

Sect Master's Immortal Journey #Chapter 801 Round - Read Sect Master's Immortal Journey Chapter 801 Round

Chapter 801: Round

Because of the favorable impression of the Hundred Battles Gate Cultivator, Meng Zhang singled them out and made separate arrangements. Among these refugees, there are disciples with cultivation backgrounds. Once they find a safe place, they will actively seek opportunities to reestablish sects or clans and carry on their legacies.

The Demon Wind Gobi is vast, and so far, the Taiyi Sect has not fully developed it. If these cultivators demonstrate enough value and willingly pledge loyalty to the Taiyi Sect, Meng Zhang might consider giving them the opportunity to rebuild their sects. They can serve as vassals in peacetime, helping Taiyi Sect open up the Demon Wind Gobi, especially those less valuable or more troublesome areas that can be assigned to them. In times of war, they will be the best cannon fodder under the command of Taiyi Sect.

Of course, these matters can be discussed later. The current priority is to deal with the attacks from the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan. The identified cultivators have been organized into teams and Taiyi Sect has sent cultivators as supervisors to ensure these teams follow orders.

These teams have been arranged in front of the Yellow Sand Ridge, acting as the vanguard against the invasion of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan. Regardless of their willingness, facing the dominant Taiyi Sect, they have no room for resistance. Taiyi Sect's patrol teams are closely monitoring the edge of the Endless Sea of Sand, leaving almost no cultivators who escaped into it uncaught.

In addition, cultivators like Shocking Thunder Spirit General and Extreme Sword Spirit General, known for their speed and power, have been sent by Meng Zhang to explore the movements of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, advancing to the Yuan Tu Great Prairie, and even delving deep into it. With their strength, as long as they don't run into the Barbarian King head-on, they shouldn't encounter any insurmountable dangers. Extreme Sword Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General are experienced enough for such reconnaissance work.

The southwest direction of the Endless Sea of Sand leads to the Yuan Tu Great Prairie, which should also be the marching route of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan. Even if the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan moves swiftly and stealthily, it would be challenging to escape the attention of the scouts.

As time passes, fewer and fewer cultivators are escaping from Yuan Tu Great Prairie, and Taiyi Sect's patrol teams have gradually lost their gains. On Taiyi Sect's side, they

are intensively preparing for a big battle, fortifying and laying down formations. However, the large army of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan is yet to appear.

Meng Zhang is patient and doesn't show impatience. He is a bit worried about the movements of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan. If they don't come out from the border of Yuan Tu Great Prairie and the Endless Sea of Sand but break into the territory of Jiuqu League and enter the Endless Sea of Sand from a different direction, that would be troublesome.

Fortunately, that situation has not occurred. Extreme Sword Spirit General, who has been scouting ahead, finally reported back with intelligence. The large army of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan has appeared in his field of view and is marching toward the Endless Sea of Sand. Their army is numerous, but their pace is slow. If they maintain this speed, it will take at least half a month before they can enter the Endless Sea of Sand. Finally knowing the precise movements of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, Meng Zhang breathed a sigh of relief. During the time they were waiting for the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's arrival, Taiyi Sect cultivators strengthened their defense, and Sect Master Meng Zhang also took the opportunity to cultivate and improve his combat strength.

Among the Fourth Rank Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects he obtained from Elder Beast Fury, two of them were particularly useful for his native spiritual tool, the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd, which he integrated into it. After years of careful nurturing, the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd had almost accumulated enough power to be upgraded. Once Meng Zhang's native spiritual tool, the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd, becomes a Fourth Rank magic tool, his strength will experience another rapid improvement.

The tool spirit of the Rainbow Dawn Glow Robe, Cai'er, who had fallen into slumber after suffering serious damage, finally awakened a few days ago. Upon waking, she loudly complained and blamed Meng Zhang for his rough actions that caused her immense pain. Since the birth of Cai'er as a tool spirit, she had never experienced such agony. After being severely injured, she entered a state of slumber for self-preservation.

Meng Zhang had to carefully appease her, saying many kind words and promising numerous benefits to calm her down. After Cai'er's awakening, she could independently control the repair of the Rainbow Dawn Glow Robe. Through her efforts, the Rainbow Dawn Glow Robe was now more than half repaired, and the original cracks had disappeared. It wouldn't take long for this Fourth Rank magic tool used for defense to be fully repaired. When that happens, with the protection of a Fourth Rank magic tool, Meng Zhang's full strength will be further unleashed.

Although Meng Zhang had been stationed at the Yellow Sand Ridge and had rarely left the place, he received all sorts of external news, especially about the movements of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, which came to his attention without missing any detail.

After more than half a month, the massive extraterritorial Barbarian Clan army finally crossed the border between Yuan Tu Great Prairie and the Endless Sea of Sand, entering the Endless Sea of Sand. Upon receiving this news, Meng Zhang quickly ordered all patrol teams to retreat to avoid encountering the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan army.

However, what happened next was beyond Meng Zhang's expectations. This vast extraterritorial Barbarian Clan army didn't follow the typical rules of engagement in the Cultivation World and attack the Taiyi Sect at Yellow Sand Ridge. Instead, they took a large detour, seemingly bypassing the Yellow Sand Ridge and heading straight for the heart of the Endless Sea of Sand.

When Meng Zhang received this information, he was stunned for a while before realizing the situation. The extraterritorial Barbarian Clan came from outside the Cultivation World and had no connection with the Grand Dust World. Naturally, they didn't need to abide by the standard rules of engagement and chose the most advantageous approach for themselves. Although they were called "Barbarian Clan" and might seem somewhat impulsive and reckless, they were definitely not foolish. On the contrary, years of battles had given them rich combat experience, enabling them to make accurate judgments on the battlefield.

Taiyi Sect had prepared a tight defense at Yellow Sand Ridge with meticulous arrangements. The extraterritorial Barbarian Clan would never be foolish enough to ignore their advantage and clash head-on. By bypassing Yellow Sand Ridge and heading for the vast area behind it, which was virtually defenseless, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan had found a way to avoid the heavily fortified Taiyi Sect.

As Meng Zhang thought about this, he couldn't help but glance outside. It seemed that the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's main army hadn't arrived yet, but they had sent reconnaissance forces to investigate Taiyi Sect's arrangements. The extraterritorial Barbarian Clan had employed a tactic to evade the real strength of Taiyi Sect, bypassing the heavily guarded Yellow Sand Ridge and heading straight for the deeper, less defended areas of the Endless Sea of Sand. This situation posed a bit of a dilemma for Meng Zhang.

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In this situation, Meng Zhang will certainly not sit idly by. The current Endless Sea of Sand is the territory of the Taiyi Sect, and they cannot allow the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan to destroy it.

Fortunately, the Endless Sea of Sand is vast and desolate enough that the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan won't be able to enter the human settlement areas in the short term. According to the current marching route and speed of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, it will take at least half a month before they pass through significant oases.

Meng Zhang has enough time to consider how to respond. His initial reaction is to command the cultivator army under his command to leave the Yellow Sand Ridge and intercept the Barbarian Clan's forces. However, leaving the well-prepared preset positions to engage in a battle with the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan in the wilderness would mean sacrificing their advantages and playing to the enemy's strengths.

Engaging in a field battle without a stronghold as a base could make it difficult for them to retreat if the situation becomes unfavorable and they face the onslaught of the Barbarian Clan's army. The cultivator army under Meng Zhang is not as disciplined as the Dali Dynasty's forces and lacks the same level of coordination.

Meng Zhang convened the elders of the Taiyi Sect on Yellow Sand Ridge to discuss the matter. Almost all the elders were inclined to take the initiative and intercept the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's forces. Since the elders held this opinion, Meng Zhang decided to go along with it.

However, he still maintained a cautious attitude and had the Deep Earth Spirit General command the cultivator army, ready to depart at any time. He also invited the Book Mountain True Monarch to join him and decided to personally conduct reconnaissance.

The flying speed of the two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs was swift, and they quickly arrived not far from the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's forces, where the Extreme Sword Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General had been monitoring their movements.

Upon meeting, there was no time for small talk or pleasantries. Meng Zhang went straight to the point and inquired about the situation of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army.

According to the report from the Extreme Sword Spirit General, this Barbarian Clan's army numbered close to ten thousand people, consisting of young and strong members, without the elderly or infirm. They were undoubtedly the elite forces of the Barbarian Clan. Almost all the Barbarian Clan members had mounts, including a large number of land-based mounts and a considerable number of flying mounts.

