

The Growth 629

Chapter 629 13: Higher-Dimensional Interference

Hundred Eyed Dragon is a native of the City of No Gods.

Hundred Eyed Dragon can't even remember when or why it appeared in the City of No Gods.

It seems that since Hundred Eyed Dragon's memory began, it has always lived in the City of No Gods.

During the day, it goes to the surveillance center to watch the monitoring screens, and at night, it goes home to rest alone.

This kind of life has continued for decades, sometimes Hundred Eyed Dragon forgets whether it is a biological or mechanical being.

Even Artificial Life can't live as regularly as Hundred Eyed Dragon.

Occasional loss of control and rampage is a daily occurrence for Artificial Life.

This is precisely why they are considered Artificial Life and not artificial machinery.

However, Hundred Eyed Dragon is different; it has been living this regular life for decades without any leisurely activities.

It hasn't participated even once in the collective activities that the residents of the City of No Gods love.

Of course, this is somewhat related to Hundred Eyed Dragon's appearance.

Because Hundred Eyed Dragon's true form is a lump of flesh.

Because that lump of flesh is covered with eyes, it is called "Hundred Eyed Dragon."

Fortunately, Hundred Eyed Dragon doesn't care about its image in the eyes of others; instead, it is somewhat grateful for having so many eyes.

Because without so many eyes, Hundred Eyed Dragon wouldn't have been able to join the surveillance center, monitoring and verifying unusual information transmitted by drones in real time.

And without the job at the surveillance center, Hundred Eyed Dragon might have been sacrificed decades ago.

It is precisely due to its uniqueness and irreplaceability that Hundred Eyed Dragon can escape the once-every-decade "sacrifices" and become one of the longest-living residents of the City of No Gods.

In fact, sometimes Hundred Eyed Dragon wonders whether living like this really holds any meaning.

No family, no friends, not even anything it wants to do...

Living just for the sake of living, its existence itself is even more uninteresting than that of Artificial Life.

However, Hundred Eyed Dragon quickly dismisses such thoughts.

Because Hundred Eyed Dragon still possesses its own will, unlike those residents living under surveillance in the City of No Gods.

The emergence of old beliefs is not allowed, nor the birth of new ideas...

The residents of the City of No Gods live much harsher lives than the outside world imagines.

All trips and lives can only be conducted within prescribed limits, and any transgression results in close scrutiny and examination.

Matters related to Gods' faith, however, are an exception.

The City of No Gods was born to resist the faith in Gods, so it's reasonable to disallow the emergence of Gods' faith.

However, the problem is that, over time, the City's acceptance of new ideas has gradually decreased.

Today, any behavior not conforming to regulations is defined as "illegal."

On the surface, Hundred Eyed Dragon's job is to distinguish abnormal information now.

But in reality, that means scrutinizing the residents of the City of No Gods.

As soon as residents are found to begin worshipping Gods or new ideas arise, Hundred Eyed Dragon marks them for special attention and submits them to higher management immediately.

"Do you think what you are doing is right?"

A formless shadow appears beside Hundred Eyed Dragon.

It sometimes morphs into a serpent, sometimes into a human shape, its form ever-changing and undefined.

The only certainty is that this shadow has been beside Hundred Eyed Dragon from long ago, always trying to exert its influence.

"What is right? What is wrong?"

Having grown accustomed to the shadow's presence, Hundred Eyed Dragon merely habitually opens one eye.

That eye comes from a certain Spiritual Race and possesses the special ability to see through Yin and Yang.

Unfortunately, even with this special eye, it cannot confirm the true existence of the shadow, let alone see through its essence.

As time passes, Hundred Eyed Dragon even doubts whether its mind has deteriorated.

"I don't know what is right..."

"But I know what you're doing is definitely wrong."

The twisted shadow changes freely, its voice sounding aged yet filled with worldly Wisdom.

"The city's original purpose was to resist deification, so that the beings of this world wouldn't become vessels for the Gods..."

"But now, this city itself has become a monster devouring sentient beings."

"And you are its accomplice, a traitor helping it imprison sentient beings!"

With a slight turn of the eyeball, Hundred Eyed Dragon maintains its impassive demeanor.

"I just want to live, and keep on living."

"If this is considered wrong, then is there anything right in this world?"

Confronted with Hundred Eyed Dragon's response, the twisted shadow stopped changing, its voice seemingly tinged with sadness.

"Is it just to stay alive?"

"Since when did survival become such a difficult thing?"

"Was it when this city began prohibiting the birth of new ideas?"

"Or was it when those Artificial Lives began to monitor everyone?"

Without waiting for Hundred Eyed Dragon to reply further, the distorted shadow spoke again.

"If you want to truly live once, then pay attention to these people!"

As if to confirm the shadow's words, one of Hundred Eyed Dragon's eyes suddenly widens beyond its control, fixing firmly on one of the hundreds of screens not far away.

It shows the image of two winged humanoid creatures.

At first glance, these two humanoid creatures don't appear very different from the other residents of the City of No Gods.

Even the city's surveillance system has not detected anything unusual about them.

It wasn't until a Golden Talisman appeared in Hundred Eyed Dragon's eye that it finally noticed the anomaly in these two humanoid creatures.

A faint mist always shrouded the two humanoid creatures.

That mist lies between existence and non-existence, endlessly deceiving outsiders' perspectives, a force from a higher-dimensional interference.

Every time the two humanoid creatures exhibit behavior not conforming to the City of No Gods' residents, the mist automatically corrects outsiders' views, making it look as though they are doing something normal.

Like right now, two disparate scenarios appear in Hundred Eyed Dragon's view.

In other eyes' view, those two humanoid creatures are just casually strolling on the street, not doing anything unusual throughout.

But in the eye that bears the Golden Talisman, those two humanoid creatures are cautiously trying to engage in conversations and interactions with other residents of the City of No Gods.

It's worth noting that talking and interacting with strangers in the City of No Gods is a very dangerous thing.

After all, who knows if the strangers speaking with you are followers of the Gods or Heretics awakened with new ideas.