

## Apocalypse 1926

### Chapter 1926: Prize (4)

"Third, ownership of a shop of specified size in the largest city's commercial center on the Survivor Fortress where that race resides."

"Fourth, an agricultural land of specified size on the Survivor Fortress where the race resides."

Ye Zhongming thought to himself, 'Oh ho,' if handled well, these might be even more valuable than ten thousand Moonspan Gold. Moonspan Gold decreases with use, but these two rewards—one shop and one piece of land—could provide continuous financial support.

From this point, it seemed the cosmic races treated the number one race quite well.

"Fifth, you can choose an expert and undergo special training under their command for a period of thirty cosmic days."

Huh?

This reward... Ye Zhongming's first feeling wasn't happiness but worry.

The Star-Eye Clan was now the target of many major clans. Those who could be considered experts among the cosmic races were primarily from the major clans. What if an accident were to happen during the special training?

It wasn't that Ye Zhongming was overly suspicious; he really had killed too many people on the Novice battlefield and offended too many major clans...

Seeing Ye Zhongming's expression, Cheng Liujin understood. But regarding this, he really had no good solution. If absolutely necessary, they could only give it up.

"Sixth, five days of A-level reading permission in the Survivor's Library Palace."

Cheng Liujin knew Ye Zhongming didn't understand these things, so he explained further: "The Library Palace is the central building of Star Shine City, a neutral city on the First Survivor Fortress. Its construction started in the second cosmic year after the First Survivor Fortress was built and put into use. Its age is almost equal to the history of the cosmic races."

Speaking of this place, Cheng Liujin's eyes were full of respect.

"The original intention of building the Library Palace was because the threat from the Slave Race made the ancestors of the cosmic races realize they might face extinction at any time. So, they compiled everything from daily life to skills into books in advance and stored them in the Library Palace, leaving a legacy for future generations, ensuring many things wouldn't be lost. That was probably the most united era for the cosmic races; really, almost all races put their clan's good things into it without holding back."

"But at some point, various races gradually became selfish. What they put in was no longer the best things; they started keeping things for themselves. Especially in the last few hundred cosmic years, if not for having to adhere to the rules set by ancestors and periodically supplement the Library Palace, probably no one would be willing to put their own race's books into it anymore. The value of this reward has actually been declining year by year. In the past, it could rank first."

"But regardless, the Library Palace has existed for many, many years, from the beginning until now, underwent three expansions, and is now a huge architectural complex. There are over ten thousand staff working inside, and the number of Librarians has reached three thousand. That is a force that cannot be ignored. Rumor has it that among the Librarians, there are no fewer than three whose strength can compare to that of the current few peak experts, although it's unknown if this's true or not. The most important number of hidden books has reached a staggering over five hundred million volumes."

Even though Ye Zhongming was knowledgeable, after hearing Cheng Liuji's introduction, he was deeply shocked by this Library Palace. At the same time, he didn't quite understand: with so many books, couldn't they be stored in storage devices? Wouldn't that be more convenient for reading? Did it need such a large place?

This seemed more like a small-scale faction. If there really were such great experts inside, not to mention three, even one could probably go up against a medium-sized faction.

If all three thousand Librarians were experts, then...

Ye Zhongming didn't dare think further.

"I know what you're thinking, but when the ancestors established the Library Palace, they feared the creation of a super faction. There is, however, an iron rule: Librarians must not participate in worldly affairs. Librarians are mostly learned scholars, not warriors."

Hearing Cheng Liuji say this, Ye Zhongming felt his heart filled with desire for this place at the center of Star Shine City. He wanted to go see it. There, he might find the most exact answers to everything he wanted to know.

"That's it?"

Seeing Cheng Liujin stop speaking, Ye Zhongming asked if the rewards for Novice number one were just these six items and no more?

The Gold Order Leader nodded lightly.

These were already the altered rewards. It could be said that this almost paved the way for a promising newcomer to grow into a super expert.

There was a brief silence in the tent. Neither of them spoke. Ye Zhongming was digesting these rewards and also waiting. He knew that what came next would be the key to defining the relationship between him and the Star-Eye Clan.

