

## **Apocalypse 1856**

### Chapter 1856: Biggest improvement

The point of breaking the situation was indeed placed on Helsky and Yang Tuo.

However, after the fighting began, the Cloud Peak King's competitive spirit was fully activated.

There were too few, too few beings who could make him act without worries. There was no help for it; the lives Ye Zhongming had encountered, at least up to now, were all very extreme.

Most of the time, he didn't need to exert his full strength to take down. As for the remaining small portion, even exerting his full strength, he was no match.

The latter were mostly those native warriors of the universe's races.

Today, Ye Zhongming finally encountered evenly matched opponents.

No, to be precise, he was at a disadvantage. This disadvantage was not significant, so Ye Zhongming felt he could give it a try.

With this thought, Ye Zhongming felt no burden. Anyway, if he didn't win, it wouldn't affect the previous plan. If he could win, wouldn't that be even better!

So he went all out during the last bit of his bloodline's duration.

It's often said that combat, especially combat on the edge of life and death or at the limits, is what best unleashes human potential and thereby improves strength. Ye Zhongming deeply agreed.

Since coming to the stars, whether it was the rubbish test after suddenly losing his equipment or the novice battlefield of less than two cycles, it was almost a full-load challenge for Ye Zhongming. The slightest carelessness would lead to defeat and death. And the Hawkins couple, bringing their hatred from Earth, pursued him relentlessly, stretching the strings of challenge to their tightest. If Ye Zhongming faltered even slightly, he would be finished.

He had held on now and had even improved. Ye Zhongming wanted to see how much he had improved.

The black shadow now appearing above his head was his greatest improvement.

An improved... no, evolved version of Twin Poison Shadows.

Actually, this ability now had little relation to Twin Poison Shadows. This was thanks to Ye Zhongming's abundant, sea-like mental power, especially after absorbing the energy of the Nether Star Domain people, which had greatly advanced.

At that time, the suddenly bursting huge black shadow became the conduit for Ye Zhongming's escape and even counterattack.

And this one now was the improved form Ye Zhongming had been pondering and developing over this period.

After the black shadow appeared, it immediately descended, enveloping Ye Zhongming within.

Not knowing what this thing was, and coupled with the deep impression the last big black shadow left on the Hawkins couple, they cautiously began to retreat.

Actually, this black shadow was not as huge and terrifying as the last one. This one was more like a shadow of Ye Zhongming enlarged several times. If one had to describe it, the black shadow was just a giant about the height of a six-story building, with a width and thickness of over ten meters.

It was tall and large, but not exaggeratedly large.

Ye Zhongming was inside it, completely invisible from the outside, which gave people great pressure.

Then, they saw this black shadow giant suddenly open its mouth.

This action wasn't very obvious. After all, people below had to look up, and although the black shadow was large, its head was the smallest. Although its features were like Ye Zhongming's, how noticeable could a black mouth opening be?

Everyone only noticed when the mouth was half open.

Before they could react, a roar howled out from the black shadow's mouth!

Instantly, not to mention the Hawkins side, even Jie Kui and the others' expressions changed drastically, enduring dizziness and retreating from the sound source center. Otherwise, they were truly afraid this roar would continue and burst their brains.

This was a mental shock, the most direct, most brutal, indiscriminate mental shock.

On Ye Zhongming's side, only He was slightly better. Her mental power, both in quantity and quality, was quite good, and the distance was relatively farther, making it more bearable for her. The others, Helsky and Yang Tuo, were in good condition themselves; they just felt physically uncomfortable and retreated. Jie Kui staggered and also retreated, carrying Shi Kangbu, who was in the worst state, with low mental power and had been directly roared unconscious by Ye Zhongming.

On the Hawkins side, Wade was still okay, only his nose bleeding. Yaka was slightly bad; she stood dizzy on the spot, instantly losing consciousness, and was dragged backward by Wade.

Aimusi and Hawkins were in poor condition because they were the targets and also the closest. Although they didn't lose consciousness, they felt unable to move their bodies, and their vision and smell were lost at that moment.

After the black shadow finished roaring, it raised its right hand high and smashed it down toward Hawkins.

With a bang, Hawkins was smashed into the sand.

Then the black shadow lifted a foot and kicked Aimusi, who had just recovered some vision.

Roaring, punching, kicking—a series of actions smashed and kicked the Hawkins couple into dizziness.

