

Apocalypse 1171

Chapter 1171: Three Abilities

“Selection Conversion: Convert fixed stats of the item. Place the item you need converted into the center square and place needed stat items into the other slots.”

“After selecting, the item in the middle will have the stats of the items in the other slots. The strength of the ability depends on the overall energy of the other items.”

“Apart from the item in the center, the nature of the other items have to be the same.”

“When using this ability, you can continue to upgrade the item but you need to change the nature.”

“When converting, consume large amounts of crystal energy.”

This ability didn't stand out as much as the first one, and it only converted the items' stats.

But if you thought about it, it was very amazing.

For example, if there was an item you didn't need, you could use it to convert into stats you required. As there were no rules on the item's grade, Ye Zhongming could use some low-level things to convert and obtain good stats.

More importantly, this ability could break restrictions which made it overpowered—for example, the nature gems. If Ye Zhongming wanted to upgrade a top-grade nature gem, he could use this ability to convert stats and allow the gem to break the limit.

Imagine using eight basic-grade ice gems to transfer energy to a top-grade water gem to get a... Super Ice Gem. How strong would the Blue Blood Lotus be?

Ye Zhongming found it exciting just thinking about it.

What filled him with disbelief was the third and final ability.

“Free Conversion: Allow the box to form an item, random outcome.”

“Place different items into the nine boxes to form a new item that is similar to level and energy that all the nine items contain.”

“There is a chance of failure.”

“Consumes a lot of demon crystals.”

This was a gambling ability. You placed many different items and allowed them to form a new item. It was good if it was successful. No matter what, you would have a new item. What if it failed? You would get nothing.

Ye Zhongming's first thought was that it was quite unreliable.

But from the introduction, he found out what made the skill different.

This ability still didn't care about level. You could place equipment that you have eliminated so you wouldn't feel bad if it failed. If you succeed, you will obtain something with all nine items' combined energy and strength.

Moreover, this could not only be used to recycle items, it might also represent the future.

You would definitely get a higher-level item. You could take a gamble when you place good things into the box. If you succeed, you might really get something that allows you to stand at the peak.

Exploring the unknown future was always something humans couldn't resist.

At this point, the notification from the box disappeared. The box shone a dim light, reminding Ye Zhongming that this was equipment that could change the world.

He kept the box and planned to end the dungeon.

The others, especially those from Nalan Battle Squad, felt that it was a waste. They could see the Sauron Box's name on the tag, but they didn't know what it was used for.

The only reward in such a tough dungeon would be good. They participated in the operation but didn't know the final reward, which was torture.

Ye Zhongming saw Deacon Tong after heading out of City of Color.

"Are you sure that you can keep it a secret?" Deacon Tong asked Gan Lan and Mei Na coldly.

Everyone knew what Deacon Tong meant and nodded.

"The safest way is for all of you to die, but Mr Ye does not want to do that. He has guaranteed it for all of you, so I won't do anything. I have to warn you, if today's matter is leaked, no matter who you are and where you are, I will kill you."

He glanced at Ye Zhongming before leaving, leaving Nalan Battle Squad members to sigh in relief.

One of Five Ring Money's deacons, the owner of Bright Water World. Everyone treated his warnings seriously.

Those people looked toward Ye Zhongming with thanks.

Ye Zhongming didn't expect Deacon Tong to say it out loud. Seemed like he owed him another favor.

Gan Lan and Mei Na discussed before saying good bye to Ye Zhongming. They wanted to rest and wait for the opening of the Sky Monument.

As for what happened after they went out, the two of them didn't say anything. They hadn't considered it thoroughly.

Ye Zhongming also expressed that he would give them the reward he promised after the Bright Water World ended.

After they split, Ye Zhongming rushed to Hundred Cave Swamp to help them clear the caves. After completing the dungeon, they split the rewards as agreed.

At this point, Bright Water World was left with the last dungeon. But news from inside said that it would be completed quickly.

