

The Growth 482

Chapter 482 - 4: Artificial Soul

The Mountain and Sea Realm is a peaceful world.

The Mountain and Sea Civilization is one that advocates peace.

But this absolutely does not mean that there are no criminals, no villains, no hawks among the Mountain and Sea People.

In fact, it's quite the opposite. In the Creator's tenets and beliefs, there has never been a demand that their followers must achieve anything specific.

Or more precisely, the Creator encourages the Mountain and Sea People to try everything they can try.

As long as they are willing to bear the cost of doing so.

And this kind of non-contention, merely maintaining a balance and stability of the greater environment, inherently implies a certain favoritism.

At least, that's how HUan Gou interprets it.

So, after experiencing a war affecting his friends, carrying their bodies alone back to the Mountain and Sea Realm,

HUan Gou unhesitatingly chose to become a Ferryman, personally sending his friends' souls into the Wangchuan River, into reincarnation.

After that, HUan Gou became an outsider among the Mountain and Sea People, dedicating himself as a Ferryman to exploring the mystery of "life and death."

It's not about pursuing immortality, but focusing on communicating with the dead, and even completely resurrecting them.

Because in HUan Gou's view, death is inherently part of the world order, and exploring death is also a necessary process in the development of a civilization.

The Mountain and Sea Civilization indeed does not engage in those that violate the natural order.

But is communicating with the deceased violating the natural order? Violating the will of the Creator?

Since there's a Netherworld, it means its existence inherently has meaning.

Just as since the deceased can preserve their souls to reincarnate, then why not further preserve their thoughts and memories?

Of course, HUan Gou knows his thoughts are unconventional.

So he has hardly mentioned his thoughts to anyone and has always relied on his identity as a Ferryman to wander between Yin and Yang, life and death.

Unfortunately, the rules set by the Goddess of Death are too tight.

From the living to the dead, and then from the soul reincarnating into a new life...

During this process, even the Netherworld Celestial Monarch and the Netherworld Race are just part of the rules, let alone special individuals like the Ferryman, who are outside the established order.

Therefore, despite HUan Gou serving as a Ferryman for hundreds of years, he has not even figured out the essence of the soul.

The only consolation is that HUan Gou is not the only one in the Mountain and Sea Realm eager to explore the essence of the soul and resurrect the dead.

.....

"How far has the experiment progressed?"

Silently appearing in a huge laboratory, HUan Gou's voice was hoarse and indifferent.

This is Fengdu City located in the Underworld, the place closest to the Netherworld in the Mountain and Sea Realm besides Yu Yuan.

Even in a high-dimensional Mountain and Sea Realm.

Such a deep underground space is already close to the limits of exploration for the Mountain and Sea Civilization.

If it weren't for a unique tribe among the Hundred Races of Mountains and Seas known as the "Netherworld Disaster," who enjoy burrowing and living underground, the Mountain and Sea Civilization might not have been able to explore here, let alone build a city here.

Even so, this city rarely has settlers from outside.

Except for specific researchers and staff, anyone who chooses to settle here permanently is mostly someone like HUan Gou with ulterior motives.

"It's almost reaching the testing phase."

Without turning back, a Skeleton spoke softly. This Skeleton was named "Bi She," the director and chief researcher of this "Soul Element Research Center."

Just like HUan Gou, Bi She is also an anomaly among the fourth-generation Skeletons.

Born from the Bone Forest, Bi She had been pondering about who he was in his past life for a long time.

What had he experienced before becoming a Skeleton?

With this thought in mind, Bi She naturally embarked on the Ascension Ladder of Exorcism after graduating from school.

However, the more he did so, the more intense Bi She's curiosity and confusion became.

The Exorcism and Demon Control Skill is a divine path handed down by the Creator, one of the earliest Ascension Ladders in the Mountain and Sea Civilization.

But as time progressed, few people delved deeply into the essence of Exorcism and Demon Control Skill.

— Give spirituality to all things, driving Heaven and Earth Ghosts and Gods.

This seemed to be a matter of course because it came from the Creator.

No one questioned whether it was scientific or attempted any deeper analysis of the Exorcism and Demon Control Skill.

Even the Nine-tailed Race, who took another path and could mass-produce living plants, seemed to have been deeply secretive about it.

So, Bi She decided to be a pioneer.

The "Soul Element Research Center" is a special institute born under these circumstances, and it received full support from Tianyou, the current leader of the Mountain and Sea Civilization.

"Is it almost in the testing phase?"

Looking at Bi She with some surprise, HUan Gou almost failed to maintain his usual indifferent tone.

"Does that mean the creation of the 'Artificial Soul' is complete?"

Bi She nodded affirmatively, with pride and self-satisfaction in his voice.

"That's right, this is a completely 'Artificial Soul' made with the technology of the Mountain and Sea Civilization."

Unlike the Ghosts and Gods given life and spirituality by the Exorcism and Demon Control Skill.

The Soul Element Research Center researches the project of influencing the entire process of soul creation from nothing.

To make a possibly inappropriate analogy.

The normal Exorcism and Demon Control Skill is like planting a tree, where the practitioner only needs to sow the seed; the sapling naturally takes root and sprouts into a towering tree.

But the project that Bi She and others are working on now is more about fundamental genetic-level research.

By intervening with the initial seed, allowing the sapling to follow its preset plan for growth entirely.

Although the two seeds may eventually grow into trees without much difference, the latter is grown entirely according to the researchers' will.

If not handled carefully, the Evil Ghosts that vanished before the Netherworld was born would reappear in the Mountain and Sea Realm.

Because those Evil Ghosts are entities composed of completely chaotic soul elements, they are essentially more akin to natural phenomena and heretical disasters.

"This time, did the 'Artificial Soul' not mutate into an Evil Ghost?"

Following Bi She's gaze, HUan Gou saw a cylinder made of Netherworld material.

And inside that cylinder, a mass of soul resembling a mosaic was still continually changing and trembling.

This soul mass did not mutate into an unnameable Evil Ghost during its transformation as it used to.

On the contrary, through the continuous gathering of spiritual essence, the mosaic quickly turned into a simple yet very regular humanoid large head.