

Apocalypse 1111

Chapter 1111: Turning trash into treasure

Formation?

Ye Zhongming had never heard of such a thing. He knew of formation scrolls but they were far evolved to use. This formation board was for those puppets.

Strictly speaking, it was a mark-type equipment.

There were many formations: "Charging Attack Formation," "Marquis Defense Formation," "Flying Rotation Formation," and "Swallow Chaos Formation."

Each formation had its own needs, such as the a number of puppets, level, etc. If you satisfied those conditions, you could allow the puppets to have the abilities of a formation.

You selected the formation first and placed in the amount of statues. After injecting energy, they would learn the formation and battle the enemy.

You need to inject mental energy to use the formation. He didn't know how much to inject, but it wouldn't be little.

So that was the case.

Ye Zhongming placed the board now and knew that this was a good item. It could raise the puppets' combat strength.

But after Ye Zhongming owned the Proof of the Puppet, he took a rough look. With this formation, he had the full set for the puppets. Ye Zhongming took out all of them to have a close look.

The Proof of the Puppet and the formation board weren't special; he mainly looked at those statues.

Those things were similar to the puppets he faced in the ruins, but their colors differed. Most were grey; some were yellow, representing their levels and strength. They weren't too high. To experts, even if they formed formations, they wouldn't be a good match.

When he returned, Ye Zhongming had to test them out on different levels of evolution to determine their exact strength.

But what he was curious about was how they worked. He thought about it and used the Marquis Formation. This was also the formation that required the lowest level of puppets. The grey puppets were enough.

The activated formation rattled, and the board became larger and thinner. The diagrams changed, and specks of light lit up and were connected by lines.

Those light spots protruded to form finger-sized light pillars that gave a gentle glow.

Ye Zhongming picked up a grey statue and saw an opening at the bottom of the statue, which matched the pillars.

He slowly stuck the puppet to it, and it wrapped itself in light. Ye Zhongming felt energy sucked from his hands and then flowing into the statue.

Based on the number of pillars, Ye Zhongming placed over 30 statues on it. The board also sucked his mental energy 30 times. The energy wasn't much to him but it would be quite a lot for ordinary evolved.

The board flashed again. The light around each puppet disappeared. Ye Zhongming waved, and the soldiers landed on the ground and grew larger into meter-tall soldiers. The positions they occupied correlated with the ones on the board.

With a thought, the puppets started to move and their formations started to change.

He observed it for a while and he noticed that the puppets were weak. But when they combined, the strength increase was around... Four times.

Of course, this was just his estimate and he wasn't sure it was accurate. As the puppets' level increased, maybe the strength increase would also increase.

After knowing all that, all that was left was how to upgrade the puppets.

The Proof of the Puppet didn't say how to upgrade. Ye Zhongming thought about it and felt like he needed a Smith to upgrade.

He took a material and tried to merge them with the puppet.

There was no reaction.

Was he wrong? He placed a grey puppet down and picked up a copper puppet but there was still no reaction.

The material's level wasn't enough. He switched a higher level material.

Actually the materials in his space were all very high level and were all above level five. The rest were in Cloud Peak's warehouse. He used a higher level... Level seven beast fang.

But it failed again and the puppets didn't react.

Smith couldn't work? How then to upgrade?

He instinctively tried to merge two puppets. A light shone and it worked!

This... His eyes opened wide and knew that he found the answer. He looked at the copper puppet. Apart from the level increase, there wasn't any other changes.

Strengthen worked so that it mean that other Smith skills could be used? Then why didn't Enchant work?

Ye Zhongming glanced at the board and then at the puppets and had sme understanding. He realized that he had missed a problem.

The puppets that he experimented on were all used on the Marquis Formation. The materials he used would enchant attack stats.

That didn't fit the stats of these puppets!

With such a guess, he started to test. He found a level five shell to enchant and the light told him that he was correct!

The grey puppet turned copper in color.

Ye Zhongming smiled. He had understood their stats.

If he wanted to strengthen them, then using Strengthen was the best way. But although it looked like he had many statues, but they were one-time-use. Ye Zhongming wanted something long-term so Enchant was more suitable.

