

# **Sect Master's Immortal Journey #Chapter 831: Reputation and Actual Benefits - Read Sect Master's Immortal Journey Chapter 831: Reputation and Actual Benefits**

## **Chapter 831: Reputation and Actual Benefits**

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Meng Zhang himself is a Sect Master, and Taiyi Sect is also a righteous sect that pays attention to its reputation.

Meng Zhang is well aware of the way righteous sects conduct themselves.

During peaceful times without major incidents, they can display their generosity, benevolence, and strive to gain a good reputation.

However, when facing great benefits or serious events, practical interests should be considered.

A good reputation is merely embellishment; real benefits are what truly matter.

Dali Dynasty spread these rumors in the hope that Purple Yang Holy Sect would be concerned about its reputation and stop putting pressure on them.

If Meng Zhang were the Sect Master of Purple Yang Holy Sect, he would not be restricted by such tactics.

Reputation means nothing when it comes to eliminating a major enemy.

A damaged reputation can be restored over time, but giving the enemy a chance to catch their breath will hinder significant matters.

Moreover, with the strength of Holy Land Sect, who dares to openly criticize them?

Seeing from their perspective, Meng Zhang doesn't think much of Dali Dynasty's actions.

If Purple Yang Holy Sect refuses to let Dali Dynasty go and Jiuqu League is not willing to cease hostilities, then if the Extraterritorial Invaders come, Taiyi Sect can only defend its own territory.

Regarding the overall situation, Meng Zhang has no power to intervene.

Of course, if the Extraterritorial Invaders do come, the current Barbarian Clan army in front of them must be dealt with quickly, so as not to continue to hold back Taiyi Sect's main forces.

During the following time, while practicing, Meng Zhang mainly focuses on two things.

One thing is to continue paying attention to the outcome of the negotiations between Jiuqu League and Dali Dynasty.

The other thing is to carefully observe the current Barbarian Clan army camp to see if there are any loopholes to exploit.

On the side of the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army, although they did not receive the desired response, General Zhang Wei did not stop his actions.

He publicly stated that although Dali Dynasty and Jiuqu League had some minor differences, they were all Human Clan Cultivators and should unite to defend against external enemies.

The Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army voluntarily halted their attacks on the Yellow Lotus Sacred Mountain frontline and even withdrew a bit, creating a safe distance.

With the initiative in the hands of the North Sweeping Grand Army, they can come and go as they please.

For Jiuqu League, which was originally struggling, the enemy's voluntary retreat was undoubtedly a wish come true.

Xiao Jiansheng was very dissatisfied with this situation and wanted to order the cultivators stationed on the defense line to pursue the enemy actively.

For those who had barely escaped with their lives, let alone chasing the enemy, they were reluctant to continue to hold the defense line.

Especially the reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, they were only dispatched to support Jiuqu League because White Sun Valley wanted to please Purple Yang Holy Sect.

After suffering heavy casualties from the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army, they had had enough and had no intention of pursuing the enemy.

Xiao Jiansheng's orders caused a large-scale riot, almost leading to mutiny.

It was only with the efforts of True Monarch Bai Zhengyu that these people were appeased, but there was no hope of continuing the battle.

Almost everyone around the Yellow Lotus Sacred Mountain was tired of war and unwilling to continue fighting. Xiao Jiansheng seemed to be the only one who still wanted to fight against Dali Dynasty.

With almost no support from anyone, his will seemed inconsequential.

Xiao Jiansheng had already reported the situation here back to his sect, but so far, the higher-ups had not responded.

Xiao Jiansheng's thoughts were very similar to Meng Zhang's.

Purple Yang Holy Sect was currently facing the choice between reputation and actual benefits.

Xiao Jiansheng himself leaned towards choosing actual benefits and prioritizing the elimination of Dali Dynasty.

After thinking about it for some time, he had also come to understand some things.

Even if the Extraterritorial Demons and Spirit Clan invaded Grand Dust World on a large scale, at most, it would only affect Jiuqu League and its surrounding areas. Only the remote and backward regions of Grand Dust World have fallen, and Purple Yang Holy Sect will not suffer any substantial damage. At most, they will lose face and reputation.

After eliminating Dali Dynasty, Purple Yang Holy Sect can slowly deal with those Extraterritorial Invaders.

Throughout the history of Grand Dust World, there have been numerous invasions from the extraterritorial beings. However, each time, the Human Clan Cultivators emerged victorious.

Xiao Jiansheng's biggest concern is that the old-timers in the sect place too much importance on the sect's reputation, and they might be manipulated by Dali Dynasty due to this concern.

There are also some high-ranking members of the sect who are used to being flattered and see themselves as saviors who must take on thankless tasks.

Xiao Jiansheng is far away in Jiuqu League and cannot interfere with the decisions within the sect.

Although he has included his own opinions in the reports sent back to the sect, he has no assurance whether the higher-ups will accept them or not.

For the time being, peace has been restored on the frontline of Yellow Lotus Sacred Mountain, and everyone in Jiuqu League, including the Sword Cultivators from Jade Sword Sect, has breathed a sigh of relief.

The so-called sword maniacs who fear neither life nor death are not truly crazy, nor are they truly fearless of death.

When facing weak enemies, they can display their madness and fearlessness.

But when facing the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army, their usual tactics are of little use against the resolute North Sweeping Grand Army.

Now that peace has been restored to the frontline of Yellow Lotus Sacred Mountain, the various cultivation forces recruited by Jade Sword Sect in Jiuqu League are finding various excuses to leave the frontline and return to their sects.

Some claim that their injuries are too severe and need immediate treatment; some are worried about their sect's safety and need to return to check on it; some have territories troubled by demon beasts and bandits that need to be quickly pacified...

Faced with all kinds of strange excuses and requests, the high-ranking members of Jade Sword Sect are also getting impatient.

In fact, some members of the high-ranking Jade Sword Sect have long proposed to withdraw some of the Jade Sword Sect cultivators and strengthen their defense to guard against the arrival of the Extraterritorial Invaders.

Jade Sword True Monarch also understands the principle of being lenient rather than strict. Ignoring Xiao Jiansheng's opposition, he disbanded a large part of the Jiuqu League cultivators and sent them back to their respective sects.

Before disbanding these cultivators, Jade Sword True Monarch had made it clear that they were only returning to recuperate or deal with personal matters.

If the frontline conflict reignites, Jade Sword Sect will summon them again, and they must immediately rush to the frontline to join the battle.

Not only the Jiuqu League cultivators but also many cultivators among the reinforcements from the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle are clamoring to return.

Xiao Jiansheng tried to pressure and entice True Monarch Bai Zhengyu of White Sun Valley, offering many benefits.

Bai Zhengyu, as a True Monarch from a major sect, finally managed to subdue those cultivators and make them obedient.

While the frontline of Yellow Lotus Sacred Mountain was in turmoil, Xiao Jiansheng had been waiting anxiously for the sect's new orders, but they had not arrived, which made him increasingly impatient.

## **Chapter 832: Easing Tensions**

Jade Sword Sect's Sect Master, Jade Sword True

Jade Sword Sect's Sect Master, Jade Sword True Monarch, was reluctant to offend Xiao Jiansheng.

Although he was a Sword Cultivator, he was not rigid in his approach and knew how to be flexible.

Even when facing Holy Land Sect, a prestigious sect, he would still show respect.

Jade Sword True Monarch had deliberately befriended Xiao Jiansheng and had almost followed his every command before.

However, the situation within the Jiuqu League and the sentiments of its members made it difficult for him as the leader. He had no choice but to go along with the prevailing situation and the feelings of the cultivators.

He knew that Jade Sword Sect had pushed the various cultivation forces within the Jiuqu League to their limits.

If he continued to force them to fight to the death against the Dali Dynasty against their will, there might be a backlash.

Joining the Dali Dynasty was not a good option either, as they treated cultivators very harshly.

But even then, it was better than dying in battle.

Jade Sword True Monarch was aware of the principles of these cultivators. When it came to life and death, there would definitely be a large-scale surrender.

In fact, if it weren't for Jade Sword True Monarch's skillful tactics, the supervisory teams from Jade Sword Sect would have been keeping a close eye on their allies. It wouldn't be surprising if some of them had defected already.

Now, among the various cultivation forces within the Jiuqu League, there were undoubtedly those who were secretly communicating with the Dali Dynasty.

Jade Sword Sect was helpless in this situation and often had to act ignorant and turn a blind eye to many things.

Jade Sword True Monarch had his own difficulties and struggles and couldn't continue to follow Xiao Jiansheng's commands blindly.

Through his sources, Xiao Jiansheng learned that although the North Sweeping Grand Army and Jiuqu League had ceased hostilities, Purple Yang Holy Sect was still applying pressure to the Dali Dynasty through various means, and the situation hadn't eased at all.

Of course, Purple Yang Holy Sect was indirectly involved and hadn't taken further action against the Dali Dynasty.