With sufficient mounts, the Barbarian Clan's forces should have a higher speed of advancement. However, they intentionally slowed down their march since they entered the Yuantu Great Prairie area. Patrol teams riding flying mounts surrounded the Barbarian Clan's army, with some savage generals among them.

The Extreme Sword Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General couldn't get too close and could only conduct distant reconnaissance.

There were many details about the Barbarian Clan's army that they were not clear about. After hearing the report from the Extreme Sword Spirit General, Meng Zhang and Book Mountain True Monarch exchanged glances.

If the Barbarian Clan's forces with sufficient mounts launched a full-speed assault, it would be challenging for the Taiyi Sect's cultivator army to intercept them midway. Slowing down their advance could be seen as a cautious and steady approach. On the other hand, it could also be interpreted as a lack of determination in their willingness to engage in combat or even a fear of battle.

Before witnessing the actual situation, all ideas were mere speculations. Both Meng Zhang and Book Mountain True Monarch had a surprisingly similar idea – they were preparing to see the situation for themselves. Meng Zhang left Extreme Sword Spirit General and his team behind, instructing them not to approach easily. Then, accompanied by Book Mountain True Monarch, he continued flying forward.

Not far ahead, they encountered a group of Barbarian Clan warriors riding massive eagles. Since the opponents were extraterritorial Barbarian Clan members, Meng Zhang and his companions didn't need to adhere to the rules of the Cultivation World. In the Cultivation World, killing weak cultivators as a Primordial Spirit True Monarch would be frowned upon. However, when it came to the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, everyone felt it was only natural.

With a casual wave of his hand, Meng Zhang caused the patrol team of the Barbarian Clan, along with their flying mounts, to lose all signs of life and fall from the sky. As they continued on their way, any patrol team they encountered couldn't escape their deadly attacks. They even killed one of the savage generals because he couldn't dodge in time.

Their ruthless actions naturally attracted the attention of the strong within the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan. Accompanied by thunderous roars, a tall, giant-like man with a shaggy beard soared into the sky and arrived not far from Meng Zhang and Book Mountain True Monarch.

"You despicable human cultivators have no sense of honor as strong beings. Bullying the weak and slaughtering the helpless, it's utterly disgraceful!" The Barbarian King called Tuller Bear berated them with a righteous tone.

Hearing the opposing side's stern scolding, Meng Zhang couldn't help but roll his eyes. These seemingly honest extraterritorial Barbarian Clan members were no strangers to vile acts like slaughtering the weak. They had done such things countless times. They only put on a self-righteous act when they became the target of others' killings.

"I am Tuller Bear, and today I shall take your heads to honor our fallen kin," the Barbarian King declared, apparently provoked by Meng Zhang and his companions' disdainful attitude, and he charged towards them.

Book Mountain True Monarch took out a scroll of a book and met the attack head-on without any signs of weakness. Meng Zhang, on the other hand, didn't join Book Mountain True Monarch in attacking the Barbarian King, not because he didn't want to overpower him together, but because he gazed higher up ahead.

"Cangshan old man, it's been a while," Meng Zhang spoke, and True Monarch Grey Mountain, whom he had encountered before, descended from the heights and landed not far from Meng Zhang.

When Elder Beast Fury introduced them, Meng Zhang instinctively disliked True Monarch Grey Mountain for his gloomy demeanor. However, he didn't expect him to stoop so low as to betray his fellow Hundred Battles Gate allies and collude with the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, even if there was some involvement from the Dali Dynasty. His actions were simply unforgivable.

"If I had known you were such a despicable traitor, I should've slapped you to death the first time we met, saving you from coming out here to disgrace yourself and tarnish the legacy of the ancestors of Grey Mountain School," Meng Zhang scolded mercilessly, unleashing a torrent of insults.

True Monarch Grey Mountain, usually calculating and cunning, was inflamed with anger by Meng Zhang's relentless berating. Joining the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's forces, betraying the Hundred Battles Gate, and selling out his own sect, Grey Mountain School, were all actions that even faced opposition within his own school.

He believed he had sacrificed much for the continuation of his sect and felt misunderstood by his fellow disciples. Following the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army for some time, he had endured the ridicule from the Barbarian Clan members. Meng Zhang's scolding unleashed all the accumulated resentment and anger within him.

With a furious shout of "Die, youngster," he mobilized the power of Grand Dao and launched an attack towards Meng Zhang.

A huge seal appeared above True Monarch Grey Mountain's head, engraved with mountains and rivers. The seal gently rotated, and small mountains descended from the sky, crashing towards Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang's previous speculation was correct. True Monarch Grey Mountain had colluded with the Dali Dynasty. He betrayed the Jiuqu League and allied with extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, all under the orders of the Dali Dynasty.

When the Dali Dynasty's army attacked and occupied the Crossing Severing Mountain Range, the remnants of the Three Sects Alliance retreated. True Monarch Grey Mountain accidentally found himself surrounded by several marshals of the Dali Dynasty, facing the danger of death.

The Dali Dynasty's higher-ups considered the long-term consequences. Killing a useless dog would not have much impact on their future campaign against the Jiuqu League. But keeping True Monarch Grey Mountain would allow him to act as an insider and play a role at a critical moment.

Faced with life and death, True Monarch Grey Mountain chose to compromise and surrendered to the Dali Dynasty. He led the remnants of the Grey Mountain School, along with Beast King Mountain and Hundred Battles Gate, seeking refuge within the Jiuqu League.

Originally, when the Jiuqu League's higher-ups relocated Grey Mountain School and Hundred Battles Gate to Yuantu Great Prairie, they could never have imagined that Grey Mountain School would collude with extraterritorial Barbarian Clan to cause trouble.

Hundred Battles Gate and Beast King Mountain had fought hard to escape from the pursuit of the Dali Dynasty. They lost many Fourth Rank magic tools and the like in the battles.

Due to the Dali Dynasty's intentional leniency, True Monarch Grey Mountain still retained the precious Fourth Rank magic tool Grey Mountain Seal.

Now, he was about to unleash this Fourth Rank magic tool to give Meng Zhang a tough time.

The small mountains falling from the sky seemed extremely fierce, but it was just the superficial power of this magic tool.

In silence, the space around Meng Zhang began to freeze, as if to completely imprison him inside.

Imprisoning Grand Dao is a branch of the Space Grand Dao, also using the power of space.

The rudimentary application of Imprisoning Grand Dao involves blocking the surrounding space gaps and layers to prevent the opponent from using spatial teleportation.

A more advanced application is directly solidifying the space around the target, thoroughly imprisoning the target inside, and then allowing oneself to slaughter at will.

Meng Zhang had experienced multiple battles with Primordial Spirit True Monarchs and personally witnessed the use of numerous Grand Dao powers.

The three thousand Grand Daos are just a general term, and when combined with various branches of Grand Dao, the applications of Grand Dao powers are countless.

Even though he had received the inheritance of Taiyi Sect, it was impossible for him to see through all the uses of Grand Dao powers.

Fortunately, Imprisoning Grand Dao was still a well-known Grand Dao, and he recognized it at a glance.

As Grey Mountain Seal began to activate, black and white streams of air emanated from Meng Zhang's body, using the power of Yin Yang Grand Dao to shatter the frozen space around him.

Accompanied by the space's tremors, Meng Zhang's figure disappeared, continuously moving in the air, making it impossible for the imprisonment force to lock onto him.

A sword light flashed, and the formidable Fourth Rank flying sword, Thousand Troops, fiercely slashed towards True Monarch Grey Mountain.

The Grey Mountain Seal above True Monarch Grey Mountain's head lightly shook, and mountains greeted the Thousand Troops sword, as if wanting to suppress this Fourth Rank flying sword.

Meng Zhang and True Monarch Grey Mountain fought fiercely, and Book Mountain True Monarch and the Barbarian King, Tuller Bear, were also entangled in a battle, with neither side gaining the upper hand for the time being. In a battle between equally powerful experts, this is how it looks. Unless there are fatal mistakes, it is difficult for either side to determine the winner in a short time.

Faced with the intense duel between Primordial Spirit True Monarchs and Fourth Rank experts, the patrolling teams of the Barbarian Clan kept their distance and dared not approach the area.

During the fight with True Monarch Grey Mountain, Meng Zhang had been holding back. With True Monarch Grey Mountain cooperating with Barbarian King Tuller Bear, their side lacked an advantage in top combat power. Although the distance to the Barbarian Clan's main army was not short, Meng Zhang found a moment during the fight to activate the Deception Breaking Eye and observe the Barbarian Clan's army.

