

## **Apocalypse 1571**

Chapter 1571: Red Hair's ultimate move

It turned out that it could not.

The energy gate directly rejected the level nine Snow Wolf King, forcing it to retreat empty-handed. It was useless even when it furiously attacked the energy gates in its rage.

It wasn't until Ye Zhongming emerged from another gate and attacked the other Snow Wolf King that this one finally gave up.

The other Snow Wolf King had initially intended to attack Red Hair, but as it dragged her, still gripping the other end of her spear, closer, it suddenly noticed Ye Zhongming appearing from a nearby energy gate. His gun had transformed into Wind and Thunder, and with a single Thousand Seal Slash, he struck the Snow Wolf King.

At this moment, the effects of gravity became apparent.

The Snow Wolf King was an extremely agile creature. Even highly mobile human evolved like Ye Zhongming, Red Hair, or Xia Bai, would appear clumsy in comparison.

In a real fight, disregarding the difference in strength, speed alone would cause Ye Zhongming's attacks to miss, leaving him completely on the defensive.

But now, with gravity tripled, the Snow Wolf King's agility was severely restricted, turning its phantom-like movements into something traceable.

Yes, gravity affected Ye Zhongming and the others as well—whether it was the Lightning Sand Monster or Red Hair, their movements were hindered. However, the presence of these energy gates allowed Ye Zhongming to strike from optimal positions while minimizing the impact of gravity.

This was an ability that appeared after the Hell Envoy bloodline was upgraded to its highest level—The Gates.

The blade slash landed on the Snow Wolf King's body, and though ice flowers bloomed, they failed to fully block the attack, just like the earlier bullet.

Now, Ye Zhongming's Thousand Seal Slash, enhanced by numerous factors, carried tremendous power. The hundreds of blade shadows merged into one, and with the amplification of the top-tier weapon Wind and Thunder, it left a deep wound on the Snow Wolf King.

The Snow Wolf King abruptly turned and spewed a mist toward Ye Zhongming!

But Ye Zhongming employed his hit-and-run tactic again. After executing his skill, he retreated into the energy gate and vanished again.

The Snow Wolf King roared in frustration but could do nothing.

It had forgotten about one person—Red Hair, the figure clad in red armor and wielding a spear, whom it had dragged close earlier.

As it turned in rage to pursue Ye Zhongming, Red Hair's attack arrived silently.

Her crimson hair began to lengthen, spreading across the battlefield in the blink of an eye. If viewed from above, the red strands rapidly expand outward from Red Hair, covering the entire area like an intricate spiderweb.

And what happened next shocked everyone once more.

She planted her spear in front of her, and her red armor began to disassemble—a process synchronized with the expansion of her hair.

The dismantled armor didn't fall to the ground but instead transformed into clusters of thorny flowers, adhering to Red Hair's body and turning her into a "flower person."

Thorny vines began to grow from Red Hair's body, intertwining with the flowers. The spear also changed, morphing into a thick wooden trunk that soon enveloped Red Hair. Thorny flowers sprouted from its surface, transforming it into a crownless thorn tree!

The next moment, a surge of power from the thorn tree transmitted into the red strands of hair, which instantly turned thorny, becoming sharp, barbed branches.

The thorns were densely packed, each over thirty centimeters long, glinting coldly like metal.

The enraged Snow Wolf Kings noticed Red Hair's terrifying transformation in that brief moment. Both charged toward her, one from the left and the other from the right, slashing at her with their claws.

Though they didn't understand this ability, they sensed its threat.

They used their powerful attack skill—Shadow Strike.

As their claws lashed toward Red Hair, shadows of giant wolves detached and struck the thorn tree first.

The trunk and thorny flowers were sent flying, and dark red liquid oozed from the tree, proving it had been injured.

However, the tree didn't break—even the claw marks weren't very deep.

Then, the main bodies' attacks arrived, their claws and bodies striking the thorn tree again.

This time, the damage was far greater. Originally over three meters in diameter, the tree trunk shook violently, its wounds now over half a meter deep.

The dark red liquid flowed much faster.

Clearly, when the level nine Snow Wolf Kings used their ultimate skill, even Red Hair in this enhanced defensive form couldn't fully withstand it.

The Snow Wolf Kings' bodies descended. Even as level nine lifeforms, they couldn't defy natural laws—in fact, due to the tripled gravity, they fell even faster.

But suddenly, both Snow Wolf Kings twisted midair, flipping onto their backs. Using the momentum, they frantically slashed upward, their shadows weaving into a wall of claw strikes.

The Snow Wolf Kings had unleashed another skill.

Yet their target wasn't Ye Zhongming, who hadn't reappeared, nor was it the injured, transformed Red Hair—it was the countless thorny branches whipping toward them from above!

