

Sect Master's Immortal Journey

Chapter 16: The spirit root awakens

In the afternoon, while Meng Zhang was organizing scrolls in the Hidden Scripture Pavilion, Tian Zhen received a message token from a Taiyi Sect disciple stationed at Sweetwater Oasis. The message brought both good and bad news.

The good news was that someone had awakened their spiritual root in Sweetwater Oasis, which was the only mortal territory under Taiyi Sect's jurisdiction. According to the customs of the Cultivation World, all residents in Sweetwater Oasis were affiliated with Taiyi Sect. If someone awakened their spiritual root there, they must prioritize joining Taiyi Sect. Only if Taiyi Sect declined to accept them could they join other sects or become loose cultivators.

As a small sect like Taiyi Sect, whenever someone awakened their spiritual root, regardless of its quality, they would be accepted. Given Taiyi Sect's scarcity of manpower, there was no room for being picky.

Sweetwater Oasis had been the main source of Taiyi Sect's disciples for many years, providing a significant number of disciples to the sect. Hearing that someone had awakened their spiritual root in Sweetwater Oasis, Meng Zhang was delighted. After experiencing the betrayal of Zhen Ling (True Spirit) and Fang Meng leading some disciples to leave, Taiyi Sect finally had fresh blood.

The bad news Tian Zhen brought was infuriating for Meng Zhang. Fang Meng, who had already left Taiyi Sect, had somehow joined forces with the nearby cultivation family Zhao Family. Now, Fang Meng was causing trouble at Sweetwater Oasis and intended to take away the resident who had awakened their spiritual root.

Back when Meng Zhang first became the Sect Master of Taiyi Sect, he didn't want to start with internal conflicts among the disciples. Therefore, he allowed Fang Meng to leave without resistance. Unexpectedly, this ungrateful person, Fang Meng, ran to Sweetwater Oasis to snatch the resident with the awakened spiritual root.

It was like he was digging Taiyi Sect's foundation, threatening its stability. Meng Zhang wished he could fly to Sweetwater Oasis and slap Fang Meng to death.

However, upon hearing that a member of Zhao Family was involved, Meng Zhang couldn't help but ponder a little. Zhao Family was situated to the west of Taiyi Sect and their territory bordered closely with Taiyi Sect. They were not good neighbors, often taking advantage of their family's strength to oppress Taiyi Sect. However, being Twin Success Valley's vassals, neither Taiyi Sect nor Zhao Family dared to go too far.

This time, the involvement of a member of Zhao Family with Fang Meng likely meant Zhao Family was looking to cause trouble again.

Considering this, Meng Zhang hesitated for a moment. Nevertheless, he knew he couldn't back down in this matter.

Meng Zhang went to the underground chamber below the Sect Master's quiet room and retrieved the Spiritsnake Spear, which he had been nurturing with his spiritual vision. Since the last strike that injured its spirituality, the Spiritsnake Spear had not fully recovered. Meng Zhang took it out to be prepared for the worst. He wouldn't use this spiritual weapon unless it was absolutely necessary.

Without further delay, Meng Zhang and Tian Zhen each mounted a wind-chasing horse and hurried towards Sweetwater Oasis. It was about twenty miles away from Taiyi Sect's residence.

Within a short time, they arrived at Sweetwater Oasis on their wind-chasing horses. In the barren surroundings, Sweetwater Oasis stood as a prominent oasis, offering a refreshing green view.

Sweetwater Oasis covered a considerable area and had over three thousand residents. The periphery of Sweetwater Oasis was surrounded by tall walls. The Endless Sea of Sand was not a safe place, filled with numerous threats that could wipe out mortal settlements. It was only because of the protection of Cultivators that mortals could survive here.

As Meng Zhang and Tian Zhen slowed their horses and entered the city gate, they passed through the city entrance. Both of them were well-known in Sweetwater Oasis, having grown up there, and even after becoming disciples of Taiyi Sect, they occasionally visited. They knew many people in this place.

"Meng Zhang and Big Brother Tian are back."

One of the young guards at the city gate said to his companion.

"Don't call him that. Since Meng Zhang became the Sect Master, address him as Sect Master."

An older guard admonished the younger one with a pat on his back, leading everyone to greet Meng Zhang and Tian Zhen with respect.

