

## **Apocalypse 1466**

### Chapter 1466: What if Cloud Peak king gets captured

A massive crystal ball in a mysterious base clearly displayed the images of several individuals. Just moments earlier, it had shown a scene that had taken place thousands of miles away.

A battle between evolved of the same level had ended with one side completely crushing the other.

This left the few people communicating through the crystal ball in silence.

"What are everyone's thoughts?"

In front of the crystal ball sat an elderly man with white hair and a beard, his face covered in a fine layer of white fuzz.

Still, no one spoke for a long time.

"This time, the five of us jointly funded the Heavenly Stems and Earth Branches to take action. On the surface, we asked them to kill core members of Cloud Peak, but in reality, it was just a probe of this behemoth."

The old man looked at the people in the crystal ball; his voice was low. "Now that the results are out, why is no one speaking?"

"This isn't a successful test, is it, Uncle Bai? The people you hired were a bit weak."

The image in the lower-left corner of the crystal ball let out a laugh, directing his criticism at the white-haired old man.

The old man wasn't angered. Instead, he raised an eyebrow and looked at the young man. "They attacked the Resistance Zone twice, seizing thirty-two level eight demon crystals. They attacked the Glory Army four times, taking forty-one level-eight demon crystals. They struck the Combined Army, which has been rapidly rising on the national power rankings, just once but directly snatched an eight-star evolution potion. They've also targeted at least ten of the top thirty organizations in the country."

"And yet, they're still alive and well, still roaming freely in the apocalypse. Nephew, do you think your Watcher Squad could achieve the same?"

"That's because no one knows it was them! Otherwise, Ji Ruiguang and Mu Han would never let them go!"

The old man shook his head. "Nephew, avoiding detection by the Resistance Zone and the Glory Army is a skill."

The young man's flippant demeanor disappeared. He sat up straight and stared at the old man on the screen. "Uncle Bai, their skill lies in hiding and running, not fighting. Look at what happened—an eight-star evolved couldn't last more than a few moves against Ye Zhongming. Ye didn't use his bloodline, his job skills, his elemental spirits, his battle beasts, or even break a sweat. What's the point of such a test? And what did we pay for this nonsense test? We each contributed a seven-star evolution potion, five pieces of blue-grade equipment, and three level eight demon crystals! Even with the support of the Queen above, we're still poor, okay?"

His voice grew louder toward the end, and the white-haired old man's face showed clear anger.

But he couldn't deny that the Heavenly Stems and Earth Branches had indeed failed to achieve their goal.

"Alright, you two have such an age gap. Why do you always end up arguing whenever you meet?" Another man spoke up. He was around forty, with a dignified appearance. Even while talking to his closest confidants, he was smoking a cigar, with a woman visible only from the waist up massaging his shoulders.

The edge of the crystal ball displayed a dazzling white.

"Old Bai, we all serve under Queen Pusut. We were forced to act against Cloud Peak due to the Queen's orders, but everyone knows how powerful they are. Now, it seems we still underestimated our opponent. So, I believe you, with your reputation for scheming, must have a backup plan, right? Bring it out now so we can better understand Cloud Peak's strength. Otherwise, a single mistake could cost lives when it's our turn to act."

Another elderly man, aside from Old Bai, tapped his metal cane anxiously.

The old man was pragmatic. He couldn't understand why, with the task of obtaining an item from Cloud Peak being forced upon them by higher-ups, everyone wasn't brainstorming solutions. How could they possibly force the needed item from Cloud Peak?

"Perhaps we can take a different approach."

The final participant spoke up. She was a middle-aged woman with a very ordinary appearance. Even now, she looked no different from an average person, even carrying a rustic charm.

But no one would underestimate this woman. Her Half Sky Sanctuary was the strongest among the five factions and had already entered the top twenty in the country rankings.

Even though everyone had hidden their true strength and didn't care much about country rankings, the fact that her faction had become a major power in the country spoke volumes.

"What approach?"

The anxious old man asked.

"The task only requires us to obtain that item. It doesn't specify how we should do it."

The others frowned. The young man said, "Auntie Lan, are you suggesting we steal it? That's not much different from robbing, is it? Cloud Peak's defenses are too tight."

Auntie Lan shook her head. "I'm just proposing an idea. Whether we rob openly, steal secretly, or negotiate directly with Cloud Peak, as long as we get the item, it's fine."

"Negotiate with Cloud Peak? They'd just kill us," the middle-aged man strongly disagreed. "Besides, even if Cloud Peak agreed to talk, what do we have to offer? What do we possess that they would value? Probably only our most prized items, but are you willing to part with those?"

