

## **Apocalypse 1071**

### Chapter 1071: Seen

“You want to go there?” The three of them said in unison.

They really didn't expect this person to give such a suggestion.

What was that place? That was where the monsters gathered. It was their nest. If he headed there, wasn't he just asking to die?

“No!”

The captain rejected that suggestion. Although he had a white weapon, he didn't think he was strong enough to take that risk.

Ye Zhongming smiled and knew that was going to happen. He had a rough idea. These three people were still important, so he didn't flip on them. He told them to wait.

The three of them used their gazes to interact. They didn't know this guy's thoughts, but they had suspicions about him.

Even an arrogant newbie wouldn't try to take a risk when they knew there was a level six lifeform. It was either this guy was dumb, or he had other plans.

But what Ye Zhongming did shocked them.

The guy picked up the back armor of the stone cow and then lined up the triangular base together. Then, the armor connected after a flash of light.

Their eyes were glued to that spot.

Ye Zhongming took a look. He casually took out a green knife he used when he crafted equipment to dig a circular hole in the center of the armor. It was big enough for a human head.

He then added some materials he collected from the monsters here. After a short time, the two back armor pieces turned into white battle armor.

Although the armor was simple and just made of two pieces, it didn't have protection for arms; it was long enough, and if a mature guy wore it, it was enough to cover his hips.

They were speechless for a long time when they saw such magical scenes. They continued to look at the armor, which Ye Zhongming felt was very simple. They then looked at the green knife that had appeared from nowhere.

They finally understood why this guy could run about with a white weapon. He had a piece of space equipment!

The few of them looked at him differently.

A four-star evolved, and a four-star evolved with space equipment were two different concepts. A four-star evolved that had a Smith job was even more amazing.

This guy was such a person.

“This is for you as payment to bring me there. Don’t worry. You just need to bring me near there, and I will do the rest.”

The captain instinctively took the white armor and smiled with some slight embarrassment. His hesitation disappeared after Ye Zhongming said those words.

Since he didn’t need to enter, what did he fear?

He even felt like today was his lucky day. He used two useless pieces of information to trade for a white dagger and could get white armor by leading the way.

Moreover, although this captain was tossed into the mine and hadn’t evolved in a long time, as a four-star evolved, he was probably an elite outside in the past. He realized that he could get more things from this guy.

The three started to lead the way, but their eyes glanced at Ye Zhongming passionately.

They knew what it meant to meet such a person.

“It is nearby, but don’t speak when we get close. It would be problematic if we alert them.”

The captain reminded. Although Ye Zhongming had turned into someone he wanted to get close to, his life was more important.

They walked a while more to a wider location. Numerous dark caves were ahead. The three of them stopped and said, in a soft voice, “The beast territory is ahead. If things are smooth, you can get there in 20 minutes. Also, extinguish the flames; you can only rely on crystals to light the way.”

Before Ye Zhongming agreed, seven people appeared from a cave on the left. Both sides bumped into each other and were stunned.

Captain Di Jiu recognized their leader and instinctively took a step back.

“Yi, Wang Xintai?”

They didn’t expect to meet other Collectors as this place was near the beast cave.

But right away, Di Jiu saw the dagger and armor in Wang Xintai’s hands, and his eyes lit up.

White equipment was the best in the cave.

Their expressions changed from surprise into greed.

“Don’t have any thoughts; we are third cave Master Yan’s men.” Wang Xintai wasn’t a fool. Usually, when both sides met, even if it weren’t friendly, they wouldn’t fight. Collectors knew their place. But things were different now. The two white pieces of equipment were too tempting, and he only hoped that his boss could make them come to their senses.

But it was obvious that the two white pieces of equipment blinded those people. Moreover, it was eight against four, and they had the advantage.

Di Jiu laughed and surrounded them.

“Seems like we need to charge out.” Zhang Xintai was frustrated. He had just met a high-level Smith and thought that life was going to be good, but trouble suddenly appeared. He might not even be able to survive.

“I hate wasting time.”

Ye Zhongming spoke up suddenly. He didn’t have a lot of time now.

Di Jiu had seen this clean guy and guessed he was new, so they didn't care. When they heard his words, they laughed viciously.

