

# Sect Master's Immortal Journey

## #Chapter 11: Strikes to kill - Read Sect Master's Immortal Journey Chapter 11: Strikes to kill

### *Chapter 11: Strikes to kill*

Just as Zhang Brothers were attacking Taiyi Sect's Sect Protecting Formation, Zhen Ling (True Spirit) Daoist arrived outside Taiyi Sect with his disciple Li Jie. Seeing the Formation starting to operate and Zhang Brothers already rushing in, Zhen Ling (True Spirit) hesitated for a moment, then quickly made up his mind. He took out a token from his storage bag and gently waved it, causing a portal to appear within the Sect Protecting Formation. With a beckon to Li Jie, Zhen Ling (True Spirit) led him into the Formation.

Inside the Formation, Zhen Ling (True Spirit) once again waved the token. However, this time, the once effective token had no effect. The overwhelming yellow sand quickly enveloped the confused Zhen Ling (True Spirit) and Li Jie. As Taiyi Sect's former Sect Master Elder Profound Spirit's junior brother, Zhen Ling (True Spirit) had some control over the Sect Protecting Formation with the token in his possession. He thought that he could assist Zhang Brothers in breaking the Formation quickly, but unexpectedly, the token lost its effect once inside the Formation. During the attack launched by Meng Zhang to encircle Zhang Brothers, he had used the Sect Master seal to cancel Zhen Ling (True Spirit) Daoist's control over the token.

Feeling a bit panicked when he realized that the token was no longer functioning, Zhen Ling (True Spirit) Daoist took out a dust whisk. He waved the whisk, and countless thin threads on it danced, tightly protecting his body. As for his disciple Li Jie, he could only rely on his own luck.

On the other side of the Formation, Boss Zhang, after attacking for a while without much effect, felt that something was amiss. This Yellow Sand Hidden Trace Formation seemed different from the ones he had encountered before. It was unusually resilient, and despite using various methods, he couldn't shake the Formation at all. Little did Boss Zhang know that this seemingly ordinary Yellow Sand Hidden Trace Formation secretly contained the power of the yuan magnetic force, which caused its various changes.

Boss Zhang inwardly sighed, thinking he could save one Formation Breaking Talisman, but it seemed that it was impossible now. He took out a First Rank superior Formation Breaking Talisman from his storage bag, ready to use it at any moment. Formation Breaking Talismans were special talismans specifically designed to break formations. Among talismans of the same level, they were the most difficult to refine and extremely rare. While lower-grade Formation Breaking Talismans could occasionally be found on

the market, higher-grade ones were not only more precious than talismans of the same level but also rarely available.

Once Boss Zhang activated the Formation Breaking Talisman in his hand, even if it couldn't completely break Taiyi Sect's Sect Protecting Formation, it could disrupt its operation and temporarily stall it. At that moment, Zhang Brothers could take advantage of the opening and completely massacre Taiyi Sect.

Meng Zhang's main focus was on Boss Zhang after using the Formation's power to trap the enemies in three separate places. Every move of Boss Zhang was carefully observed by him. The fact that Boss Zhang possessed a Formation Breaking Talisman was quite unexpected. When he was preparing to use the Formation Breaking Talisman, Meng Zhang knew that they were now at a critical moment of life and death.

Meng Zhang raised the Spiritsnake Spear, pointing it towards Boss Zhang, and activated the Lesser Yang True Qi within his body, infusing it into the Spiritsnake Spear. Sensing the familiar aura, the remaining spirituality of the Spiritsnake Spear was stimulated. A blazing light burst forth from the tip of the Spiritsnake Spear, ignoring the barriers of the Formation and accurately striking Boss Zhang's upper body. Boss Zhang's upper body disappeared, leaving only his lower half.

Zhang Lao San, who was trapped together with Boss Zhang, seemed stunned and stopped attacking the Formation. The power of the Spiritsnake Spear was so terrifying that even Meng Zhang was astonished. Even though Boss Zhang was a skilled Refining Qi stage cultivator, he was effortlessly killed without any resistance. One could only wonder how terrifying the full power of the intact Spiritsnake Spear would be.

