Apocalypse 401

Chapter 401: Earning more money

Ye Zhongming didn't care about how Neal would send him in. What he needed to do was to keep his promise.

Blue Secret Realm became a resource base for him. He would be back and would try to take advantage of it. So, building a base was something he needed, which included having a good relationship with them.

Of course, he wanted to mend their relationship. After all, he used the Explosive Mechanic to threaten them. They would lose face. Although they decided to work together, they were working together; he had to give them some benefits.

So, in the two days that Neal left, Ye Zhongming created many good weapons. Although most were grey, the success rate was high. He just needed blueprints and materials.

On the third day, Neal still wasn't here. Even Laura didn't know when her husband would be back. She saw that Ye Zhongming was anxious. She brought him to a place, and he forgot about leaving when he arrived.

Laura brought him to the... Rubbish pile.

It wasn't the normal rubbish pile but one of the four processing units in the Imperial City. As it was beside Neal's tribe, they were in charge of it.

There were a few hundred working here. They used special methods like burying and using them as fertilizer, scattering some powder to turn them into oil used on those lamps. That impressed Ye Zhongming as he didn't know why the oil burnt but didn't give off a smell.

Ye Zhongming even saw that they raised bugs. They brought these bones into a huge hole and tossed these bugs in. The bugs will eat all the meat off the bone, and the bones will become usable materials. After the bugs were full, they would return to their nest to lay eggs before dying. Their corpses would be turned into powder, mixed with water, and become glue. It was firm and tough, and the tents built with the glue wouldn't fall even after many years.

But what attracted him the most was naturally the crystals and some materials.

Out of the few dozen-story-high rubbish piles, there were many crystals. It was even purposely left after the rumors spread that they could trade it for weapons. But this place would be cleared once in a very long time, so the crystals left before dazzled him.

But what he cared more about were the materials.

These materials didn't decompose after such a long time. He did a simple search and wiped the dust off some of them. He noticed that they were level five and above. Anyone could enchant a weapon, and it could become a white-grade weapon.

Creating high-level equipment wasn't as simple as merging things. He needed to throw in high-grade materials like Ghost Metal, at least. But these things alone made him a white equipment-producing machine.

"How is it, kid? These are useful for you, right?"

Laura had seen him create weapons before. Although she didn't know what technique he used, and he also made it seem very complicated and magical, she knew he needed these.

"I will leave a hundred; you can select what you want."

This gentle but high IQ lady left and left him a hundred to listen to his instructions.

Ye Zhongming didn't hold back and commanded them to dig and pile.

In truth, if there wasn't a problem on Earth, Ye Zhongming wanted to stay here as he was gaining so much.

Ye Zhongming didn't even want level-three crystals now. He tossed them into the Gate of Sacrifice. He only left level-four ones. Just like that, he still picked up 20 thousand of them in the last two days!

The materials also made him delighted. Just the level four and above ones could pile up in the land beside him.

Ye Zhongming even found over ten level-seven materials. These were the highest-level materials in the rubbish pile.

Ye Zhongming was frustrated initially and felt weird that there weren't any level-eight ones. They killed level-eight monsters. But it made sense; their materials and crystals would be left as memorabilia if they were killed.

Seeing the countless tents, Ye Zhongming knew there were many riches here. When he was free, he wanted to clear this place out.

Neal finally appeared on the sixth day and brought him surprising news. The King Alliance Meeting agreed to let him enter to complete the ritual.

"Don't be happy too early; they have conditions."

Bargaining and quarreling with those Kings made Neal very hot-tempered, and he said impatiently at Ye Zhongming.

"What conditions?"

"Ten thousand grey equipment for each of the six tribes. Two thousand white equipment."

Ye Zhongming rolled his eyes. How long would that take?

But he realized a problem and blinked at Neal, "You didn't tell them about the silver weapons."

"You can't let them get all the benefits!"

"Five silver equipment. As for the others, you can explain to the kings yourself."

"Impossible."

"Ten, whether you keep or split, I don't care."

"I..."

"I will give Laura and your son a silver piece of equipment each as a gift. If not, then it means your power is limited."

Neal stared at Ye Zhongming. After a while, he smiled.

"I know you won't complete all of them before you enter the pool, but you must finish six. That doesn't include the ones for Laura and my son."

"Deal!"

The two of them laughed.

Ye Zhongming knew that the day he left was here if things went smoothly.

Chapter 402: Saint Pool

The dark tunnel was a stark contrast to the majestic area before, which made him slightly uncomfortable.

The Saint Pool was at the deepest part of the Imperial City and was near a dark corner.

When Ye Zhongming came here, he saw that there weren't lamps at the top. The area was dark, and only when they got close they saw a giant stone statue carved into the mountain.

Neal told Ye Zhongming that it was the servant of the god. But Ye Zhongming felt like it looked like a demon monster.

They entered the body of the mountain through its mouth, which was this dark tunnel. The most narrow part could fit two people. Ye Zhongming didn't understand why it was so majestic outside, but it was like an ant nest here.

But he realized that he was wrong. After he passed the narrow tunnel, he entered the giant mountain body. This place wasn't as wide as the Imperial City but as big as a street on Earth.

Statues stood around, and they looked like they were alive. Each was a few dozen meters tall and had all sorts of poses. They all held weapons.

"These are the Kings that reached level nine. Only they have the right to have statues in the Saint Land."

Neal led some Posthumous people and a Pool Guardian to bow respectfully towards these statues. Ye Zhongming followed. Whether on Earth or in the Blue Secret Realm, those who reached level nine were worthy of respect.

Their history was long, and hundreds of statues here recorded their past glory. Unfortunately, that glory was gone, and they had no more level-nine experts.

They passed through the row of statues and saw a sacrificial platform connected to the ground by hundreds of steps. On it was a giant pool, which should be the Saint Pool.

"You need to bow every ten steps. Follow me." That Pool Guardian said solemnly.

He led the way.

Ye Zhongming learned as he did. Some guards followed behind him. Five of them held the demon crystals and material bags.

He found some level eight and above materials and made a few pieces of silver equipment to give to Neal. This King loved the equipment that increased his strength. He passed three to the three level-eight Kings and obtained the right for Ye Zhongming to enter this place.

They bowed and finally arrived beside the pool. Ye Zhongming finally saw everything.

As compared to the other structures, this pool was more detailed. There were sculptures and carvings all around that he didn't recognize. There were sculptures on the wall and at the bottom of various demon monsters and plants. They looked like they were recording parts of history.