"These rewards are very good, good enough to make people envious. However, turning the rewards into one's own strength requires too much time. And your current points are the most important."

Even though Cheng Liujin had long known the points in Ye Zhongming's possession, every time he thought about it, he still felt a sense of envy.

"Your points... are really too many." Cheng Liujin exclaimed, then immediately got into the state. He looked at Ye Zhongming and said, "The Points Shop has been updated. The items inside are enough for everyone to exhaust their points. But..."

Cheng Liujin pointed outside. "It is easily seen that whoever enters first can pick the precious and scarce items first. Those who enter last can only pick what others left behind."

"As far as I know, there are many good things inside, but there are also many useless things."

Ye Zhongming worriedly asked, "What about us then?"

"We are first to go." Cheng Liujin quickly replied. "This is considered another benefit for the Novice number one."

"However, precisely because of this first place, we face more problems."

Cheng Liujin asked for another glass of wine. Seeing that Ye Zhongming's was almost untouched, he didn't bother and drank by himself.

"The things in the Points Shop are expensive. Although not at the price during your Novice battlefield period, they are still about twenty percent more expensive than normal prices."

"But there are some things inside that are hard to buy outside, and many special things. There are things especially precious for one race but of little use to other races."

"Because points can be transferred, from the moment I boarded the spacecraft to come here until now, I have received hundreds of requests."

"There are those who want to exchange other things for points, those who want to exchange promises for points, those who want us to use points to purchase items and then trade them outside, those who directly offer Moonspan Gold to buy points, and some even want to buy our first entry right."

While shaking his head and looking at Ye Zhongming, Cheng Liujin found these requests very problematic.

Many races were those the Star-Eye Clan did not want to offend and could not afford to offend.

Another key point was that the Star-Eye Clan itself also had demands for Ye Zhongming's points. But this all depended on Ye Zhongming's own intention.

"As for what can be exchanged specifically, I can't say clearly; there are really too many. I can only roughly measure the value of the points in your hands to give you a concept."

"That set of Red Condensation level equipment of yours, the seven-piece set, is hard to buy outside. It's available in the Points Shop, priced at about thirty-five thousand points..."

"Your points can buy fifteen sets, with quite a lot left over..."

Chapter 1927: Prize (5)

Ye Zhongming finally had a rough concept of the hundreds of thousands of points in his hands.

Towards the Star-Eye Clan, Ye Zhongming, at least until now, had no dissatisfaction.

Perhaps the Star-Eye Clan had hidden some information from him before, but those were minor issues. It wasn't necessarily intentional; they probably genuinely thought it was useless. Who knew Ye Zhongming would progress this far from the start?

"Telling you all this today is really hoping you can help the Star-Eye Clan."

Cheng Liujin put down his wine glass, crossed his hands, and leaned forward slightly. Clearly, at this moment, he formally entered his role.

With Cheng Liujin putting all his pride aside, Ye Zhongming also knew there must be some difficult matters for the Star-Eye Clan that put them in a challenging position. They didn't want to offend him, but the unfavorable external environment forced them to do things that might damage Ye Zhongming's interests.

"Although the Star-Eye Clan is the at the top this time, this first place is basically your credit. So, although you cannot use the ten spokespeople spots—those are race-based—you take three of the entry tickets, and the Star-Eye Clan keeps two."

Ye Zhongming neither agreed nor disagreed, gesturing for Cheng Liujin to continue.

The Gold Order Leader sighed, then said, "I know you must have people on your home planet you need to bring up. Originally, giving you all the entrance tickets would be fine. But, alas, there is a race that once helped the Star-Eye Clan, hoping we could use one entrance ticket and two spokesperson spots to settle the debt. We cannot refuse."

"Also, there are two major clans we cannot offend. Each also took away two spokesperson spots."

Out of ten spokesperson spots, six were taken away at once. No wonder Cheng Liujin tried 极力 not to show it, but still gave off a 'sighing' defeated feeling.