Feeling somewhat unsatisfied, Meng Zhang was initially prepared to make another move. However, looking at the dimmed tip of the Spiritsnake Spear, he gave up on that idea. The previous strike had caused considerable damage to the Spiritsnake Spear, and he didn't know how long it would take to recover within the spiritual eye.

With Boss Zhang, the most formidable enemy, eliminated, the remaining enemies should be dealt with using the power of the Formation. The Yellow Sand Hidden Trace Formation was constructed with the support of Taiyi Sect's First Rank superior spirit vein, which provided the spiritual energy as the driving force. Normally, to avoid burdening the spirit vein too much, most of the functions of the Sect Protecting Formation were kept closed. Now that the enemies had come knocking on the door, it was no longer a time to be concerned about the burden on the spirit vein.

Putting away the Spiritsnake Spear, Meng Zhang began to fully activate the Sect Protecting Formation. Inside the Formation, numerous inexplicable forces of traction emerged, making those trapped within the Formation lose their balance and stagger around. Zhang Second, who was holding the golden knife, felt as if an unseen force was constantly pulling at his knife. Despite exerting all his strength to grip it, he felt that he was about to lose hold of the knife.

Concealed under the cover of the swirling yellow sand, the yuan magnetic force hidden within the Sect Protecting Formation was secretly activated by Meng Zhang. The weakest among them, Li Jie, who was at the Refining Qi Triple stage, was the first to be unable to withstand it. The unseen force of traction within the Formation made him lose his balance. After struggling for a while, he couldn't maintain his stability and fell heavily to the ground. The swarming yellow sand quickly engulfed his body, and before long, Li Jie lost all signs of life.

Soon after the influx of the yuan magnetic force into the Formation, the magic tools held by the trapped people, especially those made of metal, were immediately subjected to inexplicable traction, becoming difficult to control. Zhang Second screamed in agony as the tip of his golden knife was forcibly broken off, and the knife flew out of his hand. The true qi he had infused into the knife backfired, causing him significant injuries. The yellow sand containing the yuan magnetic force swept over him, wrapping around his body. Once the sand subsided, his mutilated body fell heavily to the ground. Among the Zhang Brothers, Zhang Lao San survived the longest. Like Li Jie, he was buried alive by the yellow sand and met his end through suffocation.

Meng Zhang harbored the deepest hatred for traitor Zhen Ling (True Spirit) Daoist. Empowered by the yuan magnetic force, the yellow sand became extremely hard and fiercely powerful. Under Meng Zhang's control, it shot towards Zhen Ling (True Spirit) Daoist like bullets, continuously inflicting wounds upon him. Zhen Ling (True Spirit) Daoist's protective whisk was broken, and his body was riddled with countless holes, bleeding profusely.

Having completely annihilated the invading enemies, Meng Zhang still felt somewhat unsatisfied. He noticed that the three wind chasing horses ridden by Zhang Brothers had never left but were circling around the edge of the Formation, as if waiting for their owners' return. Wind chasing horses were valuable treasures, and there was no reason to let go of such spoils that came right to them.

Meng Zhang waved the Sect Master seal, and within the Formation, enormous forces of traction emerged, directly pulling the three wind chasing horses into the Sect Protecting Formation. Once inside, the swirling yellow sand and pervasive yuan magnetic force immediately disoriented the three wind chasing horses, completely trapping them.

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### *Chapter 12: wind chasing horse*

After trapping the three wind chasing horses, Meng Zhang and the disciples began to clean up the battlefield. Each of the Zhang Brothers had a storage bag, although they were low-level ones, they contained a considerable amount of wealth from their years of robbing homes.

There were over four hundred pieces of low-grade spirit stones alone, and especially Boss Zhang's Formation Breaking Talisman and Shocking Soul Bell were intact. However, Zhang Second's golden knife and Zhang Lao San's small flag were damaged in the formation. Meng Zhang kept the Formation Breaking Talisman and Shocking Soul Bell for himself and let Tian Zhen handle the rest of the items. Zhen Ling (True Spirit) Daoist and Li Jie had very little in terms of possessions. Taiyi Sect was originally a poor small sect, and its disciples all looked quite impoverished.

