

The Growth 595

Chapter 595 - 5: Fifth-Generation Skeletons

Kangtao is a Fifth Generation Skeleton man, born a natural Ascender, and also the culmination of the [Path of the New Generation Demigods] bioengineering project.

Skeletons are different from normal organisms; their essence is just a bunch of living bones.

Thus, Skeletons determined early on their evolutionary path, distinct from ordinary creatures.

The evolution scheme of "survival of the fittest" was never part of the Skeletons' plan.

Skeletons seek to actively drive their evolutionary course, nurturing powerful new generation individuals through the technology and concepts they have mastered.

The first generation of Skeletons were the primordial Skeletons born under the Day of Sin.

Some of them perished shortly after birth, while others, quite fortunately, were guided and educated by the Immortal, successfully nurturing a self-awareness.

Skeletons at this stage could not yet be called a Race.

They were merely a group of Undead—a group of special individuals who could not reproduce naturally and were only born on the corpses of others.

It wasn't until the "Battle of Jiuli" broke out, to compensate for the massive loss of personnel and enhance the combat prowess of the Skeletons.

Li Min artificially created a group of individuals stronger than ordinary Skeletons.

These powerful individuals utilized the bones of Bone Beasts.

Thus, they were not as fragile as ordinary Skeletons and could even self-heal like living organisms.

By the Hundred Races Era, Skeletons had already mastered mature [Silicon based Bone Cultivation Technology].

Thus, the Third Generation Skeletons with metallic bones came into being.

These Skeletons possessed power far exceeding their predecessors, and their growth cycle was also much shorter than the first two generations of Skeletons.

The most crucial point is that the Third Generation Skeletons grew directly from the Bone Forest, with a complete intellect and growth trajectory, rarely producing individuals with anti-social personality traits.

By the Fourth Generation, Skeletons had integrated [Flesh and Blood Armor] and [Biological Implant Technology] into their Race.

Since then, Skeletons have completely shed their Undead attributes and become a Race indistinguishable from normal biological organisms.

No longer fearing sunlight...

Possessing dual attributes of both the Undead and the living...

Coupled with inherently strong individual prowess and wisdom...

The Fourth Generation Skeletons could already be seen as the pinnacle of normal biological evolution, a truly "Ultimate Life".

No matter how normal organisms evolved, they wouldn't surpass the Fourth Generation Skeletons in strength.

Not to mention, Skeletons could continue to increase and enhance new generation abilities through the implantation of new implants.

Theoretically, at this stage, the only space for Skeletons to improve is to break through the limits of individual ability and become Ascenders.

Clearly, internally, Skeletons have long been aware of this point, having been discussing and researching the possibility of the Fifth Generation Skeletons' birth since a very early time.

This is also the biggest difference between Skeletons and normal organisms; they have always actively advanced their own evolution.

Under such circumstances, the bioengineering project launched in sync with the [Artificial God Plan] became the most likely plan to nurture the Fifth Generation Skeletons.

—Path of the New Generation Demigods!

As the name of this bioengineering project suggests, Skeletons are attempting to surpass the limits of mortal biological beings, to allow the Fifth Generation Skeletons to become natural Ascenders and then advance to true Demigods.

What does it mean to be a Demigod?

An Ascender who walks the Ascension Ladder to its extreme, thus acquiring partial Divine Attributes ahead of time, is known as a "Demigod."

This is not without precedent in the Mountain and Sea Realm.

The Earth Apostle under the Creator's command, Dragon Child, was a natural Ascender.

Dragon Child had the ability to devour all things and grow infinitely from birth.

Unfortunately, the situation concerning Dragon Child appears to be an exception, lacking replicability.

The Mountain and Sea Civilization studied for so long and never succeeded in replicating Dragon Child's Natural Ability, much less recreating the Ascension Ladder.

Luckily, Skeletons were never one-track-minded.

After the Celestial Human Realm emerged, Skeletons saw another possibility in the Celestial Beings.

Integrating the Qi, which symbolizes "Primordial Power," into the new generation individuals, seems to be a way to nurture natural Ascenders as well.

Although the Ascender path of the Celestial Beings has certain flaws, with power that is generally weaker than normal Gods after ascending the Divine Throne.

Yet it doesn't diminish the replicability of Celestial Beings.

On the path from ordinary individuals cultivating to become Celestial Beings, besides the stringent requirements on aptitude, the greatest demands are time and resources.

Funny enough, the Mountain and Sea Civilization lacks everything but time and resources.

As for the strict requirements on cultivation aptitude?

For other Mountain and Sea People, this might be challenging.

But for Skeletons, which were not naturally nurtured, this is a shackle that can be easily broken through.

After special selection and cultivation, the Bone Forest nurturing the Fifth Generation Skeletons is primarily composed of Celestial Being corpses.

The Skeletons arising from the Celestial Being corpses have cultivation aptitude so extraordinary, it's absurd.

Each Fifth Generation Skeleton, during its nurturing phase, enjoys "Genius and Earthly Treasures" that ordinary Cultivators consider coveted and rare.

Once born from the Bone Forest, the Flesh and Blood Armor cultivated from Celestial Being cells will accompany its lifelong growth.

Placed in the Celestial Human Realm, or other worlds with Cultivators.

A newly born Fifth Generation Skeleton would be akin to a "Tripod Furnace" that can instigate chaos and Warfare.

Even across All Heavens and Myriad Realms, only a few worlds can permit individuals with such aptitude and potential to grow slowly.

Yes, the growth cycle of the Fifth Generation Skeletons far exceeds the previous generations.

Even with the [Brain-Machine Implant] and [Virtual Network] technologies that can accelerate growth,

a qualified Fifth Generation Skeleton still requires several hundred years to become competent.

For this reason, the Mountain and Sea Civilization has already begun researching elixirs and arrays that can speed up Cultivators' progress.

Of course, these matters will be addressed later.

At this current stage, the Fifth Generation Skeletons born with Qi are indeed natural Ascenders.

Born with the ability to perceive and manipulate Qi...

Supported by a substantial tilt of resources throughout their growth...

If Kangtao has any dissatisfaction, it might only be the limitations of his own strength as a Qi Cultivator.

The Mountain and Sea Realm is not the Celestial Human Realm.

The Ascension Ladder in the Mountain and Sea Realm is so abundant, the Mountain and Sea People can freely choose—they don't lack for combat-oriented Ascension sequences.

And the Skeleton Race, while not full of battle-fanatics, rarely chooses those Ascension Ladders that don't have much combat power.

Kangtao is a standard Skeleton; naturally, he also cherishes combat and Martial Power.