Actually, the black shadow's movements were somewhat slow, but because of the mental shock, the Hawkins couple had no time to react.

Aimusi crashed into a reef in the distance and stopped. Broken stones flew around, breaking some trees over ten meters away. After falling, she struggled to rise to a half-kneel, shook her dizzy head, and spat a large mouthful of blood onto the ground.

Since merging her ability with the battle armor, she had never suffered such injuries.

That kick's strength was truly too great.

Yes, there were no other additional attributes; it was simply pure great strength.

While spitting blood, she took a chance to look at her battle armor. The kicked part had a large dent, and even small cracks appeared at the very center.

This was almost unimaginable to her. Although this armor had self-repair functions, she had tested it before. Even Hawkins's full-force strike with a skill after activating his bloodline could only leave a tiny mark, though she would suffer some impact.

Could it be that this black shadow's random kick could be stronger than her husband's peak strike?

She raised her head, looking in disbelief at this terrifying black shadow Ye Zhongming had created.

But it was better not to look. They saw it throwing a punch.

"No!"

Aimusi screamed. Her somewhat deformed wings violently beat the ground and then flapped upward. Her whole person charged toward the black shadow like a mad thing. The mechanical long spear in her hand crackled and became much thicker. Some faint mist began to appear on it. As Aimusi's speed increased faster and faster, this mist also became more and more, finally almost enveloping Aimusi within.

At the same time, the punch thrown by the black shadow landed in the large pit it had smashed earlier. There, Hawkins stood up shakily.

He was much worse off than Aimusi.

That kick to Aimusi was just incidental for the black shadow; that earlier punch was the full-force strike.

One could imagine, if that kick to Aimusi already made her spit blood, what kind of attack Hawkins suffered from being punched!

That he could stand up sufficiently proved his strength. It's just that his beautiful golden armor was now full of cracks, and blood covered his entire face.

Hawkins raised his head, looked at the somewhat slowly descending fist in his nine-star eyes, and smiled bitterly. Too many bones in his body were broken; it was already impossible to dodge. Then there was only...

He roared, mustering the deepest strength from his body with his right fist, and met it head-on toward the sky!

Chapter 1857: Deeper hatred

Jie Kui placed down Shi Kangbu, who had slightly regained consciousness, and called to Helsky and Yang Tuo to approach the center of the battlefield together, which was the huge black shadow created by Ye Zhongming.

At their level, they all had a general judgment of the battle's direction. It couldn't be said to be right or wrong, but it was gained through experience from countless life-and-death moments.

This thing was colorless and formless but extremely important.

Under normal circumstances, Jie Kui wouldn't have made this choice, but after seeing this huge black shadow punch Hawkins out of sight and kick the arrogant and domineering Aimusi until she spat blood, he had a guess—perhaps Ye Zhongming's state couldn't last too long, or it must have some obvious weaknesses. Once known, this state could be broken at any time.

In Jie Kui's view, rather than placing the blame for breaking the situation on Helsky and Yang Tuo, it was better to let Ye Zhongming resolve the problem once and for all with this move. What he needed to do was try to prolong Ye Zhongming's state a little longer.

If he could see this, Wade and Yaka could see it too. Now was also a critical moment of life and death. They looked at each other and then together met Jie Kui, Helsky, Yang Tuo, and He head-on—four people.

Jie Kui sneered coldly, and his last trace of worry about victory disappeared.

If it were him, the best choice at this time would be to reinforce Hawkins, block Ye Zhongming's attack, create a breathing space for Hawkins, and create an opportunity for Aimusi to launch an attack.

But doing this would risk being attacked by Ye Zhongming.

The power of that punch and kick just now was clear to everyone—very strong, so strong that they all felt awe. Wade and Yaka's current choice was to prioritize their own safety over the team's. They were bound to lose, given their current situation.

As if confirming Jie Kui's thoughts, the huge black shadow created by Ye Zhongming threw a second punch, heavily smashing toward Hawkins.

Different from the first punch, this punch attracted Hawkins's tit-for-tat resistance.

All his energy, plus the power of his bloodline and skills, and the potential outburst at the critical moment of life and death, made Hawkins himself feel that this was the peak strike of his life.

The power of the God of Faith bloodline allowed Hawkins to exert his strength to the extreme. At this moment, he even comprehended a completely new method.

From Jie Kui, Helsky, He, Yang Tuo, and even Wade, Yaka, and Aimusi, strands of clear and cool energy floated out. The moment they appeared, they moved to Hawkins.

