

Sect Master's Immortal Journey #Chapter 771: Arrangements - Read Sect Master's Immortal Journey Chapter 771: Arrangements Chapter 771: Arrangements

Fire Cloud Sect voluntarily became a vassal of Taiyi Sect, seeking protection from them. Niu Dawei couldn't make this decision on his own due to the significant matter at hand.

If it were any other small sect, he could have easily agreed without much thought. However, Fire Cloud Sect not only had a complicated history with Taiyi Sect but was also a powerful Gold Core sect in its own right.

Compared to some shallow Primordial Spirit sects, Fire Cloud Sect was only lacking a Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

After hearing Niu Dawei's report, Meng Zhang was somewhat hesitant.

Taiyi Sect used the Hanhai Alliance to gather a large group of subordinates.

Among these subordinates, the strongest, Qiaoshou Sect, had only three Gold Core Daoist Masters. The so-called Gold Core sects like Land Walk Sect could barely manage with just one Gold Core Daoist Master supporting them.

Throughout the generations, Fire Cloud Sect had never lacked Gold Core Daoist Masters; usually, there were five or six of them present in the sect.

Having such a powerful vassal added to Taiyi Sect's strength, which seemed like a good thing. The Hanhai Alliance's power would increase, and Taiyi Sect would have stronger cannon fodder to use.

Moreover, Fire Cloud Sect used to be much stronger than Taiyi Sect, and it had threatened Taiyi Sect several times in the past. Making such a millennium-old sect bow before them would boost the confidence of Taiyi Sect's disciples and fulfill their psychological needs, which had significant meaning.

The reason for Meng Zhang's hesitation was that he had another option.

True Monarch Profound Wind, the patron of Fire Cloud Sect, had sided with the Dali Dynasty, so Fire Cloud Sect naturally had suspicions of colluding with the Dali Dynasty.

If Meng Zhang led the cultivators of Taiyi Sect and directly annihilated Fire Cloud Sect, taking everything they had, no one could question his actions. Even Jade Sword Sect would have no choice but to accept this reality.

Completely eradicating their enemies, seeking revenge, and settling old scores also seemed like a good thing, which was not uncommon in the Cultivation World. No one would doubt Taiyi Sect's position as a righteous sect because of such an act.

For Meng Zhang, both options had their merits, and either choice would not cause significant harm.

One option was the slow and steady approach, continuously squeezing and exploiting Fire Cloud Sect, making them a long-term target of oppression.

The other option was to make a one-time deal, seizing everything from Fire Cloud Sect in one go.

As Meng Zhang was contemplating and about to delegate the decision-making power to Niu Dawei, suddenly, he felt a vague inspiration.

It had been some time since he advanced to the Primordial Spirit stage, but his Heavenly Insight Technique had not progressed accordingly.

He was still a Grandmaster of Heavenly Insight, capable of deducing matters involving Third Rank and below individuals or things.

However, when it came to matters involving Primordial Spirit True Monarchs or Fourth Rank entities, his deductions would become difficult.

Nevertheless, during this trip to the Nine Heavens, he had experienced a great battle and suffered severe injuries, but he also witnessed various different Grand Dao powers.

During his seclusion for healing, he managed to find some rare moments of calm and enlightenment, gaining some insights into the Heavenly Insight Technique.

After coming out of seclusion, although he had not advanced in the Heavenly Insight Technique, and the path to advancement was still distant, he did make some progress and gained a certain understanding.

Daoist Master Firecloud's proactive surrender triggered something in his mind, leading him to make a new choice.

Meng Zhang instructed Niu Dawei to accept Daoist Master Firecloud's surrender and make Fire Cloud Sect a vassal of Taiyi Sect.

As for the specific terms and details, Meng Zhang asked Niu Dawei to handle the negotiations.

Fire Cloud Sect had not publicly sided with the Dali Dynasty or openly opposed Jade Sword Sect.

Meng Zhang believed that as long as he personally intervened, Jade Sword Sect would give him some face. Especially now, when Jade Sword Sect was in need of talents, their higher-ups would not refuse him just for the sake of an insignificant sect like Fire Cloud Sect.

Meng Zhang's thoughts were correct, and the whole situation proceeded smoothly.

Daoist Master Firecloud hardly negotiated with Niu Dawei and accepted all the conditions he proposed, becoming a vassal of Taiyi Sect.

Jade Sword Sect had no intention of dealing with a small sect like Fire Cloud Sect, and with Taiyi Sect taking the lead, they were even less inclined to intervene in Fire Cloud Sect's affairs.

Now that Fire Cloud Sect had become a vassal of Taiyi Sect, Taiyi Sect would be responsible for guaranteeing and overseeing all of Fire Cloud Sect's actions.

With Taiyi Sect's control over its vassal sects, Fire Cloud Sect would likely be unable to escape their influence. Without Taiyi Sect's approval, they would not be able to continue colluding with the Dali Dynasty either.

After dealing with this matter, which took quite some time, Meng Zhang made some arrangements for his disciples and hurriedly headed to the frontline.

According to Meng Zhang's prior arrangements, most of the elite cultivators of Taiyi Sect would follow Jade Sword Sect's summons and be deployed in various directions.

With Meng Zhang's persuasion, the high-level members of Jade Sword Sect agreed to leave Niu Dawei, Taiyi Sect's Sect Master's senior disciple, to oversee everything in the sect.

Meng Zhang specifically instructed Niu Dawei that this upcoming all-out war with the Dali Dynasty was truly dangerous, and he could perish at any time. Niu Dawei must constantly monitor the situation at the frontline. If they received news of Jade Sword Sect's defeat, he must immediately put everything aside and organize the disciples to migrate towards Maple Leaf Mountain City.

The entire process needed to be swift and secretive, and Taiyi Sect's whereabouts must not be revealed under any circumstances.

At a critical moment, he must make decisive decisions and be willing to sacrifice everything irrelevant to ensure the safety of his disciples.

Niu Dawei had to make detailed plans in advance regarding how to arrange the migration of disciples and how to transport various supplies. If the worst-case scenario occurred, they must act immediately without any delay.

The disciples in charge of the rearguard must be reliable individuals, responsible for collecting the mother discs of the Mother-Child Transmission Discs once everyone had left through the transmission.

If necessary, they must destroy the mother discs to preserve Taiyi Sect's migration secrecy.

When facing Meng Zhang's arrangements for post-events, Niu Dawei felt a sense of reluctance.

However, there was no choice but to comply with Jade Sword Sect's summons, and Meng Zhang was determined to fight this battle.

Meng Zhang left Niu Dawei, the senior disciple of the Sect Master, behind just in case.

Niu Dawei, who had acted as the acting Sect Master for many years, was qualified enough to lead Taiyi Sect.

The elite disciples of Taiyi Sect, who were called for service, needed to travel to the frontline in batches using flying boats. Meng Zhang couldn't wait for them and flew alone towards the direction of Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain.

Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain was actually the collective name for a series of meandering, towering mountains that extended into the clouds.

In the entire Jiuqu League, no other mountain range could match the grandeur and magnificence of Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain.

The tallest and most majestic main peak of Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain, along with a long string of surrounding peaks, formed the core area of the holy mountain and the location of Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

The Hundred Grass Slope, Taiyi Sect's mountain gate, was tens of thousands of miles away from Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain. Meng Zhang rushed all the way, and it took him several days to reach his destination.

Chapter 772: Confrontation

With the Yellow Lotus Main Altar at the core of the Yellow Lotus Sect, numerous cultivation forces from the Jiuqu League have gathered countless cultivators here, establishing a solid defensive line.

Opposite the Yellow Lotus Main Altar, there is the military camp of the Dali Dynasty.

Initially, only a vanguard army arrived here, using various materials brought with the army to summon laborers and set up formations, constructing various buildings.

As more and more armies of the Dali Dynasty arrived subsequently, the camp expanded in all directions, occupying a larger and larger area, and stationed more elite soldiers.

Currently, both sides are in a confrontation and need time to gather forces and accumulate strength.

The Dali Dynasty has occupied a vast territory in the southern part of the Jiuqu League and needs to deploy troops to guard various strategic points and important resources.

Among the cultivators, there are many unruly individuals who, in the face of the powerful invasion of the Dali Dynasty, are not willing to simply retreat without a fight.

Some are reckless and stubborn, refusing to yield and insisting on blocking the Dali Dynasty's path.

Moreover, in the chaotic southern region, a large group of desperados takes advantage of the situation, plundering and looting everywhere.

Wealth and power stir people's hearts, and many cultivation forces are busy escaping, abandoning their sects, spirit fields, and mines.

The various cultivators who used to fight over even the tiniest bit of resources are not willing to let go of such a huge opportunity.

As long as there is enough profit, they are willing to overcome any difficulties, risk their lives, and even dare to snatch resources from the hands of the Dali Dynasty.

The cultivators act like locusts, plundering and looting everything in sight.