Upon seeing the bodies of Zhen Ling (True Spirit) Daoist and his disciple Li Jie, Daoist Clear Spirit felt deeply saddened. After all, they were fellow disciples for many years, and even though Zhen Ling (True Spirit) Daoist had betrayed the sect, the bond between fellow disciples could not be erased. Daoist Clear Spirit pleaded with Meng Zhang and personally sent off Zhen Ling (True Spirit) Daoist and Li Jie.

Meng Zhang couldn't be bothered to argue with a dead person, let alone concern himself with such trivial matters. While cleaning up the storage bags of the Zhang Brothers, he discovered three special tokens. Each of the three wind chasing horses was equipped with a beast-controlling ring, and these tokens were used to control the rings. The effect of the beast-controlling ring was somewhat similar to the "tightening curse" that Meng Zhang had heard about in his previous life. Once the beast-controlling ring was placed on a demonic beast, it was nearly impossible for the beast to break free. If the demonic beast misbehaved, one could tighten the beast-controlling ring with a spell to make the creature suffer.

Beast-controlling rings were very effective for controlling and taming low-level demonic beasts. The method to refine beast-controlling rings was special and originated from a sect in the distant south. Once it spread to the north, it became quite expensive.

With the tokens from the Zhang Brothers, it became much easier to tame the wind chasing horses. Wind chasing horses were not originally ferocious or aggressive demonic beasts, so Meng Zhang and Tian Zhen spent some effort to initially tame the three of them.

In the vast and sparsely populated Endless Sea of Sand, having three wind chasing horses as transportation could save them a lot of effort. However, for the impoverished Taiyi Sect, it was still a considerable burden to raise three wind chasing horses at once.

After finishing the day's tasks, Meng Zhang was impatient to enter the Trial Ground at night. Following the same method as before, Meng Zhang's soul successfully entered the Trial Ground. This time, although his soul experienced some hardship when entering the Trial Ground, the time consumed was reduced.

Meng Zhang's soul appeared directly at the place where he had disappeared last time. The ghosts that had besieged him were nowhere to be found. Unable to discern directions in this world, Meng Zhang randomly chose a direction and set off carefully.

Although the fighting power of the ghosts was not great, their numbers made them somewhat tricky. After returning last time, Meng Zhang had already summarized his gains and losses. While killing ghosts would allow his soul to be replenished with the cooling air, if too many ghosts swarmed him, the rate of consumption might surpass the rate of recovery, putting him in a dire situation.

Although he didn't know what would happen if his soul was scattered in this world, Meng Zhang was cautious and would never personally experience that feeling. Not long after he went out, he encountered a small group of ghosts again. Without saying much, Meng Zhang immediately went up and started killing them.

After gaining experience from the previous encounter, Meng Zhang became more adept at fighting in his soul state. His diligent cultivation of martial arts proved to be of great use. He maneuvered freely among the ghosts, punching, kicking, and colliding with elbows, making full use of his abilities to successfully kill the group of ghosts and allow his soul to replenish.

Continuing on, Meng Zhang encountered more large groups of ghosts and immediately turned to escape. When facing smaller groups, he decisively eliminated them. In his eyes, these ghosts were not enemies but rather precious treasures to nourish his soul and a valuable source of knowledge.

This time, Meng Zhang spent noticeably more time in the Trial Ground. He consecutively exterminated three groups of ghosts, totaling twenty.

He even had the illusion that he was not undergoing a trial in the Trial Ground but rather playing an online game. In this game, he could level up by killing monsters, and the monsters' drops were excellent.

Just as Meng Zhang was starting to feel relaxed, he heard a series of orderly footsteps ahead. As the footsteps approached, the mist in front seemed to thin out.

A sense of danger surged in Meng Zhang's heart, and he immediately turned around and fled. Shortly after Meng Zhang ran away, a group of soldiers dressed in armor and wielding weapons emerged from the mist, marching in two rows. Their direction of movement did not align with Meng Zhang's escape route.

The soldiers continued advancing, while two soldiers broke away from the formation and hurriedly chased after Meng Zhang.

The ghosts that Meng Zhang had encountered earlier floated lightly in the air, seemingly without substance. In contrast, these soldiers were fully armored and solid, appearing just like living beings.