Auntie Lan looked at him with an expression that said, "You're beyond teaching." She didn't want to elaborate, but since the five of them were in this together, cooperation was essential. So she patiently explained, "Tie Nan, you should play around with women less. Maybe then your brain would have room for more ideas, and you wouldn't be so straightforward and inflexible when considering things."

The middle-aged woman's tone turned cold. Tie Nan, though unhappy, held back his retort.

"Negotiating with Cloud Peak doesn't necessarily mean buying. The bargaining chips don't have to be money or items from our own stock. Perhaps we can use things or people they care about to exchange. For example, that woman named Liang Chuyin, or that battle beast called Yellow Ball, or even Ye Zhongming himself..."

Auntie Lan smiled. "If the King of Cloud Peak were captured, Xia Lei or Liu Zhenghong would probably hand over that item obediently and maybe even countless other benefits."

The others didn't understand, but Auntie Lan, looking at the white-haired old man through the screen, said, "Old Bai, Elder Yang already told you not to hold back. Just bring out your backup plan already."

Old Bai laughed heartily. "Auntie Lan, you really understand me. Alright, I'll make my move."

With that, he pressed a button on the accessory on his wrist, and his smile turned into an inexplicable expression.

He was excited. Perhaps his move would reshape the country scene.

Chapter 1467: alone

"It's been two hours since those Cloud Peak dogs stopped their attack, right?"

A man peered cautiously out the window of an abandoned factory building on a hilltop.

He was an evolved from Guan City, a third-tier city in the southern part of Ying City. Since the attacks began a few days ago by forces led by Shasha's team, this was the first time the Cloud Peak-affiliated evolved had completely halted their assault.

The physical constitution of evolved allowed them to fight for extended periods without rest. For the sake of victory, they had been engaged in continuous combat.

The nature of the battles had constantly shifted from the initial ambush to direct confrontations and then to guerrilla warfare.

Yet, both sides had remained evenly matched.

Under the leadership of several bosses, the various Guan City teams had united. Knowing Cloud Peak's plans from the start, they had not only taught Shasha's team a lesson early on but had even managed to strike back at the real Cloud Peak forces.

Although the final casualty ratio was somewhat lopsided—around a hundred Cloud Peak members were killed while over three hundred of their own were lost—the various teams considered this a major victory, symbolizing the shattering of Cloud Peak's myth of invincibility.

However, the subsequent alliance between Shasha's team and Cloud Peak's forces had made life difficult for them. While they hadn't been wholly routed, they had been forced to abandon their positions one after another, and now they were on the verge of being pushed out of Guan City's territory.

"Yeah, I wonder what's going on."

This abandoned factory building was where the leaders and high-ranking members of Guan City's various teams had gathered to discuss their next moves. However, after their arrival, they first encountered the late arrival of several influential bosses, and then suddenly learned that the Cloud Peak-affiliated forces had stopped their attacks.

Thus, their meeting shifted from discussing battle plans to speculating about Cloud Peak's intentions.

Someone chimed in, sparking a second wave of heated discussion. Everyone believed their own guess and analyses were correct, leading to frequent small-scale arguments.

"Let's not argue among ourselves. Look at what you've become. There are over a hundred people here, all faction bosses. What would your subordinates think if they saw you like this?"

A middle-aged man sitting on a worn-out chair shouted, silencing the room.

This man was the leader of Guan City's "Demobilization Team." Although he had recently come to power, he was highly respected, and one of the strongest evolved in the area, having reached seven stars.

Around him, either standing or sitting, were several other notable figures from Guan City.

The man stood up, glanced outside, and his eyes flickered with uncertainty. He paced around the factory building several times as if considering something or waiting for something.

"Alright, let's discuss what to do next, assuming the Cloud Peak-affiliated forces will continue their attack."

Hearing this from the leader of the Demobilization Team, most people gathered around him, while a few remained where they were, their faces showing clear displeasure.

"Didn't we already go over this earlier? Why are we repeating it? What's the point of going back and forth? I don't think there's any need to keep analyzing this. What's the use? Aren't we still getting beaten like dogs? We said we could talk to Shasha and see what conditions they were offering. If it was suitable, why not join their team? Are we better off maintaining our independence now? Even if we don't agree to join, leaving is still a good option. If this place doesn't want us, plenty of others will. Why fight tooth and nail with them? In the end, won't we just be driven out anyway?"