The spiderweb-like branches lashed downward like a blooming flower suddenly closing its petals.

A sharp crack echoed as the two Snow Wolf Kings crashed heavily to the ground.

The ice flowers on their bodies flickered rapidly, clearly activating full defense. Still, some thorns pierced through, leaving bloody holes in their fur.

The thorn tree trembled violently.

The Snow Wolf Kings' counterattack hadn't been easy to block. The barrage of claw shadows had shredded countless thorns in an instant. While most were stopped, the ice flowers further weakened the remaining ones, leaving only a few to pierce the Snow Wolf Kings.

Their injuries weren't even serious, let alone fatal.

The two Snow Wolf Kings immediately leaped back up.

But Ye Zhongming, who had been absent earlier, reappeared—because one of the Snow Wolf Kings had positioned itself near an energy gate, and Ye Zhongming emerged from it!

A brilliant light suddenly erupted!

Chapter 1572: Pros and cons of twin lives

The Soul Crushing Bone Staff erupted almost against the Snow Wolf King's back with its most dazzling radiance!

Yet this brilliance appeared as abruptly as it vanished. Ye Zhongming grunted and staggered back into the energy gate.

Everything happened too fast for anyone to see what had occurred clearly.

If replayed in slow motion, one would witness rapid clashes between two formidable beings.

Ye Zhongming emerged silently from the energy gate, not stepping forward but using a teleportation ability to appear behind the Snow Wolf King with the Soul Crushing Bone Staff raised. Even in that brief moment, the staff had already begun charging.

By the time it almost touched Snow Wolf King's body, the charge was more than halfway complete. After a slight pause, the blinding light erupted.

In the span of a breath, the King of Cloud Peak had completed his attack.

Against any other creature, this would have been an unavoidable deathblow. No being of the same level could survive a direct hit from the Soul Crushing Bone Staff—especially when all its engravings were fully lit!

But the Snow Wolf King survived—because it was a level nine lifeform.

To maximize the staff's power, Ye Zhongming had paused briefly when closing in. That split-second hesitation gave the level nine creature just enough time to react. Its body, mid-landing, twisted unnaturally forward, avoiding a fatal blow to the head.

The thick beam from the Soul Crushing Bone Staff struck its midsection instead.

A gaping hole appeared in the Snow Wolf King's torso—a complete through-and-through wound. Had its body not been so massive, the beam could have severed it in half.

Or, had Ye Zhongming fully unleashed the staff's power, it might have annihilated the Snow Wolf King outright, level nine or not.

But the Snow Wolf King's reflexes truly showcased the prowess of a peak-tier being. Sensing danger, it lunged forward, then, twisting its body unnaturally, lashed out with its uninjured front paw, striking backward at Ye Zhongming.

It couldn't directly hit Ye Zhongming's body at that angle and distance. Instead, its claws struck the raised Soul Crushing Bone Staff, knocking it off course.

Simultaneously, the other Snow Wolf King appeared beside Ye Zhongming with terrifying speed, slamming a paw into his back.

The dual blows—to both staff and body—cut the attack short.

Ye Zhongming immediately retreated into the energy gate.

The second Snow Wolf King hadn't aimed for his head because, at the last instant, the King of Cloud Peak had arched his back, thrusting his head and arms forward to protect both his vitals and the staff's attack angle.

From Ye Zhongming's perspective, this was the right move. Whether through the Lightning Sand Monster, Red Hair, or his Hell Envoy's Gates, his strategy revolved around controlling the fight's tempo.

He knew all too well that if he let the level nine creatures attack freely, even he and Red Hair together couldn't withstand their assault.

This strike with the Soul Crushing Bone Staff was a calculated gamble—a single decisive blow to kill a level nine enemy. Otherwise, with his depleted mental energy, the battle would inevitably turn against him, risking fatal defeat.

So he refused to abandon the opportunity, taking the hit on his back.

Yet from the Snow Wolf King's perspective, whether its claws struck his head or back mattered little—either could tear a human apart.

The outcome, however, showed Ye Zhongming's defenses withstanding the level nine's strike, though the impact still disrupted the staff's attack.

The Snow Wolf King landed beside its severely wounded counterpart, its eyes burning with fury at the near-severing injury. Throwing back its head, it unleashed a piercing howl that shook the entire ice field. Every creature outside the battlefield trembled in terror, frozen in place.

The injured Snow Wolf King met its companion's gaze and nodded.

The other abruptly stopped howling, jaws widening impossibly before clamping down on its counterpart's tail. In seconds, it swallowed the wounded wolf whole.

As its body convulsed violently, ignoring the remaining thorn lashes, a crimson stain spread across its fur, exactly where its counterpart had been wounded.