"Greetings, Sect Master."

"Enough with the formalities. We are all from the same hometown; there's no need for such formality. I have something to take care of this time, so I won't keep you all."

Before he finished speaking, Meng Zhang had already entered Sweetwater Oasis with Tian Zhen.

Initially, Meng Zhang intended to find the person in charge of Taiyi Sect in Sweetwater Oasis to discuss the matter. However, as soon as they entered the city, a man in his sixties approached them.

"Sect Master, you finally came. If you hadn't come, I wouldn't have been able to stop them."

Meng Zhang had seen this elderly man before when he became the Sect Master of Taiyi Sect. He was a Taiyi Sect disciple named Li Baofu. Taiyi Sect had no threshold for accepting disciples; as long as the residents of Sweetwater Oasis awakened their spiritual root, they were required to join Taiyi Sect. Most of them had low-grade spiritual roots, and their qualities were mediocre.

With such poor aptitude, Taiyi Sect couldn't provide enough resources for these disciples. As for seeking opportunities outside, it was practically a joke. Not everyone had the luck to find treasures whenever they went out.

A group of rookie Refining Qi stage disciples, leaving the sect, would face difficulties surviving in the perilous Endless Sea of Sand. It was a problem in itself.

When they were young, these disciples had the motivation to cultivate and actively contribute to the sect. But as they grew older, their ambitious dreams faded away. Countless Cultivators embarked on the path of cultivation, seeking immortality and inquiring about the Dao. However, in the end, how many could become immortals and achieve enlightenment, attaining longevity?

Leaving aside more distant goals, even among the many Refining Qi stage Cultivators in the Endless Sea of Sand, how many could reach Foundation Building, or form the core?

Understanding this, these disciples lost their enthusiasm for cultivation. Instead, they preferred to enjoy life in the mortal world. Many would return to their homes in Sweetwater Oasis whenever they had free time, and some even married and had children early.

Once they reached their sixties and met the requirements of Taiyi Sect, they hurriedly left the sect to return to Sweetwater Oasis. Taiyi Sect had always been lenient towards these disciples, as long as they didn't violate the sect's rules, they would let them be.

Moreover, from among these disciples, Taiyi Sect would select those with a little more ability to be stationed in Sweetwater Oasis as representatives of Taiyi Sect. There were quite a few Taiyi Sect disciples like Li Baofu who spent their old age in Sweetwater Oasis. Most of them were elderly people in their seventies.

In fact, these elderly disciples staying in Sweetwater Oasis were not entirely without benefits for Taiyi Sect. Although their Cultivation Base was weak, most of them were just novice Refining Qi stage Cultivators. Without the sect's support, including the lack of spirit veins and resources for cultivation, their Cultivation Base couldn't advance, and even maintaining their current state was extremely difficult.

However, Cultivators were still Cultivators. Even the weakest among them could be of some use. With the protection of these novice Cultivators nearby, Sweetwater Oasis not only enjoyed peace and prosperity but also had a stronger defense against external dangers.

As Meng Zhang arrived at Sweetwater Oasis, Li Baofu expressed his joy at seeing the Sect Master and eagerly wanted to share something with him, but Meng Zhang promptly interrupted him.

"Enough with the pleasantries. Your message was too brief. Tell me the whole story in detail."

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Chapter 17: Sweetwater Oasis

Meng Zhang had no time for unnecessary words and formalities. As a closed-door disciple of the former Taiyi Sect Master, Daoist Profound Spirit, and one of the sect's highly cultivated rising stars, in the eyes of disciples like Li Baofu, even disregarding Meng Zhang's identity as the current Taiyi Sect Master, they wouldn't dare to be the slightest bit disrespectful.

Li Baofu got straight to the point. The awakened individual was a ten-year-old boy named Tian Li, who happened to be a distant nephew of Tian Zhen. Tian Li's father had already passed away, leaving only his mother. His mother was the sister of Fang Meng, the senior disciple of Taiyi Sect, who had joined the Zhao Family.

This kind of situation wasn't uncommon, as most Taiyi Sect disciples hailed from Sweetwater Oasis. They not only had family members there but also had various connections with each other. When Fang Meng left Taiyi Sect to join the Zhao Family, many people in Sweetwater Oasis disapproved of his actions, but his relatives didn't shut him out.

