

The Growth 274

Chapter 274 10: Skull Collector (1/3)

As a non-typical inhabitant, Xiao Gu actually doesn't have much to pack and prepare.

Just a simple check on the state of his flesh-and-blood prosthetics.

Xiao Gu followed Dororo out the door, enthusiastically greeting the skeletons he encountered along the way.

The skeletons of the City of Bewilderment fondly recall this little fellow who "picked" up a Wind God, without any sense of alienation.

"I haven't even left the city yet, but I already miss everyone."

Faced with Xiao Gu's sentimental expression, Dororo merely smiled subtly without saying much.

Because this is the City of Bewilderment, a city on the edge, not yet affected by the rapid-paced technological iterations and lifestyles of the Mountain and Sea Civilization.

"Me too, so let's complete the mission quickly this time!"

With a slight flap of his wings, Dororo's prosthetic eye implant began to retract and transform.

A device resembling mechanical structures for thermal imaging and life detection was autonomously generated inside the prosthetic eye, quickly marking navigation points and a Mountain and Sea map.

"Okay!"

Having left the city, Xiao Gu replied while standing by the roadside.

The next second, Xiao Gu's spine began to emit a strange glow, and his body structure started to twist and transform.

The small body rapidly expanded, and the structure began turning into snake-like bones...

In the blink of an eye, Xiao Gu, who could barely be considered humanoid, turned into a bone serpent—a long-limbed Ancient Serpent.

"Hmm, let's use this skull this time!"

Xiao Gu muttered softly while probing the spine with his arms as if searching for something.

Soon after, Xiao Gu pulled out a MinAseerpentg She skull from the spine, as if his spine concealed an other-dimensional space.

[Artifact: Immortal Remnant Bone]

[Type: Divinity]

[Quality: Legend]

[Function ①]As the remnant of a fallen high-dimensional creature, it possesses inherent high-dimensional attributes, capable of perceiving the essence of low-dimensional spaces.]

[Function ②]Due to a peculiar liking for collecting skulls, a spatial attribute has been developed, containing a small-scale low-dimensional space.]

...

Crunch!

When Xiao Gu used the MinAseerpentg She skull to replace his own head.

An aura of majesty from the top of the food chain instantly emanated, giving a sense of extraordinary pressure.

This means that now Xiao Gu not only outwardly transformed into the bones of MinAseerpentg She, but also perfectly inherited the abilities of MinAseerpentg She.

"No matter how many times I see it, I think your ability is too monstrous."

Hovering over Xiao Gu, Dororo marveled once more after witnessing this scene.

This is Xiao Gu's Ascension Ladder.

By replacing the skull with that of the corresponding creature, Xiao Gu can utilize some of the powers of the skull.

Combined with Xiao Gu's inherent ability to reshape bones, he can even mimic a skeleton version of the corresponding creature.

"Haven't used this skull for a long time, getting a bit unaccustomed."

Without responding to Dororo, Xiao Gu calmly tucked his skull back into the Immortal Remnant Bone, as his two arms transformed smoothly into a pair of bone wings.

Among the collection of skulls that Xiao Gu hoards, MinAseerpentg She is one he doesn't often use.

However, if rushing is required, the flying ability of MinAseerpentg She is indeed a great form to have.

Buzz...

As Xiao Gu coiled his snake body, high-density carbon fibers rapidly surged from the spine, forming muscle structure that completely covered the body.

In an instant, a fully fleshed-out MinAseerpentg She was formed.

—Flesh and Blood Armor: Ming Snake Form!

.....

Whoosh!

MinAseerpentg She is inherently the dominator of the sky, and with the added power of the Wind God.

Xiao Gu transformed into MinAseerpentg She, piercing through the clouds like lightning, soaring towards the Divine Concealment Land under the guidance of the Day of Sin.

"Your speed has improved again?"

Originally flying alongside MinAseerpentg She, Dororo decisively landed on its head upon realizing this.

For Dororo, hitching a ride is never a big deal.

"Really? I didn't notice."

Eternally naïve and cute, even transformed into MinAseerpentg She doesn't affect Xiao Gu's usual demeanor.

"Now that you mention it, it seems the Immortal Remnant Bone has been acting a bit differently recently."

The Immortal Remnant Bone is not Xiao Gu's Central Bone.

Because Xiao Gu is a fourth-generation skeleton, a newly born individual from the Bone Forest.

For artificial life forms like Xiao Gu, the Central Bone is fixed and is the hardest bone of all to destroy.

Until Xiao Gu, on an outing, saved Dororo's life who was on the brink of death.

To repay the kindness, Dororo guided Xiao Gu in excavating the Immortal Remnant Bone from an Ancient Dragon Ruins.

After replacing the spine with the Immortal Remains, Xiao Gu officially embarked on a unique Ascension Ladder.

Each time an artifact is stored in the Immortal Remnant Bone, Xiao Gu's abilities improve a bit.

Especially after Xiao Gu became the Hero Slayer, who knows how many skulls of various types he stored in the Game Realm.

Others participate in True Game to acquire real-life artifacts to bring back to their world.

But Xiao Gu's purpose in participating in True Game is merely to collect the skulls of different creatures.

"You didn't sneak into the Game Realm again, did you?"

Knowing Xiao Gu's character well, Dororo immediately reacted, only to receive Xiao Gu's silent response.

"How many players did you hunt this time?"

"No wonder the Prophet assigned us both to this mission, it's just to give you something to do?"

Startled and wide-eyed, Dororo was fuming, wanting to scratch Xiao Gu with his claws.

Since this world operates on a "game mode," the Game Realm naturally has appropriate operational rules.

Situations like NPCs mass-hunting players, in any game, are considered malicious bugs.

The Game Realm, operated by the Mountain and Sea People, is no exception.

Dororo could almost picture how the members of the planning department responsible for running the Game Realm must have headaches.

If not for the Immortal's clear rule that no one can revoke the Mountain and Sea People's right to use brain-computers, Xiao Gu, a repeatedly incorrigible guy, would likely have been banned from entering the Game Realm long ago.