

Sect Master's Immortal Journey

#Chapter 781: Summoning - Read Sect Master's Immortal Journey Chapter 781: Summoning

As the flying boat had not yet landed, cultivators quickly leaped down to the ground from the boat.

These cultivators swiftly formed a Base Formation on the ground.

In front of each Base Formation, cultivators raised large flags, displaying the emblems of their respective forces to indicate their origins.

With Xia Houfeng's sharp eyesight, even from a distance, he could clearly see the emblems and recognize the origins of the various forces.

"White Sun Valley, Iron Armor Gate, Scarlet Flame Union..." Xia Houfeng casually recited the origins of these forces.

All these cultivation forces came from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, where they were prominent and powerful major sects.

Especially the White Sun Valley, which was one of the top forces in the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle. Both in strength and heritage, it was not inferior to the Azure Origin Sect and the Jade Sword Sect. It could completely contend with these two sects.

The Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle and the Jiuqu League had limited interaction. Officially, there was rarely any exchange between them.

In the past, in order to resist the Dali Dynasty, the Jiuqu League had tried many times to form an alliance with the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle and even sent a high-level delegation. However, the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle had always ignored them and outright refused the alliance request.

Now that the Dali Dynasty had taken over almost half of the Jiuqu League and was preparing to conquer the other half, the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle finally sent reinforcements.

It was unclear whether the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle truly felt the threat posed by the Dali Dynasty or if there were other reasons behind their decision.

After the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle's reinforcements finished their preparations, they wasted no time and quickly rushed toward the Dali Dynasty's army.

Xia Houfeng remained calm and composed, calmly responding to the situation.

He dispatched a portion of his troops from the rear to meet them head-on.

The strength of the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle's reinforcements was formidable, almost on par with the Jade Sword Sect's side.

Both the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs and the low-level cultivators in their army were not much weaker than those from the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

The arrival of these reinforcements quickly dispersed the Dali Dynasty's forces, relieving some burden from the Jade Sword Sect's side.

The Dali Dynasty's offensive had almost come to a halt; being caught in a pincer attack was no pleasant experience.

While the Jade Sword Sect's side defended the inner circle, the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle's reinforcements attacked from the outside.

This was called "the center blossoms, attacked from both inside and outside."

The situation quickly reversed. The previously overwhelmingly dominant Dali Dynasty's side began to lose the initiative, gradually equalizing the battle.

The fact that White Sun Valley and many other sects came to reinforce the Jade Sword Sect was indeed beyond Xia Houfeng's expectations.

The Dali Dynasty, which had considered the Jiuqu League as good as theirs, had their sights set far ahead, already considering the direction of their next expansion.

The nearest target for them was the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle.

In the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, the Dali Dynasty had long placed undercover agents and made numerous arrangements.

Although they couldn't claim to have full control over the situation in the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, their intelligence network was highly efficient, providing them with the latest information at any time.

They had received no warnings in advance, and the reinforcements sent by the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle appeared behind them silently, directly influencing the course of the battle.

It was unclear whether there was an issue with their own intelligence system or if the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle's methods were too sophisticated.

Even though the situation was unfavorable, Xia Houfeng remained as calm as ever.

If the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle had sent out all its forces, with all the major sects making a full effort, Xia Houfeng would have no choice but to retreat and cut their losses.

However, it seemed that the strength of the reinforcements sent by the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle was quite limited. Although they posed a greater challenge, they were not invincible.

It is unknown whether the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle was being careless or unable to reach a consensus.

The reinforcements sent were primarily from White Sun Valley, and they gathered a group of sects and families. However, that was all; no other top-level cultivation forces joined them.

So far, there has been no appearance of a Primordial Spirit late-stage cultivator among the reinforcements.

Xia Houfeng was confident and showed no intention of backing down.

As a powerhouse at the Primordial Spirit late stage, he was the most powerful card in his hand.

He was prepared; as soon as the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle's reinforcements advanced a bit further, he would personally lead his personal guards to surprise the enemy.

Near the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar, the defense lines guarded by Taiyi Sect had already turned into a scene of carnage.

The Formation set up by Deep Earth Spirit General and Wen Qiansun was formidable, but it had its limits.

After continuous and fierce attacks from the Dali Dynasty's overwhelming forces, numerous gaps and weaknesses appeared in the Formation.

The Dali Dynasty's army continuously poured in through these gaps. Cultivators from Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance rushed forward, sacrificing their lives to block these openings.

Taiyi Sect's strongest pillar and greatest reliance, Primordial Spirit True Monarch Meng Zhang, was currently too busy dealing with his own situation and had no ability to assist.

In the sky, Meng Zhang was under the joint attack of Wen Dong True Monarch and Marshal Wang, making his situation extremely difficult.

Wen Dong True Monarch wielded a formidable Fourth Rank magic tool, a folding fan that could generate sharp gusts of wind with each wave.

Marshal Wang, who appeared rough but was actually quite meticulous, carefully controlled a Fourth Rank flying sword, continuously restricting Meng Zhang's movements.

Lacking a Fourth Rank magic tool and being significantly weaker in terms of Cultivation Base, Meng Zhang struggled to fend off the attacks, like a lone boat in a violent storm, always on the verge of being overwhelmed.

Wen Dong True Monarch had gained an absolute advantage and had the leisure to taunt Meng Zhang.

He sometimes berated Meng Zhang for being arrogant and disrespectful towards Ba Wudi, and at other times, he cursed him for not appreciating his kindness...

Meng Zhang ignored Wen Dong True Monarch and was currently unable to respond at all.

He felt immense pressure, making it difficult to even catch his breath, let alone speak.

Meng Zhang seemed to have been forced to a certain extreme. After a muffled groan, he unleashed the Great Divine Ability "Heaven and Earth Yin-Yang Transformation."

The sky, which was still radiant with the setting sun, suddenly became extremely dark, as if night had fallen directly.

Meng Zhang's move to change the celestial phenomena while in a disadvantageous position undoubtedly had a purpose.

Wen Dong True Monarch became secretly vigilant, but he was still a step too slow to stop Meng Zhang.

In front of Meng Zhang appeared a palm-sized altar, which quickly grew larger and was adorned with various offerings.

Meng Zhang rapidly chanted a few incantations, and the altar trembled violently. A bone-chilling Yin wind blew through the sky, sending shivers down one's spine.

After a moment, a huge rift tore open in the sky above the altar.

A massive Ghost Deity with two horns on its head, towering in size, with a terrifying green face and fangs, struggled and crawled out of the rift.

This Ghost Deity was none other than a former cultivator of Taiyi Sect and currently a subordinate of Netherworld Ghost Deity Shou Zheng. It was one of his avatars.

When Meng Zhang's soul entered the Netherworld and met Shou Zheng, a senior of the Taiyi Sect, his cultivation base was still shallow, and he couldn't discern Shou Zheng's true strength.

After advancing to the Primordial Spirit stage, he recalled the details of their meeting and speculated that this senior was at least a powerful expert at the late stage of Primordial Spirit.

As a senior of the Taiyi Sect, even after becoming a Ghost Deity, Shou Zheng still cared about everything in the sect.

The once flourishing Taiyi Sect had already been destroyed, and the rebuilt Taiyi Sect faced similar calamities.

After numerous changes, everything was different.

The present Taiyi Sect and the Taiyi Sect of the past were like two different worlds.

But in the eyes of seniors like Shou Zheng, as long as the legacy of the old Taiyi Sect persisted, regardless of the changes it went through, it would still be the same Taiyi Sect.

Shou Zheng indeed did his best to help Meng Zhang. Besides assisting him in subduing the Void Cauldron tool spirit, he also taught him the secret technique to summon his own avatar.

However, he had warned Meng Zhang that he had enemies in the Netherworld too. To avoid revealing weaknesses in front of his enemies and not to exhaust too much power, the strength imbued in the avatar was limited.

Summoning the avatar of the Ghost Deity Shou Zheng required a large number of precious offerings, which also served as the source of power for the avatar to act in the mortal world.

Since obtaining this secret technique, Meng Zhang had been collecting the required offerings through the power of the Taiyi Sect.

Although he had long collected all the offerings needed, he had never used this secret technique to summon Shou Zheng's avatar because Shou Zheng had advised him not to do so unless it was absolutely necessary.

Now facing two formidable enemies, with his condition not being great, and the power accumulated in his Natal Spiritual Tool Yin Yang Spirit Gourd had been exhausted long

ago, Meng Zhang could not think of any other way to turn the tables except summoning the avatar of the Ghost Deity Shou Zheng.

First, Meng Zhang used the Divine Ability "Heaven and Earth Yin-Yang Transformation" to create a suitable external environment for the Ghost Deity. Then he summoned Shou Zheng's avatar as his last resort.

As soon as the avatar appeared, its extraordinary aura indeed drew the attention of the enemies.

Although the Ghost Deity from the Netherworld would be suppressed by the rules of the mortal world, Meng Zhang had already used the Divine Ability "Heaven and Earth Yin-Yang Transformation" to alleviate this suppression as much as possible.

This Ghost Deity avatar not only looked terrifying, but it also possessed the strength of the initial stage of the Primordial Spirit.

Meng Zhang knew that the Ghost Deity avatar should not stay in the mortal world for too long, and he had to finish the battle quickly.

Under Meng Zhang's command, the Ghost Deity avatar actively engaged Wen Dong True Monarch, using various means to entangle him tightly.

Meng Zhang flew towards the weaker Marshal Wang, intending to defeat him first.

Meng Zhang's intentions were not hidden from the two opponents, and they both sneered disdainfully.

There were no weaklings among the two opponents, and neither of them was easy to deal with. Even if Meng Zhang summoned an ally, his overall strength would still be at a disadvantage.

Indeed, despite Meng Zhang using the Yin Yang Grand Dao and unleashing various Divine Abilities, he could only fight Marshal Wang on equal grounds.

As for the Ghost Deity avatar that was summoned to battle Wen Dong True Monarch, it quickly fell into a disadvantaged position after a short while, struggling to hold its ground.

On the ground, the cultivators from the Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Dao League were barely sustaining themselves with the help of the Third Rank Mountain-guarding Great Formation, but the immense pressure had caused heavy casualties, making it extremely difficult for them to hold on.

The neighboring sects of the Taiyi Sect were also embroiled in intense battles. Not only could they not spare any manpower to support others, but they were also struggling to protect themselves.

Meng Zhang's cultivation base was not weaker than Marshal Wang, and his Dao Techniques and Divine Abilities were formidable, but he fell slightly short in terms of magic tools.

The Fourth Rank magic tool, Rainbow Dawn Glow Robe, that he wore had suffered heavy damage in the previous battle. Although he had been trying to repair it, there wasn't enough time, and it had not fully recovered yet.

Meng Zhang had never been able to overcome Marshal Wang, and the Ghost Deity avatar couldn't stay in the mortal world for too long.

Continuing to delay would only become increasingly disadvantageous for Meng Zhang.

Of course, Meng Zhang knew this very well and had already made plans in his mind.

In the sky, the four of them flew around, clashing and separating from time to time, and their battle circles occasionally intersected.

When the battle circles of the four intersected again, Meng Zhang and the Ghost Deity avatar suddenly switched positions, exchanging opponents.

Wen Dong True Monarch and Marshal Wang didn't pay much attention to it. Such situations were common in battles, and even if the opponent changed, could it erase the difference in strength?

However, after the exchange, this time the situation was completely different.

Although the Ghost Deity avatar only had the cultivation base of the initial stage of the Primordial Spirit, it possessed Shou Zheng's combat consciousness, and its fighting strength was not necessarily inferior to that of a mid-stage Primordial Spirit cultivator.

When fighting against Wen Dong True Monarch just now, the Ghost Deity avatar deliberately concealed its true abilities.

However, when facing Marshal Wang, it immediately unleashed all its power and launched a fierce attack.

Marshal Wang, who was somewhat negligent, was immediately suppressed by the Ghost Deity avatar.

Meng Zhang faced Wen Dong True Monarch, and even though he was at a slight disadvantage, he had no problem entangling his opponent.

Perhaps knowing that the time for dissipation was not far off, the Ghost Deity wisp of soul became unusually frantic, and its attacks became even more fierce.

Wen Dong True Monarch and Marshal Wang could never have imagined that they would end up in such a situation due to a momentary carelessness.

Wen Dong True Monarch tried to break free from Meng Zhang's entanglement and rush to support Marshal Wang.

But at this moment, Meng Zhang was like a piece of sticky toffee, making it impossible for Wen Dong True Monarch to get rid of him no matter what.

Wen Dong True Monarch, who had actively volunteered to join the battle with Marshal Wang, couldn't just watch as Marshal Wang was heavily injured or even killed right in front of him.

Anxious, he didn't hesitate to burn his Primordial Spirit and forcibly broke through Meng Zhang's interception, rushing to the area where the battle was taking place to help Marshal Wang.

The Ghost Deity avatar, which had been fiercely attacking Marshal Wang, suddenly revealed a mysterious smile on its face. Then its entire body suddenly exploded, turning into dark green and black currents of energy, instantly engulfing both Marshal Wang and Wen Dong True Monarch.

