

The Growth 497

Chapter 497 - 19: Wangchuan Snake Path

In the Netherworld, following a tributary of the Wangchuan River downwards, there lies an endless waterway winding like a long snake.

That is the special waterway known to the Netherworld Race as the "Snake Path," and it is also the only known passage in the Netherworld that can directly connect to the outside world.

Flowing downstream along the "Snake Path," one will pass by all the Ancient Divine Halls and finally reach the Divine Hall of Luo Celestial Monarch located in the Land of Three Lives.

Generally speaking, apart from those from the Netherworld Race planning a vacation in the Mountain and Sea Realm, few would take this "Snake Path."

In most cases, to avoid offending the Netherworld Celestial Monarch, even ghost gods tend to deliberately avoid the routes that the Snake Path passes through, not to mention those evil ghosts unwilling to reincarnate.

However, there are exceptions to everything.

For example, now, a ghost god with a hideously fierce appearance is drifting downstream along the "Snake Path."

Without boarding any vessel, this ghost god floats above the Wangchuan River, and the evil ghosts along the way are all scrambling to avoid him.

The deterrent force, akin to a natural predator, far exceeds the panic instilled in evil ghosts by the Netherworld Race and other ghost gods.

Interestingly, following behind this hideous ghost god, there is actually a young ghost.

Completely ignoring the deterrent force of the hideous ghost god, the young ghost keeps silently following behind, occasionally making dodging and hiding movements.

Even though these actions look quite ridiculous.

Yet, the hideous ghost god seems genuinely unaware of the young ghost, continuing to move forward anyway.

It wasn't until an unwilling evil ghost in Wangchuan tried to take the opportunity to ambush the young ghost, using him as a scapegoat.

A treasure sword suddenly fell from the sky without warning, piercing the evil ghost's skull.

In an instant, the previously calm Wangchuan River turned chaotic.

Evil ghosts unable to leave the Wangchuan River struggled frantically, seeking to escape the suddenly dangerous waters.

As for the young ghost, the target of the ambush and attack, he stood dazedly at the spot, completely unaware that he had just made another trip to the Ghost Gate.

Of course, the only one unaware of this was the young ghost himself.

All the other evil ghosts who witnessed this scene in the Wangchuan River finally realized that it wasn't that the hideous ghost god hadn't noticed the young ghost's tracking.

On the contrary, the hideous ghost god had been watching the young ghost's actions all along.

Whenever an evil ghost attempted to attack the young ghost, that elusive Ghost-Slaying Sword would unhesitatingly kill.

.....
"Is that E Kui?"

Standing on the bank of the "Snake Path."

A scrawny Netherworld Race with crow wings also noticed this scene.

This Netherworld Race is an agent under Celestial Monarch Luo, specifically responsible for guarding the evil ghosts along this stretch of the river and maintaining order in the area.

Thus, it could quickly arrive at the scene and witness the Ghost-Slaying Sword killing the evil ghost.

This Netherworld Race was originally curious about who the hideous ghost god was, boldly traversing the Wangchuan River.

But this doubt was instantly resolved upon seeing the Ghost-Slaying Sword.

Appearing in the "Snake Path" at this time, with a terrifying deterrent force over ordinary evil ghosts, even ghost gods...

The ghost god who dared to confront the Netherworld Judge at birth—E Kui.

It is said this ghost god's birth drew the attention of the Goddess of Death, a variant soul artificially created by the Mountain and Sea Civilization.

Though of ghostly origin, it feeds on ghosts.

Before transforming into a ghost god, it even absorbed the Wangchuan River's power to reshape itself, once causing concern among the Celestial Monarchs.

"But, what's the deal with that young ghost behind E Kui?"

"I've never heard of it having an accompanying young ghost."

With some bewilderment, the Netherworld Race scratched its head as it looked at the young ghost quickly concealing itself again.

After swiftly using the [Spirit Realm Network] to upload the scene it witnessed, the Netherworld Race's perplexity was soon addressed through discussions and comments from its kind.

At present, that young ghost is not an acolyte of E Kui.

It is a child ghost from a Mother and Child Ghost killed by E Kui, inexplicably kept by its side.

As for the origin of the Mother and Child Ghost?

It gradually pieced together the truth through the language of the Netherworld Race.

The Netherworld Race overseeing that area was not unaware of the Mother and Child Ghost's existence.

It simply pitied the mother and child.

Plus, because the Mother and Child Ghost itself didn't harbor significant resentment, only stubbornly refusing to reincarnate out of obsession, it was tacitly allowed to occupy that region.

At the very least, before the Mother and Child Ghost evolved into a true threat to world order, that Netherworld Race had no intention of acting.

In fact, upon learning the mother ghost was killed, the Netherworld Race felt a mix of shock and anger.

Had it not been for its role and limitations, the Netherworld Race would have likely already pursued E Kui.

Such behavior is not uncommon among the Netherworld Race, especially for those unafraid of ghost gods.

"So, is that young ghost seeking revenge for its mother?"

With a peculiar expression, the Netherworld Race watched the young ghost trying hard to conceal its traces, gradually realizing something.

Yet after this realization, the Netherworld Race inevitably shifted its gaze back to E Kui.

Given that it knew the young ghost wanted to avenge its mother, why would E Kui still protect it?

"Is it regret?"

Shaking its head in puzzlement, the Netherworld Race genuinely couldn't grasp E Kui's behavioral logic.

Anyway, from the current situation, this ghost god capable of "eating ghosts" seems not as cold-hearted as rumors suggest.

At least regarding this young ghost, it appears to retain some measure of human-like sympathy.

"Everyone must bear the consequences of their actions, ghost gods included."

Gazing deeply at E Kui's gradually fading figure, the Netherworld Race knew the cause and effect between it and the young ghost would not be settled so quickly.

Between momentary compassion and true kindness lies a vast chasm.

Many ghost gods born in the sea of red spider lilies are searching for their lost humanity.

Many succeed in this endeavor, but many more fail.

Those ghost gods who never regain humanity, always seeing all beings as ants, are eventually terminated by the Netherworld Judges.

As Shen Tu would say, if they cannot empathize with all beings and carefully wield their power, such unfeeling ghost gods are unnecessary!

"Speaking of which, is E Kui planning to leave the Netherworld?"

"For a ghost god of its level, leaving the Netherworld isn't that simple!"

"Moreover, if I remember correctly, the 'Ghost Gate' recently gained a very dedicated Guardian."