It was a very bizarre feeling. Everyone was clear about it, but everyone also felt it wasn't quite real.

Hawkins rose in resistance to try and fight a way out, but now he discovered that he had found the true essence of his bloodline. Perhaps this was the true face of this so-called top-tier bloodline.

He looked intently at the fist Ye Zhongming was smashing down, confidence beginning to fill his body, despite already being quite injured.

He felt that in this duel, he might not lose—no, he might even win.

Hawkins had already begun to anticipate the scene of Ye Zhongming's black shadow collapsing under his faith-powered punch.

Two fists of vastly different sizes finally collided.

Even Jie Kui, Wade, and others, who had started fighting again, instinctively paused, using their eyes to seek the outcome.

Aimusi, who was already close to the black shadow, was so nervous her heart seemed to stop.

She felt her husband's improvement. That clear and cool energy that appeared from her should be something her husband temporarily comprehended. Perhaps... things wouldn't be as bad as she imagined.

Aimusi thought this, but didn't let herself relax. She mustered her full strength to attack, and the next moment, she crashed into the black shadow.

Aimusi felt a surge of joy because she had found that the black shadow was actually beginning to collapse under her strike.

To be honest, she admitted that Ye Zhongming was strong. Even when it was just the two of them, they had a consensus that this Cloud Peak King's personal strength was a bit stronger than either of them individually.

But it was only a bit. This bit of strength didn't mean victory in combat; it only meant a slightly higher chance of winning. But combat was ever-changing; this tiny difference wasn't very obvious when fighting desperately and could even be ignored.

But the Hawkins couple fought together, which was enough to overwhelm Ye Zhongming. This was the confidence behind their relentless pursuit.

The opponent suddenly created a huge black shadow, seemingly amplifying his power to an extreme, catching the couple off guard. But Aimusi now firmly believed that they would still achieve final victory.

In fact, wasn't this shadow already collapsing? Aimusi didn't believe such a big move would have no side effects. Even using a bloodline had a fatigue period.

The black shadow appeared suddenly and disappeared quickly. Ye Zhongming's figure was revealed inside. As everyone expected, his face was pale, sweat beaded on his forehead, and he even used his left hand to support his right arm, obviously injured in the previous attack.

Aimusi's attack exhausted. She stood on the ground, the mechanical long spear restored to its original form, standing tall, but it was about to end Ye Zhongming's life.

But before she could act, she glanced at her husband... where her husband was.

There was nothing there. Aimusi's heart instantly sank.

"Are you looking for him?" Ye Zhongming's slightly mocking words floated over, his gaze turning to a deep pit nearby.

Aimusi couldn't care to distinguish whether Ye Zhongming's words were true or false, nor could she care to attack this person who had killed her son. She quickly rushed to the edge of the large pit, first stunned, then ferocity emerged on her face, followed by an almost hysterical, piercing scream!

Dead! Her husband was dead!

Right at the bottom of the pit in front of her, the whole person was unrecognizable, turned into a pile of stacked, mangled flesh. It looked... how to say it? It was like observing a person from above: the head, shoulders, and raised fist were all on one plane. Of course, the rest of the body was around this plane, the splattered flesh and blood more like adornments.

This was a cruel picture of a bloody corpse.

When Ye Zhongming finished saying that, his body had already moved backward.

He had won that duel. But Hawkins's final counterattack, breaking through his own potential, had severely fractured Ye Zhongming's right hand, temporarily disabling it. He didn't want to face the soon-to-be mad Aimusi in his current state, nor did he want his team members to encounter her.

In today's battle, he was very satisfied with the team he had formed and didn't want any casualties, even if that could trade for Aimusi's life.

"Go!"

At Ye Zhongming's command, everyone disengaged from the battlefield and retreated backward.

Chapter 1858: Shocking scenes

"The second phase of the trial will end in one hour. All newcomers must immediately stop attacking each other and find an open area nearby to wait for pickup."

"Violators will be executed."

"Ongoing hunts may continue. Newcomers currently in the last one thousand places on the points ranking, please hurry to gain points. After this phase ends, the number of eliminations from the bottom will be one thousand!"

"Newcomers in the top one hundred of the points ranking, please note: if you can maintain your ranking until the end of the second phase, you will receive an additional two percent points reward. Newcomers ranked 101 to 1000, please note: if you can maintain your ranking until the end of the second phase, you will receive an additional one percent points reward."