The Twin Lives ability was terrifying precisely because it allowed the Snow Wolf King to exist as two fully independent entities temporarily.

The earlier two wolves weren't clones or projections—both possessed complete combat capabilities.

When the Five Ring Money first uncovered this ability, they'd been shocked.

One level nine lifeform was nightmare enough, but a second identical one?

This ability ranked among the most formidable ever documented in mutated creatures.

Yet such power inevitably came with trade-offs. Twin Lives halved the user's defense, and all damage was shared between bodies.

This didn't mean injuries were split evenly during separation—each body bore its own wounds. But upon merging, the accumulated damage combined.

If one body died while separated, the survivor wouldn't perish but would permanently retain halved defenses.

With one now critically wounded, the Snow Wolf King had no choice but to end the ability. Otherwise, its defenses would be permanently crippled.

After merging, the survivor inherited its counterpart's injuries. Though restored defenses lessened the impact, the wounds remained severe.

Since its early evolution days, the Snow Wolf King hadn't suffered such damage. Now, the pain reignited its primal ferocity.

This time, it didn't howl its rage. Instead, head lowered, it panted with guttural growls before suddenly rearing up, front paws slashing frantically at empty air.

It might've seemed like desperate flailing to an observer—there was no target before it.

Yet what happened next terrified the children hiding in the snow pits beyond belief.

Chapter 1573: Explosion

There were numerous gates spread across the ground and even floating in the sky.

Their sheer quantity and wide distribution allowed Ye Zhongming to emerge from the most advantageous positions to launch his attacks.

At a rough estimate, there were at least several dozen of them.

And now, before each of these energy gates, shadowy wolf claws suddenly materialized—identical to the slashing paws of the Snow Wolf King.

One could imagine the visual impact: a massive snow wolf swinging its claws at empty air, while identical phantom strikes mirrored its movements across dozens of other locations.

To the young soldiers, this seemed nearly impossible.

Yet the Snow Wolf King had achieved it.

The current situation was this: though the Lightning Sand Monster had grown stronger with its bloodline upgrade, it still couldn't withstand a direct strike from a level nine lifeform. A single blow had left it grievously wounded, still recovering.

Meanwhile, Red Hair had transformed into a thorn tree to restrain the Snow Wolf King better. The earlier attacks had stripped her of most of her combat capabilities, leaving only scattered thorny branches—now barely a threat to the wolf king.

That left only Ye Zhongming, who had just been struck.

He could emerge from any of the energy gates.

Level nine lifeforms possessed extraordinary intelligence, and the Snow Wolf King was especially cunning. Though wounded by the human assault, it assessed the battlefield with chilling precision and had its own theories about its enemy's abilities.

It recognized that the other combatants posed little immediate threat—or even distraction. Its sole target was Ye Zhongming, who could appear from any gate.

True, it couldn't predict which gate he'd choose. So it adopted a simple solution: it would strike at all of them simultaneously.

It reasoned that Ye Zhongming couldn't remain inside the gates indefinitely—he'd have to emerge soon.

Moreover, the wolf king suspected this human could only sense its position from within the gates, not fully perceive the outside world.

If so, then an indiscriminate attack would flush him out.

The Snow Wolf King was right. Ye Zhongming couldn't linger in the Gates forever—they were, after all, just manifestations of an ability.

He emerged from one gate, positioned at the wolf king's flank—a blind spot.

The instant he appeared, countless claw shadows rained down upon him.

While inside the gate, Ye Zhongming could track the wolf king's general position and orientation, but finer details eluded him.

Thus, the Snow Wolf King's gamble paid off. Its indiscriminate assault had caught him.

Both were apex beings of their respective species, fully immersed in combat. The moment Ye Zhongming appeared under attack, he reacted instantly. Shielded by Black Soil Armor and his own defenses, he vanished again, narrowly evading the follow-up claw strikes.

The Snow Wolf King smirked coldly.

This move had been designed with contingencies. Ideally, it would shred Ye Zhongming the moment he emerged. Failing that, grievous injuries would still leave him at its mercy.

The third possibility—that he'd dodge using an ability—was also accounted for.

And what was the most likely method? The wolf king bet on that short-range teleportation.

The fastest, most convenient escape.

If the human used it... He'd be forced out of the energy gates. Perhaps not far, but the wolf king wouldn't grant him a chance to re-enter.

It noticed a brief cooldown between teleports. That window was all it needed to kill him.

Seeing Ye Zhongming blink away, the Snow Wolf King halted its claw barrage. Instead, it became a blur, materializing before him with jaws distended unnaturally wide—a gaping maw aimed straight for his head.

