

## The Growth 132

Chapter 132 - 11: Advanced Forms of Artificial Life (5/5)

[Is it the advanced form of artificial life?]

Long ago, when still in the primitive stage of civilization, the Skeletons created a batch of individual beings known as "Second Generation Skeletons" through certain special methods.

They were not naturally born Skeletons, but were naturally strong entities conceived by infusing a particular kind of Spiritual Essence into specific bones.

The first Ascender among the Skeletons—A Ke—was born from this batch of Second Generation Skeletons.

Li Hao originally thought that was the limit for the Skeletons.

However, what was happening at the Zhiku Research Institute made Li Hao realize he had underestimated the wisdom and madness of this group of Skeletons.

No matter how a Skeleton, merely having bones, enhances the strength of its skeletal structure, biologically it cannot compare to those creatures that possess complex mechanisms.

The sensitivity and regulation of nerves, the strength and resilience of muscles, the protection and sensory of skin...

These special functions cannot be replaced by the singular strength of bones.

Insightful individuals among the Skeletons obviously realized this, and began to find solutions.

One of the solutions they thought of was to cover the Skeleton's body with artificially made "flesh and blood".

[Unfortunately, just doing this is far from enough.]

Witnessing the Skeletons participating in the experiments gradually "grow" flesh and skin layer by layer.

In the depths of his mind, Li Hao merely shook his head silently.

The Skeletons indeed put in great effort to strengthen themselves.

They simulated not just flesh and skin, but even internal organs and blood circulation—even though they were fake.

However, the problem lies here.

Do the Skeletons really need, or should they completely and identically restore biological structures?

For the Skeletons, the existence of flesh and skin is not essential for maintaining life, but instead more like armor to strengthen themselves.

If it is armor, then there is no need to consider so many additional functions and attributes.

[Looks like I've got to remind you...]

With a hint of intriguing interest, Li Hao chose to intervene in the Skeletons' experiments with his will.

This was a method Li Hao used to enlighten Balian, making him his Deputy and advancing him to the Wilderness Prophet—Enlightenment.

Although these Skeletons were neither Prophets nor had the potential to become Prophets.

However, when Li Hao selectively infused some of his thoughts into their minds, something called "inspiration" appeared.

The higher the intelligence and sensitivity of a creature, the more it can capture that fleeting inspiration and gradually transform it into reality.

This is a way for gods to intervene in the world, and also the primary means most gods communicate with mortal beings.

.....

At the same time, to the south of the Central Plains.

This is the Fallen Land of the Sky City, and also where the Dragon-headed Giant slumbers.

Ever since the Dragon-headed Giant supported the heavens and revived the sunrise, allowing the world to regain new life, endless fog and wild winds have shrouded this region.

However, this is such a region where life almost ceases to exist.

On the periphery stands a particularly unique city—the City of Corpse.

This city, built at the edge of fog and storms, has an interior architectural layout and style almost identical to the White Bone City.

If there is a singular difference, it is probably that only a few Skeletons live here.

This is because the City of Corpse is not a normal city, but an Exile City used by the Skeletons to banish those of their race who committed "unforgivable crimes".

—Defying the Creator!

—Harming compatriots of the Hundred Races!

—Believing in the doctrines of Heretic Evil God!

Only Skeletons who have committed these three "unforgivable crimes" are banished to this barren land far from normal ecological environments.

Of course, since it's a city used to exile criminals, naturally there won't be any normal order here.

The City Lord of this city is the first Ascender of the Skeleton race, the Second Generation Skeleton who was banished for stealing the Saint King's Remains—A Ke.

Under A Ke's governance, the only rule in the City of Corpse is "no one is allowed to die."

Other than that, no matter what you do, A Ke won't care.

Mang Qi was one criminal who was sent to the City of Corpse for punishment under such circumstances.

Like most of the criminals sent to the City of Corpse, Mang Qi was a natural berserker.

It's well known that Skeletons are a race born because of the Day of Sin.

Under the purification ability of the Storm Chain, the Skeletons born in the Mountain and Sea Realm have largely rid themselves of the primal fury and hatred of their ancestors.

But there will always be special cases in this world.

Especially when the number of Skeletons keeps growing, there will always be certain special individuals who experience Ancestral Regression, inheriting the savage side of the original Skeletons.

In fact, most of the Skeletons exiled to the City of Corpse are these regressed individuals.

But different from ordinary regressed individuals.

Although Mang Qi was naturally furious, he never truly harmed other Skeletons due to a loss of control over his emotions.

Each time he "lost control" it was a cover for his deeper purposes.

From Li Hao's perspective, Mang Qi was simply a born villain.

Rage was merely a facade he displayed, intending to use this facade to garner desired benefits.

Among the straightforward and desireless Skeletons, this was the true Mysterious Creature.

For instance, the reason Mang Qi was eventually sent to the City of Corpse.

Was because Bone Chant foresaw his inner darkness, catching him in his "loss of control" with evidence in hand and capturing him along with several of his companions red-handed.

—Using loss of control and rampage as a cover, seizing the property of other Skeletons.

This was Mang Qi's crime, and also the main reason other Skeletons in the City of Corpse were particularly wary of him.

The City of Corpse isn't like the White Bone City.

Here, apart from not being allowed to die, there's no mention of protecting personal property.

"Damn it!"

"If this keeps going, we will sooner or later be torn apart by those lunatics!"

As the leader of the small group, Mang Yi couldn't help but complain once again upon noticing the hostile gazes of nearby Skeletons.

Perhaps influenced by Mang Qi.

Although the other six in the group were not natural berserkers, they also possessed private desires and greed unlike typical Skeletons.

"What should we do then? We can't escape!"

Sighing helplessly, the most rational member of the group, Mang San, spoke quietly.

Although the City of Corpse is an Exile City, the ones guarding it are genuine Second Generation Skeletons.

Let alone their small group, even if the entire city of berserkers rioted together, they would easily be subdued by those freaks.

After all, being berserk doesn't equate to combat power.

The huge gap between Second Generation Skeletons and ordinary Skeletons can't be closed by mere anger.