"Rewards will be distributed in real-time after the end."

Such text appeared on the recorder, reminding every surviving newcomer that the second small cycle of three days was about to end.

Ye Zhongming looked at Aimusi, who was less than a hundred meters away from him, and revealed a cold smile.

After killing Hawkins, he had been running with his team.

This running wasn't really escaping because, without the mechanical speedboat, Ye Zhongming and the others with the Sea King mark were significantly faster in the sea than Aimusi's trio. If Aimusi hadn't gone mad after her husband's death and insisted on chasing Ye Zhongming, anyone else would have given up long ago.

Ye Zhongming had calculated the time. He lit a bonfire on a small island, roasted some hunted prey to eat, and sat there watching Aimusi approach from afar. Then, when she was less than a hundred meters away, she was stopped by the rules displayed on the device.

The Cloud Peak King truly hoped Aimusi would be so blinded by hatred that she would attack him. But this woman, whose son and husband he had killed, only looked at him with that cold, sinister gaze, sitting on the ground and soaked all over, a far cry from her previous high and mighty queen image.

Wade and Yaka sat behind her, also in a sorry state. Hours of full-speed pursuit, even for nine-star evolved individuals, were exhausting.

At the same time, in their hearts, they were truly filled with fear toward the man opposite.

Was it that he really couldn't defeat them? No, Wade and Yaka didn't think so.

The recovery ability of a nine-star evolved individual was quite terrifying. Ye Zhongming was among the best, plus with a Changxu Water Tribe member, they didn't think he lacked combat power now.

Of course, no one wanted to face a mad and highly combat-capable nine-star evolved individual, which they also acknowledged. Presumably, Ye Zhongming felt the same. If it really came to a fight, everyone knew this already mad woman, Aimusi, would not cherish her life. What if she actually managed to trade her life? This should be the apprehension in the hearts of those opposite.

Wade and Yaka looked at Ye Zhongming with complex gazes because this man formed a sharp contrast with Aimusi. He cared more about the safety of his team members, unlike the Hawkins couple, where the relationship was just about benefits.

Yaka stuck her long-handled knife beside her, looked at her ranking on the recorder, and felt very uncomfortable.

Four thousand seven hundred and fifteen.

She didn't think her strength should be like this. She felt that even if she couldn't enter the top fifty, the top hundred was absolutely possible.

Now it had all been delayed.

The thought of leaving rose irresistibly in her heart.

Now this woman, Aimusi, was already mad, her heart full of revenge. Wade also had an inextricable grudge with Ye Zhongming; his brother was killed. But what about herself?

Yaka thought this way. She had no hatred involved, so why should she continue to follow them in this meaningless life-and-death fight? Just because they all belonged to Gold-Silver Island?

This dwarf girl made up her mind: after this cycle ended, she would not follow Aimusi anymore.

Aimusi wouldn't care what others thought. She knew the sole goal of her remaining life was to kill the man in front of her.

She knew she was mad but had not lost reason. She would continue to strengthen herself until she killed this person!

She placed the child's desiccated corpse, which had been on her back, on the ground by her legs, then took out a package. Before she even opened it, others could see the bloodstains seeping through.

Then she stood up and walked directly toward Ye Zhongming. Amid Jie Kui and the others' slightly nervous emotions... she pulled out a burning piece of wood from the bonfire, casually went to the side and chopped down a tree, and within a minute, had made a new bonfire.

"Should I go..."

Wade had meant to say, go see if there was any prey around, the kind with low level and weak strength that could be caught easily. But before he could finish, he discovered in horror that Aimusi had opened that dripping blood package, grabbed those pieces of meat, and directly placed them on the flame.

The bonfire's temperature couldn't harm her armored hand, only burning that mangled flesh.

Ye Zhongming also looked astonished at this soul-shaking scene.

This woman was actually roasting her husband's meat!

Then, without roasting for long— probably only one or two parts cooked—Aimusi pulled back her hand, brought it to her mouth, put those mostly raw pieces of meat into her mouth, and chewed them, one after another. While chewing, she also stared at Ye Zhongming and smiled.

This was a chilling scene.

Could hatred really make someone like this? After the initial shock, Ye Zhongming just watched quietly as Aimusi ate her husband's flesh and blood bit by bit into her stomach.