The Dali Dynasty has expended a great deal of effort, carefully planning in advance to occupy the southern region of the Jiuqu League.

The Dali Dynasty didn't come here to cause chaos and make a quick profit. Instead, they treated this place as their own territory, prepared for long-term management.

Everything on this land, including spirit veins, spirit fields, and mineral resources, belongs to the Dali Dynasty.

To deal with those vultures trying to seize their resources, the Dali Dynasty employed the most severe measures.

In addition to dispatching troops to eliminate them, the Dali Dynasty also mobilized surrendered cultivators to maintain order in various territories and ensure the resources remained intact.

Since there were quite a few traitors within the Jiuqu League's southern forces, the Dali Dynasty easily organized maintenance groups in different areas, rapidly restoring normal order.

However, as a result, the concentrated movement of Dali Dynasty's troops inevitably faced some obstacles.

Furthermore, the Dali Dynasty's large army had traveled a long distance and would need to rest and regroup upon entering the Jiuqu League.

When Meng Zhang arrived at the Yellow Lotus Main Altar, the Dali Dynasty's army had not yet completed its full assembly.

As the local host, the Jade Sword Sect had the advantage of having favorable terrain and making it easier to gather various cultivators.

However, even though they had gathered considerable strength, the Jade Sword Sect did not rush to launch an attack.

The Dali Dynasty was clearly more powerful, with strict military laws and strong defensive capabilities in the camp.

Even the Sword Cultivators, who were always eager to attack, wouldn't take the initiative to attack the Dali Dynasty's army camp.

Of course, the two sides in the confrontation could not remain idle or maintain peace indefinitely.

The patrol teams sent out by both sides and the scouting squads sent behind enemy lines had long engaged in fierce conflicts, starting bloody and intense skirmishes. rAN
0BEs

As the current leader of the Jiuqu League, the Jade Sword Sect did not treat other cultivation forces as mere cannon fodder, letting their cultivators consume themselves at the front while their own cultivators waited at the back.

The Jade Sword Sect was a responsible major sect and did not shy away from various challenges.

The Sword Cultivators of the Jade Sword Sect formed various teams and were active on the frontline. They took the lead in leading the teams of cultivators from other major

cultivation forces to actively engage in deadly confrontations with the Dali Dynasty's teams of cultivators.

After this period of small-scale skirmishes, both sides suffered heavy casualties.

At least for now, the Jade Sword Sect has not shown any signs of decline. Instead, they have maintained high spirits, actively seeking battle, and pressing forward enthusiastically.

Meng Zhang rushed to the Yellow Lotus Main Altar from the rear and encountered two clashes between teams of cultivators from both sides near the Yellow Lotus Main Altar. Although they were just Foundation Building stage cultivators fighting, the intensity of the battles left a deep impression on the experienced Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang casually killed the Dali Dynasty's cultivator team, then continued to move forward.

When he arrived in the area of the Yellow Lotus Main Altar, he encountered several patrol teams of cultivators.

Among the forces within the Jade Sword Sect's camp, the Taiyi Sect still held some reputation. After Meng Zhang reported his identity as the Taiyi Sect's Sect Master, he was easily allowed inside.

Of course, the Yellow Lotus Main Altar was also situated above a Third Rank spirit vein, and the entire Main Altar was protected by a Third Rank mountain protection great formation.

The Yellow Lotus Main Altar was the defense core envisioned by the Jade Sword Sect's Sect Master, Jade Sword True Monarch. Relying solely on a Third Rank protective great formation would not be enough in battles involving Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

Upon the arrival of the Jiuqu League reinforcements led by the Jade Sword Sect, there were experts skilled in formations who began modifying the original mountain protection great formation to strengthen its defenses.

When Meng Zhang arrived outside the newly modified great formation, before he could announce his presence, an old acquaintance flew out from the formation.

Elder Beast Fury, who had arrived here first, seemed to have thoroughly understood the situation. He skillfully guided Meng Zhang forward and warmly engaged in conversation with him.

Through Elder Beast Fury's proactive introduction, Meng Zhang gained a general understanding of the situation here.

The Jade Sword Sect had made a tremendous recruitment effort this time. In the face of the life-and-death crisis in the Jiuqu League, they no longer cared about the foundations of other major cultivation forces.

Not only were all the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs from the north of the Jiuqu League recruited here, but most of the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs who had escaped from the south were also left here.

The next step was to continue recruiting disciples from other major cultivation forces and squeeze out all their potential.

Before setting off, Meng Zhang had received the latest recruitment order from the Jade Sword Sect.

Not only were the cultivators of Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance recruited in large numbers, even those from Taiyi Sect who were originally responsible for transporting various supplies and maintaining order in the rear were also mostly recruited to the frontline.

As the Sect Master, Meng Zhang flew faster and arrived first. Behind him, there was a continuous stream of cultivators from Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance, all hurrying to catch up.

Upon entering the Yellow Lotus Main Altar, Meng Zhang noticed that most of the Yellow Lotus Sect cultivators he encountered along the way were dressed in mourning attire, wearing white clothes and robes, which surprised him.

Elder Beast Fury took the initiative to explain when he saw this.

Xu Haoran True Monarch of the Yellow Lotus Sect had died recently during meditation due to mental exhaustion and overexertion. His oil had run out, and his lamp had withered.

Xu Haoran True Monarch's life was already near its end, but he persisted due to the drastic changes in the situation. His remaining life force was quickly depleted, leading to his death during meditation ahead of the expected time.

Chapter 773: Defense Line

Speaking of Xu Haoran True Monarch, who had exhausted his life force and died during meditation, Elder Beast Fury, who also had limited life force, felt a sense of sorrow, and a trace of grief appeared on his face.

With Xu Haoran True Monarch's passing, there was now only one Primordial Spirit True Monarch left in the Yellow Lotus Sect, and that was Saintess Xu Mengying. All the pressure faced by the Yellow Lotus Sect now fell on her shoulders.

Relying solely on her, a mere woman, it was unknown whether she could uphold the legacy of this Primordial Spirit grand sect that had lasted for two thousand years.

Shortly after Elder Beast Fury led Meng Zhang to fly into the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar, they encountered Saintess Xu Mengying, who had been waiting for them.

Xu Mengying was dressed in mourning clothes and looked somewhat haggard, but her spirit was high, and she appeared full of vitality.

Jade Sword Sect had always acted generously, and after a large number of cultivators entered this place, they at least showed respect for Xu Mengying as the landowner.

Of course, in reality, Xu Mengying couldn't meddle in many matters. Jade Sword Sect made all the decisions on how to arrange defenses, deploy manpower, and organize the troops.

Xu Mengying had become more like a housekeeper, specifically responsible for some miscellaneous tasks.

She didn't have any objections to this. It was her initiative to join Jade Sword Sect and invite their cultivators to occupy the mountain gate. As long as Jade Sword Sect could emerge victorious in this battle, they would treat her well no matter what.

Seeing Xu Mengying approach, Elder Beast Fury knew she had a close relationship with Meng Zhang and seemed to have fought side by side with him before.

After some small talk, Elder Beast Fury found an excuse to leave, leaving the two of them alone.

Apart from exchanging some pleasantries, Xu Mengying discussed business matters with Meng Zhang.

She briefed Meng Zhang on Jade Sword Sect's general defensive arrangements.

Jade Sword Sect knew that their strength was far inferior to that of the Dali Dynasty, so they adopted a strategy of defensive counterattack.

Using the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar as the core, Jade Sword Sect laid out defenses along the Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain.

Across thousands of miles on the front, a large number of formations and temporary structures were established, housing countless cultivators, forming an impregnable defensive line.

Jade Sword Sect led the cultivators of the Jiuqu League, holding this defensive line and waiting for the Dali Dynasty's attack.

If someone unfamiliar with the rules of the Cultivation World were to learn about this, they might find it strange.

The people of the Dali Dynasty were not fools, so why would they charge headlong into the tightly arranged defenses of their enemy? Couldn't they find another way?

In the Cultivation World, there have been numerous wars, each with its own rules.

Generally speaking, when a force like Jade Sword Sect set up such a formation, the Dali Dynasty would actively respond.

Even if the Dali Dynasty took some measures to avoid a major battle here, eventually, they would still have to face Jade Sword Sect head-on.

Jade Sword Sect's strength might be inferior to the Dali Dynasty, but they could still easily send out a dozen or so Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

If these Primordial Spirit True Monarchs abandoned everything and stormed into the Dali Dynasty's territory, they could cause chaos, engage in guerrilla warfare, and conduct raids on spirit veins. ƒaNOBĚŞ

Destroying a city today, obliterating a mine tomorrow, and blowing up a spirit vein the day after...

It wouldn't take long to turn the Dali Dynasty's territory upside down. Even if the Dali Dynasty eventually exterminated or expelled the invaders, they would suffer irreparable losses.

However, in reality, when it came to battles between human cultivators, whether they were in a weaker or stronger position, they would not adopt such methods.