What did the Star-Eye Clan rely on to turn things around? They wanted to rely on the spokesperson to turn things around and obtain more Moonspan Gold from them. After all, on planets surrounded by the Slave Race, the number of parasites would keep increasing, and their strength wasn't that terrifying in the early and mid-stages. With targeted and planned hunting, the gains would be great.

Also, some things on these planets, as well as wheel items, were also a major source of income.

Unfortunately, now the Star-Eye Clan, counting everything, only had four spots left.

Because the trade discount reward and the planetary hunting ground reward yielded little, the spokesperson spots became particularly important.

Of course, since Ye Zhongming saw the tough situation of the Star-Eye Clan, he naturally understood their decision: giving Ye Zhongming three entry tickets, giving one to the race they owed. The one the Star-Eye Clan kept was probably because too many spokesperson spots were taken, forcing them to keep one entry ticket for use in next year's Novice battlefield.

This might also mean they had to continue nurturing warriors.

"As mentioned before, your personal rewards, the clan won't take. But we want to discuss with you, to see if we can use other ways to exchange some points with you."

Cheng Liujin was very embarrassed. His hands changed from crossed to rubbing against each other. Looking at Ye Zhongming, he said, "There's really no other way. Some races' demands are hard to refuse. But rest assured, the points you exchange will definitely receive corresponding compensation, even more."

Ye Zhongming thought for a moment and asked, "Is it largely because of me?"

Cheng Liujin was stunned, then understood what Ye Zhongming meant. He looked at Ye Zhongming with praise and happiness and said, "You fought for the Star-Eye Clan. So, everything caused by you should naturally be borne by the Star-Eye Clan. That we haven't withstood all the pressure is already our mistake."

One could imagine that the Star-Eye Clan faced such great pressure now; besides their own weakness, it was also related to Ye Zhongming killing too many people on the Novice battlefield. If a member of a major clan did this, it might be better. But behind Ye Zhongming was the Star-Eye Clan that was on the verge of collapse. Those races that couldn't afford to lose would definitely use some methods.

Ye Zhongming waved his hand. "How much do they want?"

"In terms of points, we might need you to give up one hundred thousand points. Also, we need to purchase some things to give to them, which might require about one hundred and fifty thousand points worth."

Hearing this, Ye Zhongming frowned. That was two hundred and fifty thousand points at once, almost half of his points.

Cheng Liujin was extremely nervous at this moment. A genius like Ye Zhongming... yes, the Star-Eye Clan had already formed such an understanding internally... should be held in their hands. But now they were asking for almost half of his points right away; it was really a bit too much. He was terrified that Ye Zhongming would get angry because of this, then leave in anger, henceforth going their separate ways with the Star-Eye Clan or even becoming enemies.

Given the talent Ye Zhongming had displayed, just by saying the word, many races would scramble to absorb him into their clan. The Star-Eye Clan could only watch on.

"The Star-Eye Clan will compensate you for these losses. After returning, the core warehouse will be open for you to choose from. Even if you find nothing you like, the clan will try its best to meet your requirements."

Cheng Liujin's talking speed was extremely fast, without any thought of holding firm, afraid that Ye Zhongming would be unhappy.

Looking at this person who controlled the Star-Eye Clan's most powerful combat team, looking at this person much, much stronger than himself, acting so polite, Ye Zhongming truly felt the mentality of a race near collapse, desperately seeking a saving grace.

"I can marry you."

A voice suddenly came from outside the tent, and Aslan's figure appeared shortly after.

"I am the daughter of the two clan leaders, the sole successor of the Star-Eye Clan."

Cheng Liujin stood up, raising his hand to shoo Aslan out. Not to mention this proposal was entirely Aslan's own idea—she thought it could reassure Ye Zhongming, but the two leaders currently had no such intention! Secondly, who knew if Ye Zhongming would be so sensitive to such a condition? If it backfired, that would be a regrettable outcome.

"I have decided. If Ye Zhongming is willing, I am willing to marry him. In the future, he will also become one of the two leaders of the Star-Eye Clan!"

Aslan didn't give Cheng Liujin a chance to speak, finishing her own thoughts.

