

Apocalypse 1431

Chapter 1431: Sinking Technique

What?!

Li Daqian's eyes widened in disbelief as he stared at Ye Zhongming.

He wouldn't dare claim that Thousand Beast Villa was the top authority on battle beasts on the planet, but they were certainly experts in the field. Even without theoretical support, the existence of the large Beast Pool equipment allowed him and his team to become the most knowledgeable experts on battle beasts and related matters in the post-apocalyptic world through sheer experience.

But he had never heard of anyone being able to increase the number of talent abilities a battle beast possessed!

Why bother distinguishing between good and bad battle beasts if this were possible? Just capture any beast that was easy to train and bond with, raise it, and then keep adding powerful talent abilities to it. Why go through the trouble of capturing high-level, talented cubs or even training war beasts?

So, Li Daqian's first reaction was disbelief when Ye Zhongming said this.

However, upon further reflection, he realized that the Cloud Peak's king had no reason to lie to him. Perhaps he truly had such an ability, or maybe he possessed a scroll or something similar that could achieve this. After all, the post-apocalyptic world was a place where miracles could happen.

After the initial disbelief came an indescribable excitement.

A battle beast with full talent abilities! A fully talented Chisel Tooth!

Just the thought of it made Li Daqian ecstatic.

Others might not know, but Li Daqian was well aware of why Chisel Tooth, despite being only level eight, could dominate the top spot on the country battle beast rankings, surpassing powerful beasts like the Cannibal Chain's Wind Raising, Ye Zhongming's Yellow Ball, Wen Yan's Thousand Years, and even the Divine Hall's Heaven Speech Demon Vine.

It was because Chisel Tooth had a powerful skill! A skill that could multiply its combat power several times over!

This allowed its strength to approach that of a level-nine creature at certain moments!

This demonstrated the importance of a single talent ability.

Li Daqian believed that even if the skill Ye Zhongming mentioned wasn't as powerful, it was still an offensive ability. Even if it were something as simple as a fireball, it would undoubtedly be as devastating as a missile when used by a level-eight creature!

"If what Brother Ye says is true, this deal is done."

Exchanging the six immature biological eggs, which were of little use to him, for so many valuable items was more than satisfactory for Li Daqian.

But then Ye Zhongming chuckled. "I think I'm getting the short end of the stick here."

"What do you mean?" Li Daqian's expression darkened. Was he going to back out now or try to raise the price at the last minute?

Ye Zhongming pointed to the two sharp bones protruding from the shoulders of the level-nine creature's corpse. "Add these two shoulder bones, and we have a deal."

"Master Ye, behavior like this will only breed resentment."

Li Daqian's aura as a powerful figure subtly intensified, and even his tone changed. The Spotted Giant Bear behind him, which had been lying down, stood up, its eyes glaring angrily at Ye Zhongming.

Cloud Peak's King smiled. "Master Li, why not hear what this skill is before making a decision?"

"Fine. Let's hear what kind of skill could make me part with two more bones."

Ye Zhongming wasted no time and said directly, "This innate ability is called the Sinking Technique."

Although Li Daqian was still unhappy, he listened intently, not wanting to miss a single word.

"Strictly speaking, this isn't a purely active attack skill. It must be used with other abilities, even... passive ones."

"Oh?" Li Daqian found this intriguing and waited for Ye Zhongming to explain further.

"When a battle beast with this ability is in combat, an energy entity identical to its body will appear beside it. Every time the battle beast uses an ability, this energy entity will actively attack the target, dealing a single physical attack with the battle beast's maximum strength."

"Every time a talent ability is used, it triggers an attack?"

Ye Zhongming's words shook Li Daqian. This skill, while seemingly lacking active attack effects, essentially added an additional attack to every talent ability! Moreover, the attack power was based on the battle beast's strongest physical attack, making it far from useless!

"Yes, every time! In theory, if your battle beast can use a certain innate ability infinitely, then Falling Strike can also trigger infinite attacks. Of course, passive abilities can only be used once per battle."

