

## **Apocalypse 1121**

### Chapter 1121: Black Mist Formation

The chief looked delighted when he saw Ye Zhongming's shock. No matter how he previously hid his strength, he wanted to be famous. Facing a top-ten-ranked expert and making him so helpless felt great.

“Before my kids are fully prepared, you can do nothing.”

What replied to him was a gunshot.

Ye Zhongming placed the sniper rifle down, and his gaze became slightly more ugly.

An energy spiral appeared before the chief's face, swallowing the bullet that Ye Zhongming had fired.

Ye Zhongming realised it was a piece of high-level defensive equipment that needed to be charged. Each charge could block ten ranged attacks.

Ye Zhongming raised his arm and fired toward a warrior on the other side, but it was blocked again by that huge black mouth.

The chief's laughter was very ear-piercing.

Ye Zhongming didn't really know what the black mouth was. It might be a team buff ability or a piece of equipment. But no matter what it was, its ability gave Ye Zhongming a headache.

As expected from Five Ring Money, at least in terms of high-end equipment, they didn't have much fewer than Cloud Peak.

Zhao Xiangxue also tried to attack, but that black mouth blocked it.

Actually, this didn't mean that the thing was invincible. There wasn't anything that was invincible in the world. As long as they had some time, they would be able to break the big mouth. After all, this wouldn't be able to last for too long, and the amount it could intercept was limited. If they were patient, they could find a way to break through.

But the warriors were entering the special transformation from the team buff. This process wouldn't last too long, but they didn't have enough time.

In just a short while, the black mouth disappeared. The Royal Guild warriors were prepared and entered a battle state.

They were covered in black mist armor. Some warriors held spears formed from the mist. Another portion of them had shields. The rest held hooks. The three weapon forms lined up in a circular formation, and the three of them were surrounded in the middle.

"Pounce!"

The warriors shouted. The shield warriors on the frontline took a step forward, shrinking the circle. At the same time, the warriors with spears placed their weapons on the shoulders of the shield soldiers, aiming them at the three in the circle.

The final group comprised the fewest people, but there were still 50 of them. They moved quickly on the outside, spinning their hooks and waiting.

At this point, outside of Vengeful Blood Ocean, in the giant meeting room of the entertainment zone, Deacon Tong, Deacon Water, and Deacon Ouyang sat together and paid attention to this fight.

An ink drawing appeared before them like they were watching a broadcast without voice. It clearly showed everything that was happening in Vengeful Blood Ocean. They looked at the Royal Guild, which was about to attack, and many questions appeared in their hearts.

It seemed like this few hundred-people squad was the Royal Guild's trump card. They spent a lot of resources to nurture this killing move, and they were so strong that it shocked the few deacons.

What they didn't understand was why this fellow took it out? He knew that the other deacons could see it. Why? To kill Ye Zhongming? What would that do for him? Was it worth him revealing his trump card?

Although they couldn't hear their conversation, the few deacons saw Ye Zhongming killing Guo Yi. Ye Zhongming didn't look like he was being sneak attacked. Instead, Guo Yi was the one who looked shocked. Did this Cloud Peak boss realise something?

The last thing was their biggest question. Who would win? Would the Royal Guild kill the three of them as they wanted, or would Ye Zhongming flee?

The battle began.

The first to attack wasn't the Royal Guild, which had the advantage. It was Cloud Peak and Ye Zhongming's Crystal Energy Gun.

He didn't know the exact buff, but he could guess its type. It should be an energy-type, so he had to use another energy-type weapon to counter it.

The purple gun smashed at the enemy with lightning energy. Snake-like arcs released their energy.

The warriors at the front raised their shields and took another step forward to shrink the circle. The gun's attacks hit the shield and caused black mist to explode. Some shields became thinner and dimmer, but they didn't collapse. The warriors covered in the mist weren't affected.

But the gun didn't fire once. Ye Zhongming pulled the trigger several times and fired many energy arcs.

Zhao Xiangxue attacked, too. She raised her staff. She threw a Flame Lightning in one direction and then waved her staff toward where Ye Zhongming fired. A ball-sized fireball appeared between the shield and spear warriors.