This group had never wanted to be enemies with Cloud Peak and had even considered joining them. However, they had been "dragged into" the conflict, and whether they liked it or not, they had already attacked Shasha's team and Cloud Peak's forces, making it impossible for them to join Cloud Peak now.

"Instead of being decent people, you'd rather be someone's dog. Are you this filial to your mother, too?"

After hearing their complaints, a hot-tempered team leader became furious and slammed the table, pointing at them and shouting.

Everyone here was a boss-level figure, and no one could tolerate being insulted. The two sides immediately confronted each other, on the verge of coming to blows, and even the intervention of the Demobilization Team's leader and others couldn't calm them down.

After all, they weren't true leaders but had been elected based on strength. There wasn't much difference between them, and no one was willing to be ordered around.

However, at a certain moment, everyone suddenly fell silent and looked down at their feet. The dirty floor of the factory building began to emit light, starting very faintly but growing brighter and brighter.

"Get out of the way! What is this?"

The various bosses scrambled to the sides, afraid that something terrible would happen if they stayed in the mysterious light.

But before they could escape the factory building, the light stopped. Just before it did, four figures appeared in the center of the building.

"Eight stars!"

"Three of them!"

"Who are they?"

Among the four who appeared, three were detected to be eight-star evolved. In the vicinity, only Cloud Peak had such strength.

But these people clearly weren't Ye Zhongming or Xia Bai.

"What's going on?"

"Huh?"

"..."

The four who had suddenly appeared in the middle of the factory building were also confused. This place was completely different from where they had intended to go.

"Ah Chou, what's going on?"

The group leader turned to ask the young man behind him, who wasn't an eight-star evolved.

The young man scratched his head. "I'm Sorry, boss. I messed up. Let me try again."

With that, he again cast light on the ground, but this time, the light expanded to cover the entire factory building. The bosses from Guan City watched in horror as they, along with the three eight-star evolved, disappeared in the light.

The factory building was now empty except for Heaven Chou, who had just performed the spell.

Walking to the window, Heaven Chou looked out at the quiet camp of the Cloud Peak-affiliated forces in the distance and smiled.

"Good luck, Boss Heaven Zi and the others. And good luck to the King of Cloud Peak."

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At the same time, Ye Zhongming, who had just finished looting Heaven Yi's body, suddenly felt a strong surge of energy around him. His speed was already extremely fast, but he couldn't escape the range of this energy. He could only watch as mysterious glowing symbols appeared on the ground, and then over a hundred people materialized around him.

Everyone was stunned when they saw him. But upon realizing that they outnumbered him and had three eight-star evolved among them, their expressions shifted to greed and murderous intent.

The King of Cloud Peak... alone?

Chapter 1468: Who says I am alone

Everything was actually a coincidence.

The five organizations that had planned all of this never expected Cloud Peak to find Liang Chuyin so quickly, nor did they anticipate that Ye Zhongming would personally intervene and kill the eight-star assassin from the Heavenly Stems and Earth Branches as easily as if he were killing his own son.

The probing plan had failed.

But who could have guessed that the spies they had planted would come into play now?

Thus, an operation to probe Cloud Peak turned into an attempt to assassinate the King of Cloud Peak.

When Ye Zhongming stood with Red Hair by his side, Xia Bai behind him, a vicious dragon flying in the sky, and Yellow Ball lying at his feet, surrounded by the core members of Cloud Peak and over a hundred thousand warriors, no one dared to challenge this young man who was not yet thirty.

But what if none of these people were around, and only the King of Cloud Peak stood alone?

An eight-star terror, if faced with only a hundred or so evolved, none of whom were of the same level, these people would kneel and submit at his feet.

But now, with three people of the same level present, could they attempt to kill this king?

Killing him would surely cause a sensation across the entire nation. Would Cloud Peak be thrown into chaos, or even split and collapse? Could they be the first to set foot in the legendary Cloud Peak Mountain Villa, rumored to be filled with countless treasures?

Greed, amplified countless times by the apocalypse, becomes uncontrollable at certain moments.

After the initial shock, fear, and myriad of thoughts, the three members of the Heavenly Stems and Earth Branches calmed down, their killing intent now barely concealed.

This was no longer the peaceful era before the apocalypse. Back then, people had to hide in the shadows like rats and cockroaches, afraid of being exposed to the light. But now, they had the right to stand in the sunlight, even if their actions were even more despicable than before.

They wanted attention, admiration, worship, and power. They wanted to control life and death through commands, not daggers.

Heaven Chou had clearly betrayed them, but Heaven Zi and the others realized that things might not be so bad... as long as they killed the King of Cloud Peak.