Twin Lives, Blood Rage, Ice Flower Defense, Shadow Strike, Indiscriminate Claw Barrage, Frost Mist... six innate abilities deployed so far. For a level nine, this wasn't excessive.

Now came a seventh: Earth Swallow.

Its maw expanded dramatically—attack range increased, jaw defense fortified, bite force amplified, speed enhanced, all coupled with terrifying suction.

A single ability offering multiple combat enhancements made Earth Swallow nearly impossible to evade, especially for a human beneath the wolf king's level.

Ye Zhongming couldn't dodge.

His teleportation had a brief cooldown. It wouldn't carry him beyond the attack's range even if available.

Reaction time was negligible—no room for movement, let alone escape.

Two prior strikes from the wolf king had degraded his armor's defenses. He couldn't confidently withstand another level nine killing technique.

Most would now empty their inventory in desperation, scrambling for even a sliver of survival. Ye Zhongming's dimensional space certainly held enough tools for distraction, if not outright threat.

Yet he did none of that. Instead, he retrieved a single item, tossing it almost casually, while standing perfectly still.

The wolf king's gaping jaws descended. From the young soldiers' vantage in the bloodied snow pit, Ye Zhongming appeared swallowed whole.

Xiao Xuan and the others abandoned all orders, leaping from cover to rush to his aid.

"Wait—look!" someone suddenly shouted.

On the ground, the few remaining thorny strands of Red Hair's hair had coiled around one of the wolf king's hind legs, anchoring it fiercely. Simultaneously, two crimson tentacles had lashed around the other.

The combined pull yanked the level nine beast's trajectory askew.

CRACK!

Snapping jaws echoed as Earth Swallow's bite landed—a hair's breadth from Ye Zhongming's nose.

Only then did the King of Cloud Peak retreat at full speed, diving back into an energy gate.

The Snow Wolf King, its vision obstructed by its own distended maw, didn't witness the escape. But it felt it, and fury erupted at another failed kill.

As it twisted midair to deal with the pests clinging to its hind legs, its still-enlarged jaws suddenly convulsed—then exploded.

The detonation sent half the wolf king's muzzle spinning through the air, landing with a wet thud at the young soldiers' frozen feet.

Chapter 1574: Human Bear battle

Just as the battle between Ye Zhongming and the Snow Wolf King reached its climax, the fight between Xia Bai, Yangos, Yellow Ball, and the Man-Bear King on the other side also escalated into its climax.

In terms of individual combat power, the fighters here might be slightly inferior to Ye Zhongming. However, their numbers and the presence of beings like Yangos, Yellow Ball, and the Undead Dragon Fish, who, while not quite at Ye Zhongming's level, weren't far behind, meant their assault had suppressed the Man-Bear King from the very beginning.

If the Snow Wolf King was a creature of agility, then the Man-Bear King was defined by defense and raw strength.

Sometimes, battles between mutated lifeforms were brutally straightforward, especially when both sides had absolute confidence in their physical prowess.

The Man-Bear King was no exception. It didn't believe these level-eight beings posed any real threat to its prideful physique, so its fighting style was direct and bloody.

Aside from dodging Yangos's dragon breath, the Man-Bear King responded to every enemy within its reach with sheer, unrefined violence—its massive paws striking with terrifying force.

Yes, this Man-Bear King simply didn't take these level-eight lifeforms seriously.

But reality quickly taught it a lesson: if it didn't fight with everything it had today, it might very well die here.

Strictly speaking, the Man-Bear King's tactics weren't flawed. It temporarily avoided airborne opponents and prioritized killing Yellow Ball, Nine Treasures, and the female guards on the ground.

It was accustomed to walking upright, and with its massive size, each step, leap, or swing of its forelimbs covered an enormous range. Its first target? The clustered female guards.

After evading the first wave of aerial attacks, the Man-Bear King charged toward the female guards. Though its movements didn't appear fast, its sheer stride length made its speed comparable to a full sprint from other creatures.

With a roar, it swung its enormous paw at the tightly formed ranks of the female guards.

Xia Bai suddenly appeared above the formation, black wings spread, wielding her scythe as she stared down the charging Man-Bear King.

Below her, the hundreds of female guard warriors moved as one.

Several of their battle beasts reared up, emitting multicolored lights that instantly spread across the entire formation.

These lights came in four hues: pale blue, pale red, black, and violet-blue.

The pale blue glow was an ability from a support war beast—Light of Agility—enhancing the speed and skill execution of all within its range.

The pale red was the Power Aura, amplifying the force of all attacks.

The black radiance was Strength of the Titan, increasing raw physical power.

The final violet-blue was Plaguefall, attaching a toxic effect to every skill used within its influence.

