

## **Apocalypse 1151**

Chapter 1151: Name your price

Ye Zhongming smiled.

He could craft blue equipment now, but the materials were precious, and he had to use Ghost Metal.

Although Cloud Peak could produce Ghost Metal in scale, don't forget that they needed large amounts of mutated lifeform flesh and blood. Each day, Cloud Peak's warriors would need to kill a large amount of lifeforms to feed the Ghost Metal and Meditation Bone Demon Platform.

Ying City could not fulfill that request, so Cloud Peak had to head further to hunt. They would then have to transport them back, which would be a huge risk.

Even if there were people who transported mutated lifeform corpses to Cloud Peak and corpses without crystals were cheap, they needed a huge amount. Cloud Peak had a huge expenditure in this area.

Under such a situation, Ghost Metal was still precious, and Cloud Peak used its foundations to produce it.

Blue equipment also had a success rate. Even if he had Smith Heart, he might fail several times if he was unlucky.

Also, although blue equipment wasn't the highest grade equipment that human evolved could get, it was still the pinnacle of what a six and seven star evolved had. Ye Zhongming was very careful when he crafted such things for outsiders.

"I have that ability, but the materials I need are precious, and I don't have them on me. Moreover, crafting blue equipment has a low success rate even if I upgrade them from green grade. If I fail once, your equipment is gone. Are the two deacons willing to gamble?"

Hearing Ye Zhongming say that, both of them looked disappointed. Although they were one of the five heads and were one of the richest groups of people in the world, they were still using mainly green equipment. They had a few blue pieces. As for gold or purple, only the two of them knew if they had any.

Although green was their lowest-grade equipment, they were reluctant to let Ye Zhongming try his luck with them.

Even their green pieces of equipment were elite green pieces.

The two of them hesitated, but everyone else didn't. The bosses or butlers started to talk about the equipment they needed. Of course, most of them asked for the price.

If Ye Zhongming sold it for too high a price, it would be meaningless.

Ye Zhongming answered patiently. He told them about the equipment's abilities, needed materials, and prices, or what materials he needed to craft a new piece of equipment and how much it would cost.

Cloud Peak often sold equipment, so they understood the current market price. Ye Zhongming naturally knew, too. The price he saw was slightly lower than the market, but not by much. It gave people a feeling that it wasn't much cheaper, but they were still unwilling to give up on that bargain.

"If you provide the blueprint and all the materials, I will only charge the manpower fee. The price is cheap, right? Moreover, if I fail any equipment and below green grade, I will pay for it."

Ye Zhongming's words removed all their worries. They directly said what they needed.

He told Zhao Xiangxue, Gao Yi, Gan Lan, and Mei Na to record what the different battle squads needed. He himself started to craft some fire element pieces of equipment.

Right, no matter what these people requested, he would consider them. There was something he didn't consider, which was crafting equipment that didn't have fire element stats.

Smart people understood. He made all these equipment a similar type and had singular abilities.

He did so, of course, because he was wary of them.

They would do the same if they were him.

But did people give up? No.

Ye Zhongming could ensure a 100% silver equipment success rate. Although there was no green grade guarantee, and he didn't compensate them if he failed, he promised that he would pass in two tries.

These bosses naturally were interested in green equipment. They had eliminated silver pieces of equipment, but their subordinates didn't. The average equipment outside was white grade, so silver equipment was good stuff.

People usually carried all they had with them in the apocalypse. Few people had space equipment, and most people carried crystals as they were more convenient. R

So, apart from a few team leaders, very few could give him the needed materials. They basically provided equipment as blueprints for him to modify.

Ye Zhongming selected fire element equipment in his space, and one was enough to upgrade it. He made it clear what materials they were and the price they cost. He even told them the abilities that might appear, so when he modified the equipment, those people weren't unhappy.

Seeing Ye Zhongming modify a piece of equipment in just a dozen seconds and crystals entering his pocket like a factory line, many people were envious. At the same time, they respected this guy for his overpowered crafting speed and success rate.

Ye Zhongming tried to hide his ability by saying his near 100% green equipment creation rate was 50%. But the 100% silver creation rate terrified these people.

Especially Deacon Tong and Deacon Water. When they saw him easily take unlimited amounts of materials from his space and craft equipment, they realized a problem.