As Ye Zhongming spoke, he observed Li Daqian's expression.

This Sinking Technique was Ye Zhongming's trump card and the reason he had been holding back during the earlier negotiations.

If it weren't for the fact that he wanted the materials from the level-nine creature and that Yellow Ball's abilities were already maxed out. At the same time, Yangos was naturally full of skills; Ye Zhongming would never have given such a powerful ability to someone else.

This skill had been extracted from a beast equipment he had obtained. It was a piece of equipment specifically designed for aquatic life and had only this one ability, yet it was blue-grade. When Ye Zhongming saw it, he used his Ability Extraction job to extract the skill to prepare for his Beast Villa trip.

Seeing Li Daqian's reaction, he knew the man was hooked.

However, Ye Zhongming decided to deliver the final blow with an additional explanation.

"The energy entity created by Sinking Technique is immune to energy attacks when it attacks. Only pure physical attacks can damage it. It will only disappear when the cumulative damage exceeds the battle beast's own defense. Otherwise, it will remain intact and retain its full attack power."

Without hesitation, Li Daqian took out his blue blade and cut off the two shoulder bones, handing them to Ye Zhongming.

After hearing the description of Sinking Technique, he had no reason to hesitate. This skill alone was enough for him to agree to exchange for one material or even two. Not to mention the other rewards included in the deal.

The two shoulder bones were short, only about thirty centimeters long, and almost unnoticeable on the four-meter-tall Mantis Snatcher's body. Others might prefer the curved ribs, which were half a meter in circumference, over these shoulder bones. But for this skill, Li Daqian felt it was worth it.

"When can the battle beast acquire this skill? Are there any restrictions or conditions?" Li Daqian asked eagerly.

"No conditions. It can be done now," Ye Zhongming replied as he stored the shoulder bones. "But, Master Li, have you decided whether to teach it to Chisel Teeth or the Spotted Giant Bear?"

Li Daqian laughed. "Brother Ye, since I consider you a friend, I'll tell you this: Chisel Tooth isn't known for its strength!"

Ye Zhongming nodded, his gaze shifting to the Spotted Giant Bear. It seemed Li Daqian had chosen the battle beast, over which he had complete control.

With Li Daqian's assistance, he walked over and placed his hand on the giant bear's body.

Chapter 1432: Super Glory Smith

As Ye Zhongming emerged from the mountain, he saw several high-ranking elders of Thousand Beast Villa standing nervously at the entrance, each holding a tool used to summon Chisel Tooth.

Looking up, he noticed Xia Bai hovering in the air, her wings slowly flapping. Clearly, she had been waiting outside, ready to charge in if anything went wrong.

Xia Bai's prowess was well-known, and her ability to fly with a pair of wings alone was enough to unsettle anyone. Many assumed it was a bloodline ability, but the duration of this ability was unusually long. Those who had studied Cloud Peak knew that Xia Bai's bloodline ability was to become invisible in the dark, as evidenced by her faintly visible form in the air. The skill of her wings remained a mystery.

Coupled with her impressive feat of killing Jiu Long and subduing Jiu Bao earlier that day, the elders were extremely tense. They feared that Xia Bai might lose her temper and charge in, and they had little confidence in their ability to stop her.

Seeing Ye Zhongming come out, the elders collectively breathed a sigh of relief.

Ye Zhongming waved at Xia Bai, signaling her to land beside him. After apologizing to Li Daqian, he returned to his quarters with his loyal follower in tow.

Before even reaching the courtyard, Ye Zhongming sensed a restless, uneasy aura, along with several suppressed energies. Upon entering, he saw Jiu Bao, half of its massive body buried in the ground, visibly agitated in Xia Bai's absence. The female guards, unfamiliar with the creature, were on high alert, wary of it going berserk. This tension only heightened Jiu Bao's anxiety.

When Xia Bai returned, Jiu Bao let out a whimper, like a child seeing its mother, and its enormous body lunged toward her.

This creature was a hundred meters long, and even with half its body buried, its lunge caused the entire courtyard to tremble as if a magnitude five or six earthquake had struck.