After appearing, the fireball started to grow bigger. The light and temperature scattered the black mist, causing their formation to be slightly chaotic.

Light and darkness never fit together.

“Thrust!”

Another voice spread from some part of the formation. Those spears thrust toward the fireball, which was already the size of a basin.

Before the spears touched it, their tips started to sizzle. When they finally hit the fireball, the black mist was so thick it could wrap it.

At the front, the guns and shields clashed. Behind, spears and Burning Sun Technique clashed.

Everyone paid attention to this because everyone knew that the outcome here represented how the battle would go. The person who got the upper hand would control the situation until he won.

The few warriors stumbled and failed to block the purple weapon’s attacks. But after the energy hit their bodies, it didn’t scatter the mist armor and kill them. The few people that were hit just tilted before standing still again.

The energy arcs that should have sliced their bodies spread toward the warriors on the sides. Dozens of them were hit, but their bodies shook slightly, some mist scattered, and they were perfectly fine.

Explosions spread at the same time. Burning Sun Technique didn't get as huge as during the Puppet Ruins. Those spear attacks ignited it before that.

Large flames spread in all directions.

Chapter 1122: Breaking Free

Compared to the lightning from the energy gun, the flames were more of a threat.

The burning flames charged in all directions and covered many warriors.

It was as if the black mist was being chased away.

But Ye Zhongming's reaction wasn't to chase the win but to use Staff of Nature.

The flames suddenly disappeared. Or rather, they suddenly spread in all directions, hitting all the warriors before being swallowed by the black mist and disappearing.

Ye Zhongming saw all of that and was calculating.

Black mist negates attacks, damage sharing...

This was the team buff's nature.

Normally speaking, Ye Zhongming remembered that the strongest team buff book only had six to seven abilities. The stronger the abilities, the fewer the number.

For example, the strongest team buff book only had one ability: Live and Die Together. As long as the people who had the team buff didn't all die on the same day, then on the second day, those who died would revive.

That ability was truly recognised as overpowered, but it only had one ability.

Now, the damage-share ability that this team buff had was already very strong. Ye Zhongming estimated that it had at most two more abilities that weren't shown.

As these people hadn't attacked yet, then these abilities should be attacks.

Just as he analysed, Water Bottle Protection was tested. The formation that was in a bad state from Ye Zhongming and Zhao Xiangxue's attacks started to fight back. After the black mist swallowed the flames, each warrior split some of the mist. They turned from mist state to sharp needles that fired toward the three of them.

Hundreds of black needles hit Water Bottle Protection and gave out metallic rings. Nature Staff's defense barrier was dimming at a visible rate. These black needles were surprisingly strong.

Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue had personally seen Water Bottle Protection's defense. The falling stones wrapped in water elemental energy had huge momentum and didn't even cause the barrier to enter such a state. How sharp were these needles?

The hearts of the Chameleon captain and deputy sunk. This was the first time they felt they couldn't help their boss and were instead burdening him. They knew that if the boss weren't worrying about them, he would be able to break free easily.

Be it Gao Yi or Zhao Xiangxue, they weren't evolved known for their speed.

"Boss..."

Zhao Xiangxue bit her teeth and wanted to let Ye Zhongming leave.

But he ignored her and placed his attention on these opponents.

After the damage share was damage reflect. This was another ability. Then, they would have one more unknown ability at most. Ye Zhongming didn't wait for Water Bottle Protection to shatter and changed to another water-type stone.

"I knew you had this turtle shell!" The Royal Guild chief laughed coldly. He waved his arms, and as he moved, some mist split from his body and entered the bodies of those warriors with spears. He shouted, and those warriors thrust their spears at the barrier.

At the same time, the mist on the other bodies started to move and gathered on the chief's arms. When the spears hit the barrier, they formed a giant ten-meter-long blade burning with black flames.

The moment it formed, the blade sliced down, hitting simultaneously as those spears.

Their target was clear. They wanted to use the spears to break Water Bottle Protection, using the time it took to change gems to attack the three of them directly.

“Let’s go!”

Ye Zhongming suddenly shouted. He retracted Water Bottle Protection which caused those spears to miss. He grabbed both of them and tossed them outwards. With his strength, their weight wasn’t much.