After being summoned to the mortal world, Shou Zheng's Ghost Deity avatar was completely obedient to Meng Zhang.

Although ordering the avatar to self-destruct would undoubtedly cause some harm to Shou Zheng's main body in the Netherworld, it was the only method Meng Zhang could come up with to defeat his enemies.

Taking advantage of both opponents being trapped by the self-destructing power of the Ghost Deity, Meng Zhang seized the opportunity and killed his way in.

The self-destructing power of the Ghost Deity had an extremely strong killing effect and could contaminate a person's Primordial Spirit.

Marshal Wang's physical body was entangled by the dark green and black currents, unable to dodge, and was directly cut into two by Meng Zhang's Great Divine Ability "Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword."

As soon as his Primordial Spirit escaped, it came into contact with a little bit of the dark green and black energy, causing him to scream in agony.

Wen Dong True Monarch, despite being heavily injured, managed to break free from the entanglement and protected Marshal Wang's Primordial Spirit as he escaped.

Meng Zhang pursued for a while, but seeing that he couldn't catch up and eliminate them completely, he reluctantly returned and collected Marshal Wang's physical body and the items he left behind.

Chapter 783 Assassination

Although Meng Zhang won this battle, the cost was not insignificant.

Leaving aside the injuries that were neither light nor heavy, this time, when he made Shou Zheng's avatar self-destruct, it would definitely have adverse effects on Shou Zheng's main body.

If Shou Zheng became furious, it would probably become difficult to summon Shou Zheng's avatar in the future.

Although Ghost Deity's avatar and Primordial Spirit True Monarch's external avatar have fundamentally different natures, creating an avatar for Ghost Deity is relatively easier. However, destroying an avatar is definitely not a trivial matter for Ghost Deity.

Shou Zheng had mentioned before that he still had a major enemy in the Netherworld, always watching him.

Let's hope that losing this avatar won't significantly impact Shou Zheng's strength.

The battle continued, and these matters could only be dealt with later. Meng Zhang didn't even have time to sort through the spoils before he had to plunge back into the fight again.

Originally, when the three Primordial Spirit True Monarchs were fighting, all the flying boats in the sky stayed far away to avoid being affected by the aftermath of the battle.

Now, with Wen Dong True Monarch escorting Marshal Wang's Primordial Spirit to escape, no one could stop Meng Zhang anymore.

Meng Zhang flew into the group of flying boats, going on a killing spree, and the flying boats in the sky fell like raindrops.

There were elite squads hidden among the flying boats, specifically hunting down Gold Core level cultivators to prevent them from damaging the flying boats.

However, in the face of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, even if there was only one person, they could not resist or do anything.

Meng Zhang's onslaught completely disrupted the formation of the flying boat group. The heavily damaged flying boats scattered and fled in all directions.

The hunting team hidden among the flying boats became targets of slaughter instead, as Meng Zhang killed them indiscriminately.

This is the terror of high-level cultivators on the battlefield. Without peers to restrain them, they become unruly and unstoppable.

Meng Zhang did not bother with the fleeing flying boats; there were still Dali Dynasty's armies on the ground waiting for him to deal with.

Under the continuous attacks of the Dali Dynasty's army formations, Taiyi Sect's defense line was on the verge of collapse.

Countless gaps and weaknesses appeared on the Third Rank great formation, and each gap became the enemy's primary target.

In order to block these gaps, cultivators from Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Dao League had to sacrifice their lives.

The elite cultivators accumulated by Taiyi Sect over the years were quickly consumed on the battlefield.

Fortunately, Meng Zhang descended from the sky in time to help Taiyi Sect stabilize their defense.

The Dali Dynasty's army was truly extraordinary. They had strict military discipline and laws and were willing to fight and give their all.

Even though they knew they couldn't stop Meng Zhang, a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, no one ran away. Instead, each army formation actively greeted him.

Almost every army formation raised billowing wolf smoke, soaring into the sky.

The interweaving wolf smoke brought a heavy pressure, making Meng Zhang feel uncomfortable.

In the army formations of the Dali Dynasty, they could utilize the power of the formation to concentrate the strength of everyone in the formation, condensing it into a special military qi.

Military qi is an extremely unique power that has a strong suppressing effect on a cultivator's True Essence and even the ability to annihilate their Soul.

Even an ordinary Primordial Spirit True Monarch would not dare to expose their Primordial Spirit in front of the Dali Dynasty's army formations due to their fear of military qi.

After the military qi converged in the air, some turned into various weapons, while others transformed into different kinds of monsters, rushing to attack Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang originally thought that without the suppression of equal-level powerhouses, he could enter the Dali Dynasty's army and be unstoppable, killing anyone in his path.

He had been reminding himself not to kill excessively, just disrupt the enemy's formation and try not to take too many lives.

After all, according to the customs of the Cultivation World, high-level cultivators, especially powerful individuals like Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, should avoid indiscriminate killing of low-level cultivators, especially when these low-level cultivators belong to powerful factions.

To Meng Zhang's absolute surprise, he couldn't hold back at all when facing the onslaught of the Dali Dynasty's army formations and had to handle it carefully.

The military qi that took shape all over the sky actually posed a significant threat to him.

If a peer powerhouse were to restrain him at this moment, these army formations might even be able to endanger his life.

Or conversely, if these army formations restrained him, and a peer powerhouse took the opportunity to attack, he would probably be unable to resist.

Facing the attacks of the army formations, Meng Zhang couldn't hold back and had to use his killing moves.

The power of the Grand Dao circulated, yin and yang changed on the battlefield, and the sun and moon rotated.

Military qi had a strong effect on breaking spells, and with the protection of the army formations, the soldiers within could resist many spells and divine abilities.

However, in the face of the power of the heavens and the Grand Dao, the army formations immediately lost most of their defensive capabilities.

Everyone within the army formations first felt a rush of heat all over their bodies, then a wave of cold from head to toe, followed by alternating heat and cold, repeating several times.

These well-trained Dali Dynasty soldiers, including the commanders leading the army formations, couldn't endure it any longer. They spat out blood one after another and fell to the ground.

Meng Zhang destroyed so many army formations in one go, causing countless Dali Dynasty soldiers to either die or be injured. Such achievements were remarkable.

Since achieving the Primordial Spirit, Meng Zhang had intentionally maintained an appearance of being a wise and venerable figure in front of others.

Even though this was a battlefield where accidents could happen and life and death were at stake, taking so many lives in one go made Meng Zhang feel a bit unnatural.

After making this attack, Meng Zhang also needed time to recover his energy.

Seeing that a large area was suddenly cleared on the battlefield, alleviating the pressure on Taiyi Sect's defense line, Meng Zhang felt a sense of satisfaction.

At this moment, a figure flew quickly from a distance, shouting loudly, "Sect Master Meng, save me!"

Behind him, a fierce general wearing heavy armor was chasing after him.

The person being chased seemed to be the Primordial Spirit True Monarch from Clever Machine Sect.

This person had only recently achieved the Primordial Spirit and hadn't had the chance to visit neighboring factions or meet figures like Meng Zhang, but he was forced to the battlefield.

Although Meng Zhang didn't even know the person's name, since they were now comrades-in-arms, he couldn't just ignore him.

Meng Zhang flew over to help this Clever Machine Sect's Primordial Spirit True Monarch confront the enemy.

On the most critical main battlefield, Xia Houfeng, the Grand Marshal of the Dali Dynasty, was mobilizing troops, preparing to lead his personal guards to kill the reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle.

Xia Houfeng led the charge, flying at the forefront, preparing to launch an attack.

Suddenly, a shocking killing intent descended from the sky, aiming directly at his back.

Xia Houfeng immediately realized that he was being assassinated.

This killing intent bypassed Xia Houfeng's personal guards and even the entire Dali Dynasty's army, directly targeting Xia Houfeng.

Chapter 784: Holy Land

Even as a cultivator at the Primordial Spirit late stage, Xia Houfeng felt a palpitation at this moment.

As a seasoned warrior, he had encountered all kinds of opponents and experienced various situations.

But at this moment, even without the appearance of an assassin, he was restrained solely by an overwhelming killing intent.

Such an assassin, such an assassination, was something he had never encountered in all his years of experience.

Xia Houfeng knew in his heart that he was facing a difficult situation today. If he made even the slightest mistake in his response, his life could be in danger.

He dared not be careless and immediately activated the life-saving item hidden on his body, even without enough time to mobilize the power of the Grand Dao.

A yellow cloth strip wrapped around Xia Houfeng's waist spontaneously ignited, and then his body split into two identical copies of himself.

The killing intent, aimed straight at Xia Houfeng's back, hesitated for a moment in the face of this unexpected situation and then bypassed the illusion, attacking Xia Houfeng's real body.

However, this delay gave Xia Houfeng enough time to react.

Radiant green light shone on Xia Houfeng's body as thick green vines appeared out of nowhere, blocking the path of the incoming killing intent.

These thick vines twisted violently, entangling with each other, and desperately rushed toward the direction of the killing intent.

After a series of soft sounds, the countless vines quickly disappeared, and the killing intent was rendered ineffective.

Xia Houfeng was proficient in the Wood-element Grand Dao among the Five Elements Grand Dao. Escaping from the disadvantageous situation of being ambushed, he had enough time to cast his spells, showcasing his rich combat experience.

Giant green trees appeared in the air, rushing towards his left side.

A purple aura rose to the sky, scattering all the giant trees.

A figure emerged along with the purple aura, appearing in front of Xia Houfeng.

It was a middle-aged man dressed in purple robes, wielding a long and a short blade in his hands.

Seeing this middle-aged man, Xia Houfeng's face was filled with wariness, and he even seemed a bit nervous.

However, he didn't hold back his sharp tongue.

"It is said that the Purple Yang Holy Sect is a renowned cultivation Holy Land in the Middle-Earth Continent, and its cultivators are the cream of the crop, the proud sons of heaven."

"When did the proud sons of heaven become like mice, only knowing how to hide in rat holes, launching sneak attacks and injuring others from behind?"

Xia Houfeng, with his extensive experience and broad knowledge, immediately recognized the other party's identity.

Among the several cultivation Holy Lands in the Middle-Earth Continent, they stood at the pinnacle of the entire Cultivation World, controlling and dominating this world.

The Purple Yang Holy Sect was one of these Holy Lands, and its strength was truly formidable. Even if the entire Dali Dynasty's forces were combined, they wouldn't stand a chance against it.

"We've heard that the people of the Dali Dynasty are arrogant and overbearing, doing as they please in the Cultivation World, causing trouble everywhere."

"I was somewhat skeptical of these claims. But today, hearing your slanderous words about the Holy Sect, I know that these rumors don't even begin to describe the Dali Dynasty's audacity."

"Our Purple Yang Holy Sect bears the responsibility of maintaining peace and tranquility in the Cultivation World. We cannot allow you to continue causing trouble."

The middle-aged man remained expressionless, saying these words in a serious tone.

"Ha! I despise you dogmatic Holy Land Sects the most."

"High and mighty, looking down on everyone. Full of hypocrisy, full of male thieves and female prostitutes."

"Clearly launching shameless sneak attacks, yet now you put on a righteous face. It's really disgusting."

"If I hadn't seen through you, I wouldn't know how long you'd hide in your rat holes."

Xia Houfeng was clearly infuriated by the other party's attitude and couldn't help but curse, disregarding his fear of the Holy Land Sect.

"Stubborn fools deserve to die. Remember, it is Purple Yang Holy Sect's World Traveler, Xiao Jiansheng, who will take your life."

The middle-aged man who called himself World Traveler Xiao Jiansheng pronounced these words like passing a death sentence before attacking Xia Houfeng with his sword.

Despite his tough words, Xia Houfeng was extremely cautious and fearful of his enemy.

He appeared careless, but he had long prepared his own plans. While Xia Houfeng was angrily cursing, the guards following behind him immediately formed an army formation.

Within the army formation were eight generals at the Gold Core stage and ninety lieutenants at the Foundation Building stage.

Before Xiao Jiansheng could make a move, the army formation consisting of ninety-eight people had already begun its operation.

A formidable military qi soared into the sky, transforming into a heavy cloak that draped over Xia Houfeng.

From their previous encounter, Xia Houfeng knew that the enemy's cultivation base was definitely not below his own. Moreover, with the added boost from the Holy Land Sect's inherited Divine Abilities, he might not be the opponent of his adversary.

Of course, even though he knew he might not win, Xia Houfeng couldn't just escape.

At this moment, the battle between the Dali Dynasty and the Jiuqu League, along with their reinforcements, had reached a critical moment, and there was absolutely no room for any slack from either side.

With Xia Houfeng's personality, abandoning the army and fleeing was absolutely unacceptable.

Furthermore, he also had his own trump cards and killer moves. As long as the timing was right, even if facing a Holy Land Sect cultivator, he could still give them a great deal of trouble.

Xia Houfeng, together with his guards and army formation, aimed to firmly entangle the enemy and prevent them from affecting the progress of the major battle.

With the support of the army formation, Xia Houfeng's strength increased, and his confidence grew.

Fearlessly, he engaged in a fierce battle with the cultivator from the Purple Yang Holy Sect.