At the bottom were five holes, where the water came from.

"Wear clean shirts, pants, and shoes, and you can enter to complete the ceremony. But remember, you don't have much time, do it quick."

Ye Zhongming nodded to this Pool Guardian, who put him under huge pressure. He suppressed his excitement and placed demon crystals on the pool's edge. He walked down first.

He tried to calm himself down. He closed his eyes, and when he opened them, his eyes still rippled. Fortunately, his back was facing them, so they didn't notice.

What caused his emotions was that one of the holes, the one in the center... It looked the same as the Secret Realm key!

Even a fool knew that something magical would happen if he placed the key on it.

He stood for a while before he started to take the crystals out. He made weird patterns at the bottom of the pool. He also placed some high-level materials; as for what he was doing... He also didn't know.

After doing all that, he glanced at Neal. Those people around were looking curiously at him.

He took out something. Everything he did today was to cover what he was doing next.

What he took was the Rainbow Gate!

Although he was at the bottom of the pool and the key was under his feet, he couldn't put the key in directly. He didn't know what would happen. If he could return to Earth, he needed time. If Neal saw that he had something that fit with the pool, he had enough time to capture him and kill him.

Not mentioning Explosive Mechanic or Staff of Nature, it could threaten high-level experts, but was just a threat. If they went all out, Ye Zhongming couldn't last for too long.

More importantly, the Pool Guardian was a level-eight expert! This meant that they had more than three level-eight but four! The other three were just kings.

This level-eight Guardian stood in the corner and was staring at him! If he did anything funny, he would kill him right away.

The glow of the Rainbow Gate was a good explanation of the process. They saw the light flash and thought that he had completed the ritual.

After he placed the gate, he nodded to Neal. He then kept the crystals and materials. But he took the opportunity to place the high-level ones into his space.

"King Neal, we can go."

Everything was normal, and this Wanderer didn't lie to him. Neal heaved a sigh of relief. He was taking a huge risk for this. If Ye Zhongming had any other goal, like desecrating or spoiling the pool, he would have had to pay a huge price.

They walked down the pool and out of the mountain. When they were at the entrance, an accident happened.

Hundreds walked towards them. In front were two level-seven Kings. Ye Zhongming knew that things weren't good.

When he saw Bent's vicious face, he understood what was happening.

"It is you! You are the one that could create the shining weapons!"

Bent shouted.

"King Hongxiang, he is the one that killed my father, Dabu, and wiped out my tribe. He is not a wanderer; he is a traitor from Dawn Saint Hall!"

Even King Neal and the level-eight Pool Guardian looked at Ye Zhongming.

He knew he couldn't wait anymore. He didn't even turn and just leaned back. He knocked into those warriors who carried the bags. He grabbed them and activated Rainbow Gate. The gate appeared behind him, and he crashed into the gate.

"Stop him!"

He was swift. It took just three seconds, and even Neal didn't react. That level-eight Pool Guardian opened his eyes in rage. He slapped at Ye Zhongming, and it arrived on his body when the gate closed!

Blood spurted out. The gate closed, and Ye Zhongming disappeared from beneath their eyelids.

Chapter 403: Peace Town

Ye Zhongming lay at the bottom of the Saint Pool. It took a long time before he regained consciousness. The intense pain spread from his stomach to his throat and then into his mouth.

He couldn't help but spit out blood when he regained control of his body. Then he spat out another mouth before he felt better.

Level eight was still level eight. He also cultivated techniques. Such a person was much stronger than those who used potions on Earth. Even if both were level eight, he was still stronger.

If not for Ye Zhongming cultivating secret techniques and using the Energy Protection Barrier to block, he would have died.

The level gap was huge.

Apart from feeling bad, a weird thought appeared in his mind. Would that evil dragon Yangos have been eaten? And been barbecued as a Winged Demon Monster?

He stumbled to his feet. He knew that he had to complete what he had to do quickly. Although he returned to the pool with Rainbow Gate, who knew if they had a way to find out what was happening here? Was that Pool Guardian cultivating and resting here? If he returned, Ye Zhongming wasn't even his match, even if he had Nature Staff.

He looked around and saw eight burning basins that lit this place up. The statues around were looking at this thief.

He took out the key to compare. He confirmed that this hole was for the key.

He noticed that this place was silent, and he calmed down. He didn't stick it right away and just gathered some stamina before he did so.

En...

No reaction?

His heart sank.

As Bent appeared, Ye Zhongming had no way out. If this failed, his only way out would be for no one to notice him here. He would then charge out after he healed up.

He was not sure if he could escape without dying. Although they were backward, there were four level-eight experts.

So if he couldn't return from here, he was dead.

No... Was his gamble correct?

Ye Zhongming rubbed his chest and frowned. When he felt some movement below, he wanted to stick the Secret Realm key again.

His eyes lit up!

The movement got more intense like something was about to surge up.

Of course, it was only relative and vibrating in the pool.

Ye Zhongming realized something. He struggled to the edge. Large amounts of white liquid shot out from the few holes.

Ye Zhongming smiled when he saw the Saint Water.

His gamble was right.

When the Saint Water started to spit out, the servant statue lit up. The darkness corner of the city was shining bright. It was as if the statue had come alive or had woken up from its slumber. It opened its eyes to look at the city.

The people were stunned. The Posthumous people looked at the pool and had questions in their heart.

There was still some time to the water coming out; what was happening? Wouldn't this only happen when Saint Water appeared?

After the shock, many rushed over and wanted to see what was happening.

Neal and the kings, as well as that Guardian, were shocked.

The Guardian exclaimed after some time before he dashed towards the pool. The other kings looked at one another and followed.

When Ye Zhongming saw them appear at the end of the tunnel, the Saint Water was a few dozen centimeters deep. He wanted to jump in but stopped. He looked around and pulled the head of an exquisite beast statue. He then jumped in with all his crystals and materials.

On the other side, the Pool Guardian shouted. But when he charged near the pool, he saw that the guy he had met for the first time today but already hated to the bone and half of the Saint Water had disappeared. All that he left was something infuriating.

"This thing doesn't look like it can carry much water."

.....

Peace Town wasn't a town but just a survivor gathering area. The reason why they called it that wasn't because they hoped for peace. It had no meaning except for a Peace Hotel in the center of this area.

Right, it came from that nice movie.

