

The Growth 56

Chapter 56 - 8: Living Bones

Li Tribe, Creator Altar.

Shuli kept waving the bone stick in his hand, rare seriousness on his face.

"This thing... is alive."

Upon hearing this, the Prophet of the Li Tribe—A Li—merely looked up calmly, staring at his leader with his pale skull face.

"Nonsense, it's not only alive, but also continuously growing."

"As long as you're willing to plant it in the soil, it can absorb nutrients and eventually transform into a new Bone Beast."

This is a characteristic of all Bone Beasts and also the habit of this kind of 'creature.'

"No, what I mean is, it shouldn't be alive."

"It's just a piece of bone, how could it grow automatically like a creature?"

"And even if it's 'related' to bamboo, it shouldn't be able to change from plant to animal, right?"

Though he could understand Shuli's thoughts, A Li didn't care much about it.

A Li was not yet free from the most basic safety needs, so he naturally did not have the same inquisitive nature as the Immortals.

Rather than exploring the underlying principle, A Li was more concerned with how to apply these special bones in practice.

"Anyway, this is a good thing for us."

"These bones from Bone Beasts have a certain degree of self-healing ability."

"If we could use them for transplanting and replacing the bones of the Skeletons, it might greatly enhance our survival ability."

Thousands of years of enlightenment and teaching had long made A Li aware of his differences compared to the Immortals.

Though Skeletons had long lifespans, they were never truly immortal and ageless.

No matter how much they replaced and maintained their bones, the lifespan of the Skeletons was ultimately limited.

If these bones from Bone Beasts were used, they would likely break through the limits of the Skeletons.

At the very least, ordinary Skeletons, lacking the ability to replace and transplant bones, would no longer worry about repair issues after bodily damage.

As for the Li Min, who were already skilled in [Bone Replacement Technology], these self-healing and even self-cultivating bones could be played out in a myriad of ways.

"Uh, indeed, you Skeletons and Immortals are ultimately different."

With a reminder from A Li, Shuli came to the realization.

It's worth mentioning here that Shuli, despite being temperamental and extremely belligerent...

Had wisdom and insight far beyond the average Immortal due to his long years of experience.

Even compared to Balian, considered by the Immortals as the "wisest Prophet," Shuli believed himself not too inferior.

"You Skeletons don't share our vigorous curiosity..."

"Even the most basic food and safety demands are no longer issues for you now."

"So your race has maintained its current state for thousands of years, unable to move further."

"For a race, a civilization, this is deadly."

Though this wasn't the first time Shuli had judged his race like this, A Li still acted attentively as the "Listener."

As if he was still the little skeleton that Shuli rescued from the endless pile of corpses in the past.

If A Li had eyeballs now, you could even see a fervent look of admiration in her eyes.

This was not an exaggerated description.

In reality, the Skeletons did not have a fixed form.

The bones that first revived were their original appearance, and it was the appearance most Skeletons maintained throughout their lives.

However, A Li constantly replaced his body and bones to resemble Shuli more.

Eventually, she achieved a form barely humanoid, even feminine.

In some ways, the existence of the special branch "Li Min" within the Skeletons was largely due to A Li's outrageous actions.

"Do you mean... Bone Beasts can help us escape our current state?"

With affirming nods, Shuli said in a believing tone.

"Yes, the advent of Bone Beasts brings danger but also an opportunity for change for ordinary Skeletons."

"Driven by safety and need, some Skeletons will want to replace their bones with those from Bone Beasts."

"But wild Bone Beasts are too dangerous; this will inevitably lead to the concept of 'taming.'"

"Taming other creatures is an essential skill for a nascent civilization."

"Once Skeletons realize they can tame other creatures to meet their various needs, their desires will be completely unleashed."

Shuli wasn't sure if his idea was correct.

He was only certain that he seemed to have grasped the opportunity to truly change the Skeleton race.

"Tame Bone Beasts!?"

Being with Shuli for so long, A Li could vaguely understand some of the obscure words he spoke.

Yet because of this, A Li's shock seemed natural at that moment.

"Let those dangerous Bone Beasts live alongside ordinary Skeletons?"

"How is that possible?"

"They are not members of the Li Tribe; it's too dangerous to do so!"

A subtle curve appeared at the corner of Shuli's mouth, and he asked interestedly.

"Why not?"

"Bone Beasts weren't Bone Beasts from the start."

Holding up the bone stick in his hand, Shuli continued with a look of a science fanatic.

"As long as we cultivate them from when they are just bones, we can eventually select gentle and obedient Bone Beasts."

"As for the danger?"

"Since Bone Beasts are dangerous to ordinary Skeletons, why not start cultivating them within our tribe?"

Upon hearing this, A Li fell silent.

"But haven't you said before that Bone Beasts aren't pure creatures?"

"They might likely be 'monsters' appearing due to some unobservable crisis, much like those Evil Ghosts."

After a brief silence, A Li recalled some things Shuli had said before and couldn't help asking again.

"But they're also not purely Undead, are they?"

"Unlike those uncontrollable Evil Ghosts, Bone Beasts at least have the potential for domestication."

Shuli gently shook his head, remaining very calm as he spoke.

"Opportunities always coexist with crises, and what we need to do is limit 'crises' to a controllable range."

"So Skeletons... no, accurately speaking, all the children of Father God..."

"Must understand the origins of these Bone Beasts and Evil Ghosts!"