Xiao Jiansheng relayed the latest information from the Jiuqu League back to his sect, but there were no new orders from Purple Yang Holy Sect.

In the eyes of the high-ranking members of Purple Yang Holy Sect, everything happening in the Jiuqu League seemed to be non-existent.

This puzzled Xiao Jiansheng and left him unsure of what to do.

Without the support of their sect, the Jiuqu League couldn't initiate a war.

Without clear instructions from their sect, Xiao Jiansheng didn't dare to act recklessly.

As a result, the whole situation became peculiar.

Not to mention other areas, just within the Jiuqu League itself, an unusual scene of peace had emerged.

There was an actual ceasefire between the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army and the Jiuqu League.

Although no agreements had been reached so far between the two sides.

Meng Zhang was also puzzled by this situation.

What did Purple Yang Holy Sect want to do? Would they temporarily spare the Dali Dynasty?

Meng Zhang couldn't control what was happening elsewhere, so he could only strengthen defenses in Taiyi Sect.

As for himself, he continued to focus on his cultivation, striving to improve his combat power.

Meng Zhang's natal spiritual tool, the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd, had been nurtured for many years and was about to advance, only one step away from becoming a Fourth Rank magic tool.

But this final step seemed insurmountable no matter what he tried.

Meng Zhang felt that the Yin Yang Spirit Gourd was still lacking something and couldn't make that breakthrough.

The Rainbow Dawn Glow Robe, which had been thoroughly repaired by its tool spirit, Cai'er, thanks to Meng Zhang's significant investment of resources, had caused Cai'er to be discontent.

A mere Third Rank magic tool was consuming so many valuable resources; it was simply wasteful and a pity.

Especially since the amount of Primordial Spirit's power that Meng Zhang released was fixed.

When one magic tool consumed more, the other magic tool would have less.

For a Fourth Rank magic tool, the Primordial Spirit's power of a Primordial Spirit cultivator was an indispensable source of nourishment.

Cai'er had willingly offered herself to serve Meng Zhang because she had taken a liking to Meng Zhang's Primordial Spirit's power, finding it particularly vibrant and intelligent...

Meng Zhang was at a loss because of Cai'er's antics and had no choice but to use a bit more of his Primordial Spirit's power. The Primordial Spirit's power of a Primordial Spirit cultivator is limited.

Releasing too much of it would certainly affect one's own cultivation.

Meng Zhang's Primordial Spirit's power was much stronger than that of an ordinary Primordial Spirit cultivator, but nurturing two or three Fourth Rank magic tools was already pushing the limit.

Fourth Rank magic tools were known as treasures and had their own tool spirit.

The tool spirit possessed intelligence and knew how to pursue its own interests.

The enticement of the Primordial Spirit cultivator to make the tool spirit serve them relied heavily on their own Primordial Spirit's power.

Due to the limitations of the Primordial Spirit's power, many Primordial Spirit early-stage cultivators could only support one Fourth Rank magic tool.

Regardless of whether the Jiuqu League continued to be hostile to the Dali Dynasty, at least the Dali Dynasty initiated the ceasefire, which eased the situation.

[Meng Zhang also relaxed a bit, gaining more leisure time.]

The four Primordial Spirit True Monarchs stationed at the frontlines of Taiyi Sect's main camp were not always meditating there.

They took turns going to the Nine Heavens to search for various resources.

Besides the Nine Heavens Refined Essence, there were abundant resources in the Nine Heavens, with various high-grade Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects as the main focus.

Many of these Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects were useful to the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

In addition to joining Book Mountain True Monarch and others in going to the Nine Heavens, Meng Zhang specifically took the time to bring Niu Dawei and Yang Xueyi to the Nine Heavens.

Both of them were already cultivators at the Gold Core late stage and were qualified to experience the Nine Heavens.

Meng Zhang had a considerable amount of Nine Heavens Refined Essence, and he stored some in the sect's treasury for Gold Core late-stage cultivators to exchange for sect's merits.

However, Taiyi Sect's foundation was still shallow, and currently, there was only Meng Zhang as a Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

It was unrealistic to expect Meng Zhang alone to supply enough Nine Heavens Refined Essence for all Gold Core late-stage cultivators in the sect.

Moreover, Gold Core late-stage cultivators going to the Nine Heavens not only sought to obtain Nine Heavens Refined Essence but also to gain experience for their own growth.

To break through to the Primordial Spirit stage, Gold Core late-stage cultivators needed not only diligent practice and refinement of enough Nine Heavens Refined Essence but also sufficient experiences and insights into the Grand Dao of heaven and earth.

Insight into such matters couldn't be taught to others, let alone forcefully instilled in their minds.

What Meng Zhang could do was to guide Yang Xueyi and Niu Dawei as much as possible, to help them walk the right path.

Among the cultivators in Taiyi Sect, Yang Xueyi and Niu Dawei were the closest to breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage and the most likely to achieve it.

In a vast Taiyi Sect, it was all supported by only Meng Zhang as the sole Primordial Spirit True Monarch, and he was truly overwhelmed.

If it were during peaceful times, it would be fine, but over the past few years, the surrounding situation had changed one after another, and battles occurred one after another, hardly giving any respite.

Sometimes, Meng Zhang felt it was difficult to handle everything alone and that it would be best to have a reliable helper.

Even with Jin Li True Monarch, who had the closest relationship with Taiyi Sect and had sheltered Taiyi Sect for many years, fundamentally speaking, she was still an outsider and couldn't gain Meng Zhang's complete trust.

What Meng Zhang needed was a Primordial Spirit True Monarch cultivated by Taiyi Sect itself.

Among Yang Xueyi and Niu Dawei, no matter who could break through to the Primordial Spirit stage, it would greatly ease Meng Zhang's burden.

## **Chapter 833: Died During Meditation**

Currently, the Jiuqu League and the Dali Dynast

Currently, the Jiuqu League and the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army have essentially ceased hostilities, and the extraterritorial Yaozu and Spirit Clan have not launched a large-scale invasion yet.

The Endless Sea of Sand and the Demon Wind Gobi are relatively stable, and Taiyi Sect is not under significant pressure.

Meng Zhang rarely has a lot of leisure time, which allows him to properly cultivate the junior disciples of the sect.

In addition to personally guiding Niu Dawei and Yang Xueyi, he also provided guidance to other promising junior disciples.

Furthermore, Meng Zhang held more than ten Dharma meetings in a row, where he lectured on the teachings for the disciples.

During these lectures, Meng Zhang was very inclusive. In addition to the sect's disciples, many outstanding cultivators from the Hanhai Dao Alliance also had the qualification to attend the Dharma meetings and listen to Meng Zhang's teachings.

Since everyone present was part of the same group, Meng Zhang did not waste time on superficial matters. He started from the basics of cultivation and gradually delved into practical insights that would be useful to each individual.

Meng Zhang had grown from a Refining Qi stage cultivator to his current state. In his cultivation journey, apart from the inheritance from Taiyi Sect's seniors, he also accumulated a wealth of personal experience.

Meng Zhang was not secretive and spoke openly about his insights.

Most of those listening to him were people from within the sect, many of whom would become the backbone of Taiyi Sect or key figures in affiliated forces in the future.

From the perspective of a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, Meng Zhang's profound explanations even on the most basic Refining Qi stage cultivation were fascinating, and everyone benefited greatly.

In the Cultivation World, it was rare to find someone as generous as Meng Zhang.

Through his teachings, Meng Zhang genuinely hoped that the junior disciples of the sect would grow quickly and share the burden with him.

Thanks to Meng Zhang's persistent efforts, the culture of reciting scriptures and pondering the Dao existed among the sect's disciples and had taken root.

Especially for some talented individuals, after entering the Gold Core stage, they gradually realized the benefits of studying the scriptures.

Yang Xueyi and Niu Dawei began absorbing and refining the Nine Heavens Refined Essence.

The Nine Heavens Refined Essence contained a small amount of Grand Dao residual energy, which could help cultivators comprehend the Grand Dao of Heaven and Earth.

Yang Xueyi and Niu Dawei were steadily advancing toward the Primordial Spirit stage.

The location of Meng Zhang's Dharma meetings was not fixed. He gathered people to listen to his teachings at various places such as Taiyi Sect's front-line camp, Grand Lion Ridge, and Feihong Mountain.

This was mainly because most of Taiyi Sect's cultivators and those from the Hanhai Dao Alliance were dispersed throughout the Endless Sea of Sand and Demon Wind Gobi, forming a series of patrol teams to monitor the movements of the Extraterritorial Invaders.

As a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, Meng Zhang was considerate and made himself convenient for everyone.

On this day, just after finishing a lecture at Feihong Mountain, Meng Zhang received an urgent message talisman from the Hundred Grass Slope, the main gate of the sect. His face changed, and he hurriedly returned to the Hundred Grass Slope.

