

Apocalypse 1966

Chapter 1966: Weakness is a sin (3)

On the second floor of the shop, four people sat around a table, each with a bottle of liquor in front of them, and four dishes on the table.

The three Order Leaders of the Star-Eye Clan—Cheng Liujin, White Robe, Ye Zhongming—plus Jie Su, who hadn't left yet.

The four had been drinking for a while; most of the liquor in the bottles was gone. This strongest liquor in the universe, made all four feel very satisfied.

"I still have to thank Zhongming. Even within my clan, I've only drunk this liquor twice," Jie Su said.

The bodies of Evolved were all superhuman-like. Ordinary liquor simply couldn't give them that tipsy feeling. To address this, people created various kinds of beverages with extremely high alcohol content.

This liquor was one of them. Because of its good taste, lack of side effects, slight benefit in improving body strength, and the advantage of being quickly broken down by the body, it became a famous product, with a market price as high as 500 Moonspan Gold. It was an out-and-out luxury item.

Even major races couldn't casually drink this stuff.

"We made money, so naturally we should celebrate."

Ye Zhongming took a sip, somewhat recalling the feeling from his school days when he went out for meals and drinks with his dorm friends.

Hearing him say this, Cheng Liujiu was the first to put down his glass.

"It's just hard on you."

Today, Jie Su and Ye Zhongming worked together to resolve a crisis, sparing the Star-Eye Clan from potential chaos, and also built the shop's reputation. It was expected that business would be very good in the future.

Ye Zhongming waved his hand. "I made money. Right now, who among you is richer than I am?"

Looking at the smiling Ye Zhongming, the other three fell somewhat silent.

Indeed, through this auction, both the Star-Eye Clan and Ye Zhongming obtained substantial funds, especially the latter, whose income far exceeded the clan's. It could be said that in terms of personal wealth, he should be among the richest group in Dark Strip City.

But the price paid also felt too great for the other three.

Red Condensation grade equipment! Seven pieces!

Such things were originally rare and hard to come by. Losing one piece was already significant, but to unexpectedly lose all seven...

The over three hundred thousand looked like a lot, but could one buy seven pieces of Red Condensation grade equipment with this money?

This couldn't be simply answered with a yes or no. It depended on luck, on fate. If luck wasn't extremely good, it was basically unlikely to gather a complete set within five years.

Ye Zhongming was currently the lowest in cultivation among the four. With seven pieces of Red Condensation-grade equipment, his strength would have increased significantly. Now, having lost them all at once, the danger factor for this Bronze Order Leader, who was about to leave the Star-Eye Clan for the Library Palace, greatly increased.

"I still think it's a pity. Perhaps if we had fought then, everything would have been resolved," White Robe said, taking a large gulp of liquor, feeling somewhat aggrieved.

"Then we wouldn't be drinking now; we'd probably be defending against enemy attacks in the castle," Ye Zhongming patted White Robe's shoulder and suddenly stood up.

"Come, let's have a drink together."

Ye Zhongming clinked his bottle with the others.

"Don't be so unhappy. What's the big deal? They're just a few pieces of Red Condensation grade equipment. Ask Jie Su, does his Su Race even regard such equipment highly? I estimate they have many Lie God grade pieces in their clan!"

Jie Su directly rolled his eyes.

The Su Race was indeed one of the three major factions, a leading race. But the Su Race and the races surrounding it were not 'trunk' races. Most of them had no ambition to compete for supremacy and were rarely types skilled in business, manufacturing, or other such work. They certainly didn't have extremely powerful armies. It could be said that the races led by the Su Race simply couldn't compare to the other two factions in terms of strength and financial resources.

Even the Su Race itself actually lived quite frugally. Their tendency to pick and choose when to lay out defensive arrays for others led them to lose over 80% of their money-making opportunities.

Red Condensation grade equipment wasn't commonplace for the Su Race either; it was also very good. As for the Lie God grade... as far as Jie Su knew, the clan only had one piece.

"If Lie God grade equipment really existed in such quantities that a race could have many pieces, as you said, how could it still be called the top-tier equipment? Even among the Reina Star people and the Huo'er Star people, having one or two pieces is already very rare. And the Taros Red Dwarves themselves probably have an inventory of no more than five pieces of such equipment."