Ye Zhongming had acquired these four support-type battle beasts at great cost from the Five Ring Money and Cannibal Chain, then specially trained at the Thousand Beast Villa. After undergoing baptism by Lan You's energy, they had finally reached combat readiness—and now, they were deployed.

Previously, these young beasts had been too low-level to join missions, requiring protection even during routine outings.

Once the auras were active, the female warriors unsheathed their standardized long blades in unison.

Every member of the female guards carried at least three weapons. First, their personal weapon of choice—each unique and varied. Second, the crystal guns strapped to their backs. It had once been joked that to gauge the current level of Cloud Peak's energy weapons, one only needed to observe the cannons on their walls or the rifles carried by the Scarlet Armor Guard.

This spoke volumes about how cutting-edge their firearms were.

The third weapon? These uniform blue-grade Sand Dance—a second form of the blade, upgraded by Ye Zhongming from green to blue grade.

The blue Sand Dance had only recently been mass-equipped by the female guards.

Many outsiders had wondered why these elite warriors carried long blades they seemingly never used.

Today, the female guards provided the answer.

A strange energy enveloped them as they drew their blades—the passive ability Sandstorm, inherent to the swords.

It enhanced all physical attributes while inflicting continuous damage on any enemy entering its domain.

Hundreds of Sandstorm zones merged, forming a colossal energy field where swirling sands raced around the warriors yet never touched them.

Then, they channeled energy into their blades, causing them to glow brightly before swinging upward, not at Xia Bai, but to concentrate their power.

The slashes merged midair, forming a massive orb of light that rapidly condensed into a dazzling sphere no larger than a ping-pong ball.

This sphere slowly embedded itself into Xia Bai's back.

The entire process was lightning-fast, just as the Man-Bear King's attack arrived.

Xia Bai's wings flared once, her scythe arcing through the air before unleashing a blade beam.

It carried the combined might of hundreds of warriors' strikes, further amplified by Xia Bai's own power.

After releasing the attack, Xia Bai dropped from the sky, her face pale—the exertion had drained her severely.

As Ye Zhongming's personal guard, the spearhead of Cloud Peak's armed forces, and the star unit in outsiders' eyes, how could the female guards not have trump cards?

Their earlier resentment toward Ye Zhongming stemmed precisely from this, despite him and Cloud Peak pouring resources into their growth, he often left them behind during critical moments.

Now, finally given the chance to fight, even against a level-nine lifeform, the female guards were exhilarated.

Chapter 1574.5- Human Bear battle

One of their trump cards was Group Amplification.

The Book of Group Amplification they trained under had cost Ye Zhongming an eight-star evolution potion.

There was no helping it—as the apocalypse progressed, such items became exponentially rarer. What Ye Zhongming acquired was a large-scale amplification book for a thousand users.

By the tenth year of the apocalypse, such equipment was practically priceless. Those who obtained it would never sell—and if they did, the price would likely be a nine-star potion.

That was simply its worth.

Cloud Peak's version granted one amplification at 100 users, two at 300, three at 500, four at 800, and a terrifying five at the full 1,000.

Additionally, the amplification strength increased with numbers: 30% at 100, 50% at 300, 70% at 500, 100% at 800, and an overwhelming 150% at 1,000.

Doubling—and then some—the power of an entire unit was nothing short of terrifying.

After absorbing members rescued by Ye Zhongming from the Soul Merchant and undergoing brutal selection from Cloud Peak's ranks, the female guards now numbered over 500.

All were covered by the amplification book, granting three boosts: the common Attack Amplification, the rare Full-Body Enhancement, and the even rarer All-Skill Amplification—affecting not just the warriors but their battle beasts and equipment skills by 70%.

Moreover, at 500 and 1,000 users, the tome unlocked a collective skill.

At 500, it was Brilliant Blade Radiance—the technique they had just used with Sand Dance, merging their attacks into a condensed energy sphere.

Alternatively, a captain could further amplify it by 10%.

This demanded extreme proficiency—currently, only Ye Zhongming and Xia Bai met the standard among Cloud Peak’s human evolved.

The Man-Bear King faced precisely this—an attack amplified by Xia Bai.

Before its paw could land among the female guards, the blade beam sliced into its chest, shearing through thick fur and sending blood flying.

The Man-Bear King howled, immediately retreating.

The pain was unbearable, the wound deep—it sensed a genuine threat.

Now, it understood: these 500-plus women were not to be trifled with.

Its retreat, however, invited Yellow Ball's leap.

Already enraged by its injuries, the sight of this far smaller, lower-level creature daring to attack sent the Man-Bear King into a frenzy.

Claws and fangs clashed in a brief but vicious melee.

