

The Growth 44

Chapter 44 Birth, Aging, Sickness, and Death

"They are our brothers and sisters!"

"So we must educate them well, let them realize their identity and responsibility."

Holding a struggling small skeleton with one hand, Balian said expressionlessly to the Immortals below who were listening attentively.

"For example, when they want to harm other lives, they must be given appropriate punishment."

As he spoke, Balian shook the little skeleton in his hand vigorously.

If the little skeleton could make a facial expression, it would certainly be rolling its eyes and sticking out its tongue now.

"Only then can they realize that it is a wrong behavior."

Upon hearing this, the Immortals below looked at each other and whispered, as if they were back in the days when they were forcibly taught by Balian.

Back then, the Immortals, like these Skeletons, had to endure Balian's endless punishment and nagging every day.

The only difference is that when the Immortals transitioned from being "students" to "teachers", everyone showed an eager expression.

"Of course, just punishment is not enough."

"To make them truly acknowledge this behavior from the heart, rewards must be given."

Balian continued to share his educational insights, while the Immortals below were already eager.

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"Balian is so verbose, don't you agree?"

At the last row, an Immortal suddenly turned and said to Dragon Wolf Ah Dui behind him.

"Awoo?"

Slightly tilting its head, Dragon Wolf Ah Dui obviously didn't hear what the other said just now.

The Immortal, who was accustomed to this, didn't mind and instead began to complain to Dragon Wolf Ah Dui.

"We already know what he said, yet he repeats it every time..."

"I really don't know why Father God would make such a verbose guy a prophet..."

"If it were me, I certainly wouldn't be so long-winded!"

"Besides, compared to teaching those fools, I indeed still prefer painting."

"But it's a pity that Luo Fu always tricks me with those useless 'paper and silk', when what I want is the 'canvas' that won't be damaged no matter what."

Listening silently to the Immortal's chattering, Dragon Wolf Ah Dui got lost in thought again.

Because Dragon Wolf Ah Dui was no longer young; it was entering its twilight years.

The pale fur and aging face were enough to show that Dragon Wolf Ah Dui could die at any moment.

Perhaps because of this, Dragon Wolf Ah Dui often drifted into thoughts recently, unconsciously recalling its travels around the world with Balian in its youth.

Thousands of years of time, even for a Dragon Wolf with Dragon Race bloodline, were very long.

Dragon Wolf Ah Dui personally witnessed how the Immortals grew from their initial ignorance to their current bizarre states.

It remembered every Immortal it ever spoke to and every Immortal's hobby and complaint.

Yet, it was unclear when exactly it started to realize it hadn't left the Central Plains for a long time.

Or more precisely, it was Balian who hadn't taken it to other places for a long time.

The memories ended there, and Ah Dui suddenly felt a strong desire—it still wanted to go out again and see the end of the world with Balian!

However, when Dragon Wolf Ah Dui tried to stand up again, it sadly found that even walking had become difficult for it.

"Ah Dui?"

Noticing Dragon Wolf Ah Dui's movement in time, the Immortal who was previously speaking up stopped immediately.

"Ah Dui? What's wrong with you?"

Unsurprisingly, the commotion on this side immediately caught Balian's attention.

And then, the leader of the Immortals, the prophet chosen by Father God, uncharacteristically fell silent.

It was the first time for most Immortals to see Balian show such obvious emotion, which seemed to be a feeling called "sadness."

"Are those tears?"

With a bit of confusion and curiosity, an Immortal closest to Balian suddenly asked.

With his reminder, others noticed the crystalline tears at the corner of Balian's eyes.

—Sad enough to shed tears.

For the usually carefree Immortals, this was unbelievable.

The Immortals understood sadness, crying, and tears, but they seldom saw such obvious displays of emotion from their kind.

"Ah Dui, are you going to die?"

At that moment, the Immortal who had been murmuring to Dragon Wolf Ah Dui seemed to realize something and showed an unbelievable expression.

"Ah Dui is going to die?"

"How is that possible?"

"Ah Dui is like us, not mortal!"

"Only normal creatures die, Ah Dui is different from them!"

...

The remark stirred a huge reaction, causing the remaining Immortals to discuss and argue instantly.

Immortals are known to be selfish.

Due to their distinct nature from other life forms, Immortals seldom develop feelings for the life and death of other beings.

However, Dragon Wolf Ah Dui was clearly an exception.

After thousands of years together, the Immortals had long regarded Dragon Wolf Ah Dui as one of their own.

Intentionally or unintentionally, the Immortals ignored the fact that Dragon Wolf Ah Dui was slowly aging, stubbornly believing it was immortal like them.

"Balian, Ah Dui certainly won't die, right?"

When the Immortals' debate reached its peak.

An individual stood out, different from the other Immortals, quietly approaching Balian and asking.

The earliest Immortals were born from Li Hao's body, hence they all looked identical to Li Hao.

However, since A Xin announced the upgrade method of the [Ascension Ladder], most Immortals had changed their appearances through the opening of the "Celestial Gate."

The problem was, except for some mysterious creatures, others couldn't escape using "Li Hao" as a reference.

Either transforming gender or mutating...

No matter how they finally looked, traces of Li Hao could still be seen.

But the Immortal standing now had turned into a little girl, with no resemblance to the original Li Hao in any aspect.

"Luo Fu, Ah Dui is different from us."

After a long silence, Balian merely sighed helplessly, gently patting the little girl's head.