

The Growth 499

Chapter 499 - 21: Hellhound - Nine-Eared Dog

The Land of Three Lives, outside the Ancient Divine Hall.

E Kui very sensibly did not directly clash with Celestial Monarch Luo, but instead chose a small path towards the Ghost Gate.

After all, despite being rebellious, E Kui hasn't forgotten the sense of crisis brought by Shen Tu.

Facing the Netherworld Celestial Monarch, whose strength surpasses Shen Tu, any rational Ghost God would not think of provoking the other.

Unfortunately, no matter what shortcuts E Kui took, he ultimately had to pass through the Ghost Gate to reach the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Therefore, when E Kui saw the treacherous pass, he immediately halted his steps.

Next, E Kui's body once again became incorporeal, and with lightning speed, he planned to rush through the gate.

E Kui did not expect his actions to escape Celestial Monarch Luo's notice.

All his actions now were just to rush out of the Ghost Gate before Celestial Monarch Luo could react.

By that time, even if he were wanted by Celestial Monarch Luo, it wouldn't matter.

"Awooo!"

Just as everything was unfolding as E Kui had predicted, a sudden wolf howl reached his ears.

The next second, the originally incorporeal E Kui was struck as if by lightning, his body suddenly jolted, forcing him out of his incorporeal state.

"Cough, cough..."

He coughed uncontrollably a few times.

E Kui could only watch the nearby Ghost Gate with open eyes, then slowly turned to face the direction from which the wolf howl came.

Buzz!

The Ghost-Slaying Sword at his waist automatically unsheathed, the malice from an ultimate Evil Ghost permeating the scene.

E Kui was never one for kindness, especially when his own goals were obstructed.

"Dog?"

Until this point, the obstructionist's figure was finally fully exposed in E Kui's sight.

It was a gigantic black evil dog, its ferocious appearance and greedy drool were its first impressions on people.

Perhaps due to its extremely large stature.

Its bulging muscles appeared particularly intimidating, making people fearful at first sight.

Most crucially, this black evil dog's head had nine ears growing behind it.

These nine ears granted the black evil dog an exceedingly sharp hearing, no one could escape the Ghost Gate without it noticing.

"Awooo!"

Without waiting for E Kui to continue observing and contemplating.

The equally ferocious Nine-Eared Dog pounced without hesitation.

Whoosh—Boom!

In a flash, the Ghost-Slaying Sword shot toward the Nine-Eared Dog at the fastest speed.

At the same time, E Kui instantly rushed forward, planning to end things quickly.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

After a series of metallic clashes, E Kui was surprised to find that this nine-eared evil dog could actually withstand his Ghost-Slaying Sword head-on.

The Treasure Sword capable of slaying all evil ghosts showed obvious notches after several collisions.

In contrast, the Nine-Eared Dog's sharp claws and fangs remained the same.

The only relief was that, despite its astounding strength, the Nine-Eared Dog's body was still flesh and blood.

So during the collisions with the Ghost-Slaying Sword, it deliberately avoided the sword's edge, merely using its sharp claws and fangs to counter.

"Heh!"

Realizing this, E Kui immediately changed his fighting style.

He swiftly grasped the Ghost-Slaying Sword, then both his body and the sword rapidly expanded, transforming into a towering God of Giants.

E Kui just didn't believe that, under such circumstances, the Nine-Eared Dog would dare to take on his Ghost-Slaying Sword head-on.

"Awooo!"

As predicted by E Kui.

Upon seeing his opponent rapidly grow in size, the Nine-Eared Dog wisely chose to avoid his edge.

Boom!

Seeing this, E Kui decisively took a giant step.

Then, under the stunned gaze of the Nine-Eared Dog, he directly bypassed its obstruction, with the gigantic body once again charging toward the Ghost Gate.

That's right, from the start, E Kui never intended to get entangled with the Nine-Eared Dog.

What if he defeated the Nine-Eared Dog in the end?

As long as Celestial Monarch Luo was alarmed, wouldn't the result still be getting captured?

E Kui wasn't foolish enough to think he could be compared with the Netherworld Celestial Monarch, much less consider facing Celestial Monarch Luo in battle.

"Awooo!"

Realizing he was being tricked, the Nine-Eared Dog roared again in anger.

In an instant, the surging malice and killing intent turned into substantial power, causing the Nine-Eared Dog's body to rapidly swell and grow, soon matching the enormous E Kui in size.

Then, the Nine-Eared Dog charged out of the Ghost Gate, pursuing the fleeing E Kui with lightning speed.

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Ancient Divine Hall, the statue of Celestial Monarch Luo.

Without knowing when, its eyes quietly opened, Celestial Monarch Luo solemnly gazed in the direction of the Ghost Gate.

"Is this destiny?"

Appearing silently under Celestial Monarch Luo's seat, Ao Xing nonchalantly asked while holding a little ghost in one hand.

"In life, Huan Gou created E Kui's predecessor..."

"In death, Huan Gou became the Nine-Eared Dog to capture E Kui..."

"If I didn't know you well enough, sometimes it's hard not to suspect if this is your sense of amusement."

Just as Ao Xing said, that Nine-Eared Dog was indeed Huan Gou, punished by the Netherworld Celestial Monarch.

His thoughts were stripped, his duties taken away...

He was to guard the Ghost Gate forever, until his wrongdoings were washed away.

This is the punishment from the Netherworld Celestial Monarch for Huan Gou, and also a form of mercy from the Goddess of Death.

At least, that's how Ao Xing saw it.

An incompetent Netherworld Ferryman, being completely destroyed with no hope of reincarnation was already the lightest punishment.

"We have no sense of amusement; we're simply enforcing the rules of the Netherworld."

Calmly conveying the Netherworld Celestial Monarch's philosophy, Celestial Monarch Luo's voice was steady and emotionless.

This is exactly the contract signed between the Old Gods and the Creator.

They are responsible for maintaining the Yin and Yang balance between the Netherworld and the Mountain and Sea Realm, while the Creator allows them to free themselves from the constraints of the Void Divine Hall, returning to this world.

"Emotionless enforcers of order, this truly fits my understanding of you."

Ao Xing knew Celestial Monarch Luo wasn't wrong; they were indeed such a cold, machine-like group of enforcers of order.

However, Ao Xing also knew the Celestial Monarchs were not truly emotionless.

Otherwise, Huan Gou wouldn't have just been punished to become the Nine-Eared Dog, and E Kui couldn't have broken out of the Ghost Gate, leaving the Netherworld.

"Great love is emotionless" might be the best description for the Netherworld Celestial Monarchs.

"Should I take action?"

After a moment of silence, Ao Xing spoke again.

Since both E Kui and the Nine-Eared Dog have left the Netherworld, to be on the safe side, someone must supervise them.

Ao Xing felt there was probably no one more suitable than himself in the Netherworld.

However, it seemed Celestial Monarch Luo had long since arranged for this.

"No, there's no need for you to take action this time."

"Shen Tu and Yu Lei will watch over them, they won't let them cause trouble."