Although he didn't know if there would be a bottleneck, but that would be a problem for the future.

He grasped the secret and got to work. He Enchanted the puppets and raised them all to copper grade.

Through this process, he found that puppets without stats from the formation could only be strengthened and not enchanted.

But once the puppet's stats were changed by the formation, there wouldn't be any changes if they were strengthened. But those that you enchanted would revert back to normal and their levels would lower.

Seemed like everything had restrictions.

He didn't have any area that needed materials so he enchanted these puppets and then upgraded them to black.

The remaining ones were left in their original states. As the formations had different requirements, he strengthened some puppets. Some needed to be strengthened three times which caused his number of puppets to drop. He was left with 600 of them. 100 of which were reserve.

After doing all that, Ye Zhongming rested for a while before heading out. He wanted to find the person who traded the puzzle piece with him. He wanted to do something else.

Chapter 1112: Healing Tent and Sky Eye

“Puppet?”

The person who had traded with Ye Zhongming a while ago was shocked that he had found him again. He was shocked when he heard that request. He searched his body and found two puppets.

“I want you to help me contact those who have been to Puppet Ruins; I will purchase the puppets they have.” Ye Zhongming said his request and then continued, “I won’t give you a price, as everyone hopes to get something different. Help me to tabulate them.”

He looked at the two puppets and signaled, “Give me your price.”

That person blinked. He wanted to say something but stopped himself.

Ye Zhongming didn’t wait for him to speak and passed him a white pendant.

“Increase movement speed; it also buffs your other equipment.”

This person couldn’t resist such equipment. He also knew that this useless puppet wasn’t worth any money. Trio's boss gave him this equipment because he was being paid to contact the others.

After completing the trade, this person went to contact the others. The factions that entered the dungeons together mostly knew each other.

Ye Zhongming went to find a middleman and published news that he wanted to purchase the eyes and puzzle pieces from Tragic Hole.

The middle-man were just evolved that grasped some information. They might not be strong, but they were willing to work and knew how to gain trust and do business.

Of course, they also had capital.

After some time in the apocalypse, they grasped the opportunity and started linking people up. They helped increase the information flow and benefited from that.

It was a little too much to say that times create heroes, but the birth of such people was a coincidence.

He handed them the role of collecting the eyes and puzzle pieces and returned to rest. The dungeons reopened. Five Ring Money didn't give up on wanting to work with Ye Zhongming. They invited him to join the advanced dungeons, but he rejected them. He had other things that he wanted from the low-level dungeons.

Five Ring Money didn't care. They didn't understand Ye Zhongming's reasoning. The advanced regions definitely had better things, so why was he so adamant about heading to the lower regions? That place was safer?

They wouldn't know that Ye Zhongming had obtained all the information about Bright Water World. Apart from completion rate that Five Ring Money had the advantage, Ye Zhongming had the advantage in all other areas.

The three of them started fighting in these dungeons to obtain the rewards he wanted.

After a few periods, which lasted over 80 hours, Ye Zhongming cleaned the lower region.

No one could expect what he got.

Of course, there were many good things, but a few significant ones.

The first was Medical Tent.

This was a special equipment that looked simple. The only unique point was that it was clean.

It had a huge function, which was to heal injured people.

This equipment was rare and was only produced by high-level wheels, but very few people wanted it.

This was a stark comparison to healer jobs or potions.

Based on the theory, such a situation shouldn't happen.

But this equipment made one speechless. Its level was low, and none of them were higher than white. The low level meant that the healing effect wouldn't be good. To solve that problem, you had to upgrade it. The higher the level, the higher the healing effect.

But upgrading equipment wasn't easy. You could tell from how hard it was to get the unsealing liquid and the omnipotent upgrade scroll.

The healing tent wasn't one that people could heal for free. You needed energy to transform into healing energy. Although there wasn't a strict requirement for the type of energy, mental energy, and elemental energy all worked, but energy wasn't easy to get. Evolved lacked mental energy, which also restricted the value of this equipment.

But Ye Zhongming had a good use for it.