The Barbarian Clan may be primitive, but their level of warfare development is not low. The large army formation before them seemed somewhat loose, but everyone's fighting spirit was high, and they exuded a powerful momentum. The Barbarian Clan army was divided into semi-independent groups based on different tribes, and almost every group was strengthened by the power of totem pillars, making them challenging opponents.

After fighting True Monarch Grey Mountain for a while, Meng Zhang realized that continuing the battle wouldn't be very meaningful. He had seen what he needed to see and didn't need to stay any longer.

Meng Zhang gave Book Mountain True Monarch a signal, and the two of them fought while retreating, gradually leaving the battlefield. True Monarch Grey Mountain and

Tuller Bear chased after them for a while, but they eventually had to stop the pursuit, realizing they couldn't catch the enemies.

As Meng Zhang and his group's figures disappeared on the horizon, True Monarch Grey Mountain wore a gloomy expression and remained silent. Tuller Bear, on the other hand, was displeased and yelled at the sky, "How long are you going to hide? The enemies have already escaped."

In response to Tuller Bear's yell, the figure of a middle-aged Barbarian Clan slowly appeared in the air. Compared to Tuller Bear, this Barbarian Clan member was noticeably shorter and less robust. While he might be considered sturdy among the Human Clan, he looked slender and frail compared to other members of the Barbarian Clan.

"Shali Eagle, why do you keep hiding and just watch from the sidelines?" Tuller Bear questioned, displeased. However, knowing Tuller Bear's temperament, Shali Eagle chose not to argue with him and patiently explained, "I'm different from you, a brute. My skills lie not in direct confrontation but in assassination and ambush."

"Just now, those two Human Clan Primordial Spirit True Monarchs seemed to fight fiercely with you, but they always held back, showing no flaws. If I were to act rashly, I could at most lightly injure them but wouldn't be able to keep them here permanently. Instead of easily revealing my trump card, it's better to conceal it and wait for a better opportunity."

Shali Eagle's explanation didn't satisfy Tuller Bear, who continued grumbling.

True Monarch Grey Mountain was an outsider who had joined the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, and he hadn't gained their trust. If not for the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan suffering heavy losses after the attack by Jade Sword Sect and being short on strength, they might not have allowed him to join their forces. In the eyes of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, True Monarch Grey Mountain was merely a tool with useful value.

Knowing his situation, True Monarch Grey Mountain never meddled or voiced unnecessary opinions in the internal disputes of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

Regardless of whether Tuller Bear accepted Shali Eagle's explanation or not, Meng Zhang and his group had already gone far, and there was no longer any chance of catching them.

Shali Eagle didn't think highly of Tuller Bear, who was strong in limbs but simple-minded, and he was unwilling to listen to Tuller Bear's constant complaints. Without leaving a word, he suddenly disappeared into the air.

After flying a long distance, Meng Zhang and Book Mountain True Monarch spoke almost simultaneously.

"You noticed it, right?"

They exchanged a smile, understanding each other's meaning.

Instead of moving forward, they temporarily stopped and hovered in the air, waiting.

After a while, Extreme Sword Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General flew over from the side to join them.

"I originally thought there was only one Barbarian King in this Barbarian Clan army. It seems that the Barbarian Clan has learned to conceal their strength," Meng Zhang sighed.

Book Mountain True Monarch agreed, "However, judging from this person's aura, he is undoubtedly the Barbarian King of the Barbarian Clan. Yet, he is not as impulsive and aggressive as typical Barbarian Kings; instead, he knows how to hide and wait for the right moment."

"It is said that among the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans, there are assassins who excel in stealth and assassination techniques."

"If I'm not mistaken, this Barbarian King should be one of those assassin-type experts."

Book Mountain True Monarch was knowledgeable, and the Dark Alliance had access to plenty of information and intelligence, including deep insights into the extraterritorial Barbarian Clans. His judgment was likely accurate.

Barbarian King Shali Eagle thought he had concealed himself well, but unexpectedly, he couldn't hide from the keen senses of Meng Zhang and Book Mountain True Monarch.

Knowing that there was a hidden Barbarian King, Meng Zhang started feeling troubled.

He had assumed that the main force of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan should be engaged by Jade Sword Sect's Fei Guo True Monarch.

In the invading extraterritorial Barbarian Clan army in the Endless Sea of Sand, there should be at most 1-2 Fourth Rank experts. However, with the addition of True Monarch Grey Mountain, the enemy had exactly one more Fourth Rank expert than his side.

True Monarch Grey Mountain was a cultivator in the mid Primordial Spirit realm and possessed the Fourth Rank magic tool, the Grey Mountain Seal. At best, Meng Zhang could only barely keep up with him.

Book Mountain True Monarch could handle one Barbarian King.

The hidden assassin-type Barbarian King, skilled in assassination from the shadows, was the most significant threat. He could exploit vulnerabilities and launch surprise attacks on Meng Zhang and Book Mountain True Monarch, potentially killing them.

With no advantage in top-tier combat power, from Meng Zhang's observation, the strength of the Barbarian Clan army seemed to be on par with the cultivator army of Taiyi Sect, if not slightly stronger. In a head-on battle in the wilderness, the outcome would be unpredictable.

Meng Zhang even pondered deeper.

Was the slow marching speed of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan intended to lure the enemy into attacking them actively?

With Barbarian King Tuller Bear and True Monarch Grey Mountain in the open, there was also a hidden assassin-type Barbarian King.

If Meng Zhang wasn't vigilant enough, there might be a real danger of falling.

Frankly speaking, if Book Mountain True Monarch hadn't come to reinforce them due to their friendly relationship, the power gap between the two sides would have been even greater, and Meng Zhang wouldn't stand a chance against the enemy.

To secure a higher chance of victory, Taiyi Sect needed an additional Primordial Spirit-level expert's assistance. However, it was impossible for Jade Sword Sect to send another Primordial Spirit True Monarch for reinforcement.

The only available option within Meng Zhang's personal connections was the current Book Mountain True Monarch.

Red Pig True Monarch and others were currently helping Jade Sword Sect resist the North Sweeping Grand Army of the Dali Dynasty.

Meng Zhang used to be able to summon a clone of Ghost Deity Shou Zheng. However, during the last battle with True Monarch Wen Dong, he lost one of Shou Zheng's clones, and it seemed that Shou Zheng was angry. Afterwards, Meng Zhang tried to establish altars twice in an attempt to contact Shou Zheng, but received no response. Shou Zheng was unwilling even to acknowledge Meng Zhang's communication, let alone allowing the summoning of his clone.

With insufficient strength, Taiyi Sect faced the difficult task of blocking the advance of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's massive army. Meng Zhang now understood their strength to some extent after this trial.

As the Sect Master of Taiyi Sect, he was not willing to engage in a frontal battle with the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army without sufficient confidence. If the battle failed, he

might not be in immediate danger, but Taiyi Sect would suffer severe losses. Seeing Meng Zhang's dilemma, Book Mountain True Monarch offered a reminder.

"Perhaps this extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army is genuinely trying to lure us into attacking. Their slow pace suggests they have a plan," Book Mountain True Monarch added.

After contemplating for a while, Meng Zhang made two decisions. First, he ordered Deep Earth Spirit General to temporarily stop mobilizing the cultivator army, keeping them stationed in Yellow Sand Ridge. The current situation didn't call for a head-on battle with the Barbarian Clan's army.

Secondly, he instructed Deep Earth Spirit General to dispatch an elite team of cultivators on a flying vessel to reach the front of the Barbarian Clan's army. They were to evacuate all the outposts along their route, ensuring the immediate relocation of all human-inhabited oases.

This approach would buy them some time. The vastness of the Endless Sea of Sand meant that the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army couldn't advance swiftly. This provided Meng Zhang with sufficient time to devise a counter-strategy before they swept across the entire area.

Back at Yellow Sand Ridge, Meng Zhang convened the Taiyi Sect elders to discuss possible ways to bridge the gap in their strengths. After extensive deliberation, they concluded that without external assistance, it would be challenging to overcome the difference in power. Blocking the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army would require taking a significant risk.

Book Mountain True Monarch came as an external ally to support them, and Meng Zhang had no reason to force him to risk his life for Taiyi Sect. He needed to find a solution to the disparity in top-tier combat power on his own.

Regarding the cultivator army, Taiyi Sect did not have the advantage compared to the Barbarian Clan's army. However, several Guardian Spirit Generals had experience in large-scale battles and offered two suggestions.

The first was to continue drawing cultivators from Taiyi Sect's main gate as reinforcement. They believed there was still considerable potential to tap into among the disciples at the main gate.