Through exchanged glances, many things were communicated and confirmed. Even those in the room who had previously leaned towards Cloud Peak reached a consensus with these people.

Kill Ye Zhongming!

The hundreds or so people around them slowly spread out, not to let Ye Zhongming escape but to prepare for the attack, forming as complete a formation as possible based on each person's job and abilities.

Two of the three Heavenly Stems and Earth Branches members stood still while the other stepped back. They needed to maintain pressure on Ye Zhongming to keep him from acting rashly.

Once everyone was in position, the hundred or so people visibly relaxed.

They were truly afraid that Ye Zhongming would break through while they were still getting into position. If that happened, those in the direction of the breakout would suffer heavy casualties.

Everyone wanted the fame and benefits of killing Ye Zhongming, but no one wanted to pave the way for others.

"Mr. Ye, have you always been this confident?"

Heaven Jia, seeing that these people were at least somewhat coordinated and that no one was leaving or hesitant, felt more at ease and relaxed.

"Perhaps he is just that confident." Heaven Zi, seeing Ye Zhongming calmly look around at the people surrounding him without saying a word, felt a surge of anger.

Even in the apocalypse, there were hierarchies. Undoubtedly, Ye Zhongming was among the top tier. He was a nationally renowned figure, in peacetime; this was similar to ranking in the top five on the wealth list, with a vast enterprise and many employees.

Even if his personal assets were the same as Ye Zhongming's, he was still an invisible tycoon, his overall strength and status vastly inferior.

Ye Zhongming's calmness and indifference struck a nerve with Heaven Zi, hitting this top assassin's pride.

"You'll find out soon enough. What surprises me is your confidence. Are you so sure that you can kill or capture me today?"

The King of Cloud Peak spoke, his tone filled with disdain.

"Confidence will be known once we try." Heaven Zi's hands lit up. The metal spikes on his gloves extended about ten centimeters, turning them into terrifying claws.

"You're right; we'll know once we try."

With Ye Zhongming's words, the atmosphere immediately became tense. Everyone's heart was in their throats. Even eight-star evolved like Heaven Jia and Heaven Zi were facing a super-strong opponent of Ye Zhongming's caliber for the first time.

Big words were easy to say, but their hearts were still uneasy when it came to actual combat.

No one thought the King of Cloud Peak was a mere figurehead.

"I may be alone, but that doesn't mean I don't have help." Ye Zhongming suddenly chuckled, taking out the Demon Nurturing Bee Hive. Two ice birds that had evolved to level seven immediately displayed their massive forms in mid-air, letting out piercing screeches as soon as they appeared.

The appearance of two seven-star mutant creatures made the anti-Cloud Peak forces tense up. Who could have expected that without Yellow Ball or Yangos, Ye Zhongming still had such high-level battle beasts?

Apart from the three eight-star evolved from the Heavenly Stems and Earth Branches, this was the highest level among the rest.

"Not done yet." Ye Zhongming smiled maliciously, faint black patterns appearing on his face as his bloodline was activated. With a wave of his hand, a tall lightning sand monster materialized, electricity crackling around the horns on its head.

Then, the Wind and Lightning in his hand disappeared, replaced by a gray, seemingly decaying long blade.

The Undead Sand Moon Blade.

Seeing Ye Zhongming summon three helpers instantly, the people around him felt extremely frustrated. This undoubtedly made killing or capturing Ye Zhongming much more difficult.

It seemed this person in the top five of the country ranking was indeed super-strong, his combat will and methods far beyond those of ordinary evolved.

Heaven Jia had already drawn two arm blades from behind, stacking them on his arms. He glanced at Heaven Zi, and the two nodded slightly, launching their attack together.

"Don't rush, there's more." Ye Zhongming leaped back lightly, one hand holding an ancient, beautiful metal disk with dozens of small light beams, each containing a lifelike wooden puppet.

As the array disk appeared, Ye Zhongming gave it a slight shake, and the small wooden puppets fell to the ground, growing in the wind to become robust wooden puppet warriors.

These puppet warriors were not arranged randomly but formed a strange formation.

The Ruins Formation Disk's Charge Formation was activated.

Chapter 1469: Hell lifeform

The current Ruins Formation Disk was not the same as the previous one.

In the past, the formation disk could only drive a few basic battle formations, each requiring thirty to forty wooden puppets. Ye Zhongming was not satisfied with the combat power of the puppet warriors, and the types of battle formations were limited, with each having a single function, making their usage quite restrictive.