Interestingly, when Fang Meng was visiting his sister's home, Tian Li, his nephew, happened to awaken his spiritual root. Typically, when one's spiritual root awakened, some peculiar phenomena would manifest in the surroundings. Common signs included automatically absorbing spiritual energy from the surroundings or creating gusts of wind around the body. Different individuals would exhibit various unique phenomena based on their physical attributes.

In Sweetwater Oasis, there were also several retired Taiyi Sect disciples who quickly arrived at Tian Li's home to help him control his spiritual root and contain the anomalies. It was at this moment that Fang Meng, identifying himself as the boy's uncle, attempted to take Tian Li away.

However, the Sweetwater Oasis residents, especially the old Taiyi Sect disciples, wouldn't allow Fang Meng to take the boy without a fight. Both sides refused to back down, but due to mutual apprehension, they hadn't made a move yet and were engaged in a heated verbal confrontation.

Li Baofu, as the appointed stationed disciple of Taiyi Sect, was relatively clever. Seizing the opportunity, he quickly used a communication talisman to inform Tian Zhen, who was currently in charge of the sect's general affairs.

Upon hearing Li Baofu's account, Meng Zhang and Tian Zhen were both enraged. Tian Zhen even volunteered for the task.

"Reporting to the Sect Master, Fang Meng betrayed the sect and deserves death. I request permission to apprehend him and await your orders."

"Fang Meng is not the only concern; we must be cautious with Zhao Family's involvement."

"Both of you can come with me to see what Fang Meng, now under the patronage of a new master, intends to do."

Meng Zhang didn't allow Tian Zhen to act alone but took him along as they walked towards Fang Meng's sister's home. Meng Zhang had spent some time in Sweetwater Oasis during his childhood and had visited several times after joining Taiyi Sect. He had some understanding of the sect disciples' relatives in the area.

As Meng Zhang led the way without the need for Li Baofu's guidance, they quickly arrived at their destination. Before they got close, the chaotic clamor of arguing reached their ears. One voice, particularly powerful, dominated all others: "Fang Meng, you traitorous scoundrel! You think you can come here and act recklessly, just because you've climbed up a high branch?"

"If you want to take Tian Li away, you'll have to step over my dead body first."

Hearing this voice, Meng Zhang chuckled. "Old Man Tian still possesses such spiritedness at his age."

Meng Zhang and the others arrived outside a small courtyard. The surrounding area was already filled with people from all around.

At the entrance of the courtyard, an elderly man with white hair and age spots on his face led a group of old men, surrounding Fang Meng and a middle-aged man, berating them non-stop.

When the people around recognized Meng Zhang riding over, someone shouted, "The Sect Master is here, everyone, make way!"

The previously crowded crowd split into two, making way for a clear path.

Even those who were arguing became quiet.

Meng Zhang instructed Li Baofu behind him, "Disperse the crowd."

As the ruler of Sweetwater Oasis, Taiyi Sect held sufficient authority there. Li Baofu didn't need to exert much effort, and the surrounding people quickly dispersed. The street that was once packed with people became empty. Meng Zhang cast a glance at Fang Meng without paying much attention to him and instead focused on the middle-aged man by his side.

"I wonder who the esteemed guest is, visiting the territory of my Taiyi Sect without informing the host."

The middle-aged man appeared to be around the same age as Fang Meng, and his face looked amiable.

He clasped his hands towards Meng Zhang. "You must be Taiyi Sect's Sect Master Meng. I am Zhao Dong, a neighbor of Taiyi Sect."

"I am just visiting as a guest with my good friend Brother Fang to pay a visit to his family. I apologize for not giving advance notice; it's my fault."

Meng Zhang dismounted from his horse and first approached the white-haired old man.

"Old Man Tian, we younger generation has failed you, causing you trouble."

"Everyone, thank you for your hard work. Please rest with Old Man Tian. I will handle the rest."

Meng Zhang then bowed to the other elderly men.