The second suggestion was to enhance the power of their great formation. Taiyi Sect's cultivator army had always practiced various formations, and even the cultivators from the Hanhai Alliance underwent regular drills. Deep Earth Spirit General and Wen Qiansun assured Meng Zhang that with sufficient investment, they could quickly enhance the great formation's power.

After considering the situation, Meng Zhang realized that unless he was willing to completely abandon the Endless Sea of Sand, he couldn't avoid a direct confrontation with the Barbarian Clan's army. The current situation was challenging, but it had not reached the point where he would abandon all their territories and flee to Maple Leaf Mountain City.

Maple Leaf Mountain City was their last retreat, and Meng Zhang would only choose to flee there as a last resort. As long as they had the strength to fight, he was willing to take the risk.

Meng Zhang agreed to the suggestions of the Guardian Spirit Generals and ordered them to act immediately.

After discussing with the elders, Meng Zhang, alone, found a quiet room and closed the door to contemplate how to enhance the top-level combat power of their faction. After thinking for a while, he felt the need to communicate once again with Netherworld's Ghost Deity, Shou Zheng, to see if he could obtain assistance from him. Based on their previous contact experience, even though Shou Zheng had become a Ghost Deity in Netherworld, he still cared deeply about Taiyi Sect.

Being the Taiyi Sect Master, Meng Zhang couldn't possibly get no face at all. Deciding to act on his thoughts, Meng Zhang immediately began setting up an altar and preparing offerings. The most challenging aspect of communicating with Ghost Deity was to see if Shou Zheng would be willing to respond; the offerings were of secondary importance.

Soon, a simple altar with a few basic offerings appeared in front of Meng Zhang. He sat cross-legged before the altar, concentrated his mind, and began reciting incantations. After reciting the incantations for a while, there was no response from the altar. Undeterred, Meng Zhang made some adjustments and began his spellcasting to communicate with Ghost Deity Shou Zheng again.

This time, Meng Zhang was resolute; if Shou Zheng continued to be unresponsive, he would persist in his spellcasting. After all, Shou Zheng was an elder of Taiyi Sect, and the sect was facing a crisis that required his help. He couldn't just hide away and ignore it.

Meng Zhang remained patient and didn't show any signs of impatience, continuing his earnest spellcasting. Perhaps due to his perseverance or maybe because he had no other choice, Ghost Deity Shou Zheng finally couldn't help but respond. The offerings on the altar shook violently and then disappeared into thin air, and the room was filled with chilling winds and howling sounds.

After a moment, a grand idea entered Meng Zhang's mind. It turned out that during their last contact, Meng Zhang had caused some trouble to Ghost Deity Shou Zheng by damaging one of his avatars. Now, Shou Zheng had a powerful enemy to deal with in

Netherworld and couldn't spare the resources to create a new avatar to send to the mortal world.

In response, Shou Zheng conveyed a secret technique through his idea. This technique allowed the consumption of offerings to summon Shou Zheng's divine power across realms. A sufficiently resilient Gold Core stage cultivator who accepted Shou Zheng's divine power could temporarily possess strength close to that of a Primordial Spirit level. With enough intelligence and combat experience, this cultivator could contend with enemies at the Primordial Spirit level.

Of course, accepting such power came with a cost. The cultivator would need to spend a considerable amount of time afterwards to gradually expel the residual divine power from their body, ensuring the purity of their True Essence. Furthermore, if the cultivator's willpower was not strong enough, they would be influenced by the will of the Ghost Deity contained in the divine power, leading to adverse consequences.

Compared to directly summoning Shou Zheng's avatar, summoning his divine power was undoubtedly less potent. Additionally, each time, it could only enhance one cultivator. However, Shou Zheng had made it clear to Meng Zhang that within the next few decades, he might not have any spare avatars to send to the mortal world.

Although the assistance from Shou Zheng didn't meet the initial expectations, it would still be barely sufficient. After concluding the communication with Shou Zheng, Meng Zhang carefully examined the secret technique for summoning the divine power. Apart from the relatively high requirements for offerings, there were no other difficult aspects. Given Taiyi Sect's size and resources, gathering these offerings would only require some time.

Meng Zhang first made a list of the required offerings and tasked the disciples of the sect to collect them. Then, he summoned the senior disciple of the sect, Yang Xueyi, who had already reached the Gold Core stage and was one of the most skilled practitioners in the sect, proficient in the art of making talismans. She was a rare Third Rank Talisman Master and had contributed significantly to Taiyi Sect by ensuring a relatively abundant supply of talismans.

Without beating around the bush, Meng Zhang informed Yang Xueyi about the plan to call upon Shou Zheng's divine power and asked if she would be willing to accept it. He didn't conceal any of the dangers associated with the process. Yang Xueyi didn't hesitate and agreed to receive Shou Zheng's divine power willingly.

Having been brought into Taiyi Sect by Meng Zhang during a time of peril, Yang Xueyi had witnessed the growth and development of the sect over the years. For her, taking some risks for the sect, which had become deeply intertwined with her life, was nothing compared to the importance of the sect's well-being. This kind of commitment, where the sect's honor and disgrace were shared, and life and death were faced together, was precisely the attitude expected of all disciples.

Meng Zhang taught Yang Xueyi the secret technique and informed her that she could use it to communicate with Netherworld and summon Shou Zheng's divine power before the war began. At that time, Yang Xueyi would possess the power of at least half a Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

After Yang Xueyi left, Meng Zhang made a certain decision. He spent several days preparing and then summoned his second disciple, An Xiaoran, and third disciple, An Moran. He took out his natal spiritual tool, the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd, and pulled it open. Two streams of black and white energy shot out from the gourd and started to revolve around it slowly.

Meng Zhang pointed with one hand, and the two streams of energy respectively entered the bodies of An Xiaoran and An Moran. He taught them a Qi Refining method and urged them to practice diligently. By gradually cultivating this Qi Refining method, they would be able to refine the black and white energies infused into their bodies by Meng Zhang.

These black and white energies were the essence of the accumulated Yin and Yang from the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd over the years and the capital for the gourd to ascend to a Fourth Rank magic tool. Now, Meng Zhang felt extremely reluctant to consume them on his disciples. Deprived of these energies, the chances of the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd ascending to a Fourth Rank magic tool would be greatly delayed.

However, with the upcoming major battle, Meng Zhang had to use all available means to enhance the top-level combat power of Taiyi Sect. After An Xiaoran and An Moran refined the Yin and Yang energies within them, they would be able to jointly deploy the Yin Yang Formation during the battle. This not only greatly increased the power of their own Divine Abilities but also allowed them to barely contend with opponents at the Primordial Spirit level and pose a certain threat.

Until the Yin and Yang energies in their bodies were depleted, the two of them, working together, could be considered as half Primordial Spirit True Monarchs. Combined with the strengthened Yang Xueyi and the An siblings, it should be enough to make up for the gap in their top-level combat power.

In addition to strengthening Yang Xueyi and the An Family siblings, Meng Zhang had other preparations as well. Sitting alone in a quiet room, Meng Zhang took out the only Fourth Rank flying sword, the Thousand Troops Sword.

This captured flying sword had only been used once during the battle against True Monarch Grey Mountain. However, due to the tool spirit of the flying sword being attached to its original owner, Meng Zhang found it difficult to wield and couldn't fully unleash its power.

With the impending major battle, Meng Zhang didn't have time to tame the tool spirit slowly. Feeling regretful, he could only treat it as a disposable magic tool. When Meng

Zhang was still a Refining Qi stage cultivator, he learned a secret art called the Blood Refining Martyr Art from the Taiyi Sect's Trial Ground. This art allowed him to blood-refine magic tools and then detonate them to harm the enemy.

This secret art could fully unleash the explosive power of the magic tool, even damaged magic tools could be used. However, the art was initially incomplete and only useful for low-level magic tools. Later, when Meng Zhang obtained various heritage documents from the Void Cauldron, the complete transmission of the secret art was made available, enabling him to blood-refine high-level magic tools. However, it required a higher degree of integrity for the magic tool; it had to be mostly intact to be blood-refined.

Even in the Taiyi Sect, Fourth Rank magic tools were scarce, and Fourth Rank magic tools usable by Primordial Spirit True Monarchs were even rarer. In battles at the Primordial Spirit level, it was necessary to detonate Fourth Rank magic tools to pose a threat to the enemy.

Meng Zhang had never been to the prosperous Middle-Earth Continent, so he didn't know what the Cultivation World was like over there. In the surrounding area of the Jiuqu League, Fourth Rank magic tools were too precious, and even many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs couldn't guarantee owning one.