It was evident that these soldiers were of higher rank and level compared to the ghosts.

Two soldiers quickly closed in on Meng Zhang, and he heard their footsteps getting nearer. Meng Zhang did not dare to stop and continued to run.

The sound of footsteps grew closer, and the pursuers were about to catch up with him.

Meng Zhang turned to look and knew that he wouldn't be able to escape from his pursuers with his current speed. Besides, there were only two of them, so they might not be unbeatable.

Deliberately slowing down his pace, Meng Zhang waited for the enemies to catch up.

A soldier wielding a long knife was slightly faster and managed to catch up to Meng Zhang first. He swung the knife at Meng Zhang's back.

Meng Zhang had been prepared and dodged the attack by side-stepping. He then bumped into the soldier, causing him to stagger and lose his balance.

At this moment, the soldier with the long spear had also caught up.

Meng Zhang abandoned his original target and rammed into the soldier, pushing him into his opponent's arms.

Meng Zhang's hands became like sharp blades, fiercely stabbing the enemy.

Engaging in close combat with the soldier, Meng Zhang neutralized the effectiveness of his long spear.

After being repeatedly stabbed by Meng Zhang, the soldier's figure began to fade, gradually dissipating.

With the long knife-wielding soldier joining the fight, Meng Zhang only needed to face one opponent.

It was another life-and-death battle. After eliminating the two enemies, Meng Zhang was exhausted and collapsed to the ground.

Two stronger streams of cooling air flowed into his soul.

Though his soul quickly recovered, Meng Zhang still wanted to rest a little longer. Since embarking on the cultivation path, he had never experienced such close combat.

When the time was up, Meng Zhang, still reminiscing about the life-and-death struggle just now, was forced to leave the Trial Ground.

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### *Chapter 13: soul power and soul technique*

Returning to the sect's main hall, Meng Zhang began to sort through his gains. Nearly twenty ghosts had provided him with a wealth of valuable knowledge, including many aspects of cultivation and the hundred arts.

The last two soldiers had given Meng Zhang two very practical skills. One skill was about how to operate the power of the soul and extract soul power. For the soul, soul power is like the true qi that a cultivator's body possesses.

The soul absorbs the yin qi of the Netherworld and refines it into soul power. Soul power can condense yin qi and refine various weapons and armor for the soul to use. Soul power can also drive yin qi and cast ghost-specific spells - soul techniques.

The other skill was a very simple soul technique - Wayfinding Technique. The rules of the Netherworld are very different from those of the Yang world, and it is difficult to cast spells from the Yang world in the Netherworld.

Although Meng Zhang was at the mid-stage of Refining Qi, he was completely lost in the Netherworld and had no trace of a cultivator's appearance.

Now, with the two practical skills he had mastered, Meng Zhang had the initial power to survive in the Netherworld. He rested well for the remaining time that night.

The next morning, after finishing his morning class, Meng Zhang recorded all the knowledge and put the recorded book in the Hidden Scripture Pavilion.

In the morning, Meng Zhang and Tian Zhen continued to tame three wind chasing horses and practiced riding. In the afternoon, they went to the spirit field to help.

Taiyi Sect had suddenly lost so many people, which was good for the burden of the spirit vein, but the work had not decreased. Especially Taiyi Sect's biggest source of wealth - the nineteen-acre spirit field - needed careful management and care.

Fortunately, the heavy work such as plowing and planting had already been done, and only the relatively easy daily maintenance work was left. When it was time to harvest the spirit field, these few people in Taiyi Sect would be too busy.

Tian Zhen also suggested to Meng Zhang whether they should recruit some loose cultivators to join and supplement Taiyi Sect's manpower.

Taiyi Sect had always been conservative in the issue of recruiting loose cultivators. The main reason was that Taiyi Sect was a small sect with too few people. If a large number of loose cultivators were recruited, they might turn the tables and take over the sect.

Meng Zhang, who had experienced the betrayal of Zhen Ling (True Spirit) old Dao, had no confidence in the loyalty of loose cultivators. Even those loose cultivators who had a good reputation might not be reliable in critical moments.

