

Apocalypse 1416

Chapter 1416: Chaotic Battle (5)

Deacon Water gave Kim Jongyuan huge pressure.

Wind and Rain was something only Kim Jongyuan could withstand with his golden shields. His defensive capabilities were on par with any top-tier Defender. Anyone else would have been killed long ago.

But blocking Deacon Water's attacks was no easy feat. Earlier, Kim Jongyuan's internal organs had been shaken. Without time to recover, he had also forcefully activated the Door God ability, putting himself under tremendous strain.

He had to expend a massive amount of stamina and energy to activate this skill.

Although the final outcome hadn't yet been determined, Kim Jongyuan believed he would be the ultimate winner.

But now, everything had changed. He was now facing Ye Zhongming's attack.

And not just any attack—it was Ye Zhongming's newly upgraded Thousand Seal Slash.

This ability had once been Ye Zhongming's most powerful attack. When unleashed, it could produce ten blade shadows, each with 50% of the original's power. Additionally, three different seals could be imprinted on the blades, each bringing unique yet complementary effects.

Previously, this skill was at basic grade, and the Thousand Blade Saint job was a high-quality, job.

Later, as Ye Zhongming acquired better equipment and weapons, obtained elemental spirits, and wielded Wind and Lightning and the Soul Shattering Staff, his strongest attack shifted away from the Thousand Seal Strike.

However, Ye Zhongming never forgot to strengthen his abilities. While continuously solidifying Cloud Peak's foundations, he never neglected his own progress.

Moreover, even if Ye Zhongming hadn't thought about it himself, other members of Cloud Peak, like Xia Lei, wouldn't have forgotten.

After evolving to eight stars, Chameleon and Lu Yi jointly delivered several scrolls to Ye Zhongming. These included skill upgrade scrolls, job advancement scrolls, universal equipment upgrade scrolls, and other precious items.

This was Xia Lei's last order before handing over control of Chameleon. As for Lu Yi, he had also naturally been instructed by Xia Lei.

Using Cloud Peak's vast resources and the unique capabilities of Chameleon, Xia Lei employed both overt and covert, clean and dirty methods to obtain these items as a gift for Ye Zhongming's evolution to eight stars.

Now, Ye Zhongming had upgraded the Thousand Blade Saint profession to the advanced grade and the Thousand Seal Slash to its corresponding intermediate grade. Including the additional blade shadows gained from proficiency, a full-power strike from him could now produce hundreds of blade shadows.

Each shadow possessed 60% of the original's power.

Moreover, with the job's upgrade, Ye Zhongming had unlocked one of the three upper seals that had previously been inaccessible—the Light Seal. Now, when using the Thousand Seal Slash, Ye Zhongming could imprint four seals: Mountain Seal, Fire Seal, and Metal Seal (the three lower seals), as well as the Light Seal (one of the three upper seals).

The Mountain Seal governed weight and pressure and was capable of suppressing anything. The Fire Seal governed flames, capable of burning all things. The Metal Seal governed sharpness, capable of cutting through all evil.

This time, the Light Seal governed illumination, capable of dispelling illusions and absorbing energy.

With these four seals and the hundreds of blade shadows, the attack descended like lightning. Kim Jongyuan let out a cry and began frantically throwing items out of his space equipment.

This was the right decision. The skill had already enveloped a large area centered on him, and he couldn't dodge. All he could do was use every means possible to block the attack.

A stone statue enlarged, transforming into a stone Buddha. It formed a hand seal and shot out a beam of light.

But as the blade light passed, the Buddha statue shattered, and the blade light obliterated everything in its path.

He had an extremely strong need for control and wanted everything to go according to his plans. His word was law within Pin Palace and its sphere of influence, and he held the power of life and death.

But today, what had started as a well-planned operation had gone smoothly at first. He had successfully deceived Li Daqian into handing over the equipment controlling his battle beasts, stripping today's most threatening individual of his sharp claws.

However, things spiraled out of his control, especially now. The space kept shifting unpredictably, and the leader of Restoring Hua Mountain had suddenly replaced the target he could have easily killed.

This man, quietly and without fanfare, had also reached eight stars. What was even more terrifying was that he was a freak.

Wen Yan rarely used such a term to describe someone, even his enemies.