Meng Zhang had finally obtained a Fourth Rank flying sword, and now he had to consume it, which naturally pained him.

The enemy was too strong, and if he wanted to win, he had to pay the price. Consuming external resources was always more cost-effective than sacrificing lives. Determined, Meng Zhang no longer hesitated.

A hint of bloodlight flickered at the tip of his right index finger, and then he extended it to apply mysterious runes on the body of the Fourth Rank flying sword, the Thousand Troops Sword.

The sword spirit of the Thousand Troops Sword had a vague sense of impending disaster, as if a great calamity was about to befall it. It struggled to resist, but Meng Zhang had long ago sealed it with a spell, rendering it powerless.

Meng Zhang spent some time thoroughly blood-refining the flying sword. With all these preparations completed, he finally had the confidence to face the enemy in the upcoming battle.

Meanwhile, at the Hundred Grass Slope, the main mountain gate of the Taiyi Sect, Niu Dawei, the Sect Master's eldest disciple, personally selected a group of capable elite disciples from among those guarding the mountain gate. He was preparing to lead them to reinforce the frontlines.

Originally, Niu Dawei was supposed to guard the mountain gate, but facing such formidable enemies like the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, Taiyi Sect needed to concentrate all available forces. He could no longer sit idly by.

Thanks to the Third Rank mountain protection great formation at the Hundred Grass Slope, even if there were only Foundation Building stage cultivators guarding the mountain, Gold Core level enemies wouldn't be able to break through in a short time. However, if Primordial Spirit level enemies arrived, it wouldn't make a difference whether Niu Dawei was on the mountain or not—Taiyi Sect wouldn't be able to resist them either way. When the Taiyi Sect retreated to the Endless Sea of Sand, they withdrew all their flying boats, and the Jade Sword Sect had no objections. In addition, the Taiyi Sect's Divine Workshop was currently working hard to craft various Mechanical Creations. Although they could only produce small-scale flying boats for the time being, it was still a beneficial supplement. The Divine Workshop was understaffed due to the large number of disciples being called away, and their speed in crafting Mechanical Creations was greatly affected, making it barely better than nothing.

With a considerable fleet of flying boats and various flying mounts that the Taiyi Sect had carefully cultivated over the years, Taiyi Sect cultivators had no issues in terms of mobility. Originally, Taiyi Sect arranged for the Extreme Sword Spirit General and the Shocking Thunder Spirit General to monitor the movements of the Barbarian Clan's army. However, they discovered that the Barbarian Clan's army had hidden assassin-type Barbarian Kings who excelled in assassination techniques. In response, Book Mountain True Monarch volunteered to personally go ahead and investigate the situation to avoid putting the two Guardian Spirit Generals in danger. Shali Eagle was very ambitious and had always targeted the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs of the Human Clan for assassination, so he wouldn't waste time on mere Gold Core cultivators. Nevertheless, Book Mountain True Monarch's actions were not in vain. With him personally conducting reconnaissance, Taiyi Sect could at least have a more accurate grasp of the movements of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army and avoid being deceived.

The extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army had chosen an almost straight path heading north. They cleared all the strongholds and oases along their route, evacuating all personnel. So far, there had been no casualties among their forces, with only some losses in terms of supplies. For the Barbarian Clan's army, no matter how much territory they occupied or how many strongholds they swept through, as long as they didn't eliminate the main force of the Taiyi Sect, they would always have potential threats and couldn't fully focus on advancing.

The extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, though barbaric and crude, was not stupid and understood strategic tactics. Their best method to leverage their advantage was to lure the enemy into a battlefield in the wilderness. With Taiyi Sect's strength, if they didn't want to be picked off one by one by the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, they could only defend a single location. However, the Taiyi Sect's territory was vast, and there were numerous important strongholds and oases with a significant population, not to mention

the presence of several Third Rank spirit veins. If they chose to defend just one place, it would mean abandoning the vast majority of their territory, allowing the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan to rampage unchecked. Even if they managed to hold their ground, it wouldn't be very meaningful.

The movements of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army had been under the surveillance of Book Mountain True Monarch all along. Their marching route was not complicated, deliberately slowed down. It was not difficult to estimate the key points that this army would pass through. After discussing with the elders of the sect, Meng Zhang, as the Taiyi Sect's Sect Master, had to take the initiative to confront the Barbarian Clan's army in a wilderness battlefield.

Of course, there were several potential battlefields to choose from in the wilderness. The timing of the battle was also in the hands of Taiyi Sect. When the Taiyi Sect's cultivator army would move out, it was entirely up to Meng Zhang to decide. With ample time for preparation, after everything was ready, he decided not to delay any further and chose to engage the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan in battle.

The movements of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army were constantly monitored by Book Mountain True Monarch. Their marching route was not complicated, and their speed deliberately slowed down. It was not difficult to predict the key areas that this army would pass through. After discussing with the sect's elders, Meng Zhang selected a predetermined battlefield. It was a vast, uninhabited desert located ahead of the Barbarian Clan's army's route in the Endless Sea of Sand. In the Endless Sea of Sand, most of the terrain was like this—endless stretches of yellow sand with little else to be found. With the battlefield chosen, Meng Zhang gave the order, and the Taiyi Sect's fleet of flying boats immediately set out, carrying a well-prepared army of cultivators, rushing towards the battlefield.

Chapter 807: Battle

The mobilization of Taiyi Sect's cultivator army was neither discreet nor capable of staying hidden. With so many cultivators using flying boats and flying mounts, their massive formation was too conspicuous to evade the enemy's scouts. Meng Zhang knew that the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, just like Taiyi Sect, had dispatched scouts to gather information about their enemy. Instead of expending effort to search for these scouts, Meng Zhang intentionally let them discover Taiyi Sect's movements. He wanted to make it crystal clear to the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan that they were prepared to face them head-on in battle.

The battleground chosen by Meng Zhang was located ahead of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's marching route. It was a vast, open terrain with no end in sight. There were no spirit veins to rely on, nor any possibility of setting up ambushes beforehand. Meng Zhang deliberately selected a place where neither side had any significant advantages or disadvantages, ensuring that the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan wouldn't avoid the confrontation.

As the master of the Endless Sea of Sand, Meng Zhang was unwilling to see a group of Barbarian Clan wreaking havoc in his territory. The cultivator army of Taiyi Sect quickly gathered and formed their formation at the chosen battleground. The Deep Earth Spirit General served as the main commander, with Wen Qiansun as the deputy, jointly leading the core cultivators of Taiyi Sect.

Over three thousand disciples of Taiyi Sect were arranged in the Ten Directions Absolute Killing Formation at the center of their camp. Since there were no spirit veins to rely on, the maintenance of the great formation depended solely on the true qi of the cultivators, along with a large supply of spiritual stones and materials. Before engaging in battle with the Dali Dynasty's army, Taiyi Sect had prepared a significant number of Qi-recovering pills. Even now, the Pill Hall disciples who remained at the sect's mountain gate were working hard to refine more pills for replenishment.

On the left side of the camp stood the cultivator army of the Hanhai Alliance, with more than six thousand cultivators forming their ranks. Though not as well-trained as the core Taiyi Sect disciples, their formation was relatively decent and they could hold their ground. Niu Dawei acted as the main commander, with Jin Qiao'er assisting him.

On the right side were a group of refugee cultivators recently taken in by Taiyi Sect. Their numbers were scattered and amounted to less than a thousand people. Meng Zhang had also included the Hundred Battles Gate cultivators, whom he initially intended to leave behind. However, now that even Taiyi Sect was pushing its limits and sending so many cultivators into battle, the Hundred Battles Gate cultivators could not remain idle. They showed a willingness to fight, if not enthusiasm, which elevated Meng Zhang's opinion of them.

This group of miscellaneous cultivators formed their core around the Hundred Battles Gate cultivators. Additionally, Meng Zhang dispatched a squad of Taiyi Sect cultivators to oversee and support their performance. After both sides finished their formations, they silently waited for the arrival of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army.

The extraterritorial Barbarian Clan had detected Taiyi Sect's cultivator army's movements and received Meng Zhang's message. Faced with a fair, direct confrontation, they had no reason to evade the battle. Just as Meng Zhang wanted to eliminate the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army, they also sought to crush Taiyi Sect's main force.

The Barbarian Clan's army, which had been marching steadily, suddenly accelerated its pace and arrived in front of Taiyi Sect's camp in less than three days. Despite the long march, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army maintained its formation without any signs of fatigue. On the contrary, their faces were filled with excitement and bloodthirst, barely concealing their ferocity.

