

# Sect Master's Immortal Journey

## *Chapter 26: 2 Divine Ability*

Meng Zhang's Soul state naturally couldn't consume food like his physical body. He only made the motion of swallowing the fruit, but in reality, he infused the fruit into his Soul and slowly digested it using Soul power. The Divine Ability Fruit was not meant for physical consumption but to be absorbed through the Soul.

While digesting the Divine Ability Fruit, more information about it started to resurface in Meng Zhang's mind. The Divine Ability Fruit had an extremely potent stimulating effect on the Soul, inducing a strong Soul mutation that granted the consumer innate Divine Abilities. However, if the cultivator's Soul was not strong or resilient enough, consuming the fruit might not result in the birth of Divine Abilities and could even severely damage the Soul, leading to possible death.

Furthermore, even if a cultivator with bad luck consumed the fruit, they might end up with no Divine Ability. As a transmigrator, Meng Zhang's Soul was originally much more resilient and powerful than an ordinary cultivator's. Having spent so much time in the Trial Ground, his Soul had been strengthened multiple times. He believed that his Soul could withstand the stimulation of the Divine Ability Fruit.

As for luck, Meng Zhang had no control over it. However, he didn't believe himself to be that unlucky. Waves of intense pain swept through Meng Zhang's Soul. At one moment, it was scorching hot, as if his Soul was about to be burnt to ashes. At another moment, it was bone-chillingly cold, as if his Soul was about to freeze and shatter. Finally, it felt like his Soul was being torn apart, pulled and ripped by an inexplicable force.

Enduring several unbearable tortures that an ordinary person couldn't withstand, Meng Zhang managed to hold on. After what seemed like a long time, he felt the pain gradually subsiding, and his Soul returned to normal. However, before Meng Zhang could examine his Soul, the time he was allowed to stay had expired, and the Trial Ground rejected him.

After the Divine Soul returned to his body, Meng Zhang didn't immediately expel the yin qi from his physical body. Instead, he urgently checked his Soul. However, he was interrupted by a sudden intense pain in his physical body, especially in his eyes, which stung severely. It took a while for his physical body to return to normal.

Closing his eyes and carefully sensing, after a long time, Meng Zhang opened his eyes with a pleased expression. The power of the Divine Ability Fruit was truly incredible. Not only did it stimulate his Soul and create Soul mutations, but the intense Soul mutation also caused a physical mutation.

After refining the Divine Ability Fruit, Meng Zhang gained two Divine Abilities. One was Mind Reading, allowing him to discern people's hearts and distinguish between good and evil. For cultivators whose cultivation base was lower than his, their deepest secrets and thoughts would be hard to hide from him when they appeared in front of him. For cultivators with similar cultivation bases, their surface thoughts and intentions, both good and evil, would be known to him. Even if someone with a higher cultivation base, he couldn't read their specific thoughts, but he could judge whether they harbored malicious intent.

Of course, if someone possessed certain secret techniques to conceal their thoughts, they could evade Mind Reading's probing.

The other Divine Ability was Deception Breaking Eye, allowing Meng Zhang to see through all falsehoods and discern the truth directly. However, for falsehoods with an excessively high level of cultivation, he couldn't see through them at the moment.

These two Divine Abilities were Meng Zhang's innate Divine Abilities, requiring no cultivation and could be freely used. Moreover, as Meng Zhang's Cultivation Base improved in the future, these two innate Divine Abilities would naturally also enhance.

Meng Zhang wanted to try out the power of these two Divine Abilities but had no suitable opportunities. Using Mind Reading on fellow sect members to delve into their innermost secrets didn't sit well with him. He felt it was inappropriate to do so among the same sect. He needed to set boundaries and guidelines for using this Divine Ability. This was his self-restraint and moral stance.

When daytime arrived, after expelling the yin qi from his physical body, Meng Zhang followed his usual routine of recording all the knowledge he gained in the Trial Ground and stored it in the Hidden Scripture Pavilion.

During this period, Meng Zhang engaged in a fierce killing spree in the Trial Ground and obtained significant gains. Besides the various comprehensive knowledge, there were several high-level cultivation techniques such as "Clearwater True Art," "Thousand Chances Atlas," "Vigorous Vajra Art," and "One Origin Formation Chart," among others. There were also numerous other useful secret arts.

Meng Zhang was pleased; through his desperate efforts in the Trial Ground, he acquired many inheritances from Taiyi Sect's prime, enriching the sect's foundation.