Jie Su shook his head and spoke slowly.

"Oh? So precious?" Ye Zhongming asked with great interest.

The highest-level equipment he could currently access was Red Condensation grade. After a period of research, he had many gains. In Ye Zhongming's view, if he wanted to manufacture equipment of this grade himself, it might still take some time, but he could absolutely do it.

But he hadn't seen other, higher-grade equipment and was very curious.

"Of course!"

This time, it was Cheng Liujin who answered him.

"Since the day Lie God grade equipment was born, fewer than one hundred pieces have ever appeared. After so many years of battle, only about ten pieces remain now. Of course, it's unclear if any more survive in secret, but the number is absolutely small."

Jie Su added, "To manufacture such equipment, even in the most prosperous era of the Taros Red Dwarves, only two people mastered the complete skills, with a success rate of around ten percent. In other eras, at most only one person could manufacture it, and in some eras, there wasn't even a single person who could produce one."

"For example, now, as far as I know, no one among the Taros Red Dwarves has learned to forge equipment of this grade yet."

So difficult? Ye Zhongming's heart was stirred.

Even mastering all the techniques yielded a success rate of only around 10%. No wonder Lie God grade equipment was so rare.

Just imagine those countless priceless materials, needing ten sets to produce one piece. Merely this consumption was probably something even the fabulously wealthy Taros Red Dwarves couldn't bear.

"So, brother, the clan should thank you. You bore the loss yourself and resolved a crisis for the clan."

Cheng Liujin was a bit drunk and was even calling Ye Zhongming 'brother'.

Ye Zhongming drank the last mouthful of liquor, and his expression gradually returned to its usual calmness.

"To put it bluntly, weakness is the original sin. If we were strong enough, today's events wouldn't have happened."

"Right! Weakness is the original sin."

"So, we must atone for the sin."

The few looked at each other and saw the spark leaping in each other's eyes.

Almost simultaneously, they raised their liquor bottles together, regardless of whether there was any liquor left inside, and clinked them together loudly.

"Let us, then, cast aside the original sin. Let us cleanse this ugly universe, whether with clear water, or with... blood!"

Chapter 1967: Li Daqian's hesitation

"Grandfather!"

A girl who looked about twenty years old turned her head to the man who had entered, smiled slightly, then returned her gaze to a topographic map and continued conversing with two people beside her.

The man walked over and sat to the side. He looked at the topographic map but didn't linger on it for too long, instead focusing his gaze more on the girl. The emotions in his eyes were complex: affection, pity, unwillingness, anger, cherishment...

Half an hour later, the three people ended their conversation, finalized the specific plan, and then the two other men, who exuded an imposing presence, nodded to the man who had entered later and turned to walk out of the tent.

Through the open tent flap, one could see a sprawling military camp outside, with many Evolved and mutated lifeforms doing what they needed to do between heaven and earth.

The tent flap closed, making the inside a relatively isolated space again.

"Grandfather..." The girl sat down next to the man, holding onto one of his arms. Her tone was slightly subdued as she said, "You have already made a decision, so why are you still hesitating?"

The girl's large eyes were full of confusion. She had an adult-like body and excellent intelligence, but regarding other matters, her perspective was relatively simple.

But this simplicity that could, at times, go straight to the core of the problem.

Since you decided, why be hesitant?

This sentence echoed in the man's heart, leaving him momentarily speechless.

"Sigh, I just... perhaps, I've just tasted the flavor of power, and thus am unwilling to let it go."

After a long moment, the man let out such a sigh.

The girl smiled casually. "What is power? And how can one grasp power? Is it like before, when you controlled the Thousand Beast Villa? But aren't you still the same now? In my view, it's just a change of name."

The man shook his head, indicating that things weren't thought of that way.

"The people of the Thousand Beast Villa still follow your command, don't they? The war beasts are also still under your command. Even their quantity and quality are much stronger than before at the Thousand Beast Villa. I think the only change for you is going from the Manor Lord of the Thousand Beast Villa to the Commander of Cloud Peak's War Beast Camp."

This man was Li Daqian. The little girl was his granddaughter.

Li Daqian looked at his granddaughter, whose eyes still held innocence, and for a moment didn't know how to respond.