"I think only this way can truly express the Star-Eye Clan's sincerity." Aslan looked at Ye Zhongming and said, "I will be loyal to you, but you do not need to be loyal to me."

Aslan took a deep breath, then said slowly and solemnly, "Our Star-Eye Clan needs you. Please... stay."

Ye Zhongming looked very seriously at this half-teacher, noticing the red on her ears and below, and even her breathing had become intense. He shook his head.

"I'm sorry, I cannot agree."

Instantly, Aslan raised her head, her face full of disbelief. Cheng Liujin covered his forehead, thinking, 'It's over.' The thing he worried about had finally happened.

Chapter 1928: Ye Zhongming's condition and Star-Eye Clan's gift

"Don't misunderstand. It's not that I think Miss Aslan is not good, nor do I have any negative thoughts towards the Star-Eye Clan. It's just that, on my home planet, I have my own love."

Ye Zhongming didn't care whether these Ten Thousand Races of the universe could understand the meaning of that, and shrugged at the two people with different expressions.

Cheng Liujin relaxed slightly. As long as Ye Zhongming wasn't frustrated, it was fine.

He could become a Gold Order Leader, even if this position were only within the Star-Eye Clan, it showed Cheng Liujin had foresight and considered problems comprehensively.

He wouldn't be like Aslan, who, once she thought she had considered everything, started to act on her own volition.

The suggestion Aslan just made was, in Cheng Liujin's view, an act of her own volition.

Cheng Liujin knew that in Aslan's heart, nothing was more important than the survival of the Star-Eye Clan. So when she made this decision, in her own view, she was making a great sacrifice. As long as Ye Zhongming stayed, she was almost handing over half of the Star-Eye Clan to him.

But Cheng Liujin knew that things shouldn't be viewed or thought of this way. Your own thoughts, the things you cherish, aren't necessarily how others think or what they cherish.

Ye Zhongming became the number one in the most intense Novice battlefield, achieving the highest score in history. Would he be a fool? Someone who couldn't see the situation? The Star-Eye Clan might be the sky, the earth, and everything in Aslan's eyes, but in his eyes? It was his starting point. If he remembered your kindness, that meant he was good. If he didn't, casually compensating you with something and investing elsewhere was also normal.

Also, don't forget, they had just asked him for almost half his points, and then you, Aslan, rushed in, saying you wanted to marry him, even promising half the future throne of the Star-Eye Clan. Those with good hearts might think you were eager to make compensation. Those who were suspicious might think this was a pre-arranged double act, that this was a blank check!

This child was determined, had a sense of responsibility, was ambitious, and was willing to make sacrifices—these were natural advantages for her to become the future leader of the Star-Eye Clan. But... she was still too young.

Interest exchange was indeed the law of the planet. However, one must also see the situation clearly.

"Young lady, please go out first."

If it were any other time, Cheng Liujin, this Gold Order Leader who believed in status, would never speak to Aslan like this. But at this crucial moment, he truly dared not let Aslan speak again, fearing that this girl would say something else out of line, making Ye Zhongming truly angry.

"Zhongming and I still have things to discuss."

As he spoke, he, in the capacity of an elder, walked to the tent entrance and opened the door for Aslan, simultaneously patting her shoulder and gently squeezing it.

Aslan really intended to say something else, but Cheng Liujin's action made her hold back her words.

She knew that this person, who had always followed her parents, was the most loyal and trustworthy. If he didn't let her speak, there must be a reason.

After Aslan left, Cheng Liujin sat back on the chair, smiled apologetically, and said, "The child is still not very mature. She is too anxious to do things for the Star-Eye Clan."

Ye Zhongming nodded. He could understand and didn't have any opinion towards Aslan or the Star-Eye Clan because of this minor incident.

In Aslan, he saw a bit of Xia Bai, just far less crazy than Xia Bai.

"Regarding the points you mentioned, I can give them up. But besides the conditions you stated, I have a few other ideas."

Cheng Liujin's eyes immediately lit up. He wasn't afraid of Ye Zhongming's conditions; he was afraid he would leave without them. This was a good start.