Ye Zhongming used this time to recover along with Gao Yi, Zhao Xiangxue, and Li Qiang. He also studied the Sauron Box.

Deacon Tong found Ye Zhongming and bought the Lord status.

A dozen hours later, the entire Bright Water World shook. The dungeon tunnels disappeared, and the rumbling continued. Everyone realized that the real test was here.

Five Ring Money gathered in the big hall. The most obvious thing was the rankings. After the few days, the details changed. The most obvious was No Man's Zone. They fell down the rankings and were at the bottom. Wen Huan also disappeared from the combat strength rankings.

Everyone realised that the glorious No Man's Zone was wiped in Bright Water World. They were on the rankings because the remaining people at their base were strong. But once they found out, they would definitely split apart and disappear from the rankings.

Before everyone woke up from the shock, a giant colorful gate appeared. The five deacons were here and led everyone into the gate.

Bright Water World's final test, the Sky Monument riddle, officially began.

Chapter 1172: Sky Monument Path

After finding out about the Sky Monument, Ye Zhongming had many guesses.

The final test of this special space didn't sound dangerous. Sky Monument sounds more like a proof of knowledge.

But Ye Zhongming was uneasy.

Just like how there weren't perfectly nice people in the apocalypse, there wouldn't be a totally safe place. Cloud Peak seemed safe, but the red powder skeleton missile still attacked them.

So, even if he had many guesses, he was still nervous when the answer was about to be revealed.

People followed Five Ring Money's deacons in. Gan Lan and Mei Na were also here, and they moved beside Ye Zhongming.

After the City of Color, the Nalan Battle Squad's remaining people were respectful but afraid of Ye Zhongming. They knew that this was a vicious and strong person. Not only did he have really strong solo strength, but he also had terrifying connections. Five Ring Money had a close relationship with him. He treated enemies viciously and was able to destroy a huge faction like No Man's Zone so easily. That was something they couldn't imagine.

Such a person wasn't someone they could go up against. Of course, they wouldn't go up against him either, as they wanted to live.

Then, a practical problem was placed before them.

Should they continue alone or join Ye Zhongming?

Everyone naturally wanted to join Cloud Peak. To go from a lousy faction into a member of a faction that treated its members the best, everyone was willing to join.

But would he accept them? Their leaders might be acquaintances with Ye Zhongming, but everyone knew that their interests were what mattered in the apocalypse.

Cloud Peak didn't need them to join. Nalan Battle Squad wasn't something they needed; they were just a slight icing on the cake.

Then how should they join him?

These people could only place their hopes on the two beautiful leaders.

Women, especially beautiful women, were a resource in the apocalypse.

What? Ye Zhongming already had a woman?

Keke, someone with those thoughts, wouldn't be able to survive long in the apocalypse.

Which guy didn't have a few women in the apocalypse? The opposite was the same. Of course, apart from those female bosses.

Gan Lan and Mei Na naturally realized that, too, but... Were the morals and rules they abided by in the apocalypse going to be destroyed here? However, they didn't hate Ye Zhongming; he was even a rare jade in the apocalypse.

But... just that? Even if they were willing, what about Ye Zhongming's other women? They knew that the women by his side were all very strong and experts on the combat strength rankings!

They... Were also a big problem.

The two women were filled with random thoughts and followed Ye Zhongming into a giant, mysterious space.

After the battles in the dungeons, the number of people was fewer than before. The biggest losses were the warriors that the various factions brought. There weren't many leaders like No Man's Zone's Wen Huan, who died in the dungeon. ❖

When these people entered the space, they were silent. Even Five Ring Money was quiet, too.

Everyone saw something that filled them with disbelief.

Ye Zhongming would recall this many years from now. He was beyond shocked and found it hard to describe.

He could finally describe it with a few words when he thought back to it.

Crystal Cluster!

Sky Monument were like those crystal clusters in caves but were many times larger!

This description was widely accepted in the future. Many people would also compare it to the mines in Starcraft.