The deciding factor for victory or defeat between the two sides is often a direct frontal battle, sometimes involving several encounters.

Even if they send out raiding parties to the enemy's rear, the scale is usually not large, mainly consisting of small teams of cultivators.

Though it seems like no one is supervising, this is a long-standing unspoken rule in the Cultivation World.

The larger the scale of the battle, the less likely anyone will break the rules, and the more strictly they will adhere to them.

The Dali Dynasty, already having the upper hand, naturally wouldn't retreat when facing the defensive line laid out by Jade Sword Sect; they would directly push forward.

During the course of the operation, the Dali Dynasty might employ some strategies, such as feints, flanking maneuvers, and so on. However, regardless of their tactics, a direct confrontation would be inevitable.

On this defensive line, all the remaining forces of the Jiuqu League have gathered.

At the same time, Jade Sword Sect is continuously squeezing their potential and desperately deploying more cultivators here.

This battle is of great significance and relates to the future of all forces within Jade Sword Sect and the Jiuqu League.

If the defensive line collapses and they are defeated in this battle, the entire Jiuqu League will no longer have the strength to resist the Dali Dynasty.

At that time, the only options left would be to surrender voluntarily or escape as quickly as possible.

While explaining their situation, Xu Mengying also did not forget to introduce the strength of the Dali Dynasty.

Meng Zhang knew that the Dali Dynasty was formidable, with numerous powerful individuals and a formidable army. However, he had limited knowledge about the specifics.

Listening to Xu Mengying's explanation, his face turned increasingly grim. The strength of the Dali Dynasty seemed to be far beyond his imagination.

He was well aware of the strength of the Jiuqu League, even if there were some hidden forces, they were limited.

Facing the mighty Dali Dynasty, how long could the Jiuqu League resist?

Suddenly, Meng Zhang felt an impulse to abandon everything here and escape to avoid encountering the powerful army of the Dali Dynasty.

He suppressed the impulse and looked at Xu Mengying with questioning eyes.

Xu Mengying, along with the other Primordial Spirit True Monarchs who arrived earlier, knew the power balance between the two sides, yet they chose to stay and fight without retreating. They must have some reliance.

Recalling that before, he had heard from other Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, it seemed that Jade Sword Sect still had great confidence.

Xu Mengying didn't directly answer Meng Zhang's question, deliberately keeping him in suspense.

After arriving at the Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain, Meng Zhang was going to meet with the higher-ups of Jade Sword Sect and accept his own and Taiyi Sect's missions.

Now, Xu Mengying was going to lead Meng Zhang to meet with the Sect Master of Jade Sword Sect, Jade Sword True Monarch.

At that time, all his questions would be answered.

As the Sect Master of Jade Sword Sect, Jade Sword True Monarch gained the support of True Monarch Azure Peak and became the new leader of the Jiuqu League.

After arriving at the Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain, despite having the assistance of the Deputy Sect Master of Jade Sword Sect in handling various tasks, he still had numerous matters to attend to personally.

In such a situation, he still took time out of his busy schedule to meet with every arriving Primordial Spirit True Monarch and have a brief conversation with them.

Xu Mengying led Meng Zhang around the magnificent buildings of the Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar and finally arrived at a tall and majestic palace.

Originally, this place was the main hall of the Yellow Lotus Sect, where the Cult Master and elders discussed important matters.

Now, it had been temporarily requisitioned by Jade Sword Sect and became the temporary residence of Jade Sword True Monarch.

Outside the palace, in the sky and on the ground, there was a group of Sword Cultivators dressed in white Dao robes, patrolling or guarding the area.

This was the most elite force of Jade Sword Sect, the Jade Sword Guard, composed of the finest Sword Cultivators from the sect.

Even the lowest cultivator among them at the Foundation Building stage had formidable combat capabilities.

Chapter 774: Audience

Jade Sword Guard not only possesses exceptional personal strength but also seems to be well-versed in the art of teaming up for joint attacks.

This force, Jade Sword Guard, serves as the Sect Master's personal guard and the vanguard for Jade Sword Sect's charges.

Of course, with the formidable strength of Jade Sword True Monarch, he generally wouldn't require a personal guard.

Presenting this appearance is probably just a matter of habit.

Although Meng Zhang had never seen Jade Sword True Monarch before, according to rumors, he is not the type of person who needs subordinates to display his authority.

Xu Mengying led Meng Zhang outside the main hall and skillfully greeted a white-clad Sword Cultivator.

The white-clad Sword Cultivator asked Meng Zhang and his group to wait for a moment as Jade Sword True Monarch was currently meeting with other guests.

After a considerable while, True Monarch You Hongzhi emerged from the main hall.

Even though Meng Zhang had known his decision for a while, he still found it a bit puzzling to see this familiar figure here.

Four Seas Commercial Firm is a trade organization formed by a group of merchants. Although it has many experts, including a Primordial Spirit True Monarch as a hidden card, merchants tend to seek profit and avoid direct conflicts. Additionally, within the Jiuqu League, Four Seas Commercial Firm has never been an aggressively assertive force.

However, facing the invasion of the Dali Dynasty, the southern region of the Jiuqu League had fallen, and Four Seas Commercial Firm suffered heavy losses in both resources and personnel.

Despite the adversity, instead of submitting to the Dali Dynasty, Four Seas Commercial Firm made a complete change in its previous strategy and fully supported Jade Sword Sect, preparing to fight to the end with the Dali Dynasty.

Previously, Four Seas Commercial Firm remained neutral in the disputes between Jade Sword Sect and Azure Origin Sect. Now, it had unequivocally sided with Jade Sword Sect, showing a stance of mutual survival and destruction.

Meng Zhang couldn't help but admire Four Seas Commercial Firm's firm resolve.

True Monarch You Hongzhi noticed Meng Zhang and greeted him before hastily departing.

At this moment, a very unique voice came from the main hall.

"You must be Taiyi Sect Sect Master Meng Zhang True Monarch. Please come in; I'd like to have a chat with you."

At first listen, the voice sounded like that of an ordinary old man, albeit a bit stiff. However, upon closer inspection, it carried a faint echo of metal and stone, giving a powerful and resolute impression.

Xu Mengying had fulfilled her task by bringing Meng Zhang here. As Jade Sword True Monarch wanted to see Meng Zhang, she turned and left.

Meng Zhang dared not be negligent and quickly tidied himself before striding into the main hall.

As soon as he entered, he saw a white-bearded and white-haired old man dressed in a white robe, standing tall in the center of the hall.

At first glance, he appeared to be an ordinary mortal elder, but in Meng Zhang's keen perception, he clearly saw him as a sharp sword hidden in its sheath. PÃNØBÈs

"Sect Master Meng, both you and I have many things to do, so I'll keep it short and brief."

Every generation of Jade Sword Sect Sect Master would relinquish their previous name and take on the title of Jade Sword True Monarch.

This was Meng Zhang's first time interacting with Jade Sword True Monarch. Like Fei Guo True Monarch whom he had met before, this person was concise and to the point, not the verbose type.

"You should be aware of the power comparison between our side and the enemy."

"Don't worry; in addition to our current forces, we will also receive reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle and the Middle-Earth Continent."

Jade Sword True Monarch's first step was to reassure Meng Zhang and bolster his confidence in resisting the Dali Dynasty.

Meng Zhang had previously accompanied the Jiuqu League's envoy to the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle.

At that time, the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle had refused to aid the Jiuqu League.

For some unknown reason, the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle changed its mind and decided to send reinforcements to the Jiuqu League.

The mention of reinforcements from the Middle-Earth Continent intrigued Meng Zhang. If the Middle-Earth Continent was the center of the Grand Dust World, then the Jiuqu League could be considered a remote and insignificant place. Cultivators from this side were seen as a bunch of country bumpkins in the eyes of Middle-Earth Continent's cultivators.

During its peak, Taiyi Sect dominated a considerable territory in the Middle-Earth Continent's Cultivation World.

Given the prosperity of the Middle-Earth Continent's Cultivation World, any force they dispatched could easily sweep across the Jiuqu League.

Jade Sword True Monarch was not one to speak empty words or deceive others with grandiose claims. He was known to be true to his word and always delivered on his promises.

Since he said that reinforcements were coming from the Middle-Earth Continent, it must be true.

Meng Zhang's spirits were lifted, dispelling the previous sense of despondency. He looked at Jade Sword True Monarch, eager to learn more about the reinforcements.

Ignoring Meng Zhang's inquisitive gaze, Jade Sword True Monarch continued speaking.

"I admit that the Dali Dynasty is indeed powerful, much stronger than Jade Sword Sect and the entire Jiuqu League combined."

"But the Dali Dynasty has its share of enemies, and many experts do not agree with their ways. The Dali Dynasty needs to focus on multiple fronts, which disperses their powerful forces."

"What we will face this time is only a portion of the Dali Dynasty's army."