Xia Bai leaped lightly onto Jiu Bao's head and gently stroked its newly grown rabbit ears. The giant worm calmed down instantly.

Although Ye Zhongming wasn't sure how Xia Bai had tamed this level-eight battle beast, which originally had an owner, or what kind of bond had formed between them to make Jiu Bao behave this way, he knew that this battle beast was different now. Since Ye Zhongming hadn't seen Jiu Bao before, he couldn't compare its previous and current strength, but one thing was clear: the giant worm's personality had changed, or perhaps its intelligence had diminished, as its attachment to Xia Bai seemed abnormal.

This wasn't unprecedented in Cloud Peak. The Three-nose Elephant's behavior toward Park Xiuying was similar.

However, this wasn't necessarily a bad thing from another perspective. Ye Zhongming wasn't a member of an animal welfare organization, and the intelligence of battle beasts wasn't his primary concern. He only needed to ensure that these battle beasts benefited Cloud Peak and his subordinates.

Currently, Jiu Bao's extreme dependence on Xia Bai meant it would fight under her control, and that was enough.

As for what abilities Jiu Bao still possessed, that would depend on Xia Bai's understanding of it and further research by Liu Zhenghong back at the villa.

Leaving Xia Bai to bond with Jiu Bao, Ye Zhongming returned to his room and laid out the items he had acquired that day.

First were the six life eggs. Ye Zhongming placed them in a special container. While it wasn't as effective as the stone coffin, it would preserve them for a while.

The life energy emanating from the eggs was comforting to Ye Zhongming. Regardless of their species, level-nine creatures possessed immense energy, and their eggs were no exception.

This comfort was different from the effect of Bug Emperor Honey. It was a purification and celebration of life itself.

After sealing the container, Ye Zhongming stored the life eggs, planning to hand them over to Liu Zhenghong upon his return. She would undoubtedly be ecstatic to have materials from a level-nine creature.

Next, Ye Zhongming examined the pair of golden door god shields that had belonged to Kim Jongyuan.

He had specifically asked Deacon Water about these shields and learned about the unique circumstances surrounding them. Deacon Water even demonstrated her water barrier, allowing Ye Zhongming to experience its strength, and mentioned that the door gods' attacks could easily break through it.

This revelation genuinely surprised Ye Zhongming.

Deacon Water's Water Barrier wasn't an exceptionally powerful defensive ability, and Ye Zhongming could naturally break through it. However, it was quite sturdy against summoned creatures, so the fact that the door gods could shatter it indicated their considerable offensive power.

This piqued Ye Zhongming's interest.

Currently, Shengyuan wielded an excellent shield, but it paled compared to this golden set. If he could repair this equipment, it would significantly enhance the strength of his lifelong brother.

However, Ye Zhongming didn't possess a specialized ability to repair equipment, and he wasn't sure if he could fix something of this level—especially a set.

After some thought, he decided to give it a try.

If he hadn't attempted it now, he would have to eventually. Given the current conditions, there was a good chance of success, especially since Ye Zhongming had six Job Advancement Scrolls!

Two of these scrolls had been obtained by Cloud Peak, while the other four had been delivered by Five Ring Money and Cannibal Chain after arriving here.

Purchasing these four scrolls had cost Ye Zhongming dearly, as these items became increasingly precious as the apocalypse progressed.

Originally, Ye Zhongming had planned to upgrade the Thousand Blade Saint profession to its highest level. However, after seeing these shields, he had a new idea.

He would prioritize upgrading the Glory Smith job to its highest level first! At the highest level, it would unlock a new ability: Restoration Techniques.

This ability would truly restore equipment to its pristine condition and even had a chance to increase the number of gem sockets.

Previously, Ye Zhongming had been able to repair some equipment, but mostly through Strengthen or Enchanting. Essentially, he used higher-level materials to upgrade damaged equipment, thereby compensating for the flaws from lower levels.