Meanwhile, the soldiers within the army formation behind him continuously operated the formation, channeling the power of military qi and infusing it into Xia Houfeng.

The army formation of the Dali Dynasty was a profound formation that had been developed over the years by gathering talents from all walks of life, absorbing various secret teachings, including some from extraterritorial sources that didn't belong to the Cultivation world.

The army formation had various functions. It could suppress enemy cultivators, directly kill enemies, or provide assistance to allies.

Originally designed to hinder the cultivation of True Essence and restrain Soul with military qi, when applied to friendly forces, it became a potent tonic, greatly amplifying their strength.

Xia Houfeng's elite guards had fought alongside him for many years and possessed extremely keen battlefield instincts.

If this army formation were to directly confront the cultivator from the Purple Yang Holy Sect head-on, it might not withstand more than a few moves and would be easily dispersed, providing little help to the overall battle.

However, by activating the military qi and fully exerting its supporting function to enhance Xia Houfeng's strength, the army formation proved to be highly effective.

Even in the face of a legendary Holy Land Sect's prodigy, Xia Houfeng remained full of fighting spirit, fearlessly mobilizing the power of the Grand Dao and unleashing his Divine Abilities.

In the air, on the ground, and around the two combatants, purple and green auras collided and intertwined, constantly fighting for dominance.

Chapter 785 Hidden Worries

Xia Houfeng appeared fearless in front of Xiao Jiansheng, but he actually harbored hidden worries.

As one of the few Grand Marshals of the Dali Dynasty, he was considered one of the highest-ranking figures in the entire dynasty. Xia Houfeng had insights into the top-level secrets of the Dali Dynasty, including the ambitious aspirations of the Emperor Ba Wudi.

Ba Wudi led the Dali Dynasty in conquests and expansion, not just for survival space and cultivation resources, but also because it was related to his Grand Dao.

Ba Wudi had lofty ambitions and aimed to reach the peak of the Cultivation World. He also intended to challenge the current order of the Cultivation World, which would undoubtedly interfere with the interests of the Holy Land Sects, inviting their intervention.

Ba Wudi's only chance of winning was to break through to the Return to Emptiness realm, becoming a great power that would exert influence over the entire Grand Dust World.

In the Cultivation World, there were indeed many powerhouses who sought to become Return to Emptiness great powers, but successful individuals were few, apart from cultivators from the major Holy Land Sects, due to their covert interference.

As the true masters of the Cultivation World, the Holy Land Sects naturally didn't want any other Return to Emptiness great powers to emerge and affect their interests.

Throughout the history of the Grand Dust World, there were numerous outstanding cultivators who attempted to break through to the Return to Emptiness realm. However, the vast majority perished on the halfway.

For Ba Wudi of the Dali Dynasty to achieve Return to Emptiness, the difficulties were imaginable.

Originally, according to the Dali Dynasty's strategy, they focused on developing the border areas and the desolate regions, which were considered wastelands by the major sects but had great potential.

The Dali Dynasty made efforts not to provoke the major sects in the Middle-Earth Continent, fearing their attention and early interference.

Ba Wudi's strategy had been quite successful before. The Dali Dynasty had expanded its territory significantly at the edge of the Middle-Earth Continent.

However, as the Dali Dynasty continued to grow and Ba Wudi's cultivation base improved, especially after the Dali Dynasty conquered the Crossing Severing Mountain Range and Ba Wudi achieved the Yang God realm, the Holy Land Sects finally couldn't sit still.

Following the usual style of the Holy Land Sects, they tended to eliminate threats in their early stages.

Today, a World Traveler from the Purple Yang Holy Sect had arrived. If he failed in his mission, would the next one to come be an elder or even a Return to Emptiness great power from the Purple Yang Holy Sect?

Xia Houfeng's loyalty to the Dali Dynasty was beyond question, but when he thought about the thorny path ahead, he couldn't help but feel worried.

In fact, the Purple Yang Holy Sect had acted long before this and sent more than just one World Traveler.

In the direction of the Middle-Earth Continent where the Dali Dynasty faced, their stationed troops suddenly encountered powerful pressure, which was caused by the Purple Yang Holy Sect.

The Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle was willing to send a large army to assist the Jiuqu League because of the actions of the Purple Yang Holy Sect behind the scenes.

The actions of the Purple Yang Holy Sect against the Dali Dynasty had started long ago. They had already set up a vast network, and it remained to be seen whether the Dali Dynasty could escape from it.

Ba Wudi was deep in his thoughts, and there were certain schemes he had that Xia Houfeng was unaware of.

Among the Holy Land Sects in the Middle-Earth Continent, there were also deep-seated conflicts. Whether Ba Wudi could survive in the midst of these conflicts was the key to his breakthrough.

As the leading Grand Marshal commanding the frontlines, Xia Houfeng only needed to focus on doing his own job.

Xia Houfeng, despite his worries about the future of the Dali Dynasty, was not the least bit affected during the battle. He continued to fight fiercely alongside the strength of his personal guard, making it difficult to determine the outcome against Xiao Jiansheng.

Taking advantage of the arrival of reinforcements, the Jiuqu League launched multiple counterattacks under the organization of Sword Cultivators from the Jade Sword Sect.

In response, the reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle also quickly joined the battle, intensifying their attack on the Dali Dynasty's army formations.

Near the defense line held by the Taiyi Sect, after Meng Zhang provided assistance, the Primordial Spirit True Monarch from the Clever Machine Sect immediately turned around to join the battle.

Together, after a hard-fought half-day, they managed to drive away the Dali Dynasty's marshal, who still displayed considerable combat strength despite being seriously injured.

Both Meng Zhang and the Clever Machine Sect's Primordial Spirit True Monarch, named Li Zhongwei, chose not to pursue further and stopped at their positions.

During this opportunity, they introduced themselves to each other.

Li Zhongwei, the True Monarch Clever Machine, was the first and currently the only Primordial Spirit True Monarch in the Clever Machine Sect, which had been established for over a thousand years. Although he achieved the Primordial Spirit not long ago, he had the misfortune of encountering a battle of this magnitude.

Cultivators from the Clever Machine Sect excelled in creating various Mechanical Creations, but their overall combat strength was mediocre. True Monarch Clever Machine was an exception and was already one of the sect's strongest even before achieving the Primordial Spirit.

After attaining the Primordial Spirit, although he could suppress the entire Clever Machine Sect, when compared to the numerous Primordial Spirit True Monarchs in the Jiuqu League, he was not considered a powerhouse, let alone a weakling.

He had been driven away by the Dali Dynasty's marshal just now, and if it weren't for Meng Zhang's help, he didn't know when he could escape.

Li Zhongwei expressed his gratitude to Meng Zhang repeatedly, thanking him for the assistance.

The Clever Machine Sect was a neighbor of the Taiyi Sect, and the two sects had extensive business dealings. Meng Zhang was willing to strengthen the relationship between the two sects and even form a small circle to help and support each other.

However, with the battle still ongoing, it wasn't the time for detailed discussions.

After a brief exchange, Meng Zhang and True Monarch Clever Machine went their separate ways to reinforce their respective sects.

Since most of the Dali Dynasty's Primordial Spirit forces nearby had been driven away, Meng Zhang's group leveraged their absolute advantage in Cultivation Base to break through one army formation of the Dali Dynasty after another.

Taiyi Sect was the first to resolve the crisis, and after the army formation of the Dali Dynasty was broken, the remaining soldiers lost their fighting spirit and scattered in fear.

Cultivators from Taiyi Sect and the alliance with the Sea of Stars took the opportunity to break out and chased the fleeing Dali Dynasty soldiers, continually expanding their achievements in the battle.

Meng Zhang did not join the pursuit of the fleeing soldiers but went around the area.

He continuously struck the army formations in front of Fire Cloud Sect, Great Wind City, and other locations, driving away the Dali Dynasty's large army.

Meng Zhang didn't know about other areas, but at least near the Taiyi Sect's defense line, their side achieved a great victory and drove away the invaders from the Dali Dynasty.

The defense line of the Jiuqu League extended far beyond the vicinity of the Taiyi Sect.

After resolving the nearby issues, Meng Zhang did not continue to sweep the surrounding areas.

Many of his trump cards had been used up in the previous battle. If he thought the Dali Dynasty was only this weak and continued to attack in all directions without considering the consequences, he would surely encounter formidable opponents from the Dali Dynasty.

By that time, not only would victory be difficult, but even maintaining the current achievements would be challenging.

In any case, Meng Zhang not only defended the defense line but also drove away the enemy, fulfilling the mission beyond expectations. He had no intention of causing unnecessary trouble by seeking further engagements.

Due to Meng Zhang's efforts, a defensive line in the vicinity of Taiyi Sect temporarily drove away the invaders and restored peace.

Cultivators from Taiyi Sect and other sects were busy with aftermath work, treating the wounded and clearing the battlefield. In order to prevent the enemy from returning, they also had to promptly repair the formations and restore their protective strength.

After a simple count, both Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance suffered heavy losses with numerous casualties.

The only consolation was that the majority of the dead and injured were low-level cultivators. Though many Gold Core level cultivators were injured, none of them died on the spot.

Upon learning of this result, Meng Zhang finally breathed a sigh of relief.

As long as the Gold Core cultivators were not severely affected, it would take decades at most for Taiyi Sect to slowly recover and make up for its losses.

The fighting temporarily ceased around Taiyi Sect, but elsewhere, the battles were still intense.

Overall, Dali Dynasty had the upper hand.

Many places along the long defensive line were breached by the forces of Dali Dynasty. The sects and families defending the line either suffered heavy casualties or were unable to hold on and had to retreat to the rear.

After dealing with a few remaining enemy forces, most of the troops from Dali Dynasty were freed up, and they started gathering toward the central area, specifically the location of the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

Meng Zhang casually found a small peak, flew up, and sat cross-legged to meditate and recover the strength he had lost in the previous battle.

It was not the time to relax yet, as the Dali Dynasty's forces could return at any moment. Meng Zhang needed to quickly regain his best condition to face the next wave of attacks.

Meng Zhang did not continue to assist more distant allies because it was not due to a selfish mentality of focusing on his own problems while neglecting others.

His heart was not so narrow, and he was not the kind of person who disregarded the overall situation.

However, as the Taiyi Sect Master, he had to ensure the safety of Taiyi Sect's disciples first.

In the previous battle, both Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance suffered significant casualties. He did not want to involve them in another major battle.

What if he went to assist the surrounding forces and attracted even stronger enemies?

What if he left this place, and the enemies took advantage to attack Taiyi Sect's defenses?

Most importantly, Meng Zhang was very clear in his mind.

The real key to deciding the outcome of this large-scale battle was not on Taiyi Sect's defensive line or elsewhere, but at the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

That was the main battlefield, where both sides' strongest and most elite forces were concentrated.

The victory or defeat there would ultimately determine the overall outcome of this war.

Perhaps to reassure the people, or perhaps to stay informed about the specific situation along the entire defensive line, the cultivators stationed at the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar, members of the Jade Sword Sect, regularly communicated with their forces stationed at different sections of the defense line through various messaging talismans.

According to the Jade Sword Sect's requirements, the major sects and families stationed at different sections of the defense line also had to send regular messaging talismans to the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar, reporting their real-time situations.

After the war began, the Jade Sword Sect received the most messages, most of which were calls for urgent help.

Faced with Dali Dynasty's relentless onslaught, the messaging talismans requesting reinforcements flew towards the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar like snowflakes, continuously seeking help.

To be honest, it was good that they could send out distress signals. At least it proved that the defensive line had not fallen and was still holding on to resist.

If even the calls for help ceased, the outcome was predictable.

The Jade Sword Sect wanted to provide support, but their own Main Altar was also under intense attack, tying up all of the Jade Sword Sect's forces.

The Jade Sword Sect was struggling to hold on and was constantly on the verge of collapse, leaving them with no spare capacity to aid other places.

Later on, the cultivators of Jade Sword Sect became numb and didn't bother to look at those calls for help anymore.

However, the messaging talismans sent from the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar were intermittent but never completely cut off.

Especially after the arrival of reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, in order to boost morale and call for everyone to persevere, the Jade Sword Sect cultivators sent out a flurry of messaging talismans announcing the arrival of reinforcements.

A crying child has milk to eat; Meng Zhang understood this principle long ago.

Shortly after the war began, when Dali Dynasty started attacking the defensive line guarded by Taiyi Sect, the disciples who had received orders from Meng Zhang constantly sent out calls for help towards the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

Taiyi Sect had thought that Jade Sword Sect would provide some support, but unexpectedly, the situation on Jade Sword Sect's side was so dire that they were already overwhelmed.

Once Taiyi Sect managed to repel the Dali Dynasty's army, they naturally wouldn't report the real situation back to Jade Sword Sect.

In fact, not only Taiyi Sect but all the cultivation forces that temporarily drove back the Dali Dynasty's army began acting dumb at this time, not reporting the real situation to Jade Sword Sect at all.

People are selfish, no matter what, they will always prioritize themselves.

