

## **The Growth 185**

Chapter 185 17: Celestial Matrix Buddha (2/3)

[Buddha? Vajra?]

Having watched the entire battle between Quinn and those Vajras, Li Hao found himself at a loss for words to describe his current feelings.

Surprised, bewildered, dumbfounded, enlightened...

A mix of complex emotions swirled together, leaving Li Hao slightly dazed.

Li Hao indeed had contemplated what it would be like to encounter the Divine Pantheon from Earth's myths.

But he never imagined that the time would come so swiftly, or that the circumstances of their encounter would be so unique.

From a God's perspective, Li Hao had access to far more information through the Celestial Tao System than Quinn, so he understood much more clearly what was happening in this world.

The truth of this world... was far more brutal than Li Hao had imagined.

The faith in "Buddha" was not the initial belief of this world.

This world was once an exceedingly rare one, led by Innate Gods, where innate and acquired gods coexisted harmoniously.

Whether those Innate Gods born of nature or the acquired gods nurtured by civilization.

Over the course of several great wars, they essentially fostered a sense of mutual understanding.

Innate Gods resided in their own domains, developing new Civilization Divine Positions outside of their Natural Divine Positions.

Acquired gods nurtured their civilization, emphasizing harmony with nature beyond their Civilization Divine Positions.

If it weren't for the later emergence of "Buddha," this world might have become a model of harmony between Innate and acquired gods.

But the truth is, there are no "ifs" in this world.

Just as the Innate and acquired gods were gradually exploring a path of mutual prosperity, "Buddha" appeared.

At first, only a few believers began to embrace the faith in "Buddha."

Soon, large groups of believers began to change their faith.

By the time the gods of this world realized something was amiss, the faith in "Buddha" had already taken root.

What's peculiar is that the faith in "Buddha" did not specifically refer to a particular deity, but rather to a collective group.

All gods who joined this group shared the faith in "Buddha."

Therefore, even if the gods of this world wanted to find that so-called "Buddha," they wouldn't find a specific target.

Moreover, this "Buddha" spread like a virus among faiths, rapidly changing the beliefs of a large number of original followers.

The gods of this world were horrified to find their followers genuinely adopting those incomprehensible ideologies.

Because in the preachings of "Buddha," all beings are equal, including gods.

Their past fate, and future karma were already determined at the moment of their birth.

Only by embracing the ideas of "Buddha" and practicing the behaviors of "Buddha" could they escape the suffering of the past and present and ascend to bliss in the future.

In that blissful world, all beings would be incarnations of "Buddha," enjoying eternal happiness.

—Taking refuge in our Buddha, ascending to bliss!

Centered around this basic concept, "Buddha" evolved into the practice of the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path, giving the mundane beings a clear lifestyle and ultimate goal.

Frankly speaking, this world had also seen gods and beliefs from Exotic Realms.

However, those gods were just a group of foreigners, collecting faith through intimidation, appeasement, and miracles.

Only "Buddha" was different.

It placed gods and humans on the same level, leading its followers to believe they were incarnations of "Buddha," destined to return to the world of "Buddha."

The suffering and trials in the mortal world were merely necessary experiences for returning to "Buddha."

In fact, the more trials and suffering you endured in the mortal world, the higher your merit, and the earlier you would return to "Buddha."

Since that day, the civilization of this world began its decline from prosperity.

The exceedingly developed material civilization allowed the creatures of this world to pursue spiritual enjoyment without restraint.

The idea of "All beings suffer, only self-redemption exists" led them to gradually abandon their former gods and beliefs.

The most terrifying aspect was that, influenced by their followers, even this world's gods showed signs of being assimilated by "Buddha."

—All beings are Buddhas, gods are Buddhas as well.

By the time the Innate Gods, who did not rely much on faith, realized this, some of the acquired gods had already begun to identify themselves as "Buddha."

This was the truly terrifying part!

The initial target of "Buddha" was not the followers, but the gods those followers worshipped!

Under the influence of "Buddha," those former gods recited the Buddhist Scripture and sat on the Lotus Platform, appearing in this world in a completely new way.

Even at this time, the gods of this world still did not know who their enemy truly was.

The entity known as "Buddha" had not even appeared, yet it successfully divided the civilization of this world and seized control of it.

To combat that elusive yet omnipresent "Buddha," the remaining gods had to engage in a great battle.

It was an unprecedented internal conflict!

A war that ultimately turned this world into ruins!

Perhaps out of a love for this world, or perhaps out of hatred for "Buddha,"...

The most powerful Innate God, disregarding the risk of his own demise, descended in his true form to join the ultimate battle, attempting to force out the "Buddha" that remained hidden in the shadows.

Yet, "Buddha" did not appear, or rather, did not manifest in the usual way of gods.

Gathering the power of those assimilated gods, and the faith of the entire civilized world...

An immense, majestic "Buddha" emerged.

Born in a virtual world, it had the gift of manipulating information.

Every god assimilated by it was an incarnation of its being, and every follower who believed in "Buddha" was its strength.

It was a god, yet not a god.

For all gods were merely a part of it, its essence forged collectively by the civilization of this world into an "Enemy of God."

This "Enemy of God" initially was just a virtual world constructed by the civilization of this world.

All followers who believed in "Buddha," and all souls, could freely enter and exit that virtual world, swimming in a sea of data.

However, when the first assimilated god also entered this virtual world.

This virtual network world already surpassed the normal data scope, entering a higher dimension and level.

Not only the followers became a part of the virtual world.

Even those who transcended the dimension of life, the lofty gods, became part of this Data World.

In this regard, "Buddha" was indeed not lying.

At least in that virtual data world, the relationship between gods and humans reached an unprecedented level of equality.