"Quite clean."

Di Jiu's subordinate said something that made the other people pause and laugh aloud.

"Okay, we will let you taste this clean guy later."

Ye Zhongming's expressionless face was filled with rage when those words were said.

The Cloud Peak boss was actually becoming targetted.

Chapter 1072: Difficult to split

Ye Zhongming was furious, but only that, he was still rational.

He felt that since these people wanted to die, he should use them. Otherwise, he would be wasting the evolution potions they had used.

Ye Zhongming waved, and a blue oval-shaped piece of equipment appeared under his feet.

That caused Di Jiu and the others to stop, and they were in disbelief.

They didn't know where he took the item from.

"Give me your meat, and I will give each of you some equipment."

Ye Zhongming said it to Zhang Xingtai and the others. Although they knew that Ye Zhongming was a Smith with space equipment and definitely had good things, the suddenly appearing blue equipment still attracted their attention.

They had never seen such a piece of equipment.

The only female warrior was first to react. She tossed the meat beneath his feet, and then the other two followed.

Ye Zhongming tapped the hive, and four modified Needle Birds flew out.

It looked magical, but...

Di Jiu and the others were stunned when they saw the few small demon monsters before they burst out laughing.

They even forgot they were beside the tunnel connected to the beast's nest.

“I was so scared; I thought it was useful!”

“Damn, level two. Are you trying to trick me?”

“He wants to kill all of us.”

“I am so afraid of dying.”

“He gave us another blue piece of equipment; that is great.”

“Big Dong, look at this girl; she is rich!”

The few of them laughed. Although they weren't laughing too loud, it was enough to show their disdain.

“Shut up!”

Di Jiu was the calmest, and he stopped them. He understood the situation and knew that normal voices wouldn't draw the monsters out, but continuous noises might.

But his expression told Zhang Xintai and the others that his thoughts were the same.

Zhang Xintai and the others looked at Ye Zhongming and didn't know what he would do. He didn't do anything besides telling them that he had space equipment. This time, they wouldn't let them off.

But Ye Zhongming continued as if nothing had happened. He ordered the four Needle Birds to eat the meat. Their mouths became huge, and each one started to swallow all the meat.

That caused everyone to hold their breath.

Even though they were level two, their swallowing style terrified the humans.

After the four Needle Birds swallowed the meat, they calmed down. They stopped showing their teeth at everyone and just landed by his feet.

“Boss, let's kill them!”

A member suggested to Di Jiu. He had a bad feeling, for some reason, as if something was going to happen.

Di Jiu waved impatiently and said that his subordinate was stupid.

Kill the mutated lifeforms they didn't recognise? Was there an idea more stupid than that?

These things were already his. Who would kill their own battle beast?

Di Jiu recognized the blue piece of equipment as a beast pool!

Ye Zhongming lowered his head and looked at the four beasts.

"You, look!"

A person pointed at the demon monsters and exclaimed.

Everyone followed the sound and saw that the Needle Birds were shrinking. Their bodies shivered. They didn't even look like ordinary beasts now.

But what shocked them wasn't their bad state but the color of their demon crystals.

The white crystals representing level two were turning black. In just a few breaths, they became pitch black.

Black demon crystals represented level three!

When the demon crystal's colors stopped changing, the shrunk Needle Bird opened its eyes and flapped its wings. It circled around as if it was in a good mood.

Everyone was shocked.

These mutated lifeforms went from level two to level three before their eyes?

This... Was the world crazy?

Di Jiu retreated a few steps with his men.

Along with the Needle Birds evolving, the gap in strength was gone. He regretted not listening to his subordinates and killing the four flying things.

"Level three should be enough." Ye Zhongming said a sentence. No one understood but they could sense the killing intent.

Ye Zhongming suddenly stepped forward. It looked slow but when they realized, he was before an evolved. His fist hit that person's throat.

One touch, and he was gone.

That person coughed twice. His body shook, and he fell to the ground.

This three-star evolved was actually killed by one fist.

It wasn't over. Ye Zhongming moved a few more times, either hitting a throat or a temple. Di Jiu's four three-star evolved were all killed.