Especially when they received the messaging talismans sent by Jade Sword Sect, announcing the arrival of reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, the few cultivation forces that repelled the Dali Dynasty's army became even less willing to exert themselves.

At this point, even Meng Zhang comforted himself. He had already done enough, and Taiyi Sect had paid a lot. At this time, it was better to let others fight and die.

Since there were reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, there was no need for their own meager strength to show up and embarrass themselves.

With everyone having the same thought, everyone at this time would conserve their strength.

Of course, in Jiuqu League, there were actually not many cultivation forces capable of repelling the Dali Dynasty's army. Whether they participated or not didn't have much impact on the overall situation.

On Dali Dynasty's side, the army formation that broke through the enemy's defensive line was rapidly gathering toward the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar to provide reinforcements for their comrades there.

Dali Dynasty had always maintained absolute air superiority.

Unless Jiuqu League could deploy a squad of Primordial Spirit cultivators specifically to deal with Dali Dynasty's flying boats, there was no way to resist their flying boat fleet.

With the help of the flying boats, Dali Dynasty was quickly able to concentrate its forces and continuously provide support to the main battlefield.

As for Jiuqu League, needless to say, there was no Primordial Spirit True Monarch available to spare, so they naturally couldn't do anything about the enemy's flying boat fleet.

The cultivators from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle who came as reinforcements had quite a few flying boats, but they were mostly used for transportation and had limited combat effectiveness. They couldn't directly confront Dali Dynasty's flying boat fleet head-on.

In fact, the White Sun Valley cultivator in charge of command had long ordered their flying boat fleet to immediately retreat from the battlefield after completing their transportation tasks, to avoid unnecessary losses.

Although they lacked the cover of overhead flying boats, White Sun Valley still had a considerable number of Gold Core Daoist Masters and even Primordial Spirit True Monarchs under their command. Dali Dynasty's flying boat fleet didn't dare to fly directly over and launch large-scale attacks.

As a fleet mainly composed of Third Rank warships, they possessed formidable killing power. Even a Gold Core Daoist Master, if caught in an encirclement, would be in mortal danger.

However, Mechanical Creations like warships were still external objects. Despite their attack power being comparable to that of a Gold Core Daoist Master, they lacked flexibility and their tactics were somewhat monotonous. Without an overwhelming numerical advantage, Third Rank warships were no match for Gold Core Daoist Masters.

A Primordial Spirit True Monarch could easily annihilate a group of warships if they had the opportunity.

In this battle, Dali Dynasty deployed only three Fourth Rank warships, and Xia Houfeng was reluctant to expose them to unnecessary risks.

The Fourth Rank warships stayed at the rear of the Dali Dynasty army, providing support to the entire force.

Due to the presence of the Fourth Rank warships, the cultivator army led by White Sun Valley's forces dared not easily dispatch Primordial Spirit True Monarchs for deep assaults.

Even if a Primordial Spirit True Monarch were to be targeted by the Fourth Rank warships' concentrated attacks, they would be in danger of falling.

Of course, a Primordial Spirit True Monarch also possessed the ability to destroy the Fourth Rank warships.

The Dali Dynasty had a large number of powerful mechanical creations and a well-disciplined army, which made their maneuvers efficient.

While the reinforcements from the Jiuqu League and the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle might have some advantages in individual combat, they were still slightly inferior in large-scale frontal battles.

In the large-scale wars of the Cultivation World, top-level experts held the power to sway the outcome of battles.

Jade Sword True Monarch and Qing Gu True Monarch had been fighting for a long time, but neither side could gain the upper hand.

One excelled in a profound Cultivation Base and vast Divine Abilities, while the other was skilled in swordsmanship and possessed immense destructive power.

During the battle between World Traveler Xiao Jiansheng from the Purple Yang Holy Sect and Xia Houfeng, they had been evenly matched for quite some time, which ignited anger in Xia Houfeng's heart, given his arrogant nature.

The Purple Yang Holy Sect was one of the major Holy Land Sects on the Middle-Earth Continent, and its lord held a high position in the Cultivation World.

Being chosen as a World Traveler by the Purple Yang Holy Sect meant one had the authority to travel far and wide, executing the will of the sect and overseeing the entire Cultivation World.

Within the Purple Yang Holy Sect, Xiao Jiansheng was truly a peerless genius. In his eyes, only cultivators of the same generation from other Holy Land Sects could be mentioned in the same breath as him.

Dali Dynasty, located on the outskirts of the Middle-Earth Continent, was widely regarded as a poor and remote place.

Yet, a group of villagers from this obscure place not only provoked Xiao Jiansheng but also managed to block his path.

Thinking of the attention and fear his sect held toward the Dali Dynasty, combined with his own experiences, Xiao Jiansheng knew that Dali Dynasty could no longer be allowed to exist and must be dealt with swiftly.

As for the person in front of him, he would be the first sacrifice among his subordinates, sent to accompany the Dali Dynasty in death.

Xiao Jiansheng began to secretly prepare his killing move, intending to strike Xia Houfeng with a single fatal blow.

Xiao Jiansheng had always been elusive, and no one could track his movements.

Before this great battle, he had contacted the Sect Master of Jade Sword Sect, Jade Sword True Monarch, expressing his support for the Jade Sword Sect.

Jade Sword Sect dared to engage in a head-on clash with the Dali Dynasty despite losing the initiative and with the Jiuqu League suffering major setbacks, all because they had received support from the Purple Yang Holy Sect.

The White Sun Valley, acting as reinforcements, was also persuaded by Xiao Jiansheng to mobilize and come to their aid.

The commotion caused by the clash between Primordial Spirit True Monarchs was so significant that the battle between Xiao Jiansheng and Xia Houfeng soon caught the attention of surrounding cultivators.

Since Xia Houfeng had already exposed Xiao Jiansheng's background, he could no longer remain hidden.

Messages were sent out in all directions using transmission talismans.

Jade Sword Sect informed everyone that the Holy Land Sect, Purple Yang Holy Sect, had dispatched reinforcements and was currently engaged in fierce battles with the Dali Dynasty's army.

Although the Jiuqu League and the Middle-Earth Continent were separated by thousands of mountains and rivers, most cultivators from the Jiuqu League had never been to the Middle-Earth Continent in their lifetime.

However, the reputation of the Holy Land Sect, no matter how remote or secluded the corner of the Cultivation World, was renowned and had enough impact.

Having the Holy Land Sect as reinforcements was undoubtedly a great boon, inspiring and uplifting the morale of the troops.

Daring to oppose the Holy Land Sect was tantamount to seeking destruction for the Dali Dynasty.

Meng Zhang, who was meditating at the moment, received this news and became even more hesitant to go to the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar. Instead, he chose to observe the outcome from a distance.

The mysterious annihilation of the Taiyi Sect during its heyday was likely the work of the Viewing Heaven Pavilion within the Holy Land Sect, according to Extreme Sword Spirit General's speculation.

Meng Zhang harbored an extreme fear of these Holy Land Sects, and he dared not even approach them, let alone appear before the cultivators of the Purple Yang Holy Sect.

Of course, it's possible that the Taiyi Sect's annihilation had nothing to do with the Viewing Heaven Pavilion.

After all these years, there had been no sign of the Viewing Heaven Pavilion pursuing the remnants of the Taiyi Sect, nor had any other Holy Land Sect troubled them...

However, Meng Zhang didn't dare to bet on these uncertainties. He preferred to keep his distance and not invite trouble upon himself.

An eerie scene appeared on the battlefield.

The defense lines breached by the Dali Dynasty were chaotic, with the sound of killings filling the air and bodies scattered everywhere.

Yet, in the area surrounding the Taiyi Sect, an inexplicable calmness prevailed. Whether it was due to the Dali Dynasty's oversight or some other reason, this region hadn't faced a new round of attacks.

In fact, with the appearance of reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle and Purple Yang Holy Sect cultivators, the Dali Dynasty had concentrated all available forces and couldn't spare attention to these peripheral areas.

Taking advantage of this rare moment of leisure, Meng Zhang began sorting through his gains.

This time, he had slain Marshal Wang's physical body, leaving only his Primordial Spirit. Everything on his body became Meng Zhang's spoils.

He had several storage magic tools on him. Though these magic tools were not of high grade, their internal space was substantial.

Judging from their appearance, they seemed to be standard-issue magic tools of the Dali Dynasty.

Inside the storage magic tools, various items were neatly classified.

Ignoring the miscellaneous items like spirit stones and talismans, Meng Zhang mainly searched for items that would be useful to him.

There were a total of eight large bottles of Nine Heavens Refined Essence, and even if Meng Zhang spent a few months diving deep into the Nine Heavens, he might not have obtained such a haul.

In Dali Dynasty, there were many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs who regularly organized expeditions into the Nine Heavens to acquire Nine Heavens Refined Essence and various Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects.

They even ventured into the extremely dangerous extraterritorial void, which was not an uncommon occurrence.

The treatment and status of Primordial Spirit cultivators serving in the Dali Dynasty were excellent.

The Nine Heavens Refined Essence served as a daily allowance for early-stage Primordial Spirit cultivators, and it was more than enough for their needs.

For mid-stage Primordial Spirit cultivators and above, they received refined essence collected from the extraterritorial void as their allowance.

Dali Dynasty placed great importance on military achievements and had a clear system of rewards and punishments.

For instance, when organizing Primordial Spirit cultivators to explore the Nine Heavens or the extraterritorial void and obtain various Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects, the organizers would claim the lion's share, while the participants would be rewarded according to their contributions, making it relatively fair.

Marshal Wang, who was killed by Meng Zhang, had an average cultivation base, but his qualifications were extremely old, and he was a veteran in the military of the Dali Dynasty.

He had served in the Dali Dynasty for many years, had a rich family background, and accumulated a lot of wealth.

In addition to his daily salary, there were spoils of war from external battles, rewards from the royal family, and various items exchanged for his own military merits...

The imperial secret treasury of the Dali Dynasty far exceeded the combined treasuries of all the sects in the Jiuqu League. It contained abundant treasures, various cultivation resources, and countless rare and exotic items.

Inside Marshal Wang's storage magic tool, Meng Zhang found fifty strands of pure jade inspiration and several Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects, among which there were six Fourth Rank Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects.

Especially the three bottles of Fourth Rank pills were a pleasant surprise for Meng Zhang.

Currently, Taiyi Sect only had a Third Rank Alchemist, so they could only refine Third Rank pills.

Among the entire Jiuqu League, there were no major sects known for alchemy, and Fourth Rank Alchemists were very rare.

For a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, taking Third Rank pills was just better than nothing.

Despite achieving the level of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch for so long, Meng Zhang had never obtained Fourth Rank pills.

Among these three bottles of Fourth Rank pills, one was the Life-Preserving Pill.

After a Primordial Spirit True Monarch consumed it, as long as their physical body was not completely necrotic, no matter how severe the injuries, they could slowly heal. Even missing limbs would gradually grow back.

One bottle was the God Element Pill, used by Primordial Spirit True Monarchs to strengthen their Primordial Spirit. Consuming such a pill could save a lot of cultivation time.

The last bottle was the most precious and rare, the legendary Dao Rhyme Pill.

After a Primordial Spirit True Monarch consumed it, they could gain special inspiration while comprehending the Grand Dao of Heaven and Earth, leading to greater gains.

Just these three bottles of pills made Meng Zhang's efforts worthwhile, not to mention other gains.

He opened his palm, and a flying sword jumped around inside, trying to break free.

This was the Fourth Rank flying sword used by Marshal Wang.

Even when his physical body was destroyed, he still wanted to use his Primordial Spirit to control the sword and escape.

Meng Zhang promptly used the power of the Grand Dao to suppress the flying sword.

Fourth Rank magic tools possessed a tool spirit. For forcibly snatching a Fourth Rank magic tool from its original owner like this, it would take some effort to subdue it.

Since achieving the Primordial Spirit, Meng Zhang had not even acquired a single Fourth Rank magic tool.

This flying sword might not be outstanding among Fourth Rank magic tools, but it was better than nothing and could be used by Meng Zhang.

At this moment, Meng Zhang felt more and more that there were various imbalances in the Cultivation World.

The resources were scarce in the Jiuqu League, the level of cultivation and the lack of sufficient production capacity hindered the development of hundreds of arts.

While Third Rank items required by Gold Core Daoist Masters could barely be guaranteed, at the level of Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, various expenses were very scarce.

Even Fourth Rank magic tools could not be guaranteed to be in the hands of every Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

As for Fourth Rank pills, talismans, and the like, many people had never even seen them.

On the other hand, in Dali Dynasty, at least the basic supply for Primordial Spirit True Monarchs could be guaranteed.

This was the disparity, and it was comprehensive.

And this was just Dali Dynasty. If it were compared to Middle-Earth Continent, the gap would be even larger.

Taiyi Sect was a group that came from Middle-Earth Continent and ended up stranded here.

Not to mention whether they would return to Middle-Earth Continent in the future, the enmities and grudges from those who came from Middle-Earth Continent would always have to be faced.

For a moment, Meng Zhang fell into contemplation.

While Taiyi Sect was calm, the main battlefield of Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar was at a critical moment.

