

## The Growth 97

Chapter 97: The Virtuous King, the Tyrant, and the Prophet

[...]

For the final choices of Gu Sheng and Yao Xin, Li Hao, who was in the midst of the unseeable, saw everything clearly, and only shook his head without comment.

As the "God of Death", Yao Xin inherently held a different perspective on life and death compared to ordinary people.

Li Hao had no intention of influencing her choice, just as he had never overly interfered with the development of the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas.

With time passing by, Li Hao gradually understood how to become a qualified Creator, a true God.

In contrast, the subsequent impact of Gu Sheng's sudden death was something more worth Li Hao's attention now.

After A Ke left White Bone City carrying Gu Sheng's remains, the prophets, who realized it later, suddenly understood that Xiong Pi was the real culprit behind all of this.

With a surge of anger and questioning, the prophets confronted Xiong Pi.

However, Xiong Pi, who had been prepared, suddenly abandoned the previous appearance of a simpleton and imprisoned all the prophets.

—After the Kingly Way comes the Tyrannical Way!

—After Gu Sheng's death, no one can retrace his path of a Virtuous King.

—Henceforth, White Bone City will carry out my will.

With thunderous tactics, he suppressed all the opposing forces in White Bone City against him.

Xiong Pi, with undeniable strong dominance, led the future path of the Skeletons, and even the entire Hundred Races Alliance.

During this period, even the Skeletons themselves were full of controversy about Xiong Pi's actions, not to mention the other races.

If it were when Gu Sheng was in power, he would naturally not hesitate to persuade those opposing forces and races with his charisma and prestige.

However, as Xiong Pi said, there was no more Virtuous King after Gu Sheng.

In today's Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas, no one could have the prestige and charisma of Gu Sheng to continue the trend of unification.

Taking a different path, Xiong Pi chose the simplest and most brutal military force to conquer the other races to continue Gu Sheng's ideals.

Wherever there is a place of resistance, Xiong Pi would lead the army to battle personally.

However, this war, led by Xiong Pi, was a war of conquest with the purpose of "conquering."

As long as they are willing to surrender to him, as long as they are willing to join the Hundred Races Alliance, Xiong Pi will disregard their past resistance and rebellion.

It's hard to say whether Xiong Pi was a qualified leader.

But undeniably, Xiong Pi's strong dominance indeed forcibly continued the unification trend, which had stagnated due to Gu Sheng's death.

Behind the emotional turmoil in the Hundred Races Alliance, there was obedience, resistance, oppression, and anger.

But no matter what thoughts the members of the Hundred Races Alliance held, they all showed genuine fear towards Xiong Pi.

Amid the unrest and effect of various emotions, the Hundred Races Alliance, which already lacked a strong sense of racial identity, naturally developed an empathetic mentality towards those who shared the same emotions and stance.

No matter the race, no matter the position...

As long as you fear the rule of Xiong Pi, then we are of the same path.

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One hundred and thirty-eight years later, beneath the Creator Altar of White Bone City.

Still the same conference table once used by members of the Zhiku, still the familiar scenery and image.

However, now in front of this Zhiku conference table stood only the lonely figure of Xiong Pi.

In White Bone City, among the Skeletons, and in the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas, there was never a concept of a "ruler."

Even now with Xiong Pi's unilateral actions, he never considered himself above the other Skeletons, only carrying out the responsibility placed on him.

That was Xiong Pi's promise to Gu Sheng, as well as their once joint vision of peace.

"Do you regret it?"

With a weary expression, A Li silently appeared behind Xiong Pi and lightly asked.

"Regret?"

"I never even knew how to write the word 'regret'."

Not turning around, completely exposing his back to A Li, Xiong Pi said with a smile.

"But you, since the last argument, you haven't come to see me for over a hundred years. Are you here to kill me this time?"

The moment this was said, the scene fell into a moment of silence.

"As expected, I knew you never do anything meaningless."

After a brief silence, the well-prepared Xiong Pi sighed.

"Kill me!"

"Then reorganize the alliance, completing the steps towards unification."

"Under the oppression of me, this tyrant, the Hundred Races, including the Skeletons, have a shared anger and goal, making the upcoming matters much simpler."

Instead of taking the opportunity to attack Xiong Pi, A Li simply walked across to stand in front of Xiong Pi.

"Using hatred to unite everyone, you are crazier than I thought."

"Haven't you considered that after you die, without hatred as a cohesive force, the Hundred Races will return to their former state?"

A Li's words were not guesses but a foreseeable reality.

Compared to Gu Sheng who united everyone with charisma and prestige, Xiong Pi's method of using hatred to unite everyone was destined to be extreme and temporary.

"That would be your concern then."

Indifferently shrugging, Xiong Pi opened his four arms simultaneously.

"I have done everything I can do; the Hundred Races have lived under the same anger for nearly a century."

"If with this, you all still cannot complete the subsequent steps..."

"It only proves that the ideals of Gu Sheng and I were destined to remain a fleeting illusion."

Before A Li could react, Xiong Pi suddenly grabbed his own spine and forcibly pulled it out.

Crunch...

With a sharp crack of bone, the light in Xiong Pi's eyes faded away.

Yet the hand holding his spine extended straight toward A Li, along with Xiong Pi's final words.

"I won't let you bear the guilt of killing a friend, but you must bear the crime of killing me to unite them!"

"This is... the last thing I can do for you all."

Seeing Xiong Pi, who remained standing even in death, for the first time, A Li doubted whether they had done something wrong.

"Shuli, if only you were still here!"

Even though no tears were shed, at this moment, A Li seemed to understand what the bitterness of tears meant.

If Shuli were still around, would things have been different?

With such confusion and sorrow, A Li took the shattered Central Bone from Xiong Pi and also inherited the ideal passed down from Gu Sheng.

The era of the Virtuous King was over, as was the era of the Tyrant.

Next to be initiated, would be a new era led by the Prophets.

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—Year 376 of the Hundred Races Calendar, at the time of Twin Suns bestriding the sky.

—One hundred and thirty-eight years after the theft of the Virtuous King's Remains, Tyrant Pi finally died in front of the Creator Altar.

—In the following three years, Prophet Li took the residual might of executing the Tyrant to reorganize the Hundred Races Alliance and rebuild the Zhiku system, propelling societal reform with the wisdom of the Hundred Races, a period known as the "Enlightened Era."

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—Year 1163 of the Hundred Races Calendar, amid the blossoming of the epiphyllum.

—Prophet Li announced her retirement and was never seen again. It was rumored that she might have again found the Immortal who once granted her wisdom.

—For more than six hundred years after, the Three Strong Races, Seven Great Clans, and over a hundred smaller races took turns leading the Zhiku, fully entering the "Zhiku Era."