He had the Treasure Nurturing Gourd, which could upgrade the tent, the Kes Charger, which could charge it, and a huge amount of mental energy, which could help.

With this equipment in his hands, it would be no weaker than a golden piece of equipment.

Second, Sky Eye.

This equipment was also not respected at the current stage. It was an item with life but no consciousness. It was used to increase vision.

It had one function, and nurturing it took a lot of time and energy. It also had strict restrictions. There were only two ways to use it. The first was to place it on gold equipment. The second was to place it on a six-star and above evolved.

Golden equipment were mostly from wheels. Even if Smiths modified them; not mentioning if there were Smiths with that ability, Smiths might only be able to strengthen the equipment's stats and not fully modify it.

This meant it was impossible to equip the eye to the wheel equipments.

But how many self-created equipment could get to golden grade? With Ye Zhongming's current Smith level, it was also tough to achieve.

The second method was even tougher as it involved many complicated things, such as a medical job, a sorcerer, and a space-type job user, all gathering with advanced healing and anti-rejection potions, etc., to successfully place the eye on a human body.

Spend so much money and effort on something that increases vision. No one was willing to do that.

But Ye Zhongming did it. He had the exquisite floating ball, which was gold and fit the requirements. If he succeeded, the ball's scouting range would reach a shocking level.

The third item was also something that made him feel this trip was worth it-- Soul Protecting Cream.

This was a sticky liquid, which wasn't too magical, but it was very meaningful for Ye Zhongming and Cloud Peak.

It could remove negative states!

Chapter 1113: Vengeful Ocean

If Ye Zhongming planned the job advancement scroll and cooldown potion recipe, then this Soul Protection Cream was a surprise. When he found out that the lower regions had this, he decided to get it no matter the price he paid.

He was even willing to abandon Bright Water World for that small bottle.

Because it could save Yellow Ball from the metal state!

Since Metal Ball was affected, besides preparing for the Secret Realm war, Cloud Peak had been collecting any recipe or material that could save the dog. Ye Zhongming knew about the stuff, so he worked towards a clear direction. Without the Secret Realm matter dragging him back, he would have gone to West Asia to search for clues.

Now, with the Soul Protection Cream, he had the urge to return to Cloud Peak immediately.

But the Bright Water World was closed, and he could only wait patiently for some time.

Of course, he needed more things from the advanced regions. Some of them were very helpful against the level nine Saint Father.

He contacted that middleman and purchased many puppets and eyes during the period. But he was missing one of Tragic Hole's puzzle pieces.

He purchased another advanced region intel from that middleman and studied it. He chose one of them as his first advanced region target.

There were fewer advanced region dungeons than the intermediate regions. After contacting Five Ring Money, he obtained the right to enter this place but didn't accept their invitation to head to Magma Desert. He chose to enter the Vengeful Ocean.

After finding out that news, Deacon Tong was suspicious. Did Ye Zhongming know that it was the Royal Guild's area and go there to find trouble? But evolved couldn't fight each other. Cloud Peak didn't have many people, so what trouble could they cause?

He stopped thinking about it and focused on challenging the Magma Desert.

For some reason, Cloud Peak's entrance gave him a bad feeling. They were like wolves. He didn't know where that feeling came from but knew it was best to complete everything he planned on doing quickly.

Ye Zhongming's choice had nothing to do with the Royal Guild but because the geography was better for him. The rewards were also a reason why he chose it.

Vengeful Ocean was a group of islands wrapped in red ocean water. It was much bigger than the intermediate region. This was like many small worlds.

When they entered, they appeared on a few hundred square meter island. Apart from seaweed and plants, there were a few red-colored trees.

The algae and seaweed were red like the leaves. Together with the roaring ocean, this place looked like a bloody world.

Apocalypse and people in peacetime had the same fear of nature.

Once nature showed its might, be it humans at peak technology or humans who evolved in the apocalypse, humans could not defend against it. In front of furious nature, humans were weak and tiny.

Maybe only after evolved reached nine stars would they be able to battle nature.