As the dispersed forces of the Dali Dynasty quickly gathered, even when facing powerful sects like Jade Sword Sect and White Sun Valley at the same time, the Dali Dynasty gradually gained the upper hand.

The army of the Dali Dynasty was too powerful, almost like a war-born, pure war machine.

The fleets of flying boats in the sky, the Mechanical Creations running on the ground, the armor on the soldiers' bodies, and the weapons in their hands were all carefully crafted and accumulated over many years.

Well-trained and experienced soldiers, organized in army formations and equipped with various war tools, were invincible.

For cultivators, magic tools, and Divine Ability spells were means of defense, while their own cultivation base was fundamental.

For most cultivators, the ultimate goal of cultivation was not to fight on the battlefield.

Some major sects had specialized personnel for combat, such as guardians, and they might even refine dao soldiers.

But no matter how good the quality was, the quantity was always limited.

Faced with the continuous flow of the Dali Dynasty's army, they couldn't endure the consumption for too long.

If no other accidents happened, this battle would end with the victory of the Dali Dynasty.

But don't forget, in the Cultivation World, the meaning of the existence of top-tier experts is to be a matchless force and to reverse the entire situation single-handedly.

World Traveler Xiao Jiansheng from Purple Yang Holy Sect was such a powerful expert.

With the support of his army formation, Xia Houfeng fought against Xiao Jiansheng on equal terms.

As the prince of the Dali Dynasty and the marshal commanding the army, Xia Houfeng was considered wealthy with considerable accumulations.

But Xiao Jiansheng showed him how wealthy and unrivaled the Holy Land Sect from Middle-Earth Continent could be.

If Xia Houfeng could be likened to a rich man from the countryside, then Xiao Jiansheng was a true tycoon.

When Xiao Jiansheng got angry, he began releasing Fourth Rank talismans as if they were worthless.

With his rich experience in battle, he didn't randomly release talismans but chose critical moments to strike Xia Houfeng's vital points each time.

Xia Houfeng also had Fourth Rank talismans, but the quantity was far less than Xiao Jiansheng's, and their power was also inferior.

Talented Fourth Rank Talisman Masters were rare even in the Dali Dynasty. Even if the Dali Dynasty could provide enough materials for making talismans, the production would still be limited.

In addition to the numerous Fourth Rank talismans, Xiao Jiansheng also possessed immensely powerful disposable magic tools.

The God Slaying Nail was not easy to refine; the materials for making one God Slaying Nail would be enough to create one or two other Fourth Rank magic tools.

However, the God Slaying Nail was a one-time-use item and could only be used once.

Xiao Jiansheng and Xia Houfeng struggled with their Grand Dao powers, and neither could overpower the other.

Xiao Jiansheng first used a large number of Fourth Rank talismans to break the military qi supporting Xia Houfeng.

Then, seizing the opportunity, he struck him hard with the God Slaying Nail.

Although Xia Houfeng's life-preserving magic tool blocked most of the power of the God Slaying Nail, this malicious magic tool that specifically targeted Primordial Spirits still inflicted heavy damage to his Primordial Spirit.

Despite the severe injuries, the experienced Xia Houfeng remained calm.

While informing other Primordial Spirit cultivators on his side to assist him, he secretly ordered the army to follow the contingency plan.

As a qualified commander, he naturally had to consider everything before the battle.

Worrying about defeat before seeking victory was the minimum requirement.

Despite having full confidence in victory, Xia Houfeng still habitually formulated a contingency plan before the battle to prepare for the unlikely event of their own defeat.

Now, the plan he arranged was put to use.

After receiving Xia Houfeng's command, his subordinates, the various marshals and generals, who were originally commanding the army in battle, began to slowly gather and prepare to retreat.

Although Xia Houfeng was seriously injured, he had not lost his ability to resist.

In his rage, he showed a trace of desperate determination.

Being injured made the beast even more ferocious, a truth that Xiao Jiansheng could not ignore.

The more critical the situation, the more cautious he became.

His identity was noble, and he had a bright future ahead of him; he couldn't afford to stumble in this place.

Not to mention being taken down by Xia Houfeng and buried with him, he absolutely wouldn't accept being wounded in a counterattack by him even if he were about to die.

Xiao Jiansheng showed a slight intention to retreat, and Xia Houfeng keenly sensed it.

As a seasoned veteran, he acted like a crazy tiger, completely giving up defense, adopting a stance of mutually assured destruction with Xiao Jiansheng.

Xiao Jiansheng could only temporarily slow down his attack and first block Xia Houfeng's desperate onslaught.

Among the many generals of the Dali Dynasty, Xia Houfeng was not just favored because of his royal background. He had many flaws, but they couldn't hide the fact that he was an outstanding commander.

His pre-war plans were very comprehensive, and many of his subordinates could resolutely execute them without hesitation or doubt.

Already having the upper hand in the battle, he not only had the freedom to come and go, but he also held the initiative. The Dali Dynasty's army began to orderly retreat, preparing to leave the battlefield gradually.

In the distant sky, True Monarch Qing Gu and True Monarch Jade Sword were engaged in a fierce battle.

The fight seemed intense, but both of them knew that they couldn't determine a winner in such a battle.

After just a brief exchange, they made judgments with their keen eyes.

If it were a peaceful martial arts contest, relying on his deeper cultivation base, True Monarch Qing Gu might gain a slight advantage in one or two moves.

But if they fought to the death without external interference, the most likely result would be mutual destruction.

True Monarch Qing Gu was someone who treasured his life greatly, as he was willing to betray his sect for his own path. How could he possibly choose to die with someone else?

On the other hand, Sword Cultivators like True Monarch Jade Sword, who showed no fear of life and death in their usual behavior and were willing to risk their lives, were often called "sword maniacs."

To reach their current level of cultivation base and status, how could they really be maniacs?

Even if True Monarch Jade Sword wasn't afraid of death, as the Sect Master of Jade Sword Sect, he couldn't easily die.

With the dire situation that Jade Sword Sect was facing, without True Monarch Jade Sword at the helm, there might be a real danger of collapse.

Carrying such a heavy burden, True Monarch Jade Sword didn't rashly fight to the death with True Monarch Qing Gu.

Since both sides knew they couldn't defeat each other, the following battle naturally entered a stalemate.

The fight looked intense, but it didn't have much impact on either of them. The main effect was to hold each other back and prevent them from reinforcing other areas.

After receiving a secret message from Xia Houfeng, True Monarch Qing Gu stopped engaging with True Monarch Jade Sword.

He quickly evaded and left the battle, flying towards Xia Houfeng's direction.

Seeing True Monarch Qing Gu leave, True Monarch Jade Sword, knowing that chasing him would be meaningless, gave up the pursuit and went to help other Jade Sword Sect cultivators.

Finally, with the appearance of True Monarch Qing Gu, Xia Houfeng finally breathed a sigh of relief.

True Monarch Qing Gu's cultivation base was not below his, and he possessed many Divine Ability secrets of the Azure Origin Sect. Even if he wasn't Xiao Jiansheng's match, he could at least temporarily resist him.

After True Monarch Qing Gu and Xia Houfeng joined forces, Xiao Jiansheng knew in his heart that he had lost the best opportunity to kill Xia Houfeng.

In this situation, even if he felt unwilling, he couldn't force it.

On the other side, the Dali Dynasty's army, which was already slowly disengaging from the battle, had to accelerate its retreat when faced with the approaching Jade Sword True Monarch.

Jade Sword True Monarch's back-and-forth movements greatly reduced their own casualties and spared many Jade Sword Sect cultivators from harm.

In the intense battle, safely leading the army to withdraw from the battlefield was a very difficult task that put the commanding skills to the test.

Fortunately, although Xia Houfeng couldn't personally command, the various generals under him were all exceptionally capable and could perfectly execute the plans and fulfill their responsibilities.

The various armies of the Dali Dynasty began to orderly retreat and withdraw from the battlefield.

The joint forces of the Jiuqu League and the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle were already at a disadvantage, and now that the enemy took the initiative to retreat, it was what they had hoped for, and there was not much motivation to pursue them.

The recent battle had been a meat grinder, causing countless cultivators to fall in battle.

During the fierce fighting, nobody felt the impact, but now that the battle was ending, the survivors were filled with lingering fear and were not willing to continue fighting desperately.

Having managed to preserve their lives, they naturally cherished them and were not willing to put them at risk again.

As the Dali Dynasty's army began to withdraw, the tense atmosphere that had been hanging over them began to dissipate, and many lost their will to fight.

Faced with this situation, even the resolute high-ranking members of the Jade Sword Sect had no choice but to accept it.

As a World Traveler of the Purple Yang Holy Sect, Xiao Jiansheng still had to maintain some face in public. With his proud personality, he couldn't bring himself to chase and kill ordinary soldiers of the Dali Dynasty.

Jade Sword True Monarch had the intention to sneak attack and weaken the Dali Dynasty's forces as much as possible.

However, Xia Houfeng mustered his spirits and, together with True Monarch Qing Gu, held the rearguard.

Even if Jade Sword True Monarch joined forces with Xiao Jiansheng, it would be difficult for them to break through their interception.

Moreover, Xiao Jiansheng might not even be willing to join forces with Jade Sword True Monarch against a common enemy.

In this way, the Dali Dynasty's army orderly left the battlefield without major chaos.

One army formation followed another, one queue closely followed another queue, and the army retreated in an orderly manner.

Even after a temporary setback, the Dali Dynasty's army maintained this appearance, which astonished the high-level officials of the Jiuqu League and the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, making them even more wary of the Dali Dynasty.

The cultivators stationed and the reinforcements of the Jiuqu League had fought hard for a long time, suffering heavy casualties, and the survivors were also very exhausted.

With the Dali Dynasty's army leaving, they began to busy themselves with saving and treating the wounded, assisting their companions, recovering their strength, and getting back in shape.

The reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, led by White Sun Valley, had Bai Zhengyu True Monarch, a mid-Primordial Spirit cultivator, as their commanding officer.

Seeing that the battle had temporarily ceased, Bai Zhengyu True Monarch flew towards Xiao Jiansheng.

White Sun Valley responded to the call of the Purple Yang Holy Sect and made a considerable effort to assist the Jiuqu League in order to please this Holy Land Sect in the Middle-Earth Continent.

Jade Sword True Monarch had originally planned to express his gratitude to the cultivators from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, but when he saw Bai Zhengyu True Monarch flying towards Xiao Jiansheng, he quickly followed suit.

As a Sword Cultivator, he had to lower his proud head in front of a Holy Land Sect like the Purple Yang Holy Sect.

Jade Sword True Monarch and Bai Zhengyu True Monarch flew to Xiao Jiansheng's side almost simultaneously and began conversing with him loudly.

Even though Xiao Jiansheng felt a bit impatient and didn't think highly of these rustic cultivators, he still patiently chatted with them.

These rustic cultivators had significant value to be used as cannon fodder when dealing with the Dali Dynasty.

Bai Zhengyu True Monarch flattered Xiao Jiansheng shamelessly, acting as if he had no Primordial Spirit at all.

Jade Sword True Monarch, though slightly disapproving of Bai Zhengyu True Monarch's behavior, also had to flatter Xiao Jiansheng.

Furthermore, he had to sincerely thank Bai Zhengyu True Monarch for leading the reinforcements this time.

Without this support, Jade Sword Sect's defense line would have collapsed long ago. He had to acknowledge this immense favor.

Bai Zhengyu True Monarch gracefully accepted Jade Sword True Monarch's thanks and continued to flatter Xiao Jiansheng.

Xiao Jiansheng praised both of them and encouraged them to continue fighting against the Dali Dynasty, ensuring its complete annihilation.

He also revealed that Purple Yang Holy Sect had made considerable efforts in various aspects to deal with the Dali Dynasty.

The main forces of the Dali Dynasty were now restrained and unable to reinforce Xia Houfeng's army.

Despite appearing to have a large number of troops, they were now isolated without any reinforcements.

In his words, Xiao Jiansheng belittled the Dali Dynasty and perhaps promised some benefits to the two True Monarchs.

The situation in the Middle-Earth Continent was complex, with many powerful forces restraining each other among the Holy Land Sects. Even Purple Yang Holy Sect was far from being able to do whatever it pleased.

Purple Yang Holy Sect considered the Dali Dynasty a serious threat and wanted to eliminate it, but they needed to make use of the power of sects like Jade Sword Sect.

In the Cultivation World, most Holy Land Sects often adopted a high and mighty attitude, as if they disdained meddling in specific affairs of the Cultivation World. Cultivators from Holy Land Sects acted like immortal beings, uninterested in worldly affairs.

Unless necessary, Holy Land Sects like Purple Yang Holy Sect would not directly engage in a large-scale battle with the Dali Dynasty.

The Dali Dynasty's aggressive expansion had caused countless sects and clans to feel threatened. Many had been annihilated by the Dali Dynasty in recent years.

Around the Dali Dynasty's borders, many forces saw it as a ferocious beast, filled with great dread.

Xiao Jiansheng's task was to unite these forces against the Dali Dynasty in the name of Purple Yang Holy Sect.