Although those spears didn’t hit Water Bottle Protection, their routes didn’t change, and they still aimed at Ye Zhongming. The length that wasn’t enough suddenly extended because the spears grew longer and could threaten Ye Zhongming.

This should be the battle nature of each person after the team buff and not an overall ability.

That blade should be the final skill of the team buff!

Ye Zhongming used Quickness after tossing his subordinates. His body didn’t even turn. He used his inhuman body qualities to lean backward. He ignored the spears aiming at his back. A bone staff appeared in his hands, and he fired a streak of light at that flame blade.

Soul Shattering Bone Staff!

Only a third of the patterns lit up, but this soul artifact made of a level nine lifeform's bones was still a killing weapon. The light, blade, and spears in that direction clashed, causing an intense energy explosion.

At the same time as Ye Zhongming retreating, the Explosive Mechanic stood near his back, firing toward where he was retreating. Two rays annihilated those spears to ensure that his back was safe.

He ignored the outcome of the Soul Shattering Staff and the black flame blade and quickly left. He kept the Explosive Mechanic when he passed it, and then the rays smashed into the shield warriors.

Numerous rays shot from his hands. Cloud Slice exploded.

Such a job skill could be used in many ways the moment you get familiar with it. But few people could use them like Ye Zhongming.

Not everyone dared to put themselves in such danger.

He still didn't care about the effect. After Cloud Slice, he charged out and was in the distance in a few seconds. He caught his two subordinates that were about to land and dragged them toward the ocean.

Be it the Royal Guild's chief who placed his arms down after the blade and staff's light clashed, the ordinary soldiers who were broken through, or the three Five Ring Money deacons watching from the entertainment zone. They were shocked.

They had one thought. How would they get out if they were in Ye Zhongming's position? Would they be as decisive and fearless as him?

Chapter 1123: Finding help

It didn't take long since they faced off, and Ye Zhongming broke free, but both sides exchanged many skills. They had a rough understanding of their opponents.

However, such understanding was limited and not 100% confirmed, which buried some suspense for the following battle.

Ye Zhongming was really quick when he carried the two of them, but obviously, it couldn't compare to when he was alone. What surprised him was that Royal Guild was able to keep close. It was as if the black mist had increased their speed.

With their speed, they arrived at the island's edge, and Vengeful Blood Ocean was ahead.

If the ocean water were blue, the trees were green, and the sun was in the sky, this would be a perfect resort.

Royal Guild warriors caught up. Although some mutated trees blocked them briefly, the team buff allowed them to end the battle quickly. They surrounded the three of them on the ocean again.

Their vision was clear here, and nothing was obstructing them, which was good for attacks.

The Royal Guild chief saw that they stopped running, so he laughed and shook his head at Ye Zhongming. He was telling them clearly that they wouldn't be able to run.

Ye Zhongming used his gaze to reply to him that he wasn't running.

No one said a word. They understood what each other meant through their gazes.

The chief waved. Royal Guild warriors spread out once again. Shield soldiers at the front, spears behind and the hooks furthest at the back.

Ye Zhongming didn't know if those strong spears had a cooldown time and if he could use that destructive black flame blade. He only knew that he would be able to fight them here.

His eyes flashed black. The black was so dark as if it came from hell.

Ye Zhongming activated his bloodline, Hell Envoy!

At the same time, the sand around him started to spiral, forming a sand monster the same height as Ye Zhongming.

This sand monster had two horns and two eyes, which made it look similar to Ye Zhongming. Although its body was made of sand, it was wrapped in lightning. Green lightning would surge from its body and then retract.

Ye Zhongming waved, and dozens of wooden puppets landed on his other side. They slowly turned into 1.6-meter golden puppets. The moment they appeared, they formed a weird formation.

Ye Zhongming's series of moves shocked the Royal Guild. They didn't expect the person they surrounded to have such tricks.

But the confidence from the team buff caused them to scoff at the sand monster. They didn't think that these things could threaten them. Ye Zhongming used them as a form of useless resistance.

This confidence had a basis. Since they obtained the team buff, they had a series of victories. Royal Guild was the weakest of Five Ring Money. Their chief struggled to get to seven stars and spent so much effort to nurture them. For some time, this team struck. They killed high-level lifeforms and in a short time, they nurtured Guo Yi into their second seven-star evolved.

