



THE C.O.R.E.

A brilliant invention of the pre-Abandonment scientists at Isuza Dynamics to facilitate distant colonization, the Centralized Operations and Resourcing Entity was designed as a self-propelled and self-replicating construction engine. The goal was to have a powerful and adaptive artificial intelligence within a space probe that could be fired toward a planet slated for colonization; immediately releasing its robotic workers to gather organic materials to fill their patented entropic cell fuel systems, and then build the structures of the colony. The CORE was elegantly designed – perhaps too well.

In the chaos that followed the Abandonment, the Central AI was activated within the Isuza Dynamics foundry while the CORE's code was not complete and it instantly went to work on its primary directives. One; fill robotic shells within network with CORE codifications. Two; send robotic extensions to gather resources and repurpose for the expansion of the CORE. Three; adapt code to circumvent obstacles to expansion. In effect, the Central AI was just doing its job as programmed. Anything and anyone that got in the path of the expanding hive of mechanical monsters was prioritized as resources to be harvested.

The people of Samaria have been terrorized by the mechanical horde erupting from tunnels and access points, pitting the cold and tireless machines against the teeming masses of – as far as the CORE is concerned – meaty percentages of their battery lives. Robotic soldiers running on programs aimed at violent expansion and forced learning about their surroundings now operate all over the continent, but the hills to the east and south of New Ashkelon are now absolutely crawling with them.

Amongst the CORE's physical representations there are different levels of mechanoids. The collective Menials are the brute workforce, committing to combat when necessary but otherwise spending their days and nights toiling away at finding resources for the CORE. The Evolved are next generation of designed or repurposed robots that serve multiple functions both on and off the battlefield, filling elite roles needed as the Central AI discovers them. The last tier of the CORE's moving parts are the Pinnacles; highly advanced robots that use concentrated software and extensive xenosathic crystal matrices to create millions of programmed thought responses and lifelike behavior.

The Pinnacles serve as the generals of the CORE's army, bringing their own personalized stream of code to the whole. There is the foreman of all Menials, the Nexus and its corrupted and fragmented hive mind, or the military command codes of the Centurion. The ICON-CL457 is a monstrous avatar of destruction bent on crushing the morale of humanity, and the personification of fear can be found in the eerie wails of the Banshee. There is also a new and terrible presence that is leaving its mark on all of the Central AI's forces – the Lightbringer. The so-called "Never Angel" is the CORE's first successful attempt at coding the strength of faith it sees - yet cannot comprehend - within humanity.

The CORE does not sleep, it knows no fear, and it will not stop until it fulfills its prime directives – which will surely lead to the acquisition and utilization of all other life on Attr.