

The Growth 490

Chapter 490 - 12: Celestial Monarch's Judgment

Central City, Forbidden Land.

This is the northeastern corner of the city, also the place where all Mountain and Sea People who have committed offenses are confined.

Generally speaking, only after a specialized trial will the Mountain and Sea People confined here be dispatched to the City of Corpse for punishment.

In other words, this Forbidden Land is somewhat similar to a police station on Earth.

Therefore, when a large group of people, who clearly didn't look like criminals, were detained in the Forbidden Land, everyone widened their eyes in unison.

These people detained in the Forbidden Land were none other than the researchers led by Bi She.

They were now temporarily confined in the Forbidden Land for violating the laws of the Mountain and Sea Civilization.

"Unauthorized use of 'Holy Remains'?"

"Illegal research on 'Artificial Life'?"

"Secretly opening a portal between the Mountain and Sea Realm and the Netherworld?"

"Failure to adhere to research protocols and experiment regulations, leading to the destruction of a city by an 'Experimental Subject'?"

As the Hump Rat listed each of Bi She's crimes.

The managers nearby in the Forbidden Land exchanged glances with each other, as if they hadn't encountered such bold offenders in a long time.

Especially the Hump Rat, who had never seen such exaggerated crimes since he became a Guardian of the Forbidden Land.

The Hump Rat also belonged to the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas, a large rodent creature with purple wings.

Due to its ability to discern strength and identify lies, it usually held the responsibility of guarding and judging prisoners in the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Just like this time, the Hump Rat was responsible for interrogating Bi She and others, organizing and archiving their statements to reconstruct the whole event.

"Hmm, that's roughly how it is."

Although considering himself a "research fanatic," Bi She still bowed his head slightly in embarrassment.

Because he knew better than anyone that if it weren't for his own arrogance, things wouldn't have been as bad as they were now.

And the other researchers behind him?

They also dared not meet the scrutinizing gaze of the Hump Rat.

After all, even before participating in this research, they vaguely understood the dangers involved.

Moreover, during the entire research process, even a fool could see that there were definitely irregular operations, but they all tacitly chose to ignore them.

It could only be said that researchers able to associate with Bi She and HUan Gou were essentially not the kind of obedient and honest people.

"Alas, the offenses you've committed are beyond my jurisdiction."

"The Zhiku is currently discussing what punishment should be imposed on you..."

"Stay put here until the punishment is determined!"

With a helpless sigh, the Hump Rat finally made this arrangement.

"Either way, you'll either be escorted to the City of Corpse for punishment or exiled to the Divine Fall Realm to atone for your sins."

"Before that, make sure you don't break the law again."

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As Bi She and the other researchers waited for their punishment.

The other instigator of this chaos—HUan Gou, naturally, could not escape trial and punishment either.

However, HUan Gou's identity was rather special, and it was not the Mountain and Sea People of the Mountain and Sea Realm who judged and punished him, but the Celestial Monarchs of the Netherworld.

In the Land of Three Lives, where Yin and Yang intersect, within the Divine Hall where the old Gods once stood.

Dozens of Celestial Monarchs, including Celestial Monarch Yin, Celestial Monarch Erosion, Celestial Monarch Yan, and Celestial Monarch Luo, gathered together, casting curious, scrutinizing, stunned, or indifferent gazes at HUan Gou below.

At this moment, HUan Gou, unlike his previous indifference and arrogance, knelt obediently on the ground.

This was not only due to the Celestial Monarchs' majesty but also because of HUan Gou's heartfelt respect.

The current order of the Netherworld and the development of the Mountain and Sea Realm owe much to the contributions of these Netherworld Celestial Monarchs hidden behind the scenes.

They never spread beliefs, never established places of worship, and their specific names have never been publicly known...

In contrast to other Gods of the Mountain and Sea Realm, the Netherworld Celestial Monarchs are truly unique.

Only Netherworld Ferrymen like HUan Gou understand how immense the Celestial Monarchs' contributions are.

As a result, even someone as rebellious as HUan Gou, who has no reverence for ordinary Gods, shows rare respect when facing the Celestial Monarchs.

Moreover, this time it was indeed HUan Gou who messed up first.

"Your willingness to admit your mistakes is commendable, but there's no avoiding the crime of dereliction."

After communicating in a language HUan Gou couldn't understand, Celestial Monarch Erosion was the first to speak.

"While the remedial measures were timely, breaking the law is intolerable."

Following closely, Celestial Monarch Yin spoke with a calmer tone but a more definite attitude.

HUan Gou's covert assistance to Bi She in his research under the identity of a "Netherworld Ferryman" was indisputable.

Even so, HUan Gou doesn't believe he did anything wrong, feeling only regret for the destruction and aftermath caused by the Nameless Soul.

His obsession with exploring the mysteries of life and death and bringing the dead back to life...

This was his original intention for becoming a "Netherworld Ferryman" and a determination he could never abandon.

The Netherworld Celestial Monarchs evidently understood this, giving HUan Gou no chance for further explanation.

"Edict stripping you of law and identity..."

"From today, you are no longer a Netherworld Ferryman."

At this moment, Celestial Monarch Yan spoke, and with his words came the supreme Death Edict.

"Ah!"

Kneeling on the ground, HUan Gou let out a wail as the [Netherworld Order] that endowed him with the ability to spiritualize floated out of his body.

Without this [Netherworld Order], HUan Gou would no longer be a Netherworld Ferryman.

Moreover, as his body reverted from spiritualization to a material state, his body rapidly decayed and became insubstantial under the erosion of Netherworld Power.

"In consideration of your prior dedication..."

"Death penalty is waived, but you cannot escape living punishment."

Seeing HUan Gou about to perish, Celestial Monarch Luo, who had been silently observing, sighed deeply.

"From this day forth, you will no longer be a living being, nor are you a dead one."

"You will exist in my presence as neither alive nor dead, neither human nor ghost."

It was as if to affirm his own decree.

Before Celestial Monarch Luo's words had finished, HUan Gou's body began to swell rapidly, his previously human form shifting to a four-legged stance.

In an instant, the once rebellious HUan Gou transformed into a grotesque and ferocious giant dog.

Beyond the physical transformation, HUan Gou's wisdom was also confined, his gaze now filled with a beastly fury and disobedience.

"The Goddess of Death is merciful, your current plight is the retribution for your past misdeeds."

"If you can cleanse your past sins, there will be a day when you become HUan Gou again."