This was that Sky Monument?

Such a thought rose up in everyone's heart.

The crystal pillars reached into the sky, so how tall were they?

Were they thousands of meters? Or were they tens of thousands of meters?

At this height, the human eye couldn't accurately estimate it. Before these giant stone pillars, even the strongest evolved was tiny.

Ye Zhongming moved forward courageously since reviving. Be it Soul Merchant, the famous Glory Army, the Resistance Zone that grasped the secrets of the apocalypse, or even the level nine old man that protected the Gate of Blessing, he was nervous against them but wasn't afraid!

He had never felt that those strong figures couldn't be defeated.

But when he faced the crystal pillars, he felt a chill down his spine.

If the crystals fell, it would be enough to kill everyone.

"This is even bigger than the Andes, right?"

"It is bigger than the Alps!"

"No, the Himalayan mountains aren't even a tenth of this!"

"What is this?"

Many people exclaimed. Some even trembled under the pressure.

This wasn't something that humans could go up against!

Ye Zhongming took a deep breath to force himself to calm down and remove the shock from his consciousness.

“Look, what is that?”

An evolved whose eyes were strengthened pointed at the crystals.

The others looked and saw that a part of the roots had caved in.

“That should be... A path? A path up this thing?”

Someone said with uncertainty.

At this point, some people noticed that there were many such narrow paths.

As they hadn't met any dangers, many people came to the area under the Sky Monument. They saw that the number of these paths was endless. Each pillar had one!

After exclaiming, everyone calmed down and looked at Deacon Tong.

This Deacon was still shocked.

He received some notification and reached his hand out to point at the paths. He said with a trembling voice, "Each person can choose a path, everyone can walk up..."

"The answer will appear when you step on the Sky Monument Path."

Chapter 1173: Crystal Pillar rankings

The path ahead was like a sky ladder that snaked upwards, and one couldn't see the end of it.

The stone steps were wide enough to accommodate two people. The crystal pillars on the side had dark patterns that looked mysterious.

Although the white crystals made this place look cold, the temperature wasn't low. They were at the temperature that humans would feel comfortable with. There was even wind blowing from above. If there were sunlight here, one would feel refreshed.

Ye Zhongming didn't hurry up the platform. He stood before the first step and sensed everything around him.

He was shocked to notice that his stamina and mental energy were recovering!

The stamina side wasn't too obvious. After all, he had rested before he entered. But what about mental energy? He crafted a bunch of equipment to be merged by the Sauron Box, so he consumed some mental energy. Now, it was recovering at a speed that wasn't slow for Ye Zhongming.

Was all this so that the evolved would calm down and enter a better state?

Did the Sky Monument arrange this?

What was the goal? For the upcoming test... Or rather, battle?

Ye Zhongming shook his head. Since there was no way to get an answer, he had to continue up the steps.

He stepped with his right leg.

There was a rumbling, and he disappeared on the small path.

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At the same time, many people did the exact same thing as Ye Zhongming. Many people realized they could only select one path.

Fortunately, there were enough paths. Everyone spread out and entered.

The people didn't know what the Sky Monument was, and no one would give up on this chance.

Be it Ye Zhongming, Deacon Tong, or ordinary warriors.

The area under the Sky Monument calmed down, but many factions and names appeared on the largest crystal pillar, which was similar to the tag.

There were numbers behind the names. Most people were under ten. The larger the number, the higher your ranking. The top person was Five Ring Money's Deacon Bai, whose number was 18.

Ye Zhongming was ranked outside a hundred. His number was ten, similar to many others.

This new information appeared silently, but as it was too obvious, you would see it if you raised your head.

No one noticed it now because there wasn't anyone here. They were all either walking arduously or easily on the paths.

Very quickly, this calmness was broken. Someone suddenly appeared at an intersection and exclaimed.

That person touched his chest and looked around in shock before heaving a sigh of relief.