Old Man Tian was also a Taiyi Sect disciple, but he had left Taiyi Sect and returned to live in Sweetwater Oasis several decades ago. In theory, Refining Qi stage cultivators could live up to two jiazi, or 120 years, at most. However, that was the ideal scenario. In reality, very few Refining Qi cultivators could live past a hundred years, due to various factors such as personal cultivation progress and individual physical conditions.

Old Man Tian had already lived past a hundred years, and his body remained robust till now, truly an anomaly.

Over ninety years ago, when Taiyi Sect was rebuilt for the third time in this area, Old Man Tian, not yet ten years old, was among the first batch of disciples recruited by Taiyi Sect. Having experienced nearly all of Taiyi Sect's history since its third rebuilding, he could be considered a living relic and auspicious presence within the sect.

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Chapter 18: Conflict

Meng Zhang, just like his master Daoist Profound Spirit, always showed respect for Old Man Tian and other senior members of the sect. After exchanging greetings with Old Man Tian and the other seniors, Meng Zhang finally remembered Zhao Dong's presence.

"If you're here as a guest, you should act like one. Interfering in the host's family matters isn't something a guest should do," Meng Zhang stated calmly.

Unperturbed, Zhao Dong replied, "Brother Fang is no longer a member of Taiyi Sect. Taiyi Sect should not interfere in his family matters."

Fang Meng, feeling frustrated by Meng Zhang's indifference, exclaimed, "Yes, Tian Li is a member of our Fang family..."

"Shut up! You ungrateful scum! Who gave you the right to speak here?" Meng Zhang's sudden scolding left Fang Meng stunned.

"You dare say another word, and I'll teach you a lesson!" Meng Zhang warned.

Fang Meng, a hot-tempered individual, became agitated at Meng Zhang's scolding. "You rely on sweet talk to deceive our master and steal the position of Sect Master from me. Now you dare act so arrogantly? I'll show you!"

As he spoke, Fang Meng made hand seals, activating the Yellow Sand Art, which conjured a whirlwind of sand around him, ready to attack Meng Zhang.

"You all, stay back. I'll handle this traitor myself," Meng Zhang ordered, preventing the others from interfering. He intended to subdue Fang Meng, the defector, on his own.

Meng Zhang's body ignited flames out of thin air, and the scorching heat forced people around him to step back. His Lesser Yang True Qi, ignited with the Yang Fire, surged towards Fang Meng.

When the flames met the swirling sand, a sizzling sound erupted. The sand dispersed, and the flames pressed forward.

Though both were at the Refining Qi Fourth Level, Meng Zhang's cultivation in the Lesser Yang Qi Art was far superior to Fang Meng's Yellow Sand Art. Meng Zhang's Lesser Yang True Qi held an absolute advantage in richness and power.

Moreover, after continuously using Lesser Yang True Qi to dispel yin qi in his body, Meng Zhang felt it had undergone some refinement and become even purer.

Fang Meng brought out a small flag and waved it vigorously, summoning more sand to barely block Meng Zhang's attacks.

Meng Zhang wasn't using any magic tool; he relied solely on his Lesser Yang True Qi, gradually overpowering Fang Meng.

"Must you fight each other, fellow disciples?" Zhao Dong intervened with a conciliatory tone, attempting to deceive while secretly making his move.

He sent a flying sword towards the battlefield, seemingly trying to separate the two fighters but aiming to strike Meng Zhang.

Zhao Dong had previously inquired about Meng Zhang's strength from Fang Meng, who claimed that they were both at the Refining Qi Fourth Level. However, Meng Zhang's combat experience was inferior to his.

Zhao Dong considered himself compassionate for only planning to cut off one of Meng Zhang's arms or, at most, cripple his cultivation base to damage the Sect Master's prestige.

Convinced that his Refining Qi Sixth Level was enough to overpower Meng Zhang, Zhao Dong cunningly struck when he thought Meng Zhang was occupied with Fang Meng.

However, Meng Zhang was vigilant, even while fighting Fang Meng. He wasn't a person who took hits without retaliating. When Zhao Dong's flying sword came, Meng Zhang didn't dodge but threw a golden knife toward the incoming attack.

The knife lacked its tip, as it had been refined through the Blood Refining Martyr Art before.

Upon contact, the seemingly feeble golden knife immediately exploded with a loud bang. The flying sword jumped several times before helplessly falling to the ground.