"Please speak."

Ye Zhongming didn't hesitate either and started stating his conditions according to his own thoughts.

"That pardon right, I hope the clan can help me use it, exchanging it for a pardon for someone from another race, or directly giving it to a race I decide."

Cheng Liujin had guessed this earlier, so he wasn't surprised at all and immediately nodded in agreement. This matter wasn't very difficult.

"The entrance tickets, I want all of them. I also want one spokesperson spot and all the interests it generates. For this spot, I can purchase it with points or Moonspan Gold."

This request was difficult.

One spokesperson spot could be given up, as the Star-Eye Clan still had four. They also had one entry ticket that could be given. But wanting to take back the entry ticket promised for another race was a bit difficult.

This was also why Ye Zhongming mentioned compensation. If he were just taking things from the Star-Eye Clan, he wouldn't give anything.

Cheng Liujin didn't answer immediately but quietly thought for a moment before saying, "It can be done. We can use one of the clan's spokesperson spots to exchange for the given entry ticket. They should agree."

The Gold Order Leader's words ended here. He didn't mention payment, obviously intending to bear the loss himself.

This increased Ye Zhongming's good feeling towards him a bit more.

"The points taken from me, I demand they be exchanged for Moonspan Gold at the external ratio."

Hearing this request, Cheng Liujin felt that it was tough. It wasn't that he didn't agree, but the Star-Eye Clan temporarily didn't have that much Moonspan Gold. Even if they did, they couldn't give it all to Ye Zhongming at once; that would cause problems for the clan's daily operations.

"I don't require the clan to pay immediately. It can be given to me in batches after the spokesperson generates interest."

Cheng Liujin immediately nodded, saying this was no problem. At the same time, he truly confirmed that Ye Zhongming would not leave the Star-Eye Clan.

"Also, for the clan's trade discount reward, I want twenty percent of the difference between the normal price and the discounted price."

Huh? Cheng Liujin narrowed his eyes. This condition... was a bit different. The clan thought the trade discount wouldn't bring much interest; why would Ye Zhongming seriously propose taking the difference? Unless he had a way to make the Star-Eye Clan's trade flourish.

But if he could really do that, even if one-fifth of the saved money had to go to Ye Zhongming, it would still be suitable for the Star-Eye Clan. So Cheng Liujin only considered for a few seconds before deciding to agree.

"Finally, the opening time of the planetary battlefield should be decided by the clan, right? I hope the decision-making power for this time is given to me."

After hearing this, Cheng Liujin paused for a second, then immediately stood up and extended his hand to Ye Zhongming. He knew this was an Earthling's ritual.

"Then we have a deal?"

"Deal!"

The two hands shook, meaning Ye Zhongming truly stood on the Star-Eye Clan's side.

Just when they thought the matter was ending, no one expected Cheng Liujin to smile suddenly, take something out of his space, and handed it to Ye Zhongming.

"This is a gift from the Star-Eye Clan to you. Or rather, a responsibility and burden."

Seeing Cheng Liujin speak so serious, Ye Zhongming curiously opened this exquisite box. Inside was an equally beautiful mask, yet it exuded an ancient and majestic aura.

"From today on, we will work together..."

"Welcome to the team, Bronze Order Leader, Lord Ye Zhongming."

Chapter 1929: Spending is also an art

In Ye Zhongming's hand was a thin booklet.

This was given to him by Cheng Liujin. It was a record of the lives of past Bronze Order Leaders. After Ye Zhongming opened and read it, he learned that he was actually the 333rd Bronze Order Leader.

333?

Ye Zhongming deeply regretted that it wasn't 666.

The content in the thin booklet wasn't actually much. The vast majority of predecessors were mentioned briefly, with only their name and the term of office listed after it.

Only a few people had some content recorded, but most also only had a few sentences. Those that left a deep impression on Ye Zhongming and were recorded in the booklet numbered about a dozen. Among them, only the first Bronze Order Leader and the 101st Order Leader were impressive.

