

The Growth 498

Chapter 498 - 20: Netherworld Prison Hell

The end of Wangchuan's "Snake Path" is the Path to the Netherworld.

In the Netherworld, the Wangchuan River forms a massive self-circulating system, specifically designed to protect and ferry souls from the Mountain and Sea Realm.

And outside this massive system of the Wangchuan River, there is also the concept of the "Nine Prisons and Nine Springs" in the Netherworld.

These "Nine Prisons and Nine Springs" are scattered throughout the corners of the Netherworld, each guarded by a powerful Netherworld Celestial Monarch.

Besides the Netherworld that directly connects to the Mountain and Sea Realm, the other eight springs are Fengquan, Government Spring, Cold Spring, Yin Spring, Nether Spring, Lower Spring, Bitter Spring, and Nether Spring.

It is said that these "Nine Prisons and Nine Springs" respectively correspond to nine kinds of hardships in the world, each serving a different function.

Because the Netherworld directly connects to the Material Realm, it has become a spring that divides life and death, blurring the lines between Yin and Yang, and has bred the first checkpoint for all departed souls entering the Netherworld—the Ghost Gate.

And this Ghost Gate is one of the Nine Prisons corresponding to the Netherworld—Netherworld Prison Hell, signifying the ultimate destination of all living beings.

"..."

In fact, it wasn't long after stepping onto the Path to the Netherworld that E Kui sensed the difference between here and other places in the Netherworld.

Here, the souls of all Evil Ghosts presented a kind of materialized state.

This blurring of the boundaries between Yin and Yang, allowing spirituality to have material attributes, is precisely what makes the [Netherworld Prison Hell] most unique.

After passing through the [Netherworld Prison Hell], a soul can briefly gain the ability to enter the mortal world.

Ghosts from the mortal world, after walking through the [Netherworld Prison Hell], will enter the Wangchuan River in their purest soul state.

As for a Ghost God of E Kui's level.

The existence of the [Netherworld Prison Hell] is equivalent to allowing them to adapt to the rules of the Mountain and Sea Realm in advance, reshaping their physical form.

With each step forward, E Kui could increasingly sense his own existence.

Not just a void soul state, but a physical flesh and blood body.

"..."

It didn't take long for E Kui to reach the end of this Path to the Netherworld — the Ghost Gate.

True to its name, the Ghost Gate is actually a massive barrier built on the "Land of Three Lives".

Massive twin peaks stand opposite, with a narrow gate towering high...

And in the center of this narrow pass, a huge and majestic divine hall stands proudly.

That is the Divine Hall of Celestial Monarch Luo, and it's also the first checkpoint for countless departed souls entering the Netherworld from the Mountain and Sea Realm.

The Divine Hall of Celestial Monarch Luo does not examine reincarnation nor investigate causality, only distinguishing life from death, separating humans from ghosts.

Even as powerful as a True God descending, as long as they were not a Ghost God, they could not pass through the Divine Hall of Celestial Monarch Luo to truly enter the Netherworld.

This is also the origin of the term "Ghost Gate".

Likewise, Ghost Gods from the Netherworld wishing to enter the Mountain and Sea Realm must also obtain the nod of Celestial Monarch Luo.

Currently, the problem is that E Kui obviously did not receive the nod of Celestial Monarch Luo.

"A Netherworld Celestial Monarch, huh?"

Gazing at the Ancient Divine Hall not far away.

E Kui knew that if he followed the normal path, he wouldn't be able to proceed any further.

The majesty and restrictions from Celestial Monarch Luo limited every Ghost God who wanted to forcefully cross from here to the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Unlike the ease before, now every step E Kui took forward, the pressure on his body increased exponentially.

His body felt as if it was bearing a thousand-pound burden.

For the first time in his life, E Kui felt the shackles that a flesh and blood body imposed on a living being.

"Is this... the feeling of a living being?"

Every breath required fresh oxygen, for only then could this flesh and blood body sustain life.

Every action required the comprehensive support of bones, organs, and muscles for his body to move forward little by little.

Compared to the scattered and formless Ghost God body, the flesh and blood body had far too many flaws and limitations.

Not to mention, E Kui was now enduring the pressure from the Ancient Divine Hall, and this oppressive feeling was only more pronounced for him than for an average living being.

However, this feeling, so different from a Spirit Body, allowed E Kui to experience a sense of "being alive" that he never had before.

Not a data persona in the [Box of the Creator]...

Nor a Spirit Body Ghost God existing in soul form...

This was a sensation of truly being able to touch material entities and interact with every substance he came in contact with.

Especially that accelerated heart rate in the face of oppression, a feeling only a true living being could possess.

"Is this fear?"

Under the stimulation of adrenaline, the ever-calm E Kui for the first time experienced such a significant emotional fluctuation.

Beyond indifference, E Kui finally realized the existence of other emotions.

Even though this was an emotion called "fear," it marked the beginning of a cold, ruthless Ghost God rediscovering his humanity.

Swish!

No longer hesitating, E Kui took a swift leap forward.

Following closely behind E Kui, a small ghost who appeared unbeknownst to him hesitated briefly before also starting to run.

Unfortunately, this small ghost was not a Ghost God.

At the moment of formally stepping into the Ghost Gate, the divine might from the Ancient Divine Hall instilled fear in its heart.

Thus, the small ghost, having just started its run, tripped and fell to the ground, unable to get up for a long time.

"Little ghost, this is not a place you should come."

At this moment, a figure with a Dragon Head and human body appeared behind the small ghost.

With a hint of a smile, this Dragon Head human figure picked up the shivering little ghost and then turned its gaze towards the distant E Kui.

This Dragon Head human figure was none other than Canglong transformed into human form, Ao Xing.

As the Ferryman under Celestial Monarch Luo, the demigod Ao Xing, with one foot in the threshold of True God, naturally had the authority to move freely between the Yin and Yang Realms.

Even E Kui's arrival was not unknown to Ao Xing.

After all, it was Ao Xing who chose to bring the Nameless Soul into the Netherworld at the beginning, so of course, he would pay attention to every move of the other party.

"Unfortunately, the Ghost Gate is not so easy to breach."

Lightly shaking his head, Ao Xing muttered nonchalantly.

As souls from the Mountain and Sea Realm, the first thing most Ghost Gods wanted to do after leaving the sea of red spider lilies was to rely on their strength to return to the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Although their motivations might differ, E Kui obviously had a similar idea and plan.

The trouble is, if the Ghost Gate were so easily breached, there wouldn't be so few Ghost Gods appearing in the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Especially with the Ghost Gate now having an additional Guardian, E Kui's difficulty in leaving the Netherworld elevated to another level.

"No, perhaps the difficulty has more than just increased by one level..."

Casually taking a step forward, Ao Xing's figure instantly vanished on the Path to the Netherworld, leaving only his voice reverberating in the air.

"Because that Guardian... is your rival!"