

## **Sect Master's Immortal Journey #Chapter 791: Excuses - Read Sect Master's Immortal Journey Chapter 791: Excuses**

No matter how the situation develops in the future, there is currently a temporary truce. All participating cultivators are taking advantage of this rare opportunity to rest and recuperate.

Factions like Taiyi Sect are resting near their own defensive lines.

The main force of Jade Sword Sect remains in the Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar, and the reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle are also invited to rest there.

Jade Sword Sect is now the dominant force in the Jiuqu League, and all major affairs fall on their shoulders. Naturally, this comes with many troublesome and complex tasks.

During the previous battles, most of the flying boats from Jiuqu League were shot down. Only a few managed to escape in time, barely surviving the ordeal.

Now, these flying boats have been requisitioned to transport various supplies from the rear.

Before this major war, in addition to enlisting cultivators from various cultivation forces to join the battle, Jade Sword Sect also distributed a large amount of resources to the major cultivation forces.

One reason was due to Jade Sword Sect's notorious reputation.

The other reason was the mindset of "when the lips are gone, the teeth will be cold"; everyone did not want the Dali Dynasty to break through and invade.

So, despite the enormous amount of resources allocated by Jade Sword Sect, the major cultivation forces obediently complied with the order and managed to scrape together the required supplies.

In truth, the current situation of Jiuqu League is very dire, facing significant difficulties on all fronts.

The headquarters of Jiuqu League, Jiuqu City, was originally in the south, which was the essence of the Jiuqu League and far more prosperous than the north.

Due to the betrayal of Qing Gu True Monarch, Jiuqu City fell easily, and the wealth stored inside, accumulated over more than two thousand years by the Jiuqu League, mostly ended up in the hands of the Dali Dynasty.

Losing the south, only the relatively barren north remained, and Jade Sword Sect inherited a mess.

Jade Sword Sect couldn't simply ignore the cultivators who managed to escape from the south.

Although they could be used as cannon fodder, it still required resources to support them.

Leading northern sects like Jade Sword Sect were originally not as wealthy as their southern counterparts.

In the wars of the Cultivation World, apart from manpower, the most critical factor was resources. Various war supplies played a significant role in the progress of the war.

The war materials accumulated by Jade Sword Sect before had been almost exhausted in the previous major battle.

War is like a giant devouring beast, constantly demanding spiritual stones, talismans, elixirs, and various other resources.

Not to mention other things, without sufficient spiritual stones, many of the formations constructed by Jade Sword Sect on their defensive line would be paralyzed.

Jade Sword Sect kept supplying from the rear with flying boats, but it was still not enough to meet the front's needs.

At this time, the cultivators from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, who came to reinforce, started making trouble.

White Sun Valley led many cultivators to come and reinforce. Although it was mainly due to the face of the Purple Yang Holy Sect, Jade Sword Sect should have made some gestures of gratitude.

Despite not having enough resources themselves, Jade Sword Sect managed to cobble together a batch of supplies to send over, expressing their gratitude.

However, instead of satisfying them, it only brought forth their grievances. They felt that Jade Sword Sect was too petty, as if they were trying to brush them off as beggars.

Originally, according to Xiao Jiansheng's plan, after the rest and recuperation, Jade Sword Sect and White Sun Valley should lead all their forces to pursue and strive to catch up with and eliminate the Dali Dynasty army led by Xia Houfeng.

According to the customary practices of the Cultivation World, this army of cultivators from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle was considered guest troops who came to help. As the hosts, Jade Sword Sect should provide at least the majority of the supplies.

Supporting a large army of cultivators, especially in the midst of a major war, required an enormous amount of resources.

Jade Sword Sect itself is facing a shortage of resources and simply cannot produce more supplies.

Now, the cultivators from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle are not happy. They have started a strike and adamantly refuse to continue fighting.

With everyone's discontent, so many cultivators causing a commotion, Bai Zhengyu, the True Monarch of White Sun Valley, had no choice but to go to Xiao Jiansheng to complain.

Xiao Jiansheng is not a fool; he knows that these guys are just seizing an opportunity and simply don't want to go to the battlefield.

The Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, led by White Sun Valley, was lured to the Jiuqu League by Xiao Jiansheng to fight desperately.

The heavy casualties in the previous battle greatly deterred them and severely dampened their fighting spirit.

Now, they seize the excuse of insufficient supplies and stubbornly refuse to continue the battle.

Purple Yang Holy Sect is a Holy Land Sect and naturally has abundant resources. However, at this moment, Xiao Jiansheng cannot produce anything.

Even if Jade Sword Sect emptied its coffers, and even at the risk of pushing the entire Jiuqu League into rebellion against them, they cannot gather such a large amount of resources in a short time.

Since they cannot meet their reasonable demands, even if the Holy Land Sect is domineering, they cannot force these guys to go to the battlefield.

As a result, Xiao Jiansheng's plan for a pursuit was shelved.

On the side of the reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, if it weren't for Bai Zhengyu's efforts to suppress the situation, there might have already been deserters.

With the attack plan abandoned, everyone can only continue to defend their positions and wait for the enemy's further response.

Honestly, after experiencing this battle, even Meng Zhang developed a weariness of war.

Although he returned victorious and gained something, the losses of his disciples bothered him.

In his view, if they can maintain the current situation for as long as possible, it would be good.

Originally, Meng Zhang held a pessimistic view about whether the Jiuqu League could withstand the Dali Dynasty's army.

Especially after the fall of Azure Origin Sect, if it weren't for being too deeply involved and unable to extricate themselves in time, he would have been prepared to abandon everything on the Jiuqu League's side and escape to the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle.

Half of it was due to Jade Sword Sect's orders, and half was his own wish. He led his disciples from Taiyi Sect to come here to set up defenses, hoping that Jade Sword Sect had some cards up their sleeve that could withstand the Dali Dynasty.

Both the reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle and the involvement of the Holy Land Sect provided significant help to Jade Sword Sect, allowing them to temporarily drive back the Dali Dynasty's army.

However, Meng Zhang keenly realized that perhaps including Jade Sword Sect itself, the entire Jiuqu League had become pawns of the Holy Land Sect, and they couldn't help but be manipulated by them.

Whether it was the Purple Yang Holy Sect or the Dali Dynasty, both were unstoppable behemoths for the current Taiyi Sect, and Meng Zhang simply didn't want to be caught in between.

The current situation of Taiyi Sect is really bad. They can't leave, and if they continue to fight with the Dali Dynasty, they are likely to be used as cannon fodder by the Holy Land Sect.

Meng Zhang has racked his brains, but he can't come up with a good way to escape.

He even gathered the senior members of his sect together to discuss and find a good way to completely escape from here.

However, after discussing for a long time, no one could come up with a good solution.

When the Jiuqu League was in chaos, the Dali Dynasty's army had long since left the battlefield.

With the power of Fourth Rank warships and Third Rank warships, the Dali Dynasty possessed absolute aerial superiority.

As long as the enemy didn't organize a team of Primordial Spirit True Monarchs to conduct a surprise attack, they couldn't threaten the flying boat fleet.

To be honest, Primordial Spirit late-stage cultivators like Jade Sword True Monarch and Xiao Jiansheng did not show up, and other Primordial Spirit cultivators did not have the courage to venture deep into the Dali Dynasty's fleet and risk attacking their main flying boats.

When Meng Zhang once wiped out a small fleet of flying boats, he nearly fell into the trap set by True Monarch Wen Dong and Marshal Wang.

Who knew what hidden killing moves lay within the Dali Dynasty's main flying boat fleet?

Previously, most of the Gold Core cultivators who rashly attacked the flying boat fleet were annihilated by the ambushing hunting teams.

After the Dali Dynasty's army withdrew from the battlefield, the flying boat fleet shuttled back and forth, transporting the entire army back.

This time, Xia Houfeng retreated quite far, leading the army to withdraw more than a thousand miles away before stopping and establishing a camp.

This place used to be the gate of a small sect.

When the Dali Dynasty's army swept through the southern region of the Jiuqu League, this small sect surrendered obediently and became a minion of the Dali Dynasty.

It was a Foundation Building sect with only a Second Rank spirit vein at its gate.

However, with the vast number of spirit stones and various spiritual treasures carried by the army, they still managed to set up protective formations nearby.

After the army settled down, Xia Houfeng finally had time to carefully check his injuries.

One-time magic tools like the Divine Execution Nail were extremely precious within the Purple Yang Holy Sect.

If Xiao Jiansheng weren't a World Traveler and didn't need to wander around the Cultivation World, he might not have been qualified to obtain it.

The life-saving item bestowed by Ba Wudi back then had saved Xia Houfeng's life. However, his Primordial Spirit was severely injured, and it would be difficult to recover in a short time.