"Though the enemy is formidable, as long as we hold the defensive lines and wait for reinforcements, it will be our opportunity to turn defense into offense."

"Sect Master Meng, each sect has been assigned a section of the defensive line. Your task is to hold your position desperately and prevent the Dali Dynasty's army from breaking through."

"Once you defend until the reinforcements arrive, you will have accomplished a great feat."

As he spoke, Jade Sword True Monarch took out a scroll.

He casually threw the scroll into the air, and as it unfurled, it revealed a large map.

The map marked the defensive positions set up by Jade Sword Sect at the Yellow Lotus Sacred Mountain.

The extensive defensive line was divided into many parts, with each section assigned to a different cultivation force responsible for its defense.

The core of the defensive line, the Main Altar mountain gate of the Yellow Lotus Sect, was guarded by Jade Sword Sect.

Additionally, Jade Sword Sect had organized multiple mobile teams to provide support to different sections of the defensive line.

With a few brief words, Jade Sword True Monarch roughly explained the situation of the defensive line and handed the scroll to Meng Zhang.

The Taiyi Sect disciples, who had been summoned here ahead of Meng Zhang, had already arrived at their assigned positions and started setting up defenses.

Meng Zhang couldn't detect any problems from Jade Sword True Monarch's explanation.

Jade Sword Sect seemed fair in their dealings, and the defensive positions assigned to Taiyi Sect matched their strength.

"Sect Master Meng, any other questions?"

"Time is precious, so if you have none, hurry to your assigned position and prepare for battle."

"Based on my estimation, the major battle between us and the Dali Dynasty will break out within ten days to half a month."

Meng Zhang did want to inquire about the specific details of the reinforcements, but seeing Jade Sword True Monarch's demeanor, it was evident that he didn't plan to reveal much.

Not wanting to press further, Meng Zhang respectfully accepted the orders and took his leave.

Jade Sword True Monarch didn't bother with formalities, nor did he bid farewell at the door.

As Meng Zhang left the main hall, he spotted Fei Guo True Monarch, whom he had dealt with before.

Chapter 775: Defense Deployment

Meng Zhang saw Fei Guo True Monarch and quickly went to greet him respectfully.

All along, Fei Guo True Monarch has been in contact with Meng Zhang on behalf of the Jade Sword Sect.

Although Fei Guo True Monarch has had some grudges with Jin Li True Monarch, he treats Meng Zhang without any discrimination, and his attitude is acceptable.

Fei Guo True Monarch seemed to be in a hurry. After a simple greeting, he went straight to the point and asked Meng Zhang what was going on.

Knowing his temper, Meng Zhang straightforwardly inquired about the situation with the reinforcements and when they would arrive.

Fei Guo True Monarch didn't directly answer Meng Zhang's question; instead, he comforted him and assured him that the Jade Sword Sect would not deceive him. He only needed to hold the defense line of Taiyi Sect, and the Jade Sword Sect would handle everything else.

Seeing that Fei Guo True Monarch was tight-lipped, Meng Zhang could do nothing but take his leave.

It seems that the Jade Sword Sect still doesn't fully trust Meng Zhang and keeps the information about the reinforcements confidential.

It's understandable since Taiyi Sect recently joined the Jade Sword Sect's camp, and Meng Zhang is not someone they deeply trust. Gaining complete trust is not something that can be achieved overnight.

Due to the intense preparations for battle, everyone at the Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar was busy, coming and going hurriedly.

Meng Zhang had intended to bid farewell to Xu Mengying, but seeing the current situation, he decided not to disturb her and left the Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar directly.

The defense line assigned by Taiyi Sect was located more than three hundred miles east of the Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar, a critical location.

It was a large peak with a stretch of mountains and a few smaller hills scattered around.

When Meng Zhang arrived there, he saw that the entire mountain range had undergone significant alterations. Compared to the map he had in hand, he could hardly recognize the surroundings.

Deep Earth Spirit General and his team had arrived here long ago and had enough time to set up their positions.

Deep Earth Spirit General fully utilized his Geomancer abilities to change the terrain, moving mountains, and setting them up as barriers in front of Taiyi Sect's defense line.

Wen Qiansun, leading the Formation Master from the Formations Hall, had arranged the Third Rank great formation called Ten Directions Absolute Killing Formation here.

Years ago, when Meng Zhang was at the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, he and the Gold Core Daoist Masters of his sect set up this formation together to move freely among the groups of demons and kill them.

Originally, this place only had a Second Rank spirit vein, but after Taiyi Sect disciples poured a lot of spirit stones and various spiritual materials into it without hesitation, they were able to support this great formation.

Except for Niu Dawei, the eldest disciple of the Sect Master, leading a few elderly and weak disciples guarding the mountain gate, most of the Taiyi Sect disciples, including many Gold Core Daoist Masters, came here one after another to join the defense.

After arriving at the location, Meng Zhang was greeted by Deep Earth Spirit General, who was in charge of the defense arrangements, and he was given a detailed explanation of the defensive measures.

Once Ten Directions Absolute Killing Formation was set up, the Gold Core Daoist Masters led their disciples to stand at their respective positions, relying on the formation for defense.

In the rear, the disciples from Taiyi Sect and Hanhai Alliance were still rushing to this location. Together with them came various war magic tools carefully crafted by Taiyi Sect.

Meng Zhang was the only Primordial Spirit True Monarch of Taiyi Sect, but he wasn't good at commanding such large-scale battles.

However, several Guardian Spirit Generals, who were originally special Dao soldiers refined by Taiyi Sect, had received training in this aspect.

Meng Zhang delegated the specific command to the Guardian Spirit Generals and Third Rank Formation Master Wen Qiansun.

Among them, Deep Earth Spirit General was the overall commander.

Outside of the Ten Directions Absolute Killing Formation, the cultivator armies of Taiyi Sect and Hanhai Alliance formed an army formation to construct the second line of defense.

Although Jade Sword True Monarch didn't utter any harsh words and didn't send an inspection team, Meng Zhang still decided to defend with all his heart and would absolutely not slack off.

This battle was not only for the Jade Sword Sect but also for the entire Jiuqu League and Taiyi Sect itself.

Besides, Sword Cultivators were known for being ruthless and not saying much.

If Taiyi Sect were to flee or surrender in the face of battle, once Jade Sword Sect had the opportunity, they might launch a devastating attack, wiping out Taiyi Sect.

According to Jade Sword Sect's plan, Taiyi Sect, as a crucial support point in the defense line, would be defended at all critical locations.

Next to the Primordial Spirit Sects, several Gold Core Sects were assigned as auxiliary support.

Near Taiyi Sect, the cultivator armies of Fire Cloud Sect, Great Wind City's Gu Yue Family, and Crane Song Sect were deployed to guard and cover the flanks.

Clever Machine Sect used to be a Gold Core Sect, but recently, they finally produced a Primordial Spirit True Monarch. Without enough time to celebrate this advancement and seek benefits, they were caught up in a war with the Dali Dynasty.

Now that they were a Primordial Spirit Sect, they were arranged according to the standards of such a sect.

Clever Machine Sect was placed not too far from Taiyi Sect, responsible for defending an important section of the defense line.

Although they had become a Primordial Spirit Sect, apart from having one Primordial Spirit True Monarch, their overall strength wasn't significantly stronger than before as a Gold Core Sect.

They could only hope that their Mechanical Creations would be powerful enough to provide significant assistance in defense.

While the entire defense line of Jade Sword Sect was busy, two figures flew from high in the sky and landed not far from the defense line.

One was an old Daoist with a crane-like appearance and immortal air, none other than Qing Gu True Monarch from the Azure Origin Sect.

This Azure Origin Sect's number one traitor in history seemed to be living well after joining the Dali Dynasty.

Not only did he look radiant, but he also appeared full of energy and vigor.

Beside him stood a robust man in armor and a large cloak, Xia Houfeng, the Grand Marshal and Prince of the Dali Dynasty.

Within the Dali Dynasty, there were many marshals, but only a few held the title of Grand Marshal.

Xia Houfeng was of royal blood, but if his cultivation base and military achievements weren't enough, he wouldn't be qualified to hold the position of Grand Marshal.

To be a marshal, one only needed a Primordial Spirit cultivation base, but to be a Grand Marshal, one needed to reach the Primordial Spirit late stage.

In the cultivation realm of the Primordial Spirit stage, there was no essential difference between the early and middle stages.

A cultivator in the early stage of the Primordial Spirit could completely counter or even defeat a cultivator in the middle stage, as long as they had sufficient attainments in the Grand Dao of Heaven and Earth.

But a cultivator in the late stage of the Primordial Spirit was a completely different existence.

A cultivator in the late stage of the Primordial Spirit was an expert among Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, capable of easily overwhelming cultivators in the middle and early stages of the Primordial Spirit.

A cultivator in the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit, no matter how powerful their Divine Ability was or how strong their combat strength, could not challenge a cultivator in the late stage of the Primordial Spirit in a cross-stage battle.