Meng Zhang stood above Taiyi Sect's camp, quietly observing the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army. Shocking Thunder Spirit General and Extreme Sword Spirit

General had already flown back and joined their ranks. Book Mountain True Monarch flew to Meng Zhang's side and together, they gazed at the situation ahead.

Meng Zhang gestured forward with his finger and flew towards the high altitude. In such a grand battle, Primordial Spirit True Monarchs fought individually in separate battlegrounds to avoid interfering with the main forces. Book Mountain True Monarch followed Meng Zhang as they ascended into the sky.

The hot-headed Barbarian King Tuller Bear couldn't resist Meng Zhang's provocation and immediately chased after him. True Monarch Grey Mountain, not daring to be lax, followed closely behind. The battle between Primordial Spirit-level experts erupted without a word, right in the air.

Meng Zhang didn't fly too far away from the battlefield. Once he reached a certain height where he knew he wouldn't affect the ongoing battle between the main forces, he stopped and turned to face the two opponents pursuing him. Without any idle chatter, the battle among the three Primordial Spirit-level experts commenced.

Book Mountain True Monarch confronted Barbarian King Tuller Bear, while Meng Zhang faced True Monarch Grey Mountain. Barbarian Kings from the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan were also proficient in wielding the power of Grand Dao. Tuller Bear, in particular, excelled in the Grand Dao of strength. Using force to break cleverness, that was his most proficient style of combat. In the sky, scrolls of books descended, accompanied by the voice of a saintly figure imparting teachings to his disciples. Book Mountain True Monarch also unleashed his Innate Sacred Virtue Grand Dao, temporarily trapping Barbarian King Tuller Bear in mid-air. Meng Zhang continuously moved through the air, evading True Monarch Grey Mountain's attempts to lock him down with his Imprisonment Grand Dao.

His Fourth Rank flying sword, the Thousand Troops Sword, circled and danced in the air, seeking an opportunity to strike the enemy. True Monarch Grey Mountain wielded the Grey Mountain Seal, a treasured artifact of the Grey Mountain School, which emitted invisible pressure towards Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang's Yin Yang Grand Dao surged above his head, converting all incoming pressure into nothingness. After a long battle, both sides' ground forces began to suffer significant casualties, but the four powerful figures in the sky were far from deciding a winner.

Although the full power of the Fourth Rank flying sword, the Thousand Troops Sword, couldn't be unleashed, Meng Zhang's mastery of swordsmanship was exceptional. The sword moved vividly, threatening True Monarch Grey Mountain.

Seizing an opportunity, the Thousand Troops Sword struck at True Monarch Grey Mountain's head with lightning speed. Unfazed, True Monarch Grey Mountain activated the Grey Mountain Seal, countering the incoming flying sword. The Grey Mountain Seal,

after two thousand years of refinement and nurturing by successive Primordial Spirit True Monarchs of the Grey Mountain School, was among the finest Fourth Rank magic tools. Even if Meng Zhang could fully unleash the Thousand Troops Sword's power, it would still be inferior to the Grey Mountain Seal.

True Monarch Grey Mountain had been waiting for this chance and now aimed to use the Grey Mountain Seal to completely suppress the enemy's flying sword, thereby dealing a severe blow to Meng Zhang. However, unexpectedly, when the Grey Mountain Seal pressed down on the Thousand Troops Sword, the flying sword suddenly exploded. The explosion's power, comparable to a Primordial Spirit True Monarch's self-detonation, created a small mushroom cloud in the sky, sending the Grey Mountain Seal flying away.

Caught off guard by the sudden explosion, True Monarch Grey Mountain couldn't avoid being injured. Meng Zhang took advantage of this situation, activating his Great Divine Ability, Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword. Two streams of black and white energy transformed into sharp swords, one yin and one yang, slashing towards True Monarch Grey Mountain.

Temporarily unable to counterattack due to his injuries, True Monarch Grey Mountain had no choice but to retreat continuously, attempting to stabilize his condition and find an opportunity for a comeback. Just as Meng Zhang was relentlessly pursuing him, a slender figure suddenly emerged from an empty space behind Meng Zhang.

Barbarian King Shali Eagle, who had been lying in wait, seized the long-awaited chance and quietly stabbed at Meng Zhang's back like a lightning bolt. Meng Zhang, who was focused on chasing True Monarch Grey Mountain, had no time to react. However, he didn't need to respond in time.

The black and white streams of energy swirling above Meng Zhang's head split open, revealing three figures. Yang Xueyi's hands danced incessantly, and cold energy rushed from all directions towards Barbarian King Shali Eagle. An Xiaoran and An Moran, brother and sister, activated their Yin Yang energy, allowing the energy to rotate continuously around their bodies before ramming into Barbarian King Shali Eagle.

Barbarian King Shali Eagle, who thought that Meng Zhang and the others were unaware of his presence, attempted to launch a surprise attack. Yet, Meng Zhang, who had long known of his existence, was well-prepared. Using the Yin Yang energy from the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd, Meng Zhang had already concealed Yang Xueyi and her companions within it.

Under the interference of Yin Yang Grand Dao's power, Barbarian King Shali Eagle, who had been observing from the sidelines, failed to detect the hidden ambush. Before the battle began, Yang Xueyi had used a secret technique to summon the power of Ghost Deity Shou Zheng, strengthening herself to be comparable to half of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

The An siblings had long ago refined the Yin Yang energy gifted by Meng Zhang and could skillfully wield its power. With the combined efforts of the three, they were equivalent to a slightly weaker Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

Barbarian King Shali Eagle, who had intended to assassinate Meng Zhang, was unexpectedly ambushed himself, caught off guard by the sudden attack. He was somewhat caught off guard, unable to fully display his abilities. Instead of continuing his attempt to assassinate Meng Zhang, he struggled to defend against Yang Xueyi and the others' attacks.

Meng Zhang, who had been pursuing True Monarch Grey Mountain with all his might, turned around upon seeing the enemy retreat and joined the encirclement of Barbarian King Shali Eagle. The black and white dual swords that had been aiming for True Monarch Grey Mountain suddenly appeared beside Barbarian King Shali Eagle, relentlessly attacking him.

Chapter 808: Repelling

Meng Zhang was well aware that although they te

Meng Zhang was well aware that although they temporarily gained a slight advantage by exploiting information asymmetry and using some small tactics, there was still a considerable gap in actual strength. Yang Xueyi and the other two were able to temporarily boost their combat power with external forces and contend with enemies at the Primordial Spirit level. However, they were not true Primordial Spirit True Monarchs and had not reached that level of cultivation. Thus, facing the Barbarian King, they couldn't truly gain the upper hand.

As for Meng Zhang himself, he could only temporarily force back the True Monarch Grey Mountain through trickery. However, True Monarch Grey Mountain was a mid-level expert at the Primordial Spirit stage, and as soon as he recovered, he could easily suppress Meng Zhang. Only Book Mountain's True Monarch, who was confronting Barbarian King Tuller Bear, had a slightly stronger position.

Yang Xueyi and the others couldn't maintain their enhanced strength for too long; they had to end the battle before their power was exhausted. The opportunity they had painstakingly created was a one-time chance; if they missed it, there wouldn't be another.

Meng Zhang was determined and pushed himself to squeeze out every ounce of strength to inflict heavy damage on Barbarian King Shali Eagle. He used powerful divine abilities like Twin Forms Towards Heaven Sword and Sun and Moon Divine Light without any restraint against the Barbarian King.

Yang Xueyi, who was originally at the Gold Core stage, had gained the power of Ghost Deity Shou Zheng, and his eerie and cold energy continued to surround Barbarian King Shali Eagle.

An Xiaoran and An Moran, the siblings, employed the joint technique taught by Meng Zhang, releasing the Yin and Yang energies to continuously drain Barbarian King Shali Eagle's vitality.

True Monarch Grey Mountain didn't retreat too far away; he temporarily avoided Meng Zhang's sharp edge to buy time to adjust his condition. He understood the critical points of the battle and knew that he couldn't allow Meng Zhang and the three hidden individuals to take advantage and seriously harm or even kill Barbarian King Shali Eagle.

However, True Monarch Grey Mountain and the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan were not allies; they were only temporarily cooperating. In such cooperation, one must take good care of oneself first. Only with spare strength could they help the Barbarian Clan.

True Monarch Grey Mountain focused on restoring his True Essence and calming the turbulent blood in his body. It took some time, but he managed to control his injuries. Though the injuries were suppressed and wouldn't worsen, complete recovery would require post-battle recuperation.