Peace Town protected the survivors and was a place where they could get drunk and avoid reality.

This place wasn't peaceful like the many survivor camps in the apocalypse. It was dark and filled with crime. Naturally, apocalypse wheels existed here.

Zhao Gang sat on a chair and looked at the setting sun. He hummed a tune that even he didn't know and was thinking about heading to the bar to find a girl.

Of course, before that, he had to finish his duty. It was night, and it was when the hunters would return. If he was lucky, he could take their spoils, which could be traded for a level-one crystal. Then, he might be able to find more than one girl later.

As for saving money, that wasn't in Zhao Gang's plan. Who knew if this place would get drowned by zombies tomorrow? Or a mutated lifeform would wipe it out?

On the small path, a person was getting close. Zhao Gang squinted his eyes, and he stood up.

This person was carrying a big bag. His hands also had two of the same size.

This was a wandering survivor!

Zhao Gang had an evil smile. This person was the best fatty goat. He wanted to get protected by Peace Town, so shouldn't he pay for it? Looking at what he had, he should just leave one bag! Zhao Gang was planning to do that.

"Pay attention, a big business is here!"

Zhao Gang kicked the four with him. These four guards stood at the entrance and waited for the fat goat.

He walked close, and this was a young kid. He wore weird leather armor, but no one cared. People wore all sorts of things in this day and age.

Zhao Gang looked at the bag and gulped. He wanted to say something, but that young man spoke first.

"Where is this place? How far is it from Ying City?"

Chapter 404: Cannon Fodder (1)

Ye Zhongming hated the random teleportation of the Secret Realm key.

He left Earth from Cloth River Dungeon but appeared in a wilderness... A mutated animal nest. The group of level-three mutated lifeforms nearly ate him.

Fortunately, the discomfort from teleporting disappeared. His true strength was level-six, so the level-three lifeforms were too weak. These fellows even allowed him to use Swallowing Satan to recover some injuries.

As he didn't know where he was, Ye Zhongming could only search for survivors. Fortunately, he noticed a simple camp.

Zhao Gang was evolved, one star. He wasn't important in Peace Town, but he could be a guard when the average level was two. This showed that he had some strength.

Even the hunting captains were polite to him. Behind him was the boss of Peace Time. This made him arrogant.

Of course, he had to have foresight to maintain this good job. He knew how to speak to different groups of people and suck up to them.

But Zhao Gang still made a mistake today. He didn't see Ye Zhongming's evolution level and thought he was ordinary.

Although evolved were everywhere, most people were still unevolved.

"Do you know the rules?"

A black-faced guy beside Zhao Gang scolded. Even Zhao Gang didn't see how strong he was, much less this guy who wasn't even evolved.

When one was not evolved, the muscles one had decided how strong a person was. If a muscular person had weapons, then there was nothing to fear. So when they saw how calm Ye Zhongming was, the black face wanted to teach him a lesson.

The apocalypse was a place where the strong suppressed the weak. If you couldn't fight back, you had to take it.

The real world was the same.

Ye Zhongming didn't know where this place was and how far it was from Ying City. He was rushing back to his base, so naturally, his temper wouldn't be good.

Ye Zhongming frowned and passed a level-three crystal to Zhao Gang.

"Where is this place? Get me some clean water and a full-tank motorcycle or car. I will give you another piece. If you find me a map, I will give you a third one."

This was his mistake or, rather, something that he neglected.

When he was too strong, what he considered was about the difference in strength. So he would forget about something not important. He was trying to rush back to Cloud Peak but forgot that taking out a level-three crystal here and even promising two more would cause him problems.

Zhao Gang rolled his eyes and smiled.

"Eh, sorry, I didn't recognize that you are an expert. I have to prepare the things you said. Why not head to Peace Hotel to eat? I will find you after I get ready. The Peace Hotel is the tallest building in the town."

Zhao Gang didn't recognize it, but he did now. Someone who could take level-three crystals out was not a normal person. He changed his attitude and let Ye Zhongming in respectfully.

Ye Zhongming agreed. The moment he found where Cloud Peak was, he was going to rush over.

He shall use this time to eat some food and rest.

He looked at the tallest building in the town and walked over.

Zhao Gang instructed the people, and they hurriedly went to find people.

As for what Ye Zhongming said... Keke, he couldn't offend them, but others could. Not only was he a fat goat, he was an obese one! A fat goat that handed level-three crystals out so easily!

This wasn't Ye Zhongming's fault. His lowest level crystal was level three, so he had no choice.

There was no difference in day or night for bars. As long as you had crystals, you could go over anytime. So when Ye Zhongming walked in, it was hectic. Smoke circled the sky. There was also the smell of body fluids that he was familiar with in his last life.

Ye Zhongming frowned slightly and adapted.

The position he was in was at the top of the apocalypse. The other survivors all lived like this.

Trying their best to survive.

He found a place at the counter and placed the two bags by his feet. He looked at the female attendant and hesitated, "Bread and water."

"You don't want others? Like... Meat."

This female attendant winked at him and purposely shook her two 36D snow-white breasts.

The bar started to whistle.

"Big Milk, an old cow wants to eat young grass? There is no point; why not find me? I will cut it off if I don't make you climax."

A muscular guy who looked like a black bear sat behind a table and held a metal cup. He revealed the scars on his chest.

"Don't listen to him; I can't even find his thing even if he didn't cut it."

Another female attendant walked out from the kitchen and said in disdain.

The people in the bar laughed and said all sorts of words.

The guy lost face and smashed two level-one crystals on the table. He said to the attendant, who mocked him, "I will show you if I have anything tonight! Do you want?"

She was delighted and walked to his side. She grabbed the two crystals and placed them in her chest area. She touched his chin, "Crystals are everything, no matter if you have anything!"

Everyone laughed. This attendant smiled and sent meals to the other guests, leaving the muscular guy to drink. He muttered that he would do her to death tonight.

"Handsome..."

"Bread and water."

The woman called Big Milk smiled and wanted to speak, but Ye Zhongming's calm expression and tone interrupted her.

She was stunned. She was rarely treated like that. She glanced at him and noticed that he was different.

The most obvious point was that he was clean.

Besides his shoes that had dust on, even the weird armor was clean. His skin, hand, and face were not dirty at all.

Her body felt different. In the apocalypse, a clean guy was as hard to find as a beautiful virgin.

"1 kilogram of mutated animal meat or two sets for one level one crystal."