This method consumed a lot of high-level materials and was less effective on equipment above blue grade, as golden-grade equipment couldn't be easily upgraded through simple enchanting or reinforcement.

Given that his offensive capabilities were still among the best on the planet, upgrading the Smith job was a solid choice.

Once he made his decision, Ye Zhongming didn't hesitate. He sequentially upgraded Collection and Refinement, Strengthening, Crafting, Enchanting, and Chisel Technique to the next level, then advanced the Glory Smith job as a whole.

A surge of power coursed through him, and Ye Zhongming became a Super Glory Smith.

He had occasionally upgraded individual crafting abilities in the past, but the sensation wasn't as profound. Now, he felt a surge of strength throughout his body, and even his mental energy had significantly improved.

Checking the abilities of the Super Glory Smith, he confirmed that Restoration Technique had been unlocked. To his surprise, there was also a description for the highest level of craftsmanship!

Chapter 1433: Invisibility Ability

"A top-tier smith possesses an unparalleled understanding of items and tools. Now, you have abilities you haven't yet discovered and will surely be amazed by. When you have accumulated rich experience and crafted glorious equipment in your hands, you will receive a gift from the heavens. In your eyes, all items are combinations and reflections of materials. In your hands, all materials can have infinite possibilities. So, moving forward, use your mind and body to change the stars and the universe."

Ye Zhongming was stunned, replaying these words in his mind. He was utterly captivated.

He had upgraded abilities to their highest levels before, such as the Super Elimination Technique, Soul Refining Technique, and Scorching Flame Technique, but none of them had ever been explained profoundly like this.

This gave Ye Zhongming a sense of solemnity and legacy.

Of course, what was most shocking were the implications hidden within these words.

What did it mean that all items were combinations and reflections of materials? What did it mean that all materials in his hands could have infinite possibilities?

Was the "gift from the heavens" referring to the meaning behind these two sentences?

If he understood correctly, did this imply two hidden abilities? One was the ability to analyze any piece of equipment's structure and material composition, and the other, even more extraordinary, was the ability to create various pieces of equipment without blueprints, using only existing materials.

Just thinking about it made Ye Zhongming excited.

Perhaps this was the highest realm of craftsmanship.

He quickly took out Wind and Lightning and examined them carefully, even using his mental energy.

He felt something but couldn't discern anything specific. Eventually, Ye Zhongming felt a wave of dizziness and had to put the blades down.

He hadn't been able to see the structure or material composition, and his mental energy was significantly drained.

What was going on?

Ye Zhongming pondered. Could it be because this equipment belonged to the Blue Secret Realm?

After putting away Wind and Lightning, he took out the Energy Crystal Gun and examined it closely. Again, he felt a vague sensation, as if the weapon were decomposing, but he still couldn't see anything specific, and his mental energy continued to drain rapidly.

Was it not about the origin of the equipment? Was it because the level was too high?

Ye Zhongming didn't bother with gold or blue-grade equipment. Instead, he took out the lowest-grade grey equipment, calmed his mind, and focused on it.

The effect was better this time. Ye Zhongming could vaguely sense a familiar aura. He awkwardly compared it to the numerous materials in his memory and finally identified one, but the image forming in his mind suddenly shattered.

The dizziness in his head was more intense than before, and when Ye Zhongming reached up to touch his nose, he found a trickle of blood.

The lower-grade equipment had shown some effect, but he had ultimately failed.

After resting for a while, Ye Zhongming revisited the passage, paying attention to phrases such as "when you have accumulated rich experience" and "when you have crafted glorious equipment in your hands."

Was this a hint that this ability also required extensive practice and the creation of more equipment to understand more materials before it could be fully utilized?

Since Ye Zhongming couldn't yet discern the composition of the equipment, he took out several materials he was very familiar with and placed them in front of him. He wanted to see if he could create "true" equipment without relying on blueprints, using only his crafting skills.

He phrased it this way because the equipment he had previously crafted relied on Strengthening and Enchanting, which didn't fully utilize the potential of the materials.