Meng Zhang rushed back to the Hundred Grass Slope because one of the elders of the sect, Hu Jing, had passed away during meditation, and she wanted to see Meng Zhang one last time.

Hu Jing was originally a loose cultivator and was personally taken in by Meng Zhang into the sect.

Not only did she advance to the Gold Core stage on her cultivation journey, but she also excelled in the art of beast taming and made many contributions to the sect.

However, she suffered severe injuries during a major battle, damaging her foundation, which led to a substantial decline in her cultivation base.

With no choice but to give up the path of cultivation, she returned to the sect to recuperate.

During her time in the sect, she focused primarily on two things.

Firstly, she nurtured junior disciples and trained many outstanding beast-tamers for Taiyi Sect.

Secondly, she researched the art of beast-taming in-depth, hoping to create her own unique methods.

Her goal in researching the art of beast-taming was to cultivate more useful spiritual beasts for the sect. At the Gold Core stage of cultivation, Hu Jing was far from the age of "died during meditation."

However, she had been affected by her injuries and had disregarded the advice of her fellow disciples for many years, putting a great strain on herself.

Exhausted both physically and mentally, she finally reached the end of her life.

Meng Zhang hurriedly returned to the sect and managed to see Hu Jing one last time.

In her final years, both Meng Zhang and the elders of the sect had visited her several times.

Hu Jing had already made all the necessary arrangements and entrusted everything that needed to be taken care of.

Seeing Sect Master Meng Zhang standing before her, ready to accompany her on her final journey, Hu Jing whispered a few words before closing her eyes peacefully.

As he watched Hu Jing slowly pass away before him, Meng Zhang felt a long-lost sense of sorrow.

This young girl, whom he had highly regarded and personally brought into the sect, had left this world.

Being a Primordial Spirit True Monarch didn't make him a deity with the power to resurrect the dead.

With Meng Zhang's abilities, he was helpless in the face of Hu Jing's condition.

Fortunately, Hu Jing passed away peacefully, giving everyone a sense of reassurance.

She had been with Taiyi Sect since its humble beginnings, witnessing its growth from weakness to strength, and its continuous development.

After leaving Hu Jing's quiet room, Meng Zhang felt a heavy feeling in his chest.

Due to his past life experiences and his relatively short lifespan, his emotions had not become as indifferent as those old relics in the Cultivation World.

Deep inside, he still had abundant emotions and fiery passion.

Meng Zhang stood outside the quiet room, seemingly in a daze.

At this moment, a female Gold Core cultivator approached cautiously, as if hesitating whether to disturb Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang didn't need to raise his head to recognize her.

This female cultivator's name was Wei Wuxian, and she was the closed-door disciple that Hu Jing had taken in during her later years. She was also the most accomplished disciple among all of Hu Jing's disciples.

When Wei Wuxian joined the sect, her exceptional talent immediately attracted the attention of several Gold Core cultivators, who vied to be her master.

Taiyi Sect was no longer the small sect it used to be, with only a few mediocre disciples.

Nowadays, Taiyi Sect occasionally received very outstanding disciples, and the Gold Core elders in the sect were capable of providing guidance.

For some reason, Wei Wuxian chose Hu Jing, a seemingly unremarkable cultivator with a crippled cultivation base, among many elders with high cultivation bases and promising futures.

Although Hu Jing's cultivation base was no longer significant, she had a deep seniority, high status, and considerable prestige in the sect, so no one competed with her for Wei Wuxian.

Wei Wuxian did not disappoint and developed exceptionally well.

At a young age, she had already formed her Gold Core and inherited Hu Jing's art of beast-taming, demonstrating an even better talent than her master.

Before Hu Jing's "died during meditation," it was Wei Wuxian, this closed-door disciple, who had been by her side, attending to her.

Hu Jing entrusted most of her affairs to Wei Wuxian, and even in her final moments, she had concerns for her disciple.

## **Chapter 834: Cloud Beast Taming**

Meng Zhang glanced at Wei Wuxian with a kind ex

Meng Zhang glanced at Wei Wuxian with a kind expression. Encouraged, Wei Wuxian came over to greet Meng Zhang.

As it turned out, she had come to invite Meng Zhang to see the latest achievements in taming cloud beasts at the Beast Controlling Hall.

Wei Wuxian was one of the youngest elders in the sect and also the Hall Master of the Beast Controlling Hall, responsible for overseeing all matters related to taming spiritual beasts.

Many years ago, Meng Zhang had entered the Nine Heavens and witnessed various strange cloud beasts. At that time, he had a whimsical idea of attempting to tame them at the Beast Controlling Hall.

Cloud beasts lived above the Nine Heavens, and due to their unique living environment, their growth process was different from the demonic beasts on the land, fundamentally distinct.

Taming cloud beasts was an entirely different challenge compared to taming demonic beasts.

Hu Jing, as one of the most skilled experts in beast-taming within the sect, showed great interest in taming cloud beasts. Especially after she suffered serious injuries and her cultivation foundation was destroyed, she devoted countless efforts and energies to taming them, treating it as some kind of reliance.

Cloud beasts had unique abilities and enormous potential. If they could be tamed, it would be of great significance to the entire Taiyi Sect.

Due to the special nature of cloud beasts, taming them was an extremely difficult task.

In the Cultivation World, many sects had tried to tame cloud beasts. Some were renowned for their beast-taming abilities, far surpassing the Taiyi Sect in this aspect.

Over the years, Meng Zhang had never heard of any sect successfully taming cloud beasts. Of course, it was possible that he was not well-informed enough or that some sect had succeeded but kept it a secret.

Regardless, in the eyes of many, taming cloud beasts was an almost impossible feat.

In the past, Meng Zhang had a friendly exchange with Elder Beast Fury of the Beast King Mountain, and they had shared some knowledge.

Elder Beast Fury wanted to befriend Meng Zhang and was willing to share non-confidential matters.

Elder Beast Fury once proudly claimed that when it came to beast-taming, Jiuqu League, Crossing Severing Mountain Range, and even the Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle could not compare to Beast King Mountain.

Although Dali Dynasty had absorbed many sects and collected countless heritage and talents from various fields, they might be dominant in other aspects, but when it came to beast-taming, they might not be as good as Beast King Mountain.

Yet, even Beast King Mountain with such strong beast-taming abilities had no precedent for large-scale taming of cloud beasts.

According to Elder Beast Fury, throughout the history of Beast King Mountain, at most, a few individuals were able to tame a small number of cloud beasts, but no one had ever succeeded in large-scale taming and cultivation of cloud beasts.

At that time, Meng Zhang believed in Elder Beast Fury's words.

The high difficulty of taming cloud beasts was evident from the numerous failures of Taiyi Sect in the past.

Even during its heyday, Taiyi Sect was not a dominant sect in the field of beast-taming. The techniques passed down within the sect were only slightly better than ordinary ones, barely usable.

Moreover, the current Taiyi Sect had not fully received all the heritages and had lost many of them.

Hu Jing herself, besides inheriting the Taiyi Sect's legacy, had also experienced some adventures outside and gained some heritages.

In addition, during Taiyi Sect's process of external conquest, they had seized many classics, including some related to beast-taming.

Hu Jing had a high talent in beast-taming and was able to draw on the strengths of many schools.

After years of practice and summarization, she had developed her own unique style.

With Meng Zhang's approval, Taiyi Sect had invested a lot of resources into taming cloud beasts.

One reason was that if they succeeded, it would indeed be profitable and of great significance to the sect. Furthermore, Meng Zhang believed in Hu Jing's abilities. Especially after Hu Jing's injury, Meng Zhang felt the need to compensate her in some way.

Anyway, with the vast resources and capabilities of the Taiyi Sect, they could afford such investments.

Over the years, Meng Zhang had not paid much attention to the specific situation of taming cloud beasts. He had only heard occasionally that the taming process seemed to be very difficult.

Meng Zhang had never harbored great hopes for taming success; he simply wanted to give Hu Jing something to do and help her relax.

In the past, Meng Zhang had not been in the right mood and was still immersed in grief over the death of someone close, so he had not paid much attention to this matter.

Wei Wuxian had received orders from Hu Jing long ago to make sure that Meng Zhang witnessed the achievements they had made over the years.

In the past, when Meng Zhang visited Hu Jing, she had spoken highly of Wei Wuxian, her closed-door disciple.

Just now, Hu Jing attributed the main credit for the successful taming of cloud beasts to Wei Wuxian.

Meng Zhang was also curious to see the results they had achieved over the years and find out if Wei Wuxian was as excellent as Hu Jing claimed.

Wei Wuxian led Meng Zhang to a secluded corner of Hundred Grass Slope.

This place used to be a small valley, but later, Hu Jing invested a lot of resources to transform it into a specialized beast-taming field for cloud beasts.

Defensive formations were arranged around the beast-taming field to prevent the cloud beasts from escaping.

As soon as Meng Zhang arrived here, he was captivated by the sight of the beast-taming field.

The beast-taming field covered a large area, surrounded by layers of light membranes acting as barriers.