But after fighting this man, he couldn't help but come to this conclusion.

The situation was complex, and the battle was dangerous, but Wen Yan felt deeply frustrated.

This frustration stemmed from two things.

The first was Qin Ru's freakishness.

Who had ever heard of someone giving all their benefits, aside from their evolution level, to their battle beast?

Only a fool or a madman would do such a thing.

Yet Qin Ru was exactly that kind of person. He had turned his battle beast, Little Luo Zhen, into a war machine.

It was a humanoid battle beast, said to be a tribute to his son, Qin Luo Zhen, who had died at the beginning of the apocalypse.

But Wen Yan felt it wasn't just a tribute—Qin Ru treated this battle beast as his own son.

Ye Zhongming and Li Daqian were among the most famous figures in the apocalypse for their large numbers of high-level battle beasts. However, according to Wen Yan's knowledge, neither Ye Zhongming's Yellow Ball nor Li Daqian's Spotted Giant Bear had a full set of beast equipment.

But Little Luo Zhen did.

And it was an eight-piece set! Green grade!

Forget the cost—how much time and effort must it have taken to gather such a set?!

Yet Qin Ru had managed to collect it.

As for evolution level, since Qin Ru himself was eight stars, it was no surprise that Little Luo Zhen, whom he valued more than his own life, was also eight stars.

Aside from equipment, what Wen Yan found truly freakish about Qin Ru was that the man had no decent equipment besides his evolution level. As the leader of a prominent faction in the country, his highest-tier equipment was only green grade, a level of frugality that left Wen Yan speechless.

What was even more unbearable was that as soon as the battle began, Qin Ru activated what might have been his only skill aside from his evolution level—Advanced Petrification.

He turned into a motionless statue, leaving Little Luo Zhen to fight Wen Yan...

Chapter 1417: Divine Turtle Technique

Wen Yan also had a battle beast that ranked even higher on the country rankings than Little Luo Zhen—his giant turtle, Thousand Years.

However, 80% of its combat power was in the water. Aside from its freakish defensive capabilities, it wasn't particularly useful on land.

So this time, Wen Yan had left it in a river near Thousand Beast Villa, letting it hunt on its own. As a level eight creature, the giant turtle faced no danger in a small lake.

Wen Yan's own abilities were also quite formidable. His battle beast was more of a means to control the region where Pin Palace was located.

After all, that area was dominated by vast bodies of water.

Wen Yan had a tough fight facing an eight-star battle beast equipped with an eight-piece set,

At this level, battle beasts naturally had many talent skills, and with the added abilities of the beast equipment, Little Luo Zhen's techniques were endless, causing Wen Yan significant trouble.

He tried attacking Qin Ru, but the leader of Restoring Hua Mountain was incredibly tough in his petrified state. Wen Yan couldn't break through his defense.

Wen Yan had no choice but to abandon that plan as Little Luo Zhen attacked him relentlessly.

It had to be admitted—Little Luo Zhen was truly strong. Wen Yan had to exert every ounce of his strength to suppress the creature barely. Just as he was about to deliver the killing blow, the space shifted, and he was moved out, allowing Qin Ru and Little Luo Zhen to escape.

Then came the second thing that left him frustrated.

He encountered Deacon Water—and she was in the middle of unleashing her ultimate move.

Earlier, while being pressured by Kim Jongyuan, Deacon Water decided to use her trump card— Water Goddess!

This was the most powerful job ability at the moment.

Deacon Water didn't use this ability often for two reasons. First, its cooldown was excruciatingly long—so long that it left her in despair. Her interest in items that reduced skill cooldowns stemmed from her desire to shorten this ability's ten-month cooldown.

Second, this ability came with a side effect.

It would temporarily lower her evolution level by one star for five hours.

For someone who had held a high position and whose evolution level had always been at the forefront of the country—or even the entire planet—losing a level, even temporarily, was both frustrating and dangerous.

Especially now, in this constantly shifting space where she was alone. Her safety would be a significant concern if her level dropped to seven stars.

But Deacon Water had no choice. She had to do this. It wasn't that she lacked other means of survival or couldn't continue fighting Kim Jongyuan. Rather, she wanted to escape before the Spatitu Space collapsed.

Guancheng Chen had told her that killing her opponent was the only way out. Eliminating Kim Jongyuan quickly was her only option.

