

The Growth 384

Chapter 384 - 6: The First God of Wealth

Ancient China, Ancient Rome, Ancient Greece, Ancient Egypt, Ancient India, Ancient Maya, Ancient Islam...

In this exhibit hall filled with the corpses of gods, Li Hao even noticed certain beings that clearly belonged to African, American, and even Oceanian mythologies that had long since lost their recorded texts.

To be honest, the shock of seeing all these divine bodies in one place is far beyond what any words or language could describe.

The only thing that left Li Hao a bit disappointed was that these divine forms were nothing more than mere bodies.

Unlike the "Divine Format" of the God of Wealth that transformed into this pawnshop.

The divine bodies displayed in the third exhibition hall had long since fallen in dimension, losing all their high-dimensional attributes.

For humanity, these divine bodies might hold significant research value.

But in the eyes of a True God like Li Hao, these divine forms are not even worth mentioning, let alone valuable.

Let alone any further research into the divine format and divinity.

Just replicating the abilities these gods had while alive is destined to be a task where the investment outweighs the returns.

The gods' fear of the [Fallen Area] is significantly due to witnessing these terrifying rules that completely erase a god's uniqueness.

In the [Fallen Area], gods are destined to fall in dimension, destined to become the mortals they once scorned.

"This is the true 'Returning Ruins'!"

Softly exclaiming, Li Hao then focused his gaze on a particular spot in the third exhibition hall.

"You've lingered for so long, collected so many divine corpses..."

"Was it all just for me to witness your collection?"

As Li Hao's words fell, a twisted humanoid form appeared out of thin air.

The twisted humanoid was indistinct in appearance, vaguely suggesting it should originally be a human.

"Are you the owner of this pawnshop? Or the pawnshop itself?"

When Li Hao asked this question, the twisted humanoid clearly paused for a moment.

"Aren't you afraid of me?"

Hearing the twisted humanoid ask this, it was now Li Hao's turn to be taken aback.

He first pointed to himself, now transformed into a Dragon Head, then slowly began to speak.

"Look at me, I think you're the one who should be afraid, right?"

With a hint of dawning realization, the voice of the twisted humanoid carried a bit of laughter.

"So that's it! You are actually a living god."

When it reached this point, the voice of the twisted humanoid paused briefly.

"After persevering for five thousand years, I have finally met a living god!"

Tilting his head slightly, hearing the malice in the twisted humanoid's words, Li Hao sneered.

Through this brief interaction and exchange, Li Hao had already formed his judgment.

This twisted humanoid in front of him is most likely the pawnshop itself.

It is a will born from the "Divine Format" of the fallen God of Wealth.

As for the successive owners of the pawnshop?

The moment they walked out of this pawnshop, they probably were no longer themselves.

"A living god?"

"Seems to be nothing more than an arrogant frog in a well."

"If you truly understood what a 'living' god actually signifies, you probably wouldn't dare to appear before me."

Li Hao wasn't surprised at the arrogance of the twisted humanoid.

Because if it truly was a will spawned from the Divine Format of the God of Wealth,

Then from the moment of its birth, it was restricted by the various rules of the [Fallen Area], never realizing just how terrifying the complete power of a True God is.

And collecting those fallen True Gods' remnants on earth only served to bolster its confidence.

Perhaps it never realized that a True God able to move freely in the [Fallen Area] is not something it can challenge.

"What do you mean by that?"

Even though it had never seen the power of a True God,

The twisted humanoid could still discern the danger in Li Hao's words.

Vaguely, it seemed to realize it had kicked a hard board, yet unwillingly questioned further.

"What I mean is, you've chosen the wrong target to provoke."

With a light snap of his fingers, without even making a move, the [Prank Doorbell] behind Li Hao once again emitted a beam of light.

Seeing this scene, the twisted humanoid couldn't afford to hesitate any longer, and immediately moved to block this attack from the [Prank Doorbell].

The outcome was nothing it could have imagined, as its body began to melt away like snow under the blazing sun, rapidly disappearing before the naked eye.

"Ah!"

Unable to suppress a scream, the twisted humanoid's body became substantial at this moment.

Just like the constantly changing appearance of the pawnshop itself,

The exterior of the twisted humanoid rapidly shifted among various human forms.

These human forms were of different genders, from modern to ancient times, civilized and wild.

The one unchanged fact was that, in their respective eras, they were symbols of wealth and money, the undisputed richest of their times.

Simultaneously, they were also the successive owners of the pawnshop, incarnations of the twisted humanoid across different human ages.

By the end of the transformations, the twisted humanoid finally reverted to its original form.

Or more precisely, it was the first ancient human to enter the pawnshop and trade with the twisted humanoid.

His name was... Wang Hai!

He was the first true God of Wealth on the Huaxia Land, still worshiped as the "Pioneer of Chinese Business."

In his time, he was the seventh ruler of the Shang Kingdom during the Xia Dynasty, the sixth-generation descendant of the Shang dynasty's ancestor.

During the nascent period of Huaxia Civilization, Wang Hai domesticated oxen and horses, developed production, and spurred rapid agricultural prosperity.

Then, Wang Hai used ox-carts to transport goods for trade with external tribes and clans, prompting his Shang Kingdom to enter a stage of rapid development ahead of time.

Until the chief Mian Chen of the Youyi Clan, driven by greed, killed Wang Hai.

It was then that the faith in the first commercial god in Huaxia mythology—the God of Wealth Zhongbin—was born on this land.

Of course, this is the historical perspective of events.

From another viewpoint, Wang Hai's rise and fall are closely tied to this shop.

As the initial owner of the pawnshop, the humanoid—Wang Hai—set the early rules of the shop for the human world.

—Exchange anything you consider valuable.

—The soul is humanity's most crucial bargaining chip, also the most valuable commodity.

—Only the corpses of gods can be exchanged without any cost.

By establishing these three fundamental rules, Wang Hai successfully limited the expansion of the pawnshop, while also carving out a slim chance of survival for future generations.

Anyone who transacts with the pawnshop might become its owner,

And only by treating the pawnshop itself as an item for trade, becoming its owner, could successors escape the "tyrant clause" of the shop.