With the assistance of Purple Yang Holy Sect, cultivation forces in the Middle-Earth Continent began to exert pressure on the Dali Dynasty, restraining their military strength.

The situation was different in the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle. After Xiao Jiansheng's efforts, he could only convince White Sun Valley and some second-rate sects to join their cause.

If the entire Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle could be mobilized, those sects alongside White Sun Valley might be willing to go all out. While they might not be able to defeat the entire Dali Dynasty, they could at least severely weaken or even eliminate Xia Houfeng's army.

Unfortunately, the situation in the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle was too complex and involved too many factors. Even Xiao Jiansheng was unwilling to recklessly involve himself further. Convincing White Sun Valley was already pushing the limits.

After the great battle, both Jiuqu League and the arriving cultivators began the post-war aftermath.

Not only on the side of Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar, but the entire defense line facing the Dali Dynasty's army had already retreated.

Jade Sword Sect assigned people to start counting the casualties and losses.

Over two-thirds of the defense line had been breached, and most of the cultivation forces stationed there were completely wiped out, with few survivors.

The remaining part of the defense line was in a stalemate with the Dali Dynasty's army, with many positions precarious and at risk of being conquered at any time.

Only Taiyi Sect and a few cultivation forces were able to defeat the attacking Dali Dynasty army and achieve a small victory.

The Dali Dynasty's army had not retreated far, and their next moves were unknown.

Jade Sword Sect ordered all major cultivation forces in the Jiuqu League to clean up the battlefield, aid the wounded, and strive to recover as quickly as possible.

Jade Sword Sect wanted the major cultivation forces to rest near their own defense line, which suited Meng Zhang's intentions.

There was no need to go to Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar, so they probably wouldn't encounter cultivators from the Holy Land Sect.

After this period of rest, Meng Zhang's cultivation had mostly recovered.

Cleaning up the battlefield and organizing the defense line were tasks that the sect's disciples naturally took care of.

After spending some effort treating a group of seriously injured disciples, Meng Zhang found himself temporarily idle.

At this moment, Meng Zhang wanted to understand the situation around him and, if possible, visit some old friends.

The nearby cultivation forces like Great Wind City's Gu Yue Family and Fire Cloud Sect had suffered significant losses, but with Meng Zhang's assistance, their defense line held firm. In the end, they managed to retain some combat power after the recovery period.

Clever Machine Sect's situation was similar. Since True Monarch Clever Machine was saved by Meng Zhang, their sect's vitality was still preserved.

As Xu Mengying was at Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar, it wasn't a good time for Meng Zhang to go there.

Dark Alliance's branch had clearly sided with Jiuqu League in this great battle.

Red Pig True Monarch personally led a group of cultivators to participate in the battle at Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar, engaging in a fierce fight against the Dali Dynasty's army.

From what Meng Zhang knew, over half of the cultivation forces that participated in this battle from Jiuqu League were wiped out, and more than two-thirds of the participating cultivators lost their lives.

Such heavy casualties had truly dealt a severe blow to their vitality.

Recovering completely was not something that could be achieved overnight.

Especially since the Dali Dynasty's army had only temporarily retreated, their high-ranking officials were mostly intact, and their losses were limited.

If the Dali Dynasty's army returned, it was uncertain if there would be enough strength to resist them.

Some members of Jade Sword Sect's leadership suggested continuing to summon cultivators from the major cultivation forces of Jiuqu League and urging them to send more cultivators to join the battle.

Meng Zhang was unsure about the situation in other sects, but from what he knew about Taiyi Sect, most of the cultivators who remained were old, weak, sick, or disabled, comprising less than a tenth of their original number.

Apart from the senior disciple Niu Dawei, whom he had managed to keep through his connections, there were hardly any capable fighters left.

If Jade Sword Sect forcibly summoned cultivators from other major cultivation forces, it would be more than just bleeding them dry; it would be emptying their resources, leaving these forces with nothing.

By that time, even if they managed to repel the Dali Dynasty's army, the major cultivation forces would have depleted their resources, and their recovery would be uncertain.

Fortunately, the battle had just ended, and everyone was busy with post-war affairs.

As for the next steps, Jade Sword Sect's leadership had not yet reached a consensus.

Although they had achieved a small victory, the situation had not improved, and it remained precarious.

The Dali Dynasty still possessed strength and the ability to fight again. If their army returned, it would be another life-and-death test.

Chapter 786: Concentration

Due to Meng Zhang's efforts, a defensive line in the vicinity of Taiyi Sect temporarily drove away the invaders and restored peace.

Cultivators from Taiyi Sect and other sects were busy with aftermath work, treating the wounded and clearing the battlefield. In order to prevent the enemy from returning, they also had to promptly repair the formations and restore their protective strength.

After a simple count, both Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance suffered heavy losses with numerous casualties.

The only consolation was that the majority of the dead and injured were low-level cultivators. Though many Gold Core level cultivators were injured, none of them died on the spot.

Upon learning of this result, Meng Zhang finally breathed a sigh of relief.

As long as the Gold Core cultivators were not severely affected, it would take decades at most for Taiyi Sect to slowly recover and make up for its losses.

The fighting temporarily ceased around Taiyi Sect, but elsewhere, the battles were still intense.

Overall, Dali Dynasty had the upper hand.

Many places along the long defensive line were breached by the forces of Dali Dynasty. The sects and families defending the line either suffered heavy casualties or were unable to hold on and had to retreat to the rear.

After dealing with a few remaining enemy forces, most of the troops from Dali Dynasty were freed up, and they started gathering toward the central area, specifically the location of the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

Meng Zhang casually found a small peak, flew up, and sat cross-legged to meditate and recover the strength he had lost in the previous battle.

It was not the time to relax yet, as the Dali Dynasty's forces could return at any moment. Meng Zhang needed to quickly regain his best condition to face the next wave of attacks.

Meng Zhang did not continue to assist more distant allies because it was not due to a selfish mentality of focusing on his own problems while neglecting others.

His heart was not so narrow, and he was not the kind of person who disregarded the overall situation.

However, as the Taiyi Sect Master, he had to ensure the safety of Taiyi Sect's disciples first.

In the previous battle, both Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance suffered significant casualties. He did not want to involve them in another major battle.

What if he went to assist the surrounding forces and attracted even stronger enemies?

What if he left this place, and the enemies took advantage to attack Taiyi Sect's defenses?

Most importantly, Meng Zhang was very clear in his mind.

The real key to deciding the outcome of this large-scale battle was not on Taiyi Sect's defensive line or elsewhere, but at the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

That was the main battlefield, where both sides' strongest and most elite forces were concentrated.

The victory or defeat there would ultimately determine the overall outcome of this war.

Perhaps to reassure the people, or perhaps to stay informed about the specific situation along the entire defensive line, the cultivators stationed at the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar, members of the Jade Sword Sect, regularly communicated with their forces stationed at different sections of the defense line through various messaging talismans.

According to the Jade Sword Sect's requirements, the major sects and families stationed at different sections of the defense line also had to send

regular messaging talismans to the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar, reporting their real-time situations.

After the war began, the Jade Sword Sect received the most messages, most of which were calls for urgent help.

Faced with Dali Dynasty's relentless onslaught, the messaging talismans requesting reinforcements flew towards the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar like snowflakes, continuously seeking help.

To be honest, it was good that they could send out distress signals. At least it proved that the defensive line had not fallen and was still holding on to resist.

If even the calls for help ceased, the outcome was predictable.

The Jade Sword Sect wanted to provide support, but their own Main Altar was also under intense attack, tying up all of the Jade Sword Sect's forces.

The Jade Sword Sect was struggling to hold on and was constantly on the verge of collapse, leaving them with no spare capacity to aid other places.

Later on, the cultivators of Jade Sword Sect became numb and didn't bother to look at those calls for help anymore.

However, the messaging talismans sent from the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar were intermittent but never completely cut off.

Especially after the arrival of reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, in order to boost morale and call for everyone to persevere, the Jade Sword Sect cultivators sent out a flurry of messaging talismans announcing the arrival of reinforcements.

A crying child has milk to eat; Meng Zhang understood this principle long ago.

Shortly after the war began, when Dali Dynasty started attacking the defensive line guarded by Taiyi Sect, the disciples who had received orders from Meng Zhang constantly sent out calls for help towards the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar.

Taiyi Sect had thought that Jade Sword Sect would provide some support, but unexpectedly, the situation on Jade Sword Sect's side was so dire that they were already overwhelmed.

Once Taiyi Sect managed to repel the Dali Dynasty's army, they naturally wouldn't report the real situation back to Jade Sword Sect.

In fact, not only Taiyi Sect but all the cultivation forces that temporarily drove back the Dali Dynasty's army began acting dumb at this time, not reporting the real situation to Jade Sword Sect at all.

People are selfish, no matter what, they will always prioritize themselves.

Especially when they received the messaging talismans sent by Jade Sword Sect, announcing the arrival of reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, the few cultivation forces that repelled the Dali Dynasty's army became even less willing to exert themselves.

At this point, even Meng Zhang comforted himself. He had already done enough, and Taiyi Sect had paid a lot. At this time, it was better to let others fight and die.

Since there were reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, there was no need for their own meager strength to show up and embarrass themselves.

With everyone having the same thought, everyone at this time would conserve their strength.

Of course, in Jiuqu League, there were actually not many cultivation forces capable of repelling the Dali Dynasty's army. Whether they participated or not didn't have much impact on the overall situation.

On Dali Dynasty's side, the army formation that broke through the enemy's defensive line was rapidly gathering toward the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar to provide reinforcements for their comrades there.

Dali Dynasty had always maintained absolute air superiority.

Unless Jiuqu League could deploy a squad of Primordial Spirit cultivators specifically to deal with Dali Dynasty's flying boats, there was no way to resist their flying boat fleet.

With the help of the flying boats, Dali Dynasty was quickly able to concentrate its forces and continuously provide support to the main battlefield.

As for Jiuqu League, needless to say, there was no Primordial Spirit True Monarch available to spare, so they naturally couldn't do anything about the enemy's flying boat fleet.

The cultivators from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle who came as reinforcements had quite a few flying boats, but they were mostly used for transportation and had limited combat effectiveness. They couldn't directly confront Dali Dynasty's flying boat fleet head-on.

In fact, the White Sun Valley cultivator in charge of command had long ordered their flying boat fleet to immediately retreat from the battlefield after completing their transportation tasks, to avoid unnecessary losses.

Although they lacked the cover of overhead flying boats, White Sun Valley still had a considerable number of Gold Core Daoist Masters and even Primordial Spirit True Monarchs under their command. Dali Dynasty's flying boat fleet didn't dare to fly directly over and launch large-scale attacks.

Chapter 787: Watching from the Sidelines

As a fleet mainly composed of Third Rank warships, they possessed formidable killing power. Even a Gold Core Daoist Master, if caught in an encirclement, would be in mortal danger.

However, Mechanical Creations like warships were still external objects. Despite their attack power being comparable to that of a Gold Core Daoist Master, they lacked flexibility and their tactics were somewhat monotonous. Without an overwhelming numerical advantage, Third Rank warships were no match for Gold Core Daoist Masters.

A Primordial Spirit True Monarch could easily annihilate a group of warships if they had the opportunity.

In this battle, Dali Dynasty deployed only three Fourth Rank warships, and Xia Houfeng was reluctant to expose them to unnecessary risks.

The Fourth Rank warships stayed at the rear of the Dali Dynasty army, providing support to the entire force.

Due to the presence of the Fourth Rank warships, the cultivator army led by White Sun Valley's forces dared not easily dispatch Primordial Spirit True Monarchs for deep assaults.

Even if a Primordial Spirit True Monarch were to be targeted by the Fourth Rank warships' concentrated attacks, they would be in danger of falling.

Of course, a Primordial Spirit True Monarch also possessed the ability to destroy the Fourth Rank warships.

The Dali Dynasty had a large number of powerful mechanical creations and a well-disciplined army, which made their maneuvers efficient.

While the reinforcements from the Jiuqu League and the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle might have some advantages in individual combat, they were still slightly inferior in large-scale frontal battles.

In the large-scale wars of the Cultivation World, top-level experts held the power to sway the outcome of battles.

Jade Sword True Monarch and Qing Gu True Monarch had been fighting for a long time, but neither side could gain the upper hand.

One excelled in a profound Cultivation Base and vast Divine Abilities, while the other was skilled in swordsmanship and possessed immense destructive power.

During the battle between World Traveler Xiao Jiansheng from the Purple Yang Holy Sect and Xia Houfeng, they had been evenly matched for quite some time, which ignited anger in Xia Houfeng's heart, given his arrogant nature.

The Purple Yang Holy Sect was one of the major Holy Land Sects on the Middle-Earth Continent, and its lord held a high position in the Cultivation World.

Being chosen as a World Traveler by the Purple Yang Holy Sect meant one had the authority to travel far and wide, executing the will of the sect and overseeing the entire Cultivation World.

Within the Purple Yang Holy Sect, Xiao Jiansheng was truly a peerless genius. In his eyes, only cultivators of the same generation from other Holy Land Sects could be mentioned in the same breath as him.