Unless they had a significant numerical advantage, they could only barely contend with a Primordial Spirit late stage cultivator.

True Monarch Tian Zhu was a powerful expert in the late stage of the Primordial Spirit. When his main body was entangled by a Fifth Rank Earth Spirit, his external avatar alone was able to suppress the Qi Family brothers, strong cultivators in the middle stage of the Primordial Spirit.

In the current Jiuqu League, on the surface, there was only one Primordial Spirit late stage cultivator, Jade Sword Sect's Sect Master, Jade Sword True Monarch.

As for Qing Gu True Monarch, he was once the number one expert in the Jiuqu League.

Prince Xia Houfeng led a large army to fight in all directions, having experienced numerous battles and achieved countless military feats, killing numerous formidable opponents.

Chapter 776: Reason

Qing Gu True Monarch accompanied Prince Feng Xia Houfeng to this place to observe the enemy's defensive situation.

High up in the sky, they avoided the attention from below and secretly observed the situation.

Looking at the defense line below, Xia Houfeng sneered with disdain.

What a group of ignorant fools, thinking that with a crude and temporary defense line, they could resist the Dali Dynasty's army.

These Cultivators were brave and fierce when fighting individually or in small-scale battles, but when it came to large-scale battles with thousands of troops, they were far from competent and lacked experience.

Not to mention the overall battle, even in terms of top-tier experts, the Dali Dynasty held an absolute advantage.

Glancing at Qing Gu True Monarch beside him, Xia Houfeng said, "Qing Gu True Monarch, during the battle, I'll command the army, and you can deal with Jade Sword True Monarch."

"Do you think you can show mercy to an old friend when you fight against him?"

Qing Gu True Monarch shook his head indifferently. "What old friend? We only had a few encounters. When it comes to real combat, no one will show mercy."

"Is that so?" Xia Houfeng left a meaningful question.

True Monarch Azure Peak was able to lead his disciples to escape from Azure Origin Sect and flee all the way to the north of Jiuqu League. If it weren't for Qing Gu True Monarch deliberately letting them go, how could they have achieved it?

At this point, Xia Houfeng was about to scold Qing Gu True Monarch, but he held back his words.

Qing Gu True Monarch had seen the strength of the Dali Dynasty, and even if he had other ideas in his heart, he should have given up on them by now.

Actually, Xia Houfeng had misunderstood Qing Gu True Monarch a bit. He had genuinely pledged allegiance to the Dali Dynasty.

His goal was simple—to pave his own path.

Staying in Azure Origin Sect, his cultivation base could only reach the Primordial Spirit late stage, and there was no way to advance further in the Jiuqu League domain.

Azure Origin Sect was the ruler of the Jiuqu League, the regional overlord, and Qing Gu True Monarch was the supreme elder within the sect.

But what was the use of all that?

Without the Grand Dao and longevity, everything was illusory.

Everything he possessed would dissipate when his lifespan was exhausted.

Most cultivators, who were carefully cultivated by their sects from a young age, would prioritize their sect's interests and even sacrifice themselves for it.

However, Qing Gu True Monarch was obviously different. He prioritized his own path and cultivation base over the overall interests of Azure Origin Sect. For his own path, he was even willing to sacrifice the entire sect.

After reaching the Primordial Spirit late stage in cultivation, there was still a stage before entering the Return to Emptiness stage, known as the Primordial Spirit completion realm.

This realm was also known as Yang God.

The so-called Yang God referred to the pure and yang attribute of the Primordial Spirit.

Soul originally had a yin attribute, and to remove the yin qi from the Soul, one had to undergo the test and baptism of the Heavenly Tribulation.

The Heavenly Tribulation experienced by the Primordial Spirit was not an ordinary heavenly thunder but the Heavenly Tribulation of the Grand Dao, containing the power of the Heaven and Earth Grand Dao.

Even slightly weaker Primordial Spirits, if they were affected by the heavenly thunder, their Souls would be completely destroyed.

There were many Primordial Spirit late-stage cultivators in the Cultivation World, but few dared to brave the Heavenly Tribulation.

The Heavenly Tribulation was an unstoppable force, and failure meant death.

Cultivators reaching the Primordial Spirit late stage is an incredibly difficult process, filled with countless hardships and dangers. Those born in sects or clans bear the heavy responsibilities of their organizations, making it difficult for them to easily risk their lives.

The test of life and death is exceedingly dangerous.

However, many cultivators are unwilling to let their path to enlightenment end there. They have come up with various unorthodox methods, trying to deceive and bypass this crucial stage.

For instance, True Monarch Tian Zhu in the past attempted to use unconventional means to seize the body of a Fifth Rank Earth Spirit, hoping to directly enter the Return to Emptiness realm. Although he ultimately failed due to external interference, even without such interference, his success would have been unlikely.

Then there's Xu Huanshan True Monarch, the Cult Master of Yellow Lotus Sect, who wanted to break through the realm using the power of demonic cultivation. As a result, he ended up falling into demonic ways and almost lost all hope of redemption.

Having witnessed the failures of such shortcuts, Qing Gu True Monarch sought other methods.

In a fortuitous encounter, Qing Gu True Monarch learned something important.

The current emperor of the Dali Dynasty, Ba Wudi, was a Yang God True Monarch. Furthermore, Imperial Preceptor Chunyu Zhongda was also a Yang God True Monarch, and he achieved this status after joining the Dali Dynasty.

If Ba Wudi alone had become a Yang God, it might have been attributed to his extraordinary talent, making it an unrepeatable path. However, the fact that Imperial Preceptor Chunyu Zhongda also attained the Primordial Spirit completion realm indicates that Ba Wudi likely possessed a method to pass through the Heavenly Tribulation successfully.

Coincidentally, at that time, the Dali Dynasty was engaging in various conquests. Although they had not yet conquered the Crossing Severing Mountain Range, Ba Wudi, with his strategic foresight, had already set his sights on the next target—the Jiuqu League.

The Dali Dynasty had made early arrangements and sent spies to the Jiuqu League.

For example, True Monarch Crossing Blade, a well-known loose cultivator in the Jiuqu League, originally came from the Dali Dynasty's army as a Gold Core cultivator. During that time, he entered the Jiuqu League, concealing his identity and hiding among them.

Qing Gu True Monarch actively made contact with the Dali Dynasty and presented his own demands.

The Dali Dynasty attached great importance to Qing Gu True Monarch. With his identity and status, if he were to align himself with the Dali Dynasty, their campaign to conquer the Jiuqu League would be twice as successful.

Therefore, the Dali Dynasty agreed to Qing Gu True Monarch's request.

As long as Qing Gu True Monarch assisted the Dali Dynasty in conquering the Jiuqu League, Ba Wudi would impart him the method to pass through the Heavenly Tribulation, giving him the confidence to overcome the ordeal.

Subsequently, Qing Gu True Monarch used his status to sow discord within the Azure Origin Sect. He manipulated his supporters to oppose Jade Sword Sect at every turn and resist any sensible proposals they made within the Jiuqu League.

Within Azure Origin Sect and the Jiuqu League, some suspected Qing Gu True Monarch, but his Cultivation Base and status made it hard to question him.

Moreover, Qing Gu True Monarch was adept at employing political tactics, presenting all his actions as struggles for power and rights.

Throughout this process, Qing Gu True Monarch had moments of hesitation and vacillation. However, in the end, he arrived at where he stands today.

He knew that there was no turning back for him now, and the only path left was to devote himself wholeheartedly to the Dali Dynasty.

Having witnessed the formidable strength of the Dali Dynasty, he no longer had any thoughts of rebellion.

In his eyes, the folks from Jade Sword Sect were like praying mantises trying to stop a chariot, utterly incapable of resisting the Dali Dynasty's mighty army.

The true power of the Dali Dynasty had not even been fully revealed yet, and the forces currently deployed were already enough to crush everything in their path.

Chapter 777: Mobilizing Troops

As the Grand Marshal of the Dali Dynasty, Xia Houfeng had led troops into battle before, but conquering a massive force like the Jiuqu League was a first.

To ensure no mistakes and achieve complete success, he changed his somewhat arrogant demeanor and became much more cautious.

Their position, where Xia Houfeng and Qing Gu True Monarch were stationed, was still some distance away from the Jiuqu League's defensive line. The ordinary patrolling cultivators on the other side wouldn't generally fly to such heights.

As long as the defensive line wasn't under attack, the Primordial Spirit True Monarch couldn't be bothered to personally intervene. Xia Houfeng and Qing Gu True Monarch could observe the situation below undisturbed.

With Xia Houfeng's abundant experience in leading troops, he quickly assessed the enemy's defensive setup.

"In half a month, I will personally lead the army and flatten this so-called Yellow Lotus Sacred Mountain," Xia Houfeng said firmly. It was both a declaration of the next operational plan and a reminder to Qing Gu True Monarch.