The pickup aircraft arrived, representing the end of a small cycle and the beginning of a deep-seated hatred.

.....

"Welcome back." Zizi Kaba appeared above the novice camp. Strangely, this time he didn't make these surviving newcomers do other things but had them all look at him first.

"I said I would increase the difficulty for you. You might believe it, but I think if it's just changes in numbers, it doesn't seem to grab your attention. So I thought, having the last one thousand die in front of you should stimulate you, right?"

He smiled, then vigorously grabbed the air with his right hand. One thousand newcomers ranked at the bottom of the points list, who had already been brought back and had regained hope of survival, all with a bang, their bodies directly exploded.

Everyone thought they must have had some devices installed on them when they were picked up; otherwise, this effect wouldn't have happened.

The blood mist from the explosion stained the surrounding newcomers.

"Mmm, good. I like your expressions. Okay, now you have twelve hours of free time. Enjoy it well, because before the next cycle begins, I have to tell you some even worse news."

After saying this, Zizi Kaba disappeared with his detestable aloof attitude.

The second rest cycle had arrived.

## Chapter 1859: Expanding and familiar people

The team entered a rest period, and everyone showed relaxation, yet there was no sense of joy.

Aimusi's threat was one aspect; after all, it was easy to imagine that this woman would persistently haunt Ye Zhongming, seizing any opportunity to avenge her son and husband.

They were not afraid, but the feeling of being watched was not pleasant.

Another reason for their lack of joy was the significant increase in deaths during the second cycle. Aside from the last thousand who were directly eliminated, several thousand more newcomers were permanently buried on this planet.

Ye Zhongming could not understand why so many had died in just three short days. The previous cycle had not seen this many deaths.

The total number had now dropped to just over twenty-five thousand.

The team tried to find some clues on the recorders but returned with nothing.

They felt something must have happened, but could not guess what it was.

"The captain's ranking is twenty-one..." Helsky glanced at Ye Zhongming with amazement, truly impressed by this ranking.

Although his own ranking was over a thousand, he had studied those at the top of the scoreboard somewhat. He knew many were specifically trained by certain forces, with teams large and small serving them. Even among the top ten, there was a small team with powerful, complementary abilities leveraging the rules to skyrocket their scores—something others simply couldn't match for now.

Yet under these circumstances, with enemies in pursuit, Ye Zhongming had nearly broken into the top twenty after two small cycles. This achievement was truly outstanding.

This was due both to his hunting of many powerful creatures and his killing of numerous newcomers.

On the red name ranking list for killing peers, Ye Zhongming had already entered the top fifteen.

Another point Helsky envied was Jie Kui. This guy had been following Ye Zhongming from the start and was now in the top five hundred. If not for being delayed by Aimusi's pursuit for most of a day and not killing any newcomers, his ranking would have been even higher. Even Shi Kangbu, who only started following Ye Zhongming at the beginning of the second cycle, had entered the top one thousand, nearly two hundred places above Helsky.

Of course, He's ranking was also good, around three hundred and seventy or eighty, but that was because she had accumulated more earlier. Moreover, after this cycle ended, her alchemy level would be settled, and her points would increase again, likely pushing her toward around two hundred.

"I'll accompany He first to refine some medicines. The rest of you can move freely, but ensure you get three to four hours of solid rest."

Ye Zhongming gave instructions, planning to stay by He's side to let her refine pills peacefully. Although the newcomer camp was safe from attacks, given what happened during the first cycle's rest, many were already paying attention to He. Bad actors were everywhere, and some would surely intentionally disturb her while she refined medicines, especially those with rankings close to hers.

At the same time, Ye Zhongming also planned to accompany He to the free market beforehand to buy as many materials as possible, enabling her to refine more and better medicines.

"Captain, I have something to discuss with you."

Helsky pulled Ye Zhongming aside but did not avoid the other team members. He said in a low voice, "Captain, although our situation is good now, there are also many hidden worries. Besides Aimusi, there's the highest level of competition and... some people with alternative intentions."

What Helsky said was clear to everyone. Those with "alternative intentions" referred to both the 'hunters' targeting red names and those who saw Ye Zhongming's team's high points and wanted to kill them for easy gains.

As for the highest level of competition, it meant that due to Ye Zhongming's high ranking, he would inevitably attract the attention of top newcomers, who would see the Cloud Peak King and his team as competitors. The forms of competition could vary widely, and no one could predict what they might face.