They believed that they could swiftly push their chief to level eight in the future.

How could these sand monsters and puppets stop them?

But what shocked them was that Cloud Peak's boss had more tricks. He tossed dozens more golden puppets to form another formation.

He opened an exquisite box containing some small sand. The sand landed on the ground and formed two blade-wielding soldiers.

“You have many things, but they are useless.” The Royal Guild chief saw that his kids were ready and were prepared to attack.

But the moment he said such a thing, more puppets were tossed!

Apart from the three sand monsters, there were over 500 puppets around the three of them. Three hundred of them formed into several formations, and the rest were scattered around.

All of them were gold in color.

If someone who went to puppet ruins saw that, they would tell the Royal Guild to be careful. These gold puppets could be compared to ordinary seven stars evolved on strength alone. Although they were weaker in other areas, their overall strength exceeded five stars!

This was Ye Zhongming’s trump card!

Royal Guild needed a big space, and so did he to lay out the puppet formation! The forest was not beneficial for these puppets.

Those black puppets turned gold because Ye Zhongming experimented on them and used the Treasure Nurturing Gourd to raise their quality.

Although he couldn't use the gourd on the formation or the Proof of the Puppet, he could use it on puppets that he had modified.

Remember when Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue looked at him like he was crazy? It was because he used the equipment upgrade scroll to get the Treasure Nurturing Gourd to gold and then used the red gem to absorb and provide energy to the Kes Charger quickly. He used this equipment to provide energy to the gourd and quickly raised these puppets to gold.

Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue had fought gold puppets before and knew that they had many weaknesses. But their strengths were a huge threat. Fighting too many at once would force them to flee.

Ye Zhongming used ways that they couldn't think of for his equipment to complement and help each other. It was no wonder that they were filled with respect.

At the same time, there was another reason why Ye Zhongming chose this place. His bloodline had 20-30% more closeness to sand. Since there was a beach, he should use it.

As for those two sand soldiers, it was from the sand soldier music box that he had upgraded to green grade. At this level, the equipment could summon two sand soldiers at once.

"This is why he only brought two people?" Deacon Ouyang asked Deacon Tong and Deacon Water in disbelief. This wasn't a question; he just used it to express his disbelief.

But Deacon Tong's reply shocked Deacon Ouyang.

"No, he found these puppets in the puppet ruins."

The three deacons were silent and filled with shock.

Was this the strength of a top smith? He could turn his things into such god-like tools?

If that was the case, then wouldn't he be ranked higher?

The battle began while they were all in shock.

Chapter 1124: Are you kidding

The two-horned sand monster beside Ye Zhongming waved an arm, and the sand on the ground turned into a sand rod that flew forward with lightning energy. As there were puppets before it, the sand rod was hidden. When the Royal Guild noticed it, it was already before a warrior.

Pu. The sand rod struck the black mist armor and thrust into it.

Like a signal, all the wooden puppets moved.

The golden puppets would roar to raise morale, but silence was often a better show of strength. The few formations looked very orderly, and they moved forward. Some gathered beside Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue, forming a firm defensive formation. Some didn't move like they were waiting for something.

Those scattered puppets were more direct. They pounced at the warriors closest to them and punched.

Royal Guild wouldn't take the hits for nothing. All the shield warriors shouted before stepping forward. They raised their shields to face the attacks.

The spear warriors thrust through the gaps of the shield warriors' shoulders to kill the enemies.

Some warriors with hooks attacked for the first time. The flying hooks flew toward the puppets; some were hit in the head and sent flying outside the formation. These hooks had some weird power. Any puppet that was pulled started to become wobbly once they stood up; they weren't able to fight, at least for a short time.

The spears were also very powerful. Although the needles didn't appear again, the spears were surprisingly strong.

Facing the puppets whose defense wasn't their strong suit, each spear could be thrust into their bodies. One spear might not do much, but the more spears hit, the more their bodies would naturally crack. The more cracks there were, the bigger they would grow, and the puppet would be destroyed.