Inside the beast-taming field, there were wavy light screens that divided the area into separate spaces.

Among the many independent spaces, thick clouds pervaded, and various cloud beasts with different forms and sizes roamed within the clouds.

After receiving Hu Jing's instructions, Meng Zhang had gone to the Nine Heavens whenever he had the opportunity and captured a batch of cloud beasts to bring back for her to tame.

When capturing cloud beasts, Meng Zhang deliberately chose young cloud beast cubs and some with a relatively gentle temperament.

Cloud beasts came in various species, each with unique abilities that even made Meng Zhang somewhat envious.

In fact, the Taiyi Sect had always had a tradition of taming demonic beasts.

The main task of the Beast Controlling Hall in the sect was to tame various demonic beasts.

On the vast Demon Wind Gobi, there were still many demonic beast populations that were deliberately allowed to thrive by the Taiyi Sect.

Once demonic beasts were tamed by cultivators, they became spiritual beasts and served the cultivators.

The taming of demonic beasts in Taiyi Sect was the foundation laid by Hu Jing and the situation she had created.

Even when Hu Jing later shifted her main focus to taming cloud beasts, the main efforts of most other beast-taming experts in the sect remained on taming demonic beasts.

After witnessing cloud beasts, Hu Jing keenly realized that taming them held more potential and had a greater impact than taming demonic beasts.

Moreover, this was a challenge that no one had succeeded in before, which greatly ignited her ambition.

Now, what was presented before Meng Zhang was the result of Hu Jing's efforts over the years.

## **Chapter 835: Introduction**

In various different spaces, there are various

In various different spaces, there are various types of cloud beasts.

These cloud beasts are generally tamed and domesticated from a young age and feed on clouds.

Of course, if one wants the cloud beasts to grow better, they need to invest in various special spiritual substances.

It's similar to horses; eating grass only ensures they won't starve. To gain weight and strength, they need to be fed with high-quality fodder.

The feeding recipes for these cloud beasts have been painstakingly developed by disciples of the Beast Controlling Hall through years of repeated experiments.

These recipes ensure both cost-effectiveness and sufficient nutrition for the cloud beasts.

Different cloud beasts have vastly different feeding requirements.

Fortunately, with the continuous expansion of Taiyi Sect's territory, more and more spirit fields have been developed.

The spirit grains, spirit flowers, and spirit fruits grown on these spirit fields not only supply the disciples of the sect but are also used in large quantities to feed the spiritual beasts.

Most of these cloud beasts have already been tamed and can be used by Taiyi Sect.

Among all the cloud beasts, there are three that Wei Wuxian values the most.

One of them is the Cloud Whale.

Adult Cloud Whales are as large as mountains and possess immense strength, allowing them to freely soar in the high sky.

In terms of rank, adult Cloud Whales are at least Third Rank.

Of course, Cloud Whales are generally gentle creatures and not particularly combative. In terms of combat power, they may not be as formidable as other Third Rank spiritual beasts.

Wei Wuxian values the Cloud Whale not just for its combat power.

Once tamed, the Cloud Whale is the most practical flying mount and cargo carrier.

An adult Cloud Whale is comparable in size to a Fourth Rank Cloud Boat and possesses unmatched flying speed.

If one were to construct on its flat back, numerous buildings could be built for transportation purposes.

Taiyi Sect's Divine Workshop can currently only build Second Rank flying vessels.

Flying vessels above Third Rank still need to be purchased from outside sources.

In special circumstances, like the ongoing conflict between the Jiuqu League and the Dali Dynasty, Jade Sword Sect collected most of the flying vessels from the Jiuqu League.

Even with spiritual stones in hand, Taiyi Sect could not purchase a Third Rank flying vessel.

By cultivating Cloud Whales as a means of transportation, Taiyi Sect's aerial transportation capacity can be significantly enhanced.

As a transmigrator, Meng Zhang has a special obsession with aerial advantages and large-scale aerial transportation.

In the Cultivation World, ensuring sufficient aerial power is one of the foundations of a sect.

During the process of taming Cloud Whales, Hu Jing and Wei Wuxian expended considerable effort and tried various methods.

As the Sect Master, Meng Zhang did not need to concern himself with the details or the methods they used to tame the spiritual beasts.

He only needed to know that they succeeded and can now control the Cloud Whales.

However, Hu Jing and Wei Wuxian's work was not without flaws.

Although they had already tamed several Cloud Whales, all of them were still in their infancy and had not yet grown into adults.

Considering the long lifespan of Cloud Whales, it would take a considerable amount of time for these Cloud Whales to reach full maturity.

Among these Cloud Whales, only two of them had grown to Second Rank, while the rest were still at First Rank.

In fact, a Second Rank Cloud Whale was already much larger than a Third Rank flying vessel and could barely be ridden.

If Taiyi Sect wanted to cultivate Third Rank Cloud Whales, it would require not only continuing to invest significant resources but also waiting for a long time.

Regarding this matter, Meng Zhang was in no hurry at all.

As a Primordial Spirit True Monarch, he had plenty of patience for such matters.

Wei Wuxian's work held significant strategic importance and was a hundred-year plan, and even a thousand-year plan for the sect. After introducing the Cloud Whale, Wei Wuxian proceeded to introduce the second type of cloud beast to Meng Zhang, known as the Cloud Shark.

Although the size of the Cloud Shark was not as massive as the Cloud Whale, it was still significant and possessed the ability to freely soar in the sky, just like the Cloud Whale.

If the Cloud Whale was a means of transportation, then the Cloud Shark was a combat tool.

The Cloud Shark had a fierce and aggressive temperament, making it much more challenging to tame compared to the Cloud Whale, requiring more time and effort for taming.

The Cloud Shark possessed extremely powerful combat capabilities, making it a natural warrior.

Among beasts of the same rank, there were few that could stand against the Cloud Shark.

According to Hu Jing's design, a tamed Cloud Shark could be released alone as a hunter in the sky or used to carry various Mechanical Creations, transforming it into a specialized warship.

While Third Rank flying vessels could be bought with spiritual stones during peacetime, the buying and selling of Third Rank warships were subject to many restrictions.

In the Jiuqu League, there were only a few cultivation forces capable of manufacturing Third Rank warships.

To purchase a Third Rank warship from them required a great deal of effort.

On the other hand, a mature Cloud Shark could directly confront a Third Rank warship with its strength.

However, similar to the Cloud Whale, the currently tamed Cloud Sharks in the Beast Controlling Hall were only First Rank and Second Rank.

Cultivating a Third Rank Cloud Shark would also take a long time, waiting for it to grow gradually.

The third type of cloud beast that Wei Wuxian had high expectations for was the Cloud Clam.

The shell of the Cloud Clam was extremely tough, making it an excellent material for refining.

Inside the Cloud Clam's shell were cloud pearls filled with abundant spiritual energy and containing unique powers.

Cloud pearls had significant roles in both refining and alchemy.

Meng Zhang's disciple, An Xiaoran, was currently one of the foremost Alchemists in Taiyi Sect.

During her efforts to improve pill formulas, she made an unexpected discovery.

She found that certain special cloud pearls, when processed and added to the pill refining process, significantly increased the success rate of pill formation.

An Xiaoran even used these cloud pearls as the main material to refine a secret substance that greatly improved the success rate of pill formation and was effective for many types of pills.

Upon discovering this, An Xiaoran immediately classified it as a sect secret and kept it strictly confidential.

Even the specialized breeding grounds for cultivating Cloud Clams were raised to a higher level of secrecy by her.

As Meng Zhang's personally transmitted disciple, An Xiaoran's cultivation base and position in the sect far surpassed Wei Wuxian, allowing her to effortlessly handle these matters.

An Xiaoran demanded much from the Beast Controlling Hall, asking them to provide more high-quality cloud pearls.

Unfortunately, the Beast Controlling Hall's capabilities were limited, and there were currently not many successfully cultivated Cloud Clams.

Moreover, the proportion of Cloud Clams that produced special cloud pearls was even lower.

For this reason, An Xiaoran had pleaded with Meng Zhang, asking him to capture more Cloud Clams when he went to the Nine Heavens.

As Meng Zhang was already busy with numerous matters, he could only spare the time to go once or twice at most. At best, he could do it when it was convenient.

To obtain a large number of special cloud pearls, they had to rely on the methods of Taiyi Sect's Beast Controlling Hall.

Due to An Xiaoran's request, the Beast Controlling Hall had invested more resources in cultivating Cloud Clams.

However, so far, the results were far from satisfactory for her.

Wei Wuxian focused on introducing these three types of cloud beasts.

The other cloud beasts either had less significant roles or had not been entirely tamed, still posing some problems...

Nevertheless, just the introduction of those by Wei Wuxian already left Meng Zhang quite satisfied.