For example, the Charge Formation was purely offensive, the Defense Formation was purely defensive, the Swallow Formation was useful in chaotic battles, and the Flying Formation was a mobile, flowing formation.

This meant that Ye Zhongming had to choose the appropriate formation based on the situation during combat. However, many situations couldn't be judged immediately. The opponent might defend first and then attack, flee, and then return to fight or engage in a direct confrontation, leading to a stalemate and chaotic battle. Should he choose the Charge Formation or the Swallow Formation in such cases?

The battlefield is ever-changing, and no single formation can handle all scenarios.

Moreover, each formation had specific requirements for the puppet warriors. For every battle formation, a separate set of puppet warriors was needed. Since Ye Zhongming had left the Puppet Ruins

of the Bright Water Realm, he could no longer acquire these puppet warriors. He had to use Strengthen to make them stronger, further reducing their numbers. Eventually, he couldn't meet the requirements for all formations, which further limited the use of the formation disk.

As a result, Ye Zhongming didn't use the formation disk for a long time after obtaining it. He had too many other abilities and equipment at his disposal, most of which were more practical than the Ruins Formation Disk.

However, after evolving into a top-tier Smith and gaining the ability to design and create his own equipment, Ye Zhongming dedicated time to studying the Ruins Formation Disk and the puppet warriors. After numerous experiments, and even destroying dozens of puppet warriors and causing the array disk to crack twice, he successfully modified the equipment.

After the modification, the Ruins Formation Disk now only had two formations: the Charge Formation, which was primarily offensive but also adaptable to battlefield changes, and the Defense Formation, which focused on defense without engaging in offensive charges yet could handle chaotic battles and mobility.

Now, Ye Zhongming was using the offensive Charge Formation.

To be honest, the forces' leaders around Ying City weren't even on Ye Zhongming's radar. Since the puppet warriors now only needed to meet the requirements of two formations, their numbers were sufficient. After keeping some in reserve, Ye Zhongming enhanced and modified the rest. The current puppet warriors had individual combat power exceeding that of a five-star evolved, approaching six-star level. The Charge Formation required fifty puppets, while the Defense Formation required seventy. When combined, these formations were extremely dangerous even for Cloud Peak's core members, making them more than enough to deal with these enemies.

From facing over a hundred enemies with a minimum evolution level of five stars and an average of six stars alone, Ye Zhongming now had over fifty helpers, significantly closing the numerical gap before the battle even began.

Although Heaven Zi and Heaven Jia were the first to attack, Ye Zhongming forced them to act.

The puppet warriors had already engaged the Guan City evolved at the front, and the sudden change in the situation left many of them flustered.

Human psychology is peculiar. When people felt confident, they were resolute, believing their choices are absolutely correct and unchangeable. However, once the situation shifts, they quickly transition from confidence to hesitation, completely forgetting their previous determination.

This shift can happen in an instant.

Especially for those who were previously indecisive, they began to change their minds. Knowing that aligning with Cloud Peak was no longer possible, they wondered if escape was an option.

"Let's fight! Do you think Ye Zhongming was just looking around earlier? He was memorizing our faces!"

The seven-star evolved from the Demobilized Team shouted, leading the charge and engaging the puppet warriors. His words were meant to make those who wanted to flee realize that they could escape temporarily, but not forever. Cloud Peak would not let them go.

The only way to ensure their safety was to kill Ye Zhongming.

The wavering morale stabilized somewhat. Seeing no other choice, the evolved, hardened by the apocalypse, launched a frenzied attack on the puppet warriors.

As for Ye Zhongming, that was a matter for the three eight-star evolved.

"You're thinking too simply," Ye Zhongming muttered to himself after clashing with Heaven Zi and Heaven Jia using the Undead Sand Moon Blade, gaining a preliminary understanding of their attacks. Noticing the situation behind him, he added, "It's not that easy."

The gray blade emitted a faint light, causing the two assassins to become more cautious. They circled Ye Zhongming, constantly moving, looking for opportunities while preparing to dodge any incoming attacks.

Ye Zhongming swung his blade, delivering three strikes.

The first was a job skill, the Thousand Seal Slash; only a dozen blade shadows appeared, indicating he was holding back. The other two were full-powered ordinary attacks.

For other evolved, such attacks would be terrifying.

However, Heaven Zi and Heaven Jia both had assassin or agility-type jobs. Speed was their forte, and with no restraints or obstacles, they easily dodged Ye Zhongming's telegraphed attacks.

This King of Cloud Peak didn't seem all that impressive!

Both leaders of the Heavenly Stems and Earth Branches had the same thought.