Of course, if Taiyi Sect wanted to develop and grow, it must have more disciples. If it relied solely on the mortal villages and towns under Taiyi Sect's jurisdiction to provide disciples, the speed would be too slow.

Although Meng Zhang did not immediately agree to Tian Zhen's proposal, he still kept the matter of recruiting manpower in mind.

In the evening, Meng Zhang once again entered the Trial Ground. This time, he did not rush to hunt ghosts. Instead, he began to operate his soul, absorbing the ubiquitous yin qi in the Netherworld and refining it into soul power. Meng Zhang had a high level of comprehension and quickly mastered this skill.

Although Meng Zhang's soul strength has been supplemented by the ghosts, his current capacity for soul power is still limited. With insufficient soul power, he relies on his skills. Using soul power to condense yin qi, he refines a long knife.

After becoming proficient with the knife, Meng Zhang embarks on a hunting journey. With his greatly increased strength, he effortlessly slays ghosts, even daring to actively charge at large groups of them.

Previously, Meng Zhang's soul was like that of an ordinary person, only capable of using brute force in battle. Now, with the ability to utilize soul power, his soul is akin to that of a cultivator, with a rich array of techniques at his disposal. On this night, Meng Zhang slays nearly a hundred ghosts before being forced to leave the Trial Ground.

Upon returning to his physical body, Meng Zhang is overwhelmed by the influx of information in his mind. The strength of his soul has greatly increased, and he can feel the difference. After refining soul power and returning to his body, a chilling aura emanates from his soul, spreading throughout his physical form.

Yin qi is essential for ghosts in the Netherworld, much like how humans need air, but it poses a great hindrance to living beings. If an ordinary person accidentally comes into contact with yin qi, they may fall seriously ill or even die. Even cultivators, if exposed to yin qi for an extended period, will experience physical stiffness and a gradual loss of vitality.

The yin qi absorbed by Meng Zhang's soul from the Netherworld directly affects his physical body upon Divine Soul Return to the Body. Worried, Meng Zhang quickly activates his true qi to expel the yin qi. Fortunately, the Lesser Yang True Qi he cultivates is forged by repeatedly absorbing the Yang He qi of the rising sun. As soon as the vigorous and fiery Lesser Yang True Qi is activated, the yin qi that has contaminated his body quickly melts away like snow in the sunlight.



After dispelling the yin qi, Meng Zhang begins to reflect. The cultivation methods of Netherworld ghosts are not suitable for living beings. Ghosts do not possess physical bodies, so they have no need to worry about yin qi contaminating their bodies.

However, as a living person, Meng Zhang must consider the issue of yin qi invasion after his soul returns to his body. Currently, his soul is not strong enough, and the amount of yin qi he absorbs is not significant.

Moreover, the Lesser Yang Qi Art he cultivates happens to be the nemesis of yin qi. In the short term, there should be no problems. However, in the long run, he should seek a permanent solution. Of course, Meng Zhang's immediate priority is to obtain sufficient benefits from the Trial Ground. As for potential future troubles, he can't afford to worry about them at the moment.

During the daytime, Meng Zhang increases the time spent cultivating the Lesser Yang Qi Art. Under the sunlight, he repeatedly uses Lesser Yang True Qi to cleanse and refine his physical body, completely avoiding the harm of yin qi.

In the evening, Meng Zhang continues to enter the Trial Ground. He discovers that as his soul strength increases, his time spent in the Trial Ground gradually lengthens. With the Wayfinding Technique mastered, Meng Zhang can navigate in the Netherworld without fear of getting lost. Instead of wandering aimlessly, he slowly clears the ghosts around him, using his appearance as the center.

As his strength grows, the threat these ghosts pose to him diminishes, and they become his prey. During the process of clearing the ghosts, he occasionally encounters the soldiers. Meng Zhang now knows that these soldiers are yin soldiers of the Netherworld, stronger than the ghosts in terms of individual strength and organization.

Compared to the disorganized ghosts, yin soldiers are clearly more difficult to deal with. However, hunting yin soldiers brings greater benefits to his soul and allows him to acquire more skills. Even though hunting yin soldiers is highly dangerous, it cannot dampen Meng Zhang's enthusiasm. [Read at /maxnkoga , without ads and support the work.]