The explosion and recoil caused Zhao Dong's true qi to churn uncomfortably within him. The flying sword, refined with true qi, suffered significant damage.

Despite using up two previously refined magic tools, Meng Zhang's face didn't betray any emotions. With a show of force, he continued to act as though he would attack Zhao Dong.

Zhao Dong, who had just suffered losses, began to fear Meng Zhang after witnessing his display of power. This was Taiyi Sect's territory, surrounded by Taiyi Sect members. He worried that if Meng Zhang turned violent, he might kill them both to prevent any leaks of information.

"Sect Master Meng, my family is aware of my visit here," Zhao Dong hurriedly stabilized the situation, while secretly activating a talisman. A water dragon appeared from the talisman and rushed toward Fang Meng, blocking the flames directed at Zhao Dong.

"Brother Fang, come to my side quickly," Zhao Dong called anxiously.

Taking this opportunity, Zhao Dong and Fang Meng quickly fled the scene.

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Chapter 19: Tian Li

Meng Zhang had been closely watching Zhao Dong, but he refrained from taking action until Zhao Dong left. Everyone present was somewhat surprised by Meng Zhang's ability to repel Zhao Dong and suppress Fang Meng.

"Sect Master's skills are indeed remarkable, effortlessly subduing the enemy."

"Elder Profound Spirit truly has a keen eye, selecting an outstanding successor for our Taiyi Sect."

Several elders of Taiyi Sect were discussing on the side.

Meng Zhang's prowess was also beyond Tian Zhen's expectations, but he wisely refrained from probing further. The various techniques of cultivators were their greatest secrets.

"Sect Master, will you let them go just like that? Especially Fang Meng, that traitor, shouldn't be let off so easily."

"Zhao Family is powerful; it's not the right time to turn against them."

Meng Zhang shook his head, feeling somewhat resentful. There was nothing he could do at the moment; he had to bide his time as he was currently at a disadvantage. The Zhao Family had a large number of disciples, including several Refining Qi Late stage experts. On the other hand, Taiyi Sect had lost all of its Refining Qi Late stage elders during a turmoil over ten years ago. Even after the recent internal conflict that occurred

after the demise of Sect Master Daoist Profound Spirit, Taiyi Sect was nothing more than a hollow shell with weakened strength.

As the Sect Master, Meng Zhang did possess some trump cards, but he was still outnumbered and couldn't withstand the Zhao Family's full-scale attack. Using two previously refined magic tools for the Blood Refining Martyr Art had depleted his resources. Without recklessly using the Spirit Snake Spear, which would completely damage the spiritual weapon, he had no other means to definitively defeat Zhao Dong.

Zhao Dong didn't know Meng Zhang's true abilities and was scared off by his empty bluff.

Regardless, the troublemakers were driven away, allowing Meng Zhang to focus on other matters. Without Fang Meng's instigation, Fang Meng's sister dared not speak a word in front of the respected elders.

After a brief examination of Tian Li's condition and some casual conversation with the seniors, Meng Zhang, Tian Zhen, and Tian Li left Sweetwater Oasis and returned to Taiyi Sect's residence.

Despite being only ten years old, Tian Li was quite bold and showed no signs of fear or crying after leaving home.

Of course, the fact that Taiyi Sect's residence was not far from Sweetwater Oasis and that both places frequently interacted with each other played a part. Additionally, with Tian Zhen, his distant uncle, by his side, Tian Li felt reassured.

Upon returning to Taiyi Sect, Meng Zhang brought Tian Li to the sect's main hall and took out the Spirit Testing Disk from the basement. He carefully measured Tian Li's spiritual roots and physical attributes.

Meng Zhang held the Spirit Testing Disk close to Tian Li's head and infused it with true qi to activate it.

A burst of light emanated from the Spirit Testing Disk, displaying various scales and markings on its surface. A beam of light rose from the disk, accompanied by golden and red patterns.

After observing the position where the beam of light stopped, Meng Zhang smiled and said, "This kid has good aptitude, possessing low-high-grade spiritual roots."

Among the different grades of spiritual roots, low-high-grade was considered the upper tier of the low-grade.