Although he had suffered a defeat and almost lost his life, Xia Houfeng had no complaints.

Xiao Jiansheng wouldn't have been able to do anything to him on his own. It was only with the help of external forces and the Divine Execution Nail, a magic tool that specifically targeted Primordial Spirits, that he won this battle.

Xia Houfeng had no grievances. As a soldier, he understood that, for the sake of victory, one had to resort to all means and go to any lengths. Using the Divine Execution Nail was simply a minor matter.

When it came to using various external tools, the Dali Dynasty used them much more. They had numerous Mechanical Creations, various puppets, and all sorts of flying boats...

The only thing that Xia Houfeng was worried about was that he needed to go into seclusion and heal his injuries immediately. Although his subordinates could command the army on his behalf, there was a lack of real powerhouses among the troops.

He had never been at ease with Qing Gu True Monarch, a Primordial Spirit late-stage cultivator.

However, he could no longer delay his injuries. His Primordial Spirit was on the verge of collapse and needed immediate treatment.

Helplessly, Xia Houfeng had no choice but to use a special channel to send a message to the ruler of the Dali Dynasty, Ba Wudi, hoping that he would send reinforcements in time.

As for himself, he had to focus all his attention on healing his injuries.

Xia Houfeng did not misunderstand Qing Gu True Monarch.

Originally, Qing Gu True Monarch had wholeheartedly joined the Dali Dynasty for the sake of his own path, but after seeing the involvement of the Purple Yang Holy Sect, he had been feeling uneasy all along. With his identity and position, Qing Gu True Monarch had a deeper understanding of the terrifying nature of the Middle-Earth Continent's Holy Land Sect.

The Dali Dynasty was strong, and Ba Wudi was a powerful ruler. However, when facing a Holy Land Sect like the Purple Yang Holy Sect, the only outcome was failure.

Qing Gu True Monarch began to consider whether he must hang himself on the tree of the Dali Dynasty or if there was still a way to change allegiances.

Because of his actions, he had become the biggest criminal in the Jiuqu League and couldn't turn back.

Since he couldn't go back to the Jiuqu League, were there any other choices?

Of course, before truly changing allegiances, he had to maintain loyalty to the Dali Dynasty. Ideally, he could obtain the secret method from Ba Wudi on how to survive the tribulation and advance to the Yang God stage.

The Dali Dynasty's army remained stationed here, facing off against the Jiuqu League from a distance.

On the Jiuqu League's side, due to unclear enemy situations and internal issues, they missed the opportunity for a counterattack and were also in a standoff with the Dali Dynasty.

The rare calm allowed all cultivation forces to lick their wounds.

Meng Zhang finally had an idea and found an excuse to send the heavily injured soldiers back to the sect for healing.

Taiyi Sect had performed well in the previous battle. They not only defended their own positions but also provided assistance to the surrounding allies.

Jade Sword Sect was quite satisfied with this and readily agreed to Meng Zhang's request.

Meng Zhang sent about half of the remaining Taiyi Sect cultivators back to the sect.

Taiyi Sect's flying boat fleet had been transporting supplies from the rear and had not participated in the battle, so they had managed to escape the calamity.

Although a large part of their forces had been requisitioned by the Jade Sword Sect, it was still barely sufficient.

Among the cultivators returning to Taiyi Sect, there was also the veteran elder of Taiyi Sect, Delicate Water Spirit General.

Before her departure, Meng Zhang specially instructed her to inform Niu Dawei, who was in charge of the sect, to secretly transfer personnel and resources to Maple Leaf Mountain City.

During the transfer, she must not be hasty and ensure utmost secrecy.

Once she returned to Maple Leaf Mountain City, she would be in charge of the overall situation there.

To outsiders, they would say she was seriously injured, affecting her foundation, and had to go into seclusion to heal.

In fact, Meng Zhang had made careful arrangements for Maple Leaf Mountain City.

In previous years, due to the pressure from the entire Jiuqu League by the Dali Dynasty, Meng Zhang had deliberately selected some disciples to secretly send to Maple Leaf Mountain City.

These disciples were the cream of the crop among the Foundation Building cultivators and had the potential to break through to the Gold Core stage.

After arriving at Maple Leaf Mountain City and with the help provided by the sect, three of these disciples had successfully reached the Gold Core stage.

Only a few people within Taiyi Sect knew of the existence of these three Gold Core Daoist Masters, let alone outsiders. Naturally, they were not on Jade Sword Sect's recruitment list for Taiyi Sect.

These three Gold Core Daoist Masters had been stationed in Maple Leaf Mountain City all along, responsible for both guarding the area and serving as the last reserve of Taiyi Sect.

If the Taiyi Sect in Demon Wind Gobi suffered a disastrous fate, they would be responsible for guarding the remnants of the sect and continuing the Taiyi Sect's legacy.

Although Taiyi Sect had withdrawn nearly half of their cultivators back to the sect this time, most of their Gold Core Daoist Masters remained, and their combat strength had not weakened significantly.

With the Cultivation Base of Gold Core Daoist Masters, they could promptly withdraw if the situation changed.

Most of the cultivators from the Hanhai Alliance remained, and there was no shortage of low-level cultivators for their tasks.

Being able to withdraw nearly half of the cultivators and Delicate Water Spirit General was already the limit. Any more, and Jade Sword Sect would grow suspicious.

With these arrangements in place, Meng Zhang could sit on the defensive line with a little more peace of mind.

### **Chapter 793: Difficulty**

Although it was still far from completely breaking free, Meng Zhang managed to retreat about half of the cultivators with a little cleverness, which was a good start.

Of course, this was his limit.

Jade Sword Sect had estimated the approximate number of Gold Core or higher cultivators under various cultivation forces.

For instance, any cultivator from Taiyi Sect who had formed their core on their own territory, with a clear identity and background, would naturally be under the control of Jade Sword Sect.

At the Gold Core level, it was challenging to hide from Jade Sword Sect's notice or evade their conscription. As for Primordial Spirit cultivators, most cultivation forces had only a few at most, making it even harder to conceal their existence.

While Jade Sword Sect couldn't possibly have full knowledge of all low-level cultivators under every force, they had a rough estimate. When issuing conscription orders, they always tried to exploit the potential of major cultivation forces.

Meng Zhang's consistently good performance and his antagonistic stance towards the Dali Dynasty were the reasons why Jade Sword Sect was slightly more lenient towards Taiyi Sect, giving him the chance to preserve some of their strength using his clever methods.

If he had been reckless and continued to make other Gold Core Daoist Masters pretend to be seriously injured, the higher-ups of Jade Sword Sect might have come to inspect personally.

During the following period, as both sides were unwilling to start another conflict, the situation entered a temporary state of peace.

Ignoring what others were doing, Meng Zhang seized the time to start his routine cultivation.

The gains from these few times made him no longer worry about the Nine Heavens Refined Essence for the time being. He could even afford to absorb and refine pure jade inspiration luxuriously.

A group of elders from Taiyi Sect managed the entire sect and the alliance with the Hanhai Dao League efficiently, so he didn't need to worry too much.

His Fourth Rank Dao robe, the Rainbow Dawn Glow Robe, had fallen into slumber after the damage it suffered last time, and its tool spirit had not awakened since then.

Meng Zhang released his Primordial Spirit's power and slowly nurtured it back to health.

After this period of time, its condition had significantly improved.

A Fourth Rank magic tool like the Rainbow Dawn Glow Robe would suffer a considerable loss of power without the active cooperation of its tool spirit, especially considering the severe damage to the tool itself.

Fortunately, this magic tool had an automatic repair ability. The only problem was the tool spirit being in slumber, so its repair capabilities hadn't been fully utilized.

Meng Zhang's current task was to expend his Primordial Spirit's power slowly and help the tool spirit awaken as soon as possible.

Speaking of the tool spirit, Meng Zhang obtained a Fourth Rank flying sword from Marshal Wang this time.

The tool spirit of this flying sword was very resolute and hadn't submitted to Meng Zhang.

If the tool spirit didn't cooperate or even hindered him, even if he forcefully controlled the flying sword, he couldn't unleash its full power.

Taiyi Sect's heritage contained many methods to subdue tool spirits.

Some were gentle, others were forceful, involving coercion, lure, and deception, with a variety of approaches.

Most Fourth Rank magic tool's tool spirits, at best, had the intelligence of ordinary people, making them no match for the cunning cultivators.

The specific process didn't need to be elaborated, but Meng Zhang had indeed exerted quite an effort to subdue the tool spirit of this Fourth Rank magic tool.

The flying sword was named Thousand Troops, sharing the same name as its tool spirit.

