

## **The Growth 537**

Chapter 537 - 7: Let the World Attain Peace!

As Jun Yao's team delved deeper into Shuangliu Village, an eerie feeling quietly spread among the group.

During their exploration of the village, they didn't see a single person, nor even a shadow of a dog or an insect.

The village was so silent it felt like entering a special realm, the calm only allowing the sound of one's own breathing.

Yet, the village bore signs of mortal activity, with unharvested wheat and stoves emitting smoke, all typical traces of mortal life.

It seemed as if the people and animals of the village vanished in an instant.

"This is beyond our capability..."

After witnessing such a bizarre scene, the experienced scout made this judgment.

"To be able to accomplish something like this, the cultivator must at least be a Divine Ability User."

"And they must be one who is proficient in Illusion Techniques."

Nodding in agreement with the scout's assessment, Jun Yao thought the same.

"Be careful, I suspect..."

Before Jun Yao could finish his sentence, a soldier behind him suddenly let out a scream.

"Ah!"

Along with a horrific wail, the soldier's flesh and blood disappeared at a visible speed.

In the span of a single breath, only a skeleton remained.

Next, the skeleton began to melt, quickly turning into a puddle of indistinguishable... murky water?

"What happened!?"

"Wait, it's the water! Everyone, be careful of the puddles beneath your feet!"

...

Prompted by the warnings of the other two soldiers in the team,

Jun Yao finally noticed an unremarkable puddle beneath the feet of the fallen soldier.

It was just like a small puddle left on a muddy road after rain.

The murky water from the soldier's melting and the puddle merged, looking so bizarre.

"Are those puddles... all transformed from people?"

Scanning the village with an appalled glance, Jun Yao had never seen such a terrifying situation.

If all the puddles encountered in the village were remnants of melted people...

Just imagining such a scene made Jun Yao's hair stand on end and his spine chill.

Unfortunately, by the time Jun Yao realized something was wrong, it was already too late.

Silently, the surrounding puddles started bubbling one after another, as if they were boiling.

Bang! Bang!

Without any hesitation, the soldiers decisively pulled the trigger on those puddles.

It was clear that the puddles paused distinctly after being hit.

But soon after, they became even more ferocious, as if enraged, and sprang back to life.

"Roar!"

Amidst the beasts' growling and roaring.

One by one, terrifying, hideous Evil Beasts crawled out of the puddles.

They were entirely formed from murky water, faintly showing their appearances from life.

In the Celestial Human Realm, there are many cultivators adept at Calling Wind and Rain and controlling water currents.

But such a bizarre Water Control Technique greatly exceeded the Taiping Taoist Soldiers' understanding.

Turning the contacted person into murky water, then binding their soul within it to become a controllable Demon.

This horrendous cultivation technique, even in the prime era of the Evil Sect and Demon Sect in the Celestial Human Realm, was the darkest of arts.

Let alone in this End of the Dharma Era, cleansed of all demonic spirits by the "Demon Vanquishing True Monarch," such eerie spirit restrictions are utterly taboo.

"Retreat!"

Seeing the situation, Jun Yao decisively shouted loudly.

Simultaneously, the only scout in the team quickly pulled out the special signal flare from his chest.

Whoosh— Boom!

As the scout fired the signal flare into the sky, a huge red signal symbolizing danger burst forth.

Though this danger signal's range wouldn't exceed three kilometers, it was enough to alert the nearest village of the peril.

As long as patrolling Taiping Taoist Soldiers spotted this danger signal, they'd realize an unknown cultivator had appeared in this area.

In this era of incredibly uneven productivity, it's the most advanced means of information transmission the Taiping Taoist Soldiers can conceive.

"Roar!"

Unexpected by all present, the water-transformed Evil Beasts also seemed to understand the signal's meaning.

Immediately, more and more Evil Beasts surged out from every corner of the village, fearlessly charging at the team members.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Quickly pulling the trigger, the team fought while retreating, attempting to withdraw from the village.

The outcome was predictable; the Evil Beasts transformed from murky water were utterly unafraid of the bullets' impact.

If not for the firearms' solar-powered drive having some deterrent effect on these Evil Beasts, they would have torn the team to shreds long ago.

Yet even so, this situation was bound not to last.

Either the team would run out of ammunition, then be shredded by the Evil Beasts...

Or during the battle, team members might accidentally step into the puddles and be assimilated into new Evil Beasts attacking their former comrades...

"Chen Yuan, Shu Yu, you two stay behind with me!"

"The rest, seize the chance to leave here and ensure that what happened in Shuangliu Village gets reported to others!"

Following Jun Yao's orders, the two veterans he named stepped forward without hesitation.

The remaining soldiers, though filled with grief, steeled themselves to follow the command despite their inner sorrow.

In their years of warfare, the Taiping Taoist Soldiers had managed to fight on par with cultivators, despite inferior abilities and means.

Relying on their formidable determination and absolute discipline.

"Roar!"

Thus, in the ensuing minutes, a chorus of cries echoed throughout Shuangliu Village.

However, Jun Yao and the other two stood like an indomitable wall, blocking the only exit leading out of the village.

In front of Jun Yao and his comrades were grotesque, concept-of-death-defying murky-water Evil Beasts.

Behind Jun Yao and the others were the Taiping Taoist Soldiers fleeing despite their suppressed grief.

Everyone knew that the three staying behind had little hope of survival; their only duty was to pass on information about the cultivator.

Only thus would Jun Yao and the others' sacrifice be worthwhile.

"Damn monsters! You shall not advance another step!"

Furiously yelling, Jun Yao, after expending all his rounds, drew the saber from his waist and charged.

With the same resolve for death, Chen Yuan and Shu Yu drew their sabers and followed closely behind Jun Yao, shouting the Taiping Taoist Soldiers' battle cry.

"Peace to the world! Raise the banner of civilization! Kill!" X3