"Continue," Ye Zhongming urged Helsky to go on.

"My idea is to expand the team's membership, enhance the team's strength, and use the rules to increase our points."

The rules referred to the point bonuses for increasing racial diversity and team size.

Ye Zhongming frowned slightly. He had considered this, but increasing membership came with too many issues: coordination in combat, efficiency of movement, point distribution, loyalty, and more.

If not handled well, it wouldn't bring better returns but would instead hold them back or even lead to accidents.

"I know what you're worried about, Captain. I'm not suggesting we recruit people indiscriminately. I would like to select a small number of reliable individuals to join, all of whom will be under our control. The first one or even two cycles could be considered a trial phase. Let them do the dirty and tough work and prove themselves through practical performance. If they succeed, they become formal members; if not, we dismiss them. If anyone shows ill intentions, we kill them directly, which would also increase your points."

"Do you have targets in mind?"

Ye Zhongming looked at Helsky, feeling this guy probably had something specific in mind.

Helsky nodded. "A few. I need to reach out and talk to them. If it works out, should I bring them for you to meet?"

Ye Zhongming thought for a moment and nodded. Helsky left with Yang Tuo. This guy was really a good assistant.

Jie Kui and Shi Kangbu bid farewell to Ye Zhongming and went to browse the official store and free market. They were injured but planned to treat their wounds just before the third phase began. They would use these few hours to recover naturally, reducing the final point cost.

This was the experience everyone had gained over the two cycles.

Whether Helsky, Yang Tuo, Jie Kui, or Shi Kangbu, Ye Zhongming told them all to set aside one hundred points. The others didn't understand why, but Jie Kui knew it must be because Ye Zhongming was planning to craft equipment for sale again, and he looked delighted.

They went to the free market first to buy the necessary materials, then headed to the Changxu Water Race's tent. It was slightly better than the Star-Eye Clan's, but not by much. At least there were no unpleasant odors. Leaving He inside to craft, Ye Zhongming sat outside the tent.

People around were constantly peeking, but no one came to interfere for the time being, and Ye Zhongming enjoyed the peace.

However, just as He was nearing the end of her crafting, someone came looking. This was expected, but the identity of the visitor surprised Ye Zhongming.

An acquaintance, an Earthling—Ji Ruiguang.

Since the novice battlefield began, Ye Zhongming had not seen anyone from other country regions, given there were over thirty thousand novices.

"Lord Ye, long time no see." Before even getting close, Ji Ruiguang's voice, filled with laughter, reached him first.

Chapter 1860: Cruel start

Ye Zhongming did not really like people calling him Lord Ye; it was a bit rustic and carried too much of a gangster vibe.

People from Cloud Peak called him Boss, Boss Zhong, Zhongming, Brother Ye, or Little Ye. Outsiders mostly called him Boss Ye. Those close to him and of high status called him Zhongming or brother, while those of lower status called him Brother Ye or Brother Zhongming. Those more distant might politely call him Mr. Ye.

There were some who called him Lord Ye, but not many.

For some reason, Ji Ruiguang just liked calling him that.

In the past, the two could be considered enemies. Aside from large-scale conflicts, there were many frictions between Cloud Peak and the resistance zones. Especially after full cooperation with Chief Commander Mu, relations with the other resistance zones reached a freezing point, eventually leading to incidents such as the attack on Cloud Peak and Cloud Peak's counterattack.

However, Ji Ruiguang's later actions left Ye Zhongming puzzled about what this big shot intended. He mediated on behalf of Mu Hanyi, saving people but sending apologies to Cloud Peak. The top brass at Cloud Peak thought for a long time but couldn't figure out his goal.

Was it to reconcile with Cloud Peak? Or a signal of truce? Or did he have some request, using this as a precursor to easing relations?

Regardless, Ye Zhongming and Ji Ruiguang now had a basis for conversation rather than mutual attacks when they met.

Ye Zhongming shook hands with the leader of the resistance zone. It had been so long since he experienced such etiquette that he felt somewhat unaccustomed to it.

Ji Ruiguang was accompanied by a life form, not an Earthling, but a creature covered in blue-green scales, somewhat like a lizardman from games, but without a tail.

The resistance zone leader glanced at the tent behind them and said softly, "Speaking quietly, it shouldn't be a disturbance, right?"

This guy clearly knew which race's camp this was and who was inside.