#### *Chapter 14: Secret technique*

After swinging his long knife, Meng Zhang cut the last yin soldier into two pieces. As he watched the fading figures of the yin soldiers, his fighting spirit soared. Starting from the night before yesterday, Meng Zhang had begun hunting yin soldiers after slaying the ghosts.

Yin soldiers were different from ghosts; they were more disciplined and appeared to have received some training. They always appeared in organized squads, with hardly any individuals acting alone. With Meng Zhang's current strength, dealing with a small number of yin soldiers was not a problem, but facing an entire squad would be very

dangerous. Especially when confronted with a well-coordinated group of yin soldiers, they would take advantage of their numbers and fight strategically.

When Meng Zhang encountered an entire squad of yin soldiers last night, he almost got trapped in their formation if not for his speed.

The biggest weakness of yin soldiers was their limited intelligence. Though they were smarter and more agile than ghosts, they still followed rigid, predetermined patterns of action.

After careful observation, Meng Zhang devised a plan. He deliberately lured the yin soldiers to chase after him and, in the process, small groups of yin soldiers would often become separated from the main force due to differing speeds. These stragglers became Meng Zhang's targets for hunting. Facing three to five yin soldiers, Meng Zhang no longer needed to exert too much effort to kill them one by one. However, facing seven to eight yin soldiers was a riskier task.

Shortly after eliminating this yin soldier, Meng Zhang was forced to leave the Trial Ground.

Returning to his physical body, he immediately activated his Lesser Yang True Qi to dispel the yin qi that had invaded his body from the soul.

After finishing his meditation, Meng Zhang began to sort through his gains. He obtained several soul arts from hunting these yin soldiers. Unfortunately, soul arts could only be performed by the soul, and their usefulness was limited to the Trial Ground.

In addition, Meng Zhang acquired several spells that could be cast using his physical body. Commonly used spells were collected in Taiyi Sect, but the spells he obtained from the Trial Ground were extremely rare, almost considered secret techniques.

One of them was the Blood Refining Martyr Art, which was quite interesting. The process of cultivating this art was not complicated. By using a special blood-refining method to refine a magic tool, it could be thrown as a disposable item during battles. When activated by a secret method, the magic tool would explode.

The explosive power of the magic tool was formidable, often surpassing its original level. Even low-level magic tools, with mediocre power, would become highly lethal after exploding.

At first, Meng Zhang found this art impractical. In the Endless Sea of Sand, where resources were scarce, using valuable magic tools as disposable items was a luxury only the rich could afford. Taiyi Sect, a humble sect, could not afford such extravagance.

However, after studying the art more closely, Meng Zhang made an important discovery. The magic tool used for Blood Refining Martyr Art didn't have to be in perfect condition. Partially damaged magic tools that were mostly intact could also be used, although their power might be affected.

Furthermore, the magic tools used in Blood Refining Martyr Art didn't have to be combat-oriented. Even auxiliary magic tools without any killing power could be utilized. The true power of Blood Refining Martyr Art lay in the explosion of the magic tool.

Although magic tools were scarce in Taiyi Sect, they still had some worn-out ones. In his free time during the day, Meng Zhang rummaged through the sect's storehouse and found two magic tools that suited the requirements of Blood Refining Martyr Art.

One of them was an ancient cushion made of a whole piece of jade. It had some decent auxiliary functions for cultivation, helping gather spiritual energy and allowing practitioners to concentrate. Unfortunately, it had developed some obvious cracks, damaging the enchantments that held it together, rendering it useless.

The sect lacked a tool refiner, so repairing the magic tool was not an option. As a whole piece of jade, it wasn't easy to recycle materials, and even selling it as scrap wouldn't fetch a good price. So, this damaged magic tool had been sitting in the warehouse gathering dust.

Meng Zhang decided to repurpose it for Blood Refining Martyr Art.

The other magic tool was Zhang Second's golden knife. Zhang Second died in the Sect Protecting Formation, and his golden knife was damaged by Yuan Magnetic Force. Fortunately, the damage wasn't too severe, and it could be used for Blood Refining Martyr Art.