Evolved who had come this far had extensive combat experience, especially the two assassins. They knew the value of such experience in battle. Yet, Ye Zhongming seemed to be relying solely on brute force.

Could it be that the King of Cloud Peak was all reputation and no substance, merely a smith who had gathered people around him due to his job? Was he just a high-level evolved with good equipment?

But soon, the strange phenomenon answered their question.

The three missed strikes landed on the ground, leaving deep marks. Light emanated from these marks, and to the astonishment of many, undead creatures began to emerge from them.

What is this?!

Expressions of disbelief appeared on everyone's faces. They had never heard of a weapon's strikes being used to summon allies!

And let's not forget, Ye Zhongming had activated his bloodline. With his attacks, random dark creatures would appear. Just before him, a black hole suddenly opened, and a fat giant clad in dark red armor stepped out, wielding two massive bone-mounted swords. Its round body, as thick as a truck, was

crisscrossed with more than a dozen flaming chains, each spewing scorching hellfire. When the fire touched the bone blades, they turned into flaming swords.

The appearance of this green-faced, fanged, hellish creature stunned everyone, as its aura was overwhelmingly terrifying!

Level eight!

Many inwardly groaned at the realization.

Chapter 1470: True target

This time, it wasn't just the people surrounding Ye Zhongming who were shocked—even Ye Zhongming himself was slightly puzzled.

Usually, he had never summoned a hell creature of this level before. Why was his luck so good today?

But this was a good thing for Ye Zhongming. He now felt even more confident.

The puppet warriors from the Ruins Formation Disk were enough to hold off most of the Guan City evolved. The constantly emerging undead creatures would inevitably intercept the remaining ones. With the addition of the Lightning Sand Monster and the two ice birds, victory was already within reach.

Ye Zhongming himself only needed to deal with three eight-star evolved. With the help of this level-eight hell creature, it wasn't particularly difficult.

If the people here were allowed to choose again, they would undoubtedly make the exact opposite decision.

As for the Guan City evolved, seeing the "flora and fauna" Ye Zhongming had summoned, their hearts were already trembling. Even the three eight-star assassins from the Heavenly Stems and Earth Branches had snapped out of their earlier thought that the King of Cloud Peak wasn't much of a threat.

Even if this man truly lacked combat experience, just these few summoning abilities and his bloodline were enough to place him among the strongest evolved in the nation.

But no matter what the people present were thinking, the battle was now unavoidable.

A beautiful little star appeared a few meters above Ye Zhongming's head, spinning leisurely. The sky darkened, and the world entered a night-like mode. Under the starry sky, silver star sand drifted and swayed, enveloping the entire battlefield.

The ability of the Star Spirit had been activated. Since the previous time Ye Zhongming used it to complete the mission for the Celestial Race, he had once again entered his full-powered state.

"Movement has slowed."

"Attack speed isn't affected."

"No other damage."

Knowing that a fight to the death was inevitable, many people had already become somewhat numb to Ye Zhongming's constant use of various abilities. They quickly assessed the situation, looking for ways to counter it.

Soon, they figured out the characteristics of the Starry Sky Vision and the associated Star Sand Veil.

However, this couldn't stop Ye Zhongming's overwhelming power in this state.

Under the Starry Sky Vision, everything about Ye Zhongming—his physical attributes, the power of his profession, the strength of his skills, his bloodline, and his summoned creatures—had all increased by 25%.

A full 25% increase! If others knew about this, they would probably be envious.

Why did Cloud Peak's members exclude Ye Zhongming from their private rankings? It was because their leader had too many top-tier abilities and equipment. It would be meaningless if they compared him based on his normal state, as he would undoubtedly use his equipment and abilities in battle. But if they compared him in his fully powered state, Ye Zhongming would be miles ahead of everyone else, making any comparison pointless. That's why they simply ignored him.

In other words, Ye Zhongming ranked first in almost every aspect within Cloud Peak.

Right now, these people only sensed the effects of this state on themselves, but they had no idea of the boost it gave Ye Zhongming.

But they would soon feel it.

Whether it was the puppet warriors, the undead creatures, or even the ice birds, they suddenly became much more powerful. The battle, which had been somewhat balanced, now took a drastic turn. The casualties among the Guan City evolved rapidly increased. If it weren't for the well-organized formation and the clear division of labor between ranged and melee fighters, they might have already collapsed.

Without even looking, Ye Zhongming knew how the other areas of the battle were going. His eyes were pitch black, and he looked at the two assassins, still searching for an opportunity, and smiled. "What's the matter? Still not attacking? Are you waiting for me to kill all your helpers?"

