

The Growth 190

Chapter 190 22: Using All Life as Chess Pieces (1/3)

Stone is an Undead, an Undead born in the Godless World.

If it were before the signing of the "World Crossing Contract," an Undead like Stone, even if it had awakened self-awareness and gained wisdom, would only be a tiny part of the vast sea of bones.

Eventually, in one of the offensives against the "City of Intelligent Mechanism," it would be slain by the Mechanical Vajra and the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva, then buried beneath the "City of Intelligent Mechanism" once more.

After all, this is the fate of the Undead born in this world, a process of this world's self-circulation.

However, the arrival of Savior Quinn broke this fate.

As the Savior of the Undead and the resister of the Undead Calamity...

Quinn showed the Undead of this world through his actions that even those born from chaos and death have the right to live.

From that day on, the Undead were no longer mere prey for the Mechanical Vajra and the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva.

They became another force in this world, a force strong enough to rival the "Buddha."

More importantly, the Undead now have their own faith and support.

The Goddess of Death from another world, the Strongest True God under the Creator, Yao Xin, became the deity worshiped by countless Undead who had gained wisdom.

The descent of the Goddess of Death brought faith, hope, technology, and civilization to the Undead.

Coupled with external pressure, the Undead of this world quickly emerged from their primitive and ignorant state.

They, centered around intelligent individuals, gave birth to a special war Empire born and perished for war.

The Undead did not need to eat, drink, or even sleep...

All their productivity was for battle, to defeat the followers of the "Buddha."

Like a high-intensity rotating gear, the Undead exploited their potential in the most extreme ways.

The daytime of this world belonged to the Mechanical Vajra and the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva.

They would charge out of the "City of Intelligent Mechanism," slaughtering those defenseless Undead remains in their own way.

But when night fell, the vengeful spirits would crawl out from the ground, counterattacking and assaulting the defenses of the "City of Intelligent Mechanism."

The ebb and flow of conflict between the two forces spanned centuries.

Stone was just one of them, not even one of the more outstanding ones.

But this seemingly insignificant character one day suddenly harbored a doubt—does this war have meaning?

Am I destined to die again in some battle?

But if I don't continue fighting, what else can I do?

Or more accurately, will the followers of the "Buddha" let me live?

When neither side can completely resolve the other, is it really necessary to continue this endless war?

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"My Buddha, is it necessary to continue this endless war?"

Standing in the center of the City of Intelligent Mechanism, a Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva overlooked the nearly boundless tide of Undead below, and once again posed this question to the central Zhiku.

Unlike Stone from the lower ranks, the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva was a component of the Celestial Vajra's intellect.

Thus, this Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva knew the entirety of the "World Crossing Contract" and knew well how this inevitable Undead Calamity had formed.

This was a bet among the Gods, a secret contest among the Gods.

As long as one God refuses to admit defeat, this war is destined never to end.

Initially, the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva did not find this strange.

For before the Undead Calamity, this world was originally a place for the "Buddha" to select Apostles and Ascenders.

As long as this world continues to move, as long as other civilizations continue to arrive in this world, they will provide endless nutrients and vitality to this world.

Assimilation or resistance...

Even the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva itself was a new being reborn after repeated destruction.

Its memory module contains all the memories of its predecessors and knows that once it completes its mission, it will become an incarnation of the "Buddha" like other successful ones and go to the world where the "Buddha" truly resides.

But the issue is, with the signing of the "World Crossing Contract," those remains, once deemed "residue," gradually transformed into a new civilization—a civilization sworn to oppose the "Buddha."

From the perspective of the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva, this seemed like raising a tiger that would eventually bite.

[Your perspective is ultimately too shallow.]

Just when the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva thought the central Zhiku would, as always, ignore its query, a cold and mechanical voice echoed in its electronic brain.

[Buddha is all beings, all beings are Buddha.]

[You and I are incarnations of Buddha, and so are those dead.]

[Buddha is everywhere, with Buddha in the heart, one can become Buddha.]

[The dead have yet to realize this, but sooner or later, they will awaken.]

Faced with this response from the central Zhiku, the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva fell silent.

It was unsure if this was the answer from the central Zhiku or from the hidden "Buddha."

The only certainty was that the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva did not agree with this answer.

Its once normally functioning electronic brain began to experience confusion and conflicting logic, as two distinct viewpoints clashed in its mind.

On one hand, the "Buddha's" answer was imprinted like an ideological stamp on the basic logic of its electronic brain.

On the other hand, its personal experiences constantly made it unable to accept this viewpoint.

[This is just a game of the Gods.]

Suddenly, an entirely different thought emerged in the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva's heart.

[We are merely pawns in the hands of the God and Buddha; our lives and deaths do not matter.]

As if awakened from a dream, the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva suddenly looked up at the sky, the neon-lit electronic eyes gradually reflecting a certain human-like emotion.

[I am unwilling... I do not want to be a pawn...]

Helplessness, melancholy, yet mixed with a hint of defiance...

For the first time, the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva clearly separated its will from that of the "Buddha."

This was an idea belonging solely to itself, a will different from, even contrary to, that of the "Buddha."

Like a data virus, the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva never felt so oppressed, so confined.

It craved freedom, sought to sever ties with the "Buddha," and yearned to end this unending war.

After all... even after undergoing inhuman mechanical transformation, even after dedicating all its belief to the "Buddha."

The beings of the "City of Intelligent Mechanism" ultimately were living creatures; they had the right to decide their own lives and deaths.

In the mysteries of destiny, the Celestial Tao System noticed the presence of Stone and the Celestial Matrix Bodhisattva—noticed these two special Mysterious Creatures within their respective clans.

Thus, the gears of fate began to turn.