Dali Dynasty, located on the outskirts of the Middle-Earth Continent, was widely regarded as a poor and remote place.

Yet, a group of villagers from this obscure place not only provoked Xiao Jiansheng but also managed to block his path.

Thinking of the attention and fear his sect held toward the Dali Dynasty, combined with his own experiences, Xiao Jiansheng knew that Dali Dynasty could no longer be allowed to exist and must be dealt with swiftly.

As for the person in front of him, he would be the first sacrifice among his subordinates, sent to accompany the Dali Dynasty in death.

Xiao Jiansheng began to secretly prepare his killing move, intending to strike Xia Houfeng with a single fatal blow.

Xiao Jiansheng had always been elusive, and no one could track his movements.

Before this great battle, he had contacted the Sect Master of Jade Sword Sect, Jade Sword True Monarch, expressing his support for the Jade Sword Sect.

Jade Sword Sect dared to engage in a head-on clash with the Dali Dynasty despite losing the initiative and with the Jiuqu League suffering major setbacks, all because they had received support from the Purple Yang Holy Sect.

The White Sun Valley, acting as reinforcements, was also persuaded by Xiao Jiansheng to mobilize and come to their aid.

The commotion caused by the clash between Primordial Spirit True Monarchs was so significant that the battle between Xiao Jiansheng and Xia Houfeng soon caught the attention of surrounding cultivators.

Since Xia Houfeng had already exposed Xiao Jiansheng's background, he could no longer remain hidden.

Messages were sent out in all directions using transmission talismans.

Jade Sword Sect informed everyone that the Holy Land Sect, Purple Yang Holy Sect, had dispatched reinforcements and was currently engaged in fierce battles with the Dali Dynasty's army.

Although the Jiuqu League and the Middle-Earth Continent were separated by thousands of mountains and rivers, most cultivators from the Jiuqu League had never been to the Middle-Earth Continent in their lifetime.

However, the reputation of the Holy Land Sect, no matter how remote or secluded the corner of the Cultivation World, was renowned and had enough impact.

Having the Holy Land Sect as reinforcements was undoubtedly a great boon, inspiring and uplifting the morale of the troops.

Daring to oppose the Holy Land Sect was tantamount to seeking destruction for the Dali Dynasty.

Meng Zhang, who was meditating at the moment, received this news and became even more hesitant to go to the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar. Instead, he chose to observe the outcome from a distance.

The mysterious annihilation of the Taiyi Sect during its heyday was likely the work of the Viewing Heaven Pavilion within the Holy Land Sect, according to Extreme Sword Spirit General's speculation.

Meng Zhang harbored an extreme fear of these Holy Land Sects, and he dared not even approach them, let alone appear before the cultivators of the Purple Yang Holy Sect.

Of course, it's possible that the Taiyi Sect's annihilation had nothing to do with the Viewing Heaven Pavilion.

After all these years, there had been no sign of the Viewing Heaven Pavilion pursuing the remnants of the Taiyi Sect, nor had any other Holy Land Sect troubled them...

However, Meng Zhang didn't dare to bet on these uncertainties. He preferred to keep his distance and not invite trouble upon himself.

An eerie scene appeared on the battlefield.

The defense lines breached by the Dali Dynasty were chaotic, with the sound of killings filling the air and bodies scattered everywhere.

Yet, in the area surrounding the Taiyi Sect, an inexplicable calmness prevailed. Whether it was due to the Dali Dynasty's oversight or some other reason, this region hadn't faced a new round of attacks.

In fact, with the appearance of reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle and Purple Yang Holy Sect cultivators, the Dali Dynasty had

concentrated all available forces and couldn't spare attention to these peripheral areas.

Taking advantage of this rare moment of leisure, Meng Zhang began sorting through his gains.

This time, he had slain Marshal Wang's physical body, leaving only his Primordial Spirit. Everything on his body became Meng Zhang's spoils.

He had several storage magic tools on him. Though these magic tools were not of high grade, their internal space was substantial.

Judging from their appearance, they seemed to be standard-issue magic tools of the Dali Dynasty.

Inside the storage magic tools, various items were neatly classified.

Ignoring the miscellaneous items like spirit stones and talismans, Meng Zhang mainly searched for items that would be useful to him.

There were a total of eight large bottles of Nine Heavens Refined Essence, and even if Meng Zhang spent a few months diving deep into the Nine Heavens, he might not have obtained such a haul.

In Dali Dynasty, there were many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs who regularly organized expeditions into the Nine Heavens to acquire Nine Heavens Refined Essence and various Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects.

They even ventured into the extremely dangerous extraterritorial void, which was not an uncommon occurrence.

The treatment and status of Primordial Spirit cultivators serving in the Dali Dynasty were excellent.

The Nine Heavens Refined Essence served as a daily allowance for early-stage Primordial Spirit cultivators, and it was more than enough for their needs.

For mid-stage Primordial Spirit cultivators and above, they received refined essence collected from the extraterritorial void as their allowance.

Dali Dynasty placed great importance on military achievements and had a clear system of rewards and punishments.

For instance, when organizing Primordial Spirit cultivators to explore the Nine Heavens or the extraterritorial void and obtain various Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects, the organizers would claim the lion's share, while the participants would be rewarded according to their contributions, making it relatively fair.

Chapter 788: Plan

Marshal Wang, who was killed by Meng Zhang, had an average cultivation base, but his qualifications were extremely old, and he was a veteran in the military of the Dali Dynasty.

He had served in the Dali Dynasty for many years, had a rich family background, and accumulated a lot of wealth.

In addition to his daily salary, there were spoils of war from external battles, rewards from the royal family, and various items exchanged for his own military merits...

The imperial secret treasury of the Dali Dynasty far exceeded the combined treasuries of all the sects in the Jiuqu League. It contained abundant treasures, various cultivation resources, and countless rare and exotic items.

Inside Marshal Wang's storage magic tool, Meng Zhang found fifty strands of pure jade inspiration and several Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects, among which there were six Fourth Rank Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects.

Especially the three bottles of Fourth Rank pills were a pleasant surprise for Meng Zhang.

Currently, Taiyi Sect only had a Third Rank Alchemist, so they could only refine Third Rank pills.

Among the entire Jiuqu League, there were no major sects known for alchemy, and Fourth Rank Alchemists were very rare.

For a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, taking Third Rank pills was just better than nothing.

Despite achieving the level of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch for so long, Meng Zhang had never obtained Fourth Rank pills.

Among these three bottles of Fourth Rank pills, one was the Life-Preserving Pill.

After a Primordial Spirit True Monarch consumed it, as long as their physical body was not completely necrotic, no matter how severe the injuries, they could slowly heal. Even missing limbs would gradually grow back.

One bottle was the God Element Pill, used by Primordial Spirit True Monarchs to strengthen their Primordial Spirit. Consuming such a pill could save a lot of cultivation time.

The last bottle was the most precious and rare, the legendary Dao Rhyme Pill.

After a Primordial Spirit True Monarch consumed it, they could gain special inspiration while comprehending the Grand Dao of Heaven and Earth, leading to greater gains.

Just these three bottles of pills made Meng Zhang's efforts worthwhile, not to mention other gains.

He opened his palm, and a flying sword jumped around inside, trying to break free.

This was the Fourth Rank flying sword used by Marshal Wang.

Even when his physical body was destroyed, he still wanted to use his Primordial Spirit to control the sword and escape.

Meng Zhang promptly used the power of the Grand Dao to suppress the flying sword.

Fourth Rank magic tools possessed a tool spirit. For forcibly snatching a Fourth Rank magic tool from its original owner like this, it would take some effort to subdue it.

Since achieving the Primordial Spirit, Meng Zhang had not even acquired a single Fourth Rank magic tool.

This flying sword might not be outstanding among Fourth Rank magic tools, but it was better than nothing and could be used by Meng Zhang.

At this moment, Meng Zhang felt more and more that there were various imbalances in the Cultivation World.

The resources were scarce in the Jiuqu League, the level of cultivation and the lack of sufficient production capacity hindered the development of hundreds of arts.

While Third Rank items required by Gold Core Daoist Masters could barely be guaranteed, at the level of Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, various expenses were very scarce.

Even Fourth Rank magic tools could not be guaranteed to be in the hands of every Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

As for Fourth Rank pills, talismans, and the like, many people had never even seen them.

On the other hand, in Dali Dynasty, at least the basic supply for Primordial Spirit True Monarchs could be guaranteed.

This was the disparity, and it was comprehensive.

And this was just Dali Dynasty. If it were compared to Middle-Earth Continent, the gap would be even larger.

Taiyi Sect was a group that came from Middle-Earth Continent and ended up stranded here.

Not to mention whether they would return to Middle-Earth Continent in the future, the enmities and grudges from those who came from Middle-Earth Continent would always have to be faced.

For a moment, Meng Zhang fell into contemplation.

While Taiyi Sect was calm, the main battlefield of Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar was at a critical moment.

As the dispersed forces of the Dali Dynasty quickly gathered, even when facing powerful sects like Jade Sword Sect and White Sun Valley at the same time, the Dali Dynasty gradually gained the upper hand.

The army of the Dali Dynasty was too powerful, almost like a war-born, pure war machine.

The fleets of flying boats in the sky, the Mechanical Creations running on the ground, the armor on the soldiers' bodies, and the weapons in their hands were all carefully crafted and accumulated over many years.

Well-trained and experienced soldiers, organized in army formations and equipped with various war tools, were invincible.

For cultivators, magic tools, and Divine Ability spells were means of defense, while their own cultivation base was fundamental.

For most cultivators, the ultimate goal of cultivation was not to fight on the battlefield.

Some major sects had specialized personnel for combat, such as guardians, and they might even refine dao soldiers.

But no matter how good the quality was, the quantity was always limited.

Faced with the continuous flow of the Dali Dynasty's army, they couldn't endure the consumption for too long.

If no other accidents happened, this battle would end with the victory of the Dali Dynasty.

But don't forget, in the Cultivation World, the meaning of the existence of top-tier experts is to be a matchless force and to reverse the entire situation single-handedly.

World Traveler Xiao Jiansheng from Purple Yang Holy Sect was such a powerful expert.

With the support of his army formation, Xia Houfeng fought against Xiao Jiansheng on equal terms.

As the prince of the Dali Dynasty and the marshal commanding the army, Xia Houfeng was considered wealthy with considerable accumulations.

But Xiao Jiansheng showed him how wealthy and unrivaled the Holy Land Sect from Middle-Earth Continent could be.

If Xia Houfeng could be likened to a rich man from the countryside, then Xiao Jiansheng was a true tycoon.

When Xiao Jiansheng got angry, he began releasing Fourth Rank talismans as if they were worthless.

With his rich experience in battle, he didn't randomly release talismans but chose critical moments to strike Xia Houfeng's vital points each time.

Xia Houfeng also had Fourth Rank talismans, but the quantity was far less than Xiao Jiansheng's, and their power was also inferior.

Talented Fourth Rank Talisman Masters were rare even in the Dali Dynasty. Even if the Dali Dynasty could provide enough materials for making talismans, the production would still be limited.

In addition to the numerous Fourth Rank talismans, Xiao Jiansheng also possessed immensely powerful disposable magic tools.

The God Slaying Nail was not easy to refine; the materials for making one God Slaying Nail would be enough to create one or two other Fourth Rank magic tools.

However, the God Slaying Nail was a one-time-use item and could only be used once.

Xiao Jiansheng and Xia Houfeng struggled with their Grand Dao powers, and neither could overpower the other.

Xiao Jiansheng first used a large number of Fourth Rank talismans to break the military qi supporting Xia Houfeng.

Then, seizing the opportunity, he struck him hard with the God Slaying Nail.

Although Xia Houfeng's life-preserving magic tool blocked most of the power of the God Slaying Nail, this malicious magic tool that specifically targeted Primordial Spirits still inflicted heavy damage to his Primordial Spirit.

Despite the severe injuries, the experienced Xia Houfeng remained calm.

While informing other Primordial Spirit cultivators on his side to assist him, he secretly ordered the army to follow the contingency plan.

As a qualified commander, he naturally had to consider everything before the battle.

Worrying about defeat before seeking victory was the minimum requirement.

Despite having full confidence in victory, Xia Houfeng still habitually formulated a contingency plan before the battle to prepare for the unlikely event of their own defeat.

Now, the plan he arranged was put to use.

Chapter 789: Ends

After receiving Xia Houfeng's command, his subordinates, the various marshals and generals, who were originally commanding the army in battle, began to slowly gather and prepare to retreat.

Although Xia Houfeng was seriously injured, he had not lost his ability to resist.

In his rage, he showed a trace of desperate determination.

Being injured made the beast even more ferocious, a truth that Xiao Jiansheng could not ignore.

The more critical the situation, the more cautious he became.

His identity was noble, and he had a bright future ahead of him; he couldn't afford to stumble in this place.

Not to mention being taken down by Xia Houfeng and buried with him, he absolutely wouldn't accept being wounded in a counterattack by him even if he were about to die.

Xiao Jiansheng showed a slight intention to retreat, and Xia Houfeng keenly sensed it.