Ye Zhongming took out a crystal, "Five sets; the rest is for you."

The bar was silent.

Big Milk was the prettiest attendant here. Without five level-one crystals, she wouldn't care about you at all. Few survivors were willing to use five crystals on a woman in Peace Town. So, although she looked like the rest, she rarely received guys. Many survivors didn't even remember who she had been with. They just heard the boss treated her well, so no one dared to force her.

They couldn't play with her, but they paid close attention. Such a beautiful woman with a good body was an attraction everywhere.

So when Ye Zhongming tossed the crystals out, everyone saw it. Many of them were stunned. Some even dropped their alcohol glasses to break the silence.

Ye Zhongming gave a level-three crystal.

Damn, level three crystal for bread and water? Only five sets? One demon crystal could buy 50 and even 500 sets. Was this kid showing off?

Ye Zhongming was not showing off. He didn't have any low-level crystals.

Big Milk touched the black crystal and was stunned for half a day before confirming that she had received a level-three crystal. Her thought was to head up and get a potion from that annoying Old Jiang for her brother and herself!

But she held back. She knew that she had to get this young man food.

She sensed the warmth from the crystal, and she knew that she was wet.

In the apocalypse, each woman had a price. When one only talked about money, money was a lubricant.

No matter if it was manmade or natural.

Big Milk gave Ye Zhongming what he needed and smiled. She considered that if this guy was interested in her and slept with her, she could get another crystal.

Or... You can also not pay.

The door of the bar was pushed. One tall and one short guy walked in. The bar was silent and returned to normal after two seconds. But the noise level was softer than before.

They looked around and finally looked at Ye Zhongming. His appearance stood out in Peace Town.

They confirmed something. They split up and sat at each side of the entrance.

Big Milk's expression changed. She thought about it and acted like she was cleaning the table, "If you want to live, then run; there is a back door."

Ye Zhongming didn't even turn his head. He knew what was going on. He smiled and drank a mouth of water. A thought appeared, and he asked Big Milk, "How many survivors are here?"

Chapter 405: Cannon Fodder (2)

Big Milk was naturally not a valiant and courageous woman. Such people were either dead, or they became people that were expected.

Her life was better than others for various reasons in this half a year. She was under less pressure than others, so she wasn't so numb to life, meaning she had kept a bit of her conscience.

Naturally, the level-three demon crystal and his clean body were another reason she reminded him.

So, she was willing to take the risk.

Right, risk. If the two guys who came in knew that she reminded him, then even if her backing was the boss of Peace Hotel, there would only be one outcome--- She would be tossed into a bunch of smelly evolved that would rip her body apart...

Her backing would not offend the others in Peace Town just for a woman who wasn't even evolved.

But she didn't expect the guy to stay; he even asked her how many survivors there were.

Big Milk opened her eyes wide. Was this guy a fool? Wasn't it a waste for him to lose his life here? If he died, then the world would lose another clean guy.

"How many survivors are there here?"

Ye Zhongming asked, and that caused Big Milk to roll her eyes.

She was hitting on him, and he acted like he only wanted bread and water, as if she was not attractive. Now his hormones started to take over?

She decided to stay far from him. This guy was the first person she was willing to sleep with even if he didn't pay, but... It didn't mean that she could do things for him. That reminder was the most help she could give.

Big Milk didn't reply and carried many plates into the distance.

Since he was asking for death, then there was nothing she could do.

Ye Zhongming shook his head and turned around to point at the two guys.

"Call your boss, tell him I have a business deal."

His action caused the bar to be silent for the third time today.

People who could spend here were those who went out to hunt. They weren't parasites in the base who didn't dare or have the ability to kill mutated lifeforms.

The guests in the bar were clear that the two guys had targeted him. They would try to kill him and steal his money.

Overall, Peace Town was a safe place if you could pay.

This safety was relative. You can't blame others for targeting you if you were a fat sheep.

The guy who was teased for having no private part shook his head. No one knew if he was sighing because the guy was about to die or because these people had targeted the fat sheep first.

The two of them were stunned and looked at one another. The taller one stood and walked to Ye Zhongming, looking down on him.

Everyone's attention was attracted. Big Milk sighed and didn't want to turn her head.

"You, said... Er..."

The taller guy was very confident, but the fat sheep pointed at his chest when he said those words. He then felt his body burn up. It was as if something was shattering in his brain.

A weird scene appeared. The young man pointed at Gao Tuo's chest. The three-star evolved suddenly started to burn from the inside, turning him to ash in a few seconds.

The bar was so silent that one could hear water. Ye Zhongming looked at the guy on the side and shook his head in disgust. The scene caused this 100-kilogram fatty to pee his pants.

He raised his head to look at the short guy who dared not get close. Ye Zhongming repeated what he said.

"Call your boss; if not, my attitude won't be good when I find him."

That short guy charged out of the bar.

Ye Zhongming looked at the ash. What he was worried about was finally tested. Soul Refining Technique could be used here, meaning his evolution lock had been removed.

Since that was the case, he clenched his fists. If he used evolution potions, what would happen?

Footsteps interrupted his thoughts, and a few people walked down the stairs.

These people broke the silence. Many people retreated to the corner. It wasn't that they didn't want to leave, but they didn't know if their leaving would cause this terrifying young man to attack.

This was a person who could kill Gao Tuo with a finger! Who was Gao Tuo? The 4th strongest in Peace Town. Apart from the boss of Peace Town and the owner of Peace Hotel, as well as the strongest bodyguard of the hotel boss. This person was turned to ash with one finger.

"Hello, I am the boss of this hotel. People are polite and call me Brother Zheng."

The leader was a guy in a white suit. He held an unlit cigar and smiled at Ye Zhongming.

The guy spoke and looked at Gao Tuo's corpse on the ground.

"You are in charge here?"

"Keke, not fully, only half."

"Then just sit there and wait for the other half." It wasn't that his temper wasn't good, but he was not used to repeating things.

That white suit guy's men were unhappy and said with slight annoyance, "This is our boss being humble, Peace Town..."

"You want to end up like him?"

Ye Zhongming looked at the person who spoke and knew the standard here. These two were level-four evolved, so the other person would probably be four-star.

That was quite decent for a small area to have at least three four-star evolved. Ye Zhongming recalled something and looked at the guy in a white suit, "Cannibal Chain?"

The expression of the guy in a white suit and the other who spoke changed, and their bodies shook.