The first Bronze Order Leader was a true genius. In thousands of battles, large and small throughout his life, he never lost. Even when he accepted a challenge from a powerful life form that came to the planet where the Star-Eye Clan resided in his old age, he still won, though he died not long after the battle due to severe injuries.

At that time, just as the Star-Eye Clan was stepping into the stellar era, the appearance of this Bronze Order Leader greatly boosted the morale of the entire race.

Ye Zhongming held great respect for this person, but he also learned one thing from this: the Star-Eye Clan did not leave their home planet with the help of the wheel at that time; they had achieved it themselves.

The other, the 101st Order Leader, his greatest achievement was forging the Bronze Mask combat team into an iron army, whose strength even surpassed that of the Silver and Gold teams. The most important and most unbelievable thing was that this powerful figure actually launched a military coup in the end, attempting to overthrow the joint rule of the two Star-Eye leaders.

Although he failed in the end, that battle severely damaged the Star-Eye Clan's vitality. Originally, all three major teams—Bronze, Silver, and Gold—were elites. The Bronze team was completely wiped out, and the other two suffered heavy losses, with less than one in ten remaining.

The Star-Eye Clan then declined from prosperity and had not recovered even until now.

Ye Zhongming rubbed the bronze mask in his hand, feeling the cold, crisp quality it transmitted. He recalled various legends about this position.

The most common one was that this was an unlucky position.

Starting from the 101st generation, those who retired successfully did not exceed twenty percent. Most died in battle or were assassinated. Even the previous Order Leader had just betrayed and left.

From the time of the 101st generation, the Star-Eye Clan made regulations for the three major teams. The Bronze team was assigned a more logistical unit job, not equal to the other two teams as before. Instead, it began to take up less important tasks and guarding less important positions.

Most importantly, the Star-Eye Clan changed the regulations: once a certain standard was reached, warriors would be promoted to the next level team.

Generally, ten thousand furelei was the 'line' for the Bronze team. Those above the line would be transferred to the Silver team. Those exceeding twenty thousand would be transferred to the Gold team. And within the Gold team, the most outstanding warriors and those with special talents would be absorbed into the core guard, which is responsible for the safety of the clan leaders, core repositories, and core personnel.

However, the core guard had few members and was not separately listed as a team.

Thus, the situation of the Star-Eye Clan's three major teams became—whoever became the Gold Order Leader was definitely a trusted member of the two clan leaders. The Silver Order Leader was the candidate for the Gold Order Leader and would, at the appropriate time, succeed the Gold Order Leader to become the next generation's leader of the Star-Eye Clan's strongest team.

As for the Bronze Order Leader, it was more of a position under observation, carrying a natural glow of being disliked.

Ye Zhongming put down the mask. Hearing the increasingly loud sounds outside, he knew the surviving Novices were about to be allowed to enter the Shop to select goods. He even heard someone walking towards his tent; they were coming to call him to depart.

He stood up and walked slowly outward, but his thoughts hadn't ended yet; he was still left thinking about Cheng Lujin's words.

The Gold Order Leader said this was a position with responsibility and burden.

Now, Ye Zhongming understood his meaning.

Recalling those bronze-masked warriors who had previously killed at will and were responsible for guiding rookies, just thinking with one's toes, also knew the team's situation was very bad.

This position was not easy to sit in.

"Order Leader, the time has come."

The person outside in charge of notifying Ye Zhongming called out. Ye Zhongming opened the door and walked out.

The appearance of Ye Zhongming and the Star-Eye Clan was undoubtedly the focus of the entire scene. Their points were all ranked first, and Ye Zhongming would be the first to enter the Shop to make selections.

The Changxu Water Race people followed behind the Star-Eye Clan; they also had a relatively early position.

Some races hesitated for a moment, then walked towards the Star-Eye Clan's team. Cheng Liujin and Aslan's expressions immediately became不好.

Ye Zhongming knew what these people came for. Previously, the Star-Eye Clan must have stopped many such people. But on this occasion, they could no longer stop them. These races could directly negotiate with Ye Zhongming.

However, at this moment, Ye Zhongming made a move. He took out a mask and put it on his face without a sound.