Thus, she used the ability Water Goddess.

A silver light emanated from within her, lifting her into the air. Her long hair floated, her robes billowed, and an overwhelming aura radiated from her.

The entire space trembled as a result.

If the Water Goddess weren't so powerful, it wouldn't have such a long cooldown or severe side effects.

A silver energy ball, seemingly wrapped in lightning, appeared before Deacon Water, hovering at her abdomen. Her hands floated on either side of the energy ball, and as it grew in size, she slowly spread her arms. §

Even Deacon Water's eyes and skin had turned completely silver at this moment.

At a certain point, the Deacon Water let out a sharp cry and thrust her hands outward. The lightning-wrapped energy ball shot forward.

It moved incredibly fast, almost teleporting while leaving behind a trail of afterimages.

But just as the energy ball flew out, her opponent changed. Kim Jongyuan and the Door Gods were gone, and the shield flying toward her had vanished. In their place stood the traitor, Wen Yan!

This was why Wen Yan was frustrated. He could not capitalize on his advantage to kill Qin Ru and Little Luo Zhen, and after being moved, he now faced an energy ball that made his hair stand on its ends.

In a panic, Wen Yan could only use his strongest defensive ability.

Divine Turtle Technique—Turtle Shell Armor!

All his equipment exploded instantly, transforming into a massive turtle shell that enveloped him.

This ability was similar to Jiu Long and Jiu Bao's skill, but unlike that one, which required the battle beast to be nearby, Wen Yan's ability didn't. It was more like him borrowing power.

Don't underestimate this instant ability. It used all his equipment and energy to create the turtle shell, which had incredibly strong defensive capabilities.

High-level evolved each had life-saving abilities. For example, Ye Zhongming had his second life and the elemental spirits. Wen Yan had his own—Turtle Shell Armor, which was his emergency defense.

The turtle shell collided with the lightning energy ball, producing an effect similar to a powerful explosion.

The shockwave rippled through the entire space. Deacon Water, who was still in mid-air, was sent flying, crashing hard to the ground. Her once-graceful, goddess-like image was instantly shattered.

Wen Yan didn't fare much better. Before the turtle shell shattered, it slammed into him, sending him tumbling backward like a ball. He endured the tremendous impact. After the shell broke, most of the fragments pierced his unprotected body, soaking every inch of his skin in blood.

Both of them stood up immediately and stared at each other.

He wasn't supposed to fight her, and she wasn't trying to kill him!

Yet, right from the start, the two had engaged in the most intense collision!

One had their evolution level reduced to seven stars, while the other had all their equipment, except for their space ring, shattered and was now severely injured.

This chaotic confrontation left both of them deeply frustrated.

But at this point, both Deacon Water and Wen Yan knew they couldn't back down. The enmity that had been ignited wouldn't disappear just because they stopped.

Moreover, who knew what would happen to the space next? Escaping sooner was undoubtedly better than escaping later.

Wen Yan pulled out two potions from his space ring and drank them. He ignored the turtle shell fragments embedded in his body as he silently worked to recover from his injuries.

Deacon Water was fully aware of her own situation. She emerged from the Water Goddess state. She pulled out two short military daggers and tossed a transparent water bag at her feet. With a stab of her daggers, the bag burst, and a pool of water soaked her feet. Steam began to rise, enveloping her body.

Chapter 1418: Star Prophet

Ye Zhongming picked up Kim Jongyuan's shield and felt it was a good piece of equipment. The Door God images on it were shattered, and the equipment no longer emitted any light. It was clearly damaged. After storing it away, Ye Zhongming checked the pile of minced meat that was once Kim Jongyuan's body. The space equipment had been destroyed, so there was nothing else to gain.

After waiting for a while and realizing he hadn't been moved out of the space, Ye Zhongming guessed the space was in complete chaos. The previous rules no longer applied. He thought for a moment and realized there was nothing he could do but wait.

Although Ye Zhongming didn't have the same intense need for control as Wen Yan, the feeling of being forced to wait was indeed unpleasant.

However, he didn't have to wait long before a new member appeared in the space.

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Like Ye Zhongming, Qin Ru also encountered a new opponent.

Earlier, Qin Ru had almost been defeated during his battle with Wen Yan.