Di Jiu and the remaining people felt a chill down their spines. They didn't even see how Ye Zhongming attacked. He only saw his figure and also the corpses.

"We..."

Di Jiu wanted to say something. He had to say something because he understood this person was far stronger than them!

But Ye Zhongming didn't give him a chance. He instructed the four level-three Needle Birds. It was obvious. He told them that the four fellows were theirs.

The Needle Birds gave a weird cry and dove toward the few people.

“Kill them!”

Di Jiu knew that they had to go all out. He gave a furious roar, and then... Turned and ran.

The few subordinates didn't react, and when they saw Di Jiu, he was several meters away. The Needle Birds arrived and clashed with the three of them.

Even Liu Zhenghong said that these Needle Birds were much stronger. Although they were only level three, don't forget that they were originally level five to six lifeforms. Their genes even had the eight-tail egg's gene sequence. Facing ordinary evolved who didn't have decent equipment, the outcome was destined.

The three of them lasted for a few seconds before they were killed.

Di Jiu didn't get far when Ye Zhongming tossed him back. He lay on the ground. Ye Zhongming was unhappy with this person who had previously acted so arrogantly.

“If you run, it would be hard for these four to split.”

Chapter 1073: Gene Corruption

Zhang Xintai and the others trembled when they looked at the Needle Birds that once again shriveled up.

They had seen too many unbelievable things today.

First, a four-star evolved had a piece of space equipment with blue equipment. That four-star evolved also showed his smith job that could turn trash into treasure. If they could accept all that, they couldn't accept how such a person, who would be treated as a treasure no matter where he went, was tossed into the mines.

They thought they were dead, but this person solved it easily. They felt like this young man who was younger than them might not only be a four-star evolved.

What terrified them were these four mutated lifeforms.

They were only level two when they appeared and weren't much. But after eating some meat, they became level three. Now, they were evolving toward level four!

The three of them had never seen such a thing. Although small, how did they swallow a human in one mouth?

It was just one mouth when a 100-kilogram four-star evolved was swallowed by them, and then, within a few minutes, they entered this evolution state again.

The three of them even felt like they were dreaming. Were they away from the ground for such a long time that they lost track of everything?

Ye Zhongming paid attention to his four Needle Birds because he noticed their evolution was slightly different.

They grew bigger. When they knelt on the ground, the queen was the same height as him. Although the three males were slightly shorter, their figures were smoother, and their various parts, such as beaks, wings, claws, etc., were sharper.

New features appeared on their bodies. Where their head and body connected, gills appeared. But Ye Zhongming didn't think they were for breathing, but to... Store weapons.

The gills were made of 20-centimeter bone spikes.

Was this to protect its neck? Ye Zhongming didn't think it was so simple, but he had to wait for them to wake up before he could ask them.

Last was the most obvious one. They were covered in greyish-brown fur.

This change confused him, as he didn't know what the fur was used for. He didn't even know if these changes were an added function or just natural.

It took longer to go from level three to level four than before. After ten minutes, the four Needle Birds woke up.

The moment they opened their eyes, they showed their fierce nature. They looked ice cold, like they wanted to attack you at the next moment. Ye Zhongming didn't think much, but Zhang Xintai and the others were terrified. Even if they were at the same evolution level, they felt uncomfortable that such a big beast was staring at them.

Ye Zhongming silently connected mentally with the beast and finally found out what he wanted to know.

The bone gills were really weapons. They could grow and fire bone spikes.

This made up for their lack of ranged abilities.

As for the fur, even if he didn't ask, he knew what they were used for.

Protection. More accurately, camouflage!

The color of the fur would change along with the environment.

Was it a change brought by the genes of the cow?

It seemed like the case which shocked Ye Zhongming.

He thought about gene corruption that humans talked about in peacetime.

Humans slowly improved in science, and their understanding of their own bodies reached a deep level. To ensure race purity, the governments were working hard to prevent humans from being affected by other genes.

Ordinary people also had this concept, like they didn't trust gene transfer technologies.

Now, a more serious mutation happened before him. If he had to blame someone, he would blame himself for supporting Liu Zhenghong.

He looked at the Needle Birds, who were flying and asking him if they could eat the other humans. He guessed that if they continued to eat humans, would they turn into something similar to humans?

