

The Growth 523

Chapter 523 21: The Rise of Mortals

The chaotic war in the Celestial Human Realm continues.

After the Taiping Tao exterminated all the previous traitors, a war specifically targeting the Immortal Mountain and Archipelago forces erupted as expected.

During this process, due to Taiping Tao's formidable combat power and novel weapons, the Immortal Mountain Archipelago forces quickly realized the opposing side might have likely established connections with the Outer Realm's Evil God.

Thus, the Immortal Mountain Archipelago forces, under the pretense of "slaying the Evil God," claimed moral high ground and initiated a large-scale massacre on the mortals under Taiping Tao's rule.

Unfortunately, the "secrecy strategy" that had been in place since the Sun Star Monarch period allowed Taiping Tao to remain hidden in the shadows.

Even though the Immortal Mountain Archipelago was already cleansing the mortals in the Lower Realm, they never found the true leader of Taiping Tao.

On the contrary, the cleansing by the Immortal Mountain Archipelago instead provoked more resistance from the mortals.

Power struggles ensued, and warfare broke out everywhere...

For a moment, the Immortal Mountain Archipelago forces were at their wits' end, unable to spare more energy to deal with Taiping Tao, which persistently hid in the shadows.

Just suppressing and pacifying the mortal power under their rule already left the major forces exhausted and frantic.

Therefore, some island sects closer to the mainland even reluctantly chose to allow mortal self-governance in exchange for non-resistance towards their sects.

However, everyone knows this is not a long-term solution.

Whether it be Taiping Tao or mortals who have already awakened a spirit of resistance, both will ensure that the Immortal Mountain Archipelago is no longer the absolute ruler of this world.

"We must confiscate those weapons known as 'firearms' first!"

"No, I think what's more important now is to cut off the spread of those 'heretical doctrines' among the mortals!"

"You're all wrong. Our primary focus should be on Taiping Tao now!"

...

During the rare Immortal Mountain alliance meeting, representatives from various sects expressed their views on the current situation.

But Haoguang, observing all this, remained silent, behaving like an outsider.

However, the sect representatives in the argument dared not ignore Haoguang's opinion, periodically casting him consulting glances.

In their eyes, the Golden Crow Sect represented by Haoguang, if not the foremost sect in the Celestial Human Realm, was undoubtedly among the top sects in this era.

Especially considering that the Sun Star Monarch once hailed from this sect.

No one dared to assert whether the Sun Star Monarch left any trump cards for his sect.

After all, aside from his ideology, the Sun Star Monarch was most famous for his approachable and kind personality.

Even until the last moment before his death in battle, the Sun Star Monarch continued protecting his followers and mortals under his banner.

So how could the sect he originated from be without any protective measures?

"..."

Seemingly oblivious to the sect representatives' glances directed at him.

Haoguang continued his silent demeanor, occasionally showing signs of distraction.

Seeing this, the sect representatives could only reluctantly withdraw their gazes and resume discussions on how to counter Taiping Tao and the mortals' rebellion.

Undoubtedly, in this inevitable War of the End of the Dharma, the Immortal Mountain Island forces temporarily held the upper hand.

But the Immortal Mountain Island forces aren't united; every Immortal Mountain, every Island, and even every sect has its own ideas and stance.

The difficulty of unifying them is imaginable.

In contrast, Taiping Tao and the mortals have had very clear goals from the beginning.

Taiping Tao was a group established to avenge the Sun Star Monarch, while the mortals aimed to resist the cultivators' oppression over millennia.

.....
At the fragmented center of the mainland, the sunken lands of the Five Fingers.

As the assault from the Immortal Mountain and Archipelago intensifies, increasing numbers of mortals unable to survive are forced to migrate inland, causing this originally barren land to paradoxically flourish.

Here, one must mention the current situation in the Celestial Human Realm.

The Immortal Mountain still floats in the air, and apart from Taiping Tao occasionally launching attacks against them, their homeland hasn't suffered significant destruction.

Especially as the sects of the Immortal Mountain proactively retract their battle lines.

As long as they don't send disciples downhill, there are practically no additional losses.

But the islands encircling the mainland's edges are a different story.

Although the sects on the islands also have the protection of blessed caverns and grotto heavens, their proximity to the mainland is not insurmountable.

Naturally, coastal areas have become battlegrounds between island powers and mortals.

To escape such conflict...

To avoid becoming sacrifices in this war...

Many mortals who could no longer survive chose to migrate inland, directly causing the originally desolate and decayed inland to flourish again.

At this moment, anyone with a bit of ambition is mostly taking the opportunity to gather the migrating mortals.

At this time, a series of books previously disseminated by Li Hao unexpectedly served an important purpose.

Despite the theoretical parts of the books, whether incomprehensible or scoffed at, few delve deeply for research.

The practical and personnel organizing books, however, had a decisive impact during this chaotic period, guiding the mortal leaders on how to maximize the stability of the populace.

"Honestly, even the respected one never expected you to spread that knowledge..."

Standing before Bai Shasheng, who had just taught the populace how to transplant seedlings, Yan Xi gently shook her head.

She stood at the edge of a terrace field.

Looking around, everywhere was terraces that had just been cultivated.

In the special environment of the sunken lands of the Five Fingers, these terraces were the planting model best suited to this environment.

If it weren't for witnessing personally, Yan Xi would find it hard to imagine such grand, magnificent terraces were cultivated by a group of mortals in just less than two months.

"Have you ever considered that your actions might incite the respected one's displeasure?"

The various books currently spreading among mortals were precisely those that Bai Shasheng had actively propagated and even guided them to study.

Otherwise, given the illiteracy level average of this era, those ambitious individuals wouldn't possibly find ordinary people who knew so many characters.

After all, the books Li Hao disseminated weren't like the True Martial Demon-Vanquishing Scripture; they required basic literacy.

"The respected one chose to make those books open to all Taiping Tao members, implying that he himself intended for the knowledge in those books to be spread."

Slightly lifting her eyelids, Bai Shasheng spoke calmly.

"I merely 'slightly' expanded the scope of this group, which doesn't count as contradicting the respected one's will."