to the betrayal of Qing Gu True Monarch, allowing the Dali Dynasty to seize the opportunity for a surprise attack.

Now that the Jade Sword Sect had taken a stand, it was believed they could withstand the Dali Dynasty's forces and stabilize the situation.

Unlike Azure Origin Sect, where the Gold Core Daoist Master acted as the Sect Master dealing with daily affairs, and the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs served as the behind-the-scenes rulers, the situation in the Jade Sword Sect was different.

In Jade Sword Sect, the Sect Master must always be the strongest among its members.

When the previous Sect Master retired or died during meditation, the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs within the sect would compete, and the victor would assume the position of Sect Master.

Of course, after the Sect Master takes office, several Gold Core Daoist Masters will be appointed as Deputy Sect Masters to assist in handling the sect's internal affairs.

Jade Sword True Monarch, as the Sect Master of the Jade Sword Sect, is naturally the most powerful figure within the sect.

As for who is the strongest between him and Azure Origin Sect's Primordial Spirit Grand Elder, Qing Gu True Monarch, opinions are divided, and no one dares to determine the answer.

However, due to the slightly stronger influence of the Azure Origin Sect and Qing Gu True Monarch's earlier achievement in reaching the Primordial Spirit stage, more cultivators seem to favor him.

Nevertheless, even if Qing Gu True Monarch is considered the strongest in the Jiuqu League, Jade Sword True Monarch is a formidable challenger.

After arriving at Yellow Lotus Main Altar, Jade Sword True Monarch quickly stabilized the situation and established a solid defense.

The vanguard of the Dali Dynasty advanced towards Yellow Lotus Main Altar. After testing the waters and encountering significant resistance, they temporarily ceased their attack, leading to a standoff with their opponents.

Meanwhile, reinforcements from the Dali Dynasty were continuously heading towards Yellow Lotus Main Altar.

Yellow Lotus Main Altar, situated between the northern and southern regions of the Jiuqu League, was about to become the battlefield for a major conflict between the two sides.

With a large-scale battle approaching, the Jade Sword Sect should have concentrated all their forces on Yellow Lotus Main Altar. However, Elder Xing Jian, a True Monarch of Jade Sword Sect, suddenly led an elite group of cultivators to leave the sect's mountain gate, disappearing without a trace.

After about ten days, some sects and families in the northern part of the Jiuqu League suddenly faced destruction.

Elder Xing Jian did not hide his actions; he openly led his subordinates to attack and annihilate these cultivation forces.

Then, Elder Xing Jian publicly claimed that these exterminated cultivation forces were secretly colluding with the Dali Dynasty, intending to betray the fellow daoists and the Jiuqu League.

Faced with the powerful Dali Dynasty, both the southern and northern regions of the Jiuqu League had many cultivation forces covertly collaborating with the Dali Dynasty, keeping an escape route for themselves.

Taking a lesson from the Azure Origin Sect's experience, the Jade Sword Sect's sudden move to eliminate instability within its ranks and ensure internal purity was a foreseeable action.

Upon receiving this news while in seclusion for recovery, Meng Zhang felt a wave of relief.

Fortunately, he had not been deeply involved with the Dali Dynasty. He had only secretly met with Wen Dong True Monarch, and only the current ally, the Dark Alliance branch, knew about it.

Even if Wen Dong wanted to deliberately leak information to frame him, it would be empty talk without evidence.

Furthermore, Meng Zhang had repeatedly been an enemy of the Dali Dynasty and had even slain Marshal Zhao, a Primordial Spirit stage cultivator of the Dali Dynasty, in the Nine Heavens.

In the eyes of the high-level members of the Jade Sword Sect, Meng Zhang and Taiyi Sect should still be considered reliable.

According to what Meng Zhang knew, there should be more cultivation forces colluding with the Dali Dynasty than those eliminated by the Jade Sword Sect.

Though Jade Sword Sect ruthlessly exterminated some cultivation forces, their main goal was probably to show force as a warning rather than completely wiping them out, risking self-destruction.