Gao Yi charged. He was not used to being protected. Now that he had so many allies that he could fight alongside so that he wasn't surrounded, he got to the frontline and fought the enemies head-on. He could not use Pangu Bloodline but had his armor, sword, and strong combat strength, which made him far stronger than those puppets. He attracted the attacks of a dozen Royal Guild warriors.

Zhao Xiangxue also transformed. Normally, when facing such a group, she should be in human form to use her AOE attacks.

But since she found out that the Royal Guild warriors could damage share, she turned into the Flame Elf. Although her attacks were single-target, the damage number produced in a certain time was far higher than in her human form.

After using flame pillar toward the Royal Guild chief, she used Flame Magma toward the warrior closest to her.

The two sand soldiers from the Sand Soldier Music Box were already on the frontlines. They were quick in movement and actions. Although their attacks weren't as strong as expected, they occasionally used a strengthened slash similar to blade light. That attack was very powerful.

When the person in West Asia showed this equipment, the sand soldiers used such an attack. The silver box's soldier was able to damage the ground of the Saint City. The soldiers' attacks were naturally stronger now that it was green grade.

Both sides clashed. The explosive scenes shocked the three deacons. Although there were fewer than a thousand people, the destruction was something they could sense from behind the screen.

The three of them looked at each other and felt a chill down their spine about the trump card that the Royal Guild chief had kept up his sleeves.

If they met this squad without knowing anything...

They didn't dare to imagine it. At the same time, similar thoughts appeared in their hearts. Fortunately, they bumped into Cloud Peak, which had brought an army with them.

Ye Zhongming was doing things, too. His summoned beings and subordinates were fighting while he took out something. It was the Demon Nurturing Bee Hive. Numerous modified Needle Birds flew out. He communicated with them and told them to be careful. If they noticed that the black mist could hurt them, they should flee.

The needle birds flew and aimed at the soldiers, throwing hooks.

After doing all that, Ye Zhongming scattered some Cannibal Flower seeds toward fertile soil and used Activate. Hundreds of giant Cannibal Flowers stood up and walked forward firmly.

Ye Zhongming had over double the number of subordinates than the group before him.

Be it the three deacons or the Royal Guild, they were shocked.

Are you kidding me? You have more?

He used nearly everything in his space. He took out the sniper rifle and aimed at the chief.

Many leveled bullets flew toward the Chief. Ye Zhongming didn't forget that this person had defensive equipment. But he wanted to see if he had more bullets or if that person had more defensive equipment.

He felt these people would collapse if he killed the Royal Guild chief.

To be honest, Ye Zhongming hadn't planned on using the puppets. These things were not renewable. One destroyed meant that there would be one fewer. Ye Zhongming saw that at least a few dozen of them were destroyed in just a short time.

The chief was shocked when he saw Ye Zhongming summoning troops so easily. He didn't expect this person to battle him in such a way.

But he quickly found an opportunity.

Team Buff had a damage share, which allowed his kids to survive for a while, with none dying. He could use this chance to kill Cloud Peak's few members. Then, the scales of victory would tilt toward them.

He could even quickly wipe out his enemy if he expanded his gains.

But Ye Zhongming's gunshot interrupted his illusions. The spiraling bullets troubled him.

The chief wasn't a fool and knew that Ye Zhongming did so to kill him quickly. He looked at his equipment's remaining energy and decided to gamble.

Chapter 1125: Sudden Collapse

He had to gamble because he was already very nervous now.

Or rather, he was confident that his side would win but was afraid that accidents might happen.

In his heart, he realized that he was overconfident. Cloud Peak's boss was more problematic than he thought.

To ensure victory, he gambled to see who could kill the other first.

He waved his arms. Much of the black mist gathered towards his side. At the same time, some on the bodies of the warriors were split over to him.

This was very similar to when he used the black flame blade.

The chief planned to use the team buff's strongest attack to break the situation.

If he could use his attack to kill these fellows, even Ye Zhongming, victory would be his. If he couldn't kill Ye Zhongming directly, the battle would lean toward them as long as he killed enough wooden puppets.

He just had to ensure... That Ye Zhongming didn't kill him when he was using the attack.

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In that meeting room, the three deacons faced a choice when the Royal Guild chief was gambling.

