

The Growth 145

Chapter 145: Rebel: A Su (3/3)

A Su is a student at the Prophet Academy and also a famously notorious troublemaker in Bright Pearl City.

As a Skeleton, A Su staunchly believes that "steel is the force of civilizational progress" and holds disdain for others who choose to continue using bones to make bone mechanisms.

If not for the fact that Bright Pearl City is located at the border between the Skeletons and the Jiao Race, it's practically impossible for any Burrowing Insect to settle here.

Anyone familiar with A Su wouldn't doubt that this guy would definitely run off to the Burrowing Insects to learn from them, having them teach more knowledge and technology from the Burrowing Insect Civilization.

Even so, A Su has built a laboratory full of Burrowing Insect style in his own tomb.

"Prophet Li told me you skipped class again today?"

Shrouded entirely in a black robe, yet moving with unusual lightness.

A Ke had just pushed open the door of the tomb chamber to see A Su busily tinkering with some bone mechanisms he couldn't even begin to understand.

Beep! Beep! Beep!

Precise instruments were continuously rotating, the flashing Sun Stone dazzling brightly...

A Su, fully engrossed in operating this delicate instrument, was momentarily distracted, causing a certain bearing component at the center of the instrument to break under the pressure.

Crack!

Accompanied by the crisp sound of breaking bones.

A Su clutched his chest in distress, as if the part that just broke was his own bone.

"Ah! Components under such great pressure definitely need to be made with metal!"

Reluctantly removing the Sun Stone from the instrument, A Su turned to glance at A Ke standing at the tomb chamber entrance.

"Dad!"

"Could you not barge in next time while I'm conducting an experiment?"

"I told you I installed a Bone Bell at the door, just one press and I'll know you're here."

Gazed calmly at the little rascal across from him.

A Ke hesitated a moment before eventually stepping forward and picking him up in one motion, completely ignoring his struggle.

"I remember telling you that I won't stop you from messing with these things, but you must attend class every day."

At these words, A Su, who was originally still struggling, immediately lowered his head sheepishly.

Guilty as charged, but A Su didn't forget to make a defensive remark.

"I've been learning for decades, I'm not like those fools, I've already learned what needs to be learned."

As A Su said, he was different from those ignorant, dull-witted ordinary Skeletons; he was born with advanced intelligence.

What ordinary Skeletons needed years to learn, A Su understood in a glance.

Even complex theories and knowledge from the Burrowing Insect Civilization, A Su mastered thoroughly in just a few years.

While ordinary Skeletons would take at least several decades, or even a hundred years, to achieve this level.

"Talent is not your reason for arrogance, nor is ability your excuse to look down on your kind."

Feeling weary again, A Ke sighed, missing A Ya's presence more than ever.

If A Ya were still around, would life be this exhausting?

"More than talent, learning and hard work are truly what you can take pride in for a lifetime."

"If all prophets looked down on their kind because of their talent and ability, do you think you would still be able to learn what you know now from them?"

Though it was an old commonplace remark, A Su seemed to realize something and suddenly looked up at A Ke with a bewildered expression.

"Dad? Are you leaving?"

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At the same time, in the Prophet Academy of Bright Pearl City.

Prophet Li, or rather Li, gazed out the window at the bone sculpture of A Ke, his expression tinged with sadness.

"Another acquaintance is leaving..."

"If I knew back then, I shouldn't have signed that 'undying, immortal pact' with you."

"This feeling of watching acquaintances one by one head toward death, yet being powerless yourself, is just too distressing."

Slowly stepping out of the shadows behind Li, Immortal Shuli nodded his head and murmured softly.

"It's no matter, anyway, I'm definitely going to outlive you, rest assured on that."

Shuli, as always, was frivolous, his replies filled with the peculiar style of an Immortal, yet Li laughed in relief.

"Right! No matter who goes first, you will leave later than me anyway."

"But with A Ke gone, it will be hard on A Su."

Li appreciated the intelligent A Su, irrelevant to whether he was born from A Ya's bones.

"The boy is fearless, yet naturally clever and rebellious."

Tilting his head slightly, Shuli didn't seem to mind.

After all, when it comes to rebellion, who could compare to the "defiance-inbred" Immortals?

"I find it quite interesting, and what it's currently researching is indeed very forward-thinking among the Skeletons."

"Unless one becomes a true Ascender, the strength of bones will always have limits."

"Given that, why insist on crafting various machines solely from bones?"

"Isn't using metals refined from ores, like the Burrowing Insects, better?"

Hearing this, Li retorted.

"Then wouldn't we Skeletons just become a second Burrowing Insect Civilization?"

"Moreover, struggling to create metal devices taken out the artificial way, isn't it more convenient to just grow them directly from Bone Beasts?"

There's no denying that the emergence of Burrowing Insects did promote the development of the Mountain and Sea Realm civilization to some extent.

But all the informed like Bone Chant are well aware that the Skeletons' development up to now has had its own advantages.

Simple copying and replication isn't the most fitting approach to Skeletons' developmental needs.

Adaptive modifications and breakthroughs are what the members of Zhiku who have been in White Bone City for years wish to pursue.

"I believe that perhaps the boy can really manage to integrate the technology of the Burrowing Insects into our civilization."

Facing Li's confident words, Shuli merely shrugged, indicating resignation.

Clearly, Li was the one who initially mentioned A Su, yet by the end, Shuli became the one under fire?

"Do you believe in him so much?"

Nodding with certainty, Li, although already retired, has decided not to let his "antiquated" thoughts interfere with the future development of the Skeleton race.

However, deep within some corner of his heart, Li still remembers the grandeur when he discussed with Gu Sheng and Xiong Pi about co-building a flourishing era.

"A Su has that potential, the only thing he lacks now is experience and lesson learned."

"If given the opportunity, sending him to White Bone City to learn from Bone Chant for a while might be a good choice."