He breathed out and tried not to think about it. The world was under the terrifying rule of the wheel, and it was too noble to think about this. This problem might be serious, but it would be one for years later.

He told them to enter the hive, which made things more comfortable for Zhang Xintai and the rest. But they were amazed that the four huge flying mutated lifeforms could enter the small piece of equipment.

The four of them entered the cave, and after some walking, they told him that they were before the cave they told him about. He nodded and told them to head out to wait for him. When they left, he

equipped his stuff and summoned the two elemental elves. He used the Black Halo shield and then snuck in.

The moment he entered, he picked up a smelly scent. This would only form when mutated lifeforms gathered together. It was a mixture of food, sweat, and poo.

Ye Zhongming didn't dive in and used the light to observe.

He knew that the lifeforms could camouflage, so he was detailed.

Even he became quiet after looking.

There were many monsters on the walls. They were a perfect match with the surroundings, and if one was careless, they might not be able to notice them.

But these monsters didn't notice the danger. They weren't silent. Some would move or change positions.

At the same time, Ye Zhongming saw stone pearls in the cracks. As this was their nest, there were stone pearls everywhere. Just one look and he saw tens of thousands.

Ye Zhongming relaxed. He observed for a while more and confirmed that nothing was stronger than himself before he stepped out.

## Chapter 1074: Killing all

He took a step forward, and the mutated lifeforms became restless.

They probably didn't expect humans to enter this place. There were a few seconds when the situation in the cave was chaotic.

But when Ye Zhongming's blade light sliced the body of a monster, the mutated lifeforms went mad. Blood stimulated them, and they surged over.

A green dagger he usually used to craft appeared in his other hand. He held weapons with both hands and didn't use any skills. He just waved his hand forward.

The purple Earth Sand Moon Blade formed many images in front of him. Any lifeform that touched them was sliced open. Nothing could block their sharpness.

Occasionally, some lifeforms passed the blade light and got close, but they were killed by the weapon in his other hand.

A pile of corpses appeared under his feet very quickly.

The thick blood scent spread through the entire tunnel.

There was a gulp above him, and he raised his head. A mountain-like giant lizard climbed above him and opened its mouth. The gulp was the uncontrollable muscle spasm from its mouth.

Ye Zhongming saw a red crystal.

This was a level six monster, the highest lifeform he met since entering.

If he didn't wear any equipment, he would have to dodge this attack before he could counter.

But he was fully equipped. Earth Sand Moon Blade's Moon Sandstorm was a passive skill that wrapped around him. This slowed and obstructed others. The snake-like lifeform charged quickly but couldn't make Ye Zhongming panic.

Ye Zhongming raised his blade and knocked the snake to the side. If not for him coincidentally slicing the head of a mutated lifeform and not being able to turn the blade around, the snake would have died instantly.

But the lifeforms here were fearless. They didn't care about the deaths of their allies and continued to charge. Ye Zhongming was unable to protect himself fully and started to get attacked.

However, due to Black Halo Shield and Black Soil Armor, the lifeforms much weaker than him couldn't cause a threat or even break his triple defense.

But Ye Zhongming chose to take a step back.

Ye Zhongming had been walking forward. Even if he was slow, he was still getting deeper.

This was the first time he retreated.

The mutated lifeforms were sensitive and sensed the retreat. No matter the reason, they didn't want to let go of the chance to fight back. They went even more crazy and surged from all directions. They used their numbers advantage to drown the enemy.

Ye Zhongming was surrounded very quickly. Even if he had killed many, there were still many more alive.

It seemed like Ye Zhongming was in a bad situation. He was surrounded. If other evolved faced this situation, they would probably hope to die quickly and not get ripped apart.

But things changed.

Numerous thick tornados surged from around Ye Zhongming. Any lifeform that it touched was smashed into meat paste!

The tornado had many sand particles. What formed the tornado wasn't wind but light!

Sandstorm Moonlight Tornado!

The ability of Earth Sand Moon Blade that could cancel Moonlight Sandstorm and turn into a giant tornado that dealt both earth and light element damage.

Although the strength had to do with the number of tornados, which restricted how powerful it was, the cave wasn't wind. Four tornados were enough to fill the space. So, after they passed, the cave returned to silence.