He hadn't expected the old man to be so powerful. Even Little Luo Zhen, whom he had painstakingly nurtured, was no match for him. The outcome would have been dire if it hadn't been for the space shifting and moving him away.

After recovering from his petrified state, Qin Ru checked Little Luo Zhen's injuries. Fortunately, they weren't too severe. He took out some dark red pills, each about the size of a tangerine, and fed them to the battle beast he loved as much as his own life. His eyes were filled with pain and affection.

He truly saw this humanoid lifeform, which he had obtained by chance, as a form of emotional sustenance. Little Luo Zhen carried the aura of his son.

Little Luo Zhen had eaten his son.

Qin Ru hadn't chosen to kill it to avenge his son. Instead, he had turned it into his battle pet, treating it as a continuation of his son's existence in this world.

This was a twisted mentality, and Qin Ru knew it. But he didn't care. Aside from being unable to speak and behaving slightly differently from humans, Little Luo Zhen was no different from his son—perhaps even more obedient.

After eating the two pills, a flush of color appeared on Little Luo Zhen's bluish face. It opened its mouth, filled with sharp teeth, and bit into Qin Ru's arm, drinking the eight-star evolved's blood in large gulps.

Little Luo Zhen's injuries healed rapidly as the blood flowed into its body, and it soon returned to its original state. Even the damaged parts of its beast equipment were restored.

“Seen enough?”

Qin Ru stood up and his face was pale.

As Wen Yan had observed, Qin Ru had poured almost everything he had into equipping Little Luo Zhen. Aside from a few pieces of green-grade equipment, he only had one skill: Advanced Petrification. He had no bloodline or other abilities.

But Qin Ru did have a job—not combat-oriented, but a support job: Medicinal Breeder.

This was a very peculiar job. Almost all of its skills involved using one's own stamina, energy, and other resources, combined with specific herbs, to create pills and potions. These were then mixed with the breeder's own blood to feed and enhance the abilities of the mutated lifeforms they raised.

“A very unique job, and a... strange way of thinking.”

Gyanendra spoke softly.

After entering the space, he quietly observed Qin Ru and Little Luo Zhen.

“This space seems to shift at any moment. Perhaps we don’t need to fight and can wait for an easier opponent.”

Qin Ru stood up, placing his right hand on Little Luo Zhen’s head, which only reached his elbow. He lovingly ruffled its hair.

Perhaps his mentality was twisted as he treated a monster as his son. But he wasn’t foolish and knew how to adapt. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have been able to get Restoring Hua Mountain or himself to their current levels.

Qin Ru was well aware that he and Little Luo Zhen weren’t in their best condition. The man before him, though he didn’t have a deep impression of him, had entered the space and quietly watched him feed Little Luo Zhen instead of attacking. This alone indicated that he wasn’t an easy opponent.

Moreover, the ethereal aura emanating from this man made Qin Ru deeply wary.

Choosing to fight now would be very unwise.

In that case, waiting to see what the space would do next, or simply waiting for an easier opponent, might be the smarter choice.

Qin Ru believed that if he demonstrated his formidable side, his opponent would agree with this approach.

However, Gyanendra didn't allow Qin Ru to showcase his strength. He simply shook his head.

"I came quickly and haven't truly tested my abilities yet. Before facing Ye Zhongming, you're a good test subject."

The Holy One from the Holy City pulled out a black crystal ball.

The last time he faced Ye Zhongming, he wore a black robe. Today, he was dressed in white. Last time, he held the Burial Crystal Ball, a transparent crystal orb. Today, he held a black crystal ball.

In Ye Zhongming's past life, the Burial Crystal Ball had been Gyanendra's most famous weapon. But now, it had been shattered. Due to Ye Zhongming's rebirth, Gyanendra's path had diverged.

Gyanendra murmured softly and tilted his head upward. A strange moon appeared in the space, casting a pure white light that enveloped Qin Ru and Little Luo Zhen.

It was as if stage lights had been focused on them, making it clear who the main characters were.

But obviously, Qin Ru and Little Luo Zhen were the attack targets, not the protagonists.

“Ah!”

With a sharp cry, Little Luo Zhen turned into a blur and charged at Gyanendra. Qin Ru could tell this fierce-looking old man was likely a range fighter.