Rather than rushing to assist, True Monarch Grey Mountain carefully examined the Grey Mountain Seal he had acquired, a precious Fourth Rank magic tool of the Grey Mountain School. It was undoubtedly more valuable than the life of Barbarian King.

Seeing the deep scars left by the explosion on the Grey Mountain Seal, True Monarch Grey Mountain couldn't hide the pain in his heart. He continuously sketched runes with his right hand, gradually controlling the damage temporarily.

As for fully repairing this precious treasure, he would have to figure it out later.

Throughout this process, he remained attentive to the overall situation. He saw that although Barbarian King Shali Eagle was struggling under the relentless attacks of the enemy, he could still hold on for the time being.

After dealing with his own matters, True Monarch Grey Mountain intended to fly over and assist Barbarian King Shali Eagle in his fight. Unexpectedly, something happened that True Monarch Grey Mountain didn't anticipate.

Book Mountain's True Monarch, who had been firmly suppressing Barbarian King Tuller Bear, surprisingly had enough spare strength to deal with True Monarch Grey Mountain. With a wave of his hand in the air, numerous phantom books descended from the sky, blocking True Monarch Grey Mountain's path.

True Monarch Grey Mountain's mid-level Primordial Spirit strength was still above that of Book Mountain's initial-stage True Monarch. Even if Book Mountain's True Monarch focused all his efforts on dealing with him alone, it wouldn't be enough, especially when he was already busy suppressing Barbarian King Tuller Bear. True Monarch Grey Mountain managed to break through Book Mountain's True Monarch's obstruction with just a bit of effort and delay.

In this short period of time, the situation on the battlefield changed again. Barbarian King Shali Eagle was skilled in assassination techniques but not in direct combat. His combat prowess against opponents of the same level was below the average level of Primordial Spirit-level experts. Meng Zhang had recently advanced to the Primordial Spirit True Monarch stage, making him a strong contender among the early-stage Primordial Spirit cultivators. Moreover, he had profound inheritance and experienced several battles at the Primordial Spirit level, giving him rich combat experience.

With Yang Xueyi and the others desperately attacking at any cost, they finally created a precious opportunity for Meng Zhang. The fusion of black and white energies rotated like a grinding disc and heavily collided with Barbarian King Shali Eagle, easily breaking through his various defenses and severely injuring his physical body.

The cultivation and training methods of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan differed fundamentally from those of cultivators. Cultivators emphasized the Primordial Spirit, while the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan focused primarily on physical bodies. Most of their abilities and lifetime efforts were devoted to cultivating their physical bodies. Shali Eagle could be considered an anomaly among the Barbarian Kings, more of an assassin-type Barbarian King rather than a warrior-type like Tuller Bear, which made a significant difference. When struck by the Yin Yang grinding disc, his physical cultivation wasn't as formidable as Tuller Bear's, and he was severely injured, losing all combat effectiveness. Meng Zhang couldn't help but feel regretful. If a cultivator took such a blow, their entire physical body might be crushed into pieces. However, the physical bodies of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan were incredibly robust, and this time, Shali Eagle was wounded but not killed.

No matter how regrettable it was, there was nothing Meng Zhang could do. He knew he had lost the opportunity to completely kill Barbarian King Shali Eagle. When Meng Zhang sent Barbarian King Shali Eagle flying, True Monarch Grey Mountain had already broken through Book Mountain's True Monarch's interception and rushed to a position not far from Meng Zhang. Helpless, Meng Zhang had no choice but to turn around and deal with this formidable enemy, True Monarch Grey Mountain.

Yang Xueyi and the others were determined to eradicate Barbarian King Shali Eagle and chased after him. However, True Monarch Grey Mountain, who was fighting Meng Zhang, still had the mental capacity to apply restraints with his Grand Dao power, imprisoning them in the surrounding space and preventing them from moving freely. Yang Xueyi unleashed the power of Ghost Deity, and the An siblings used the Yin and Yang energies, desperately bombarding the surrounding space in an attempt to break

free from the restraints. However, despite their combined efforts, they were at most equivalent to a weakened version of an early-stage Primordial Spirit cultivator. In contrast, True Monarch Grey Mountain was a genuine mid-stage Primordial Spirit cultivator. Escaping the restraints and breaking free would not be a task achievable in a short time.

Barbarian King Shali Eagle, thrown into the air by Meng Zhang's attack, flew for a long time before finally stabilizing himself. He tried to control the injuries on his body, but the Yin Yang Grand Dao power had already penetrated deeply into his body, causing havoc and destruction within him. Without external assistance, he couldn't possibly control his injuries by himself. While Barbarian King Shali Eagle, like most of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, was proud, he wasn't as stubborn as Barbarian King Tuller Bear. He knew that strong cultivators like True Monarch Grey Mountain deserved respect. Throughout their journey, he had maintained a good relationship with True Monarch Grey Mountain. Faced with serious injuries that could endanger his life, he didn't care about his face but promptly sought help from True Monarch Grey Mountain.

True Monarch Grey Mountain was currently engaged in a fierce battle with Meng Zhang and initially ignored Barbarian King Shali Eagle's message. However, his position within the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan was awkward as an untrusted outsider, making it challenging to survive. Earlier, when Barbarian King Shali Eagle was severely injured by Meng Zhang, there was a factor of him not being able to provide timely assistance. If he ignored Barbarian King Shali Eagle at this time, it would probably make it even harder for him to establish himself within the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan in the future. Sighing inwardly, True Monarch Grey Mountain forced Meng Zhang back and flew to Barbarian King Shali Eagle.

Once he arrived, True Monarch Grey Mountain saw that Barbarian King Shali Eagle had been seriously injured by the Yin Yang Grand Dao power and would find it challenging to recover in a short time. Regardless of the enemy still present, True Monarch Grey Mountain unleashed his Grand Dao power to temporarily suppress the rampaging Yin Yang Grand Dao within Barbarian King Shali Eagle's body.

After disengaging from the battle, Meng Zhang didn't immediately pursue. Instead, he flew to a position not far ahead of Yang Xueyi and the others. With the activation of the Yin Yang Grand Dao power, the imprisoned space loosened. Once Yang Xueyi and the others regained their freedom, they followed Meng Zhang and rushed towards True Monarch Grey Mountain. The four of them joined forces, each displaying their Divine Abilities, putting considerable pressure on True Monarch Grey Mountain. With Barbarian King Shali Eagle injured and unable to act for the time being, True Monarch Grey Mountain had to expend a fair amount of effort to tend to this wounded ally. Especially when Meng Zhang saw an opportunity, he didn't directly attack True Monarch Grey Mountain but targeted Barbarian King Shali Eagle with deadly killing moves.

True Monarch Grey Mountain felt somewhat restricted, unable to fully unleash his abilities under the relentless attacks of Meng Zhang and the other three. He didn't know

the source of Yang Xueyi and the others' strength, nor did he know that they couldn't maintain it for too long. He roughly estimated the strength of both sides in his mind. Originally, the advantage should have been on our side because of the severe injury to Barbarian King Shali Eagle, but the enemy had hidden experts joining the battle, weakening our strength instead. Continuing this fight wouldn't serve much purpose. If the battle dragged on, and a moment of carelessness allowed something to happen to Barbarian King Shali Eagle, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan would definitely not spare us. Throughout the battle, True Monarch Grey Mountain considered it as the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's fight, and he was only passively involved, forced to stand on the side of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan. With the current situation, he, who had already lost any will to fight, had even more reason to withdraw.

True Monarch Grey Mountain was quite tactful and didn't immediately leave. Instead, he first consulted Barbarian King Shali Eagle's opinion. Despite his severe injuries and loss of combat power, Barbarian King Shali Eagle was not as stubborn as one might think. He readily agreed to retreat when the topic was raised by True Monarch Grey Mountain.

True Monarch Grey Mountain also communicated with Barbarian King Tuller Bear, intentionally exaggerating their difficult situation. Although Barbarian King Tuller Bear was originally full of fighting spirit, being continuously suppressed by Book Mountain True Monarch made him feel powerless and uncomfortable. Now that the situation with True Monarch Grey Mountain didn't look good, he was close to being unable to hold on. Although he had always disliked Barbarian King Shali Eagle and despised True Monarch Grey Mountain, he understood the bigger picture and couldn't let their top combat power be wasted here. Thus, Barbarian King Tuller Bear agreed to retreat and struggled to break free from Book Mountain True Monarch's restraint.