For example, the equipment he had made using Ghost Metal and Ocean Drill Gold didn't come close to reaching the upper limits of what these materials could achieve.

After staring at them without any new insights, Ye Zhongming decided to try it.

He examined the materials again, decided what kind of equipment he wanted to create, and then began the process, using his previous experience in crafting equipment and his forging skills.

At first, things went smoothly. The materials transformed as he envisioned, even beginning to take shape.

But at a certain point, the energy became chaotic, the crafting failed, and the materials were completely destroyed.

Undeterred by the failure, Ye Zhongming continued experimenting. Each time, he used the same materials he was most familiar with, and each time, he tried to create the same type of equipment, constantly tweaking the process to correct possible mistakes.

Yet, he continued to fail repeatedly.

Given Ye Zhongming's usual success rate, he couldn't fail so many times in a row. This could only mean he hadn't mastered creating equipment solely from materials without blueprints.

Ye Zhongming felt deeply frustrated.

It was like a starving person staring at a delicious cake but unable to open the packaging.

By the time he had exhausted all the materials, Ye Zhongming had no choice but to admit defeat.

As he calmed down, he realized that he had already consumed more than half of his mental energy in such a short time!

Ye Zhongming wouldn't expend this much mental energy even in a high-intensity battle unless he used equipment like the Soul-Shattering Bone Staff!

It seemed that these abilities, which weren't written down and could only be gradually understood through practice, came with a heavy cost.

Ye Zhongming began repairing the golden shields after resting for some time.

With Restoration Technique, as soon as he held the shields, he could sense where the damage was and what materials were needed to fix it.

This clarity was something he hadn't experienced before.

Ye Zhongming took out some Ghost Metal and a few other materials and slowly began the repair process.

A faint glow enveloped the equipment as one material after another fused into it. The cracks on the Door God Shields were the first to be repaired, and the images of the door gods gradually stopped cracking.

Ye Zhongming knew the repair was nearing completion.

Perhaps because it was gold-grade equipment, the materials required for the repair were precious, the mental energy demand was high, and even the required demon crystal energy was substantial. Five seven-star demon crystals had been consumed in a short repair process.

Just before completing the repair, Ye Zhongming suddenly had an idea. Whether it was an inspiration or a feeling from the Restoration Technique, he thought he could freely enhance the power of the two door gods that could be summoned from these shields.

He opened the special container and picked out one life egg.

After looking at the shields, Ye Zhongming gritted his teeth and took out a second life egg.

He slowly enveloped the two life eggs in his mental energy and attempted to integrate them into the equipment.

Things went smoothly at first. The two life eggs quickly transformed into dense energy and entered the shields. But before Ye Zhongming could celebrate, he felt his mental energy draining like a burst dam, pouring into the shields. At the same time, the demon crystal consumption, which had stopped, resumed at an alarming rate!

Enduring the sensation of being drained like a vampire sucking blood from an artery, Ye Zhongming continued to pull out seven-star demon crystals to meet the equipment's energy demands, his eyes red with determination.

One, five, ten... In just a short time, over thirty-seven-star demon crystals had been consumed. Ye Zhongming had run out of seven-star crystals and had to resort to six-star ones.

The lower-level crystals were consumed even faster, with each six-star crystal lasting no more than two seconds before turning to dust.

Ye Zhongming cursed inwardly. If this failed, the losses would be enormous!

The golden equipment became extremely unstable as the energy poured into the shields. Ye Zhongming struggled to maintain control. Suddenly, the shields jerked violently, and Ye Zhongming lost his grip. The energy in his hands exploded with a loud bang, leveling the entire building to the ground instantly!

Chapter 1434: Purple equipment set

The accommodations provided by Thousand Beast Villa for Ye Zhongming and the female guards were quite luxurious, located in the core area of the villa. The explosion leveled the building they were in and caused significant damage to the surrounding structures. Windows shattered, and walls cracked with fist-sized gaps, teetering on the verge of collapse.

This was despite some evolved noticing the anomaly and deploying defensive abilities to shield the buildings from the worst of the blast.