Thousand Troops was crafted by the great master artisans of the Dali Dynasty using extraterrestrial meteorite iron and seabed golden steel, possessing both water and metal attributes.

The interaction of metal and water, two mutually engendering elements, greatly enhanced the flying sword's power.

When it was initially refined, the flying sword was only Third Rank.

Marshal Wang carried it with him, fought in different regions, and after a long period, gradually promoted it to Fourth Rank.

Among Fourth Rank flying swords, Thousand Troops wasn't particularly outstanding, just slightly better than an ordinary one.

However, any flying sword that could grow to Fourth Rank was undoubtedly no ordinary item. Previously, Meng Zhang didn't even have a Fourth Rank magic tool, but Xu Mengying gave him a Rainbow Dawn Glow Robe mainly for defense.

Now, he had obtained a Thousand Troops sword, finally possessing an offensive magic tool.

However, the only downside was that Marshal Wang personally elevated Thousand Troops to a Fourth Rank magic tool, and its tool spirit was also nurtured by him. The tool spirit, Thousand Troops, was too loyal to Marshal Wang, making it difficult to completely subdue. Although Meng Zhang appeared to have subdued it on the surface, he couldn't fully trust it.

Meng Zhang had to forcefully set up a restriction within the tool spirit to prevent it from rebelling. As a result, the tool spirit was restricted and unable to fully assist Meng Zhang in activating the flying sword, thus greatly reducing its power.

Nevertheless, having a Fourth Rank flying sword was better than nothing.

Due to abundant cultivation resources, Meng Zhang's cultivation speed hadn't slowed down much and was still progressing steadily.

To be honest, for most people in the Jiuqu League, including Meng Zhang, they all wished for this peaceful situation to continue, without having to fight and risk their lives against the terrifying Dali Dynasty army.

However, once this stability was achieved, many internal problems began to surface.

Jade Sword Sect, in need of war supplies, issued another recruitment order to forcefully collect various resources possessed by their subordinate cultivation forces.

Both manpower and resources had suffered significant losses during the previous great war for these cultivation forces.

Now should be the time to recuperate and recover, but Jade Sword Sect disregarded everyone's difficulties and forcibly conscripted, which was a bit excessive.

However, with Jade Sword Sect's formidable might and the support of Purple Yang Holy Sect, these cultivation forces had no means to resist and could only obediently empty their treasuries, draining their resources to meet Jade Sword Sect's almost endless demands.

Taiyi Sect couldn't escape this forced conscription either.

Although it was partially shared with their subordinate Hanhai Dao League, Taiyi Sect also had to deplete their treasury to barely meet Jade Sword Sect's demands.

Fortunately, for Primordial Spirit sects like Taiyi Sect, Jade Sword Sect left some room for maneuvering and didn't press them too hard.

A few truly rare spiritual items were secretly left behind by Niu Dawei under Meng Zhang's instructions. Additionally, he started moving precious items secretly to Maple Leaf Mountain City and sent a few children with good potential there.

Furthermore, Taiyi Sect's gains in Maple Leaf Mountain City were still unknown to outsiders.

If it weren't for the existence of Purple Yang Holy Sect, some cultivation forces might have secretly contacted the Dali Dynasty on this side of the Jiuqu League.

Jade Sword Sect's actions greatly harmed everyone's interests, naturally causing dissatisfaction.

After repelling the enemy and achieving victory, rewards and recognition should have followed, but instead, they faced increased exploitation. Even the most demanding landlords wouldn't do such a thing.

However, Jade Sword Sect had no other choice but to do so.

The high-ranking members of Jade Sword Sect also wanted clear rewards and recognition for merits, and they were also reluctant to continue increasing the demands and conscription.

However, the main force of the Dali Dynasty's army had only temporarily retreated, and they could return at any moment.

Jade Sword Sect had to collect resources, strengthen their defense, and be prepared for further battles.

## **Chapter 794: Sweeping the North**

Since the last commotion, the reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle seemed to have tasted some benefits and would occasionally cause trouble.

The saying goes, "A crying child gets milk." As they caused trouble, the Jade Sword Sect had to allocate some resources to appease them.

The Jade Sword Sect was not happy about this situation.

But firstly, the Jade Sword Sect was indeed at fault because providing supplies to the reinforcements was its responsibility.

Secondly, Bai Zhengyu, the True Monarch in charge of the reinforcements, had an ambiguous attitude and always found excuses to evade his responsibility, unwilling to fully help and pacify these cultivators under his command.

The reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle had become a significant burden for not only the Jade Sword Sect but also the entire Jiuqu League.

The northern regions of the Jiuqu League were impoverished, and the Jade Sword Sect was not a wealthy and renowned sect. Now, facing the immense difficulties in providing resources, they felt somewhat powerless.

However, it was absolutely essential to have these reinforcements. The current strength of the Jiuqu League alone could not resist the forces of the Dali Dynasty.

The action of the Purple Yang Holy Sect in eradicating the Dali Dynasty was a crucial move, with far-reaching implications and long-term planning.

The actions of the Jiuqu League were a vital part of this plan and could not afford any mistakes.

Xiao Jiansheng, as a World Traveler of the Purple Yang Holy Sect, had been thinking about launching a counterattack and eliminating the Dali Dynasty's army as soon as possible.

Last time, they achieved victory because Xiao Jiansheng severely injured the enemy commander Xia Houfeng, forcing the enemy to retreat.

The enemy's main force was unharmed, and Xia Houfeng's condition was unknown, so many cultivation forces had no desire for another battle.

Xiao Jiansheng was indeed a top-tier powerhouse, capable of single-handedly facing many opponents.

However, the Dali Dynasty had a well-organized army formation, numerous strong cultivators, and a large number of Mechanical Creations, which he alone could not contend with.

Without an equally powerful army to act as a diversion and enough peers to provide cover, if he rashly charged into the Dali Dynasty's army alone, he would be in danger of losing his life in a siege.

Even as a powerhouse from the Holy Land Sect, he couldn't conjure vast resources to solve the current predicament.

Under these circumstances, no matter how much pressure Xiao Jiansheng exerted on Jade Sword True Monarch or Bai Zhengyu, they could, at best, suppress the unrest among their subordinates, but they had no good way to boost their morale.

In reality, even within the Jade Sword Sect, there were signs of war-weariness after the previous large battle.

The Sword Fanatic was not truly insane; faced with heavy casualties, he too would hesitate and fear.

The previous firm stance of the Jade Sword Sect in striking the Dali Dynasty and having an irreconcilable attitude had unconsciously softened.

Xiao Jiansheng had access to various channels. Since he couldn't continue to get enough help from the Jiuqu League, he began sending messages to distant places, seeking assistance from other sources.

During this time, Meng Zhang had not appeared at the Yellow Lotus Sect's Main Altar because he was avoiding the cultivators of the Purple Yang Holy Sect. He communicated with the high-level members of the Jade Sword Sect through messaging talismans.

Although he wasn't entirely clear about the thoughts of the higher-ups, he had a good understanding of the movements and psychology of various cultivation forces, including the reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle.

It seemed that rectifying their strength and launching an attack on the Dali Dynasty's army proactively was not an easy task.

After this delay, the Dali Dynasty swiftly responded to the previous battle. Although the Jade Sword Sect lacked the capability to launch large-scale attacks, they never relaxed their surveillance of the enemy, always keeping a close eye on their movements.

For the Dali Dynasty, their massive army from outside needed to stabilize the situation in the south quickly and establish effective rule by making use of local cultivation forces, which could be a shortcut.

Even though these local cultivation forces had reluctantly surrendered to the Dali Dynasty, their true loyalty to the Dynasty was questionable, especially after the defeat of the Dali Dynasty's army in the previous battle, which invigorated their spirits.

It seemed that the Dali Dynasty's army was not invincible after all.

Particularly after the Jade Sword Sect widely spread the news of the Purple Yang Holy Sect from the Middle-Earth Continent aiming to eradicate the Dali Dynasty, many people's positions began to waver.

The Dali Dynasty's army was still powerful, and these factions had no courage to resist openly. However, it was common for them to secretly contact cultivators from the Jade Sword Sect to secure a retreat route for themselves.

Jade Sword Sect made efforts to win over these wavering factions, even offering many irresponsible promises.

With the cover of these factions, Jade Sword Sect cultivators could operate and gather intelligence in the southern region of the Jiuqu League much more conveniently.

Most of the gathered intelligence was shared with the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs in their camp.

Thus, Meng Zhang knew that not long ago, the Dali Dynasty had sent a new commander to lead their army.

This new commander was the Grand Marshal of the Dali Dynasty, Zhang Weineng, who was also a late-stage Primordial Spirit cultivator with seniority and prestige surpassing Prince Feng Xia Houfeng.

