

The Growth 674

Chapter 674 6: Return of the Old God

Mountain and Sea Realm, Central Tower.

This was originally a signal tower used by the Mountain and Sea Realm to communicate with Sky City.

But not long ago, this Central Tower gained a new function—to contact the Outer Realm Gods.

Rumble...

With a deafening thunder, a gigantic whirlpool suddenly appeared in the sky above the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Within that whirlpool, a creature with nine heads slowly emerged, letting out a deep and hoarse roar.

"Buzz!" x9

Though it was the sound of nine heads together, it eerily harmonized as one.

Once the nine-headed creature fully emerged from the whirlpool, the observer at the Central Tower finally saw its true appearance.

It was a nine-headed bird, its entire body sleek and splendid like a peacock.

The nine heads were diverse, but collectively embodied a humanoid visage.

—Classic of Mountains and Seas: North of the Great Wilderness Chapter.

—Within the Great Wilderness, there is a mountain called the Arctic Celestial Cabinet. Northward the sea flows.

—There exists a God with nine heads, a human face, and a bird's body, named Jiufeng.

"Is that Jiufeng?"

Using various monitoring methods of the Central Tower, a six-eyed Mountain and Sea person marveled thus.

Even separated by thousands of miles, merely seeing Jiufeng on the Central Tower's large screen evoked an uncanny chill within this Mountain and Sea person.

That chill, defying physics, was the manifestation of Jiufeng's divinity as the "Ice God."

In the past Mountain and Sea Realm, Jiufeng resided in the world's Arctic Celestial Cabinet, ruling over the North Sea's snowstorms, wielding life and death.

For the Mountain and Sea Realm back then, Jiufeng was the North Sea's Tyrant, a divine disaster swaying celestial phenomena by its whims.

It wasn't until Candle Dragon became the Creator of the Mountain and Sea Realm, forcibly subduing Jiufeng, that it gradually shouldered the responsibility of maintaining balance in the North Sea.

In truth, this was the fate of most of the past Mountain and Sea Gods.

Before Candle Dragon became the Creator, the Mountain and Sea Gods were notoriously tyrannical and self-centered.

To counterbalance these self-serving deities, the legendary Holy Beast Bai Ze traveled every corner of the Mountain and Sea Realm, specially compiling a book documenting the weaknesses of most Gods and spirit monsters, called the Bai Ze Map.

It can be said that without Candle Dragon's sudden emergence, Bai Ze might have been the strongest of the era.

Of course, Bai Ze's mysterious disappearance is in itself a matter worth pondering.

No one is certain whether Bai Ze was killed by a powerful unknown God due to the excessive documentation of divine and monster weaknesses, or if it ultimately attained enlightenment and left the Mountain and Sea Realm.

The only certainty is that after the Bai Ze Map, the Mountain and Sea Realm has seen no trace of Bai Ze, the Holy Beast.

"Truly worthy of once being a God of Mountains and Seas..."

"Look at its aura, its power, much superior to ordinary gods!"

Standing beside the six eyes, a mass of fully liquefied metal attempted to mimic Jiufeng's form, transforming into its shape.

Unfortunately, even with the help of a Brain-Computer, the unique thought process of dividing one's consciousness into nine exceeded the understanding of most creatures.

"Dunhuang, do not engage in such acts that offend the Gods!"

The six eyes sternly admonished the liquid metal, glancing with a serious expression.

Without knowing the temperament of this former God of Mountains and Seas, mimicking its form could indeed be considered offensive.

The six eyes hoped not to incite conflict between this Old God of Mountains and Seas and the current Mountain and Sea Civilization due to Dunhuang's offense.

"Hmph! Just remnants of a bygone era."

With a hint of disdain, Dunhuang slowly reverted to her original female form.

To more authentically simulate the sensory experience of living creatures, the various implants within Dunhuang swiftly reactivated.

"If not for the Creator's mercy, how could these once rejected failures be allowed to return?"

Dunhuang's thoughts reflected the views of quite a number of the Mountain and Sea people.

Since learning of the impending return of the past Mountain and Sea Gods, many Mountain and Sea people expressed their discontent.

In the eyes of these Mountain and Sea people, these Gods, having abandoned the Mountain and Sea Realm once, could easily do so again.

Welcoming their return is nothing but a detriment outweighing benefits.

After all, the current Mountain and Sea Realm has birthed a new Divine Pantheon, with the new Mountain and Sea Gods being evidently more people-friendly.

"If you continue with such offensive talk, don't blame me for applying for your reassignment back."

Unwilling to bicker further with Dunhuang over this, the six eyes issued a mild warning.

Despite her continued defiance, Dunhuang quieted down at his words.

Not easy to obtain an opportunity to intimately interact with the gods, Dunhuang was reluctant to risk a humiliating return.

"No need to reassign this little one..."

It was then that Jiufeng, now fully descended upon the Mountain and Sea Realm, suddenly turned towards the screen.

"Are you the new generation of the Mountain and Sea Civilization?"

"Regardless, your courage is indeed unmatched by ordinary beings."

"Interesting little one, merely mimicking the stance of the gods won't breach the demigod barrier..."

"Are you interested in becoming my Apostle?"

"I can teach you how to master higher-dimensional perspectives and abilities!"

Jiufeng's nine heads spoke in turn, apparently having overheard the conversation between the six eyes and Dunhuang at the Central Tower.

Moreover, Jiufeng even discerned Dunhuang's attempt to mimic its form was genuinely to surpass the barrier and become a true god.

"Don't look at me with such disbelief..."

"Though we're remnants of a bygone era, we're qualified to assist a demigod in ascending the Divine Throne."

"Surely you've welcomed several gods back, you should know we're among the more temperate."

Confronted by Jiufeng's soliloquy, the six eyes remained quizzically silent.

Upon noticing his peculiar expression, Jiufeng's central head spoke for the first time.

"Silence, all of you!"

The central head's voice was clear, even carrying a hint of a young girl's sweetness.

Yet after it spoke, the previously chattering heads fell silent, reflecting its authority.

"Apologies, my sisters haven't spoken to outsiders in quite some time, hence their verbosity."

The sweet voice continued, and Jiufeng's demeanor gradually became gentle.

Witnessing this, past Mountain and Sea creatures would hardly believe this being could be the North Sea Tyrant.

"May I humbly ask, am I the nth God to return?"

Nonchalantly shifting his gaze, the six eyes gestured to silence Dunhuang from speaking further.

"By the grace of the great Creator!"

"There's no need for politeness; rightly, my companion was somewhat offensive.

"You are the one hundred seventy-second god we contacted, and the thirty-seventh willing to return to the Mountain and Sea Realm."

"Before you, twenty-one gods chose to reside permanently in the Mountain and Sea Realm, and fifteen decided to venture into other worlds graced by the Creator's light."