The only thing you could hear were the roars of the lifeforms that were injured and didn't die.

Ye Zhongming walked over to kill the few level six mutated lifeforms.

He calmed his panting chest and calculated the mental energy usage. After knowing it wasn't much of a problem, he cleared the battlefield.

To ensure the tornado's strength, he injected a large amount of mental energy when using it.

You could say he was clearing up the battlefield, but he only needed to dig for what he wanted. For example, the crystals and materials from levels five and six mutated lifeforms. He didn't touch the rest and ignored those who fled. Who knew how many lifeforms there were in this dungeon? It was impossible to kill all of them.

After doing that, Ye Zhongming released the four Needle Birds to feed. He then stood before a wall and dug a stone pearl.

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Zhang Xintai and the other two waited outside in the stone hall where they had the conflict in.

In just that short while, the three of them started to sweat.

Since the young man went down, there would be fighting sounds that got more intense.

They felt like this guy had gone crazy.

They didn't deny that he was strong and even had four strong flying pets. But there should be tens of thousands of lifeforms in that cave. If he fought them alone, wasn't he just asking to die?

The thick blood smell could be picked up even here. The three of them were shocked. That person was so strong to last for so long?

Even so, they didn't think that Ye Zhongming could win.

Until just now when there was a bright light, Zhang Xintai and his group looked at each other and didn't know what to do.

After some nervous discussions, they felt like they should still take a look. Although they had an idea of the outcome, they still had some hope.

When they stumbled into the cave and were prepared to flee, they saw Ye Zhongming, who was counting stone pearls. At that moment, they looked at this person like they were looking at a god.

His body... What equipment was he wearing?

Ye Zhongming turned and smiled, "Nice timing. You can select the items here. Once they evolve, then let's go."

Ye Zhongming pointed at the Needle Birds that were evolving for the third time today and said, "Bring me to see your... Grandfather Yan."

Chapter 1075: Threaten then tempt

Grandfather Yan wasn't old and was far from the age of being a grandfather. But he was like a grandfather in the mines, especially the third mine.

But now, his expression wasn't good. A guy was standing before him, and he felt it was very dangerous.

He sat on his chair and didn't know how to reply.

“Why can’t I use your freedom to trade for this thing?”

Ye Zhongming rested on the wall and looked at Grandfather Yan and his subordinates.

He was brought here by Zhang Xintai. He met the Collector of the third mine, Grandfather Yan, and raised his conditions.

To Ye Zhongming, his bid was really high. It was only one word: freedom.

For them to leave this dark cave and return to the ground.

Of course, there were other benefits, such as the large amount of low-grade crystals, meat, and materials in the cave.

His request was simple: First, collect all the stone pearls and pass them to him. Second, give him all their stone pearl storage. Third, only leave after a specific time.

No matter how you looked at it, his conditions weren’t much. To use these stone pearls of unknown function to trade for freedom. Why would you hesitate?

“I don’t trust you.” Grandfather Yan suddenly said. He looked at Ye Zhongming with a dark expression, “You are an outsider, and we have never lived together. So, you aren’t worthy of my trust.”

Ye Zhongming nodded. He stopped looking at Grandfather Yan but at the 300 Collectors here. He pointed above, "Have you all thought about the fact that there might be moles of those people above?"

One sentence shocked many of them.

Did they think about it? Of course, they did. But they wondered who would want to stay here and live such a life, which removed such thoughts from their heads.

Now that Ye Zhongming raised it, that question appeared in their hearts again. Especially Zhang Xintai and the other two. They were convinced by Ye Zhongming and their trust for him passed that of Grandfather Yan. With their understanding of Ye Zhongming, he wouldn't say things without a reason. They instinctively looked at Grandfather Yan.

Was the mole that this smith was referring to the person who had been their boss for so long?

Grandfather Yan stood up and raged, "Outsider, don't sprout nonsense. We are all brothers that go through life and death. You can't sour our relationship with a few words. You come from the outside, so how did you bring such good equipment? How would those people let you through?"

The others felt it made sense, and their hearts became firm again.

"That is because he had space equipment, and those people didn't notice."