He ordered his battle beast to activate its skill—Shadow Kill.

This was one of Little Luo Zhen’s talent skills.

But just a second later, Qin Ru was horrified to discover that Little Luo Zhen, which should have reached Gyanendra, was now struggling as if it was trapped in quicksand, moving toward its opponent at a snail’s pace.

Qin Ru himself didn’t have any powerful abilities, but he couldn’t just stand by and do nothing. His petrification skill had a short cooldown, but recharging took several hours. This meant that it was currently still on cooldown.

However, he felt the resistance in the air after taking a single step.

Was it the light from the moon above?

Gyanendra smiled faintly, raising the black crystal ball in his hand. Shadows began to emerge from within, and they quickly filled the entire space. The scenery changed, transforming into a deep, starry cosmos.

In this cosmic space, there were only three living beings: the motionless Gyanendra, the frozen Qin Ru, and Little Luo Zhen, who was still running.

The terror in Qin Ru's eyes grew as he watched Little Luo Zhen continue to run forward. But where was Gyanendra? He was nowhere to be seen!

Chapter 1419: Clone substitution

It was a bizarre scene. Qin Ru could see Gyanendra, Little Luo Zhen, and himself, but he realized his battle beast could not see its opponent. It continued to charge forward ferociously while still moving in slow motion.

Did something cause Little Luo Zhen to go blind?

But why hadn't his battle beast communicated this to him? Little Luo Zhen and him were truly connected in mind and spirit.

If that was the case, there was only one explanation... In Little Luo Zhen's eyes, Gyanendra was still there.

Qin Ru relayed this information to Little Luo Zhen, who stopped in frustration. It scanned its surroundings for the location its master had indicated. But there was nothing there.

“It’s useless. It can’t see me. Only evolved can see me now.” Gyanendra’s voice echoed through the starry space.

“The shattering of the Burial Crystal Ball made me think I would lose many things. But that’s how life is. Everything can change if you make the right compromises and let go of some principles you once held dear. Don’t you Chinese have a saying, ‘Things will get better after you face adversity’? That’s exactly what happened.”

Gyanendra’s body floated through the air, constantly shifting positions, making it impossible for Little Luo Zhen to locate him. The battle beast grew increasingly agitated and impulsive.

The Star Prophet seemed to be reflecting on his experiences or perhaps experimenting with something.

At this moment, Qin Ru felt a pang of regret. He wouldn’t be so helpless today if he hadn’t poured all his resources into Little Luo Zhen. Ninety percent of his strength lay in his battle beast. Once it was rendered useless, there was very little he could do.

He pulled out an object—a firecracker the size of his arm—lit it and released a burst of dazzling fireworks.

But the brilliant display didn’t help Qin Ru find a way out. Instead, it deepened his despair.

The fireworks exploded normally, unaffected by their surroundings.

“Are you trying to determine if this place is real or an illusion?” Gyanendra’s laughter echoed. “It seems this space is even more powerful than the Burial Barrier. This is the space created by my new Burial Crystal Ball and my job. What do you think?”

Sweat dripped from Qin Ru’s forehead. He was out of options, and his despair grew.

Earlier, when facing Wen Yan, he could at least fight desperately. But now, he didn’t even have the chance to fight back against Gyanendra.

“It seems you can’t break through the Star Barrier I’ve created. Then, let’s end this.”

Qin Ru felt his hair stand on end. He was about to face a fatal attack.

A glowing star approached rapidly, rolling in from the distance. Qin Ru wanted to run, but his legs wouldn’t move. The star was too large—even if he could teleport, he couldn’t escape its range.

Many images and faces flashed through Qin Ru’s mind. In the end, they all turned into the youthful face of his son.

Intense pain washed over him, but Qin Ru didn’t care. Tears filled his eyes. Only at this moment did he realize that his son was truly gone, and the one he thought could replace him could never truly do so.

The star vanished, the starry sky disappeared, and two bodies lay on the ground of the space. They appeared unharmed, but their heads had been completely crushed.

Gyanendra stood nearby, laughing heartily.

The Holy One from West Asia had killed the fifteenth-ranked individual on the country rankings.

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Alamos was on the verge of losing his mind.

He had been with Palmerk earlier, but after the space shifted, he found himself alone. However, when he saw that his opponent was the severely injured Li Daqian, he thought it wasn't so bad.

