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Chapter 391 - 13: Innocent Heart

"No, it’s none of those."

"The reason why the Mountain and Sea People rarely produce ’Enlightened Ones’ now..."

"On one hand, it’s because you have plenty of ’Ascension Ladders’ to choose from, your ancestors have already paved countless paths to divinity for you."

"On the other hand, it’s because material desires in modern society are so developed, it’s rare for anyone to calm their mind and focus solely on one thing."

Watching Tang He, who looked thoughtful, Duo Mu continued to add.

"Of course, I’m only talking about ordinary Mountain and Sea People."

"Those modern Mountain and Sea People who are persistent and have their own ideas are still trying to carve out a path that belongs only to them. Their numbers will only be more and not fewer compared to ancient times."

Duo Mu was stating a fact, the population base of today’s Mountain and Sea Civilization is far too large compared to ancient times.

Even if only one-tenth of the population is still researching how to break through their own and their race’s limits, their numbers far exceed those of the ancient Mountain and Sea Civilization.

To be honest, at this stage of development of the Mountain and Sea Civilization, it has long surpassed the point where one or two geniuses can continue to lead the civilization forward.

Collective effort, the cooperation of those Mountain and Sea People at the top pushing civilization forward together, is the normal development trend of civilization.

"Compared to intelligence and talent, what is more important for an Enlightened One is an innocent heart."

Gazing deeply at A Lang, who was still swinging his sword tirelessly, Duo Mu finally revealed the greatest virtue of the other person.

"Not arrogant, not self-important, not pleased by external gains, not saddened by personal loss."

"Able to face any situation with a calm heart, unaffected by external evaluations in making his own decisions."

"A Lang's 'Innocent Heart' is his greatest reliance in walking the path of an Enlightened One!"

In some sense, this was already the highest evaluation that Duo Mu, as an Immortal, could give to A Lang.

"Innocent heart... is it?"

After hearing all that Duo Mu had to say, Tang He, refocusing on A Lang, appeared much more relieved.

For this child whom he had watched grow up, Tang He had invested emotions in him that were not much less than those of A He and A Mu, his parents.

This was not an exception for Tang He but was a common trait among most of the Skeletons.

For Skeletons, who exist as individual basic entities without parental blood relations, the emotions they invest in their kind far exceed those of other members of the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas.

"If only he could really open the 'Ascension Ladder'!"

.....

Meanwhile, in a community specially prepared by the Mountain and Sea People for A He and A Mu.

This couple from another world was lying weakly on their own bed, surrounded by Mountain and Sea People from different races.

These Mountain and Sea People came from different cities, different regions.

Their sole purpose in gathering here was to solve the aging problem of the couple, A He and A Mu.

As Ascenders from an Exotic Realm, their abnormal aging is not only due to the time-space vortex-induced sensory anomaly but also due to a deeper reason.

"It’s a curse, there are trace marks of a curse on them."

After carefully observing the surrounding body data, a Feishu, who had half of its head modified into a mechanical structure, spoke.

If you look closely, you’ll notice that one of Feishu’s eyes has also undergone extensive prosthetic modification.

By connecting to the [Mountain and Sea Network], Feishu’s prosthetic eye can directly acquire relevant data for modeling and comparison to identify various abnormalities in biological entities.

"A curse?"

Upon hearing Feishu’s diagnosis, an elder who looks almost identical to a human but is smaller in size than Feishu could not help but frown.

He is also a member of the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas—a Myconid.

Myconids are distinct from other members of the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas.

They are not truly a race in the traditional sense but a vast type of lifeform.

Any individual derived from fungi or herbal plants belongs to the Myconid lineage.

However, in most cases, these special lifeforms must evolve into animal forms to truly possess the ability to act.

Especially after the widespread adoption of [Plant Vitalization] technology, such special lifeforms have frequently emerged in various corners of the Mountain and Sea Realm.

For example, this elder before us.

The roots covering his body clearly indicate that he evolved from herbs like ginseng.

For such Myconids, they naturally become precious medicinal materials.

The elder faced more than one life-threatening crisis during his stage as a Ginseng Doll.

Fortunately, the protection measures for intelligent individuals in the Mountain and Sea Civilization were already quite complete, providing timely assistance to the elder every time.

This allowed a Ginseng Doll, extremely precious and rare in other worlds, to live safely to the elder’s current age.

"Exactly, it’s a curse."

Feishu nodded affirmatively to the elder’s doubt, then turned his gaze to Taihang not far away.

Like the elder, Taihang is a long-lived entity and is also a key figure in extending A He and A Mu’s lifespan.

Feishu believes that Taihang, compared to the naive elder, must have realized something earlier, which is why he brought them here.

"It’s a god’s curse."

Taking a deep breath, Taihang revealed the truth as expected.

"I originally thought they simply exhausted their lifespan by forcibly passing through the time-space vortex."

"Although this sounds absurd for Ascenders, it was the only plausible explanation at the time."

"However, despite using various methods to extend their lives, they couldn’t regain their youth. That’s when I realized that there was certainly divine power at play."

With the current technology of the Mountain and Sea Civilization, only divine-level power could render their lifespan-extension methods ineffective.

"The reason I gathered you all here, apart from researching this curse’s mechanism, was also to trace the true source of this curse."

After a brief pause, Taihang’s gaze became sharp.

"If the curse on the two of them originates from their own world, the situation would be slightly better."

"But if the curse comes from the distant past of the Mountain and Sea Realm, even from the era when the Mountain and Sea Dragon Race still existed..."

"Then, through the power of this curse, an unknown existence from the distant past might be coveting our era."

"Whether for progress or survival, they cannot be allowed to die."