Ye Zhongming looked at the tag, and the information on it was more extensive than that in the intermediate region. In addition to the overall completion, faction name, completion rate, and rewards, there was also a map. Shining red dots marked the rewards and challenge contents.

As he knew the exact information of Bright Water World, he wasn't shocked by this. As the advanced dungeons were more dangerous, there were, thus, more detailed introductions.

When he came, there wasn't anyone else on the island. The big factions wouldn't be like those small factions. They wouldn't head over to recruit random helpers.

He looked at the information on the tag.

"Vengeful Ocean, completion rate, 48%."

"Completion rankings: 1: Royal Guild, 13%."

"2: Pin Palace, 8%."

"3: Blue Wave, 5.1%"

"4..."

After all, it had been open for numerous periods, so even if the advanced region was huge, close to half of it was completed.

After all, this was the advanced region. Even if the factions were all in the top 50, even the top 30, their individual completion rates weren't high. Royal Guild had the advantage and only completed 13%.

"Boss, what is our goal?"

"Since we are here, of course, it is to take as much as possible."

.....

The Royal Guild members were resting on one of the small islands. One of them exclaimed, which attracted everyone's attention.

"What happened?"

The Royal Guild head frowned and scolded his subordinate.

Their progress here wasn't smooth, so the chief was obviously unhappy. Deacon Tong sending him here already annoyed him, and the truth proved that point.

The guild's progress was not quick, and they even suffered huge losses. There were ten resource spots here, and until now, although they had 13%, which was the most of all factions, they didn't get the most rewards. Pin Palace and Royal Guild completed two resource points, but although their completion rate was lower, they gained much more.

How would he feel good? They knew a lot of intel beforehand.

“Trio, oh no, Cloud Peak has entered!”

The subordinate was shocked, and his voice was shaking.

Royal Guild chief’s hands moved. If they could attack people, he would have killed that timid subordinate.

This person was the guard of the Royal Guild expert that Cloud Peak assassinated. He was outside, which was why he survived, so he had trauma about Cloud Peak. Now that Five Ring Money knew that Trio was Cloud Peak, he was emotional when he saw the information on the tag.

Maybe those gory scenes gave him a deep impression, and he took several seconds to calm down.

“They entered?” The chief looked at the tag and squinted his eyes. He stood up, “Wait a while, I will head out.”

He then used Five Ring Money’s home-ground advantage to exit.

Chapter 1114: Vengeful Ocean (2)

“No!”

Deacon Tong was unhappy that the Royal Guild chief had interrupted his dungeon, so he decisively rejected the request when he heard it.

“I hope you understand that Five Ring Money isn’t a combative organisation. We are a merchant organization that uses various methods to gather riches. We don’t fight, but we use this place to earn money. You should know that more than others!”

Deacon Tong pointed at his brain, and he was very fierce.

The chief was expressionless as if he had expected Deacon Tong’s rejection.

“I will go back if you have nothing else to say. You should rush back. Don’t forget that our most important mission is for Bright Water World’s completion rate to reach 100% and then obtain control of this place to read the Sky Monument!”

Deacon Tong walked out. He had lost patience with his ‘colleague.’

“Gore Race.”

Royal Guild’s chief sat there and calmly said two words.

Deacon Tong stopped.

The room was silent for a long time. One stood, and one sat as if time had stopped.

“I underestimated you.” Deacon Tong broke the silence but he still didn’t turn around.

He was afraid that the chief would see the killing intent on his face.

“We underestimated each other.”

The chief’s reply caused both of them to be silent once again.

“This time, I can help you, but only once.”

“Thank you.”

When they spoke again, they came to a consensus.

“I hope you can kill Ye Zhongming. If not, your Master can’t head down to Earth to help you directly, with your strength...”

“You might not survive for a few days.”

Deacon Tong left.

The chief smiled coldly and stood up. What he wanted to do was to send all the troops under the Royal Guild into Vengeful Ocean.

.....

Ye Zhongming got to shore from the red ocean water. He was still very satisfied. Although the water’s color was different, its nature was the same.

He used the Scorching Flame Technique to dry his clothing. After helping Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue, they walked onto the beach.