Most of Taiyi Sect's disciples had inferior spiritual roots, being the lowest of the low-grade. With such aptitude, unless a miracle occurred, they could hardly reach

Foundation Building. Even reaching Refining Qi Late stage would be impossible without abundant resources.

Tian Zhen and Fang Meng both had low-middle-grade spiritual roots, making them relatively valued within the sect.

Meng Zhang's own high-grade spiritual roots were highly sought after even by Gold Core sects. The legendary top-grade and Heaven-Grade spiritual roots were just myths, at least in the Endless Sea of Sand, where they had never been seen.

Although Elder Profound Spirit had concealed Meng Zhang's true spiritual root aptitude, claiming it was middle-grade, perceptive figures within Taiyi Sect, like Daoist Profound Spirit and Daoist Clear Spirit, considered him a promising disciple. Even Tian Zhen, who was deeply loyal to the sect, saw him as the hope for Taiyi Sect's revival.

Even the An Family Patriarch, who had passed by Taiyi Sect, admired Meng Zhang and tried hard to recruit him. Though the attempt was unsuccessful, the Patriarch was still willing to maintain a good relationship with him.

However, the majority of the current generation of Taiyi Sect disciples lacked potential. Fang Meng was focused on creating small groups, and people like Zhen Ling had too many selfish thoughts, lacking consideration for the sect's future.

Hearing that Tian Li possessed low-high-grade spiritual roots, Tian Zhen was overjoyed. Not only was he happy for his fellow disciple and relative, but he also felt that Taiyi Sect had gained a talented individual. With such spiritual roots, Tian Li had a certain possibility of succeeding in Foundation Building if he had access to Foundation Building Pills or other Foundation Building treasures. Although the possibility of obtaining such treasures with Taiyi Sect's current situation was merely a dream, having hope was better than having none.

After assessing Tian Li's spiritual root aptitude, Meng Zhang shifted his attention to Tian Li's physical attributes. Observing the changes in colors and patterns on the Spirit Testing Disk, Meng Zhang announced Tian Li's physical attributes.

"With this kid's physique, he's most suitable for practicing techniques that combine both fire and metal attributes."

Tian Zhen thought for a moment and shook his head. "The sect has the Flame Technique with fire attributes and the Refined Metal Art with metal attributes. However, there isn't any technique that combines both fire and metal attributes."

"Do you mean we should let this kid practice the attribute-less Transparent Technique?"

"Although the Flame Technique and the Refined Metal Art are common techniques, they are still stronger than the attribute-less Transparent Technique."

At this moment, Tian Zhen fully realized the limitations of being from a small sect. The sect's collection of techniques was limited, leaving few options. Many times, they couldn't find the most suitable technique for their disciples, resulting in the waste of their talents.

Meng Zhang didn't say anything; instead, he went to the back of the sect's main hall and retrieved two copied manuals from his quiet room. He handed one copy of "Fusing Gold Art" to Tian Li and said, "You will practice the technique from this manual in the future. If you have any questions, both your uncle and I can guide you."

He gave the other copy of "Fifth Earth True Secrets" to Tian Zhen. "Senior Brother, you will switch to this technique. It's much stronger than the Yellow Sand Art you've been practicing."

"Senior Brother, I've placed copies of both manuals in the Hidden Scripture Pavilion."

"In addition, I've copied some other books and placed them in the Hidden Scripture Pavilion as well. If you have spare time, you can read them."

Taiyi Sect's Hidden Scripture Pavilion was originally just a few small houses with few books and no precious collections. It had always been open to all disciples of the sect. There were only a few fire-proof and pest-proof runes and some runes for temperature and humidity control; there were no other restrictions.

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Chapter 20: Basic

After Meng Zhang succeeded as the Taiyi Sect Sect Master, Tian Li became the first disciple to be admitted to the sect. From this moment on, the sect had its next generation of disciples. Although the number of disciples in the sect was currently small, Meng Zhang decided to hold a small ceremony to celebrate the occasion.

On the chosen auspicious day, Meng Zhang, Tian Zhen, Tian Li, Daoist Clear Spirit, and his two disciples gathered in the sect's main hall. The initiation ceremony for Tian Li was simple yet solemn. First, Meng Zhang led everyone in paying respects to the heavens and the earth, followed by offering reverence to Taiyi Sect's ancestors, commemorating the hardships of their predecessors.