Ye Zhongming's voice wasn't loud, but it was enough for many people nearby to hear.

His words were very direct.

The three assassins from the Heavenly Stems and Earth Branches were the backbone of these Guan City evolved. Because of them, the others decided to attack Ye Zhongming. Similarly, with Ye Zhongming summoning so many creatures, these three needed the Guan City evolved to hold off the King of Cloud Peak's helpers.

But if they didn't act soon, it would undoubtedly make the others dissatisfied, as it would seem like they were sacrificing others' lives.

Heaven Zi and Heaven Jia gritted their teeth. Attacking now was undoubtedly a bit forced. At least up to this point, Ye Zhongming hadn't shown any obvious weaknesses. For assassins, losing the element of surprise already significantly reduced their threat. If they couldn't find a weakness to exploit, it would be like fighting with half their strength gone.

But they had no choice. The hell creature Ye Zhongming had summoned was already heading toward the Guan City evolved, and the pressure they were under could cause them to collapse at any moment. If that happened, they wouldn't just be facing Ye Zhongming alone—they'd also be up against all his summoned creatures.

And group battles were not their forte.

Heaven Jia was the first to attack.

Although he didn't seem to have changed much, he had already activated his bloodline. His bloodline was special—it was called "Star Flash."

This continuous bloodline increased the user's burst power during attacks, with the degree of increase proportional to the evolved's agility.

Heaven Jia had chosen a job and skills that were all related to agility to complement this bloodline. Even his equipment had options that increased his agility.

This gave him speed comparable to an assassin, even though he didn't have an assassin job. Moreover, his attack power was unique—every attack he made now dealt 150% of its normal damage.

Heaven Zi followed closely behind.

He was a full-fledged assassin with the job name "Falcon Plague Assassin."

Ye Zhongming, holding the Undead Sand Moon Blade, didn't retreat. Instead, he actively moved forward to meet them.

At the moment before the collision, Heaven Jia's arm blades suddenly emitted a blinding golden light.

Ye Zhongming instinctively squinted, and in the next moment, he felt a cold breeze rapidly approaching his ear.

He switched to holding the blade with one hand and raised his other hand to block the side of his head.

Clang! Clang!

Three figures clashed and then separated in an instant.

The Undead Sand Moon Blade blocked one of Heaven Jia's arm blades, while the glove on Ye Zhongming's hand blocked Heaven Zi's claw.

But!

Both the arm blades and the claws had more than one attack.

Two more followed almost immediately after the first sounds, though these were much less crisp.

Ye Zhongming retreated while the two assassins began to move to the side, looking for their next opportunity to strike.

Glancing at the faint marks left on his glove, Ye Zhongming was somewhat surprised by Heaven Zi's claw-like glove equipment's level.

It must be gold-grade equipment; otherwise, it wouldn't have left even faint marks on his blue-grade glove, especially with the dual protection of the Black Earth Armor and the Black Halo Shield.

As for the parts of his body that the arm blades and claws had struck, the high defense of his armor had rendered the attacks ineffective.

"Not bad," Ye Zhongming said lightly, which was already high praise for his opponents.

Heaven Zi and Heaven Jia, however, were utterly shocked.

Just moments ago, they had thought that Ye Zhongming was merely relying on good equipment, a strong job, a powerful bloodline, and numerous summoned creatures but lacked combat experience—probably because he was usually too well-protected.

Chapter 1470.5- True target

But after their brief exchange, that notion was shattered entirely.

Although their attacks had landed on Ye Zhongming, his glove blocked one and the other by his armor. It might seem simple, but there was a lot of nuance to it.

Heaven Jia had just activated a skill on his weapon called "Flash." While it wasn't a rare ability, it could catch people off guard, affecting their vision and even causing temporary blindness.

Ye Zhongming had clearly been affected, but instead of panicking, he didn't even flinch. With a hand raise, he blocked Heaven Zi's attack while his blade accurately intercepted the arm blade.

It was as if his vision hadn't been affected—everything was done effortlessly.

Not only that but when the other two weapons struck him, Ye Zhongming's body twisted slightly, causing the assassins' attacks to land on the most heavily armored parts of his chest.

Keep in mind that the two assassins had attacked from different directions. This meant Ye Zhongming had almost instantly completed a significant twist on both sides!

What kind of speed and body coordination would it take to pull that off?!

Moreover, even if Ye Zhongming's equipment was top-notch, both assassins had used skills—one was the burst power from Heaven Jia's bloodline, and the other was Heaven Zi's job skill, "Side Spin Kill," which not only had a tricky angle but also packed a powerful punch.

