The Growth 349

Chapter 349 - 19: Tree of Life Canopy

At the crown of the Tree of Life.

Amid an unusual distortion of time and space, a massive Demon Dragon suddenly appeared here.

"Ang!"

With a sudden roar to the sky, the Demon Dragon’s voice was full of complex emotions.

For Xiaohai, who had just awakened, the visions in the passageway were overwhelmingly striking.

Not only Xiaohai, but even Meng Ji was deeply stirred after seeing those scenes, unable to return to his senses for a long time.

[Does this world... really still have any reason to be saved?]

As the True God who refused to abandon this world until the final moment, the kindness and compassion of the "Master of Cui Lu" were evident to all.

Even after their death, they turned into the "Spirit of Nature" to seek help from beyond this world.

Yet this extremely kind God was devoured by the followers they had always sheltered.

The ending couldn’t be more tragic, more pitiable.

Moreover, those Demigods, to continue living, did much more than just this.

Sacrificing life, stirring up conflicts, plundering faith, waging wars...

Almost every vile deed one could imagine, these Demigods have done.

Even protecting the Tree of Life was not merely for the world to continue.

The Fruit of Life swallowed by Owo was likewise once an object of their desire.

However, the advent of Meng Ji shattered their plan, leading Owo to ultimately consume the Fruit of Life.

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The crown of the Tree of Life was far larger than Meng Ji had imagined.

At the height closest to the sun, the crown of the Tree of Life resembled a floating continent, supporting a complex and distorted ecosystem.

Here, Meng Ji saw twisted creatures far beyond previous imagination.

Similarly, Meng Ji also saw those dark creatures that had evolved to their ultimate form.

In this complex ecosystem, predation of twisted creatures by dark life forms occurred far more frequently than elsewhere.

Predation events happened almost every moment here.

Like natural enemies, the dark creatures purged this twisted ecosystem by continuously hunting twisted beings.

Some powerful dark creatures, seemingly having broken through certain limits, continually advanced toward the core of the Tree of Life.

Like pilgrims, those terrifying dark creatures displayed a devotion unlike any time before.

"Xiaohai?"

Unable to resist, Meng Ji glanced down at Xiaohai beneath his feet.

As expected, he noticed the same bewildered and at a loss expression on Xiaohai.

The body’s instinct urged Xiaohai to continue the pilgrimage to the core of the Tree of Life.

But the newly awakened wisdom made Xiaohai resistant to this instinct.

Xiaohai’s intuition told it that continuing forward would lead to its death.

Yet some subconscious force, overriding intuition, told Xiaohai that this was its original purpose and there was no need to resist so.

"Ang?"

In this confusing state of mind, Xiaohai’s roar had lost much of its aggression.

It was evident that Xiaohai was seeking Meng Ji’s opinion.

Having been saved from death and granted wisdom by this being, Xiaohai held an innate trust and reliance on Meng Ji.

"Since you wish to know your origins, then go forward!"

Clearly understanding Xiaohai’s roar, Meng Ji smiled and comforted him.

"No matter if what Cui Weng said is true or false, you have the right to know the truth."

Thus, Meng Ji and Xiaohai ignored the dark lives and distorted creatures and headed straight for the core of the world tree crown in the time that followed.

During this process, Meng Ji also keenly noticed some of Xiaohai’s peculiarities.

Wherever it passed, the dark lives withdrew and submitted, as if witnessing a king.

As for those twisted creatures?

No matter their strength, they instinctively prostrated, as if facing a predator at the top of the food chain.

[Is it due to evolutionary form? Or Xiaohai’s current symmetrical structure?]

Meng Ji, vaguely aware of something, pondered as they soon reached the first place that made Xiaohai pause.

It was a vast, abyss-like dark cave.

Deep within the cave stood a super-sized dark creature, already lifeless.

Though its form remained twisted and its visage still grotesque...

Both Meng Ji and Xiaohai could discern its uniqueness from ordinary dark lives.

Of course, more than these external factors, the most striking was the state of the dark creature’s death.

It seemed as though some unknown entity had hollowed out its innards.

The only thing left at this site was the husk of a dark life.

With the body splitting open centrally, the dark life left as only a shell appeared extraordinarily serene, showing no signs of pain or struggle.

"It sacrificed itself voluntarily."

Quietly murmuring, this was the only message Meng Ji could glean from this husk.

For a dark creature at the pinnacle of the food chain, not even the descent of a True God could make it die in such calm and peace.

Only self-sacrifice could explain this eerie state of death of the dark life.

"Let’s go! We continue onward!"

Slowly bowing its head, after paying respect to its predecessor, Xiaohai proceeded further into the core of the Tree of Life.

Then, Meng Ji and Xiaohai witnessed more unfathomable scenes.

Because shortly after they continued, they encountered a second dark life with its innards similarly hollowed.

Like the first self-sacrificing dark creature.

Although this dark life appeared more complete in form and appearance than the previous one, its manner of death was identical to its predecessor.

Equally serene, equally peaceful, and with the same eerie state of death...

Then came the third, the fourth...

After encountering five entirely hollowed-out biological remains, Meng Ji and Xiaohai finally saw a different super-sized dark creature.

This one was different because it was still alive.

"..."

Silently raising its head, the entirely black Ancient Demon gazed at the distant Xiaohai.

Due to an immense size disparity, the once large Xiaohai appeared minute, more like a toy in its presence.

Simply standing there motionless, it more resembled a mountain than Gor, exuding an especially oppressive and majestic presence.