By now, except for that canyon, Meng Zhang had almost cleared out all the other places in the Trial Ground. Even if he entered the Trial Ground again, he probably wouldn't gain much, as the monsters wouldn't respawn like in a game.

Based on his experiences from multiple entries into the Trial Ground, he believed that the number of Ghosts here was fixed, and there would be no replenishment after he eliminated them.

Regarding that canyon, Meng Zhang remained cautious. If he didn't have absolute certainty, he wouldn't rashly take risks.

Meng Zhang felt that he had already obtained the majority of the inheritances from this Trial Ground. Until he found a solution to the canyon, he wouldn't enter the Trial Ground again.

In the days that followed, Meng Zhang no longer entered the Trial Ground at night. After diligent cultivation during the day, he didn't relax at night either. He needed to fully digest and absorb the various knowledge he obtained from the Trial Ground.

However, the busy and fulfilling days were interrupted by unavoidable administrative tasks. Tian Zhen arrived at his cultivation place to remind him that it was time for the annual procurement.

Sweetwater Oasis was just a small oasis, and its population was limited. With the increase in mortal population over the years, the oasis could no longer sustain itself with the food it produced alone.

For Taiyi Sect, a larger mortal population in their territory meant more potential disciples with spiritual roots. Therefore, Taiyi Sect naturally wanted to help resolve the problems faced by the mortals under their rule.

In the harsh environment of the Endless Sea of Sand, a purely mortal merchant caravan wouldn't survive, and there were no trade transactions between mortal oases either. Even the exchanges of goods between different mortal oases had to rely on the efforts of cultivators.

The amount of storage space provided by the storage bag used by low-level cultivators like Meng Zhang was roughly equivalent to one cubic meter in his previous life. This space was enough to store daily necessities for cultivators but not enough for transporting large quantities of food and other supplies.

In the Cultivation World, there were larger storage bags with greater storage space, but they were expensive and not cost-effective. In the local market, the price of a regular storage bag didn't exceed fifty low-grade spirit stones, and there would be discounts for bulk purchases. On the other hand, a tenfold storage bag cost over a thousand low-grade spirit stones and was often out of stock.

For a poor sect like Taiyi Sect, they couldn't afford to spend so many spirit stones on storage bags.

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## *Chapter 27: Singing Sand City*

Taiyi Sect's procurement of large quantities of food and other supplies involved sending people to the market to hire large camels to transport the goods back. As for the dangers encountered on the journey, Taiyi Sect would handle them on their own. Tian Zhen didn't want to disturb Meng Zhang's cultivation and volunteered to handle the task himself. However, Meng Zhang rejected Tian Zhen's proposal and decided to go personally.

His reasons were twofold: first, after staying in the sect for so long, he wanted to go out and get some fresh air; second, his Cultivation Base and strength were far superior to Tian Zhen's, so he believed he would be better equipped to handle any danger along the way.

Having made his decision, Meng Zhang and Tian Zhen, the General Affairs Elder, didn't argue further. Before departing, Tian Zhen reminded Meng Zhang that the spirit fields in the sect were about to be harvested, and the manpower was insufficient. If Meng Zhang didn't hire loose cultivators from outside to help, they would need to call back the elderly seniors who retired in Sweetwater Oasis to lend a hand. Meng Zhang noted Tian Zhen's reminder.

The nearest market to Taiyi Sect was Singing Sand City, which belonged to Twin Success Valley, located about seven hundred li south of Taiyi Sect, near the Singing Sand Mountain. Meng Zhang set off early in the morning. He rode a wind chasing horse named Xiao Bai, with a one-cubic-meter storage bag hanging all over his body. This appearance was a common sight for many cultivators, as they would use multiple storage bags if their storage space wasn't enough, earning them the nickname "Nine-Bag Elders."

In the past few days, Meng Zhang had consumed almost all of the over four hundred low-grade spirit stones he had confiscated from the Zhang brothers. Taiyi Sect's treasury had fewer than a thousand low-grade spirit stones, and he brought eight hundred of them with him. The storage bag on his person was filled with the scarlet copper he had refined. Meng Zhang's plan for this trip to Singing Sand City was to sell the scarlet copper to ensure he had enough spirit stones.

Wind chasing horses were known as the legendary steeds capable of traveling a thousand li during the day and eight hundred li at night. As a First Rank demon beast known for its speed, the wind chasing horse was faster than the legendary steeds.

