

## **The Growth 491**

Chapter 491 - 13: Twin Petaled Red Spider Lilies

The Netherworld is also known as the Underworld and Nether Realm.

It is the world where the dead often reside and the place of reincarnation for countless souls.

In the center of the Netherworld, there towers the Reincarnation Altar personally erected by the Goddess of Death.

There, the Divine Format of the Goddess of Death is enshrined, serving as the core center of all matters of life and death reincarnation.

And with the Reincarnation Altar as the center, the Wangchuan River flows wantonly across the entire Netherworld, with Ancient Divine Halls sitting at every node along the river.

Around these Ancient Divine Halls, various vessels, commandeered by the Netherworld Race, shuttle back and forth along the Wangchuan River, escorting different souls to different destinations.

While it may not compare to the Mountain and Sea Civilization of the Material Realm, the Netherworld Race has similarly developed a flourishing spiritual civilization.

In the Netherworld, the fundamental concept of matter does not exist; spirituality is the essence that governs this world.

Under such circumstances, how to alter the form of spirituality and how to nurture stronger spirituality are the main streams of development in this world.

The Netherworld Race, as beings nurtured by spirituality, inherently possess the ability to manipulate spirituality.

Especially after the Goddess of Death popularized the Exorcism and Demon Control Skill, the Netherworld Race truly became the race of Ghost Gods.

Each member of the Netherworld Race differs in form...

Each member of the Netherworld Race possesses different abilities...

If not witnessed firsthand, it's truly hard to believe that those bizarrely shaped different individuals could be of the same race.

In fact, the origins of these Netherworld Race members are actually varied.

Apart from the initial batch of Evil Ghosts born from the Unknown and Forgotten Beldam.

Subsequent appearing members of the Netherworld Race were either innate Ghost Gods transformed and nurtured through the Exorcism and Demon Control Skill, or powerful spirits from the Mountain and Sea Realm unwilling to re-enter the cycle of reincarnation.

The former is easier to explain, generally nurtured step by step by the previous generation of Netherworld Race members, considered true descendants.

But the latter is different.

Before becoming part of the Netherworld Race, they already held stances inclined towards good or evil, and surely couldn't achieve the impartiality of true Netherworld Race members.

For this reason, the Goddess of Death specifically designated a "Prohibition Zone" deep within the Netherworld to accommodate those powerful spirits.

It's well known that the Netherworld, as part of the Mountain and Sea Realm, carries the reincarnation mechanism for the souls of the Mountain and Sea Realm, yet does not bear the responsibility of punishing good and evil or delineating righteousness and evil.

Compared to the hells of other mythological systems within the All Heavens and Myriad Realms, intended specifically for distinguishing and dealing with wicked souls.

All sentient beings of the Mountain and Sea Realm understand that the only condition for the Netherworld to judge if a soul qualifies for reincarnation is whether that soul had a strong obsession in life.

As for their faith and morality during their lifetime, the Creator and the Goddess of Death do not care.

The past life is the past life, this life is this life...

Even the most ignorant and stubborn Mountain and Sea People do not view the reincarnated individual as their future self.

In the ideology of the Mountain and Sea Civilization, the individual after soul reincarnation is merely a continuation of their life, not a continuation of their thoughts and will.

Just as those offspring who inherit one's genes are merely a continuation of one's bloodline.

If discussed in terms of intimacy, an offspring inheriting one's bloodline might even be closer than the reincarnated individual to one's self.

Under the guidance of this ideology and thought, it's only natural that some souls with obsessions strong enough to break free of reincarnation would refuse to be reborn.

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In the deepest part of the Netherworld, the land where the red spider lilies bloom.

This is a vast sea of flowers, a forbidden land where Mandala and Manjushaka flourish.

The former is the white flower of the other shore, while the latter is the red flower of the other shore.

In this world and dimension of pure spirituality, the white Mandala symbolizes pure souls, while the red Manjushaka symbolizes unyielding obsessions.

It is within this Prohibition Zone, specifically designated by the Goddess of Death, that Mandala and Manjushaka grow in harmony.

For here lies pure souls, as well as unyielding obsessions.

Every Mandala and Manjushaka here are nurtured by powerful souls filled with unyielding obsessions.

The number of Mandala and Manjushaka indicates how many powerful souls once lay buried here.

Only when one's obsession is thoroughly cleansed can a Ghost God worthy of being called part of the Netherworld Race be born.

However, since more and more Mountain and Sea Gods have returned to their places, powerful souls rarely appear here anymore.

For as the Mountain and Sea Realm has developed to its current state, those powerful souls either reincarnate to ascend to the Divine Throne as Demigods or become Enlightened Ones with the aptitude for enlightenment.

They might have obsessions, they might still have regrets, but they definitely won't let this hold them back in the Netherworld.

For other races, perhaps the longevity and the ability to freely choose reincarnation make the Netherworld Race seem like a naturally gifted race, favored by the Goddess of Death.

Nonetheless, in the eyes of powerful souls eligible to ascend to the Divine Throne, the existence of the Netherworld Race is hardly even a transitional stage.

The Netherworld Race is inherently lacking a material dimension compared to the lives of the Mountain and Sea Realm.

This means their possibility and route to Ascension to Divinity are fewer than that of the average Mountain and Sea person.

This is an intolerable "flaw" for any Ascender aspiring to become a God.

Over time, it seems even the Netherworld gradually forgot this land of blooming red spider lilies.

Until not long ago, when a half-god level soul, filled with intense unwillingness and obsession, fell into the Netherworld, the Netherworld Race refocused their attention on this land of blooming red spider lilies.

In the very center of these Mandala and Manjushaka, a pair of twin petaled red spider lilies is blooming.

The left is the white Mandala, the right is the red Manjushaka.

This pair of twin petaled red spider lilies is noticeably larger than the others, and continues to grow by absorbing the power of the Netherworld and Wangchuan.

Twin petaled red spider lilies are not uncommon.

However, such large twin petaled red spider lilies about to bloom are rare.

Throughout the history of the Netherworld, Ghost Gods nurtured by such twin petaled red spider lilies eventually became Divine under the Goddess of Death's banner.

Some exceptionally gifted deities might even be granted the authority of death by the Goddess of Death, becoming her God Subordinate.

Considering the Goddess of Death herself possesses the authority over "Immortality" and "Eternity."

Becoming her God Subordinate, sharing her authority, without worrying about suddenly dying one day, is a blessing the Netherworld Race dreams of.

The only question is, will the Ghost God nurtured by the not-yet fully bloomed red spider lily reach such a level?