People from nearby rushed over to see what had happened, while the Thousand Beast Villa's warriors, already on edge, scrambled to set up defensive positions.

The high-ranking members of Beast Villa, who had been in a meeting, rushed to the scene. The Spotted Giant Bear, which had just gained a powerful new skill, let out its loudest roar yet.

The other factions that hadn't left gathered after ensuring the area was safe.

However, the first thing everyone saw upon reaching the explosion's epicenter was Xia Bai floating in the air, the female guards looking disheveled but excited, and Jiu Bao, half-buried in the ground but still towering several stories high.

Then, they saw the two shields floating in the air, and above them, the massive, ten-meter-tall spectral figures of the Door Gods!

"It's those golden shields!"

At a glance, Deacon Water recognized the equipment that had caused her so much trouble before. But her eyes widened in disbelief, her heart filled with shock.

Because now, these shields were emitting a soft purple glow.

Previously, these shields had been gold grade. How had they turned purple?

Deacon Water wasn't ignorant of the answer; she simply didn't want to believe it.

The top ten weapons in the country rankings were all of purple grade, but those were mostly obtained from the wheel. Only Ye Zhongming's Earth Sand Moon Blade was crafted by an evolved, and the days of Cloud Peak dominating the rankings were over.

Moreover, everyone now knew that the Earth Sand Moon Blade was a blueprint item, with key materials provided by Five Ring Money. Given Ye Zhongming's exceptional craftsmanship, it was somewhat acceptable that he had created it.

But what was going on now? These shields were originally gold grade. How had they turned purple? Did Ye Zhongming just repair the equipment and upgrade it in the process?

This was... too incredible.

Purple-grade equipment was second only to seven-colored grade. It might become the mainstream equipment for eight-star or even nine-star evolved, given how rare seven-colored equipment was and how nearly impossible it was to craft. Yet, Ye Zhongming had just produced two purple-grade items, which were a set!

Deacon Water wasn't the only one feeling this way. Everyone who witnessed this scene was equally stunned.

Each person gazed greedily at the pair of purple shields, their desire to claim them almost uncontrollable.

A purple grade set!

This was the ultimate dream of every evolved in the post-apocalyptic world.

If there was anyone more shocked than Deacon Water, it was Li Daqian.

Because he sensed a familiar energy emanating from the shields—it was the energy of the life eggs.

Though not fully mature, the six eggs traded to Ye Zhongming shared the same energy frequency as the two mature eggs. Having cultivated the eggs for some time, Li Daqian was very familiar with their energy.

He couldn't fathom that Ye Zhongming had used the eggs instead of taking them back to Cloud Peak for Liu Zhenghong.

He... used them?!

Li Daqian desperately wanted to ask Ye Zhongming, how could you just use them? Aren't you a craftsman? Does crafting equipment require someone else's descendants?

The other factions invited to Thousand Beast Villa didn't have such complex thoughts. They only had one idea: Cloud Peak was too powerful. Their combat strength was formidable, their equipment even more so, and the King of Cloud Peak was practically their idol.

After some deep thought, Ruan Xiao was filled with excitement. He looked at Ye Zhongming as if he were staring at a treasure trove waiting to be unlocked.

"Master Li, we apologize for the incident. We will compensate for the damages. We're sorry for disturbing everyone, but our boss is tired and wishes to rest today. We'll set up our own tents, so everyone... please return."

Ye Zhongming remained seated, seemingly lost in thought, while Xia Bai didn't engage with anyone. Thus, it fell to Xiao Min to address the crowd.

Her words were quite assertive, especially considering they were on Thousand Beast Villa's turf.

However, the terrifying Door Gods were right there, and the aura of someone who could craft purple-grade equipment was undeniable. Even Li Daqian didn't argue and simply led his people away.

The area quieted down, and the female guards quickly set up tents and posted sentries to keep watch for Ye Zhongming through the night.

Ye Zhongming, who had caused such a commotion, was completely unaware of what was happening outside. Even if he had known, he wouldn't have cared.

All his focus was on the shields.