Meng Zhang set off early, not stopping along the way, and arrived near Singing Sand Mountain shortly after noon. The entire journey was filled with endless yellow sand, devoid of any greenery. Occasionally, there were some variations in terrain, like sand dunes of varying heights.

Meng Zhang had become tired of this monotonous scenery during his rare outing. When he arrived at the foot of Singing Sand Mountain, he finally felt a sense of refreshment. Singing Sand Mountain was only a few hundred meters high, but in the surrounding area, it was considered a rare high mountain.

After years of erosion by sandstorms, Singing Sand Mountain had many small and large caves on its surface. When strong winds blew across the desert, it would pass through these caves, producing sharp whistles and moans. That was how Singing Sand Mountain got its name.

At the foot of Singing Sand Mountain, there was a wide Second Rank spirit vein. Hundreds of years ago, Twin Success Valley, the ruling power of the Singing Sand Mountain region, established Singing Sand City, relying on this Second Rank spirit vein.

Singing Sand City was in a strategic location, near many other families and sects, some of which were comparable in strength to Twin Success Valley. Twin Success Valley had also released part of its interests, attracting forces such as Forest Spring Watch and Liu Family.

After centuries of development, Singing Sand City became the most prosperous trading market in the surrounding area. While bringing enormous benefits to Twin Success Valley, it also facilitated trade between various forces.

Bypassing Singing Sand Mountain, Meng Zhang saw Singing Sand City in the distance—a rare sight of greenery in the desert, surrounded by forests, with a small river flowing and lush green grass.

The town was filled with various buildings and outside, camel caravans came and went.

This beautiful town was the Singing Sand City that Twin Success Valley had worked hard to build for many years. With the support of the Second Rank spirit vein, a Second Rank high-grade protective formation was set up to guard the market. The area around the market was covered by the protective formation, sufficient to repel any invading enemies.

Only in the north and south directions of the market were gates left for people to enter and exit.

Meng Zhang rode Xiao Bai, the wind chasing horse, directly to the south gate of Singing Sand City. Two Refining Qi stage cultivators guarded the gate with a team of guards.

After registering his identity at the gate and paying the two low-grade spirit stone city entrance tax, Meng Zhang smoothly entered Singing Sand City.

Although Taiyi Sect was a small sect, it was still a subordinate force of Twin Success Valley, making Meng Zhang somewhat of an insider. With the identity of Taiyi Sect's Sect Master, Meng Zhang enjoyed some convenience in Singing Sand City.

After entering the market, Meng Zhang first found an inn to stay and settled Xiao Bai, the wind chasing horse. He didn't rush to go shopping but strolled around the market.

He visited various shops and even inquired about prices, even if he didn't intend to buy anything. Along the way, he went into many shops and didn't encounter any situations where he was looked down upon.

The shop assistants or shopkeepers were mostly quite enthusiastic. Meng Zhang used his Mind Reading Divine Ability several times to explore their thoughts. He didn't feel any psychological pressure when using Mind Reading on outsiders. Moreover, he wasn't trying to invade their private thoughts but wanted to understand the various market conditions and prices in Singing Sand City.

Meng Zhang continued to stroll around until dinner time before returning to the inn where he was staying. Singing Sand City was built on a Second Rank spirit vein, and although Twin Success Valley used a spirit gathering array to gather most of the spiritual energy in the market and control the output, the spiritual energy in most parts of Singing Sand City was still much denser than outside.

To prevent poor cultivators from coming to Singing Sand City to absorb spiritual energy, Twin Success Valley had implemented various measures. For example, to enter the market, one had to pay a city entrance tax. Besides, unless cultivators had registered residency in the market, they had to either stay in an inn or rent a house to live in. No beggars were allowed in the market, and sleeping on the streets was strictly forbidden.

The inn where Meng Zhang was staying was owned by Forest Spring Watch. In addition to providing accommodation services, it also had a restaurant that served three meals a day. The chefs from Forest Spring Watch were renowned for their culinary skills, and even simple spirit rice and spirit vegetables could become exquisite delicacies under their hands, fully stimulating the hidden spiritual energy within the ingredients, making it easier for cultivators to absorb.

Although Taiyi Sect planted a large amount of spirit grain, most of it was sold to the outside world in exchange for various resources. Taiyi Sect's disciples couldn't have enough spirit grain to consume.

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