When Yellow Ball landed, over ten wounds marred its body—two deep enough to reveal bone, piercing even its new beast gear.

In return, it had left two gashes on the Man-Bear King.

Yes, mere gashes.

But for a level-eight lifeform to breach the hide of a defense-specialized level-nine with pure physical force? That alone was a staggering feat, far beyond what amplification could account for.

The Man-Bear King's successive setbacks invited the airborne forces' second assault.

The two ice birds wisely provided support, spewing frost mist around the Man-Bear King. At first, the level-nine beast paid it no mind—until the mist began freezing, binding its limbs to the ground.

While it couldn't fully immobilize the creature, the ice severely hampered its mobility, leaving it unable to dodge Yangos and the Undead Dragon Fish's attacks.

Though not fighting recklessly, the malicious dragon was clearly going all out. Beyond its breath, it summoned a fiery meteor from the sky, hurling it downward.

This was its most powerful skill, demanding immense energy. Its sole flaw? The meteor's speed made it easy for agile targets to evade.

But with the ice birds' aid, even the Man-Bear King's desperate dodge couldn't prevent a direct hit.

Yet a cornered level-nine was never to be underestimated. Realizing its earlier underestimation had backfired, the Man-Bear King sought solutions amidst its rage.

Unlike the Snow Wolf King, this creature was inherently volatile—once enraged, it lost all rationality.

Seeing escape impossible, it did the unthinkable: it swatted the meteor mid-descent.

The impact scorched its paw, but the redirected meteor now hurtled toward the ice birds.

Their frantic evasion disrupted the frost mist, granting the Man-Bear King temporary freedom.

But the Undead Dragon Fish's attack arrived.

Compared to the ice birds' area control or Yangos's flashy strikes, the Undead Dragon Fish's assault was eerily silent.

It glided to optimal range and exhaled a cloud of black mist as the Man-Bear King reeled from the meteor.

The mist condensed swiftly, forming a needle-thin spike of darkness.

Amid the chaos, this spike shot toward the Man-Bear King's heart, unnoticed until the last moment.

The beast barely intercepted it with its injured paw.

The black needle pierced in, then vanished.

The Man-Bear King stared at its paw in confusion.

The pain from the meteor's flames and impact... was gone.

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Xiao Xuan and the frontmost Youth Army members stared in disbelief at the severed wolf jaw, nearly as large as they were, its cracked fangs glinting.

This... was from a level-nine lifeform. Just blown off like that?

What had happened? Their leader had been caught in the Snow Wolf King's bite, so how had an explosion occurred? What could possibly maim a level-nine's body so brutally?

A distorted howl snapped them from their daze.

The Snow Wolf King thrashed violently on the ground, attacking anything within reach—Red Hair's thorn tree, the six-tentacled hellspawn that had crawled from the earth, even the energy gates.

This was the desperate, frenzied retaliation of a level-nine lifeform pushed to the brink of death.

Chapter 1575: Death of Ice Wolf King

Red Hair recovered from the state of the thorn tree, looking extremely worse for wear. Her beautiful red battle armor was shattered beyond recognition, covered with deep wounds from which blood continuously flowed.

Yet Red Hair's eyes remained bright. Even though her proud, highly functional long hair had become uneven, when she looked at the level nine Snow Wolf King, it was as if she was gazing at a creature on the verge of death.

The Snow Wolf King was severely injured, its mouth completely blown off, but it was not yet at death's door. It was wounded, gravely so.

What Ye Zhongming had thrown into the Snow Wolf King's mouth was another trump card he had prepared—the Concentrated Magic Crystal Uranium Bomb.

This was a powerful weapon created by Le Dayuan, one that was almost impossible to replicate.

To manufacture such a weapon combining magic crystals and radioactive elements, not only were twenty level-eight magic crystals required, but also a certain amount of radioactive material.

The latter was scarce in the post-apocalyptic world, controlled mainly by the resistance zones. The materials used to make this Concentrated Magic Crystal Uranium Bomb were obtained from Mu Xinfei's father, with some diverted from the previous War Fortress.

As for the bomb's power, neither Le Dayuan nor Ye Zhongming had a clear concept beforehand—they only knew it was extremely powerful, but not exactly how powerful.

Ye Zhongming used it today because the situation was too dire. The pressure from two level nine creatures threatened to wipe out Cloud Peak's high-tier combatants at any moment. These fighters,

painstakingly nurtured by Ye Zhongming, were all potential level nine candidates. Through long companionship and battles, they had become comrades he could entrust with his life.

He didn't want anything to happen to any of them.

So when the Snow Wolf King showed up unannounced today, Ye Zhongming was unprepared, but the moment the battle began, he was truly intent on killing it.