With such a boss, Cloud Peak's current equipment should be all silver, then... They looked at each other.

They knew that they might have made a mistake.

A full silver Cloud Peak. Would they only be ranked sixth?

Of course not. They should be in the top five and even the top two or three. If Cloud Peak had more people, they would be able to be at the top in the near future.

The other problem was whether they were going to change the list.

Ye Zhongming's crafting speed was too quick. He crafted all the silver equipment here in two hours and earned all their money.

There weren't many chances to have a Smith craft things for you.

All that was left were those who wanted green pieces of equipment.

It was slightly tough to discuss money with them as it affected the success rate. Ye Zhongming used the excuse that the green equipment process was a secret, so those people couldn't see him do it. He went to the cave he came up from to work. At the same time, he placed the ice birds that had evolved and reconnected with him back into the nest.

After handing the equipment over, he estimated that he earned tens of thousands of level four crystals and a few thousand level five crystals in a few hours. He would have over four digits of five-star potions with his success rate.

These factions didn't go against their word and went into the caves to test the equipment out. Only Ye Zhongming and his group, Mei Na, Gan Lan, and the two deacons remained.

They walked to his side and said solemnly, "Mr Ye, we don't want to modify green equipment. Can you craft blue equipment for us? Don't talk about success rate or materials; we will pay. Just give us a price."

Chapter 1152: Final thing

Ye Zhongming treated his partners differently from other people and gave a price.

A price that made them roll their eyes.

"Mr. Ye, that isn't nice. Seven-star potion? That is enough to trade for a gold piece of equipment from a wheel!"

Deacon Tong felt that Ye Zhongming was rejecting them, so his tone wasn't good.

Ye Zhongming shook his head, "A blue equipment might not be worth a seven-star potion in the future, but it is worth it now. Also, the equipment I craft is better than those from the wheel."

He paused, "But I won't restrict it to fire element."

Deacon Tong and Deacon Water were tempted even if the price was high.

They had no choice. Apart from special situations, to get a gold piece of equipment now, they would have to get it from a level seven wheel. But there weren't many gold pieces of equipment on such wheels, and it was tough to find one.

There was more gold equipment on level eight wheels, but they weren't rich enough to spin them. Other super factions, like the Resistance Zone, couldn't either.

On the level seven wheel, most were blue pieces of equipment. The ratio was similar to the ratio of gold equipment on the level eight wheels.

From this angle, blue equipment would be worth a seven-star potion now.

Gan Lan touched her blue armor and had an idea. Should she sell it and then trade it for two six-star potions for Mei Na and herself?

"Still too high." They discussed and regretfully rejected his price.

They couldn't spend their riches like that even if they were heads. This guy didn't give much room.

Ye Zhongming kept silent and then said, "How about this? Let's talk about this differently. If you find a wheel with a seven-star potion and blue equipment, the chance to get one of them is the same, right?"

They nodded but did not get what he was saying.

"How about crystals? Let's take it as a 50% rate, 50 level seven crystals. Along with the fact that my equipment is better, I will charge an additional ten. One blue piece of equipment for 60 level seven crystals."

Did Ye Zhongming know if a blue piece of equipment was worth a seven-star potion? Of course, he knew it wasn't! But since he gave such a price and tried to persuade them, he was testing their acceptance levels. If the price were lowered slightly, it would be easier for them to accept it.

If Ye Zhongming had initially given the price of 60 crystals, the agreed price would have been even lower.

Of course, he was just trying his luck and seeing if they were dumb enough. However, blue equipment was still insufficient to cause the two deacons to lose their heads.

"This..."

“No matter how many times I fail, it is on me.”

“But...”

“Custom made.”

The two deacons were speechless, but they weighed everything and agreed.

To Ye Zhongming, blue equipment might not mean much. He just had to handle the failure rate that wasn't low and find a large amount of precious materials, and he could craft a huge amount of them.

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However, he couldn't produce such equipment on scale due to these restrictions.

Even a top Smith like him couldn't, much less Five Ring Money.

Regarding combat strength, Ye Zhongming was not confident enough to say he was the strongest. But in terms of crafting, he was confident.

All these elements together formed this deal.

Deacon Tong requested a belt that could add defense and strength, and Deacon Water wanted water-element jewelry.

It wasn't tough for Ye Zhongming. He selected some materials and took out Ghost Metal and other needed materials before returning to the cave.