As for Boss Zhang's shocking soul bell, the most valuable spoils, Meng Zhang had already refined it for himself.

Finding the two magic tools that met the requirements, Meng Zhang didn't waste any time and immediately began casting the Blood Refining Martyr Art. After consuming a considerable amount of vital energy and blood, Meng Zhang successfully refined the two magic tools according to the requirements of the art.

Although he wanted to test their power, Meng Zhang hesitated for a while. Being poor, he was reluctant to waste the magic tools.

Calculating the vital energy and blood he had spent, Meng Zhang realized that it would take some time to recover fully. If he went all out to refine three to five magic tools at once, it would be fine, but any more might affect the foundation of his physical body.

As his cultivation base increased, the vital energy and blood of a Cultivator would also improve. Moreover, there were various elixirs and secret techniques in the Cultivation World that could enhance vital energy and blood.

Casting Blood Refining Martyr Art during the day didn't affect Meng Zhang's entry into the Trial Ground at night. During this period, he attended the Trial Ground every night without missing a single day.

Meng Zhang's soul appeared again in the Trial Ground. It didn't take long before he encountered another group of yin soldiers. This group was already familiar to him, or rather, they were familiar ghosts. It was the same group of yin soldiers he had encountered last night and lured some of them away using his previous method.

This time, Meng Zhang tried to use the same strategy to lure them apart, but it seemed that they had become more cunning or vigilant after losing half their numbers the night before.

After several attempts, Meng Zhang was unable to draw them away as before. The foolproof method didn't work this time, but Meng Zhang was not disheartened; he was just a bit disappointed.

He looked at the squad in the distance, which had only half of its original members remaining, with fewer than twenty yin soldiers left. Having experienced so much, Meng Zhang decided to go all out tonight.

With his strength constantly increasing, he was no longer the same as before, running away upon encountering a large group of yin soldiers and struggling to kill a few. Now, Meng Zhang not only wielded a sharper long knife but was also clad in battle armor formed by condensed soul power.

As the approaching yin soldiers got closer, Meng Zhang cast a soul art to enhance his speed and physical strength. He took the initiative to swing his knife and rushed towards them.

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#### *Chapter 15: Complements technique*

The battle of life and death that followed Meng Zhang's entry into the Trial Ground was the most perilous and exhilarating one yet. His soul power had condensed into armor that was now riddled with countless holes, almost resembling tattered cloth. Although the armor had mitigated most of the damage, many sword and knife wounds still appeared on Meng Zhang's soul.

The yin soldiers who deployed the battle formation were clearly different from scattered soldiers. Forming up in battle formations greatly increased their combat effectiveness. In

particular, the leader of this team of yin soldiers, let's call him the team leader, not only had much greater strength than ordinary yin soldiers, but also excelled at harnessing the power of battle formations to fully display his own abilities.

During the battle, Meng Zhang faced many dangers. There were several moments where he thought he was going to die. He didn't know if he would have another chance if his soul scattered in the Netherworld. But in the end, Meng Zhang persevered, becoming the ultimate victor and enjoying the spoils of war.

In the Trial Ground, the winner takes all. After killing the team leader, an unprecedented surge of power flowed into Meng Zhang's body. His soul, which had been flickering, immediately stabilized and began to strengthen.

This victory was of great significance to Meng Zhang. It meant that from now on, he had the power to directly confront the yin soldiers' battle formations. As long as the number of yin soldiers in the team wasn't too high, he wouldn't have to retreat.

Emboldened, Meng Zhang consciously expanded the scope of his exploration. After learning the Wayfinding Technique, he no longer had to worry about getting lost. After eliminating another team of yin soldiers and crossing a considerable distance, he discovered a heavily guarded area.

The yin soldiers guarding this place were obviously much stronger and more elite than the others. Meng Zhang judged that there must be a valuable treasure here. Instead of recklessly charging in, he proceeded cautiously, preparing to clear the yin soldiers guarding the perimeter.

However, before he could act, his time in the Trial Ground was up, and he was expelled.

This time, Meng Zhang benefited greatly from eliminating a large number of yin soldiers. But as his soul grew stronger, the yin qi that invaded his physical body after his Divine Soul Return to the Body became increasingly difficult to expel. During the day, Meng Zhang had to spend more time circulating the Lesser Yang True Qi to completely eliminate the yin qi in his body.