Those who were exterminated were likely high-profile or typical cases. As long as those with shallow collusion with the Dali Dynasty obeyed the Jade Sword Sect's orders and fought the Dali Dynasty wholeheartedly, the Jade Sword Sect might not necessarily exterminate them all.

After all, in the face of the powerful Dali Dynasty, there were too many cultivation forces within the Jiuqu League reserving an escape route for themselves.

If the Jade Sword Sect really intended to eliminate all of them, there might not be many forces left within the Jiuqu League.

Elder Xing Jian's actions had produced a good effect, deterring everyone. Now, the major cultivation forces in the northern Jiuqu League were behaving obediently, without daring to harbor any other thoughts.

Chapter 770: Seeking Help

Meng Zhang suddenly recalled that Gu Yue Huaidie from the Gu Yue Family had mentioned before that many cultivation forces had secretly contacted the Dali Dynasty through the Gu Yue Family's connections, and even the Jade Sword Sect seemed to be involved.

Initially, Meng Zhang had intended to ask for help from the Gu Yue Family to contact the Dali Dynasty. However, after hearing Gu Yue Huaidie's words, he became cautious and suspected that the Jade Sword Sect might be trying to lure out their enemies.

Now, a group of cultivation forces had been accused of colluding with the Dali Dynasty and eliminated, while the Gu Yue Family, which controlled Great Wind City, remained unscathed. It seemed that his initial speculation was quite accurate.

Since his own faction was not involved in these matters, Meng Zhang put them aside and began focusing on other things.

With more and more cultivators from the Jiuqu League and the Dali Dynasty gathering around the Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain, a large-scale decisive battle seemed imminent.

Jade Sword Sect issued a conscription order, strengthening their recruitment efforts among various cultivation forces in the rear.

Although Meng Zhang was still in seclusion recovering from his injuries, both the Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance had already dispatched many cultivators to form elite teams in response to Jade Sword Sect's conscription.

Fortunately, the Taiyi Sect was located in the far rear, and the conscripted cultivators were mainly responsible for transporting supplies and maintaining the rear order. Only a small part of them were directly sent to the frontlines.

The Primordial Spirit True Monarchs were the main force in the upcoming major battle. Given the disadvantaged position of the Jiuqu League, they had to urgently mobilize the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs from the rear to the frontlines.

Meng Zhang also received an urgent order, and his time was running out.

Before the outbreak of the major battle, regardless of his state of recovery, he had to go to the frontlines to participate in the war.

In both public and private matters, Meng Zhang couldn't back down.

He had to use some secret techniques, disregarding potential risks, to accelerate his own recovery.

The Jiuqu League was facing a life-and-death crisis, and Jade Sword Sect was also going all out, trying to squeeze the potential of the Jiuqu League.

Jade Sword Sect was making efforts to bribe some Primordial Spirit True Monarchs among the loose cultivators, hoping to get them to join their camp.

Even some traditionally neutral sects and families like Flawless Valley and the Shangguan family adhered to the agreement with the Jiuqu League's predecessors and dispatched elite cultivators to the frontline to confront the Dali Dynasty.

On the side of the Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain, the forces of both sides were becoming stronger, and the situation was getting increasingly tense.

However, neither side rushed into war.

As the Jiuqu League was already at a disadvantage, they naturally wanted to delay the time as much as possible, mobilizing forces from all over, and even seeking help from the outside world to obtain reinforcements.

As for the Dali Dynasty, their military strategy had always been to refrain from action until they had gathered enough strength. They would not act rashly without absolute certainty.

Meng Zhang's injuries were rapidly improving, and he tried to maintain contact with several familiar friends.

The Dark Alliance's branch had openly sided with the Jade Sword Sect, declaring their opposition to the Dali Dynasty.

Red Pig True Monarch and others had also gathered a group of cultivators to join the battle at the Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain.

The Gu Yue Family in Great Wind City had long been mobilized to transport supplies and maintain order in the northern region of the Jiuqu League, ensuring stability in the rear.

Meng Zhang received a personal letter from Elder Beast Fury of the Beast King Mountain.

Elder Beast Fury had already led a group of cultivators to the Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain.