After submitting to Cloud Peak, he had been having some difficulty accepting it in his heart.

Apart from a few old comrades from the family, the other people of the Thousand Beast Villa had no objections to submitting to Cloud Peak. Especially his son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter—his closest people—not only did they not object, they were even slightly pleased, even though they tried to hide it in front of Li Daqian, how could they hide it from him.

Internally, the Thousand Beast Villa had almost completely sided with Cloud Peak from the moment Li Daqian was forced to make the decision.

This left Li Daqian with a deep sense of loss.

Did he really not want to submit to Cloud Peak in his heart?

Li Daqian had asked himself this many times afterwards. It seemed... he really wasn't that determined.

This psychology stemmed partly from their long-standing good relationship with Cloud Peak, which led him to identify strongly with Cloud Peak. It also led the other residents of the Thousand Beast Villa to identify strongly with Cloudtop.

On the other hand, it was Cloud Peak's powerful strength that made Li Daqian, who was still at Level Eight, unable to muster any will to resist.

Having survived until now and become a leader in his own right, what he lacked least was a heart that could assess the situation. He knew that circumstances were stronger than the individual.

Cloud Peak's power made one feel a sense of helplessness from the bottom of one's heart.

Since that was the case, what was there that he couldn't come to terms with?

Li Daqian asked himself this again, but still felt uncomfortable in his heart.

He knew he needed to adjust this sentiment.

As the appointed Commander of Cloud Peak's War Beast Camp, he had been largely inactive due to this sentiment. It was his granddaughter who had been managing his affairs. Her previous status as the Commander of the Cloud Peak War Beast Camp and the Little Princess of the Thousand Beast Villa meant no one questioned her authority.

But ultimately, maintaining this state for too long would clearly cause dissatisfaction among other high-level members of Cloud Peak. Once that happened, one couldn't guarantee what might occur.

Li Daqian felt that the core members of Cloud Peak now had already killed until their eyes were red.

During this period, Cloud Peak had almost emptied its nest, striking out in all directions, for what seemed to Li Daqian a ridiculous goal—unifying the entire planet.

Li Daqian felt that, even in the post-apocalyptic world, this feat, which no force on Earth had ever accomplished, was something Cloud Peak similarly couldn't achieve.

For no other reason than this world was too vast, with too many forces. In many corners, there must be extremely powerful lifeforms and forces.

How could a single force unify such a planet?

Taking a step back, even if Cloud Peak had the strength to unify it, how many years would it take? And once unified, how would they manage it?

Anyway, from the bottom of his heart, Li Daqian didn't quite agree with this approach. He felt that Xia Lei and the Cloud Peak leaders were simply suffering from a persecution complex, having lost their backbone in the absence of Ye Zhongming.

Just like now.

Because of Cloud Peak's strikes in all directions during this time, their goal was no longer a secret. This naturally provoked desperate resistance from other forces.

Cloud Peak's War Beast Camp, plus the troops of Young Master Yun and Xiao Peng, after a series of battles, had already fought their way beyond the previous national border and entered the territory of Southeast Asia.

But here, forces previously driven out from the country's region had united with local forces from Southeast Asia and stood blocking the path of this Cloud Peak army.

In terms of numbers, Cloud Peak was at an absolute disadvantage. The allied forces numbered nearly 400,000, and more were gathering from further south towards this location.

As for Cloud Peak, Young Master Yun and Xiao Peng, plus the War Beast Camp, totaled only around one hundred and twenty thousand. Even counting one hundred thousand war beasts of varying levels, they still had nearly one hundred thousand fewer in number than the enemy.

But neither Young Master Yun nor Xiao Peng, nor even Li Daqian's own granddaughter, had any intention of retreating.

Just earlier, Li Daqian's granddaughter was discussing with Young Master Yun and Xiao Peng whether to launch a surprise attack before the enemy reinforcements arrived.

It didn't take long for the surprise attack plan to be finalized.

It seemed that Cloud Peak's bones inherently held a confidence to fight and win against anything ahead of them.

They might win, but the losses should be significant.

Li Daqian thought this to himself. Looking at his granddaughter beside him, who was concentrating on considering the battle plan, he decided to fulfill his duties.

For this battle with an extremely high risk factor, he would go in place of his granddaughter.