Of course, everything Meng Zhang paid was worth it. Among the knowledge he gained this time was some content related to the Lesser Yang Qi Art. Originally, because the technique was incomplete, there were several bottlenecks that he couldn't overcome, and his cultivation base had been stuck at the fourth level of Refining Qi for some time.

However, with his talent and understanding, these bottlenecks couldn't hold him back for too long. He estimated that in a year and a half at most, he would be able to break through and reach a higher cultivation level.

The knowledge he obtained about the Lesser Yang Qi Art this time completed the incomplete technique and solved a major problem. The Refining Qi chapter of the

"Lesser Yang Qi Art" was now almost complete, and there were no longer any obstacles to his cultivation base.

Meng Zhang speculated that it was only by killing the team leader that he was able to obtain such a large gain. He summarized the rules of the Trial Ground: killing ghosts can provide knowledge related to cultivation; killing ordinary yin soldiers can provide unique skills and spells; killing yin soldiers' team leaders can provide relatively complete cultivation techniques. As for higher-level ghosts, he had yet to encounter any.

Indeed, the Trial Ground established during the Taiyi Sect's heyday contained knowledge that covered everything and anything. Even if one were to use it to establish a new sect, it would be more than enough. Meng Zhang became very curious about the Taiyi Sect during its heyday.

The Taiyi Sect during its heyday was truly remarkable, to be able to leave such a legacy through such means. The secrets hidden within the destruction of such a powerful sect gave Meng Zhang a chilling feeling. Those distant events were not something that the current Meng Zhang could concern himself with, as his thoughts remained focused on the present.

After patiently waiting for a day, Meng Zhang entered the Trial Ground again as night fell. It was another thrilling and dangerous night. Following his plan, Meng Zhang cautiously cleared the outer yin soldiers' team. He slowly lured the enemy and tried to disperse the yin soldiers' teams as much as possible, reducing the number of enemies he faced each time. As he hunted down more and more yin soldiers, his strength grew stronger, and he could face large numbers of yin soldiers with ease.

Before leaving the Trial Ground that night, Meng Zhang barely managed to clear the outer perimeter and began to gradually move deeper into the heavily guarded area. During the day, after circulating the Lesser Yang True Qi to eliminate the yin qi in his body, Meng Zhang began to organize the Hidden Scripture Pavilion. The small sects like the Taiyi Sect established the Hidden Scripture Pavilion, which was nothing more than a small library that stored a few books on cultivation techniques, spell books, and some cultivation insights left by predecessors. As for knowledge related to the hundreds of arts of cultivation, there was almost none, except for a book on the Spirit Plant Technique.

Meng Zhang recorded all the knowledge he obtained from the Trial Ground during this period and organized it into a book. Seeing several thick books added to the Hidden Scripture Pavilion, Meng Zhang was filled with joy. This was the foundation of a sect. With these books, not only could disciples increase their knowledge, but in the future, the sect might be able to cultivate tool refiners, alchemists, and formation masters.

In the Cultivation World, the most common profession was a spirit farmer. The entry requirements for spirit farming were low, but high-level spirit farmers were still relatively

rare. Even the Daoist Clear Spirit in the Taiyi Sect, who had the highest attainments in the Spirit Plant Technique, was only a first-rank spirit farmer.

When Meng Zhang handed the book containing the knowledge of the Spirit Plant Technique to Daoist Clear Spirit, he didn't even have the leisure to inquire about the book's origin, as he focused all his attention on it. He believed that with this book, Daoist Clear Spirit's mastery of the Spirit Plant Technique would surely improve significantly.

Daoist Clear Spirit's reaction made Meng Zhang realize the true value of obtaining knowledge from the Trial Ground. In addition to this knowledge, Meng Zhang also obtained two cultivation techniques from the Trial Ground - the "Fusing Gold Art" and the "Fifth Earth True Secrets." Although they were slightly lower in level than the Lesser Yang Qi Art, they were rare superior cultivation techniques that far exceeded the Taiyi Sect's collection of common techniques.

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