He led his personal guards and arrived from within the Dali Dynasty on a Fourth Rank warship, swiftly taking command of the army.

According to Ba Wudi's orders, after reorganization and strengthening, this army was named the North Sweeping Grand Army, with Zhang Weineng also holding the title of North Sweeping Grand Marshal.

With Zhang Weineng's arrival, the weaknesses of the North Sweeping Grand Army were eliminated, and the Jiuqu League lost the possibility of a quick and decisive victory.

Zhang Weineng did not rush to launch an attack but instead strengthened the control of the southern Jiuqu League, showing signs of being prepared for a long-term stay.

He probably understood that after the involvement of the Purple Yang Holy Sect, the chance of swiftly conquering the north was lost, and now they had to be steady and plan for the long term.

Zhang Weineng reorganized the North Sweeping Grand Army, shifting their focus from offensive to defensive.

The deployment of the army underwent significant changes, and although personnel appointments and transfers were not highly classified, the Jade Sword Sect was able to obtain this information and more.

Although Meng Zhang wasn't certain how much resources the Jade Sword Sect still possessed, recent developments indicated that if the war entered a stalemate and evolved into a prolonged conflict, the Jade Sword Sect would likely be overwhelmed before long.

Not to mention the various income the North Sweeping Grand Army seized from the Jiuqu League before; they only needed to concentrate on managing the southern Jiuqu League to obtain substantial resources.

Furthermore, there was a possibility that the Dali Dynasty could transfer resources to their side.

Meng Zhang could clearly see this situation, and it was inconceivable that the Jade Sword Sect's high-level members were unaware of it.

Jade Sword True Monarch had made a decision; they must launch a comprehensive attack as soon as possible and gain a decisive advantage before their war resources were depleted.

Although Jade Sword True Monarch did not have a sure win, he still decided to take a desperate gamble and give it his all.

Rather than passively waiting for their own defeat, he would rather go all out, even if it meant dying without regrets.

At present, it wasn't easy to concentrate their forces and launch a proactive attack against the enemy.

Even if Jade Sword True Monarch tried his best, he would still face many difficulties.

However, he first communicated with Xiao Jiansheng.

Launching an attack on the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army aligned with the interests of the Purple Yang Holy Sect, and Xiao Jiansheng fully supported it.

Then, Xiao Jiansheng put pressure on Bai Zhengyu True Monarch of White Sun Valley to get his subordinates in order.

Since they had already sent troops to support, they had to see it through and not give up halfway.

While Jiuqu League was busy preparing to launch an attack, the Marshal of the Dali Dynasty, Zhang Wei, made some adjustments in advance.

The Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army adopted a posture ready to launch an offensive and continuously sent elite squads to scout and probe near Jiuqu League's defense line.

For a while, the previously calm defense line erupted in intense small-scale battles again.

The various cultivators who were originally relaxed all strengthened their defenses.

At this time, a disciple from Beast King Mountain came to the vicinity of Taiyi Sect's defense line, saying that Elder Beast Fury wanted to meet with Meng Zhang and requested his presence.

Elder Beast Fury, who had already been determined to die, managed to survive the recent major battle despite being seriously injured again.

Due to his ongoing seclusion for healing, he had been communicating with Meng Zhang using messaging talismans.

Now, sending someone to invite Meng Zhang meant that there was an important matter to discuss.

Meng Zhang didn't delay and flew with the Beast King Mountain disciple to the location where the cultivators of Beast King Mountain were stationed.

The defense line responsible for Beast King Mountain's defense was a section of the Yellow Lotus Sacred Mountain's long mountain range.

Even though the war had been over for some time, the cultivators of Beast King Mountain had made efforts to clean up the battlefield. However, the various marks left by the cruel battles were still vividly visible.

At a half-destroyed mountain peak, Meng Zhang finally saw the long-lost Elder Beast Fury.

Besides Elder Beast Fury, there was also You Hongzhi True Monarch from the Four Seas Commercial Firm.

You Hongzhi True Monarch and Elder Beast Fury had a very good relationship, and he had arrived here first, indicating that there were indeed important matters to discuss.

At the first sight of Elder Beast Fury, Meng Zhang could hardly conceal his inner fluctuations.

Elder Beast Fury seemed to be in high spirits, with a radiant and energetic appearance. However, Meng Zhang had sharp eyes and immediately noticed that Elder Beast Fury was actually on his last legs, outwardly strong but inwardly weak.

Although Elder Beast Fury had been seriously injured before, he still had some vitality. But now, in his current state of lifelessness, he was not going to live much longer.

It seemed that the intense battle with the Dali Dynasty's army had dealt him fatal damage.

When Elder Beast Fury saw Meng Zhang approaching, he was very happy.

Although they hadn't known each other for long, they had fought together against a common enemy, and they could be considered comrades who had gone through hardships together.

After that, they both tried to befriend each other, and Elder Beast Fury had also helped Meng Zhang a lot.

In front of Meng Zhang, Elder Beast Fury didn't hide his condition; he couldn't hide it even if he wanted to.

With a bitter smile on his face, he revealed a shocking truth.

"I don't have many days left to live. Unexpectedly, before I die, I will be branded as a traitor by someone." "It won't come to this, it won't come to this. I will definitely do my best to intercede for you..." You Hongzhi True Monarch comforted from the side.

Seeing Meng Zhang's puzzled look, Elder Beast Fury didn't beat around the bush and explained everything to him in detail.

It turned out that just a few days ago, an unexpected mutation occurred on the usually calm Yuantu Great Prairie.

The Yuantu Great Prairie was originally occupied by extraterritorial Barbarian Clans.

In the past, Jade Sword Sect commanded many cultivation forces to defeat the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans together, annihilating their main forces and compressing the remaining few into a small area.

Later, due to the Dali Dynasty occupying the Crossing Severing Mountain Range and destroying the Three Sects Alliance, the remnants of Grey Mountain School, Beast King Mountain, and Hundred Battles Gate retreated into the territory of Jiuqu League.

The pursuing army of the Dali Dynasty chased them all the way to the border of Jiuqu League, leading to a standoff with Jiuqu League cultivators.

Facing the threat from the Dali Dynasty, Jade Sword Sect had to stop their action of completely annihilating the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans and redirect the main forces of the cultivation army to the border of Jiuqu League to defend against the Dali Dynasty's attacks.

Due to the influence of Azure Origin Sect, Jade Sword Sect had never engaged in a full-scale war with the Dali Dynasty.

Despite missing the opportunity to completely eliminate the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans, Jade Sword Sect did not relax their vigilance and continued to keep a close eye on them with sufficient forces.

Later, due to calculations by the higher-ups in Jiuqu League, the remnants of Grey Mountain School and Hundred Battles Gate were moved to Yuantu Great Prairie, directly facing the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans.

Having fought multiple battles with the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans, Jade Sword Sect knew their terrifying strength and had never let their guard down.

Even in the turmoil caused by Azure Origin Sect, with the entire southern part of Jiuqu League falling into chaos, Yuantu Great Prairie remained relatively peaceful, and the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans showed no signs of activity.

Despite this, Jade Sword Sect maintained enough strength there to monitor the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans.

Apart from Grey Mountain School and Hundred Battles Gate, there were also many cultivators from Jiuqu League keeping an eye on the movements of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans.

Even though Jade Sword Sect and the Dali Dynasty's armies fought fiercely, the higher-ups in Jade Sword Sect had never considered withdrawing a single soldier from Yuantu Great Prairie.

Unfortunately, even with such a tight arrangement, there was a flaw.

Grey Mountain School suddenly changed sides, and the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans broke through their defenses.

True Monarch Hundred Battles of Hundred Battles Gate was killed on the spot, and the losses suffered by Hundred Battles Gate cultivators were devastating, almost wiping out the entire sect.

Currently, the forces arranged by Jade Sword Sect on Yuantu Great Prairie had been swept away.

Some Jade Sword Sect cultivators risked their lives to send messages, requesting the sect to quickly send reinforcements.

Just a moment ago, Jade Sword Sect's True Monarch Fei Guo had already led a vanguard team to set off.

Now, there was no force left on Yuantu Great Prairie that could stop the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans.

If they were not stopped in time and allowed to move freely, countless extraterritorial Barbarian Clans would rush out of Yuantu Great Prairie and directly invade the heartland of Jiuqu League. The situation was terrifying to imagine.

As a member of Jiuqu League, hearing this news from Elder Beast Fury, Meng Zhang was also shocked, and his face changed dramatically.

Jade Sword Sect had barely held off the Dali Dynasty's massive army with the help of reinforcements, and it had already been an extremely difficult task.