But before Li Daqian could tell his granddaughter about this decision, a commotion suddenly broke out outside. Then, a twenty-person squad appeared in the teleportation array at the center of the camp.

"Sister Miya!"

Watching his granddaughter throw herself into the arms of Miya, who was walking over wearing a beautiful suit of battle armor, Li Daqian realized things might have changed.

Sure enough, after gathering Young Master Yun, Xiao Peng, and others into the tent, Miya announced to them that in one day, Little Tiger would bring his team, along with the two Level Nine lifeforms, Red Hair and Undead Fish Dragon, here for support. They would simultaneously launch an attack, striving to crush the enemy forces. At the very least, they aimed to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy, forcing them into a short-term defensive posture.

Afterwards, specifically three days later, all of Cloud Peak's high-level personnel were to return to the mountain villa to attend a plenary meeting.

Chapter 1968: Old friend

Little Tiger whistled, looking ahead with a lack of interest.

Ye Zhongming's departure had not been long ago, but there was no trace of youthfulness or playfulness left in this usually laughing and joking young man; there was only maturity and... ruthlessness.

Since Cloud Peak began its unification campaign, many core members had displayed completely different traits.

Some people's methods were relatively gentle, such as Mo Ye's team, Tang Tian's team, etc. Before attacking a region, they preferred to first use caring methods for some persuasion, division, provocation, and the like, so that even if the area couldn't smoothly submit, it would first become chaotic, or at least fail to form a unified alliance, after which they would attack and capture it.

Some people's methods were more thunderous, such as Liang Chuyin, Tong Hu, Sister Rong, and others. What they most preferred to do was to fight without declaration with sudden sneak attacks. They would directly wipe out the most powerful force in an area, then use other methods to attack the remaining forces. At that time, whether they continued attacking or applied pressure to make them voluntarily disarm, it was all very easy.

More people were neutral.

This neutrality didn't mean they were normal, but rather that when handling problems, their methods were more diversified, and they would act according to the specific situation, neither being overly gentle nor overly extreme.

But only one person was very, very extreme.

That was Little Tiger.

After merging with the Thousand Beast Villa, the issue of Cloud Peak's mounts was largely resolved. Although one couldn't say they had as many as they wanted, it was still much better than the previous situation of slowly domesticating, which only yielded a few thousand rideable mounts per year.

This allowed Little Tiger's cavalry force to grow to 100,000.

Naturally, this included the credit for the twenty thousand flying troops assigned to Little Tiger's team, but the fact that the speed of personnel growth ranked first among the major teams was undeniable.

In the initial stage of global unification, battles were the most frequent, and the number of sacrifices was the highest. All major teams were in a state of attrition. Even though they all started replenishing later, they could at most maintain a certain number, but the overall combat power had declined.

But only Little Tiger's team saw both quantity and quality rise.

This was related to his straightforward style.

When attacking a region, Little Tiger's favorite approach was the 'cat and mouse' game. He would start by eliminating the small forces, leaving the most powerful force for last.

He did this not for ease, but for fun, to properly play with the most powerful local force.

Usually, he would silently corner the target in a location, then launch the most powerful charge, slaughtering them in one fell swoop.

Occasionally, he would find someone he fancied among the targets and would recruit them... or rather, forcefully take over them.

Little Tiger didn't refuse those who wanted to join him either.

But whether it was someone he fancied or someone who chose to join, there was only one way to join Little Tiger's team: charge at the very front in the next battle. Only when the casualty ratio exceeded fifty percent would they become true members, and their previous organization would be broken up and assigned to various squads.

This method surprisingly had an exceptionally good effect.

Those Evolved who survived numerous battles, even if they had some resentment towards Little Tiger and Cloud Peak before, after surviving and receiving mounts, equipment, and various benefits they hadn't dared to dream of before, their minds gradually settled down.

There was no other way; everything fears comparison. Once compared, the gap appeared.

Of course, hidden dangers weren't absent, but in the chaotic times of this post-apocalyptic world, they were suppressed. Perhaps they would erupt again when the situation eased, but that was for the future.

Cloud Peak's first goal was to unify the country. Almost all teams left their nests. While completing the battles in their respective areas, Little Tiger received the order to reinforce the War Beast Camp on this route.