Zhang Xintai explained for Ye Zhongming.

He saw Ye Zhongming observing and studying the stone pearls. If he were from above, he would obviously know their use. Even if he didn't, wouldn't it be better if he studied them above? Why did he even come down here?

From their previous conversations, they could tell that Ye Zhongming knew nothing about this place. If he was sent from above, would that be the case?

"Zhang Xintai, don't forget your identity!" Grandfather Yan's subordinate didn't hold back and looked like he was about to eat him.

Ye Zhongming smiled and suddenly charged forward. He activated Quickness and was before Grandfather Yan instantly.

The others' levels were too low, and they didn't have a chance to defend. But Grandfather Yan was prepared. When he saw Ye Zhongming move, his body changed. His muscles started to swell, bones expanded, and his mouth grew. He activated his bloodline.

"Werewolf Bloodline?"

Ye Zhongming recognized it. This was one of the more common bloodlines of his last life. It was strong at advanced grades but average at the low and intermediate grades.

Grandfather Yan waved his hands toward Ye Zhongming. Those hands were now sharp claws.

But he underestimated his speed. When he was about to touch Ye Zhongming's body, that person sidestepped and dodged his hand before knocking into his arms.

Grandfather Yan felt pain in his stomach, and his body flew backward. He stumbled twice before he knocked into the stone pillar. He wanted to do something, but his neck felt tight. A hand was there, and it was raising him.

The lack of oxygen caused him to struggle, but very quickly, his body felt powerless.

"You aren't a spy from above? Then can you tell your subordinates why you are hiding your evolution level? You aren't five-star but six! Although you are six-star, you are weak."

The subordinates who heard those words stopped.

Grandfather Yan was six-stars?

Shouldn't he be five stars?

These people saw his gaze change and knew that it was the truth. His eyes panicked after he was exposed.

“To ensure that the people help them collect stone pearls and prevent people from working together to charge out, they sent you here, right? I guess you have a bad relationship with the other factions, which would cause some friction with them. You might even disappear to enjoy life above for some time, right?”

People might not notice when you don't expose it, but once someone talks about it, everyone thinks about things that they haven't paid attention to before.

A green dagger appeared in his other hand. He waved, and Grandfather Yan's hand was sliced.

“Tell me everything you know, and I won't kill you. If not, you will lose more parts of your body.”

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People in the third mine went mad. This was what other connected mines thought.

For some reason, the people from the third mine started to move in groups of 20. They found the bosses of each faction and spread a message that shocked everyone.

Someone could help them escape!

Of course, this was what Ye Zhongming did after controlling Grandfather Yan's men. He wanted to gather everyone together.

Of course, he was busy, too. He personally went to the fourth mine and found Lin Yixun. After getting him, he told him a location to gather all the faction heads.

Will those bosses come? Ye Zhongming believed they would. Be it those trapped here or the spies, they would all come.

The former had hope and the latter would because they had a job.

When the bosses of the four mines digested the information and led people to the location, they saw Grandfather Yan's corpse. After entering the stone hall, they also saw many body parts around.

Many people recognized that these people who were disfigured and killed were the cannibals Black Dog and his subordinates.

When they looked at the young man standing in the center of the corpses, who was not even covered in a single drop of blood. They knew that this wasn't a prank and that something would happen.

Threaten first and tempt after. Things were smooth, and those bosses agreed.

Ye Zhongming was not afraid of spies. He found out from Zhang Xintai and Lin Yixun that the bosses of all the factions in the mines were there. Since that was the case, he told them to beware of people around them and that those who disappeared were traitors. That made them monitor each other.

Whoever destroyed their freedom was the biggest enemy.

Ye Zhongming led them to clear the various mutated lifeform caves and then collect the stone pearls. The bosses' old stash was also his. All he did was pay with some white equipment.

When he felt like he had enough, he set a signal to the bosses and then used the opportunity where they traded with those above to sneak out.

The level five evolved at the cave entrance was too weak for him.

Ye Zhongming was able to breathe fresh air and felt better. He robbed the stone pearl storage he had learned about from Grandfather Yan and obtained some stone pearls. He then headed to other places and didn't find anything. Now, he knew that it was time to head to Bright Water World.