

## **The Growth 232**

Chapter 232 - 16: Technology for Achieving Immortality (1/3)

Port of Confusion, Illusory Fairyland.

When Celestial Monarch Yan stepped into this cloud-covered illusion, an ancient and elegant atmosphere suddenly appeared.

Unlike the fantastical and unique scenes outside in the Myriad Realms, this was a reflection of some classical civilization.

Unfortunately, this reflective space was clearly not complete.

Or more precisely, this was just an imagined fairyland.

No historical sediment, no cultural depth...

It was more like a false world imagined by an entity with a rich imagination.

"Did Wu Kui disappear here?"

The eyes of the [Lord of Ghosts and Gods] kept turning, carefully examining this false world with a curious gaze.

This was clearly an "exchange center" within the Port of Confusion, where various creatures came and went, each dressed differently.

Here were beasts covered in hair, wearing nothing...

Here were divine beings clad in golden armor, holding long spears...

Here were intelligent mechanisms mixed with silicon, with transplanted prosthetics...

Here were undead with ghastly white bodies, and ferocious faces...

Celestial Monarch Yan even saw a two-dimensional person, similar to a paper figure, hiding in a low-dimensional space...

[Why do I feel there's something weird about this place?]

At this moment, Duo Mu, who seemed to sense something as well, spoke up.

"This place is indeed odd because it's just a hodgepodge space."

As a former Mentor of the Gods, an Old God, Celestial Monarch Yan rarely took the initiative to explain.

"Generally speaking, the development of civilization presents in a stepwise and helical manner."

"Biological civilization, mechanical civilization, hero's civilization, collective civilization..."

"No matter which direction a race moves towards in terms of civilization, it usually continues along just that one path."

"Attempting to explore all directions of civilization, and thereby reach some kind of omniscient and all-powerful state is generally an unrewarding endeavor for most civilizations."

After a slight pause, Celestial Monarch Yan focused his gaze on an ancient-style building not far away.

"However, this space is different. What we are seeing now is a typical hero's civilization surface that focuses on individuals and pursues extreme power."

"Yet, the inner workings that produce all this are actually technological paths taken by collective civilizations."

With Celestial Monarch Yan's reminder, both [Lord of Ghosts and Gods] and Duo Mu immediately understood.

"Tsk, tsk, tsk, are they disguising themselves?"

[Lord of Ghosts and Gods], looking in the same direction as Celestial Monarch Yan, stared at that ancient-style building.

In the view of [Lord of Ghosts and Gods], that was not just an ancient-style building, but clearly a large-scale virtual environment generator.

The machines constructing this building weren't the conventional meaning of machinery and steel but used replaceable wooden structures and artificial materials.

.....

[As expected of the Old God, truly knowledgeable.]

Seeing this, Li Hao couldn't help exclaiming in his abstracted thoughts.

He was originally worried that those three troublemakers might not discern the essence of this virtual illusion.

But it now seems that, despite their impulsive and reckless nature, their abilities were indeed unquestionable.

Just like Li Hao wanted to use the World of Fallen Gods as a "window," there were naturally other gods in the All Heavens and Myriad Realms who had the same idea.

Although the Divine Fall Realm was not their home turf, it didn't stop them from stirring up some small actions.

This was something Li Hao and Maitreya had considered and even tacitly accepted when they chose to open up the World of Fallen Gods.

[However, the tech tree of this civilization is really skewed.]

As the logical direction of technological civilization progression, material science has always been indisputably crucial.

Even the Skeleton Race with their unorthodox path has always been considering how to strengthen bones.

But the constructor of this virtual environment used the simplest wooden materials to create a precisely operable device.

Li Hao could see that besides some special components made using high-strength artificial materials, the device for creating a large-scale virtual environment was predominantly constructed using ordinary wooden materials.

This means the civilization building this virtual environment has terrifying expertise in geometry and structural engineering.

"Disguise?"

"No, they're just a group of undead."

Unaware that the Creator had already set their eyes on them, Celestial Monarch Yan continued answering the [Lord of Ghosts and Gods]'s questions unperturbed.

"I once encountered a civilization that also specialized in virtual and dream technology."

"In that civilization, individuals are implanted with a set of offline artificial soul systems and a virtual personality capable of growing alongside their real selves at birth."

"Because this virtual personality and the real self are nearly identical, it can assist the real self in handling various related matters, making decisions perfectly aligned with those of the real self."

"Love, socializing, work, games, learning..."

"From dating countless girlfriends simultaneously to the automation of a light bulb switch."

"If the real self wanted to, they could completely replicate and back up their virtual personality countless times to handle every trivial matter in life."

Listening intently to Celestial Monarch Yan's story, [Lord of Ghosts and Gods] couldn't help but ask.

"How do you distinguish who is the real self and who is the virtual personality?"

With a face like a starry sky suddenly rotating, Celestial Monarch Yan replied with a half-smile.

"That's the crux of the issue."

"When the real self dies unexpectedly, those virtual personalities will contest and become the new real self."

"The individuals of that civilization achieved immortality in this way but also headed toward destruction."

At this point, Celestial Monarch Yan sharply raised his head.

"This virtual illusion is a similar existence..."

"It is collecting behavior data from all individuals entering this illusion to simulate a virtual puppet personality."

Understanding without needing further explanation, Duo Mu, having witnessed too many conflicts, reacted first.

[This is a factory, a factory for mass-producing puppet personalities to replace the real self!]

An inexplicable chill arose, and Duo Mu could hardly imagine.

How many of those individuals coming out of this virtual illusion had their personalities replaced by puppets.

Just as Duo Mu never imagined that in this world, protected by two supreme beings, someone dared to invade and assimilate the Ascenders through a cuckoo-in-the-nest strategy.

"Actually, I'm now suspecting that those 'Divine Thought Remains' Wu Kui initially encountered are indeed puppets of this illusion."