This place was still shining on the tag, which meant that the reward was not yet obtained.

He observed the surroundings. This island was bigger than the one before, and when he looked into the distance, he couldn’t see the end of it.

“Why aren’t there any monsters in the ocean?”

Zhao Xiangxue found it weird. Since this place was Vengeful Ocean, the ocean should be dangerous. The few of them swam for so long but didn't see anything. It was as if the ocean was a death zone.

Ye Zhongming also found that question weird. Without a boat and flying skills, swimming was the only way across islands.

To Ye Zhongming, the waters should have been dangerous, but everything was calm, which was why he was unable to answer Zhao Xiangxue.

But he didn't relax because danger would always arrive. Only then would this place be worthy of being an advanced region.

The three of them walked toward the value and saw some marks. These should have been left after some plants had been harvested.

Although Five Ring Money couldn't complete this area, they took the resources away.

Ye Zhongming stopped after a few steps and arrived at the foot of a mountain.

A few seconds later, a red cloud covered the sky.

The red cloud slowly circulated and formed a spiral. Inside, a red mist was brewing.

Ye Zhongming's expression changed when he looked at the red cloud. He would rather have a strong mutated lifeform than face nature's unknowns.

The three of them continued forward and were more careful. Ye Zhongming stopped hiding. He wore his best equipment and held Earth Sand Moon Blade. He used his senses to observe the movement around him.

When they got close to the valley, they saw some tattered human corpses but no mutated lifeform bodies, which confused Ye Zhongming.

Were the monsters so strong that Five Ring Money and Pin Palace could only leave the corpses and retreat?

"Be careful."

He instructed his subordinates and led them forward, finally entering the valley.

The mountain and the trees blocked his vision. Now that he saw a narrow valley, it felt as if everything had opened up.

But this feeling was interrupted by the trembling of the valley. It was like an earthquake, which caused the valley to shake.

The red clouds became thicker and more intense. Rain descended, that rain drops connected to form lines that hit the ground.

Ye Zhongming took out Staff of the Nature. Although the red rain was dense, it didn't have any attack. Water Bottle Protection didn't see signs of weakening.

The rain came and went quickly, stopping in a few minutes. But the clouds were still there, threatening the three below.

Ye Zhongming kept the staff and looked toward the metal platform deep in the valley. On it was a silver case.

But the valley was covered in water, and many places formed puddles.

Before they could do anything, the puddles changed. The red rain started to bubble and form red water giants.

In a few breaths, six four-meter-tall enemies appeared in the valley. They roared and charged at the three of them.

Ye Zhongming's reaction was quick, and the three reacted instantly.

A sniper rifle appeared in Ye Zhongming's hand and shot the head of the giant at the front. Although the bullet was only grey, this gun was really strong. At this distance, even a level six lifeform would die.

But after hitting the red giant, the bullet slowed before piercing through. The giant's body shook before it continued charging.

Gao Yi was a warrior who didn't fear the water giant. He charged with his giant sword, which had wind and lightning wrapped around it. Zhao Xiangxue's Flame Lightning was also used, and they both hit the giant's body.

Chapter 1115: Pangu Bloodline

The snaking flame lightning caused the red giant's body to shake, and some white mist evaporated. At the same time, Gao Yi's sword hit the giant's body.

This left a huge hole to appear in the body.

But they didn't manage to kill the water giant as expected.

This water giant just lowered its head to look at the wound before waving its fist to hit Gao Yi's body.

Gao Yi, who could be considered a monster-like human, was knocked aside like a little chicken. His body flew over Ye Zhongming and landed outside of the valley.

The wound that was sliced open slowly closed, and one couldn't see any marks. As for Zhao Xiangxue's attacks, it was neutralized and disappeared.

The three of them all attacked, but none of them worked.

In such a short while, the other giants were nearby. The front two raised their legs to trample while those at the back punched. Like rubber that could stretch and retract, they punched through the gaps of the giant's body in front of them.

The two red giants at the back were the terrifying ones. They squatted down and then leaped into the sky. They crossed their allies and used their bodies to bounce toward them.