Then, Tian Zhen, who was recently appointed as the General Affairs Elder by Meng Zhang, read out the sect's rules to Tian Li. Taiyi Sect's rules were not complicated, consisting of only a few simple guidelines, which Tian Zhen briefly explained.

Lastly, Meng Zhang, seated high above, received Tian Li's bow and oath. Tian Li swore to join Taiyi Sect and remain forever loyal to it.

In the past, when Taiyi Sect was strong, they had a dedicated sect register to record the disciples' names. They would also take a strand of the disciples' souls to light the soul lamp. By monitoring the condition of the soul lamp, the sect could know about the disciples' status and provide help or seek justice if necessary. However, the current Taiyi Sect lacked such conditions. Meng Zhang simply prepared a new register and wrote down Tian Li's name.

Since Meng Zhang took over as the Sect Master, some time had passed, and he had been busy handling the sect's affairs. Being a new leader with new ideas, he wanted to make some changes. He first appointed Tian Zhen as the General Affairs Elder in charge of miscellaneous matters within the sect. Then, he appointed Daoist Clear Spirit as the Spirit Plant Elder, responsible for all matters related to Spirit Plants in the sect. Although these appointments were somewhat formal since Tian Zhen and Daoist Clear Spirit had already been handling these matters before, Meng Zhang wanted to reinforce their roles.

The last issue Meng Zhang addressed was the ranking of disciples' generations within the sect. In the past, when Taiyi Sect was strong, they used the disciples' cultivation bases to determine the generations, which was a common practice in the Cultivation World. However, Meng Zhang disagreed with this approach.

While some believed in the principle of "no distinction between teacher and student, the one who achieves success is the teacher," and others thought that strength should determine everything, Meng Zhang believed that some sense of ethics and hierarchy should be maintained. The old method of ranking could lead to awkward situations, where a father and son, both at the Refining Qi stage, were considered the same generation within the sect. Once the son reached the Foundation Building stage while the father remained at the Refining Qi stage, the son would be a higher generation, which could be embarrassing for the father.

Meng Zhang wanted to implement a new system. Starting from Tian Li's generation, each generation would be counted every 100 years. All disciples who joined the sect within that century, regardless of their cultivation base or their generation in the mortal world, would be considered the same generation within Taiyi Sect.

However, Meng Zhang had difficulty coming up with suitable titles for each generation and temporarily put this matter aside.

With Tian Li's generation, Taiyi Sect entered a new era.

After the initiation ceremony, Tian Zhen prepared a feast, and everyone gathered to celebrate. Even Meng Zhang, who rarely drank alcohol, took a few sips.

Even the ten-year-old Tian Li held a cup filled with tea and toasted the seniors as a show of respect.

During the feast, Tian Zhen, in a moment of excitement, accepted Tian Li as his direct disciple, making him his first disciple.

As for Meng Zhang, he had no intention of taking on more disciples at the moment.

After the initiation ceremony for Tian Li was completed, Meng Zhang's life returned to its usual routine. At night, he practiced Divine Soul Leaving the Body and entered the Trial Ground. During the day, he practiced Lesser Yang Qi Art.

These days, Meng Zhang could clearly feel that he was on the verge of a breakthrough in his Lesser Yang Qi Art.

One day, at dawn, Meng Zhang absorbed the first wisp of Yang Qi between heaven and earth. He refined the Yang Qi within his body repeatedly. Then, he continued to meditate under the increasingly intense sunlight, circulating Lesser Yang True Qi to dispel the yin qi within his body.

After several cycles of the technique, the chilling sensation all over his body disappeared, replaced by a warm feeling.

Continuing to circulate Lesser Yang True Qi, the true qi smoothly flowed through each acupoint, but when it reached acupoints that had never been connected before, the true qi started to slow down, showing signs of stagnation.

In the past, Meng Zhang would gradually withdraw his true qi and gently polish these acupoints. This gentler approach to breakthroughs took more time, but it was safer and less likely to cause damage to the physical body. It also minimized the risk of encountering demonic energies and falling into demonic cultivation.

However, today, Meng Zhang acted differently. He fully urged the true qi in his body and boldly surged ahead, forcefully breaking through these acupoints.

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