While Book Mountain True Monarch had the upper hand, he also knew that keeping Barbarian King Tuller Bear, an opponent of his caliber, here wouldn't be simple. Moreover, even if he wanted to fight to the death with an equally matched enemy for Taiyi Sect and Meng Zhang, the opponent wouldn't give him that chance. Seeing that Barbarian King Tuller Bear wanted to retreat, he knew it might be the best outcome, and Meng Zhang should be willing to accept it as well. Therefore, Book Mountain True Monarch released the pressure on Barbarian King Tuller Bear, allowing him to leave on his own initiative.

True Monarch Grey Mountain escorted Barbarian King Shali Eagle and flew over to join Barbarian King Tuller Bear. Afterward, they retreated and left the area below. Although Meng Zhang and his group appeared as if they were pursuing their victory, they were well aware that they couldn't possibly keep the enemy here with the strength they possessed. Both groups quickly appeared not far from the battlefield where the two armies were fiercely clashing. Despite the severe casualties on both sides, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army had gained a slight advantage. From the scene, it was evident that the Barbarian Clan's army was more proactive. Nevertheless, both sides had suffered heavy losses.

For extraterritorial Barbarian Clan to turn this slight advantage into a final victory, there was still a long way to go. Barbarian King Tuller Bear was a straightforward person. Since their top combatants were retreating, leaving this army here, even if they achieved a resounding victory, wouldn't have much significance. What mattered most was that without top combatants' protection, the army below would potentially face a massacre against the enemy's Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

This time, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's invasion had taught their higher-ups a lesson. They didn't want to clash head-on with Jade Sword Sect and instead aimed to avoid significant losses and preserve their strength. Now that Taiyi Sect's cultivator army had proven its fighting power, the enemy's Primordial Spirit cultivators were relentlessly pursuing them. Barbarian King Tuller Bear directly issued orders through the Barbarian Clan's secret technique, commanding the various barbarian generals to direct their armies to retreat proactively.

To cover the retreat of the Barbarian Clan's army below, Barbarian King Tuller Bear stopped retreating and halted above the Barbarian Clan's army, together with True Monarch Grey Mountain, to confront Meng Zhang and the others, who were in pursuit.

Seeing the enemy's intention to retreat, Meng Zhang also lost his desire to continue fighting. He felt deeply distressed by the heavy casualties suffered by the Taiyi Sect's cultivator army below. Following his command, the cultivator army below didn't even bother with the pretense of chasing; they simply started tending to the wounded and recovering their strength on the spot.

Meng Zhang and his group faced Barbarian King Tuller Bear's group from a distance, refraining from rushing over to engage in battle. They watched as the enemy slowly retreated. Seeing the Barbarian Clan's army disappear in the distance, Meng Zhang knew that, somehow, they had won this battle.

Chapter 809: Continue

When the Barbarian Clan army retreated complete

When the Barbarian Clan army retreated completely, and it was confirmed that the Barbarian King Tuller Bear would not pursue them, Meng Zhang and the others finally relaxed a bit. Looking at the devastated battlefield below their own camp, Meng Zhang couldn't help but sigh.

During the rise of the Taiyi Sect, there was never a time of peace, and bloody battles were always abundant. There was no such thing as a peaceful rise; they had to fight for their place in the Cultivation World.

Both Meng Zhang and the entire sect had been tested and had experienced numerous battles. Even though it wasn't the first time they witnessed heavy casualties among the disciples, every time they saw such a scene, Meng Zhang felt uneasy.

It was inevitable because, in the martial world, they had no choice. If Taiyi Sect wanted to establish itself in the Cultivation World, it had to be involved in various conflicts. The elder disciples of the sect directed the younger ones to clean up the battlefield and tend to the wounded.

This battle didn't last long, but nearly one-third of the core disciples of Taiyi Sect were killed or injured. A significant portion of the casualties occurred when their formation was broken by the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, forcing them to engage in close combat to block the breach.

Some disciples had their true qi drained by the great formation, and no matter how many pills they consumed or how they tried to recover their qi, they couldn't do it in time and ended up being drained of life by the formation.

Others suffered from sudden pill toxin reactions due to consuming a large number of pills in a short time, leading to a quick and fatal poisoning.

The casualties among the core disciples of Taiyi Sect were horrifying for various reasons.

On the other hand, the cultivator army of the Hanhai Alliance fought against the relatively weaker extraterritorial Barbarian Clan tribes. However, the overall strength of the Hanhai Alliance cultivators was far weaker than that of Taiyi Sect's disciples, and their training and formation were not as rigorous. They suffered around one-fourth casualties in comparison.

But due to the larger number of cultivators in the Hanhai Alliance, the absolute number of casualties exceeded that of Taiyi Sect by quite a bit.

The expendable cultivators that Taiyi Sect had taken in didn't suffer much loss. Not because they were cunning or cowardly, but mainly because they were weak, and the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan didn't pay much attention to them. They only had minor skirmishes with a few scattered Barbarian Clan members, not encountering organized enemy forces.

These cultivators were skilled at self-preservation and could find opportunities to avoid hard labor even with the supervision of Taiyi Sect. Except for the cultivators from Hundred Battles Gate who fought bravely, the rest were just focused on self-preservation.

Taiyi Sect hadn't housed these cultivators for long, and they hadn't had time to train them properly before bringing them to the battlefield. The current situation was within their expectations, and the high-ranking members of Taiyi Sect weren't worried. Once they had time, they would find ways to gradually refine and train these people.

Even though they were exhausted after the battle, the Extreme Sword Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General continued to push themselves to investigate the movements of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan army.

Meng Zhang and Book Mountain True Monarch had both suffered losses during the battle and needed time to rest and recover.

As for Yang Xueyi, the divine power she had summoned from Ghost Deity Shou Zheng was slowly fading. To avoid leaving any aftereffects and being affected by the lingering divine power, she needed a considerable amount of time to completely expel the residual energy and slowly restore her strength and vitality. For a considerable period of time, Yang Xueyi couldn't even maintain her Gold Core stage cultivation base, let alone summoning divine power again. Likewise, for Netherworld's Ghost Deity Shou Zheng, transmitting divine power to the mortal realm wasn't an easy task either. He had enemies to deal with in Netherworld, and after every transmission of divine power, he needed a significant amount of time to accumulate enough power again before sending it to the mortal realm.

This meant that even if Meng Zhang selected another suitable candidate within Taiyi Sect, they wouldn't be able to summon Shou Zheng's divine power in the short term.

An Xiaoran and An Moran, the siblings, had expended most of their Yin and Yang Qi during the recent battle, and the remaining energy was gradually fading. Although their cultivation base had fallen back to the mid Gold Core stage, the baptism of the Yin and Yang Qi would greatly benefit their future cultivation.

Meng Zhang's natal spiritual tool, the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd, also required time to refine numerous Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects to accumulate such pure and powerful Yin and Yang Qi again.

Due to the loss of the temporary power-ups from the three individuals, Taiyi Sect's side had once again returned to its original strength in terms of top combat power. Fortunately, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's Barbarian King Shali Eagle was seriously injured and couldn't recover his combat strength in the short term.

As a result, Taiyi Sect and the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan were roughly evenly matched in terms of top combat power. Additionally, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan had no knowledge of Yang Xueyi and her companions' true abilities or that they had returned to their original strength. As long as Taiyi Sect continued to apply pressure and used the strategy of an empty city, they might be able to scare off the opponent.

Having realized this, Meng Zhang had a rough idea of the next steps. The Extreme Sword Spirit General and Shocking Thunder Spirit General, who were monitoring the movements of the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, occasionally sent back various pieces of information. The extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's massive army couldn't keep their movements a secret.

After withdrawing from the battlefield, the Barbarian Clan army rested and assessed their casualties hundreds of miles away. They, too, suffered heavy losses, with nearly two thousand elite Barbarian Clan warriors killed in the previous battles, and many more wounded.

Meng Zhang made up his mind. After receiving reports from the two Guardian Spirit Generals through the transmission talisman, he once again mobilized the cultivator army and chased after the retreating extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

Except for leaving a few people to take care of the severely injured, the entire Taiyi Sect cultivator army marched forward, disregarding their exhaustion after the prolonged battle.

Although the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan had suffered a defeat and temporarily retreated, they also sent scouts to monitor the movements of the Taiyi Sect army. As soon as the Taiyi Sect cultivator army moved, the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan received the news. *rÀnq̄bÈş*

Seeing the Taiyi Sect cultivator army approaching rapidly, the Barbarian King Tuller Bear and Barbarian King Shali Eagle hesitated. Taiyi Sect's quick recovery from their heavy casualties and regaining their combat strength for a rematch caught them off guard.

When did Human Clan cultivators become so tenacious and formidable?

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