With their size, if they stepped or hit you, you would suffer from bad injuries, at least.

Ye Zhongming and Zhao Xiangxue had to retreat.

They got out of the valley, and Gao Yi climbed up behind them. Ye Zhongming glanced at him and saw that he should be fine, apart from some blood at the corner of his mouth.

Thick skin was Gao Yi's strength.

The ground shook, caused by the attacks of the few giants. The three of them roughly knew why there were only human corpses here.

The six giants were all stronger than level six and weren't easy to deal with.

Compared to the puppets and bats, this place was more dangerous.

Zhao Xiangxue might have looked like a lady before Ye Zhongming, but she was a cold battle machine. She cleared out that village that they chose as a settling point. Strictly speaking, she wasn't a nice person.

Although, there weren't any nice people in the apocalypse.

The poor battle situation forced her to transform. Fire Elf showed its most primitive face.

The temperature heated up along with her transformation. Although Zhao Xiangxue still looked small before the water giants, the heat she gave off was different from that of water, which caused them to look at her.

She raised her hands and held that short staff in one hand. It started to burn. It didn't look like an ordinary staff but a flame totem.

A red circle appeared on the ground, and the first water giant stepped into it.

There was an explosion. It wasn't loud, but a scorching ember rose from that circle and covered that water giant.

The water giant screamed. It took a large step and probably felt like it had to step out of the range.

But after using the flame pillar, Zhao Xiangxue used Flame Magma. Thin fire pillars fired from her hands, hitting the water giant's body.

That giant body couldn't move when that thin-looking pillar attacked it.

The water giant beside it saw the situation and charged at Zhao Xiangxue. But Gao Yi roared and stopped it.

This Chameleon captain lost face after being smacked away, so now it wouldn't let this water giant attack his ally.

His body started to grow bigger, and the gothic armor enlarged. Even that giant sword grew bigger. While running, Gao Yi was just half a meter shorter than the water giant.

Using his momentum, he pounced before the water giant. The sword that almost became a giant shield blocked the fist aimed at Zhao Xiangxue. There was a giant ring, and then the water giant stepped back. But Gao Yi didn't move!

Ye Zhongming looked at the Chameleon captain's current state with passion.

This was his creation.

He gave Gao Yi and Pangu Bloodline!

The name indicated a very strong bloodline. Being named after such a legend was as rare as having a prefix.

When he got the bloodline, Ye Zhongming had a plan. Rather than Gao Yi becoming Chameleon's captain, Ye Zhongming specifically nurtured Chameleon's top expert just for this bloodline.

The Pangu Bloodline was strong, but there were also restrictions. This was an explosive bloodline that wouldn't last long, and there was a long cooldown period.

These weren't too demanding. The demanding thing was that you needed to have strength, body power, and equipment before you could satisfy the bloodline.

To help Gao Yi reach the former two requirements, Ye Zhongming prepared many permanent potions for him to use. In terms of equipment, Pangu Bloodline relied on equipment to get stronger. This meant that to have such a bloodline, you needed a set of equipment that could allow the user's body to grow bigger.

Zhao Xiangxue also transformed, but her body size didn't change. The robe also had the ability to merge with elemental energy and was different from armor.

Ye Zhongming spent a huge price and chose the battle contribution weapon.

The equipment of the two Chameleon captains cost all his battle contribution points. Fortunately, those who wore the badge and him killed enough monsters; if not, he wouldn't have been able to afford it.

With so many restrictions, it had to be strong. The bloodline increased combat strength the most directly that Ye Zhongming had seen. It also increased Gao Yi's evolution level by one level. Apart from size, with everything else remaining the same, Gao Yi had a seven-star evolved state.

Based on the bloodline's description, this increase wasn't infinite. The overall upgrade only worked until seven stars. This meant that Gao Yi could get eight-star strength when he was seven-star. But when he was an eight-star evolved, he couldn't get to a nine-star.

However, it could increase by half a level, which was enough to make him nearly invincible at the eight-star level.

Ye Zhongming and Cloud Peak's foundations were thicker than anyone imagined.