He was already injured and getting old.

Faced with this major battle, he had a premonition of the ominous outcome.

In his letter to Meng Zhang, he asked that if anything happened to him on the battlefield, he requested Meng Zhang, out of their friendship, to take care of the Beast King Mountain.

This kind of letter was not only sent to Meng Zhang but also to every Primordial Spirit True Monarch with whom he had a connection.

Meng Zhang deeply understood Elder Beast Fury's feelings and could empathize with him.

Soon after, he would also set foot on the unpredictable battlefield of life and death. He also had a Taiyi Sect that worried him.

The Jade Sword Sect did not forget about Jin LiTrue Monarch, who had been in seclusion in the Purple Gold Sect's small world.

Previously, Jin LiTrue Monarch had been defeated by Fei GuoTrue Monarch, which led her to resign from her position in the higher echelons of the Jiuqu League. However, she remained a member of the Jiuqu League and still had her responsibilities to shoulder.

The envoys sent by the Jade Sword Sect to Mirage Desert were also unable to contact Jin LiTrue Monarch.

It seemed that she had completely closed off that small world using some kind of technique, cutting off all connections with the outside world.

Unless several Primordial Spirit True Monarchs were dispatched, preferably those well-versed in the Space Grand Dao, joining forces might forcefully open a passage to that small world.

Given the current situation, the Jade Sword Sect couldn't possibly achieve this.

The front-line situation was so tense; where could they spare a few Primordial Spirit True Monarchs?

The envoys of the Jade Sword Sect left Mirage Desert in anger.

Before departing, they left harsh words: if Jin LiTrue Monarch had planned this beforehand and intentionally avoided battle, the Jade Sword Sect would never spare her.

Meng Zhang wanted to resolve the situation but didn't know where to start.

This Jin Li True Monarch was really going too far; how could she cause such trouble after going into seclusion?

Although for a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, going into closed-door cultivation for hundreds of years was not a big deal in terms of lifespan. However, she had coincidentally chosen this time when the Dali Dynasty was invading on a large scale, and now she couldn't be reached. No wonder the envoys of the Jade Sword Sect were unhappy.

Meng Zhang had no good way to handle this; he could only wait until Jin Li True Monarch came out of seclusion to address the issue.

In terms of lifespan, Meng Zhang could definitely afford to wait.

Meng Zhang's injuries had finally healed, and just as he was preparing to head to the front line, the Fire Cloud Sect's Sect Master, Daoist Master Firecloud, came to visit.

With Meng Zhang's current identity, not anyone could meet him at their will. Even the Senior Disciple of the Sect Master, Niu Dawei, could only see him reluctantly.

Daoist Master Firecloud had come this time to seek shelter from the Taiyi Sect.

True Monarch Profound Wind, who had always been the backing of the Fire Cloud Sect, had made a decision some time ago and joined the Dali Dynasty.

Fire Cloud Sect also wanted to follow True Monarch Profound Wind and join the Dali Dynasty. However, Fire Cloud Sect's sect gate and territory were in the north of the Jiuqu League, and it wasn't feasible to move such a large sect with so many disciples.

The bloody massacre carried out by the Jade Sword Sect's Xing Jian True Monarch was still fresh in their minds, and the Fire Cloud Sect didn't want to test the Jade Sword Sect's tolerance.

So, Daoist Master Firecloud came to see Meng Zhang and requested him to speak on behalf of the Fire Cloud Sect to the Jade Sword Sect.

In return, Fire Cloud Sect offered to become a vassal of the Taiyi Sect, pledging allegiance to Taiyi Sect, just as they had obeyed True Monarch Profound Wind before.

There had been many grudges and grievances between Fire Cloud Sect and Taiyi Sect in the past.

Back when Fire Cloud Sect was a Gold Core sect threatening the Endless Sea of Sand, Taiyi Sect was just a small insignificant sect.

Unexpectedly, just a few hundred years later, Fire Cloud Sect had no choice but to kneel before Taiyi Sect and seek its protection as Taiyi Sect had grown to a level where it was beyond their reach.