Ye Zhongming nodded, looked around, saw a few stone stools, and gestured to sit there.

These things were everywhere in the newcomer camp; anyone could make one in a few seconds.

"I'll be direct. We're all from the same country; I think we should cooperate."

"All from the same country"—this phrase had an effect bonus anywhere outside the country, and it was no exception for Ye Zhongming.

"Two things for now: equipment and medicines."

This was not unexpected for Ye Zhongming. After all, the Cloud Peak King was also known as the Equipment King, famous throughout the country zone. Anyone who owned a piece of equipment made by Ye Zhongming personally was envied.

Although Ye Zhongming produced equipment in high volume and quality, the vast majority was consumed by Cloud Peak itself. The rest were prioritized for allies, with very little leaking outside, creating a situation where scarcity drove value.

"It's just the method of transaction I'd like to discuss with you. Can we change the form?"

Ji Ruiguang stated the main reason for his visit today.

If it were just about using points to purchase, anyone could do that; it didn't necessarily require being from the same country zone. Since he brought up this emotional premise, there must be a purpose.

Ye Zhongming gestured for him to continue.

"Points are important. As fellow agents, we both have to consider the interests of the races behind us. Therefore, we can't solely use points to make purchases. I was wondering if we could use alternative methods or approaches instead of points. For example, some things we have, or if you need certain materials, provide a list, and we'll search for them, using these materials to offset part of the value, and so on."

"Of course, there are other ways..."

Ji Ruiguang spoke softly, and as Ye Zhongming listened, he couldn't help but admire this big shot. He truly was once the number one in the country zone; his thinking was extraordinary. Ye Zhongming, who had initially been indifferent, was swayed by his words.

After consideration, the Cloud Peak King also proposed some conditions and his own ideas. The two sat together discussing for over half an hour.

Afterward, Ji Ruiguang left, and Ye Zhongming returned to the tent. Inside, He had already completed her crafting.

"According to your request, this time I mainly refined a large amount of second-turn wound medicine, effective for both internal and external injuries." He first pointed to a large box. Ye Zhongming opened it to find at least three hundred deep red pills. For external injuries, they needed to be crushed into powder for application; for internal injuries, taken orally directly, one pill at a time. The effect, compared to third or fourth-turn medicines, was naturally incomparable, but they had good efficacy for nine-star evolvers, at least equivalent to high-level healing potions produced by the wheel on Earth.

Last time, He had sold quite a few of these, each priced around ten points. To be honest, it was expensive, but the official potions cost twenty points. Although slightly more effective, the efficiency was lower.

Ye Zhongming thought for a moment and took out a hundred pills.

"Five hundred points."

He stated a number and took out fifty more pills for Ye Zhongming. "Consider this the material cost."

The actual cost of these pills was around five points each. Essentially, she was giving them to Ye Zhongming for free, and the extra fifty pills as material cost meant He would incur quite a loss.

However, Ye Zhongming did not refuse; some things were intangible.

Besides this, He had also refined two other types of medicines: one was a third-turn poison with very potent toxicity, and the other was a fourth-turn auxiliary medicine, similar in effect to a stimulant but much more powerful. After consumption, it would increase skill attack power, body defense, reaction ability, and a bit of agility, with no major side effects—just some bodily heat or cold after the thirty-minute effect wore off.

Of these two medicines, there were two small bottles of poison, each about a hundred milliliters, and twelve fourth-turn stimulants.

"One fourth-turn stimulant for each team member, consider it my greeting gift. The rest are for you, for fifty points."

He still gave Ye Zhongming a loss-making price.

Ye Zhongming still did not refuse.

Afterward, He stayed to rest. Ye Zhongming, according to the prior agreement, found Jie Kui, Yang Tuo, and others, retrieved the materials they had purchased as he requested, combined them with those he bought himself, and returned to He's tent to begin crafting.

This time, he planned to refine some more advanced weapons and equipment.

After the intense second small cycle, Ye Zhongming found that many people needed to replenish their equipment, especially weapons and armor for key areas. He focused on these two aspects and began manufacturing with concentration.

Time passed bit by bit. When there was only one hour left before the third cycle began, Ji Ruiguang's figure appeared outside the tent again. Along with He, Jie Kui, and Shi Kangbu, who had already returned, they waited for Ye Zhongming.

"Come in," Ye Zhongming's voice came from inside. These people entered the tent together and were immediately taken aback by the scene inside.