Qing Gu True Monarch sincerely replied, "Then I wish Your Highness success in your campaign."

"At that time, I will still need your efforts, True Monarch," Xia Houfeng said with a smile.

The two didn't linger and flew back to the main camp.

Although Xia Houfeng looked down upon the Jiuqu League's defensive lines, he remained cautious and wouldn't make the mistake of underestimating the enemy while commanding the operation.

He chose to act in half a month not only to wait for reinforcements to arrive but also to allow enough time for mobilizing troops and arranging formations.

Facing the defensive lines formed by the various forces of the Jiuqu League, Xia Houfeng had two choices.

One was to select a breakthrough point, forcibly penetrate, and advance step by step, steadily dismantling the Jiuqu League's defenses layer by layer, like peeling an onion.

The other option was a full-scale attack, with the entire army advancing from various directions to launch a total assault and destroy all resistance of the enemy.

Xia Houfeng almost didn't hesitate and chose the second method of attack.

Firstly, before leading the troops, Ba Wudi of the Dali Dynasty specifically instructed him to achieve a quick victory and swiftly pacify the Jiuqu League.

When the Dali Dynasty conquered the Crossing Severing Mountain Range and defeated the Three Sects Alliance, it took over a hundred years.

This time, with Qing Gu True Monarch's assistance, Xia Houfeng only spent less than half a year to subdue all resistance in the southern region of the Jiuqu League and occupy nearly half of their territory. Compared to the conquest of the Crossing Severing Mountain Range, the efficiency was astonishing.

However, in Xia Houfeng's view, due to some unexpected circumstances, he had already spent too much time trying to preserve the southern territory of the Jiuqu League intact.

He was unwilling to get entangled in a protracted attack-defense war in front of this defensive line.

Secondly, if he chose the first method of attack, when the Jiuqu League couldn't hold on any longer, they might retreat in an organized manner and resist step by step.

Therefore, he decided to launch a full-scale attack, annihilate all resistance in one go, and crush the morale of the major cultivation forces within the Jiuqu League, making it easier for the subsequent conquest of the northern region.

As the supreme authority in the military, Xia Houfeng's decision was unquestionable.

Although Qing Gu True Monarch's cultivation base was not inferior to Xia Houfeng's, as a newly surrendered individual, his status and position were awkward, so it wasn't suitable for him to oppose Xia Houfeng's decision.

Half a month passed in a flash, and the various forces of the Dali Dynasty had already arrived in their positions, waiting for Xia Houfeng's command.

The Dali Dynasty, having been established for so many years, has been in a state of continuous warfare, and both before and after battles, they have a well-established procedure.

There was no need for Xia Houfeng to give any cliché pre-battle speech. With each of his military orders, the troops moved towards their designated targets.

"True Monarch, if I weren't occupied with commanding the army, I would have liked to meet this so-called number one Sword Cultivator of the Jiuqu League, Jade Sword Old Man."

"Since I can't spare the time, I'll leave him to you."

Upon hearing this, Qing Gu True Monarch didn't hesitate and readily agreed, "Your Highness can rest assured. As long as I'm there, that sword maniac is no threat."

After all the troops were deployed, the strongest central army, led by Xia Houfeng himself, marched directly towards the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

Following their departure, the various armies of Dali Dynasty launched a comprehensive attack on the Jiuqu League's defensive lines.

Suddenly, fierce battles broke out, flames and smoke filled the sky, and bloody slaughter descended upon the land.

During this half month, cultivators from Taiyi Sect and Hanhai Dao League arrived one after another, greatly bolstering the defensive lines.

Several nearby sects sent representatives to establish contact, hoping to coordinate with Taiyi Sect, seeking their support in case of unfavorable situations.

Meng Zhang couldn't be bothered to deal with them personally, so the elders of the sect handled the reception.

Facing formidable enemies, Taiyi Sect couldn't guarantee its own defense, let alone helping others.

Still, Taiyi Sect's Gold Core elders did their best to appease these visitors with ambiguous words.

Great Wind City's Gu Yue Family had long been friends with Taiyi Sect, Fire Cloud Sect had recently become a vassal under Taiyi Sect, and Clever Machine Sect had been a business partner of Taiyi Sect for many years.

Taiyi Sect didn't flatly refuse the requests of these sects; instead, they tried to reassure them. Having neighboring sects nearby would help alleviate the pressure Taiyi Sect was facing, and thus, they also needed their support.

Dali Dynasty didn't resort to sneaky nighttime attacks. Both sides were on high alert, and a surprise attack was unlikely to succeed.

As soon as the Dali Dynasty's army moved, the Jiuqu League quickly received the news and immediately entered a state of combat readiness.

Countless flying boats and warships filled the sky, almost covering it entirely, surging towards the Jiuqu League's defensive lines one wave after another.

The flying boats and warships opened fire, and various colored beams of light rained down on the ground. Multicolored radiance shimmered as firepower storms formed by fireballs, wind blades, and earth bullets swept through the front lines.

On the ground, the Dali Dynasty's army formed orderly formations and launched a fierce assault on the enemy's defensive lines, advancing step by step, steadily capturing strategic points.

Brave generals emerged from the ranks and directly targeted key positions in the enemy's defense, seeking battles with their high-level cultivators.

Dali Dynasty's strength and prowess were displayed in full force as they launched their overwhelming attack, showing extraordinary power.

Large-scale battles were Dali Dynasty's forte.

With such an array, they had defeated countless strong enemies and suppressed numerous rebellious cultivators.

The battle-hardened Dali Dynasty's army skillfully launched attacks, systematically breaking through the enemy's defenses, steadily pushing forward.

Faced with Dali Dynasty's fierce onslaught, the outermost layer of the defensive line crumbled within moments.

The cultivators of various major cultivation forces stationed here had no chance to surrender and were blasted into pieces by the enemy.

Chapter 778: Aerial Battle

The Dali Dynasty's army advanced on all fronts, quickly breaking through the outer perimeter and penetrating into the defensive line.

On this defense line that spanned thousands of miles, chaos and smoke erupted everywhere, plunging into a fierce battle.

Shortly after the fighting began, the Dali Dynasty's fleet of flying ships advanced rapidly and arrived not far from Taiyi Sect's stationed area.

On the side of the Jiuqu League, they also managed to put together a team of flying ships and war boats, taking to the sky to engage in combat with the enemies from the Dali Dynasty.

Knowing the vast difference in strength between the two sides, Jiuqu League's flying fleet did not seek to overpower the enemy but rather to entangle and divert them, easing the pressure on the defense line below.

The Dali Dynasty's prowess in Mechanical Creations was extremely high, not only able to produce a large number of powerful war creations, but also capable of mass production.

The warships dispatched by the Dali Dynasty not only outnumbered their counterparts but also possessed significantly greater combat power.

Originally, the Jiuqu League only had sects like Clever Machine Sect capable of producing some Mechanical Creations.

Within the Jiuqu League, Clever Machine Sect was not highly regarded, with many traditional cultivators looking down on their so-called peculiar and skillful techniques.

Clever Machine Sect's status within the Jiuqu League was not high, their strength was limited, and they lacked sufficient resources. They could barely build Third Rank warships, let alone anything else.

Taiyi Sect's Sect Master, Meng Zhang, who was a transmigrator, did not share the deep-rooted prejudice of those veteran cultivators. He not only purchased a large number of Mechanical Creations from Clever Machine Sect multiple times but also established a Divine Artificer Hall in the sect, striving to develop Taiyi Sect's construction capabilities.

Unfortunately, Taiyi Sect's foundation was too shallow. Despite Meng Zhang's substantial investment, starting from scratch, and lack of sufficient accumulated time, Taiyi Sect had a significant gap compared to Clever Machine Sect in the field of Mechanical Creations.

The entire Jiuqu League only had a few Fourth Rank Cloud Boats, with more than half of them falling into the enemy's hands with the collapse in the south.

The remaining Cloud Boats were valuable assets, and Jiuqu League was reluctant to deploy them to the battlefield.

The few Third Rank warships of the Jiuqu League, led by flying ships, valiantly charged toward the Dali Dynasty's army, akin to moths flying into the flame, fiercely pressing forward.

When Jade Sword Sect ordered the requisition of flying ships from various cultivation forces for centralized use, Taiyi Sect also contributed a batch, driven by cultivators from the Hanhai Alliance.

One reason was the tight timeline, and secondly, the high-level members of Jade Sword Sect did not attach much importance to this matter. Therefore, Jade Sword Sect did not exert much pressure on its subordinates, allowing Taiyi Sect to keep quite a few flying ships under the pretext of transporting materials and personnel.

Now it seemed that Taiyi Sect's decision back then was very wise.

Because as soon as the flying fleet of the Jiuqu League charged forward, they were quickly shot down one by one by the forces of the Dali Dynasty.