[Happy New Year Guys! :P ]

## **Chapter 836: Funeral**

Looking at the beast-taming field in front of h

Looking at the beast-taming field in front of him, Meng Zhang nodded with satisfaction, knowing that it was the result of Hu Jing and Wei Wuxian's hard work.

Their efforts had not been in vain.

The achievements they made were of great significance to the entire sect.

Meng Zhang was very pleased with their work and decided to invest more resources in the Beast Controlling Hall in the future.

Hu Jing had already died during meditation, and Wei Wuxian, her closed-door disciple, would need special attention in the future.

Whether it was guidance or rewarding her with cultivation resources, it was necessary.

Meng Zhang directly asked Wei Wuxian if there was anything she needed help with.

As Hu Jing's closed-door disciple and the head of the Beast Controlling Hall, Wei Wuxian enjoyed high status and treatment in all aspects, so there wasn't much else she needed. However, since the Sect Master of the Primordial Spirit True Monarch had offered to help, she wouldn't miss this opportunity.

After some thought, she asked Meng Zhang to collect some ancient books related to beast-taming techniques for her.

Meng Zhang himself was not proficient in beast-taming techniques. However, he thought of a way to obtain these ancient books.

Meng Zhang didn't directly respond to Wei Wuxian's request but instead engaged in small talk with her. During the conversation, he casually mentioned that before Elder Beast Fury died during meditation, he entrusted a group of disciples from the Beast King Mountain to Meng Zhang's care.

After Elder Beast Fury's death, when the Beast King Mountain underwent changes, some of its disciples secretly arrived at the Demon Wind Gobi. Following Meng Zhang's

instructions, Niu Dawei allocated good territories to them, allowing them to rebuild their sect.

Meng Zhang kept his promise and sheltered these disciples under the wings of the Taiyi Sect. He had agreed not to disclose this matter to the outside world, but he had not said anything about not telling the sect's disciples.

Pretending to have let it slip, Meng Zhang reminded Wei Wuxian not to casually reveal this matter to outsiders.

Meng Zhang told Wei Wuxian that the Beast King Mountain was a sect based on beast-taming techniques. If she had the time, she could visit the newly rebuilt Beast King Mountain sect and exchange ideas with its disciples. These disciples' cultivation bases were at most at the Foundation Building stage, and facing a Gold Core Daoist Master like Wei Wuxian from the prestigious Taiyi Sect, they had no power to resist.

Meng Zhang believed that as long as Wei Wuxian used some means, she could easily obtain some ancient books related to beast-taming techniques from them.

Meng Zhang felt a bit uneasy about this approach, as it seemed somewhat unethical and didn't quite align with the principles of the Taiyi Sect. He specifically advised Wei Wuxian to handle things with propriety and not resort to force or take advantage of the weak. Even if she suffered a loss or paid a price, she should avoid causing trouble or creating controversies.

Wei Wuxian was not a cruel person, and her nature was gentle. She immediately assured Meng Zhang that she would conduct fair trade and would rather gain nothing than resort to coercion or bullying.

The Taiyi Sect's principles were righteous, and their education of disciples was quite successful. There were no wicked individuals within the sect. Even if there were some who were not so righteous, they understood not to do harm to the reputation of the sect and refrain from committing evil deeds around the sect.

Meng Zhang also told Wei Wuxian that the sect possessed a Fourth Rank magic tool called the Beast Controlling Plate. After obtaining this magic tool, Meng Zhang had looked into its history. It was split from the Old Beast King Mountain when the New Beast King Mountain was formed and was brought with them by their predecessors. Later, it was carefully nurtured by the New Beast King Mountain's Primordial Spirit True Monarch, resulting in its current form. Meng Zhang himself was not particularly interested in beast-taming techniques, and he was also unwilling to divert his attention to refine that magic tool.

The most critical point was that the magic tool needed to subdue demonic beasts before it could unleash its power.

For Meng Zhang, unless it was to subdue a Fourth Rank demonic beast like a Monster King, the magic tool wouldn't be of much help to him.

However vast the Cultivation World may be, how many lone Monster Kings were there that would require Meng Zhang's subduing?

After the Beast Controlling Plate fell into Meng Zhang's hands, it had been sitting in the Taiyi Sect's treasury, gathering dust. The special secret method for controlling the Beast Controlling Plate was stored in the Hidden Scripture Pavilion.

Wei Wuxian could use her sect contribution points to exchange for this secret method as a reference.

Meng Zhang also dangled a carrot for her. If she performed exceptionally well in the future and gained the ability to refine the Beast Controlling Plate, the magic tool could be bestowed upon her.

After discussing official matters, Meng Zhang inquired about Wei Wuxian's well-being and then left.

In the following period, Meng Zhang arranged a grand funeral for Hu Jing, giving her a glorious send-off.

With the current dominant position of the Taiyi Sect in the Endless Sea of Sand and the Demon Wind Gobi, many guests attended Hu Jing's funeral.

Not to mention the various cultivation forces that sought protection from the Taiyi Sect. They naturally dared not show any negligence.

Numerous envoys from neighboring cultivation forces also attended the funeral.

By organizing such a large-scale funeral, Meng Zhang also intended to establish connections with the surrounding cultivation forces.

The North Sweeping Grand Army of the Dali Dynasty voluntarily ceased hostilities, and the Jiuqu League regained a rare moment of peace.

Although the southern part of the Jiuqu League was still under the control of the Dali Dynasty, the Yuan Tu Great Prairie was firmly held by the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan.

But no matter what, at least the northern part of the Jiuqu League had won some breathing space.

The cultivators drafted by the various cultivation forces gradually returned to their respective sects, licking their wounds.

The Taiyi Sect remained secluded in the Endless Sea of Sand and the Demon Wind Gobi, seemingly distant from all kinds of disturbances.

Although they were still facing off against the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan's army on the front lines, the large rear area was peaceful and tranquil.

Before the invasion of the extraterritorial demons and Spirit Clan, the Taiyi Sect was enjoying a rare respite.

Regardless of external changes, the sect's development could not be halted.

Despite the severe shortage of manpower, the sect continued to operate normally.

Meng Zhang believed that the invasion of the extraterritorial demons and Spirit Clan was only a matter of time.

In preparation, the Taiyi Sect must be ready early.

In addition to doing their best to improve the sect's combat power and prepare a retreat route, contacting neighboring forces in advance and establishing a small-scale offensive-defensive alliance were also crucial measures.

After experiencing the events from before, the major cultivation forces within the Jiuqu League had become increasingly dissatisfied with Jade Sword Sect and were secretly showing signs of discord.

Similarly, the Taiyi Sect was not willing to get involved in the mess with the Jade Sword Sect and had no intention of fighting for them.

Of course, the current Taiyi Sect was still far from having the strength to confront the Jade Sword Sect head-on.

Meng Zhang contacted the surrounding cultivation forces to seek mutual assistance and support.

If the Taiyi Sect could unite a group of cultivation forces and create a powerful force, it would establish an impressive presence.

In the future, even if there were disagreements with the Jade Sword Sect, they would have to think carefully before resorting to force.

## **Chapter 837: Strikes and Pressure**

Jade Sword Sect is no longer the same as it use

Jade Sword Sect is no longer the same as it used to be, a decisive and unforgiving Sword Cultivator sect.

This is Meng Zhang's intuition, based on various facts and judgments he has made.

Various pressures from both within and outside the Jiuqu League, along with the losses and difficult situations faced by the sect, have greatly restricted Jade Sword Sect.

In the past, no matter how dissatisfied or unruly the major cultivation forces within the camp were, Jade Sword Sect would not make any concessions. On the contrary, they would use thunderous means to deal with any rebellious elements first.

However, after the truce with Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army, Jade Sword Sect surprisingly made a rare concession. They agreed to the demands of various cultivation forces to allow their cultivators to take turns resting and recuperating.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, the major cultivation forces withdrew most of their main forces from the frontline and showed no intention of returning.

Meng Zhang doesn't know how others view this matter, nor does he know the thoughts of the higher-ups in Jade Sword Sect. But from this event, he can see the weakness of Jade Sword Sect.

Currently, Taiyi Sect does not have the conditions to resist Jade Sword Sect, nor is it necessary to oppose them.

Meng Zhang gathered the surrounding cultivation forces this time, firstly as a probe to test Jade Sword Sect and secondly to display Taiyi Sect's strength, making it difficult for Jade Sword Sect to easily manipulate Taiyi Sect in the future.

Meng Zhang's reputation is prominent, and Taiyi Sect's prestige is not to be ignored.

Almost all the important figures from the cultivation forces around Taiyi Sect have come to participate in the funeral.

True Monarch Clever Machine of Clever Machine Sect, Gu Yue Huaidie of Great Wind City's Gu Yue Family...

What surprised Meng Zhang, even more, was the presence of True Monarch You Hongzhi from the Four Seas Commercial Firm, who actually gave him enough face to attend the funeral of a mere Gold Core cultivator.

Meng Zhang personally welcomed this distinguished guest, True Monarch You Hongzhi, outside the sect's gate.