"Traditional Shields (Quantity: 2, Purple grade Set)"

"Ability 1: Ruthless Shield Strike. The user throws the shields to attack, dealing damage equal to 1.2 times the user's maximum strength. When both shields are used simultaneously and hit the same target, the damage from the second shield increases to 1.4 times the user's maximum strength. Cooldown: 10 hours."

"Ability 2: Cold-Faced Protection. The user collides the two shields to create an energy wall that blocks energy-based attacks. The wall's defense is equal to 1.5 times the combined defense of both shields. If the shields are embedded into the energy wall, the defense increases to 3 times the combined defense. Cooldown: 10 hours."

"Ability 3: Indifferent Charge. The user stacks the two shields vertically, doubling the defense of each shield and increasing the user's speed and strength. When the charge hits a target, it creates a massive impact, causing the target to become stunned. Cooldown: 5 hours."

"Ability 4: Door God Summoning. The user can summon two Door Gods to fight alongside them at an appropriate time. The Door Gods possess independent combat abilities. Their attacks deal only physical damage, but their attack and defense power are tied to their equipment, which matches the shield's tier. Cooldown: 300 hours, duration: 1 hour. If the Door Gods take damage, the cooldown increases based on the damage taken. If a Door God is killed, the cooldown increases to 1,000 hours."

"Ability 5: Shared Empowerment. The shields enhance all of the user's defensive skills, including but not limited to bloodline and job abilities, by 30%."

"Ability 6: Heaven Vitality. The shields possess a unique life force. They can automatically repair themselves if damaged as long as their core remains intact. When intact, the shields slowly increase their permanent defense."

"Ability 7: Spirit Separation. When needed, the summoned Door Gods can become the user's permanent guardians, increasing their power by 30% compared to before. However, after losing the Door Gods, the shields' overall abilities are reduced by half."

Chapter 1435: Talisman Gem

"Set Attribute 1: Roaring Defense. When the shields collide, whether through normal collision or skill activation, they emit a sound that enhances the user's abilities, putting them in an excited state and increasing combat effectiveness. The effect lasts for ten minutes, and the skill has no cooldown."

"Set Attribute 2: Shield Dance. When the user holds both shields on either side and activates this skill, they enter a high-speed spinning state, weakening and deflecting incoming attacks. The weakening rate is determined by the percentage difference between the user's evolution level plus the shield's level and the attacker's corresponding levels. The deflection direction is toward the attacker. If the user collides with a target while using Shield Dance, the target will be pulled into the user's orbit, continuously suffering attacks equal to the combined defense of both shields. Duration: two minutes. Cooldown: ten hours."

With this, the full attributes of the Traditional Shields were displayed before Ye Zhongming.

Ye Zhongming was tempted. For a moment, he even considered keeping the shields for himself. However, he quickly regained his composure.

These shields weren't suitable for him, or rather, for any non-defensive evolved. After all, they were dual-wielded equipment, leaving no third hand to hold an offensive weapon.

Of course, exceptions existed for 'freaks' like Guancheng Chun, who had multiple limbs.

Purple-grade equipment naturally had its unique characteristics. Most of its abilities were percentage-based, and the distribution between active and passive abilities was well-balanced, with each being highly potent.

For example, the active abilities Ruthless Shield Bash and Indifferent Charge were both offensive skills, while Door God Summoning was a summoning skill with sustained threat. The fact that the Door Gods' equipment matched the shield's tier was particularly enticing. If the shields were purple grade, so were the Door Gods' equipment. Even if limited to physical abilities, they would still be formidable.

As for the passive abilities, Shared Empowerment enhanced the power of other defensive skills, while Heaven Vitality was even more terrifying. It allowed automatic repair and even permanent growth in defense.

Ye Zhongming glanced at the shields' base attributes and remembered the numbers clearly: 7,000 defense points!

Back when the gold Exquisite Floating Ball had 2,000 defense, Ye Zhongming had been utterly shocked. Now, with 7,000 defense points, Ye Zhongming felt that these shields could withstand a full-force strike from the Saint Father himself.

