

The Growth 186

Chapter 186 18: The Poison of Faith (3/3)

[Artificial... Primordial Spirit?]

This was Li Hao's first thought when he traced back this world's past through the Celestial Tao System and saw the "Celestial Matrix Buddha."

Li Hao did not know what kind of existence the hidden "Buddha" truly was.

But he knew that the virtual world, that "Celestial Matrix Buddha" infinitely close to a Divine Abomination, was essentially born to nurture an artificial Primordial Spirit.

After experiencing so many events and having the information channel of the Civilization Game...

Compared to this world's oblivious Gods, Li Hao was far stronger in every aspect.

In Li Hao's view, "Buddha" was merely a slogan, just a reason to gather the faith of all living beings.

You could replace "Buddha" with any other name; it actually wasn't important at all.

What mattered was that "Buddha" made everyone, even the Gods, believe that there indeed was a supreme existence in this world.

He is the endpoint of life, the Incarnation of all things, the cornerstone of the world.

If the Primordial Spirit is "the beginning," the start of everything, the origin that nurtures everything...

Then what that "Buddha" aimed to do was the opposite: to return everything already born to an endpoint.

—One gave birth to two, two to three, three to myriad things, and all things eventually returned to the endpoint.

This is what that "Buddha" sought to accomplish!

Especially that virtual world, which, in Li Hao's eyes, was essentially a Spirit Realm existing in another form.

To create a pure, non-material virtual world through the power of civilization and technology.

Then, at the cost of sacrificing the Gods of a world, to consolidate all Divine Formats, Divine Positions, Divine Authority, and Divine Power into one, artificially creating a Creator who controls everything.

It can only be said that "Buddha" calculated almost everything, yet he failed to account for the final resistance of the Innate God.

Disregarding the risk of falling, the Innate God forcibly descended into the world and shattered the "Celestial Matrix Buddha," thus giving other Gods in this world a chance to escape.

Except for those Gods who had long been assimilated, the remaining Gods fled this world, becoming the Lost Gods wandering the All Heavens and Myriad Realms.

What about the life and civilization native to this world?

The moment the "Celestial Matrix Buddha" descended from the virtual world, all hope was lost.

Despite originating from another virtual world, despite being an incomplete Creator...

The "Celestial Matrix Buddha" ultimately defeated the Innate God, defeated that lone, desperate Hero.

Thus, as the surviving fragments of "Celestial Matrix Buddha" were picked up by the survivors and re-worshipped, the efforts of the Innate God were completely annihilated.

In the following long era, those remnants of the "Celestial Matrix Buddha" transformed into true Divine Abominations.

Each fragment became a relatively independent small virtual world...

Each small virtual world began collecting faith...

When the surviving beings gathered near these fragments, one "City of Intelligent Mechanism" after another arose.

Unfortunately, these "Cities of Intelligent Mechanism" inherited only a part of the "Celestial Matrix Buddha."

As a result, the believers who chose to worship those remnants began to grow mad and fanatic.

They waged frenzied attacks and wars upon each other, attempting to seize the "Celestial Matrix Buddha" remnants from other "Cities of Intelligent Mechanism" and forge them into a complete "Buddha."

[Is this the 'Faith Poison'?]

Li Hao had heard of this term "Faith Poison" in the Civilization Game.

It referred to certain fanatics of the Divine who believed obsessively that their faith alone was the world's true doctrine.

Thus, these fanatics would commit acts that contradict the will of the True God, even to the point of denying the existence of the True God.

Anything that did not align with their faith, even if it was their own True God, was merely an Evil Demon borrowing the God's name.

All crazed, all excessive...

In the All Heavens and Myriad Realms, the majority of the once-renowned Desecrators emerged from this group of fanatics.

There are even rumors that among those Desecrators afflicted with "Faith Poison," one managed to reverse-erosively assimilate their own True God through their belief.

Since then, "Faith Poison" became the second most taboo in the All Heavens and Myriad Realms, only after Divine Abomination.

After all, no True God wanted to be devoured by faith and become the puppet of some Desecrator.

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"That group of lunatics... haven't given up yet?"

Hiding within the ruins of a mechanized city.

Quinn looked up at the sky, experiencing for the first time what the concept of "tired" meant.

Fighting against a city on his own, and it was a city full of extreme fanatics.

Even Quinn, as a third-generation Skeleton, felt a kind of weariness from the heart.

At this moment, above the city ruins, bizarrely shaped Mechanical Vajras modified from their bodies skimmed low on flying skateboards.

Every now and then, mechanical motorcycles on the roadsides zoomed through the ruins at near-maniacal speeds.

Even more exaggerated, on the edge of the city ruins, massive machines and artillery continued to bombard every corner of the city, trying to force Quinn out from hiding.

Quinn had never seen such a fanatical race, so frenzied that it was difficult to associate them with civilization.

Not even the world's most savage and brutal beasts would likely destroy every city within a thousand-mile radius just to flush out one individual, right?

Fortunately, Quinn was not gripped by fear.

On the contrary, growing more courageous with each battle, Quinn constantly maneuvered to get closer to the City of Intelligent Mechanism illuminated by neon lights.

"Now's the time!"

Seeing more and more Mechanical Vajras leave the City of Intelligent Mechanism, Quinn unhesitatingly activated his trump card — Flesh and Blood Armor.

Sizzle...

High-intensity biological fibers visibly surged from the spine.

In an instant, Quinn's originally skeletal body became a bizarre creature shrouded in crimson flesh.

His strength, speed, and reflexes were each amplified a hundredfold...

Quinn grew eyes and ears.

He began to see, hear, and even touch this world like a normal creature.

"Let's see what you've done to those Burrowing Insects!"

After taking one last glance at the Mechanical Vajras still searching the area, Quinn dashed toward the nearby City of Intelligent Mechanism.

Whoosh—Boom!

The tearing speed produced a massive explosion in the air.

In an instant, the surrounding air backflowed, forming a terrifying "white smoke."

Any Mechanical Vajra caught in it was pulverized by the immense force, with no chance of survival.