This hurdle had to be crossed sooner or later—might as well be today.

Thus, he spared no expense in using his best resources—the bloodline-enhancing function card and this immensely powerful bomb.

Of course, while these few trump cards seemed simple, they had severely wounded the level nine Snow Wolf King. In reality, it was only possible because Red Hair and he continuously sought opportunities and seized them perfectly.

Even with these tools, the same results might not have been achieved in someone else's hands.

Ye Zhongming reappeared, holding the Harvester Mimicry Shooter, and immediately began firing relentlessly at the heavily injured Wolf King. Blue bullets whistled from the purple-grade weapon, blossoming into sprays of blood on the level nine creature's body.

Ye Zhongming went all out to kill this thing, expending these precious micro-engraved bullets like they were free.

For a moment, he recaptured some of the feeling he'd had as a marksman in his past life.

He'd only dared to dream of wielding a purple-grade weapon and fighting a level nine creature back then.

At that moment, the Human-bear King on the other side roared—a sound filled with anger and pain, clearly injured as well.

Ye Zhongming's gunfire grew even faster, and he began unleashing the weapon's various skills one after another.

Had there been observers from other factions, they might have thought Ye Zhongming was being too hasty.

Currently, Cloud Peak held the upper hand in both battlefields—absolute superiority, especially on his side, where the Snow Wolf King was grievously wounded and seemed nearly incapacitated. There was no need to waste so many precious bullets and skills; he could have sought an opportunity to finish it off conventionally.

But Ye Zhongming didn't do that. As if fearing something, he frantically attacked his opponent with ranged strikes, even as his mental energy was nearly depleted.

Because he knew that level nine creatures were called godlike for a reason—they all possessed an ultimate skill.

These abilities varied wildly. At least half of level nine creatures had passive or supportive ultimate skills.

In his past life, Ye Zhongming had learned about many level nine creatures' ultimate skills—knowledge paid for with countless lives.

He had no prior knowledge of the Snow Wolf King's abilities. The butterfly effect of his rebirth had drastically altered the post-apocalyptic world; most circumstances and creatures were now different from his past life.

He didn't know the Snow Wolf King's ultimate skill. He guessed it might be those ice flowers that could passively or actively defend.

But he wasn't sure.

What he feared was that the ice flowers weren't its ultimate skill. Given his and Red Hair's current state, if the Snow Wolf King's ultimate skill were an offensive ability, they would be defenseless against it!

He had to prevent that.

Yet, what he feared most still happened. The Snow Wolf King, which had been rolling and attempting to attack, suddenly stopped. Its mouthless face was horrifying as it tilted its head slightly, avoiding direct hits to its eyes from Ye Zhongming's bullets. Its gaze was filled with boundless hatred.

"I'll kill you, then slaughter your entire camp."

The words were slurred, but Ye Zhongming heard them clearly.

His expression changed drastically. He teleported once, grabbed Red Hair, and hurled her into the distance, while his own body dodged behind the spherical creature summoned by the bloodline.

This was a shorter distance than retreating into the energy gate again.

The Snow Wolf King raised its head and roared. The sound was distorted without a mouth, but a tremendous power erupted from its body.

The sheer magnitude of this energy seemed to announce to Ye Zhongming: it was activating its ultimate skill.

Chapter 1575.5- Death of Ice Wolf King

"Old Bear, for you!"

The Snow Wolf King suddenly added this, causing Ye Zhongming, who had already taken cover behind the hellish creature and was searching for the nearest energy gate, to peek out.

The Snow Wolf King aged drastically in an instant, its body withering and shrinking into a skeletal, ash-gray wolf.

An intangible energy crossed the battlefield and surged into the Human-bear King's body.

"\*&%...%#@@" Ye Zhongming cursed inwardly.

Judging by the Snow Wolf King's appearance, its ultimate skill seemed to be some form of energy transfer!

One thing was certain: the Snow Wolf King was now on the brink of death without needing Ye Zhongming to finish it off. But with this energy transfer, its body was left with only a level nine demon crystal of value—everything else had become worthless.

An entire Snow Wolf King's body! Conservatively estimated, it was worth several bottles of eight-star evolution potion!

As a top-tier craftsman, how could Ye Zhongming not be furious?

After using its ultimate skill, the Snow Wolf King collapsed weakly to the ground, casting a mocking glance at Ye Zhongming before falling completely silent, dead.

Ye Zhongming was momentarily dazed. He had imagined many outcomes, but not this one.

But he had no time to reflect before the commotion on the other side snapped him back to reality.

The Human-bear King, due to underestimating its opponents and misjudging the female guards' strength, had been forced into a passive position. After swatting away Yangos' powerful meteorite, it was ambushed again by the Undead Dragonfish.