Now, with the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans suddenly breaking out of Yuantu Great Prairie, they were truly caught in a dilemma. They would be attacked on both fronts.

On the Yuantu Great Prairie, a fatal flaw appeared, and the Jade Sword Sect naturally had to find a way to make up for it.

In order to avoid being attacked from both sides, even though facing the heavy pressure from the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army, they had to draw some forces to block the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's attack.

Because the problem this time was caused by the Grey Mountain School's betrayal, the Beast King Mountain, also a member of the Three Sects Alliance, couldn't avoid suspicion.

As outsiders, no matter how cautious and restrained they were, they still unavoidably touched the sensitive nerves of the local powerhouses.

After the Old Beast King Mountain entered the Jiuqu League, they first settled down with the help of the New Beast King Mountain.

Later, Elder Beast Fury and Meng Zhang joined forces to kill two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs from the New Beast King Mountain. Elder Beast Fury took the opportunity to forcibly annex the New Beast King Mountain.

Some individuals close to the New Beast King Mountain, as well as those who considered the outsiders a threat...

Previously, they couldn't speak out because of the threat from the Dali Dynasty, which suppressed all internal conflicts within the Jade Sword Sect.

Now, with the Grey Mountain School colluding with the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, they were given the opportunity and excuse to do so.

Just a moment ago, some rumors started to spread.

These rumors all questioned the Beast King Mountain, especially Elder Beast Fury.

Even a few Primordial Spirit True Monarchs publicly accused Elder Beast Fury of being a traitor to the Jiuqu League.

Elder Beast Fury was weak due to his injuries and didn't have much time left. Moreover, the actions of the Grey Mountain School made it hard for him to justify himself.

Frustrated, Elder Beast Fury had no strength or desire to argue with these people.

Upon hearing this, Meng Zhang's thoughts became complicated.

During this period, he had been focusing primarily on cultivation and deliberately avoiding getting close to the Yellow Lotus Sect Main Altar as a Taiyi Sect cultivator.

He was surprised that such a major event had occurred, and he hadn't heard anything beforehand; he had to learn about it from Elder Beast Fury.

It is unlikely that the Grey Mountain School colluded with the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, but the possibility of colluding with the Dali Dynasty is very high.

Perhaps the reason why the Grey Mountain School was able to escape from the Crossing Severing Mountain Range to the Jiuqu League was due to the Dali Dynasty's mercy.

While the Jiuqu League was in a stand-off with the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army, the situation suddenly changed on the Yuantu Great Prairie, making the Dali Dynasty the first suspect.

In fact, many people were certain that the Grey Mountain School's betrayal at this time was orchestrated by the Dali Dynasty.

When Meng Zhang brought up this topic, You Hongzhi True Monarch and Elder Beast Fury joined the discussion.

The timing of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's attack was so coincidental and precise that no one would believe the Dali Dynasty had no involvement.

However, even though the Dali Dynasty had always acted recklessly and unscrupulously due to their overwhelming strength, colluding with extraterritorial Barbarian Clan was still going too far.

In the world of cultivation, there are numerous conflicts, and almost anything goes to achieve victory, but there are still many taboos.

Colluding with extraterritorial forces is one major taboo.

Once such a thing is confirmed, the offending cultivation force would become a public enemy in the Cultivation World and have no place to hide.

Needless to say, the Jiuqu League would seize this opportunity to attack the Dali Dynasty fiercely.

Likewise, unless caught red-handed, the Dali Dynasty would surely deny any involvement.

Demonic Cultivation is the enemy of the Cultivation World, and everyone must eliminate it. However, there are also many cultivators who secretly collude with Demonic Cultivation.

With the support of Purple Yang Holy Sect cultivators this time, it remains to be seen if they can make a difference in this matter.

While the three were discussing these matters, Xing Jian True Monarch of the Jade Sword Sect flew over.

Meng Zhang had not interacted with this elder in charge of punishment at the Jade Sword Sect before, but he had heard that this person was extremely bloodthirsty and did not welcome strangers.

However, when Xing Jian True Monarch arrived, he appeared very amiable, without the usual hostility.

He went straight to the point, comforting Elder Beast Fury and saying that the Jade Sword Sect trusted him completely and had no doubts about him.

Regarding the baseless rumors, he advised Elder Beast Fury not to mind them and ignore them.

Jade Sword True Monarch had already issued an order, forbidding anyone from continuing to criticize Elder Beast Fury.

Upon hearing these words from Xing Jian, Elder Beast Fury appeared deeply moved and almost burst into tears.

You Hongzhi True Monarch and Elder Beast Fury had been old friends for many years, and seeing that the Jade Sword Sect still trusted Elder Beast Fury made them equally happy.

Xing Jian True Monarch was originally not eloquent, but at this moment, he repeatedly emphasized the same words.

However, this made his actions all the more commendable and revealed the attitude of the Jade Sword Sect.

Regardless of whether the Jade Sword Sect was sincere or not, or whether they truly trusted Elder Beast Fury, this attitude was enough to appease him.

With Elder Beast Fury reassured, Xing Jian True Monarch noticed Meng Zhang's presence and asked him to prepare.

Jade Sword True Monarch had decided to mobilize Taiyi Sect cultivators to intercept the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

Given that there was no prior information about this mission, Meng Zhang was quite surprised that it fell to him.

However, since Xing Jian True Monarch had already spoken, he couldn't refuse.

Outwardly, he had to show respect for this person.

Meng Zhang bid farewell to Elder Beast Fury and the others and obediently left to make preparations.

On the way back to the residence of the Taiyi Sect, Meng Zhang was puzzled. Why would the Taiyi Sect be mobilized to confront the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan? Was there something he didn't know about?

At this moment, it became apparent that the Taiyi Sect's foundation within the Jiuqu League was weak.

Despite having joined the Jade Sword Sect, it was clear that the Jade Sword Sect had limited trust in them. Moreover, during this period, they deliberately avoided the Main Altar of the Yellow Lotus Sect due to conflicts with the cultivators of the Purple Yang Holy Sect. When a real crisis occurred, they were uncertain about the specific decisions of the high-level members.

Meng Zhang was somewhat familiar with Fei Guo True Monarch of the Jade Sword Sect, but unfortunately, he had already been sent elsewhere, and Meng Zhang couldn't find any other acquaintances from the Jade Sword Sect.

Fortunately, Meng Zhang had friends, and he had some connections.

Upon his return to the Taiyi Sect's residence, a maid sent by Xu Mengying was already waiting for him.

After seeing Meng Zhang, the maid quickly conveyed all the instructions given by Xu Mengying.

As it turned out, after the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan eliminated the Jiuqu League cultivators blocking their path, they didn't immediately attack the heartland of the Jiuqu League. Instead, they continued to sweep through the Yuantu Great Prairie to consolidate their rear while also sending forces northwards.

One had to admit that this time, the Barbarian Clan had finally become clever.

If they had rushed out of the Yuantu Great Prairie and continued their advance towards the Jiuqu League heartland, the Jade Sword Sect, no matter how unwilling, would have had to concentrate their main forces to prioritize their elimination. Then they could turn around and slowly deal with the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army.

When facing enemies on both sides, the conventional approach was to deal with the easier threat first.

Balancing the two evils and choosing the lighter one, the Jade Sword Sect would rather allow the Dali Dynasty to enter the Jiuqu League's northern region than let the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan rush in.

At least the Dali Dynasty would not destroy the local foundation; on the contrary, they might protect the spirit veins, spirit fields, and resources.

The extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, on the other hand, was more vicious than locusts, purely destructive, and would ravage everything they encountered.

Now that the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan had not left the Yuantu Great Prairie, they had not crossed the psychological bottom line of the Jade Sword Sect's high-level members.

Facing the pressure of the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army, the high-level members of the Jade Sword Sect could only temporarily let them rampage in the Yuantu Great Prairie.

Currently, the True Monarch Fei Guo of the Jade Sword Sect had established a defense line on the edge of the Yuantu Great Prairie with a group of cultivators, preventing the Barbarian Clan from rushing out.

Although the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan had no intention of breaking out of the Yuantu Great Prairie for the time being, the Jade Sword Sect couldn't completely ignore them.

The northern region of the Yuantu Great Prairie, which the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan was preparing to invade, happened to be the Endless Sea of Sand.

The Endless Sea of Sand was the territory of the Taiyi Sect, and they had the responsibility to defend it.

However, currently, the main force of the Taiyi Sect and their vassal sect, the Hanhai Alliance, had all been mobilized to guard near the Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain.

The high-level members of the Jade Sword Sect considered that the Taiyi Sect was the landlord of the Endless Sea of Sand and was familiar with the situation there. So they decided to call them back to be responsible for guarding the Endless Sea of Sand.