Those people's footsteps stopped because of this.

"Bronze Order Leader mask!"

Someone knowledgeable exclaimed, recognizing what the mask on Ye Zhongming's face was.

He actually took over as the Star-Eye Clan's Bronze Order Leader!

Everyone realized the meaning behind this event.

Ye Zhongming, this Novice number one, was determined to stay with the Star-Eye Clan.

Most people shook their heads. Expected from the countryside. Didn't he know the benefits of choosing a major clan? Didn't he know that once he stayed with the Star-Eye Clan, the races behind those he killed on the Novice battlefield would definitely find trouble with him whenever they had the chance?

They thought a generational genius had emerged, but it seemed he would fall soon.

Among the surrounding teams, many Novices from various races and the mature warriors who had survived the Novice battlefield looked at Ye Zhongming with complex eyes. Under equal conditions, they were totally defeated by this man. But now, this man had chosen an extremely difficult path.

"The rules your clansmen should have told you. Now, you are the first. Go in."

Zizi Kaba didn't waste words. When Ye Zhongming walked to the front, he directly asked Ye Zhongming to hand over his spatial equipment and then gave him a piece of paper.

"After selecting items, write the numbers on them, then you can come out. Remember to calculate the price yourself. There are micro calculators inside; you can use them freely."

After saying this, the person in charge of the Novice battlefield moved aside, revealing the already open door of the Shop.

Ye Zhongming nodded to Zizi Kaba and walked in directly.

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The Shop had undergone significant expansion since his last visit. As soon as Ye Zhongming entered, he was shocked by the energy fluctuations filling the space.

How many good things must there be to have such intense fluctuations in the space?

Ye Zhongming took a deep breath and walked toward the vast array of items ahead.

Chapter 1930: Spending is also an art (2)

The people outside knew Ye Zhongming would be inside for a long time. After all, all the goods were inside; merely looking around once would require a long time, let alone selecting items worth several hundred thousand points.

However, contrary to everyone's expectations, the duration was... somewhat frustrating.

Even selecting one million points worth of rewards should have been finished by now? Did he fall asleep inside?

Someone looked at the completely unmoving store door and thought with malicious intent.

But Zizi Kaba and those responsible for the Novice battlefield were guarding it; no one dared to barge in. However, many people were pressuring them, hoping they would go in and hurry him along.

But Zizi Kaba coldly replied: "There is no rule regarding the time limit for selecting goods."

"Even if he stays inside for one cosmic year, we have to wait outside for one cosmic year?" one person was very dissatisfied.

Zizi Kaba looked at him: "You can also go back to your clan and wait first."

This person was so angry that he turned and left directly. It wasn't that he really left, but he went off to the side; it was simply impossible to reason with Zizi Kaba.

Time passed slowly, and there was still no movement inside.

This wasn't because Ye Zhongming was doing it intentionally, but because, by a twist of fate, he encountered a minor accident.

After originally entering the store, he first walked around to familiarize himself with the available goods. Then, following Cheng Liujin's requirements, he began selecting the items needed for that small portion of the points.

Just as he was almost finished selecting these rewards that did not belong to Ye Zhongming, the King of Cloud Peak discovered something.

It was a seemingly very inconspicuous 'Four-Bead Bracelet' with four gems inlaid on it. Ye Zhongming did not recognize what gems they were, but he felt they probably weren't a big deal.

He had already written the name on the paper. Ye Zhongming, purely by chance, touched this prize, which was only worth a little over three thousand points. But when his hand touched it, a strange feeling arose.

Ye Zhongming thought about it; this shouldn't be a feeling of danger, but he couldn't figure out what this feeling was for the moment.

He walked to the side and sat down. Ye Zhongming took the Four-Bead Bracelet in his hand, carefully rubbing and observing it, wanting to figure out where that strange feeling came from.

However, after a thorough examination, he found no issues with this exquisite bracelet.

The feeling couldn't be wrong, yet he couldn't find the cause. This made Ye Zhongming a bit anxious. Subconsciously, he wanted to take off the Bronze Order Leader mask he had been wearing since entering.