Jin Li and other True Monarchs are stationed in Taiyi Sect's frontline camp, so only Meng Zhang is qualified to receive this experienced Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

After meeting, True Monarch You Hongzhi had a smile on his face, behaving like an old friend, very affable.

However, Meng Zhang was cautious about this person.

Although True Monarch You Hongzhi and Elder Beast Fury had been friends for many years, he had betrayed him without hesitation and helped Jade Sword Sect divide the Beast King Mountain.

In the dog-eat-dog world of the Cultivation World, such things were not uncommon. Friendship is the most unreliable thing, while betrayal and selling out are the main themes.

Although Meng Zhang despised True Monarch You Hongzhi's actions now, he might not hesitate to do the same if such an opportunity fell to him and Taiyi Sect. He might also take advantage first before deciding what to do.

Of course, this does not prevent Meng Zhang from being cautious about True Monarch You Hongzhi.

Four Seas Commercial Firm is a much stronger and older influential force compared to Taiyi Sect, and True Monarch You Hongzhi is an experienced Primordial Spirit True Monarch.

True Monarch You Hongzhi's arrival quickly became the focus of attention.

Representatives from various cultivation forces approached with flattering smiles and praised him generously.

Fortunately, the members of the Hanhai Alliance could distinguish who their masters were and did not go up to flatter outsiders.

While Meng Zhang maintained a smiling face, he felt quite unhappy inside.

He was not unhappy because True Monarch You Hongzhi stole the limelight, but rather because his arrival disrupted Meng Zhang's original plan.

With True Monarch You Hongzhi present, Meng Zhang couldn't say many things he had planned to say.

In such a public setting, he couldn't find a way to talk to certain people privately.

Meng Zhang realized that he had been careless this time. He should have met with the representatives of the major cultivation forces separately in advance, reached agreements in secret, and then openly organized them together.

Things had been going smoothly for him during this period, which made him a bit careless.

True Monarch You Hongzhi's arrival interfered with his good deeds and sounded a warning for him. Since the original purpose could not be achieved, Meng Zhang simply let it go and allowed the funeral to return to its original purpose.

Hu Jing, like most cultivators in the Cultivation World, didn't leave behind any blood relatives; she only had a few disciples.

Hu Jing made enormous contributions to Taiyi Sect during her lifetime, so Meng Zhang did what little he could to make her funeral grand and lively.

After the funeral, the guests from all sides left one after another, and Meng Zhang personally escorted True Monarch You Hongzhi outside the sect's gate.

Before leaving, True Monarch You Hongzhi lightly admonished Meng Zhang. The gist of it was to warn him not to become arrogant and think that hiding in the Endless Sea of Sand, a remote place, would make him forget who the master of the Jiuqu League was.

Meng Zhang maintained a smiling face and acted as if he humbly accepted the advice.

Although it is a cultivator's nature to attach themselves to the strong, someone like True Monarch You Hongzhi, who showed unwavering loyalty to Jade Sword Sect and frequently ran errands for them, made Meng Zhang feel strange.

True Monarch You Hongzhi did not stay long and left directly after seeing that Meng Zhang was not disrespectful.

Of course, he would not be deceived by Meng Zhang's attitude and would continue to keep an eye on his movements.

As he watched True Monarch You Hongzhi's figure disappear into the distance, Meng Zhang's expression gradually became gloomy.

It seems that his attempt to avoid fighting with Dali Dynasty and hiding in the Endless Sea of Sand has aroused Jade Sword Sect's dissatisfaction.

The petty actions he had made did not escape Jade Sword Sect's notice.

From the beginning to the end, Jade Sword Sect regarded Taiyi Sect as a pawn they could manipulate at will.

But Meng Zhang is not satisfied with such a status.

His demands are not high; he just wants to be self-sufficient.

Unfortunately, one cannot control their destiny in the world of cultivators. Many disputes in the Cultivation World are not things they can avoid just by wanting to hide away.

Given the current situation, even if Jade Sword Sect is dissatisfied with Taiyi Sect, they are unlikely to act rashly.

Taiyi Sect should still have time to find an opportunity to break the deadlock.

After the funeral, Meng Zhang didn't stay too long at the Hundred Grass Slope, Taiyi Sect's mountain gate, and left to return to the frontline camp.

At present, there are four Primordial Spirit True Monarchs stationed in the frontline camp.

Since a large-scale war had not broken out yet, everyone was relatively relaxed.

The four Primordial Spirit True Monarchs could take turns leaving to deal with their own affairs.

For safety reasons, at least two Primordial Spirit True Monarchs must stay in the camp.

True Monarch He Luo didn't like Jade Sword Sect, and he had nowhere else to go, so he had been staying in the camp all along.

Occasionally, he would leave to go to the Nine Heavens to collect Nine Heavens Refined Essence or see if he could obtain some Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects.

In theory, after True Monarch Jin Li came out of seclusion, the frontline camp of Taiyi Sect should already have enough Primordial Spirit True Monarchs.

However, True Monarch Book Mountain did not leave; he had been staying there all the time.

He was a complete homebody, spending most of his time reading in the camp.

Apart from occasionally going out to show himself, wandering around the Barbarian Clan's army camp, and intimidating the extraterritorial Barbarian Clan, he had hardly left the frontline camp.

## **Chapter 838: Traveling Together**

Book Mountain True Monarch had been staying in

Book Mountain True Monarch had been staying in the Taiyi Sect camp all this time, and Meng Zhang couldn't help but wonder if he was intentionally avoiding Red Pig True Monarch and the others.

Though curious, Meng Zhang knew his boundaries and refrained from prying into the secrets of the Dark Alliance branch.

As allies, the Dark Alliance branch was still reliable, and Taiyi Sect aimed to maintain a good relationship with them. The three Primordial Spirit True Monarchs came to assist Taiyi Sect in battle, and according to the customs of the Cultivation World, Taiyi Sect should be responsible for providing them with various supplies.

For the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, their daily cultivation often required Nine Heavens Refined Essence, and pure jade inspiration was even better.

However, Taiyi Sect's resources were limited, and they lacked these items themselves, let alone having extras to support others. What Meng Zhang could do was compensate them with other cultivation resources such as spirit stones.

Directly absorbing spirit stones didn't hold much significance for the Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, but as the universal currency of the Cultivation World, spirit stones still played a significant role, even if they couldn't buy genuinely precious items.

The Dark Alliance branch was much wealthier than Taiyi Sect, and Book Mountain True Monarch had an indifferent attitude towards the supplies provided by Taiyi Sect. If Taiyi Sect offered resources, he would accept them; if not, he wouldn't demand them.

Jin Li True Monarch had been receiving the offerings from Taiyi Sect, even during her closed-door cultivation over the years. She was accustomed to accepting them naturally.

On the other hand, He Luo True Monarch firmly refused the supplies offered by Taiyi Sect. He believed that Meng Zhang had saved his life, and he was only here to help in a small way, so he couldn't face receiving offerings from Taiyi Sect.

In reality, He Luo True Monarch had served Azure Origin Sect for many years, and they treated him well. He had plenty of cultivation resources, including many Nine Heavens Refined Essence, which he collected from the Nine Heavens not because he lacked them, but to avoid becoming complacent.

Taiyi Sect had its own style of doing things. Whether He Luo True Monarch accepted the offerings or not, Taiyi Sect had dedicated disciples who regularly delivered the offerings to his residence.

After returning to the frontline camp of Taiyi Sect, Meng Zhang's life returned to its previous routine. He spent most of his time in closed-door cultivation in the camp and occasionally went outside the Barbarian Clan camp to display his presence.

Regularly, he would take time to go to the Nine Heavens to collect Nine Heavens Refined Essence and other spiritual treasures. Though Meng Zhang's divination technique had not made any major breakthroughs, his Spiritual Awareness was still keen.

Upon entering the Nine Heavens, he would choose his direction of action based on his Spiritual Awareness, which often resulted in substantial gains.

Jin Li True Monarch had gone to the Nine Heavens with Meng Zhang a few times before. Initially, she intended to guide him and impart some experience, as she was a Gold Core cultivator when he was still at that level. But when she came out of closed-door cultivation, Meng Zhang had already reached the same level as her, a Primordial Spirit True Monarch. Moreover, he had even saved her life when they faced pursuit from extraterritorial demons.

Jin Li True Monarch had not given specific guidance to Meng Zhang on breaking through to the Primordial Spirit stage. However, he managed to break through smoothly and achieve the Primordial Spirit level.

In her heart, Jin Li True Monarch credited it to the heritage of Taiyi Sect. After all, Taiyi Sect was a Primordial Spirit powerhouse that once dominated Middle-Earth Continent. Even if it had declined, a sinking ship still had three inches of nails, as the saying went. Someone like her, a loose cultivator, would indeed not compare to Meng Zhang without a good teacher.

