

The Growth 28

Chapter 28 - 5: The Game of the Gods

"Civilization Game?"

Upon hearing Li Hao's question, Hua She visibly paused in surprise.

But immediately after, she realized why Li Hao would ask such a question.

"Did you take the 'Invitation' from Meng Yao?"

With a knowing raise of her eyebrows, Li Hao understood that the reason Hua She was targeting Meng Yao was not merely due to her Ancient God lineage.

"So you do know of this thing's existence."

"What exactly is this so-called 'Civilization Game'?"

At these words, Hua She hesitated for a moment before honestly explaining what she knew about the situation.

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In All Heavens and Myriad Realms, gods are not independent existences.

Aside from a few Lost Gods who chose to abandon their followers or were deserted by their believers, most gods belong to those True Gods with a fixed territory and civilization.

When gods ascend and evolve from their own race and civilization, the civilization that originally nurtured them naturally becomes the foundation of the god.

Powerful gods might consider making the entire race or civilization ascend, forming a vast Divine Race and Divine Pantheon.

For example, the now widespread tribe of the True Dragon, which represents one of the most successful cases of collective ascent.

As long as one has the bloodline of the True Dragon Tribe, even the weakest individual possesses near-demigod power.

The outstanding members of the True Dragon Tribe eventually choose to ascend to become gods, a natural progression.

Today, throughout All Heavens and Myriad Realms, many existences even prefer to ascend to godhood under the name of the True Dragon.

Many of those oddly-shaped Dragon Gods came into being this way.

Thus, a problem arises.

What about those True Gods who are one level weaker and unable to make their race collectively ascend?

The more benevolent ones might wait for their civilization to naturally vanish, then personally lead and evolve their imagined "perfect clan."

The more ruthless ones might directly unleash a world-ending calamity, forcing species evolution to start anew.

These are the original gods, True Gods of chaotic good and evil — they live only for their desires, recklessly inciting conflict and destruction.

Yet, just like civilization moves from barbarism to order.

Besides those Innate Gods and Natural Gods born without a sense of belonging.

Every acquired god born from civilizations ponders how to break this deadlock, allowing a relatively stable order in All Heavens and Myriad Realms.

Thus, the first "Celestial Father" was born in such circumstances.

Generally, whether Innate God or acquired god, there are no clear hierarchical distinctions.

The authority they hold, the responsibilities they carry, the powerful strength...

These can be simply categorized into Divine Format, Divine Position, and Divine Power, a manner of identifying gods.

After all, in All Heavens and Myriad Realms, there are far too many gods with similar abilities and responsibilities.

God of Darkness, God of Death, Sun God, Moon God...

In different Divine Pantheons, these gods differ in power and responsibilities.

The strength or weakness of gods compared across different Divine Pantheons typically requires a real fight to determine.

The only clear thing is that every Divine Pantheon has a strongest one.

They might be called Divine King, might be known as Father God, might be known as God, might be called God of Gods...

No matter what they are called, they are exalted above common gods, the ultimate power of All Heavens and Myriad Realms.

In the most chaotic periods of All Heavens and Myriad Realms, countless Divine Pantheons waged chaotic wars; countless gods fell, and innumerable civilizations perished.

That was an unprecedented Twilight of the Gods, which indirectly led to the birth of the first "Celestial Father" in All Heavens and Myriad Realms.

For at the most critical moment in this unprecedented Twilight of the Gods, Celestial Father-Haojun emerged, turning the tide, and finally quelled the war.

Since then, "Celestial Father" has become the exclusive title for the strongest Divine King of an era.

The order of All Heavens and Myriad Realms, too, has gradually taken its current shape under the forceful enforcement of these outstanding "Celestial Fathers."

"The Civilization Game is a rule established and pushed by the Ninth Celestial Father Hathor."

Hathor is different from the other twelve Celestial Fathers.

The civilization that nurtured him is an ancient one that greatly revered peace and order.

According to ancient legend, the civilization of the Ninth Celestial Father Hathor had never experienced any war, a purely order-constructed Divine level Civilization.

Though this sounds unbelievable.

Yet Hathor, born of this civilization, was initially completely unable to comprehend the existence of a "War God" upon entering All Heavens and Myriad Realms.

Thus, when Hathor ascended to the position of "Celestial Father" by his absolute power of order, he enacted a new rule that no one before had imagined — the Civilization Game!

In Hathor's view, every civilization, every race has its value of existence.

The reason many gods looked down on their own civilizations was purely due to a poor fit between them and those civilizations.

This is akin to the God of Death disliking lively and cheerful fairies, or the Sun God disdaining souls hiding in the dark.

The existence of civilizations itself is not a mistake; what is wrong is that they appear in worlds where they do not belong.

The Civilization Game is a rule allowing the adaptation and selection of gods and civilizations.

Every god who receives a "Civilization Game Invitation" can place their respective race on the "Balance of Truth" for weighing, and then use it to exchange needed races with other gods.

— Let gods return to gods, humans return to humans.

— Everything cycles, gods and humans make choices.

— Adapt to the position, operate naturally, and that is the truth!

As Hua She spoke with near-reverent tones, Li Hao couldn't help but flip the golden card in his hand.

For on the back of this golden card, these three sentences were clearly engraved.

"These are the maxims of Celestial Father Hathor, as well as the goal he has been striving for and pursuing."

Blinking in surprise, this was the first time Li Hao had seen Hua She express such admiration for another god besides the Winged Serpent God.

This distinctly different statement almost made Li Hao forget Hua She's inherent slyness and cunning.

"To set such a grand goal for oneself, it seems this 'Celestial Father' is indeed remarkable and bold."

Upon seeing Li Hao's stance, Hua She, uncharacteristically, retorted.

"It's not that Celestial Father Hathor is great, but that every entity able to become a 'Celestial Father' is great!"