After half an hour, he came up with what they needed.

"This belt has four abilities..."

Ye Zhongming told them about their abilities, and they were dazzled.

These things were much better than what you could get from the wheel.

Their evaluation of his Smith skills reached a new level.

"Mr. Ye, you obtained 120 level seven crystals, so why do you still look unhappy."

He smiled bitterly, "I failed a few times, so it is hard to say if I earned or lost money."

He did fail, but only once. He earned money, and it was a huge win. He said so to make the two people feel better and to keep himself more low-profile.

Deacon Tong, Deacon Water, and Deacon Bai were the strongest. Deacon Ouyang was slightly weaker, and Royal Guild was the weakest.

The opening of Bright Water World gave Deacon Tong and his ally, Deacon Water, some benefits. 60 level seven crystals was a huge sum to them, but they could afford it.

Especially after they evolved to seven-star, their need for such crystals dropped, so they were willing to purchase things with them.

To Ye Zhongming, 120 level-seven crystals meant two seven-star potions! If he was lucky, he might get three!

Cloud Peak's core members were moving toward seven-star evolved. If he could get three potions, their overall strength would have a small jump.

The two deacons tried their equipment and were satisfied. They wanted to buy a few more pieces but didn't have enough money.

Level seven crystals weren't common and were basically gathered in the hands of top experts like them. So, to take out a few dozen crystals at once was already their limit.

“Deacon Tong, please help to send me out.”

After completing the trade, Ye Zhongming made such a request.

“You won’t remain here?” The two deacons were shocked. They thought that Ye Zhongming would use his ability to continue to earn rewards here.

“I will enter when it reopens. I have other things to do.”

Deacon Tong and Deacon Water didn’t understand but still brought him out. After discussing it with Mei Na and Gan Lan, they followed him. There was no point in them staying there, and they would also be looked down on by others, so it was better if they followed him.

Ye Zhongming really had something to do. He had to go to a place that had the final most important thing he needed.

Sauron Box!

Chapter 1153: Plant Master

Wen Huan squinted his eyes and allowed a girl to use a green needle to pierce his skin. You would occasionally see the white bones in the deep wounds.

Such a thing that should be pain didn’t affect him. Even when the needle touched his bone, he didn’t move, and he didn’t have any reaction.

Hundreds of his subordinates surrounded him. The silence was filled with determination.

“Done.”

The person using the needle stood up to reveal a heroic face. But she didn't have much hair; they were all very short.

This was symbolic of many evolved in the apocalypse. If they couldn't wash their heads and bathe often, many people would choose to shave.

Girls were no exception.

Wen Huan looked at the badly stitched wound and smiled, “Little Hui, your skills have improved.”

“I do this daily, so of course I am getting better.”

The woman called Little Hui replied calmly while keeping her tools.

Wen Huan looked at his wound, and his mouth twitched. Getting better?

But since his sister said it, then he didn't argue.

When he touched his wound with his left hand, two brown seeds landed on it. They turned into dark green moss that covered his wound. The moss seemed to be alive and started to squirm.

Wen Huan took something like sugarcane and chewed it without removing the skin. Some juices flowed from the corner of his mouth and dripped on the colorful ground.

Little Hui shook her head helplessly when she saw that.

No Man's Land spent over four cycles here, over 50 hours, but their completion rate only increased by 7%. Along with the 2% of other factions, they were barely above 10%.

But they were the only ones left.

This was City of Color.

It is an extremely difficult Bright Water World territory. Along with Hundred Cave Swamp, it was also one of the other three dungeons with a super low completion rate.

This place was like a color palette; everything had different colors. Anything here could attack you.

Right. This was a city with many things: flowers, lamps, rubbish bins, skyscrapers, bridges, statues, fountains, plants, pets, bugs...

But these colorful things were enemies that caught people off guard.

Flowers would turn into giant stones that punched you. Lamps would turn into steel pythons that flung their tails. Statues will turn into cavaliers with spears. Fountains will turn into magical weapons that fire water arrows at you... *R*

Also, the colors would dazzle you and cause you to misjudge.

Enemies were everywhere, and your judgment would be affected by the light. People who tried gave up quickly.

They came here to get benefits and not to die. They shall leave such a place to others.

Only Wen Huan didn't leave and continued to explore this place.