If the time was right, the Taiyi Sect could launch a counterattack from the north and assist the Jade Sword Sect in eliminating the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

After listening to the maid's words, Meng Zhang felt a bit complicated.

Before this, he had tried every means to call back the disciples of the Taiyi Sect to their sect. Unexpectedly, his goal was achieved in this way.

Whether this situation was good or bad, Meng Zhang was not entirely sure.

Meng Zhang had encountered the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan before and fought them when he ventured deep into the Yuantu Great Prairie to obtain the treasure trove of the black market.

The ferocity and strength of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan had left a deep impression on him.

Now, with the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan forming an alliance with the Grey Mountain School and eliminating the Hundred Battles Gate, they had effectively swept away the Jiuqu League's power from the Yuantu Great Prairie. Facing the imposing extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, the Taiyi Sect might not be able to resist. But regardless of their confidence, for one, right next to the Endless Sea of Sand was the Demon Wind Gobi, which was the old nest of the Taiyi Sect. It was impossible for them to let the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan take it over without a fight. Secondly, since the high-level members of the Jade Sword Sect had already made a decision, Meng Zhang couldn't resist.

After finishing the important matters, the maid hastily left.

Meng Zhang immediately ordered the disciples of the Taiyi Sect stationed there to put away the defensive formation, prepare their belongings, and be ready to retreat at any time.

The next day, an envoy from the Jade Sword Sect arrived with the formal orders.

The envoy conveyed the command of the Jade Sword Sect to Meng Zhang. The Jade Sword Sect demanded that Meng Zhang lead the main force of the Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance to return and reinforce the defense of the Endless Sea of Sand. They must not allow the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan to break through that area.

In the order, the high-level members of the Jade Sword Sect also strictly limited the time for the actions of the Taiyi Sect. They were not allowed to delay on the way and must return to defend the Endless Sea of Sand as soon as possible.

Apart from the Taiyi Sect, the Fire Cloud Sect, as it held a territory within the Endless Sea of Sand, was also considered related to the situation there by the high-level members of the Jade Sword Sect.

The Fire Cloud Sect also had to immediately evacuate and return to the Endless Sea of Sand to strengthen the defense there.

It was unknown whether the Fire Cloud Sect was unlucky or fortunate.

Being able to leave the frontline confrontation with the Dali Dynasty was considered fortunate. However, facing the fierce extraterritorial Barbarian Clan was definitely not a good thing.

Not to mention that the Sect Master of the Fire Cloud Sect, Daoist Master Firecloud, had already pledged allegiance to the Taiyi Sect. As a Gold Core sect, during times of war, they had to obey the orders of the Primordial Spirit sect, Taiyi Sect.

When Meng Zhang had a sudden inspiration before, he didn't wipe out the Fire Cloud Sect completely. Now, it seemed he had gained some cannon fodder.

The strength of the Fire Cloud Sect was not weak. Relying on the resources they obtained from the Endless Sea of Sand, they had developed rapidly in recent years and had a place among the Gold Core sects.

In the previous battle against the Dali Dynasty's army, due to Meng Zhang's timely support, although their losses were equally heavy, their foundation remained intact.

After conveying the order, the envoy of the Jade Sword Sect left the Taiyi Sect and went to the Fire Cloud Sect to deliver the command.

Regardless of how the Fire Cloud Sect viewed the order, they were powerless to refuse and could only obey.

Soon after, the Sect Master of the Fire Cloud Sect, Daoist Master Firecloud, came to pay a visit to Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang couldn't be bothered to see him and had one of the elders, Shocking Thunder Spirit General, receive him.

Daoist Master Firecloud had nothing else to discuss; mainly, he came to express his loyalty to the Taiyi Sect.

Shocking Thunder Spirit General scolded him a few times and then sent him away.

Both the Taiyi Sect and the Fire Cloud Sect acted swiftly, and soon everything was in order, and they were ready to set off.

The fleet of flying boats from the Taiyi Sect came from the rear with ample carrying capacity.

Besides transporting the cultivators of the Taiyi Sect and the Hanhai Alliance, they also brought along the cultivators of the Fire Cloud Sect.

The fleet of flying boats quickly embarked on the journey back to the Endless Sea of Sand.

With True Monarch Fei Guo having taken a powerful force to defend against the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, and now the Taiyi Sect being withdrawn, the strength of the defense line near the Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain had significantly weakened.

In this situation, Jade Sword True Monarch's original plan to go all out and fight the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army had basically failed.

With the combined strength of the Jiuqu League and the reinforcements being insufficient for defense, there was no way they could launch an offensive.

They could only focus on strengthening their defense and wait for the enemy to launch an attack.

## **Chapter 798: Entrusting the Orphan**

On the night before the Taiyi Sect's departure, a guest avoided the crowd's attention and secretly visited Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang, who was meditating alone, chose a hidden cave to meet this person after receiving their message.

And this person was none other than Elder Beast Fury from the Beast King Mountain.

Meng Zhang was a bit puzzled by Elder Beast Fury's secretive meeting. Why couldn't he openly discuss matters instead of acting like a thief?

After the meeting, Elder Beast Fury wasted no time and got straight to the point. He had a few trusted disciples, all at the Foundation Building cultivation level. They were going to form a small sect that would exist as a vassal to the Taiyi Sect and receive their protection.

Meng Zhang quickly understood his intention. Elder Beast Fury wanted to leave a contingency plan to prevent the Beast King Mountain's legacy from being cut off. However, considering the current situation, was it necessary for Elder Beast Fury to do this?

Moreover, why did he come to Meng Zhang instead of seeking others' help?

It's possible that Elder Beast Fury was just casting a wide net, and Meng Zhang happened to be one of the options.

Elder Beast Fury didn't explain much and simply hoped that Meng Zhang would agree. If Meng Zhang made a Grand Dao oath, promising not to leak the information, he would receive a generous reward.

While speaking, Elder Beast Fury presented his lavish gift – a large pile of Fourth Rank spirit materials, three Fourth Rank talismans, and several bottles of Fourth Rank elixirs.

Despite the decline of Beast King Mountain, which was once above the Jiuqu League in terms of legacy, it still possessed considerable reserves and heritage, especially after absorbing the New Beast King Mountain.

Seeing this great pile of treasures, Meng Zhang's heart was moved. He had not contributed much, and yet, he would receive such a substantial gain. There was no better deal than this.

However, Meng Zhang still had some doubts and wanted to test Elder Beast Fury, so he didn't rush to give an answer.

Seeing Meng Zhang hesitating, Elder Beast Fury sighed and took out something else.

It was an apparently ordinary jade slip. After Meng Zhang received it and skimmed through its contents, his heart stirred.

The jade slip contained information on how to forge and control various beast-controlling magic tools. Apart from various low-grade magic tools, there was also information about the Fourth Rank magic tool "Beast Controlling Plate."

When Meng Zhang joined forces with Elder Beast Fury last time to kill the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs of the New Beast King Mountain, he seized this Fourth Rank magic tool – Beast Controlling Plate – from True Monarch Qiu Wanli.

The main purpose of this Beast Controlling Plate was to subdue various monster beasts, transform them into protective spirit beasts, and then strengthen them.

Magic tools like the Beast Controlling Plate, which carried the strong style of a sect, required specific methods to be effectively controlled. After obtaining the Beast Controlling Plate, its tool spirit fell into a deep slumber and couldn't be awakened. Moreover, Meng Zhang lacked the complementary methods to use the magic tool, rendering it useless, merely gathering dust in the treasury.

Later on, Meng Zhang tried to test Elder Beast Fury, hoping to obtain the methods to use the Beast Controlling Plate from him. However, this kind of secret technique related to the highest confidential matters of the sect wouldn't be casually disclosed, no matter how good their relationship was.

Unexpectedly, Elder Beast Fury willingly handed over the jade slip containing the methods of forging and controlling beast-controlling magic tools, which was one of the core inheritances of the Beast King Mountain. This jade slip would undoubtedly lead to a significant leap in the beast-controlling techniques of the Taiyi Sect, potentially surpassing most of the sects in the Jiuqu League, if not catching up with the established Beast King Mountain.

Furthermore, if Meng Zhang could freely control the Fourth Rank magic tool Beast Controlling Plate, he could increase his combat power by subduing several Fourth Rank monster beasts, possibly compensating for Taiyi Sect's temporary lack of Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

In the face of Elder Beast Fury's temptation, Meng Zhang eventually accepted it. In front of Elder Beast Fury, he honestly made a Grand Dao oath as requested.

As Elder Beast Fury had ample experience, Meng Zhang couldn't play any tricks. He felt the invisible vibrations in the surrounding space, indicating that the Grand Dao oath had taken effect, eliciting a response from the power of the Grand Dao between heaven and earth.