Seeing the wreckage of the flying ships falling from the sky, Meng Zhang was shocked and even felt a sense of temporal dislocation.

Did he enter the wrong scene? Isn't this a cultivation world but a high-tech world of the future?

Flying ships engaging in dogfights in the sky, bombarding the ground, various war puppets launching attacks all around.

The Dali Dynasty spared no effort in enhancing the combat power of its army, making full use of techniques like Mechanical Creations. Such a useful means would naturally not be missed by them.

Everything served the war effort, and those old and decadent ideologies had no place in the vibrant and energetic Dali Dynasty.

After many years of painstaking development, the Dali Dynasty's production capacity of Mechanical Creations not only far exceeded that of the surrounding cultivation forces but could even rival that of Middle-Earth Continent, if not surpass it.

One could even say that in the entire Grand Dust World, they were considered the top power.

Most of the Jiuqu League's flying fleet that greeted the battle was wiped out, and a small portion panicked and fled the battlefield.

The Dali Dynasty's flying fleet did not rush to pursue them but instead prioritized providing firepower support for the ground forces, bombarding the frontline fiercely.

In front of the Dali Dynasty's army were countless puppets acting as cannon fodder.

The war puppets mass-produced by the Dali Dynasty had a consistent style and uniform design. There were only a few main types of puppets, making it easier for them to produce in large quantities and maintain logistics.

One after another, lion and tiger-shaped puppets pounced forward, led by Fang Meng at the forefront.

Giant golden-armored giants wielding various weapons strode forward.

In the sky, there were also eagle-shaped puppets that alternated between lifting to provide guidance for the rear and forcefully diving down to launch fierce attacks on the ground.

...

Meng Zhang floated silently in the sky above Taiyi Sect's defensive line, watching the battle not far away with a heavy heart.

This battle wouldn't be easy to fight. Regardless of the outcome, Taiyi Sect would definitely suffer heavy losses and be severely weakened.

Meng Zhang even had the urge to withdraw the elite disciples of Taiyi Sect from the defense line below, so they wouldn't sacrifice in vain.

After some time, Meng Zhang forcibly suppressed this impulse.

If he really did that, it would not only affect the morale of the troops but would also not pass Jade Sword Sect's scrutiny.

Beams of colorful light descended from the sky, which was the Dali Dynasty's first attack against Taiyi Sect.

The flying fleet that had ascended to high altitude gradually lowered itself, bombarding Taiyi Sect's defensive line below continuously.

The Formation Masters of Taiyi Sect were highly skilled and had employed a rare technique of combining two Third Rank Formations.

The Six Spirits Golden Light Formation had strong defensive capabilities and was mainly used for defense.

The Ten Directions Absolute Killing Formation was an offensive and defensive formation, with much stronger attack power than defense, used specifically for counterattacks.

By setting up these two Third Rank Formations together, they could cover and reinforce each other.

After seeing the situation of the Dali Dynasty's army, Meng Zhang took the initiative and ordered the disciples of Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance to retreat voluntarily, giving up some small outposts on the periphery and falling back within the protection range of the great formation.

His decision was timely, avoiding many unnecessary casualties.

In the face of the bombardment from the flying ships, golden light rose one after another, forming golden light screens in the sky, blocking all attacks.

It was not the style of Taiyi Sect's disciples to take hits without retaliating. Several Gold Core Daoist Masters wanted to fly up into the sky and shoot down these flying ships.

However, Deep Earth Spirit General, responsible for commanding the operation, quickly stopped them.

The upcoming battle would be very difficult and lengthy, and it was not the time to counterattack yet.

Meng Zhang stood quietly in the air, and all the beams of light directed at him were directly distorted and avoided his body.

This place didn't have a Third Rank spirit vein, so the Third Rank Formations set up by Taiyi Sect relied on consuming spirit stones for support.

Almost every day, an enormous amount of spirit stones were consumed.

Even for the wealthy Taiyi Sect, it was a painful expenditure.

But now, it was not the time to be concerned about the consumption of spirit stones. As long as they could hold the defense line, all their efforts would be worth it.

If the defense line was breached, no matter how many spirit stones they had, they would be of little use.

Chapter 779: Fierce Battle

Not only the defense line of the Taiyi Sect but also all the surrounding defenses have been engulfed in the relentless bombardment of the Dali Dynasty's flying ships.

Not all sects can establish such solid defenses as the Taiyi Sect.

Facing the relentless aerial bombardment from the flying ships, some sects felt immense pressure and were on the verge of collapse. They had no choice but to dispatch Gold Core Daoist Masters to fly up and attempt to destroy the flying ships and disperse their formations.

However, these proactive Gold Core Daoist Masters were intercepted by hidden experts from the Dali Dynasty before they could destroy many of the flying ships.

This was one of the strategies used by the Dali Dynasty in their campaigns, specifically organizing hunting teams to target and kill the enemy's high-level cultivators using various conditions.

The flying ship formations served not only as powerful artillery support but also as effective bait.

Meng Zhang did not allow the Taiyi Sect's Gold Core cultivators to take action, not because he had foreknowledge of the Dali Dynasty's arrangements, but because he believed that their Gold Core cultivators could play a more significant role by harnessing the power of the formations.

All around the Taiyi Sect, the fires of war had already ignited, and chaos reigned.

The various mechanized puppets of the Dali Dynasty advanced quickly, covering considerable distances in just a few moments, rushing toward the Taiyi Sect's defenses.

Under the command of Deep Earth Spirit General, Taiyi Sect released a large number of mechanized puppets that actively engaged the enemy.

Countless mechanized puppets clashed fiercely with the Dali Dynasty's forces before the Taiyi Sect's defense line.

Ironically, during previous battles with neighboring sects, Taiyi Sect was adept at using various mechanical creations, often employing mechanized puppets to reduce their casualties.

But facing the Dali Dynasty, they felt like novices facing a master.

The disorderly and diverse array of puppets from Taiyi Sect appeared like a disorganized mob, while the Dali Dynasty's puppet army seemed disciplined and well-trained.

The puppet forces of both sides had only just begun their confrontation when it became evident that Taiyi Sect was at a disadvantage.

The Dali Dynasty's puppets outnumbered Taiyi Sect's, and their combat prowess was stronger. They quickly overwhelmed Taiyi Sect's puppets and advanced towards their defenses.

Thankfully, Taiyi Sect not only possessed mechanized puppets.

In front of the defense line, there were also squads of dao soldiers in formation.

Obtained from the remains of a Fifth Rank Earth Spirit and nurtured by Meng Zhang over the years, the Gold Core cultivators of the sect had spent a lot of effort and countless resources to strengthen the Soldier Nests.

Over the years, Taiyi Sect had been able to mass-produce Second Rank dao soldier Yellow Earth Strongmen, and the production rate was not low.

Additionally, they had produced a large number of Second Rank dao soldier Golden Armored Warriors to compensate for the Yellow Earth Strongmen's lack of attack power.

The Dali Dynasty also had dao soldiers, and they were stronger than Taiyi Sect's dao soldiers.

With a vast territory and abundant resources, the Dali Dynasty far surpassed the entire Jiuqu League, let alone the Taiyi Sect alone.

Fortunately, Taiyi Sect was not the main target of the Dali Dynasty's offensive. Besides the numerous cannon fodder mechanized puppets, they did not dispatch too many dao soldiers to this side.

Only a small number of dao soldiers accompanied the main army and had not yet launched a direct attack.

After a fierce battle, Taiyi Sect's mechanized puppets were almost wiped out, and many dao soldiers were lost, but they barely managed to hold back the Dali Dynasty's puppet army.

At this point, they faced a direct attack from the Dali Dynasty's main army.

Elite troops formed army formations, steadily advancing towards the formation set up by Taiyi Sect.

In the sky, the flying ships continued their relentless bombardment, shaking the Six Spirits Golden Light Formation of the Taiyi Sect. The outer light barrier had already been significantly damaged, and the remaining protective screens were swaying, on the verge of collapse.

Perhaps feeling too frustrated by only being on the receiving end or considering the threat posed to the Taiyi Sect's great formation, Meng Zhang couldn't hold back any longer. He soared into the air, unleashing endless rays of sunlight and moonlight. Any flying ship caught in the light either exploded immediately or lost control, swaying and flailing in the air.

Meng Zhang, who was initially wreaking havoc on the flying ship formation, suddenly flashed and appeared in another location, then coldly shouted, "Won't you come out?"

"Sect Master Meng, you're still young, but your perception is quite keen. This old man almost underestimated you again."

Suddenly, where there had been no one before, ripples appeared as if on water.

The long-lost True Monarch Wen Dong and a tall man clad in heavy armor suddenly appeared before Meng Zhang.

"Marshal Wang was originally planning to hunt you down alone. But I knew Sect Master Meng was no ordinary person, so I volunteered to come and help," True Monarch Wen Dong said with a smile.

It seemed that True Monarch Wen Dong still harbored a grudge from the incident when Meng Zhang and Xu Mengying rescued True Monarch He Luo from his clutches.