After all, even though he was a support job, if his opponent was a level lower and couldn't summon battle beasts, he could still win.

Things went as expected at first. With a few casual skills, he easily incapacitated everyone except Li Zhizhong, the seven-star evolved.

None of these people died, but they were reduced to helpless “pigs.”

But then, something changed.

At that moment, Li Daqian, who should have been on the verge of death, stood up while clutching his neck.

Alamos’s eyes nearly popped out of his head.

He had witnessed Jiu Long nearly kill this man with that assassination technique.

Alamos couldn’t understand how Li Daqian had recovered in such a short time. He had specifically studied the dagger technique, and the sinister energy it carried was something even he, a researcher, found impossible to counter.

“You...”

“I’m... fine.” Li Daqian showed none of the anxiety or weakness he had displayed earlier when pleading with Ye Zhongming. He smiled, lowering the hand that had been clutching his neck. Blood still stained the area, and Alamos was certain it was real blood.

But the wound itself had completely vanished.

“Did you pick up on our plan?” Alamos asked after regaining his composure.

Li Daqian shook his head. “No.”

Without waiting for Alamos to ask more, Li Daqian continued, “We Chinese often say, ‘Prepare for rain before it falls.’ I did the same. Before inviting you here, I considered every possibility. Of course, I didn’t expect Wen Yan to ally with you. I simply prepared for the possibility of a sudden attack by a powerful force. Being assassinated was naturally part of my considerations.”

“I considered it and prepared for it but didn’t expect it to actually come in handy.”

As Li Daqian spoke, his tone was calm, but his expression soon turned grim.

“But do you know what I used up? A clone that cost me a seven-star evolution potion! My son is only a seven-star evolved! The entire villa only has five seven-star evolved individuals!”

“You launched this attack. Do you know what you’ve destroyed? My base, which I’ve painstakingly built for over four years! Do you know what I’ve sacrificed for this place?! Do you know how many of my family members have died for it?!”

Li Daqian was practically roaring.

He had prepared in advance, but some things were impossible to guard against. The attack by these forces had nearly destroyed Thousand Beast Villa.

“Heh.” Alamos sneered coldly. “Don’t act like the whole world has wronged you. If you were so well-prepared, why did you play dead? Why didn’t you stand up earlier and settle the score with us? It’s because you wanted to drag all the forces here into the mess.”

Li Daqian regained his composure and nodded. “You’re right. That’s exactly what I wanted. And it seems to have worked out quite well, hasn’t it? But as the master of this place, if I don’t achieve something impressive before escaping, I won’t be able to justify my actions to those people. I think killing you, the mastermind and leader of this operation, will be enough to earn their forgiveness for my act of playing dead. Don’t you agree?”

Chapter 1420: Dazzling Curses

Alamos said nothing and answered with an attack.

If it had been someone else, he might have tried to reason with them or offered incentives to reach an agreement. But that clearly wasn’t an option against Li Daqian.

So, it came down to life or death.

The Pain Curse Master was a support job, but Alamos, as an eight-star evolved and the leader of a top-tier laboratory, wouldn’t place all his hopes on having warriors help him in battle.

He had his own way of fighting.

Alamos decided to strike first.

He pulled out a model from his space equipment and tossed it between himself, Li Daqian, and his son, Li Zhizhong.

The model resembled a prison cell. After landing, it expanded to about a meter in height.

Then, the model's iron-barred door opened, and a levelless zombie dog rushed out, baring its teeth and growling threateningly at Li Daqian and his son.

Next came a second dog, then a third. Ten medium-sized dogs, each about a meter tall, had appeared in just three or four seconds.

Li Daqian didn't immediately attack. No matter how tough he talked, he was deeply wary of Alamos. He had deliberately stayed down and watched as his subordinates were knocked out individually to observe this man's fighting style.

But now, seeing Alamos summon so many creatures, Li Daqian became even more cautious. At the very least, Alamos hadn't done this earlier.

What surprised Li Daqian even more was that the summoning didn't stop there. Alamos threw out another item—a dark, cave-like gate. After landing, it also expanded, though much larger than the prison cell, reaching nearly three meters in height before stopping. From it emerged a massive black energy troll.

Next came an Earth Troll, followed by a stitched-together, Decomposing Troll.