At this point, Elder Beast Fury had no doubts and handed all the promised items to Meng Zhang without saying much, then left.

Before leaving, he hesitated for a moment and warned Meng Zhang not to trust the Jade Sword Sect and the Four Seas Commercial Firm.

Meng Zhang wanted to inquire further, but Elder Beast Fury had already stealthily flown away.

The next day after Elder Beast Fury's departure, the Taiyi Sect's fleet of flying boats set off and embarked on the journey back to the Endless Sea of Sand.

Meng Zhang was alone in a cabin, silently pondering the events of that night.

Elder Beast Fury had made a great sacrifice, entrusting him with something, indicating that he had a bad premonition.

Recalling his last words, Meng Zhang wondered if the Jade Sword Sect and the Four Seas Commercial Firm were planning something against the Beast King Mountain.

However, he personally witnessed the scene where True Monarch Xing Jian pacified Elder Beast Fury.

Moreover, True Monarch You Hongzhi of the Four Seas Commercial Firm and Elder Beast Fury were longtime friends with a deep bond.

However, considering Elder Beast Fury's shrewdness, he wouldn't act without reason or cause trouble for himself. It was likely that he had indeed discovered something.

While pondering this matter, Meng Zhang followed the fleet, flying smoothly back to the Endless Sea of Sand.

During the journey, Jade Sword Sect maintained constant contact with the Taiyi Sect, providing updates on the movements of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

For now, there hadn't been many changes in the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's movements.

After sweeping through the Yuantu Great Prairie, part of their forces moved toward the edge of the Yuantu Great Prairie and confronted the team led by True Monarch Fei Guo. Another part of their forces headed northward, seemingly targeting the Endless Sea of Sand.

The group heading north didn't move quickly, instead advancing slowly.

At this rate, they would still need a considerable amount of time to reach the Endless Sea of Sand.

This provided enough time for the Taiyi Sect to set up various formations and strengthen the defenses of the Endless Sea of Sand.

Meng Zhang selected the Yellow Sand Ridge in the southwest direction of the Endless Sea of Sand as the main battlefield to resist the invasion of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

## Chapter 799: Yellow Sand Ridge

Yellow Sand Ridge was once the main entrance of the Flying Swan Sect many years ago. However, when the dominant Purple Gold Sect in the Endless Sea of Sand declined, the Flying Swan Sect seized the opportunity to rise and became the new overlord.

As time passed and Meng Zhang grew in strength, the Endless Sea of Sand went through a series of changes. The Flying Swan Sect declined completely, leaving behind only a few remaining disciples, and eventually became a vassal of the Taiyi Sect.

After several changes, Yellow Sand Ridge fell into the hands of the Taiyi Sect. The Fire Cloud Sect once occupied Yellow Sand Ridge and its surrounding areas for a considerable period. However, facing the increasingly powerful Taiyi Sect, they had no choice but to voluntarily give up the territory.

The Taiyi Sect didn't press them further and only took control of Yellow Sand Ridge, leaving the surrounding area, which originally belonged to the Fire Cloud Sect, relatively untouched.

The Fire Cloud Sect's main entrance was initially located near Great Wind City. Later, they invaded the Endless Sea of Sand and gained a substantial advantage, claiming a sizable territory. However, due to this territory, the higher-ups of the Jade Sword Sect believed that the Fire Cloud Sect was related to the Endless Sea of Sand and should be guarding it with all their strength.

As the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's marching speed was not fast, Meng Zhang didn't rush to Yellow Sand Ridge. Instead, he sent Deep Earth Spirit General to lead the disciples of the Taiyi Sect and cultivators from the Hanhai Alliance to set up defenses in Yellow Sand Ridge. He himself took the time to return to the main entrance of Taiyi Sect, the Hundred Grass Slope.

Taiyi Sect's main entrance, Hundred Grass Slope, was located in Demon Wind Gobi, between the Yellow Sand Ridge on the edge of the Endless Sea of Sand. There was still a considerable distance between them.

Meng Zhang didn't waste much time on the journey and quickly returned to the main entrance.

Upon his return, he first summoned Niu Dawei, the senior disciple who remained there, and received a detailed report on the recent situation within the sect.

After Meng Zhang led the disciples of Taiyi Sect and the cultivators of the Hanhai Alliance on their expedition, the Demon Wind Gobi remained relatively calm, and nothing unusual happened. Both the directly controlled territory and the vassal territories of the Taiyi Sect were peaceful.

Later, Meng Zhang sent Delicate Water Spirit General to lead half of the Taiyi Sect disciples back to the main entrance. Delicate Water Spirit General claimed to be heavily injured and needed to go into seclusion for recovery. In reality, she had gone to Maple Leaf Mountain City to oversee various affairs there.

As an experienced Guardian Spirit General, she was more than capable of handling things on her own.

The half of the Taiyi Sect disciples who returned from the front lines included many heavily injured members, who were taken care of and treated for their injuries at the main entrance.

Those with better conditions were given various tasks and arrangements.

Niu Dawei selected a group of disciples with great potential and some newly initiated young children with awakening spiritual roots. He secretly sent them in batches to Maple Leaf Mountain City.

To avoid drawing attention and ensure secrecy, the number of people sent was intentionally slow, and Niu Dawei had to find ways to conceal the disappearance of these disciples.

As for important resources, including some precious Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects, most of them had already been transported to Maple Leaf Mountain City.

After listening to Niu Dawei's report, Meng Zhang was very satisfied with his work during this period and praised him greatly.

After inspecting the situation of the Taiyi Sect and confirming that everything was in order, Meng Zhang departed once again.

Before leaving, he specifically entrusted Niu Dawei with Elder Beast Fury's arrangements. He didn't go into too much detail but asked Niu Dawei to be prepared to receive them.

The group of Foundation Building stage disciples arranged by Elder Beast Fury would arrive at the Taiyi Sect before long. Meng Zhang ordered Niu Dawei to select a suitable territory in the Demon Wind Gobi to accommodate the newcomers and provide them a place to establish their sect and build their main entrance.

Since the Taiyi Sect began large-scale development in the Demon Wind Gobi, an increasing number of external cultivators arrived in the area, establishing their families or sects there.

Having a group of Beast King Mountain cultivators here wouldn't be too conspicuous. Even if they were foolish, they probably wouldn't continue using the name "Beast King

Mountain." As long as they didn't foolishly expose their origins voluntarily, there shouldn't be any problems.

After leaving the main entrance of Taiyi Sect, the Hundred Grass Slope, Meng Zhang rushed all the way to Yellow Sand Ridge.

Yellow Sand Ridge was situated above a Third Rank spirit vein. Although it ranked at the bottom among Third Rank spirit veins, it could still save a considerable amount of spiritual stones when used for formations.

Upon Deep Earth Spirit General's arrival with the group of cultivators, they followed the old routine of inspecting the terrain and surveying the spiritual veins in the area. Then, they moved the mountains and set up a Third Rank protective great formation.

When Meng Zhang arrived at Yellow Sand Ridge, the process of setting up the formation was in full swing. Deep Earth Spirit General and Wen Qiansun personally led and directed the disciples of Taiyi Sect to work tirelessly.

The cultivators from the Hanhai Alliance temporarily stationed outside Yellow Sand Ridge, waiting for the formation to be completed.

Sect Master Daoist Master Firecloud of the Fire Cloud Sect also arrived with the main force of Fire Cloud Sect's cultivators near Yellow Sand Ridge.

The Fire Cloud Sect's territory near Yellow Sand Ridge had long been emptied out, implementing the strictest scorched-earth policy.

In fact, all unrelated personnel around Yellow Sand Ridge had been moved away long ago. Within a radius of a thousand miles from Yellow Sand Ridge, there was no human presence other than Yellow Sand Ridge itself.

With the marauding nature and notorious reputation of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, Meng Zhang wished to leave them not a drop of water or a blade of grass.

Originally, Meng Zhang was somewhat worried that their strength might not be enough to resist the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's attacks. However, shortly after he arrived at Yellow Sand Ridge, he unexpectedly received reinforcements.

Book Mountain True Monarch, a familiar acquaintance with whom Meng Zhang had interacted several times, came unexpectedly to provide support.

With this powerful ally, Meng Zhang finally had the confidence to defend Yellow Sand Ridge and resist the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

After arriving, Book Mountain True Monarch had a long conversation with Meng Zhang and brought some surprising news.

Not long ago, Elder Beast Fury of Beast King Mountain suffered severe injuries and died during meditation on the frontlines.

After Elder Beast Fury died during meditation, Jade Sword Sect used the excuse of Beast King Mountain harboring spies from the Dali Dynasty to control all the disciples of Beast King Mountain.