As a seasoned veteran, he acted like a crazy tiger, completely giving up defense, adopting a stance of mutually assured destruction with Xiao Jiansheng.

Xiao Jiansheng could only temporarily slow down his attack and first block Xia Houfeng's desperate onslaught.

Among the many generals of the Dali Dynasty, Xia Houfeng was not just favored because of his royal background. He had many flaws, but they couldn't hide the fact that he was an outstanding commander.

His pre-war plans were very comprehensive, and many of his subordinates could resolutely execute them without hesitation or doubt.

Already having the upper hand in the battle, he not only had the freedom to come and go, but he also held the initiative. The Dali Dynasty's army began to orderly retreat, preparing to leave the battlefield gradually.

In the distant sky, True Monarch Qing Gu and True Monarch Jade Sword were engaged in a fierce battle.

The fight seemed intense, but both of them knew that they couldn't determine a winner in such a battle.

After just a brief exchange, they made judgments with their keen eyes.

If it were a peaceful martial arts contest, relying on his deeper cultivation base, True Monarch Qing Gu might gain a slight advantage in one or two moves.

But if they fought to the death without external interference, the most likely result would be mutual destruction.

True Monarch Qing Gu was someone who treasured his life greatly, as he was willing to betray his sect for his own path. How could he possibly choose to die with someone else?

On the other hand, Sword Cultivators like True Monarch Jade Sword, who showed no fear of life and death in their usual behavior and were willing to risk their lives, were often called "sword maniacs."

To reach their current level of cultivation base and status, how could they really be maniacs?

Even if True Monarch Jade Sword wasn't afraid of death, as the Sect Master of Jade Sword Sect, he couldn't easily die.

With the dire situation that Jade Sword Sect was facing, without True Monarch Jade Sword at the helm, there might be a real danger of collapse.

Carrying such a heavy burden, True Monarch Jade Sword didn't rashly fight to the death with True Monarch Qing Gu.

Since both sides knew they couldn't defeat each other, the following battle naturally entered a stalemate.

The fight looked intense, but it didn't have much impact on either of them. The main effect was to hold each other back and prevent them from reinforcing other areas.

After receiving a secret message from Xia Houfeng, True Monarch Qing Gu stopped engaging with True Monarch Jade Sword.

He quickly evaded and left the battle, flying towards Xia Houfeng's direction.

Seeing True Monarch Qing Gu leave, True Monarch Jade Sword, knowing that chasing him would be meaningless, gave up the pursuit and went to help other Jade Sword Sect cultivators.

Finally, with the appearance of True Monarch Qing Gu, Xia Houfeng finally breathed a sigh of relief.

True Monarch Qing Gu's cultivation base was not below his, and he possessed many Divine Ability secrets of the Azure Origin Sect. Even if he wasn't Xiao Jiansheng's match, he could at least temporarily resist him.

After True Monarch Qing Gu and Xia Houfeng joined forces, Xiao Jiansheng knew in his heart that he had lost the best opportunity to kill Xia Houfeng.

In this situation, even if he felt unwilling, he couldn't force it.

On the other side, the Dali Dynasty's army, which was already slowly disengaging from the battle, had to accelerate its retreat when faced with the approaching Jade Sword True Monarch.

Jade Sword True Monarch's back-and-forth movements greatly reduced their own casualties and spared many Jade Sword Sect cultivators from harm.

In the intense battle, safely leading the army to withdraw from the battlefield was a very difficult task that put the commanding skills to the test.

Fortunately, although Xia Houfeng couldn't personally command, the various generals under him were all exceptionally capable and could perfectly execute the plans and fulfill their responsibilities.

The various armies of the Dali Dynasty began to orderly retreat and withdraw from the battlefield.

The joint forces of the Jiuqu League and the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle were already at a disadvantage, and now that the enemy took the initiative to retreat, it was what they had hoped for, and there was not much motivation to pursue them.

The recent battle had been a meat grinder, causing countless cultivators to fall in battle.

During the fierce fighting, nobody felt the impact, but now that the battle was ending, the survivors were filled with lingering fear and were not willing to continue fighting desperately.

Having managed to preserve their lives, they naturally cherished them and were not willing to put them at risk again.

As the Dali Dynasty's army began to withdraw, the tense atmosphere that had been hanging over them began to dissipate, and many lost their will to fight.

Faced with this situation, even the resolute high-ranking members of the Jade Sword Sect had no choice but to accept it.

As a World Traveler of the Purple Yang Holy Sect, Xiao Jiansheng still had to maintain some face in public. With his proud personality, he couldn't bring himself to chase and kill ordinary soldiers of the Dali Dynasty.

Jade Sword True Monarch had the intention to sneak attack and weaken the Dali Dynasty's forces as much as possible.

However, Xia Houfeng mustered his spirits and, together with True Monarch Qing Gu, held the rearguard.

Even if Jade Sword True Monarch joined forces with Xiao Jiansheng, it would be difficult for them to break through their interception.

Moreover, Xiao Jiansheng might not even be willing to join forces with Jade Sword True Monarch against a common enemy.

In this way, the Dali Dynasty's army orderly left the battlefield without major chaos.

One army formation followed another, one queue closely followed another queue, and the army retreated in an orderly manner.

Even after a temporary setback, the Dali Dynasty's army maintained this appearance, which astonished the high-level officials of the Jiuqu League and the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, making them even more wary of the Dali Dynasty.

The cultivators stationed and the reinforcements of the Jiuqu League had fought hard for a long time, suffering heavy casualties, and the survivors were also very exhausted.

With the Dali Dynasty's army leaving, they began to busy themselves with saving and treating the wounded, assisting their companions, recovering their strength, and getting back in shape.

The reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, led by White Sun Valley, had Bai Zhengyu True Monarch, a mid-Primordial Spirit cultivator, as their commanding officer.

Seeing that the battle had temporarily ceased, Bai Zhengyu True Monarch flew towards Xiao Jiansheng.

White Sun Valley responded to the call of the Purple Yang Holy Sect and made a considerable effort to assist the Jiuqu League in order to please this Holy Land Sect in the Middle-Earth Continent.

Jade Sword True Monarch had originally planned to express his gratitude to the cultivators from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, but when he saw Bai Zhengyu True Monarch flying towards Xiao Jiansheng, he quickly followed suit.

As a Sword Cultivator, he had to lower his proud head in front of a Holy Land Sect like the Purple Yang Holy Sect.

Chapter 790: After the War

Jade Sword True Monarch and Bai Zhengyu True Monarch flew to Xiao Jiansheng's side almost simultaneously and began conversing with him loudly.

Even though Xiao Jiansheng felt a bit impatient and didn't think highly of these rustic cultivators, he still patiently chatted with them.

These rustic cultivators had significant value to be used as cannon fodder when dealing with the Dali Dynasty.

Bai Zhengyu True Monarch flattered Xiao Jiansheng shamelessly, acting as if he had no Primordial Spirit at all.

Jade Sword True Monarch, though slightly disapproving of Bai Zhengyu True Monarch's behavior, also had to flatter Xiao Jiansheng.

Furthermore, he had to sincerely thank Bai Zhengyu True Monarch for leading the reinforcements this time.

Without this support, Jade Sword Sect's defense line would have collapsed long ago. He had to acknowledge this immense favor.

Bai Zhengyu True Monarch gracefully accepted Jade Sword True Monarch's thanks and continued to flatter Xiao Jiansheng.

Xiao Jiansheng praised both of them and encouraged them to continue fighting against the Dali Dynasty, ensuring its complete annihilation.

He also revealed that Purple Yang Holy Sect had made considerable efforts in various aspects to deal with the Dali Dynasty.

The main forces of the Dali Dynasty were now restrained and unable to reinforce Xia Houfeng's army.

Despite appearing to have a large number of troops, they were now isolated without any reinforcements.

In his words, Xiao Jiansheng belittled the Dali Dynasty and perhaps promised some benefits to the two True Monarchs.

The situation in the Middle-Earth Continent was complex, with many powerful forces restraining each other among the Holy Land Sects. Even Purple Yang Holy Sect was far from being able to do whatever it pleased.

Purple Yang Holy Sect considered the Dali Dynasty a serious threat and wanted to eliminate it, but they needed to make use of the power of sects like Jade Sword Sect.

In the Cultivation World, most Holy Land Sects often adopted a high and mighty attitude, as if they disdained meddling in specific affairs of the Cultivation World. Cultivators from Holy Land Sects acted like immortal beings, uninterested in worldly affairs.

Unless necessary, Holy Land Sects like Purple Yang Holy Sect would not directly engage in a large-scale battle with the Dali Dynasty.

The Dali Dynasty's aggressive expansion had caused countless sects and clans to feel threatened. Many had been annihilated by the Dali Dynasty in recent years.

Around the Dali Dynasty's borders, many forces saw it as a ferocious beast, filled with great dread.

Xiao Jiansheng's task was to unite these forces against the Dali Dynasty in the name of Purple Yang Holy Sect.

With the assistance of Purple Yang Holy Sect, cultivation forces in the Middle-Earth Continent began to exert pressure on the Dali Dynasty, restraining their military strength.

The situation was different in the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle. After Xiao Jiansheng's efforts, he could only convince White Sun Valley and some second-rate sects to join their cause.

If the entire Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle could be mobilized, those sects alongside White Sun Valley might be willing to go all out. While they might not be able to defeat the entire Dali Dynasty, they could at least severely weaken or even eliminate Xia Houfeng's army.

Unfortunately, the situation in the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle was too complex and involved too many factors. Even Xiao Jiansheng was unwilling to recklessly involve himself further. Convincing White Sun Valley was already pushing the limits.

After the great battle, both Jiuqu League and the arriving cultivators began the post-war aftermath.

Not only on the side of Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar, but the entire defense line facing the Dali Dynasty's army had already retreated.

Jade Sword Sect assigned people to start counting the casualties and losses.

Over two-thirds of the defense line had been breached, and most of the cultivation forces stationed there were completely wiped out, with few survivors.

The remaining part of the defense line was in a stalemate with the Dali Dynasty's army, with many positions precarious and at risk of being conquered at any time.

Only Taiyi Sect and a few cultivation forces were able to defeat the attacking Dali Dynasty army and achieve a small victory.

The Dali Dynasty's army had not retreated far, and their next moves were unknown.

Jade Sword Sect ordered all major cultivation forces in the Jiuqu League to clean up the battlefield, aid the wounded, and strive to recover as quickly as possible.

Jade Sword Sect wanted the major cultivation forces to rest near their own defense line, which suited Meng Zhang's intentions.

There was no need to go to Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar, so they probably wouldn't encounter cultivators from the Holy Land Sect.

After this period of rest, Meng Zhang's cultivation had mostly recovered.

Cleaning up the battlefield and organizing the defense line were tasks that the sect's disciples naturally took care of.

After spending some effort treating a group of seriously injured disciples, Meng Zhang found himself temporarily idle.

At this moment, Meng Zhang wanted to understand the situation around him and, if possible, visit some old friends.

The nearby cultivation forces like Great Wind City's Gu Yue Family and Fire Cloud Sect had suffered significant losses, but with Meng Zhang's assistance, their defense line held firm. In the end, they managed to retain some combat power after the recovery period.

Clever Machine Sect's situation was similar. Since True Monarch Clever Machine was saved by Meng Zhang, their sect's vitality was still preserved.

As Xu Mengying was at Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar, it wasn't a good time for Meng Zhang to go there.

Dark Alliance's branch had clearly sided with Jiuqu League in this great battle.

Red Pig True Monarch personally led a group of cultivators to participate in the battle at Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar, engaging in a fierce fight against the Dali Dynasty's army.

From what Meng Zhang knew, over half of the cultivation forces that participated in this battle from Jiuqu League were wiped out, and more than two-thirds of the participating cultivators lost their lives.

Such heavy casualties had truly dealt a severe blow to their vitality.

Recovering completely was not something that could be achieved overnight.

Especially since the Dali Dynasty's army had only temporarily retreated, their high-ranking officials were mostly intact, and their losses were limited.

If the Dali Dynasty's army returned, it was uncertain if there would be enough strength to resist them.

Some members of Jade Sword Sect's leadership suggested continuing to summon cultivators from the major cultivation forces of Jiuqu League and urging them to send more cultivators to join the battle.

Meng Zhang was unsure about the situation in other sects, but from what he knew about Taiyi Sect, most of the cultivators who remained were old, weak, sick, or disabled, comprising less than a tenth of their original number.

Apart from the senior disciple Niu Dawei, whom he had managed to keep through his connections, there were hardly any capable fighters left.

If Jade Sword Sect forcibly summoned cultivators from other major cultivation forces, it would be more than just bleeding them dry; it would be emptying their resources, leaving these forces with nothing.

By that time, even if they managed to repel the Dali Dynasty's army, the major cultivation forces would have depleted their resources, and their recovery would be uncertain.

Fortunately, the battle had just ended, and everyone was busy with post-war affairs.

As for the next steps, Jade Sword Sect's leadership had not yet reached a consensus.

Although they had achieved a small victory, the situation had not improved, and it remained precarious.

The Dali Dynasty still possessed strength and the ability to fight again. If their army returned, it would be another life-and-death test.