Many factions said goodbye to him when they left. After all, he was one of the top ten faction leaders and was a special one.

Thousand Beast Villa and No Man's Land. One was famous for mutated animals, and the other was for nurturing plants. To evolved that lacked battle beasts, they wanted to get close to these two factions and try to obtain good helpers.

The two factions earned a lot from such trades.

So many people hoped to leave some impression they could use in the future.

But No Man's Land's stubbornness destroyed their hopes.

Many people didn't understand why he would stay here. Obviously, they would have to spend too much to get the completion rate to 100%. Even a super faction wouldn't be able to take the losses, so why was No Man's Land still here?

Wen Huan didn't explain. He didn't explain to outsiders and even to his own sister.

He was unsure, but he had a strong feeling that there was something he needed.

"Brother, what should we do?"

Little Hui kept her stuff and asked her brother.

The two of them weren't too close during peacetime. Their poor family made these two kids, who were only three years apart, competitors in everything from food to clothes, from toys to pocket money.

Although they were much better off after growing up, as their parents grew older, their property and savings became targets of competition.

They even thought that they were just typical people in the world. They were indeed related by blood, but with the pressure of life, they could only care about their own families.

This was until the apocalypse exploded.

After losing all other loved ones, they stood together closely.

Wen Huan's Plant Master bloodline crystal was something Wen Hui risked her life to get. Her Mechanic Doctor job scroll was something Wen Huan gave up his chance to become a six-star evolved to trade a potion for.

The two of them were one.

Wen Huan didn't reply and continued to look at his wound. The moss slowed, and he blew it, causing some of it to fly and reveal the fully healed wound.

The threads were gone as if they had turned into his flesh.

“Since everyone here is enemies, then... Crush them all!”

His body started to change. Many meat pieces spread from his legs and stuck into the ground. A seaweed-like plant covered his body, and his arms changed. One hand turned into a lotus pad, and the other turned into a spinning drill.

The most obvious was his hair. His hair turned into colorful flowers.

This was his bloodline--- Plant Master.

He raised the lotus pad hand, and his eyes flew. Many seeds fired and landed on the ground before entering the soil.

His subordinates took out cylinders and started to scatter a sticky liquid.

A few seconds later, many small hills appeared on the ground. Many plants appeared and revealed bodies that were differently shaped.

These plants covered a few hundred meters, and a mutated plant army was formed.

After a few seconds, Wen Hui looked at her brother weirdly and asked, “Why aren’t we leaving?”

Wen Huan said slowly, “Someone is here.”

Chapter 1154: Not willing to accept being managed

Many people entered with Ye Zhongming. Apart from Zhao Xiangxue, Gao Yi, and Li Qiang, the Nalan Battle Squad did too.

Mei Na and Gan Lan followed Ye Zhongming because he requested it.

He wanted to come to the City of Color, a place with high fighting intensity. He hoped to have someone help him relieve some of the pressure.

He did not consider whether Nalan Battle Squad could handle this test. There would always be sacrifices, which were okay as long as they weren’t his own people.

Of course, he would definitely compensate them afterward.

But when he looked at their 150-person squad, he couldn’t help but have some respect for her. But most of it was him being speechless.

This group was too balanced.

The lowest evolved was four-star, and the highest was five-star...

Such a structure was similar to battle squads in Cloud Peak, where the leaders were higher and the warriors were lower. That was okay because this was a normal gap.

But in a complete organisation, that was a big problem.

In terms of balance, Cloud Peak should be quite highly ranked out of super factions. But in Cloud Peak, there was still a clear gap. From the highest seven-star to one-star evolved, they had people of each level.

Even if everyone evolved in the future, the lowest level one and two would disappear, but the gap would still exist.

For example, due to the differences in rank, there was a clear path to promotion in the army. That gave people hope instead of thinking good things would fall from the sky.

If that were the case, then any organisation would collapse.

Although Ye Zhongming sacrificed a lot for his subordinates, his combat strength was still leading. Only Xia Bai was similar in strength to him a while ago, but special circumstances caused that. Moreover, he had never doubted her loyalty.

But Nalan Battle Squad was an organisation. Maintaining such a close level gap might work in a short time. Gan Lan and Mei Na could still lead; the others would be grateful for their help and would still listen to them.