He thought about it and bit his teeth. He wanted to climb back up, but a gentle and firm power pushed him.

He tried a few times, but the outcome was the same. This person went on a new path that no one had gotten onto, but the outcome was the same.

He tried for some time before realizing he had lost the chance to climb the path. Then, he noticed the crystal pillar recording the information.

He saw his name ranked last, and the number behind it was 9.

Others might not know, but he knew that the number represented the number of steps he took. He failed on the 10th step.

Last place. He smiled bitterly, but the regret reduced on his face. He sat on the spot as he realized that other evolved were out.

Those people calmed down and tried to reenter, but the path stopped them. They then noticed their rankings and their expressions weren't too nice.

Obviously, those who were out first cleared the least steps, and their rankings were far behind.

But those people calmed down like the first person as others got out. The number of steps was basically between 9 and 12. The gap wasn't huge.

"12 steps should be a barrier. None of us are six-star evolved. Those famous five-star people aren't out either."

A Five Ring Money person said that. He understood the various factions, and after observing those eliminated people, he gave everyone his analysis.

Their bosses were still fighting on the path, so they could only wait. With nothing to do, they gathered around that place.

Some of them were from the Nalan Battle Squad.

"What did you face on the ninth step? 12. Little Finger you got to the 12th step? What did you meet?"

"Look, someone reached the 20th step!"

"The rankings change quite quickly."

"A few more are out, the remaining ones... Should be the top 100."

Discussions continued. Everyone didn't care about the factions they belonged to and discussed.

"As expected from Deacon Tong, the owner of Bright Water World, he is ranked first."

"Oh my god, he is on the 22nd step; that is so quick!"

Everyone had been through the test and knew what he meant. All of them exclaimed.

"Zhang Hetai is second. When did this Resistance Zone boss come to Bright Water World? Didn't only his son come?"

"Deacon Water's rankings are increasing. Fifth! Seems like she would continue to rise!"

"Unfortunately, No Man's Zone fell in the dungeon; if not, I heard Wen Huan is very strong. Who knew how high he would be able to rank."

"It is a waste, but who knows where No Man's Zone fell? Who completed it?"

"I am not sure, but I heard it was City of Color."

Nalan Battle Squad members looked at each other and were nervous. They were a group that held a huge secret.

But the Nalan Battle Squad members looked at the rankings to search for that guy.

32nd... He was on the 16th step.

Based on that guy's strength, he shouldn't be ranked there. Then, what was he doing?

Chapter 1174: Divide

When Ye Zhongming stepped on the first step, he disappeared from Sky Monument Path and came to a weird space.

He didn't panic as he didn't sense any danger in this pure white space.

This was until a monster appeared before him.

He recognized that it was an evolved lifeform often known as Greedy Spike.

"Please point out its weakness and use your attack to answer."

A notification rang in his mind, telling him what the challenge was.

But isn't this test too simple?

As long as one lived over two months in the apocalypse, one would recognize this low-level lifeform often seen in abandoned cities and the wilderness. Many people had tasted its meat, especially the two meat strips on its back. They were like tender beef and were one of the few delicacies in the apocalypse.

Although Ye Zhongming felt it was too simple, he wasn't overconfident. He took out Earth Sand Moon Blade and thrust it into an area two inches below this level three lifeform's ear.

Fifteen centimeters down the skin was its central nerve. As long as you hit it, this monster would die instantly.

When Earth Sand Moon Blade thrust in, Ye Zhongming noticed that this lifeform he thought was real was just a touch model. When the blade touched the nerve, it disappeared, and he reappeared on the Sky Monument Path.

Both of his legs landed on the first step.

Ye Zhongming touched his chin. This was the Sky Monument test? Each step was a test.

He was shocked.

One couldn't see the end of the path, but there were dozens of steps he could see. Did he have to go through dozens of tests?

Ye Zhongming looked at the time. As compared to before, he noticed that he spent half a minute on this first step.

He took a deep breath and got onto the second path.

