

The Growth 484

Chapter 484 - 6: Holy Remains

The Underworld of the Mountain and Sea Realm, Fengdu City.

"Something seems a bit off..."

Watching the "Artificial Soul" whose form was constantly changing, Huan Gou, as a Ferryman, experienced an ear-piercing alert in his Spiritual Sense at that moment.

"Off? What's off about it?"

"All the instrument readings show normal, the indicators for the 'Artificial Soul' are also within normal fluctuation ranges?"

Turning back in surprise, he glanced at Huan Gou.

Bi She did not ignore the other's warning but instead operated the various instruments around him once more.

No matter how many scans and analyses Bi She conducted, all the data on the dashboard displayed as normal.

"It's because it's too normal that it seems a bit abnormal..."

"Don't forget, those 'Artificial Souls' you made before could never absorb Spiritual Essence endlessly."

With Huan Gou's reminder, Bi She instantly realized the anomaly as well.

Spiritual Essence is the basic element that makes up a soul, and any soul has a limit to its capacity and absorption of Spiritual Essence.

It's like creatures and cells; no normal cell of any creature can proliferate indefinitely.

Cells that proliferate endlessly are called cancer cells, terrifying mutant cells that can kill the organism entirely.

In other words, if the absorption by the 'Artificial Soul' continues unchecked, cancerous mutations at the soul level would inevitably appear.

"How can that be?"

"I clearly set a growth limit for it before the experiment started?"

Considering those mutated and deformed Evil Ghosts from before, Bi She even set the growth limit for the 'Artificial Soul' at a relatively low level.

"What did you use to create this soul?"

As if suddenly realizing something, Huan Gou's face suddenly turned dark as he asked.

Creating a soul requires a "Keystone," which is equivalent to the initial fertilized egg.

"Uh..."

Apparently realizing the severity of the issue, Bi She immediately fell into silence.

"You madmen, you didn't use the 'Holy Remains,' did you?"

Huan Gou knew very well that in this world, there are only a few things that can be used to artificially create a soul.

Aside from the 'Seed of the Soul' secretly brought back from the Netherworld, only the Exorcism and Demon Control Skill could give rise to a truly complete soul.

Among them, the remains left by those experts who mastered this to the extreme are even more suitable as the "Keystone" for this research than the "Seed of the Soul."

"Whose 'Holy Remains' did you use?"

Across the entire Mountain and Sea Realm, there are not many Ascenders who have practiced the Exorcism and Demon Control Skill to the extreme.

And among these Ascenders, the ones confirmed dead could be counted on one hand.

Thinking that the "Artificial Soul" before him might have been transformed from the "Holy Remains" of a renowned historical figure,

even someone as daring as Huan Gou couldn't help but feel an inexplicable terror.

Bi She's following response left the already terrified Huan Gou dumbstruck on the spot.

"It's the finger bone of Virtuous King Gu Sheng..."

"How dare you!?"

The hair stood on end, and Huan Gou interrupted him with gritted teeth.

"That's the Virtuous King! How dare you offend it!?"

In the current Mountain and Sea Realm, the only Holy Remain left by Virtuous King Gu Sheng is that finger bone, once known for 'crossing the sea with a broken finger.'

Disregarding the mythological and commemorative significance it embodies,

just the act of using this finger bone might disturb some ancient veterans, an unimaginable notion.

Anything involving the existence of this finger bone is basically connected to old monsters that have been alive since the birth of the Mountain and Sea Civilization.

"It was specially approved by the leadership..."

Knowing he might have caused great trouble, Bi She defiantly defended himself.

For a research fanatic, realizing post-factum the offensiveness of one's actions is something all too normal.

"Has Tianyou lost his mind too!? How dare he!?"

Overcome with a mix of shock and fury, Huan Gou temporarily forgot his respect for the leader, growling in anger.

Although long aware that the current leader of the Mountain and Sea Civilization—Tianyou—fears nothing, disdainful towards tradition,

Huan Gou never imagined the other side would dare to this extent.

"Wait a minute, could it be that this research location was chosen deliberately by him?"

Suddenly looking down at the ground beneath him, Huan Gou initially thought this place was chosen by Bi She for convenience in researching Spiritual Essence.

But now it seemed that this institute's location and construction were clearly orchestrated by Tianyou alone.

Only Tianyou, as the leader of the Mountain and Sea Realm, had the ability to shield this research project until now.

Even more, speculating further, Huan Gou and Bi She, with such strong obsessions for matters of life and death, were likely deliberately handpicked by Tianyou.

Reflecting on this, Huan Gou immediately glanced around.

Those working within the institute might very likely share experiences similar to both of them.

"When you told me that this project was filed with the high-levels of Zhiku, was it really true?"

Huan Gou only hoped now that the high-ups aware of this project weren't limited to Tianyou alone.

Otherwise, Huan Gou could almost foresee his own fate.

"I..."

Upon hearing this, Bi Sheng was just about to explain something when suddenly he heard a violent tremor from beneath the ground.

Rumbling sounds...

In an instant, the Sun Stone within the institute shattered, and darkness enveloped the entire facility.

Struck by the shockwaves, it seemed as if the entire Fengdu City trembled.

The Mountain and Sea People living within flocked out of their homes, looking bewildered at the sudden earthquake.

"Ahn!"

At that moment, a high-pitched dragon roar suddenly reverberated throughout the entire sky, from nothing to something, from far to near.

When the Mountain and Sea People of Fengdu City realized what was happening, a massive Winged Azure Dragon appeared conspicuously in the sky above the city.

The Winged Azure Dragon seemed to appear out of nowhere, its body transitioning directly from illusion to solid.

Considering the constant Netherworld aura it emitted, the Mountain and Sea People quickly identified its identity—a Netherworld Ferryman.

The Netherworld Ferryman is not just an identity; it's also a capability.

Once one takes on the duty of a Netherworld Ferryman, regardless of their former identity or race, they obtain the power of Spiritualization.

It's precisely this power of Spiritualization that allows the Netherworld Ferryman to freely travel in and out of the Netherworld.

However, even among the Netherworld Ferrymen, few could utilize Spiritualization to such a profound degree.

Let alone the fact that the opponent was an exceptionally eye-catching Winged Azure Dragon.

Practically any slightly knowledgeable Mountain and Sea Resident recognized its identity at this moment.

"That's Ao Xing!"

"It's that 'Soul Hunter' among the Netherworld Ferrymen!"