Ye Zhongming smiled and knew that he was right.

Cannibal Chain was a famous organization in the past. They opened restaurants and bars on bases. Of course, that wasn't their primary job. Their real income was selling and passing intel as well as drugs.

Each person in charge wore a white suit.

"Since you are from Cannibal Chain, that would save some effort." Ye Zhongming knocked on the table and said seriously, "I need soldiers to fight for me. I don't need strong ones, but I need a large number. Can you find them?"

Battles, even in the apocalypse, needed cannon fodder. On the first day that he was out from the Secret Realm, his plan to save Cloud Peak had started.

Chapter 406: Start of Cloud Peak's defence

The smell of blood wasn't very thick, but for the evolved with sharp senses, it stimulated one's nose and reminded them that the battle was not over.

Cloud Peak rejected the Counter Cloud Peak Alliance's conditions and faced the first large-scale attack today.

This battle started a dozen days ago, but they still focused on clearing mutated lifeforms around Cloud Peak to create some needed siege weapons and establish a plan. But they had cut off Cloud Peak's connection with the outside world. Both sides had many minor clashes, especially when trying to build their camp and seal the area.

But this was the first time they directly attacked the walls of Cloud Peak.

This not only meant the start of the siege, but it was also the first base attack in Ying City.

The intensity caught everyone off guard.

This included Cloud Peak, as well as the Counter Cloud Peak Alliance.

When night fell, many core members of the Counter Cloud Peak Alliance were gathered here. But the atmosphere was very intense.

"We only fought for two hours, and do you know how many of us died?"

Lou Xiaoling wasn't as young and free-spirited as half a year ago. What replaced it was a round but cruel face.

One faction in the Counter Cloud Peak Alliance was her's, or rather, the guy she joined.

It was the person that Xia Lei mentioned- Unicorn King Freedom Army.

As a four-star evolved, she didn't have much rights to speak. But she represented her guy, the short, fatty Pang Cheng, who was 1.7 meters tall and nearly 150 kilograms.

Seeing no one speak, she slapped the tabulated battle report, "Two hundred people! Two hundred in just two hours! As for Cloud Peak, they didn't even have 50 losses. Why? Because you all didn't put in effort!"

"Woman, you are wrong to say that. We have all had deaths; how can you say we didn't put in effort? Moreover, today is the first day of the battle. We need to pass the trap region, so, normally, we have more losses. Don't be too emotional; you will get old easily like that."

A guy in a black shirt sat on a chair and looked very casual. He even had a nail clipper and was fixing his nails.

Lou Xiaoling was furious. If this were an internal meeting, she would have exploded. But she was not facing ordinary people; it was one of the saints of Soul Merchant, the five-star expert Sound Iron.

"Should we continue to fight this way? How long would it take?"

"Pang Cheng, what are your thoughts?"

Little Nine spoke up and asked the big-sized fatty who sat there like a mountain.

"Keke." His voice was loud, and so was his laughter, "Aren't there still small factions? If they don't work hard now, will they wait until we enter before they work hard?"

Sound Iron told Lou Xiaoling, "Look at what your man thinks; as for you, speak less if you have nothing to say."

"Are you looking down on me?"

"Should I respect you?"

"Okay!"

Wen Hong was impatient. Although she was stronger than Little Nine and did things her way, but in such an environment, she gave Little Nine face.

"I will lead the troops tomorrow. What does Little Nine think?" Wen Hong explained, "Even if we want those small factions to be cannon fodder, we must be logical. Others aren't fools, and they will run."

Little Nine thought about it and nodded before looking towards Sound Iron and Pang Cheng.

"Beauty Wen in the morning, me in the afternoon. We will take turns to consume Cloud Peak's forces while also reducing the number of those who are here to benefit. When both sides have huge losses, we will work together to attack viciously. I don't believe that five-star Park Xiuying is so strong to block the four of us."

Everyone was silent. Everyone knew that the combat strength of Cloud Peak's core members was really strong. Three were enough to threaten a five-star evolved. The reason why they didn't want to charge now was because they were afraid that Cloud Peak would slice them apart and eat them one by one. They also feared the crystal weapons, so they needed cannon fodder.

"That is decided."

Pang Cheng found it hard to stand up. He hugged Lou Xiaoling, who was as tall as him but much thinner before leaving.

Looking at their uncoordinated walking, Sound Iron laughed.

Little Nine and Wen Hong were stunned before leaving with a weird expression.

.....

Cloud Peak was also very busy. However, they had an advantage in being the defending side; there was only one path they had to defend. But there were still many losses. Park Xiuying was busy and only had time late at night.

"Are they settled?"

Liang Chuyin passed Teacher Park a meat jerky. This was tough, but it wasn't much for evolved's teeth. They could quickly replenish energy and were easy to keep. Cloud Peak followed Ye Zhongming's instructions to keep many of them. They were finally put to use.

"There is no more fresh food?" Park Xiuying bit the beef jerky and asked casually.

"En, they have surrounded us for over ten days, and the fresh food is gone."

"How long can we last for?" the beautiful teacher waved the jerky and asked.

"A month is no problem; that is when we have full members if we considered... The deaths, we can last even longer."

The two of them were solemn when they said that. They suffered close to three-digit deaths, which worried the core members.

"Right, these are for you."

Liang Chuyin handed three potions to Park Xiuying. They were Intermediate Mental Energy Recovery Potions. It wasn't cheap; one bottle needed a few dozen level-two crystals.

"Xia Bai got them when she got back yesterday."

Park Xiuying mentioned that Sister Xia Bai was amazing before keeping them. This thing was really useful for her.

"So... Can we hold on?" The beautiful teacher rubbed the bottles and asked.

Killing energy flashed in her eyes, "Even if we can't hold on, we will make them lose skin!"

The two of them silently ate meat jerky. A guy appeared in their minds at the same time.

.....

"The time is a little rushed based on what you say."

Peace Hotel's boss lit a cigar and frowned.

Ye Zhongming found out some things from him. This place wasn't too far from Ying City, but to get there, they had to pass through Ying City.

"I don't have that much time. I have to get back within three days. I need to see at least a thousand warriors, then. If you can do it, I will give you a huge fortune. If not, the people here will follow me. I will kill those who don't."

This Cannibal Chain branch leader didn't expect Ye Zhongming to be so firm. He thought about it before saying finally, "Depends on how much you can pay."

He smiled and loosened one bag by his feet.