His body disappeared again.

It was still a white space, but this time, two zombies appeared—one on level three and one on level four.

“Please kill these two mutated lifeforms within ten seconds, and you fail if you are injured.”

Ye Zhongming raised his blade and thought that the bell would ring instantly. He had to wait for a while before he could dash toward the two zombies and easily kill them.

At the same time as the two zombies dying, he was teleported back to the path.

It was very smooth, but he didn't immediately get on the third step. He thought back to the last test.

Why was there some time between the notification and the beep?

One must know that level two and three zombies were easy for evolved. Especially the people who entered Bright Water World. They were basically four-star evolved. ૠ

To these people, they would clear these lifeforms without much effort.

Was it...

Ye Zhongming had a guess, but he wasn't sure. He thought about it and stepped onto the third step.

The white space was bigger. Ye Zhongming stood in a corner. Two groups of mutated lifeforms covered the wide space. One group was a group of level three mutated flies—hundreds of them—and the other was a dozen mutated cats. Both sides faced off like statues.

“Please say a few methods to kill all these mutated lifeforms. You must say more than three methods where the evolved won't die. Please demonstrate these methods after hearing the beep. Please note, your evolution level will be reduced to four stars.”

Ye Zhongming was shocked, this place would reduce the evolved's strength.

At the same time, he was more sure of his guess. This place would give them some time to think. They didn't want you to rely on your instinct to fight or use your strength to crush the challenge.

Mutated flies and cats were common lifeforms, so they weren't much for evolved people like Ye Zhongming. There were many ways to kill them, and he could think of more than five instantly.

When the beep rang out, he started his demonstration, which he quickly succeeded in. The notification asked if he wanted to continue.

He chose to do so and demonstrated the remaining methods.

He felt that this place tested the evolved's overall strength and not just combat strength.

He knew what the others would choose but he wanted to treat all the tests seriously.

Just like this, he passed step by step. He wasn't quick but he tried to pass each step perfectly.

As he expected, the others did not do the same. They wanted to complete it more efficiently and get to the next stage quickly to try to be the first on the top.

Both sides had different ideologies from the start.

When around a hundred people remained, Ye Zhongming was ranked around 30. That didn't match his ranking in the overall country rankings.

As for those behind him, it wasn't because they were completing it seriously like Ye Zhongming. They were too weak and even if they tried to finish the test quickly, they weren't able to instantly kill things like Ye Zhongming did.

At the 13th step, Ye Zhongming felt that it became tougher. The space went from white to grey.

His 13th step test was to flee with two ordinary people in a town that was occupied by monsters.

If either person or himself died, the mission would be a failure.

If you treated the Sky Monument Path as an exam script, then this was a multiple-choice question. It tested the evolved's decisiveness, calmness, hiding ability, breakthrough ability, protection ability, etc. It wasn't easy to succeed.

Not only were there many monsters in the town, the level distribution was similar to towns on earth and they were even slightly stronger.

Even if Ye Zhongming's level wasn't restricted, but leading two ordinary people against monsters with a level four base and level five core with level six leaders was something he had to treat seriously. Even he found it hard.

This 13th step test became the first divider between many evolved.

Chapter 1175: Don't discriminate

Ye Zhongming gave two different methods to solve this 13th step.

One was to sneak out silent.

Real silent without alerting a single monster and having a single fight.

The second method was more direct. He split the battlefield up, using his outstanding strength to wipe out the mutated lifeforms bit by bit until all of them were killed. Then, he led the two ordinary people out openly.

The second method was a small-scale war. Ye Zhongming was really strong and took some time, so when he passed the 13th step, his rankings dropped a little.

Ye Zhongming didn't know about the ranking, but he wouldn't be anxious even if he did know. He continued to walk the Sky Monument Path.

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Li Qiang backed out regretfully. Like the others, he tried to enter again, but he didn't succeed and was forced out.

He failed on the 18th step.