Dark mist needles pierced its already injured and burning paw. It felt no pain for the first two seconds, but the paw began rotting at a visible rate in the next second!

The Human-bear King's earlier cry wasn't just from pain and anger—it was mostly fear.

Losing a primary limb meant losing half its strength!

At least three of its innate abilities could no longer be used.

If its paw could rot, then these creatures had a way to kill it!

It was truly terrified.

Especially after witnessing the Snow Wolf King's death, the Human-bear King's sense of crisis had reached near-breaking levels.

Its first instinct was to flee!

Don't assume level nine creatures don't run. They do have the dignity of top-tier beings—but only when they believed they could kill those who challenged them!

Once they realized they might lose, they didn't share humanity's habit of fighting to the death!

In their minds, nothing was more important than survival. Dignity was just a nice word—when push comes to shove, it means nothing.

If fighting to the death won't bring victory, they won't fight.

The Human-bear King, which had been standing bipedally, dropped to all fours. Even with one paw temporarily disabled, its speed in this form far exceeded its upright posture.

But then, that surge of energy entered its body.

The Human-bear King watched as its rotting paw began healing at an accelerated rate. Simultaneously, its body brimmed with newfound power. This didn't enable further evolution—it didn't even know if evolution was possible at this level—but it knew its strength had significantly increased. Fragments of the Snow Wolf King's memories and... a message surfaced in its mind.

A request to take care of the Snow Wolf tribe.

The Human-bear King promptly dismissed this useless information and stood upright again. The fear it had felt earlier vanished—now, it was certain it could defeat these creatures.

It unleashed the loudest roar of the battle. Its body swelled, its eyes turning blood-red, and its claws grew even sharper.

It activated its passive ability: Human-bear King's Might!

For a short time, its power surged by 20%. Though the effect lasted only about ten minutes, afterward its strength would temporarily drop by 50%.

But now, with part of the Snow Wolf King's energy, the Human-bear King was confident it could annihilate these lives within ten minutes.

Its body shuddered, and a spectral image of itself detached, charging toward Yangos in midair. The speed was staggering—a sprinting bear form that the descending dragon couldn't evade. The spectral bear struck it head-on.

The massive dragon lost balance, tumbling uncontrollably through the air. Blood and scales scattered as it crashed to the ground, skidding over a hundred meters before stopping. Snow sprayed everywhere, revealing the frozen earth beneath—now gouged by a deep trench from Yangos' impact.

In one hit, the tyrannical Yangos of Cloud Peak was severely wounded!

The Human-bear King grinned, pleased with the result. It glanced sideways at the two ice birds attempting to intercept it and swiped a paw at them.

A gigantic paw-shaped shadow arced through the air, too fast for the birds to dodge. They followed the dragon's fate, smashed from the sky and into the ground. Their defenses and weight far inferior to Yangos', they crashed into a small hillside before stopping.

Simultaneously, the Human-bear King stomped the ground. Countless snowflakes erupted beneath the female guards' feet—once soft, now transformed into bullet-like projectiles. The unprepared formation was instantly thrown into chaos. Over five hundred fighters and nearly as many battle beasts were sent sprawling by this terrifying AoE skill, casualties unknown!

Ye Zhongming, who had just arrived, saw this and his eyes turned red with fury. He raised the Harvester Mimicry Shooter, deployed the Explosive Mechanic, and tossed out the Staff of Nature. The first two targeted the Human-bear King, while the latter activated Water Bottle Protection, enveloping the female guards. He feared another skill might wipe out his elite guard entirely.

Flames erupted beneath the Human-bear King's feet—an attack from the injured Yellow Ball, trying to relieve the pressure.

Meanwhile, the Undead Dragonfish released another wave of black mist, this time even denser. Instead of forming needles, it shaped itself into a flying creature resembling the Nine-Winged Crow, charging at the Human-bear King.

"I haven't forgotten you." The Human-bear King noticed the attack and spoke. Its fur began melting, liquefying within breaths to coat its entire body like white paint. Eyes, nose, ears, even its magic crystal were sealed—except for the claws on the two additional pairs of paws that sprouted from its ribs and upper hips.

Then, the Human-bear King began spinning. Faster and faster, it moved toward the Undead Dragonfish. As speed built, its mountainous body lifted off the ground as if flying.

The six paws (three pairs) became a whirling blender of death—anything they touched would be shredded.

The Nine-Winged Crow's shadowy form collided with the spinning Human-bear King and dissipated instantly. The Undead Dragonfish, sensing danger, fled higher—but the spinning Human-bear King was faster!

Ye Zhongming's jaw dropped. This, he realized, must be the Human-bear King's ultimate skill!