Chapter 407: I want to follow you

When people saw that bag of level-three crystals, they wanted to kill Ye Zhongming.

They wanted to kill him ten thousand times.

Although there were three four-star experts in Peace Town, less than ten three-star evolved apart from them. The others were two-star and one-star.

These people got so strong because of the three four-star experts. Normal bases six months into the apocalypse were considered strong when they had three-star evolved.

After all, this was a time when most were around two-star.

This bag of crystals was level three, and all were level three.

Just by looking at it, there were at least ten thousand crystals.

This meant there would be at least a hundred bottles of evolution potions.

A hundred bottles... Three-star potions.

It didn't seem like many, but if one had to compare it to something... These potions were enough to buy Peace Town!

Of these people in the bar, including the person in charge of the branch and the Peace Town boss who had just entered, no one dared to attack.

Just these crystals, the fact that he dared to show them, meant he wasn't afraid they would steal. If they dared to attack, this person would start killing them like he had previously killed the other expert with one finger.

No one would doubt that. Even if they only sensed a four-star evolved aura from this young man.

"If that is the case, it would be no problem."

Ye Zhongming shook his head, "Ten three-star potions for you to find people. Do you want all of this? Are you not afraid you can't take them all?"

That was already a very high price. If he wasn't in a rush, if not many people would die this time, and he was just completing a simple hunt, one bottle, at most two bottles were enough.

The white suit guy in charge smiled. He was just casually agreeing. He would get a few dozen three-star potions if he managed to get it. That was enough for him to trade for one five-star potion and make him jump to one of the strongest in the apocalypse. He would become something like their deputy leader.

"Will you use the crystals or..."

"What level wheel do you have here?"

The person in charge wanted to ask how he would pay with crystals or potions.

"Level-three." Zhang Guo replied.

These survivor camps were built around wheels. Peace Town was no exception.

Ye Zhongming told them to bring him there. He had the Basic Elimination Technique, which was a better pay method. The price he paid would be 10% cheaper than others.

Ye Zhongming entered the room with the three-star wheel alone, and the others knew their place and waited outside. The door had a gap. Without light in the apocalypse, the light from within was reflected out.

Each time it shone, it represented that the wheel was spun. This was not surprising, but as he spun it, the people's expressions outside changed.

He spun it too many times...

It exceeded the ten thousand crystals. Although they didn't count it, they felt like he had spun it a few thousand times...

When Ye Zhongming walked out, half of the room was already occupied. Various items were piled there. Looking at these alone, one could estimate how many times this young man had spun it.

"This is payment. Three days later, at least a thousand warriors at Cloud Peak, if not..." Ye Zhongming's eyes landed on his neck.

"No, no, we will be there on time." The person in charge of Cannibal Chain said. Although this organization wasn't a super faction, they wouldn't go back on their words for ten three-star potions. If this were spread, it would affect their business.

Ye Zhongming nodded. He also told Zhang Guo to find transportation before leaving the room Peace Hotel prepared for him.

Cannibal Chain relied on intelligence. The person in charge agreed that he needed a night to get intel from Cloud Peak. It was a gift from him for both sides working together. Ye Zhongming thought about it and agreed.

But... The night wasn't peaceful.

When Big Milk snuck in, she found Ye Zhongming staring at her.

This woman with big features didn't feel awkward when she was noticed. She just sat calmly beside him.

"I have a brother."

Ye ZHongming knew from her body language that she had a reason; she had something to hide from the two bosses of the town.

"He wants to follow you."

Ye Zhongming didn't reply and just smiled.

Even at the start of the apocalypse, not everyone could follow him. His subordinates now all had a short or long story with him.

With his status, not anybody could follow him.

"I, I know you won't believe me. Such a person don't lack men, but you are the person that can bring us out of here, so please..."

She knelt.

His eyes moved, but it didn't open much.

In the apocalypse, people knelt all the time. There was no dignity, only people bowing to others.

Kneeling was not something shocking.

"My brother and his brothers are willing to accept any test. They are willing to do so even if they die."

Ye Zhongming didn't ask. Since this woman said that, this meant there was a reason why they were forced to leave this place.

Seeing that Ye Zhongming didn't say anything, Big Milk knew her reason wasn't enough to convince him.

"I don't know why you need so many soldiers, but I think you are facing a battle that needs many people. My brother and I are both willing to join. If we can live in the end, please take us in?"

Ye Zhongming looked at her. He thought about it and said with a weird expression, "You said your brother has a bunch of brothers?"

She nodded.

Ye Zhongming smiled. He wanted to save Cloud Peak, but he had a new idea.

"Whether or not you can follow me depends on what news I get tomorrow. It depends on your luck."

Chapter 408: Secret Team

Two pickup trucks traveled in the wilderness, and the people couldn't see anything alive.

Big Milk drove the car, and the guy riding the shotgun had a cold gaze.

This morning, her boss, no, her ex-boss, gave this young man news. She knew that this was regarding the faction that this boss controlled. But she couldn't tell the situation from his expression. But she knew that her brother and she were lucky.

After the boss saw the news, he agreed to them following him.

Of course, the process wouldn't be smooth. She and her brother were from Peace Hotel. The white suit guy from Cannibal Chain wouldn't let them go so easily.

But his attitude changed when this new boss handed two three-star evolution potions to that person.

Big Milk once again realized that money was the most important thing.

"Stop!"

The new boss shouted. Big Milk stepped on the brakes.

"Do you see?"

Ye Zhongming got off. Big Milk, her brother Ah Yang, and the other ten got off too.

"Zombie?"

Ah Yang wasn't too old; he was only 17. But after the tough life of the apocalypse, he looked more determined and vicious than people of the same age.

"Kill them."

Everyone looked at Ye Zhongming.

This was a group of wandering zombies. Not many, around 20 of them.

But there were only 20 of them. One of them had a special body part: a level-two zombie.

But Ah Yang and the others. Only this young man was evolved; the rest were ordinary people.

This was why Big Milk didn't have confidence last night.

Who would want a bunch of ordinary people?

"Didn't your sister say that you are willing to do anything to follow me? That you are willing even to die? Are you afraid to kill a few zombies?"

"Boss, boss..."

"I am not your boss yet."

Ah Yang and the others wanted to explain, but they were interrupted.

"Little Jun, stop. There is a group of them, but we have ways to do it!" Ah Yang scolded one of his brothers and then waved. He led these ten 16-17 year olds to charge forwards.