Despite this, Jin Li True Monarch didn't feel any sense of unfairness. It was just that sometimes, she found the situation a bit awkward. Once she had the opportunity, she couldn't help but show off in front of Meng Zhang, demonstrating her skills as a senior.

In the beginning, when Meng Zhang first entered the Nine Heavens, he sought help from Jin Li True Monarch, who guided him there.

Now that both of them were Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, their status was equal, and there was no notion of one person dragging down the other.

In the Nine Heavens, many areas were accessible.

At first, Jin Li True Monarch wanted to showcase her extensive experience and search for Nine Heavens Refined Essence together with Meng Zhang.

But Nine Heavens Refined Essence wasn't easily found all over the Nine Heavens.

I don't know if Jin Li True Monarch had bad luck, but the gains along the way were meager.

Meng Zhang couldn't stand it anymore.

He had finally managed to find time to come to the Nine Heavens and didn't want to waste it.

He pretended to casually choose a direction to advance but was actually following his Spiritual Awareness's guidance.

At first, Jin Li True Monarch followed Meng Zhang, hoping to witness some funny scenes, but he completely stunned her instead.

As Meng Zhang progressed, his gains were tremendous. He not only collected a lot of Nine Heavens Refined Essence but also obtained other Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects.

Jin Li True Monarch didn't expect it to be due to Meng Zhang's sharp Spiritual Awareness as a diviner. She simply exclaimed that he was extremely lucky.

Luck was something even many Primordial Spirit True Monarchs couldn't grasp, but it undeniably existed.

Since Meng Zhang had such good luck, Jin Li True Monarch naturally didn't insist on searching separately but honestly followed him.

Jin Li True Monarch, who had obtained great gains, couldn't help but praise Meng Zhang, calling him the Son of Fortune, blessed with immense luck.

From then on, whenever Meng Zhang planned to go to the Nine Heavens, Jin Li True Monarch would set aside her seniority and insist on going together.

Meng Zhang had no objections to this.

Although the chances of encountering danger in the Nine Heavens were small for Primordial Spirit True Monarchs, as long as they weren't intentionally seeking death, having an extra companion at the Primordial Spirit stage ensured greater safety.

Moreover, Jin Li True Monarch gained more and improved her Cultivation Base, which was also a good thing for him.

One early morning, Meng Zhang went to the Nine Heavens as planned.

Naturally, Jin Li True Monarch followed along the way.

According to her, she had been waiting for several days, just to accompany Meng Zhang.

When she was still Jin Li Daoist Master, she possessed a Fourth Rank magic tool called the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart.

Out of respect for her deceased master, the tool spirit of the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart didn't look down on her low Cultivation Base but helped her control this Fourth Rank magic tool.

Although Jin Li Daoist Master was limited by her Cultivation Base at that time and couldn't fully unleash the power of the Fourth Rank magic tool, she had relied on it several times to overcome crises and survive.

At that time, Jin Li Daoist Master didn't possess the Primordial Spirit power to nourish the tool spirit.

The tool spirit had only paid, and there was no return for her.

After Jin Li True Monarch achieved the Primordial Spirit, she felt greatly indebted to the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart and frequently thought about compensating it.

Jin Li True Monarch not only spared no effort in using her Primordial Spirit power to properly nourish the tool spirit of the Yellow Sand Ten Thousand Li Chart but also collected various useless Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects to feed it whenever she had spare time.

Heaven and Earth Spiritual Objects that attracted the attention of Primordial Spirit True Monarchs and had significant uses for Fourth Rank magic tools were most easily found in the Nine Heavens.

Therefore, after leaving the small world and arriving at the frontline camp of Taiyi Sect, Jin Li True Monarch had gone to the Nine Heavens multiple times to search for them.

## **Chapter 839: Encounter on the Road**

Meng Zhang and Jin Li True Monarch flew into the

Meng Zhang and Jin Li True Monarch flew into the sky together, beyond the Nine Heavens.

As Meng Zhang was about to step into the Nine Heavens, he suddenly stopped and looked to the side.

Jin LiTrue Monarch reacted just as quickly and immediately assumed a defensive posture.

"Ha ha ha ha ha..."

Accompanied by hearty laughter, Wen DongTrue Monarch, who had been gone for a long time, appeared.

Wen DongTrue Monarch's figure jumped out from not far away and flew in front of Meng Zhang.

At this moment, he had a beaming smile, extraordinarily kind, as if the past grievances between him and Meng Zhang had never existed.

"Sect Master Meng, it's been a long time. You are still as sharp and discerning as ever."

Meng Zhang did not relax his vigilance just because of Wen DongTrue Monarch's friendly attitude.

This guy was like a smiling tiger and was not to be trusted.

Moreover, the Dali Dynasty had a history.

In the past, on the Nine Heavens, the Dali Dynasty had ambushed cultivators from the Azure Origin Sect, marking the beginning of a full-scale invasion.

Wen DongTrue Monarch seemed not to notice Meng Zhang's cautiousness and continued to chat with him as if they were old friends, very relaxed and carefree.

"It's not easy to find an opportunity to have a private conversation with Sect Master Meng."

"I've been nearby for a long time, observing, and finally got this chance to come out and chat with you, Sect Master Meng."

"Jin LiTrue Monarch is not an outsider, so I couldn't resist coming out and having a chat with Sect Master Meng."

Meng Zhang couldn't quite grasp Wen DongTrue Monarch's intentions and just looked at him without saying a word.

Meng Zhang also refrained from making any moves.

If the other party dared to appear before him, it meant they were prepared, and he believed that he and Jin LiTrue Monarch wouldn't be able to take him down for sure.

It would be best not to waste his efforts.

Meaningless battles should be avoided as much as possible.

Wen DongTrue Monarch continued talking to himself.

"Sect Master Meng, we've had a few encounters in the past, but we were each minding our own business."

"In fact, there is no personal grudge between you and me. On the contrary, I really admire Sect Master Meng."

"Especially after learning about your achievements and how you revitalized the declining Taiyi Sect to its current state, I truly admire you."

Meng Zhang remained silent, and Jin LiTrue Monarch didn't make any other moves.

When the Dali Dynasty launched a massive invasion on the Jiuqu League, Jin LiTrue Monarch was still in seclusion within a small world. The two sides had barely had any contact, and naturally, there was no animosity. RαNōBĒs

Wen DongTrue Monarch was given the task to infiltrate the northern region of the Jiuqu League and, bearing a heavy responsibility, he put in a lot of effort to find an opportunity to communicate with this important target.

"Sect Master Meng, I admit that I was shortsighted and underestimated you, which prevented us from becoming friends."

"I came here this time to make up for my past mistakes and genuinely befriend you, Sect Master Meng."

Meng Zhang could never have expected that Wen DongTrue Monarch would lower his stance so much and speak with such humility. You should know that Wen DongTrue Monarch is an authentic Mid Primordial Spirit cultivator. Both in terms of Cultivation Base and status, he surpasses Meng Zhang.

It's not easy for him to humble himself like this.

Jin LiTrue Monarch had never interacted with Wen DongTrue Monarch before and didn't know his character.

But to see a Mid Primordial Spirit cultivator with such an attitude was indeed rare.

Meng Zhang didn't let down his guard due to the other's humble attitude. Instead, he maintained a cold and distant demeanor toward him, as if keeping him at arm's length.

Currently, the Jiuqu League has temporarily returned to peace because the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army unilaterally declared a ceasefire and withdrew voluntarily.

Theoretically, the Jiuqu League and the Dali Dynasty are still at war.

As a member of the Jiuqu League, Meng Zhang privately meeting an enemy envoy might raise suspicions of colluding with the enemy.

Thinking of this, Meng Zhang couldn't help but carefully survey his surroundings, checking if Wen DongTrue Monarch had set up any traps.

Wen DongTrue Monarch noticed Meng Zhang's reaction.

He maintained his smile and patiently explained to Meng Zhang.

His visit to see Meng Zhang was highly confidential and absolutely not to be leaked to others.

The commander-in-chief of the Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army, General Zhang Wei, has long been aware of Meng Zhang and greatly admires the young junior's achievements.

Over the years, Taiyi Sect has been staying hidden in the Endless Sea of Sand, avoiding any further conflicts with the Dali Dynasty, which is something that General Zhang Wei earnestly hopes will continue.

General Zhang Wei is willing to promise that regardless of how the situation in the Jiuqu League changes and regardless of who wins or loses between the Dali Dynasty and the Jiuqu League, he has no intention of opposing Taiyi Sect.

The Endless Sea of Sand and the Demon Wind Gobi will forever be the territories of Taiyi Sect.

The armies of the Dali Dynasty will never set foot here without Meng Zhang's permission.

If Taiyi Sect encounters difficulties in the future or faces insurmountable obstacles, they can seek help from the Dali Dynasty.

The Dali Dynasty will not demand anything from Taiyi Sect, nor will they interfere in Taiyi Sect's internal affairs.