This feeling... Ye Zhongming's eyes instantly widened.

The sensation!

Yes, the feeling on his thumb when he pinched the mask was the same as when he held the Four-Bead Bracelet!

What was going on?

Ye Zhongming hurriedly took off the mask. Holding the mask in one hand and the bracelet in the other, he compared them.

Only after a full ten minutes or more did Ye Zhongming finally determine what was happening.

The two items had both played a 'little joke' on Ye Zhongming.

First, it was confirmed that the strange feeling was due to the tactile sensation of the two items' materials being the same.

The reason it was called a little joke was twofold. First, the gems of the Four-Bead Bracelet were inlaid on a metal material. Ye Zhongming would never have thought this metal was the same as the material used to make the bronze mask because the colors were completely different. Later, upon careful observation and consideration, he discovered that the metal material on the Four-Bead Bracelet had been dyed and featured various patterns carved into it, which initially led Ye Zhongming to believe that this metal naturally had that base color.

The other little joke was that the Bronze Order Leader mask actually had different metals on the inside and outside!

With the naked eye, it was almost impossible to tell the difference. Anyone else, even if they grasped the origin of the strange feeling, wouldn't be able to see any reason.

But Ye Zhongming was different. He was originally a top-tier craftsman. Given a little time and a specific target, he discovered the secret of this mask.

Were the outer layer and the inner layer different? Ye Zhongming studied it very carefully. He felt that it didn't seem to have been made this way originally. The metal of the inner layer appeared to have been added by someone later.

The tactile sensation of the inner and outer layer materials was actually extremely similar, and the craftsmanship of their combination was nearly seamless. If Ye Zhongming weren't a professional, he definitely wouldn't have discovered it.

Originally, two pieces of equipment having the same material shouldn't be a big deal; many items are made from the same material. But the strange thing was, before the final battle of the Novice battlefield, when he was chatting with White Robe, this Silver Order Leader had told Ye Zhongming that aside from the few items in the clan leader's hands, the Star-Eye Clan's valuable possessions probably only consisted of the three Order Leader masks.

The three masks were all forged from extremely precious materials, which almost depleted the clan's savings accumulated over many years. Therefore, they were not just symbols of status but also powerful pieces of equipment.

White Robe also stated that the material of the three masks was extremely pure and could not be fused with other materials.

If that was the case, then why was another substance attached to the inner layer of the Bronze Order Leader mask?

Once curiosity arose, Ye Zhongming could no longer forget it. He completely lost track of time and began studying the Bronze Order Leader mask over and over.

Finally, at a certain moment, when Ye Zhongming pressed the edge of the mask with six fingers at different angles, he felt a very slight vibration.

Afterwards, the inner layer of the Bronze Order Leader mask actually peeled off!

Ye Zhongming didn't feel that he had damaged a cultural relic or inheritance; instead, his heart was filled with excitement.

He knew he might have discovered an incredible secret.

On the side of the peeled-off mask's inner layer that contacted the face, Ye Zhongming didn't notice anything special. But on the other side—the one between the inner and outer layers—there were actually several dozen very small metal chips. These chips were all connected by some white substance that almost adhered to the metal surface.

What was this!?

Ye Zhongming touched it extremely carefully and found that the metal chips were just metal chips, but that white substance clearly had activity!

This didn't mean they were alive, but rather seemed to originate from within some living being, such as an organ or structure.

If that was the case, what was this thing for?

Ye Zhongming thought for a long time but couldn't make sense of it. He even put the Four-Bead Bracelet together with it, but still couldn't figure it out.

Were these two items really just made of the same material?

But soon, Ye Zhongming found the starting point of that white connecting substance next to one of the metal chips on the mask's inner layer, very cleverly placed at the position of the eye socket.

Moreover, the white substance there wasn't flat like the other parts but had a small opening!

Ye Zhongming's heart stirred; he had an idea.

He looked outside; it was still extremely quiet. He decided to test his idea right here!

His hand holding the Four-Bead Bracelet exerted force, and this piece of equipment, worth a few thousand points, was crushed by him!