But that's not all; Jade Sword Sect dispatched a group of cultivators, in cooperation with the Four Seas Commercial Firm, to enter the main entrance of Beast King Mountain and took complete control of the place.

Having suffered heavy losses in the previous major battle and now losing their only Primordial Spirit True Monarch, Elder Beast Fury, Beast King Mountain had no power to resist the sudden attack from the powerful Jade Sword Sect and could only submit obediently.

Upon hearing the news brought by Book Mountain True Monarch, Meng Zhang was stunned. Although he had a foreboding from Elder Beast Fury's act of entrusting him with the orphans, he never expected it to happen so soon.

From the account of Book Mountain True Monarch, it seemed that Elder Beast Fury died during meditation shortly after Meng Zhang's departure from Yellow Lotus Holy Mountain with the Taiyi Sect.

However, considering their meeting that night, although Elder Beast Fury had lost vitality, his death wouldn't have come so quickly. No matter how bad the situation, he could endure for ten days, half a month, or even one or two months.

The sudden and hasty death of Elder Beast Fury likely involved Jade Sword Sect's actions.

## **Chapter 800 Containment**

Jade Sword Sect truly employed clever tactics, seemingly pacifying Elder Beast Fury on the surface to avoid any disturbances caused by him.

Elder Beast Fury, after all, is a formidable expert at the mid-stage of Primordial Spirit. Even though he may have died during meditation, no one knows the extent of his abilities.

If he were to unleash a final burst of power before his death, it might cause significant losses to Jade Sword Sect.

Once everything was prepared, Jade Sword Sect suddenly launched an attack and directly took control of the entire Beast King Mountain.

You Hongzhi True Monarch was, indeed, Elder Beast Fury's old friend, but looking at the actions of the Four Seas Commercial Firm, it seems that years of friendship couldn't withstand the lure of profits.

You Hongzhi True Monarch betrayed his old friend, and it is likely that the Four Seas Commercial Firm gained substantial benefits from this betrayal.

Elder Beast Fury is a cunning individual, not easily calculable. He discreetly entrusted a legacy to Meng Zhang, which suggests he had some suspicions.

Unfortunately, the power gap between them is too vast. Even if Elder Beast Fury becomes aware, what can he do?

Perhaps, for the safety of the Beast King Mountain cultivators, Elder Beast Fury can only pretend to be clueless and accept his fate silently.

He left himself an escape route by seeking Meng Zhang's help, but it is uncertain if he left behind the Beast King Mountain's heritage somewhere else.

Meng Zhang no longer has the luxury to concern himself with Beast King Mountain; instead, he worries about his own and Taiyi Sect's situation.

Before Jade Sword Sect took action against Beast King Mountain, they had sufficient reasons not to inform Taiyi Sect to maintain secrecy.

Likewise, this proves that Jade Sword Sect lacks enough trust in Taiyi Sect.

The close relationship between Meng Zhang and Elder Beast Fury is an indisputable fact.

Considering Jade Sword Sect sent Taiyi Sect back to defend the Endless Sea of Sand without providing enough assistance, it seems that in the eyes of Jade Sword Sect's higher-ups, the best outcome would be if Taiyi Sect could stop the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan in the Endless Sea of Sand.

Even if Taiyi Sect were to lose the battle and the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan advanced into the Endless Sea of Sand, there is still the nearby Demon Wind Gobi. With such vast territory, it should be enough to keep the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan occupied.

This time, when the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan launched their attack, Meng Zhang even had a feeling that they have become smarter and no longer rely solely on brute force like before.

There might be some tacit understanding between Jade Sword Sect and the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

Of course, this is Meng Zhang's personal feeling, and he hasn't disclosed it to anyone.

Book Mountain True Monarch's reinforcement to Meng Zhang this time was his own voluntary action, not arranged by Jade Sword Sect.

From this, it can be seen that the members of the Dark Alliance branches are still clear about their grudges and know how to take care of their friends.

Compared to Jade Sword Sect's vigilance towards Taiyi Sect, Meng Zhang feels dissatisfied.

Jade Sword Sect's decisive handling of Beast King Mountain is reasonable in terms of logic; after all, they cannot afford internal issues when directly facing Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army in such a dangerous situation.

Even if Beast King Mountain is entirely loyal and trustworthy, one cannot overlook the possibility of unexpected events. Dealing with Beast King Mountain in advance is a way to eliminate all hidden dangers.

Meng Zhang can understand Jade Sword Sect's approach, but he still can't help but feel a sense of sorrow for the tragedy of the hare and the fox.

Years later, when Meng Zhang recalls these events, he might consider this as the catalyst that led to Taiyi Sect and Jade Sword Sect going their separate ways.

Regardless, Taiyi Sect is powerless in these matters and can only strive to do its job well, putting all efforts into defending against the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's invasion.

Both the Endless Sea of Sand and the Demon Wind Gobi belong to Taiyi Sect's territory, and Meng Zhang certainly does not want to see these places ruthlessly destroyed and ravaged by the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

Deep Earth Spirit General and Wen Qiansun acted swiftly, skillfully setting up formations and establishing tight defense mechanisms.

Outside Yellow Sand Ridge, they deployed the Six Spirits Golden Light Formation and Ten Directions Absolute Killing Formation, both of which are third-rank formations. The Third Rank spirit vein here provides insufficient spiritual energy. Taiyi Sect also prepared a considerable amount of spirit stones as a supplement.

Both Taiyi Sect and the cultivators from the Hanhai Alliance entered the defensive range of the great formation, relying on its power for defense.

Fire Cloud Sect only recently joined Taiyi Sect, and Meng Zhang doesn't fully trust them yet, so he is unwilling to place them within their own great formation.

Instead, Daoist Master Firecloud leads the cultivators of Fire Cloud Sect to form a separate army near Yellow Sand Ridge, serving as a mobile force and reserves.

Daoist Master Firecloud naturally has no objections to Meng Zhang's arrangement and dutifully follows the orders.

Meng Zhang and Book Mountain True Monarch are stationed at Yellow Sand Ridge, patiently awaiting the arrival of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

Unexpectedly, instead of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, a group of other guests arrived.

This group consists of defeated soldiers who barely escaped from the hands of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

Initially, when the Grey Mountain School colluded with the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, True Monarch Hundred Battles of the Hundred Battles Gate fell in battle.

However, under True Monarch Hundred Battles' protection, many cultivators from the Hundred Battles Gate and other forces of the Jiuqu League managed to escape.

Later, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan and Grey Mountain School swept through the entire Yuantu Great Prairie, causing almost the entire area to fall under their control.

Many cultivation forces on the Yuantu Great Prairie had their cultivators scatter and flee, hoping to escape far away from the area.

Some were in a panic and fled randomly, while others were reluctant to return to the Jiuqu League's territory.

In any case, due to various reasons, many fleeing cultivators escaped to the border between the Yuantu Great Prairie and the Endless Sea of Sand.

Meng Zhang certainly didn't want to see these people wandering around and causing trouble in the Endless Sea of Sand.

Taiyi Sect dispatched teams of cultivators led by various Gold Core elders to patrol the border of the Endless Sea of Sand, bringing back and settling any cultivators they encountered.

Though these cultivators were somewhat disheveled, their numbers were significant, and they managed to make it this far, showing some level of ability or luck.

With a major battle approaching, it was just the right time for cannon fodder.

Meng Zhang naturally accepted the willingly offered cannon fodder.

However, to prevent any spies from the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan among these cultivators, following the lessons learned from the Grey Mountain School, Meng Zhang diligently put aside his Primordial Spirit True Monarch status and personally examined each one of them.

Fortunately, the highest cultivation base among these cultivators was only at the Foundation Building stage. With the strength of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, using Mind Reading, a gifted Divine Ability, there would be virtually no room for mistakes.

After careful examination, Meng Zhang found no spies from the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan among these cultivators.

Additionally, what pleasantly surprised Meng Zhang was that among them, there was a group of cultivators from the Hundred Battles Gate, which turned out to be an unexpected gain.

This Hundred Battles Gate group consisted of less than a hundred individuals, but they were mostly elite cultivators. Despite their defeat and escape, their spirits were high, and they showed no signs of losing heart.

Even when the Gold Core elders from Taiyi Sect came forward, they refused to surrender.

If not for Zheng Chao, who led the team, invoking Jiuqu League's command and stating that Taiyi Sect was responsible for guarding this area and had the authority to deal with all suspicious cultivators, they might not have submitted easily.

Even as prisoners, they showed little signs of surrendering completely.

If this group of Hundred Battles Gate cultivators were properly trained, they would be of great use, and Meng Zhang hesitated to consider them mere cannon fodder.

[Yay! 800 Chapters Done!]