"Sect Master Meng, there's no one to save you today," True Monarch Wen Dong said with a smug grin.

It appeared that Meng Zhang's previous encounter with True Monarch Wen Dong, where they had discussed the Taiyi Sect joining the Dali Dynasty, had not resulted in an agreement.

"This time, I can offer much more favorable conditions."

True Monarch Wen Dong, who was accustomed to recruiting and turning traitors, even though he held a grudge against Meng Zhang, began his recruitment spiel out of habit.

"What nonsense! Taiyi Sect would never join the Dali Dynasty!"

Although Meng Zhang knew there was no one else around, he quickly denied any involvement. He couldn't just admit to the previous encounter with True Monarch Wen Dong.

"The tyrant Ba Wudi of the Dali Dynasty is a cruel and brutal ruler. He will inevitably face divine retribution..."

Afraid that True Monarch Wen Dong might bring up embarrassing topics, Meng Zhang began to curse vehemently, venting his anger towards Emperor Ba Wudi of the Dali Dynasty.

Indeed, as soon as True Monarch Wen Dong heard Meng Zhang cursing Ba Wudi, his expression changed, and he abandoned any thoughts of recruitment.

He couldn't tolerate insults against his liege. If he didn't execute Meng Zhang on the spot, he would lose all face when facing his liege.

Among the generals of the Dali Dynasty, Ba Wudi held the highest authority and was highly revered.

Meanwhile, Marshal Wang didn't bother to greet anyone and angrily charged towards Meng Zhang.

True Monarch Wen Dong cursed inwardly but had no choice but to join the fight.

With a cultivation base at the early stage of Primordial Spirit, Marshal Wang had gone through numerous battles and challenges over the years, and he wouldn't take someone like Meng Zhang, a junior True Monarch cultivator, seriously.

True Monarch Wen Dong, with a cultivation base at the mid-stage of Primordial Spirit, was confident enough to suppress Meng Zhang in a one-on-one fight.

Under their combined efforts, they were determined to kill Meng Zhang.

In Meng Zhang's ears, he faintly heard the furious roar of the newly advanced Primordial Spirit cultivator from the Clever Machine Sect. It seemed he had encountered a formidable enemy too.

Now, there was no possibility for the two to assist each other.

Chapter 780: Reinforcements

XXX-----XXX-----XXX-----XXX When Meng Zhang was entangled by enemies, the D

XXX-----XXX-----XXX-----XXX When Meng Zhang was entangled by enemies, the D

When Meng Zhang was entangled by enemies, the Dali Dynasty's army launched a fierce attack on the great formation set up by the Taiyi Sect.

Each army formation was like a mountain, aggressively advancing, as if it aimed to crush everything in its path.

Meng Zhang initiated the attack on the flying boat team to draw out the Dali Dynasty's hidden ambush.

It's easier to deal with visible enemies than invisible ones.

Based on his observations and speculations, he believed that the Dali Dynasty had probably organized cultivators to hunt down beings like him, a Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

The appearance of Wen Dong True Monarch and Marshal Wang confirmed his speculation.

Although he had recently recovered from his injuries, he wasn't in the best condition.

The nine Gold Core stage Yin Yang Dao Soldiers nurtured by his Natal Spiritual Tool, the Yin Yang Gourd, had not been fully replenished after their previous losses. This caused him to lose a powerful weapon against Primordial Spirit cultivators.

However, Meng Zhang didn't passively defend within the formation but took the initiative to attack, showing his confidence.

In this encounter, he unleashed his Divine Abilities without reservation, using the power of his proficient Yin Yang Grand Dao.

While Meng Zhang and the Taiyi Sect were engaged in a fierce battle, Prince Xia Houfeng of the Dali Dynasty led the main force of the army, easily breaking through the outer defense and reaching the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

The Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar had been carefully cultivated by the sect for thousands of years, investing numerous resources to establish an indestructible defensive great formation.

After Jade Sword Sect chose this place as the core of their defense line, they further strengthened the defenses continuously.

Although Sword Cultivators were accustomed to taking the initiative in attacks, it didn't mean they couldn't defend.

Within the Jade Sword Sect, there were cultivation forces skilled in formation, and they joined in the defense of the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

After years of warfare, Xia Houfeng had encountered all sorts of opponents and broken through countless strong defenses.

He didn't bother with any fancy moves, directly launching an all-out attack with his entire army.

The flying boat fleet in the sky continuously bombarded the ground below.

Countless mechanical puppets seemed to flow like a tide, surging forward in wave after wave.

The army formations were already prepared, and various dao soldiers had already taken their positions.

Jade Sword Sect had initially arranged mobile teams to support various defense lines, but now facing unprecedented pressure, these mobile teams couldn't be dispatched elsewhere and could only temporarily reinforce this area.

True Monarch Qing Gu flew into the sky and looked down at the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar. He loudly said, "Jade Sword fellow daoist, can we have a talk?"

After a moment, True Monarch Jade Sword alone flew out of the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar and stopped not far from True Monarch Qing Gu.

His personal guards, the Jade Sword Guards, remained inside to be used as reinforcements.

True Monarch Jade Sword gave Qing Gu a cold glance and said, "There's nothing to talk about between us, only the language of swords."

As soon as the words fell, a sharp sword light flashed, directly slashing towards True Monarch Qing Gu.

Although True Monarch Qing Gu hadn't met Jade Sword True Monarch many times, he was well aware of this old man's personality.

As two of the top powerhouses within the Jiuqu League and the respective top experts of their sects, they were very familiar with each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Qing Gu True Monarch also knew that there was no need for further discussion with Jade Sword True Monarch. Both of them wanted to seize this opportunity to defeat or even kill the other.

Without wasting words, he activated his Grand Dao's power and began to fight against Jade Sword True Monarch.

Both of them were among the top powerhouses of the Jiuqu League and the peak experts of their respective sects. This battle wouldn't be decided in a short time.

In the sky, sword lights flashed, and sword qi crisscrossed as the two fighters displayed their utmost abilities, making the battle hard to distinguish.

On the ground, Xia Houfeng personally commanded the army, launching a fierce attack on the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

The Jade Sword Sect was not merely on the defensive. Occasionally, squads of Sword Cultivators emerged from the great formation and launched counterattacks against the Dali Dynasty's army formations.

From the very beginning, the battle entered an intense stage.

Despite the advantage of the great formation and the favorable terrain, the Jade Sword Sect couldn't gain any upper hand.

The current battlefield was like a huge meat grinder, with both sides rapidly depleting their forces.

The Dali Dynasty's army formations were being shattered one after another and gradually disappearing.

The defending cultivators were quickly overwhelmed by the surging enemies and eventually obliterated.

Commanded by the seasoned Xia Houfeng, the Dali Dynasty's army continuously launched attacks, relentlessly targeting the enemy's weak points.

The Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar was mainly defended by Jade Sword Sect cultivators and elite forces from the remaining factions of the Jiuqu League.

With the support of the Jade Sword Sect, Xu Mengying's influence over the various sub-altars of the Yellow Lotus Sect increased significantly.

Before the major battle began, she issued a call to all the sub-altars, summoning cultivators from each one to defend the Main Altar.

In the southern sub-altars of the Jiuqu League, those that hadn't been annihilated had surrendered to the Dali Dynasty. The few cultivators who managed to escape were forcibly retained at the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

As for the northern sub-altars of the Jiuqu League, they had no choice but to send out their elites and powerful reinforcements.

In terms of the number of cultivators provided, the Yellow Lotus Sect successfully met the requirements of the Jade Sword Sect.

As the great battle raged on, both sides suffered heavy casualties and countless losses.

Xia Houfeng had a heart as tough as iron and cared little about these casualties. He continued to mobilize the army, sending wave after wave to attack.

Although the Jade Sword Sect fought with all their might and persevered, the gap in strength was simply too significant.

After incurring many losses, the great formation had been breached in numerous places, allowing the Dali Dynasty's troops to seize the opportunity and break through.

The Sword Cultivators of the Jade Sword Sect fought back with all their strength, staunchly defending each breach.

It was a relentlessly bloody tug-of-war.

Sitting in the central army position, Xia Houfeng had yet to personally intervene.

As a qualified commander, regardless of the intensity of the battle or the severity of the casualties, he always kept a reserve force, not committing them to the battlefield. He himself was the strongest reserve force.

Xia Houfeng had an arrogant side to his personality, usually quite haughty. However, when commanding in battle, he always maintained sufficient caution and carefulness.

And this caution had proven not to be excessive.

Not far from the battlefield, a fleet of flying boats flew in from a distance, rapidly descending in height.

These flying boats didn't belong solely to the Dali Dynasty. There were no additional flying boat fleets dispatched from the Dali Dynasty's rear.

Appearing near the battlefield at this moment, these flying boats were most likely enemy reinforcements, and nothing else.