Seeing this, Ye Zhongming was slightly disappointed. This caused Big Milk's heart to sink, too, and she knew this new boss was unhappy.

But they slowed down halfway and started to use the wild grass to hide. They separated the zombies that were getting close. Ah Yang, who was one star evolved, moved away and headed towards a further away corner.

Ye Zhongming's eyes lit up again, and he started paying attention.

Ah Yang appeared a few dozen meters away to attract the zombies' attention. He then ran sideways while they chased him. The level two one was quicker, and the horde was split up in just a few seconds.

The teens started to attack. They used their screwdrivers and daggers to attack those at the back and on the sides. They were quick and vicious while being very accurate. Ye Zhongming saw the smallest and weakest girl make one mistake due to her height. She jumped and didn't manage to kill one of the zombies, but her partner helped to make up for that mistake.

Two minutes and a half of these zombies were cleared. The group suffered no losses.

Of course, this was only temporary. The level two zombie was getting close to Ah Yang, and the level difference placed him in danger.

Ye Zhongming shook his head, but it wasn't that he felt unfortunate; there was another reason. If they were one star evolved, then with how well trained they were, they could deal with this level two zombie. But there was only one evolved, and the rest were ordinary people. Even if they could kill regular zombies accurately, their skills were useless to this level-two zombie.

Peng!

A gun was shot when Big Milk screamed as she thought that her brother was about to die to the zombie. The level-two zombie's head exploded, and the dirty liquid scattered over the ashen, white-faced Ah Yang.

These teen girls were stunned and helped Ah Yang up. They dug the crystals and then handed them over to Ye Zhongming.

This made him realize why they wanted to leave Peace Town. They were well-trained and experienced but were controlled to collect demon crystals. Although they were vicious to zombies, they couldn't defeat the evolved. Only Big Milk was left in their hands as a hostage. Her position among all the maids was supernatural, but only because the controller was unwilling to anger Ah Yang.

"Keep them." Ye Zhongming shook his head. Level-five crystals didn't even attract him, much less this level-one and two. Even if he were, he wouldn't take advantage of these kids.

They were delighted and looked at Ye Zhongming with a much better expression.

"Are you willing to learn something special from me? That you can evolve without even using potions?"

Ye Zhongming's words stunned them. Without using potions? Was that possible?

Although they were shocked that they could evolve from using potions initially, they were used to it now. When they heard such things suddenly, it wasn't surprising that they didn't understand."

"Boss, was it that skill you used to kill Gao Tuo?" Ah Yang asked excitedly.

Ye Zhongming nodded. But his words were like water over their raging excitement.

"I am not afraid to tell you I have learned such a technique, but it doesn't mean others can. If you learn it, you are taking a risk and might die on the spot. Or you might... Lose your mind. It might even take a long time with not much improvements. Even so, are you willing to learn? Think about it and then reply to me. You have two hours."

Ye Zhongming sat in the car and asked for them to set off.

Big Milk drove the car and looked at Ye Zhongming. She finally knew what he meant last night.

So... He was using her brother and her as guinea pigs.

Chapter 409: Experiment

Strictly speaking, Big Milk didn't feel like she was cheated; she didn't even have a bad feeling.

After all, Ye Zhongming told them about the negatives that could arise and gave them time to think.

She knew that even if her brother and the others disagreed, the young man wouldn't do anything to them. He would use another method to test them. The process would be more intense than cultivating the secret technique, but it might not be as dangerous.

The toughness of the apocalypse made Big Milk clear about what kind of world it was. If not for her brother and these friends having the talent and courage to bring back many demon crystals, she would be like the other maids in the hotel. One level-one crystal and people could sleep with her for a night. Then, she would have to lay in bed for three days to be able to move again. Save up for a month to be able to spin the wheel once but with little to no chance of getting a potion. Such a life would repeat, and it would have no end. One day, you would die on the bed, and your corpse would be thrown aside. The person who 'killed' you would compensate the hotel owner, not your relatives.

So she didn't think that this new boss was despicable. On the contrary, she made her mind up. She believed that with her brother's personality, he would make the same choice.

There were dangers, but that represented a chance. In the apocalypse, chances were much more important than life.

Moreover, this new boss said it might cause side effects, but what if it didn't? What would they get? What would that represent?

Big Milk could imagine a day when she could sit on the same level as that Peace Hotel boss.

Truth also proved that people would make choices to get stronger.

Everyone agreed with Ye Zhongming's suggestion. Even the youngest 14-year-old girl was the same.

"There are two types. One is for close combat, and one is for mental energy. Think about which you want to choose."

When resting, Ye Zhongming gathered the 12 of them and explained to them the cultivation path.

"Apart from me, no one is cultivating these techniques yet, so I am unsure if you can cultivate both simultaneously. If not, you wouldn't be able to change after you select one."

Ye Zhongming's words calmed them from their excitement, and they started thinking carefully.

After all, this affected their future development. If they couldn't cultivate both simultaneously, choosing one meant giving up on the other. Who knew which one they would be more talented in? Although this concerned luck, if you considered it and weighed it, you would have a higher chance of succeeding.

Of course, Ye Zhongming didn't give them full reins. He did a simple test regarding mental energy and gave suggestions based on the results.

In the end, two chose the mental energy method. The coincidence was that it was the oldest Big Milk and the youngest little girl. Only two girls in the team and the other guys chose the close combat methods.

After making the decision, Ye Zhongming taught the initial part of the Soul Refining Technique and Scorching Flame Technique to the 12 of them.

These people closed their eyes and started cultivating. Ye Zhongming knew that after he was unlocked from the chains of the gachapon wheel, he had started a new path. Although they were testing things out, if they succeeded, they would have the ability to deal with the unknown and mysterious parts of the apocalypse.

Maybe he was thinking too much before he became the strongest, but... It was better than not preparing at all.

He looked at these young but maturing faces, and he felt like they were more capable than himself to represent the hope of Earth.

The wilderness of the apocalypse wasn't safe. Although there weren't many zombies, there were many mutated lifeforms. If one spent too long in one spot, mutated lifeforms would come looking. Ye Zhongming guarded them for half a day and killed 30 mutated lifeforms. This made him know that the apocalypse was approaching his last life. The relatively safer wilderness was turning into huge danger. The survival space for humans started to shrink, and their chance to adapt had ended. What happened next was the more cruel and bloody massacre.