Not many five-star evolved could last until the 18th step. Li Qiang could be considered the top five-star evolved. Many weak six-star evolved were already eliminated.

Li Qiang was also attracted to the group of people congregating and the rankings above. He saw his name on the 16th position, which was quite a high ranking, at least to him.

He knew that the people who came were all large faction bosses who were very strong. A person who had just become a five-star evolved wasn't much. To be able to get his current ranking was already quite decent.

Of course, he also knew that this wasn't the final rankings. He saw some names dim, which meant that they were eliminated. Even if he was ranked ahead of some, he would definitely be surpassed.

He glanced, and he had a rough guess of his final position.

But when he found Ye Zhongming's name, he was shocked.

The boss was ranked lower than him? He took a double take. He saw Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue, who were even higher than Ye Zhongming. Zhao Xiangxue, known for her attacks, was even ranked 6th.

What happened to the boss? He was not used to the test?

But he stopped worrying. Anyone famous in the apocalypse walked out from an ocean of corpses. How would he be afraid of this test? This was a test of one's survival skills. Anyone who survived and lived well wouldn't be afraid of this.

But...

He frowned as he looked at Ye Zhongming's rankings.

There was a rumble, and Gao Yi was kicked out of the Sky Monument Path. When he exited, he sliced the pillar on the side.

Gao Yi panted and took a look at his sword. He relaxed after seeing that it was fine.

He saw Li Qiang greeting him. He walked over and saw the rankings.

"Little Xue is doing well!"

Gao Yi slapped Li Qiang's shoulder when he saw Zhao Xiangxue ranked sixth. This gunner was in so much pain he gritted his teeth.

He was only happy for two seconds when he saw Ye Zhongming's position. That hand started to grab Li Qiang's shoulder, nearly making him faint.

Ye Zhongming's ranking shocked Gao Yi.

In his heart, Ye Zhongming was one of the strongest in everything. He was even the strongest.

When he saw the rankings, he first thought that Five Ring Money was cheating.

When he was considering whether or not to dig the crystal pillars, Zhao Xiangxue also failed. She was tossed to the side. Although her transformation was deactivated, she brought out a ball of flames, which terrified the people around her. ℞

The people looked at her and then at the dimmed name. They knew what this woman was called and were also shocked at how strong she was.

Zhao Xiangxue was the final six-star evolved that got out!

The remaining rankings were all seven-star evolved. These were all famous people no matter where you were.

“Sister Zhao, 24th step? Was it terrifying?”

Li Qiang was good at speaking. Although Zhao Xiangxue was younger than him, he didn't feel awkward saying that.

Zhao Xiangxue shook her head and still hadn't recovered. She took two minutes before looking at the rankings and frowning.

A while later, some seven-star evolved started to fail. Only ten people remained.

“Boss is still ranked 20th.” Gao Yi said before keeping silent. To him, it was tough to say more than five words.

“Tenth!” Zhao Xiangxue said firmly, “Although he is ranked 20th, there are only ten people left. He just needs to cross a few more steps, and he will catch up.”

Li Qiang nodded, “Also, I don't know if you guys noticed, but although the boss's rankings are low, the gap is closing. Moreover, the time the boss spends on each step is similar to the one before.”

Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue looked toward Li Qiang.

“It is easier to understand if I put it another way. Although boss looks like he is taking a long time, the further he goes, the more he is actually leading compared to others. More importantly, the boss is

different from us. He didn't face any obstruction at the crucial steps like the 13th, 15th and 20th. They were like normal steps to him!"

Hearing his analysis, Gao Yi and Zhao Xiangxue recalled it, and it made sense.

"The Sky Monument test is a competition. It tests who reaches the highest target quickly. People like Deacon Tong and Deacon Water attract the most attention. Unlike the boss that is relying on his high evolution level such that he isn't eliminated."

A voice interrupted their discussion. A few of them, including Gan Lan and Mei Na, turned and saw that annoying face filled with disdain.