

# A Journey through the Taoist Underworld

## 道教中的十八層地獄

A unique feature of Madou Daitian Temple is the enormous dragon tunnel that visitors can walk through to learn about Taoist Heaven and Hell. Visitors enter the open maw of the enormous dragon, which is several stories high, and traverse its winding, seventy-six meter length where they are treated to animatronic recreations of the delights of Heaven and the terrors of the Eighteen Hells. Parents sometimes bring their children here to impress upon them the importance of living a virtuous life.

In Taoist belief, the dead go to the underworld, or Hell, to be judged and then either enter Heaven; or are punished for their sins and then reborn. Hell is composed of ten great halls or courts, each governed by a different king. These are further divided into eighteen chambers or levels of Hell, in which the wicked are punished in accordance with their crimes in life. The length of the sentence is dependent on the severity of the crime and the penitence of the sinner. If a punishment 'kills' a sinner, their body is made whole again and the punishment repeats itself over and over until the sentence has been fulfilled and the sinner repents.

麻豆代天府的一大特色為「五彩觀光巨龍」內的天堂地獄水晶宮。道教信仰中，人死後會到陰間受審，德性良善的人會上天堂，生前作惡的人則會下地獄，受刑完畢後輪迴轉生。地獄共分十殿十八層，每層均由不同大王看守。下地獄的鬼魂會根據生前所犯惡行的程度到不同層地獄受罰。

刑期也是按照罪行的嚴重程度，與鬼魂的悔意而定。有些懲罰方式會讓罪人不斷再次受死，直到刑期結束、罪人悔改之時才會終止。十八層地獄的意象雖然可怕，但其意義為勸導世人向善。有不少家長會帶著小孩來參觀麻豆代天府的天堂地獄水晶宮，以教導小孩做人正直的重要性。



## The Eighteen Levels of Hell | 十八層地獄

**The First Hell: The Hall of Judgement, governed by Lord Cinguang, who judges all souls. The virtuous cross over into paradise, while the wicked are sent to the appropriate level to receive retribution for their crimes.**

第一層地獄：秦廣王為第一殿審判者，如生前為善者將可到天堂，如做惡者將會依據生前的惡行發配到不同層地獄受應得之刑罰，以彌補過錯。

**The Second Hell: Corrupt officials who abuse their power and bring harm to the common people are tortured on the tiger guillotine.**

第二層地獄：為貪官瀆，濫用職權，刁難老百姓者，應受「虎頭」斬之刑。

**The Third Hell: Rabble rousers, troublemakers, and bullies are thrown into a mill to be crushed and pulverized by the grindstone.**

第三層地獄：不務正業，橫行霸道，欺壓善良者，應受「石輪碾磨」之刑。

**The Fourth Hell: Rapists and adulterers are tied to a hot copper pillar and seared alive.**

第四地獄：強姦婦女，或通姦害夫者，應受「炮烙」之刑。

**The Fifth Hell: Those who bear false witness and further themselves at the expense of others have their eyes gouged out.**

第五地獄：貪圖私利，作偽證害人者，應受「挖眼」之刑罰。

**The Sixth Hell: Drug dealers, addicts, and manufacturers of fake medicines and liquors are boiled in a cauldron of oil.**

第六地獄：販賣毒品，製造偽藥及假酒者，應受「下油鍋」之刑罰。

**The Seventh Hell: Those who use illegal means to defraud women and children, or bring economic ruin on families through trickery and deceit have their hearts cut out.**

第七地獄：欺騙婦孺用非法「仙人跳」之手段，取人金錢，害人家破人亡者，應受「石錐穿心」之刑。

**The Eighth Hell: Profiteers who cheat others or use improper means to profit at the expense of others are torn apart by dogs and bitten by snakes.**

第八地獄：用不當手段，偷斤減兩，貪圖非份之財者，應受「狗吃蛇咬」之刑。

**The Ninth Hell: Ne'er-do-wells and unfilial sons and daughters are hung upside down from hooks like meat on a scale.**

第九地獄：目無尊長，忤逆父母者，應受「天秤」之刑罰。

**The Tenth Hell: Rapists and murderers are drawn and quartered.**

第十地獄：強姦、輪姦婦女及殺人者，應受五鬼「分屍」之刑罰。

**The Eleventh Hell: Thieves, kidnappers, and those who commit fraud are crushed by a grindstone.**

第十一地獄：竊盜、誘拐及詐騙害人者，應受「石磨」之刑罰。

**The Twelfth Hell: Robbers, murderers, and looters are dismembered.**

第十二地獄：強盜、殺人及劫財者，應受「砍四肢」之刑。

**The Thirteenth Hell: Disobedient or unfilial daughters-in-law are punished by having to hold heavy boulders over their heads until they weaken and are crushed.**

第十三地獄：不孝媳婦，忤逆翁姑者，應受「巨石所壓」之刑。

**The Fourteenth Hell: Pimps and human traffickers who ruin women and destroy families have their faces flayed.**

第十四地獄：專尋對象，吃軟飯，或販賣人口，妨害家庭者，應受「刮臉」之刑。

**The Fifteenth Hell: Those who swindle others and ruin them financially, thereby inducing them to commit suicide, are disemboweled.**

第十五地獄：詐財倒會，害人跳水懸樑自殺者，應受「剖肚抽腸」之刑。

**The Sixteenth Hell: Those who gamble, commit fraud, or sell counterfeit goods are forced to commit suicide by knife.**

第十六地獄：賭博，詐欺及販賣偽造品者，應受「切腹」之刑。

**The Seventeenth Hell: Rumor-mongers, gossips, and those who induce the deaths of others through false insinuations have their tongues pulled out.**

第十七地獄：專門製造謠言搬弄是非，假罪他人，教唆殺人者，應受「拔舌穿腮」之刑。

**The Eighteenth Hell: The final level. After their punishment has been completed, the souls drink the Elixir of Forgetfulness and are released for reincarnation, perhaps as an animal, perhaps as a human doomed to suffer in expiation of past sins.**

第十八地獄：引孟婆湯之後，領憑證受胎轉世，經「輪迴」出生。