

The story of Zhae

Chapter 13: Entering the twilight zone

I stand gazing upon a village. It feels... I can't find a word. I destroy because I should. Already I feel greater and more powerful. I continue on my important task. Another village, greater as I now am, it is destroyed even swifter. I have no words for this feeling, it is... beyond anything... More and more fall. Villages become cities, cities become nations. All add to my greatness, my invincibility. All fall for me.

I wake up startled... Hmm, I must have fallen asleep as soon as we made camp. I feel ready again, invigorated. I seek out our new companion, it has been a few weeks already, yet we have not had time to spar, now though we have the weapons to do so. He said he felt a bit off, though I must admit, I can never be quite sure with his...peculiar appearance. We shall spar, though not yet. It has been only a day or so since the great battle, yet it feels weeks away. How I long for more! I notice an anthill... I subconsciously give it a little kick and I remember a vague dream... Later after some wandering I notice the sparring of the Xiaojie. He must be feeling better, he teaches her well. She has some skill, a smile creeps upon my face, but she will still need a proper sword arm at her side.

Another village destroyed, my power grows.... what is this now! The water, the trees...the air., they assault me, forming strange creatures that dare to oppose me! They have not realized my greatness, they shall be done with! But what is this! Every strike and blow upon me I shrink! My power fades! I assault them with great fury, laying waste to more villages to grow, yet they still defy me, I can't reach my destiny this way! It feels though we are locked in this pointless struggle forever!

I find myself bathed in sweat, my head and body aches. I look about puzzled. Another day of travel. The odd times of sleep and travel must be getting to me. Perhaps it is the armor, sleeping in it now, maybe it unbalances, one usually sleeps uninhibited. Yet to say this chain inhibits in away, would feel like an insult. It must be the odd times. I feel....off. I find myself limited this day, an unpleasant feeling of uselessness washing over me. It is with great happiness I lay myself to sleep again, hopefully I'll be alright and ready for more battles tomorrow.

Yet again these things feel the need to assail me! Do they not know who I am! I am invincible! Odd, I hear words...whispers upon the wind? It is of no consequence. I spend much time swatting them again then they change again, lo I spot one laying low, unmoving, pretending to be already vanquished to surprise me, do they not realize who I am!

I crush it beneath my heel, in response many other of the still ones spring to action, ha! Perhaps now they understand petty tricks are of no avail. I suddenly find myself in open land another village upon which to exact my power! I grow greater yet again!But where are the creatures? Ah they are up head, I fight through a swath of lesser ones(hah a joke, all are lesser than I!), finally reaching two of the obviously more formidable ones, these now deserve my attention, testaments to my might! A great broad shouldered being of stone and metal, its arm twisting into a horrific axe and the other a shield, the other a smaller twisted wielder of those horrific arts, I shall prove the masters way far superior than such! The smaller one proves swifter than I expected, but I crack the large one. He fights back with great fury, causing me to shrink again! I shall focus upon him first, the trickery of lesser consequence to me, I let him taste my greatest technique, o look at his body become a testament of my strength as it cracks.

....Odd My clothes are suddenly soaked through as am I....what a useless attack..... do they think this shall halt me! The great stone continues its assault, I shrink yet further, Wo hen da! Ni bu neng wo zuo xiao! Small creatures assail me constricting my neck, more words...they are of no meaning, I must fight! I will not fall! I will grow I will be strong, I will not be stopped! I will be great!!!

Ah? A sweet feeling caressed my cheek, I have never known such a bliss touch, the creatures seem to fall to pieces.....As if through the mist I see the Xiaojie, she is crying....? Everyone else is up and armed? We are under attack! I look quickly, but spy no adversaries???? She continues to tear.....Ah what to do? I have no knowledge here??? Where are the foes I will strike them and restore peace! The master and Cuura Nushi enter a great fight of utterly colorful words. I take the xiaojie elsewhere, that much I know, won't lessen her tears. Yet behind here, I still know not how to calm her. We are joined later and the horror is then explained to me..I have no words..How could this happen.... the Xiaojie leaves us in the most humble manner, I wish to ask her to stay, but how can I do so...I have just fought those that trusted me, assaulted the one I have moved to protect at every turn, she is safer away! I... I just don't know....We discuss binding, I fully believe it the best, lest another remedy be found. I...I just don't know what to do, how can I protect them from myself????

How????

Xiaojie.....how can I ever justify this failing...