The conditions Wen DongTrue Monarch offered this time are much more favorable compared to the first time he met Meng Zhang.

If these were the conditions offered during their first meeting, Meng Zhang would have undoubtedly led Taiyi Sect and immediately joined the Dali Dynasty.

With such conditions, the Dali Dynasty essentially asks nothing from Taiyi Sect and instead guarantees the preservation of Taiyi Sect's existing interests.

If the Dali Dynasty truly conquers the Jiuqu League and fulfills these conditions, then Taiyi Sect would be equivalent to an independent vassal state, much better off than being a subordinate of the Jiuqu League.

Under these conditions, what reason would Taiyi Sect have to oppose the Dali Dynasty? And what reason would Meng Zhang have to fight against them?

Wen DongTrue Monarch provided such favorable conditions, and Meng Zhang dared not believe it entirely.

Jin LiTrue Monarch, who was not fully aware of the situation, also felt that Wen DongTrue Monarch seemed sincere.

Of course, Meng Zhang didn't outright reject it and completely fall out with Wen DongTrue Monarch.

Being dissatisfied with Jade Sword Sect and aspiring for independence, this was precisely the time when Meng Zhang needed external assistance.

He couldn't help but suspect in his heart: How could things be so coincidental?

The envoy from the Dali Dynasty actually approached him at this moment and offered such generous conditions.

Although Meng Zhang was tempted, he remained sufficiently calm.

Throughout the conversation, he remained silent, not uttering a word.

He wanted to believe Wen DongTrue Monarch, but he was also worried that there might be some hidden traps in between.

Seeing Meng Zhang's reaction, Wen DongTrue Monarch couldn't help but sigh inwardly.

If possible, he really didn't want to take on such a thankless task.

However, it was necessary. The Dali Dynasty was currently facing tremendous external pressure, and it was precisely the time for change.

Especially on the side of the North Sweeping Grand Army, after General Zhang Wei took office, he changed many strategies and abandoned the Dali Dynasty's usual approach.

## **Chapter 840: Moved**

Dali Dynasty seemed invincible and domineering,

Dali Dynasty seemed invincible and domineering, but life in recent years hasn't been as good as imagined.

After all, Purple Yang Holy Sect is a Holy Land Sect, revered by countless cultivation forces, and they follow its every command.

While Purple Yang Holy Sect hasn't directly acted, they have been pushing behind the scenes, mobilizing many cultivation forces to exert pressure on Dali Dynasty from various directions.

In order to guard against the real threat, Purple Yang Holy Sect, Dali Dynasty has been holding back and hasn't fully deployed all its strength.

Defending against powerful enemies from all directions has been extremely difficult and taxing.

The reason Zhang Wei took the initiative to cease hostilities with Jiuqu League was not as noble as he claimed, for the sake of Human Clan's interests. Instead, he had his own considerations and was left with no choice.

After withdrawing from the contact with Yellow Lotus Sacred Mountain, a significant portion of the North Sweeping Grand Army was secretly sent to support other directions.

At that time, if Jade Sword True Monarch had decided to mobilize the cultivators of Jiuqu League and allied with the reinforcements from Grand Crossing Cultivation Circle, they could have launched a massive counterattack.

Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army might have suffered a major defeat or even been driven out from the south by Jiuqu League.

Unfortunately, the overwhelming strength of Dali Dynasty impressed the major cultivation forces, leaving them with no intention to retaliate.

Jade Sword True Monarch's concessions to the various cultivation forces of Jiuqu League meant that Jade Sword Sect completely lost the opportunity to subdue the southern part of Jiuqu League.

Of course, Zhang Wei's decision was also based on his understanding of the enemy's mindset; he knew that the enemy's morale had been shattered in the previous battles.

Jiuqu League is an alliance formed by many cultivation forces, and Jade Sword Sect is just the leader of this alliance.

If Jade Sword Sect were strong enough to lead everyone to continuous victories, they would have enough prestige to command others.

However, facing Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army, Jade Sword Sect clearly couldn't hold on any longer, leading to dissension and alienation among the forces.

Now, Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army has significantly weakened. It's not an entirely empty shell, but it is much less formidable.

Although Zhang Wei knew that Jiuqu League was unlikely to launch a counterattack at this time, he still sent Wen Dong True Monarch to secretly contact the major cultivation forces of Jiuqu League.

Zhang Wei completely changed the previous policies of Dali Dynasty and offered generous conditions to woo those cultivation forces that had already become disloyal.

Wen Dong True Monarch, as the executor, felt that Zhang Wei was too indulgent towards those cultivation forces of Jiuqu League.

However, since Prince Xia Houfeng returned to Dali Dynasty to recuperate, Zhang Wei's position in the North Sweeping Grand Army was absolute, leaving no room for opposition from Wen Dong True Monarch. 然則

Taiyi Sect's past behavior couldn't deceive discerning eyes.

Hiding in the Endless Sea of Sand and deliberately preserving their strength, such actions couldn't be considered loyal to Jade Sword Sect.

Wen Dong True Monarch had dealt with Meng Zhang before and knew this cunning guy had long wanted to leave himself a way out.

So, he found an opportunity and directly approached Meng Zhang.

Meng Zhang's reaction was not unexpected to him.

With an unpleasant past between them, Meng Zhang wouldn't believe Wen Dong True Monarch's empty words so easily.

This was just the first contact, laying the groundwork.

Wen Dong True Monarch still had many methods to employ.

He believed that sooner or later, he would win Taiyi Sect over and make them stand on the side of Dali Dynasty. Wen Dong True Monarch truly came with sincerity, and there was nothing to pick on in both his attitude and speech.

Having served Dali Dynasty for many years, Wen Dong True Monarch had learned to conceal his true thoughts and obeyed orders from above.

To accomplish the mission, he could endure some grievances without it being a big deal.

Wen Dong True Monarch chatted incessantly for a while, and everything that needed to be said had been said.

Meng Zhang remained silent and offered no response.

Without dwelling on it, Wen Dong True Monarch politely bid farewell to Meng Zhang, stating that he would visit again in the future.

In Wen Dong True Monarch's eyes, Meng Zhang's willingness to listen to him meant that he was already interested.

Otherwise, if Meng Zhang hadn't let him finish speaking, he would have driven him away immediately.

Meng Zhang was not opposed to joining Dali Dynasty, and he seemed quite satisfied with the conditions offered.

However, due to some concerns, he didn't immediately agree.

Wen Dong True Monarch wasn't in a hurry; he had plenty of time to persuade Meng Zhang.

This infiltration of Jiuqu League wasn't solely targeted at Taiyi Sect; there were other targets easier to win over.

Wen Dong True Monarch and his assistant would gradually approach these targets and covertly persuade them to defect.

With Dali Dynasty's North Sweeping Grand Army holding the momentum of great victories, as long as they didn't go too far and offered slightly favorable conditions, they could secretly win over many cultivation forces.

Although Zhang Wei publicly declared a truce with Jiuqu League, he was secretly subverting them from within.

Behind Jiuqu League stood the backing of Purple Yang Holy Sect, but Purple Yang Holy Sect was far away, whereas Dali Dynasty's formidable army was right in front of them.

Most people had not personally witnessed the strength of a Holy Land Sect, but they had experienced and witnessed Dali Dynasty's power firsthand.

Meng Zhang was truly tempted to join Dali Dynasty.

Although Taiyi Sect suffered heavy losses in the battles against Dali Dynasty's forces at Yellow Lotus Sacred Mountain, as Wen Dong True Monarch said, each was pursuing their own interests.

There shouldn't be an inextricable enmity between Taiyi Sect and Dali Dynasty.

Meng Zhang accepted this perspective and even began making further arrangements.

Currently, Dali Dynasty held great power, so Taiyi Sect could consider aligning with them first.

If, in the future, Purple Yang Holy Sect attacked and Dali Dynasty couldn't resist, Taiyi Sect could betray Dali Dynasty and turn to Purple Yang Holy Sect.

In the Cultivation World, there was no such thing as unwavering loyalty.

Betrayals were common occurrences in the Cultivation World.

Of course, cautious Meng Zhang didn't rush to make a decision but chose to observe for a while.

Even if he really joined Dali Dynasty, he wouldn't become a conspicuous figure.

When Wen Dong True Monarch came, Jin Li True Monarch was also present.

Although Meng Zhang knew that Jin Li True Monarch wasn't someone who talked too much or would betray Taiyi Sect, he still gave her a careful warning.

Meng Zhang informed Jin Li True Monarch about the current situation in Jiuqu League and the various problems Taiyi Sect was facing.

Wen Dong True Monarch's visit was an extremely confidential matter and must not be leaked.

Although Jin Li True Monarch had held a high position in Jiuqu League in the past, she didn't have deep attachments to it.

If Jiuqu League fell, she wouldn't feel much regret.

Being loyal to Jade Sword Sect and being driven by them was not something she could accept.

Regarding joining Dali Dynasty, as long as the conditions were suitable, she had no objections.