

The Growth 296

Chapter 296 11: A New Path for the Mountain and Sea Civilization (2/3)

Pandora World, deep within a certain underground cave.

This is where the Pawas gather, and it's the last bit of green in this world.

At the center of this underground cave, an emerald energy crystal radiates a gentle glow, worshiped as if it were some kind of totem.

Within the range of this glow, the petrification caused by the stone virus is warded off.

The surviving Pawas rely on this scant glow, coupled with artificially generated sunlight, to plant the last green plants in this small cave.

"Are these the last members of your race?"

Running in the form of a Mechanical Nine-tailed Fox, Wuhua could not conceal her astonishment upon seeing this cave.

Before coming to Pandora World, Wuhua had repeatedly overestimated the survival difficulty of the Pawas, yet she still underestimated the lasting impact of the Godslayer Civilization.

Without needing an exact count, just by scanning the area of this underground space, Wuhua could ascertain that there would be no more than a thousand Pawas able to survive here.

This means that the entire Pandora World might only have a few hundred of these natives left.

"Yes, you could say that."

Following alongside a group of Pawas near the Steel Worm, the leader, Quechua, spoke calmly.

"When the Godslayer Civilization invaded this world, our Gods took a group of elites and left this world."

"When we chose to fight back against the Godslayer, over ninety percent of the Pawas across the world were wiped out."

"When the stone virus spread, a significant portion of Pawas chose to voluntarily accept the infection just to survive."

Even while recounting the past hardships of his race, Quechua's tone was as composed as if he were recounting the history of another race.

"If Ashoron had not insisted on seeking external help, bringing a glimmer of hope, you might have seen even fewer Pawas this time."

Upon hearing this, even Chidan couldn't help but glance sideways.

"Haven't you considered leaving this world altogether?"

Chidan's voice was deep and resonant, echoing the question Wuhua and A Meng wanted to ask.

Given that there are so few people and a technology to leave this world had been developed, why not simply take the remaining members and leave this world together?

"Of course, we thought about it."

Quechua continued his unique Pawa way of moving forward while not ignoring Chidan's question.

"But if we leave this world, where can we go?"

"The Divine Fall Realm that Ashoron described is also a world full of war and chaos."

"Let's not even discuss if we could take root and survive in that world..."

"Do you think we, with our small numbers, are qualified to remain in a world full of Demigods?"

These words immediately made Chidan and the others realize their oversight.

Perhaps the Pawas did develop ships that could navigate the void, but in the end, only Ashoron's ship managed to return to this world.

This means the Pawas didn't have any alternatives.

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Three days later, in the remaining Pawa settlement.

After deeper interactions, Wuhua and her Arms Dealer trio realized that the survival conditions of these Pandora World natives were far worse than they'd imagined.

Even in this base under the shroud of emerald energy crystals, infected by the stone virus continue to appear occasionally.

At these times, the special vines planted in their territory move like living creatures, tightly binding those infected individuals.

This is a specialty of Pandora World and one of the reasons Wuhua was willing to trade with the Pawas.

"Weaponized plants... or more precisely, the possibility of 'plant vitalization.'"

Watching the vitalized plants capable of automatic targeting and attack, Wuhua's eyes flashed with contemplation.

Ascenders in the Mountain and Sea Realm generally possess the ability to exorcise and control spirits.

The Nine-tailed Fox Race to which Wuhua belongs is particularly outstanding, almost pioneers in this path.

However, much like how the Skeletons popularized Implant Technology at a common biological level,

in the Mountain and Sea People, the Nine-tailed Fox Race has always been committed to extending "Exorcism and Demon Control" abilities to individuals below Ascenders.

There's no need to practice the true Exorcism and Spirit-Controlling Techniques, nor is there a need to ascend the Ascension Ladder.

The Wise Men and Prophets of the Nine-tailed Fox Race hope to develop a technology akin to "implants", allowing ordinary Mountain and Sea People to enjoy the conveniences of Ascenders.

However, any Heaven and Earth Ghost awakened by the Exorcism and Demon Control Technique only obeys its summoner.

Even if the summoner temporarily transfers control of the Heaven and Earth Ghost, ordinary Mountain and Sea People cannot truly command them at will.

In this context, a Prophet of the Nine-tailed Fox Race proposed a possibility.

Could we temporarily abandon those ambitious ideas and let tangible things bear the power of Heaven and Earth Ghosts?

In doing so, while not giving ordinary Mountain and Sea People the same capabilities as Ascenders, it would still be a shortcut to popularization.

Plant vitalization came from this line of thought.

Plants inherently possess abundant life force.

They simply do not develop consciousness or move freely like normal animals.

If plants were to bear the power of Heaven and Earth Ghosts, could they transcend their original limits and become a kind of living entity like ghosts?

The most critical point is that doing so would drastically lower the difficulty threshold for exorcism and control.

Theoretically, as long as the holder has a plant bearing the power of Ghosts, they could summon them at will.

"Have new thoughts?"

Opening his eyes gently, Chidan's gaze settled on Wuhua.

As Wuhua's partner, Chidan was naturally aware of Wuhua's, or rather the persistence of the Nine-tailed Fox Race.

"I can only say I've seen a new possibility..."

Spreading out her palm, Wuhua revealed an emerald seed.

As Wuhua tossed the seed to the ground, it began to root and sprout at a visible rate.

Whizzing sounds...

Soon, a pea plant with two big watery eyes fully grew.

It possessed the essence of a plant and the form of a living thing, along with some twisted rule-bending ghost powers, allowing it to survive in any world and environment.

Puff! Puff! Puff!

Under Chidan's astonished gaze, the pea plant continued spitting out hard seeds like a shooter, striking against a distant earthen wall.

"I call it Peashooter."

"Although its destructive power isn't yet on par with bone-spun revolving spears, it certainly counts as a kind of Heaven and Earth Ghost."

"More importantly, as long as seeds can be vitalized, even ordinary Mountain and Sea People can control them."

"This is a path to popularizing the 'Exorcism and Demon Control Skill,' and also a development direction for the future of Mountain and Sea Civilization."