Be it between humans or between races.

The 12 of them took turns to wake up. Maybe because they were young, they could all sense the secret technique. What surprised him was that Big Milk was the most talented. With his strong mental energy, he could sense it very clearly.

But none of them could compare to Ye Zhongming to grasp the technique immediately. That was a regret. This meant that they needed time to form combat strength.

But one person didn't.

Ah Yang, Big Milk's brother. The boss of this group.

Ye Zhongming called the two of them over and took two potions that he got from Peace Town, "Ah Yang, you are the most special here as you are evolved and used the evolution potion."

The two didn't know what he meant and looked at each other.

"I am not planning to let the others touch the potions. At least before I confirm some things, I am not planning to. As their captain, you need to be in charge. You can tell it to them; whoever dares to consume the potions can just die."

Ye Zhongming was really calm, but Big Milk and Ah Yang both knew that he was experimenting, and he wouldn't allow anyone to spoil it, even if they were the specimens. If they didn't listen, he would clear them out.

"But you are different. You have used the potions, and I am already... Impure like me."

Ah Yang wasn't angry because Ye Zhongming said that. He was more curious about the latter half, like him?

"So you don't need to hold back and just use the potions. So these two are for you. But don't forget about cultivating the techniques."

Ah Yang had the two-star and three-star potions injected into him, and he instantly became a three-star evolved. He felt like he was in a dream.

"How does it feel?" Ye Zhongming slapped his shoulder, "Do you dare to enter Ying City with me?"

Chapter 410: Treasure goes to those who are fated

Tong Hu kicked the table, and the items scattered across the floor.

Little Li looked at her husband and frowned. She wanted to console him but didn't know what to say.

"These heartless fellows!"

Tong Hu squatted on the ground and roared.

Tong Hu met two more faction bosses and tried to convince them to fight against the Counter Cloud Peak Alliance.

These people had received help from Boss Ye in the past!

But Boss Ye was dead, so they didn't give him face!

"Tong Hu... We can't blame them, after all, BOss Ye is already..."

"Then they can forget everything? Forget how Cloud Peak has helped them for this half a year. Without Cloud Peak, would they have what they have today? Without Cloud Peak, they are nothing! They would have died long ago!"

Tong Hu was emotional, and his eyes turned red. He stared at his wife. Although he tried to suppress his voice, it was already deafening.

"Quieten down, don't attract the zombies!" Little Li slapped his face like usual, but she did so with much less strength. She was the only one who could understand how frustrated her husband felt. Three months ago, she saw her husband run around to find all sorts of factions. But until now, all her hard work was useless; no one would help a fighter that would lose.

The apocalypse was cruel not just because of killings but in terms of interests.

Tong Hu's team was the most loyal supporter of Cloud Peak. Xia Lei placed them in Ying City to be their eyes and ears. With Cloud Peak's support, Tong Hu's development was quick. Not only were they treated like core Cloud Peak members, but they were all four-star evolved. Even the other members of the team received benefits.

Like Little Li, Cloud Peak gave her the three-star potion and a job scroll. Their equipment was all provided by Cloud Peak. Although they weren't as luxurious as when Boss Ye was around, they were above average.

Without the Counter Cloud Peak Alliance causing problems, Tong Hu would continue to develop in Ying City. Every week, they would send Cloud Peak some intel. Both sides worked closely together and developed together.

But the Counter Cloud Peak Alliance started to gather. Tong Hu stopped caring about hiding his identity and started running around for Cloud Peak. He contacted various factions, hoping they could form an Alliance to head to Cloud Peak and pincer the Counter Cloud Peak Alliance from both sides.

Unfortunately, the idea was good, but no one agreed. No one at all. The better ones found reasons to decline; some even mocked him.

As a result, Tong Hu had conflicts with many factions. He was not at Cloud Peak to help yet, and his squad suffered losses.

Today, there was news that Cloud Peak had been attacked for three days and was barely holding on. Tong Hu found someone else to want to convince them, but he failed again. These people weren't willing to provide resources, much less join the fight.

"We have done all we can; I believe Cloud Peak will understand." Little Li hugged him to console him, then bit her teeth, "We have slept together for so long; I know what

you are thinking. I know you will head to Cloud Peak. You will go alone and dump all of us, right?"

Tong Hu raised his head and looked at her ugly face, "Little Li, I am going to die, you..."

"No wonder you can only marry into my family; you don't understand, woman." She stared at him, "You are my man; I will accompany you for everything, even in death. Our Tong Hu Squad will go and tell the brothers. Those willing can go with us; we will die at most. Anyways, we have lived long enough in the apocalypse."

"Little Li..." His nose felt sour, and he bit his teeth, which often hurt, so he wouldn't tear.

Relationships were a priceless treasure.

"What death, with me here, will all of you die?"

A voice broke their conversation and caused Tong Hu to jump. He held up the silver stick that Boss Ye left for him and pointed at where the voice came from.

Little Li was not as gentle, and her body surged with killing intent.

Two people walked out of the dark corner of the room and appeared in the light.

"Ye, Boss Ye!"

When he saw the person, Tong Hu's mouth opened as wide as his head. It could even fit an ostrich egg in.

Little Li pointed at Ye Zhongming in disbelief.

Tong Hu whose rage and his gratitude for his wife made him tear up twice today, his eyes turned red once more after seeing Ye Zhongming. A liquid flowed down, and he just sat on the ground and wailed.

"Boss Ye, you are not dead, you are not dead!"

The anger and frustration he had felt exploded. His voice was really loud, which caught Ah Yang and Ye Zhongming off guard. They didn't know what he had been through for him to cry so badly.

Ye Zhongming felt warm and squatted down to tap his shoulder.

He didn't expect that apart from the core Cloud Peak members, someone else would be willing to give up their lives for him.

Things were such a coincidence. After Ye Zhongming led Ah Yang into Ying City, he bumped into Tong Hu in this shack. He saw him asking other factions for help and how he was willing to die for Cloud Peak.

No one did such things in the apocalypse. At least, it was something he hadn't seen in a long time. Although he disagreed with it, he respected him.

Moreover, his loyalty was to him.

Even Tong Hu didn't know that his status in Ye Zhongming's heart had risen to a really important position.

"Don't cry; there are many things to do. Those people who wronged you will know what they missed."

Ye Zhongming pulled him up and heard the couple describe what had happened since he left. He looked at the pitch-black Ying City; his expression got much colder.