This number would only increase over time. Ye Zhongming wasn't sure how fast the growth would be, but the defense could surpass 10,000 points. These shields had limitless potential.

The set attributes, likely limited to two due to the number of items, were also excellent skills. The first, Roaring Defense, was akin to a berserk potion without side effects. The second, Shield Dance, was both offensive and defensive. When attacking, it dealt 14,000 points of damage. When defending, it not only reduced incoming damage but also deflected attacks back toward the attacker, potentially turning the tables.

The damage reduction mechanic, though seemingly complex, was straightforward. For example, if Ye Zhongming used these shields and was attacked by a seven-star evolved wielding a gold-grade weapon, the damage reduction would be calculated as follows: Ye Zhongming's eight-star level plus the purple grade shield's seven-star level, totaling 15, minus the attacker's seven-star level and gold-tier weapon's six-star level, totaling 13. The result was 2, meaning the attack would be weakened by 20%.

Understanding the equipment's attributes didn't take Ye Zhongming long. What truly occupied his thoughts was the vision that appeared in his mind when he successfully repaired the shields.

It was a scene of dozens of materials being smelted and combined to form the shields.

At Ye Zhongming's evolution level, having a photographic memory was effortless. He remembered every detail of the vision.

Some of the materials were familiar, while others were not. Ghost Metal, which he had just added, was among them. Even a fool would realize this was the shields' recipe and crafting process.

In other words, it was the blueprint.

Ye Zhongming couldn't help but recall the words that appeared when he upgraded Glory Smith to its highest level. Was this the true solution? Could he only obtain the required materials and crafting methods by personally repairing the equipment?

Ye Zhongming took out the damaged Earth Sand Moon Blade. Although this purple-grade weapon had been repaired and was somewhat usable, its power was a shadow of its former self, with a noticeable crack. Ye Zhongming decided to test his theory with this weapon.

He knew the exact recipe for this weapon, so he could compare it with the blueprint to confirm his suspicions.

After activating the Restoration Technique, that miraculous feeling returned, and Ye Zhongming's mind was filled with the materials needed for the repair.

Fortunately, Ye Zhongming had all the required materials on hand. He added Ghost Metal as suggested by Restoration Technique.

After placing all the materials, Ye Zhongming slowly channeled his mental energy to begin repairing the Earth Sand Moon Blade.

Unfortunately, the weapon didn't prompt Ye Zhongming to add a life egg. When he tried to add one himself, the repair process nearly failed due to rejection.

Ye Zhongming soon realized the reason.

The Traditional Shields could accept life eggs because they had the Door God Summoning ability, which allowed for the integration of life energy. However, the Earth Sand Moon Blade was a purely mechanical weapon and couldn't accommodate life energy.

Restoration Technique at the Super Smith level had an extremely high success rate, almost guaranteeing no failures. Soon, the Earth Sand Moon Blade was restored to its former glory, once again a sharp and deadly weapon.

Though Ye Zhongming harbored a small hope that luck would strike and upgrade the Earth Sand Moon Blade to seven colored grade, it remained purple grade, leaving him slightly disappointed.

Upon closer inspection, he noticed a change: the weapon now had two gem sockets.

Previously, Ye Zhongming had Chiseling but lacked Drilling, the ability to create sockets. Now, the Earth Sand Moon Blade had two additional sockets, which was a pleasant surprise. However, he wasn't sure if this was a unique feature of the Restoration Technique or a universal ability of the highest-level crafting job.

Checking his spatial equipment, Ye Zhongming found a gem that wasn't elemental but rather a rune gem.

Rune gems were always mysterious, often traded by evolved who obtained them. They were needed by jobs like formation masters or space evolved, but they could also be used for chiseling. However, the effects were somewhat random due to the lack of understanding of various runes.

Ye Zhongming didn't mind and used Chiseling to embed the rune gem into the weapon.

After a brief surge of energy, Ye Zhongming was stunned to see his weapon turn dull and lifeless!