But what if time went on? Or if their evolution levels were the same or even exceeded Gan Lan and Mei Na?

Would they still be willing to listen to them? Moreover, Gan Lan and Mei Na looked so good, and it was easy for guys to have bad thoughts.

Things were okay now, but problems had already started. Apart from these two women, there were other five-star evolved in her squad. Even Ye Zhongming could see their arrogance. They only retracted it when they looked at him.

Ye Zhongming didn't know if they had observed those signs, but this was a huge problem.

As for that bit of respect, it was because the two of them gave up their chance to evolve to strengthen their subordinates. This helped to increase their rankings, but they weren't too strong personally.

It didn't mean that they gave up on a six-star potion. They just used the crystals they gained, so they were unable to save anything.

Ye Zhongming treated this as a chance to help them clean their house.

“This is the City of Color. Everything around you might be an enemy. They would transform to attack us, so be careful.”

Ye Zhongming said what he knew. He didn't care about their safety, but it didn't mean he wanted them to die here. Living longer and helping him do some stuff was naturally better.

“There isn't a good way to solve this place. We can only fight through it bit by bit. Destroy this city, and we can get the final reward.”

Mei Na and Gan Lan nodded and expressed that they understood. They had benefitted from Hundred Cave Swamp and knew that this guy wouldn't mistreat people who helped him. The two women were wearing equipment that he had given them.

So they didn't bring up the 10% reward he had promised.

But even if they wanted to help Ye Zhongming clear Bright Water World, her subordinates might not.

“Boss Ye, we are helping you fight, so should you tell us how the rewards are distributed?”

A muscular guy spoke up. Ye Zhongming glanced. He was one of those arrogant five-star evolved.

Gan Lan's expression changed, and chided, “Qing Yu, shut up!”

Mei Na also stared at him.

But the two bosses failed to keep him quiet, and he rolled his eyes, “Big sis, second sis, it is better to make such things clear. If not, things will be messy. What if this Boss Ye goes against his word? You don’t hope our work will go to waste, right? This isn’t a small thing; people will die.”

Qiang Yu wouldn’t dare to say this outside. He didn’t have the confidence against a seven-star evolved.

But Bright Water World was special; they couldn’t attack each other. Even if he offended someone, there was nothing they could do. At most, he would be more careful when he got out. Anyways, there were a few entrances. If he went far away, what could the expert do?

“Boss Ye, do you agree?”

Qiang Yu saw many people nodding in agreement and got even more confident. He even provocatively asked Ye Zhongming.

Ye Zhongming didn’t say anything.

“Boss Ye, you...”

“Who are you to speak to, my boss?” A gun appeared in Li Qiang’s hand. He arrived beside Qiang Yu in a blink and pointed it at his head. He gritted his teeth like he wanted to bite someone.

This was a great chance to perform. Li Qiang saw that Zhao Xiangxue and Gao Yi hadn’t said anything, so he was happy to step out.

Qiang Yu was not prepared because they couldn’t attack each other here. But it didn’t feel good for someone to point a gun at his head. He waved and knocked Li Qiang’s arm aside, shouting, “Who are you? You dare to point your gun at me?”

Even if some people couldn’t accept Qiang Yu being rude to Mei Na and Gan Lan, they belonged to the same battle squad. Seeing someone threaten their own people, a few warriors surrounded and looked fierce.

Gan Lan and Mei Na didn’t expect things to happen like this. They were even thinking about killing Qiang Yu. They wanted to speak, but Gao Yi was faster.

“I will kill you when I get out and feed your intestines to the Cannibal Flowers under Cloud Peak.”

Chapter 1155: Splitting unhappily

Gao Yi wasn’t emotional and didn’t do something like Li Qiang. He was calm as if he were talking about something that would become fact.

No one knew Gao Yi; his equipment even looked stupid. But his words made people believe him.

Gao Yi definitely had the strength to kill such a person. Chameleon's intel network would get stronger as they expanded. Meditation Bone Demon Platform's appearance would also give them the ability to enter any location.

Finding Nalan Battle Squad's position and killing a five-star evolved was a simple mission for Chameleon.

"Clean up when you get back; Cloud Peak can help." Ye Zhongming described things simply, but they were much more useful than what Gao Yi and Li Qiang said. Qiang Yu's face turned ugly.

He said those words because he felt he had nothing to fear after leaving. After all, the country was huge, and it was tough to find a person.