Yet, they hadn't even broken through his defense? Heaven Zi and Heaven Jia were completely baffled.

In his normal state, Ye Zhongming naturally wouldn't have been able to face two eight-star evolved so easily. But now, with the 25% boost from Starry Sky Vision, he could handle it effortlessly. Additionally, the Black Earth Armor didn't show any visual effects even when damaged, so Heaven Zi and Heaven Jia thought their attacks had no effect.

The Earth Spirit refreshed the Black Earth Armor, and Ye Zhongming began his counterattack.

A bright area appeared amidst the star sand. From a distance, it looked like a spotlight on a dark stage.

Moonlight Field!

One of the skills of the Undead Sand Moon Blade.

As soon as it appeared, this bright area enveloped the two eight-star evolved. Both cried out and quickly retreated.

Because within this bright area, several vengeful spirits had appeared and attached themselves to their bodies!

During the apocalypse, the two didn't believe in ghosts. Even if they existed, they were man-made, just like what was happening now.

But what terrified them was the effect of the vengeful spirits.

The moment they were possessed, they felt their bodies grow heavy and their heads dizzy. They felt sharp pain in the exposed parts of their bodies, such as their heads and arms. Glancing down, they saw small black spots appearing on their skin, which was the source of the pain.

This was a corrosive ability.

"Heh, showing off equipment? I can do that too," Ye Zhongming said as a soft purple light emanated from the Undead Sand Moon Blade.

When it came to equipment, Ye Zhongming wasn't afraid of anyone.

Now that things had started, Ye Zhongming had no intention of stopping. After activating Moonlight Field, his body flickered, and he turned into a whirlwind of blade light, sweeping toward the two opponents whose speed had been affected.

"Earth Zi!"

Heaven Zi roared, and a light fell upon him and Heaven Jia.

"Blessing of the Mountains."

A skill that removed negative status effects and also increased mental strength while reducing cooldown times.

"Forest Walker?!"

Ye Zhongming recognized the job as soon as he saw the skill, which left an inverted question mark-like symbol after being cast.

The Forest Walker was a healing job, particularly skilled at treating injuries and ailments caused by negative energy. Because it was associated with the wood element, it not only had effects on mutated plants but also, at its highest level, could create wooden organs to replace missing body parts of evolved.

Of course, this ability had extremely high requirements, consuming massive mental strength and having an excruciatingly long cooldown.

When Yellow Ball was metalized, Ye Zhongming considered looking for someone with this job to help, but he couldn't find any information about it.

Under the effects of the Blessing of the Mountains, the two assassins recovered from their negative statuses and began to engage Ye Zhongming in close combat.

Neither side could continuously use skills, as they all had cooldowns. The battle grew faster and more intense during the gaps between skills, with all parties engaging in close-quarters combat.

Heaven Jia and Heaven Zi aimed for Ye Zhongming's vital points—his head and neck. Only by targeting these areas could they truly threaten the King of Cloud Peak, as they couldn't break through the defenses elsewhere. If these areas weren't accessible, they targeted joints to disable his movements.

Ye Zhongming, fighting one against two, didn't fall behind at all. He dodged their attacks while simultaneously dealing damage to his opponents.

"Light of Blessing!"

"Spring of the Saints!"

Standing behind them, Earth Zi continuously cast supportive skills on his two companions. There was no other choice—they had discovered that even the slightest scratch from Ye Zhongming's blade would immediately inflict multiple negative statuses. This forced Earth Zi to remain highly focused, constantly applying new skills as soon as the previous ones wore off.

Each skill had its own cooldown, so he had to keep switching abilities. Fortunately, all his skills removed negative statuses, which prevented Heaven Zi and Heaven Jia from being stunned or otherwise incapacitated and instantly killed.

However, using Light of Blessing and Spring of the Saints at this moment was a bit of a waste. These powerful skills could pull evolved back from the brink of death.

Although they were wasting good skills, Heaven Zi and Heaven Jia effectively held Ye Zhongming at bay, which gave them the confidence to keep fighting.

"The distance is about right."

At this moment, Ye Zhongming, still engaged in combat with them, suddenly said something that made the two instinctively feel something was wrong. Their bodies subconsciously moved away.

"Thanks."

The King of Cloud Peak chuckled, and his body suddenly vanished from where he stood.

Heaven Zi and Heaven Jia were stunned momentarily, then suddenly realized what was happening and shouted in unison.

"Earth Zi, watch out below!"