

The Growth 356

Chapter 356 2: Yu Yuan

In the Land of the Far West in the Mountain and Sea Realm, lies Yuyuan, the legendary resting place of the sun.

This is the gorge opposing the Tang Valley in the Far East, and also the place closest to the Netherworld in the eyes of countless Mountain and Sea People.

In the mythology of the Mountain and Sea Realm, the Winged Serpent God rides the sun from Tang Valley, finally descending into Yuyuan, completing a full solar cycle.

Yet in the Mountain and Sea Realm, where the Gods truly exist, myths often mean truth.

At the very least, Kuilong's experiences recently have told him that Yuyuan is indeed the place where the sun descends.

"Is this Yuyuan?"

Riding aboard the latest exploration ship capable of ocean, land, and air travel.

Kuilong could clearly see the place currently at dusk through external drone reconnaissance.

This is the uninhabited sea at the edge of the West Sea, also the farthest western area the Mountain and Sea People can currently explore.

Following a round of exploration by the Pioneers, as the second team to reach here—headlined by Kuilong, the Seekers are collecting ecological and biological data for this region.

"Captain, should we continue ahead?"

The petite Ear Mouse glanced back at Kuilong, then tentatively asked.

As the team's observer, Ear Mouse's instincts are always the sharpest.

Although internally among the Mountain and Sea People, some have started studying the Ear Mouse's keen instincts.

But as of now, there are no specific results that could replace Ear Mouse's status in Pioneer or Seeker teams.

"No need, advancing further is the Pioneers' task..."

"And our current mission is to study the ecosystem in this area."

Though equally curious if the end of Yuyuan connects to the Netherworld.

But as the leader of the entire team, Kuilong remained rational at this moment.

"The ecosystem of this area has been added to the database, undergoing more detailed analysis and comparison."

At this moment, an individual, clearly different from regular Burrowing Insects, crawled into the control room.

Generally speaking, Burrowing Insects are a weak species; every Burrowing Insect must transplant various mechanical parts and biological implants to survive in the Mountain and Sea Realm.

But presently, this Burrowing Insect retained its native form, its bulging body full of muscular textures.

Most critically, this Burrowing Insect is implanted with a device that only Mountain and Sea Realm members have the privilege to possess, making it a true Mountain and Sea Person.

Indeed, this Burrowing Insect is the first generation born in the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Through countless generations of optimization and selection, some Burrowing Insects chose to believe in the Creator, finally birthing the first generation capable of adapting to the Mountain and Sea Realm environment.

They possess longevity akin to the Mountain and Sea People and have souls far stronger than ordinary creatures.

Especially regarding brain development, the new-generation Burrowing Insects surpassed any species among the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas.

Therefore, most of the time, these new-generation Burrowing Insects serve as strategists within the Mountain and Sea Civilization.

"Any noticeable ecological anomalies?"

Kuilong wasn't concerned with normal ecosystems but more focused on epic creatures of unique species—they were the true observation targets of this journey.

"Not detected yet, but we've scanned unusual life ripples below the isle ahead."

Quickly projecting the captured life ripples onto the big screen, hint of surprise showed on the Burrowing Insect's face.

"Judging by the intensity, those life ripples are highly likely to be epic level creatures."

"However, there's an excessive number of these life ripples, reaching the minimum threshold for reproduction."

Immediately understanding the meaning in the Burrowing Insect's words, surprise appeared on Kuilong's face as well.

The biggest feature of epic creatures is a unique species, nurtured by the Mountain and Sea Realm's special environment and ecosystem.

"An entire species of epic creatures? How could it be?"

Regardless of Kuilong's disbelief, the life ripples on the big screen weren't deceiving.

They were data detected by the most advanced drones, far more reliable than pure manual observation data.

"If all that data is true, we might become the first Seeker team to discover a 'species of epic creatures'."

This statement came from the newly arrived Six-tailed Fox.

Her expression was also filled with excitement, and her words were thick with curiosity.

Though silent, the Skeletons following closely behind Six-tailed Fox already showed a readiness that expressed its stance.

"Don't even think about it, we aren't Pioneers. I absolutely won't allow you to head to that island."

Before Six-tailed Fox and Skeletons could even speak, Kuilong directly vetoed their upcoming proposal.

"Don't you want to obtain firsthand data on those creatures?"

Even though well aware of Kuilong's character.

Still, upon hearing such words from him, Six-tailed Fox asked in slight frustration.

"Those are completely unknown epic creatures living in a 'species' manner; their appearance might rewrite the biological history of the whole Mountain and Sea Realm."

Calmly crossing his arms, Kuilong expressionlessly fired back.

"Do you know the first taboo for Seekers?"

"That is to never expose oneself to any unknown dangerous ecosystem."

With these words, the scene instantly fell into silence.

It was only then that Six-tailed Fox suddenly realized that Kuilong's foster father had perished in an unknown ecological exploration incident.

Thus, what might be merely a simple rule to most Seekers was a lifelong painful memory for him.

"We understand."

After a brief silence, the Skeleton behind Six-tailed Fox spoke.

"But the issue now is that below our ship, there seems to be ripples of unknown life."

As though confirming his words, Skeleton suddenly approached the console, swiftly accessing the usage rights of a drone.

The detection of that drone showed a huge shadow surfacing from the seafloor.

"Activate the flight program!"

Without the slightest hesitation, Kuilong immediately issued the command.

The ecological investigation ship instantaneously switched to aerial mode, slowly rising into high altitude, leaving only the drone monitoring that vast shadow.

"Is that a snake?"

Ear Mouse widened her eyes in amazement.

The enormous shadow emerging from the seafloor clearly presented the form of a long snake.

Or more precisely, it was a snake-like overlord lurking in the ocean depths, long with four sharp claws!