That was a choice that decided the outcome.

Everything came from Deacon Ouyang's comment.

He said, "Is it good for us if Cloud Peak wins?"

Even if Deacon Tong and Deacon Water both hoped to work with Cloud Peak, if Cloud Peak really won, this would mean that they would lose one ring. Their structure wouldn't be so complete, and their strength would drop.

That was not good for Five Ring Money.

But Deacon Water's words caused the discussion to be more neutral.

She said, "Is it good for us if Royal Guild wins?"

The question was through the point of Five Ring Money. This question was from the perspective of themselves.

Even if Deacon Ouyang loved Five Ring Money, he loved himself more. But he didn't see how Cloud Peak winning would benefit them.

"We have broken the rules. If Cloud Peak wins and this spreads, it will be a huge blow for our business."

Deacon Ouyang remained calm and spoke as if he were just discussing the pros and cons from a neutral point of view.

"You can see people moving over. The commotion is huge. Even if the battle ends before they get there, no side can clean it up. People will find traces. So, the secret of the space exception can't be kept."

Deacon Water and Deacon Tong nodded and knew that Deacon Ouyang was telling the truth. They had to plan to clean up this situation.

"We will have to face this situation even if Royal Guild wins. If Royal Guild wins, apart from an ally that is more arrogant and would conflict with us, there won't be any other benefits. But if Cloud Peak wins, we might get a friendship of another super faction."

She was a firm believer in wanting to work with Cloud Peak.

“But Five Ring Money’s completeness is very important.” Deacon Ouyang squinted his eyes, “Since Deacon Tong has opened the space exception, you should be more decisive and just join this battle to crush Cloud Peak. Then, others wouldn’t find out about the space exception.”

Deacon Water frowned. She didn’t understand Deacon Ouyang’s viewpoint.

“What you are saying is?” Deacon Tong asked expressionlessly.

“We should enter, too.” He slapped the table.

“If Royal Guild wins, we will help clean up; if they lose... We will deem them as traitors!”

He looked at the two deacons and said, “Dead people aren’t as valuable as those who are alive. We will see their value based on whoever lives.”

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The black flame blade finally formed and sliced toward Ye Zhongming. The two heads chose to attack each other.

Ye Zhongming placed his sniper rifle down. He knew that he couldn't kill him before he used his skill. Then, he had to face the black blade that could slice through the heavens.

He had tested this skill previously. After activating some of its strength, Soul Shattering Bone Staff was able to be its match. He had no time to take the staff out, so he could only use Staff of Nature.

He didn't know if Water Bottle Protection could block it.

When he was planning on defending, something he didn't expect happened.

The Royal Guild warriors who were surviving due to the damage share started to suffer from losses.

This meant that the damage share had reached a limit.

The appearance of casualties represented the Royal Guild's defeat.

Royal Guild's team buff ability was very strong. They were all very powerful, be it damage share, damage reflect, or black flame blade. Any one of them was top grade.

But be it the chief or Ye Zhongming, they missed out on one thing: the levels of these warriors weren't too high.

Of course, levels were relative. This team was decent compared to evolved outside. Their average level was four stars, which was above the current evolution standard.

But what were the levels of the wooden puppets? Ye Zhongming used the Treasure Nurturing Gourd, Kes Charger, and red energy gems to upgrade them. They were over five-star. In terms of strength, they could even battle with ordinary seven-star evolved.

As for his other combat strength, be it Gao Yi or Zhao Xiangxue or the two-horned sand monster and music box; they were far stronger than the Royal Guild troops.

There were also the level five Cannibal Flowers and Needle Birds. All of them crushed the opponent.

This battle wouldn't have lasted for so long if not for the black mist raising their attacks and defense.

There was still a gap in raw strength. After holding on for so long and destroying at least a hundred puppets and dozens of Cannibal Flowers, the Royal Guild troops couldn't stop the attacks and collapsed.

The black flame blade itself was suppressed. Without the formation's source of power, it disappeared. After just half a minute, Gao Yi and the puppets charged into their formation, and it became a one-sided massacre.

The battle ended when Ye Zhongming stood before the Royal Guild chief and used his skills to incapacitate him.