The appearance of the three trolls was far more impressive than the ten small zombie dogs. Though they weren't armed, their massive size and the surging energy around them made them seem far more dangerous.

Li Daqian's eyes turned red, and his body grew more muscular. His fingernails elongated into sharp claws, and his equipment began to glow. Metal armor extended, covering his entire body.

The leader of Thousand Beast Villa wasn't like Qin Ru. His most powerful ability was summoning battle beasts, but he was still formidable even without them.

Now, he was using the basic Bear Bloodline, a long-lasting bloodline that enhanced all aspects of his body, though it reduced his agility.

His equipment had been specially purchased from Cloud Peak. Five pieces of green-grade defensive gear with excellent abilities were complemented by two blue-grade pieces he had acquired himself, giving him solid defensive capabilities.

An offensive bloodline paired with top-tier defensive equipment, combined with his eight-star evolution level, made Li Daqian a formidable fighter.

Li Zhizhong also activated his bloodline. His bloodline was far superior to his father's—the Demon Bloodline was already upgraded to the intermediate grade.

Li Zhizhong had a battle beast, a six-star one, which was decent by the standards of Thousand Beast Villa but couldn't compare to the seven-star beasts of his uncles and elders. Li Daqian himself also had a unique eight-star battle beast.

Li Zhizhong fell short in this area, but Li Daqian didn't neglect his son. He compensated in other ways, ensuring Li Zhizhong had an excellent bloodline, even upgrading it.

The Demon Bloodline was an explosive bloodline that not only greatly enhanced physical attributes but also granted strange and powerful abilities, turning attacks into energy-based ones.

It was also a versatile bloodline combining close and long-range combat skills.

Father and son moved in perfect sync. After transforming, they charged forward—Li Daqian toward the three trolls and Li Zhizhong toward the ten zombie dogs.

Those who knew Alamos understood he was a somewhat eccentric old man, especially in battle.

Alamos's confidence soared, seeing his two summoning items in place. His eyes gleamed with excitement as he muttered incantations rapidly under his breath. Soon, a cloud of black dots flew out from him, landing on the zombie dogs.

“Strength Curse!”

The Curse Master was one of the few jobs in the post-apocalyptic world with many skills. Though each skill might not be particularly powerful due to the job's supportive nature, they were enough to give opponents a headache.

The Strength Curse significantly increased the zombie dogs' strength.

"Speed Curse!"

Another quick spell, this one enhancing the dogs' speed.

"Fear Curse!"

This curse wasn't cast on the zombie dogs or the trolls but on Li Zhizhong.

It was unavoidable—a guaranteed hit.

This wasn't entirely accurate. The success rate of a curse master's negative status spells was directly related to the target's mental strength. The stronger the target's mental strength, the lower the success rate.

Of course, a lower success rate didn't mean success was impossible.

As a mental-based profession, curse masters naturally had immense mental strength, making their spells highly accurate.

Li Zhizhong was only a seven-star evolved and a warrior. Mental strength wasn't his forte, so the curse immediately affected him.

This was his first encounter with a curse master.

Seeing the zombie dogs, now significantly faster and stronger, Li Zhizhong suddenly felt an overwhelming sense of fear. He stopped charging and dodged to the side, trying to avoid these terrifying creatures.

Alamos chuckled and cast his fourth curse.

“Sticky Ground Curse!”

The ground beneath Li Zhizhong's feet seemed to turn into thick glue, making each step incredibly difficult.

The ten zombie dogs pounced, baring their sharp fangs as they aimed for various parts of Li Zhizhong's body.

Li Zhizhong panicked as his fear grew. He couldn't even fight at his usual level, flailing his arms wildly to fend off the terrifying creatures.

In reality, these zombie dogs weren't particularly strong—they were just sharp-toothed and vicious. Even with the Fear Curse making him timid, Li Zhizhong's strength hadn't diminished. In his transformed state, a single swipe of his arm crushed the skull of the lead zombie dog.

Under normal circumstances, Li Zhizhong could have dodged and counterattacked, wiping out the zombie dogs in seconds.

But now, his attacks were chaotic. After killing one dog, he didn't know what to do next and was immediately bitten by several others.

Alamos suddenly raised his voice, pointing a finger as he cast another curse.