

## **The Growth 82**

### Chapter 82 - 10: The Age of a Hundred Clans (5 Updates)

A Ke is one of the Skeletons, but not from the original group of ancestors.

A Ke was born 300 years ago during the late stage of the Battle of Jiuli, as a war weapon, a second-generation Skeleton, artificially created by those who inherited the technology and philosophy of the Li Tribe.

A Ke and his peers possess exquisite killing techniques, and their specially modified bodies have a hardness and flexibility far beyond that of typical Skeletons.

Unfortunately, the birth of A Ke and others did not change the final outcome of the Battle of Jiuli.

After all, it was the War of Divine Punishment waged by the Skeletons against the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas with their own power, a war that ultimately brought the disdain of the Immortals.

Here, the reasons and the beginning and end of the so-called War of Divine Punishment must be mentioned.

Five hundred years ago, when the Netherworld appeared, the entire Mountain and Sea Realm had already formed a simple yet effective Reincarnation System.

The direct result of this Reincarnation System, apart from increasing the birth rate of the Skeletons, also provided other species in the Mountain and Sea Realm with more possibilities.

On Earth, where Li Hao resides, the emergence of wisdom may just be a serendipitous accident of fate.

However, in the Mountain and Sea Realm, due to the reincarnation of a series of high-quality souls, many species that originally did not have wisdom began to have "Awakened" ones.

They possess intelligence comparable to the Skeletons and are troubled by the ignorance and blindness of their kind.

Coupled with the deliberate guidance of the Immortals, the Hundred Races Era, where a hundred schools of thought contend and flourish, naturally emerged.

The MinAseerpentg She of the mountains, the Merfolk of the waters, the Feng Fei of the forests...

Various fantastic races that Li Hao had never even heard of sprang up in every corner of the Mountain and Sea Realm.

The scale of these races may not be as large as the Skeletons.

But their combined absolute numbers are far beyond what the Skeletons can match.

Thus, under the leadership of their respective race prophets, the Hundred Races began to gradually step out of their territories, evolving toward truly intelligent life forms.

But in doing so, the Skeletons of the Earth Realm, whose habitat was being encroached upon, naturally could not sit idly by.

It was the first time that the usually desireless Skeletons had such a collective and explicit will—they wanted to expel those creatures that invaded their territories.

Especially under the leadership of the radicals among the Skeletons, the Li Min, they launched an exterminating massacre on all creatures intending to infringe on their territories.

Yes, it was not a war, but a one-sided massacre.

For the Skeletons, who had entered the tribal civilization era, the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas were at best only a group of beasts with wisdom.

If it weren't for the Skeletons not having too many material needs...

If it weren't for the belief in the Creator shared with the Hundred Races...

The Skeletons, whose fighting and bloodthirsty desires were gradually being stimulated, would not have been content merely to drive them out of their territory.

Even so, that one-sided massacre still provoked the wrath of the Immortals.

The "brothers" they nurtured with their own hands slaughtered Father God's other "children," which was a calamity, a blow, to the Immortals.

Even the most carefree individuals among the Immortals began to reflect on whether they had been too indulgent to the Skeletons.

The Skeletons inherently possess a ferocious, violent nature, which is an unquestionable fact.

Prior to this, the Immortals had always tried to use enlightenment and civilization to correct the Skeletons' nature, hoping they would truly qualify as the Second Son of God.

In the end, the Skeletons, like a spoiled child, failed to recognize their responsibilities.

In anger, Balian called back all the Immortals among the Skeletons.

The few Immortals unwilling to leave the Skeletons were also forced to return to the Divine Gifted Plains in the center of the earth under Yao Xin's military threat.

Without the help of the Immortals and facing the siege of the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas...

The Skeletons finally understood what helplessness and despair meant.

Although their race possessed overwhelming institutional and technological advantages, they were unable to withstand the varied abilities of the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas.

Forced to move, the Skeletons, who had always existed in a "tribal form," finally began to truly gather together.

The fierce War of Divine Punishment truly began from that day.

The war lasted a full ten years, and both the Skeletons and the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas suffered heavy losses.

In the eyes of a few Immortals who joined to support one side over the other, the institutional and technological advantages of the Skeletons were not significant.

—War is a catalyst for civilization.

Whether on Earth or in today's Mountain and Sea Realm, this fact has been fully validated.

As this protracted war continued, the once lax, desireless Skeletons were forced to unleash astonishing potential.

Domestication of Primordial Bone Beasts...

Bone walls that could naturally grow...

Techniques for constructing underground defenses...

And most importantly, the establishment of the "Zhiku System" regime...

It can be said that the three hundred years of development and progress of the Skeletons far exceeded the past millennia of Immortal teachings.

Whether it was a result of deep accumulation leading to a late burst or the catalysis of war.

In any case, the potential unleashed by the Skeletons was enough to make any Immortal turn their heads.

Of course, the catalysis brought by the war was certainly not one-sided.

The resilience and state of the Skeletons also stimulated the progress of other species in the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Tribal civilization, leadership systems, beast domestication, cultivar selection, language learning, writing development...

The progress of the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas also amazed the Immortals.

Only at this point did they realize that perhaps the lack of change in the Skeletons for thousands of years was not solely due to their own reasons.

The education method of the Immortals, as if nurturing greenhouse flowers, was also a significant factor causing their delay in making changes.

The Immortals were the brothers of the Skeletons, not meant to be their nannies.

Only appropriate crises and changes in environment can spur the Skeletons to actively seek change.

However, when the Immortals with such thoughts went to the front lines of the battlefield, seeing the creatures in pools of blood and corpses, they fell silent one after another.

As Balian put it, such progress was too cruel, and the price paid was too high.

Immortals and Skeletons had ample time and did not need to catalyze the progress of civilization in such a cruel way.

[We are not those in a world with nothing, who can only use sacrifice to gain progress.]

[Our world has the benevolent Father God, and I think He would not want to witness the growth of His children in such a way.]

Balian's words were somewhat personal but indeed marked the beginning of the end of the War of Divine Punishment.