But things would be much simpler if Mei Na and Gan Lan supported them. Strictly put, if they nodded, this meant that he would get killed, and he would be in danger in the future.

Finding another organization was difficult as trust was a huge problem.

Qiang Yu started to regret it. Although he straightened his back and refused to lower his head, he looked nervously at Gan Lan and Mei Na.

The two wanted to agree, but they knew they couldn't because doing so would affect their squad's unity.

They smiled at Ye Zhongming, "He is ignorant, so Mr Ye, don't be angry. We will teach him a lesson when we return."

Mei Na followed, “Right. Since we followed you here, we will try our best to help.”

The other members heaved a sigh of relief. Offending a top ten faction wasn’t something they could be happy about.

Qiang Yu relaxed, obviously. Although he didn’t say anything, he hid in the squad and dared not stand out.

Ye Zhongming smiled coldly and glanced at the street. There was a three-person team heading toward them.

“Nalan Battle Squad?”

After seeing this hundred-person squad, the leader didn’t fear anything. Instead, he raised his chin with pride.

“Yes.” Nalan walked out. She was in charge of all external matters.

“We are No Man’s Zone. Boss Wen Huan told us to send a message. We are in charge of City of Color; please show us face. In the future, we will owe you a favor.”

Although he sounded polite, it sounded like he was ordering them around.

This wasn't hard to understand. Although Nalan Battle Squad was ranked, they were at the back. No Man's Zone naturally didn't respect them. The person who sent the message was a six-star evolved, which was higher than everyone in the squad. They obviously wouldn't talk to you like you were an equal.

Evolved couldn't attack one another here. If not, this polite tone would disappear, and they would just threaten them. They would just say a few words.

Scram or die.

As for the trio, they were ignored. No Man's Zone didn't know that they were Cloud Peak.

Was Gan Lan afraid of No Man's Zone and Wen Huan? Of course. They were famous and could easily destroy the squad they spent so much effort creating.

But could she leave? Of course not. She hesitated for a few seconds before choosing to stand alongside Ye Zhongming.

"There are no such rules. Each dungeon here allows everyone to enter. I don't think we should head out."

She shook her head to try not to seem too awkward. Although she wouldn't agree, it was best if she did not offend them.

That person didn't expect that answer and looked seriously at Gan Lan. He looked at her blue armor and said coldly, "Think carefully, No Man's Zone's favor is very valuable." ❖

Gan Lan continued to shake her head, "Apologies."

"Very good." That person didn't hide his threatening gaze, "I am not underestimating you. With your strength, you wouldn't be able to do much here. When you suffer huge losses, you will know how dumb it is to give up on our friendship."

After two steps, that person turned and stopped. He looked at Gan Lan teasingly, "I hope you don't bump into us when you get out."

Nalan Battle Squad members looked worried.

No Man's Land was very famous, especially in the last half-year. Their mutated plants were very welcomed, and they were the most welcomed organisation, like Thousand Beast Villa.

Offending such a faction was problematic in the future. After all, Nalan Battle Squad's camp was at the edge of their territory.

Gan Lan looked at Ye Zhongming helplessly. He smiled and didn't console her, "Rest for half an hour."

He ignored the unhappiness and confusion in Nalan Battle Squad and sat at the entrance. Gao Yi, Zhao Xiangxue, and Li Qiang blocked him, so the others didn't know what he was doing. Occasionally, some light would shine.

Ye Zhongming stood up after 40 minutes.

He called Li Qiang over and gave him two guns and four ammo cases.

Li Qiang was excited. These were two blue modified guns that were much better than what he was using. This gave him huge confidence.

Those four cases stunned him. There were so many white-grade bullets.

Ye Zhongming was slightly tired. He crafted 1200 bullets and two guns, which consumed a large amount of mental energy. Especially those two guns, which he failed many times. Apart from the materials wasted, the mental energy waste was huge, too.

The guns were his remaining stock. Triple Flower Essence Blood Bullet would consume two guns, so he was used to keeping some guns in his space. The bullets were mostly from Five Ring Money. The four bullet cases were the Resistance Zone's Lazy Man Case, which could store 300 bullets each.

This was what he prepared for City of Color and Li Qiang. Of course, also himself.

He looked at the tag and waved, "Let's begin."