There was no other way; he was relatively closer, and the mobility of the cavalry was also the fastest.

Ten kilometers ahead was the camp where several hundred thousand enemies had gathered. After Little Tiger arrived and surveyed the situation, he felt certain in his heart that this was yet another battle they were destined to win.

This terrain, although somewhat mountainous, was still very suitable for cavalry charges. Under the impact of Little Tiger's one hundred thousand-strong team, even if the enemy outnumbered him several

times, it would be useless. This wasn't even counting the similarly sized War Beast Camp of nearly one hundred thousand.

For such a battle, Little Tiger really felt somewhat uninterested.

The sound of war beasts stamping the ground came from behind. Young Master Yun and Xiao Peng arrived beside Little Tiger.

"Tiger, do you know why Sister Lei summoned us back?"

The three were about the same age and usually got along well when they played together.

They, along with Ah Yang and others, represented Cloud Peak's younger generation. Little Tiger held the highest status among them.

Since Cloud Peak declared war on the whole world, everyone had been fighting in all directions, rarely having the chance to meet, let alone gather back home.

Some of the busier teams, like Little Tiger's, hadn't even had any rest.

Little Tiger shook his head: "I don't know, but I estimate something big has happened."

Something big?

Young Master Yun and Xiao Peng's eyes both lit up, which amused Little Tiger.

These people from Cloud Peak, from the old to the young, weren't afraid of trouble; they wished something would happen every day.

"But it probably isn't something threatening to us. Even if it is, it's not serious. Otherwise, they should have had us bring our teams back, not just return alone."

Little Tiger looked at his two brothers and smiled. "Clearly, it's not for a fight."

The three stopped talking here because a not-too-loud drum sound came from the camp behind. This was the precursor to launching the battle; the audible range was limited to the area around the Cloud Peak army.

"Want to go get some activity?"

Yun Shao said to Little Tiger, "I heard there are several experts over there, and an old friend of ours."

"The one from Pin Palace?" Little Tiger immediately reacted. Someone who could be called an old friend in this place was probably the only one who had gone far away to a foreign land.

"Mm, I heard he has already evolved to Level Nine and is the backbone of the enemy alliance forces."

Little Tiger glared at Yun Shao. "Is that 'getting some activity'? That's serving ourselves up as dishes."

After a pause, Little Tiger added, "Since that guy evolved to Level Nine, why didn't he go back to settle the score?"

Xiao Peng laughed heartily. "Look for whom? Look for our boss or Uncle Daqian? Uncle Daqian submitted to us; now he commands one hundred thousand powerful war beasts and tens of thousands of beast tamers, plus his own war beasts. They could overwhelm him with numbers alone. Look for our boss? They'd beat the crap out of him."

The three young men, with an average age not exceeding twenty-five, all chuckled together.

Little Tiger subconsciously looked up at the sky and whispered, "I wonder how the boss is doing up there, how many of the universe's races have had the crap beaten out of them by him. I really miss him."

Chapter 1969: No more Five Ring Money

Red Hair sat on a tree, her gaze looking into the distance. Her head full of long red hair was loosely spread behind her, gently swaying with the breeze, making her slender figure appear extremely beautiful.

If it weren't for the fact that she was holding the corpse of a Level Eight monster over three meters long in her hand, allowing the small bone dragon beside her to absorb it, the scene would have been even more beautiful.

Since Red Hair and the Undead Dragon Fish successfully evolved to Level Nine, and since Ye Zhongming went up to the sky, she, like Little Tiger, felt that nothing was interesting.

Fighting? Having become a Level Nine lifeform, there weren't many existences that were her match. The Talking Lady and the Black Cat could, but they belonged to the Cloud Peak series, too, so they couldn't fight to the death. After all, it wasn't like before. Now, whether it was Red Hair herself or the Talking Lady, their intelligence had reached a certain level, and they certainly wouldn't fight life-and-death battles like before. Others would definitely not start a fight with her.

Since evolving successfully these days, only Yangos, relying on becoming a Level Nine dragon, had been a bit cocky. Once, it failed to execute an order properly and went off to harass female beasts in the dense mountainous forests, nearly causing the operation to fail. When Sister Lei criticized it, it even dared to glare. She and the Undead Dragon Fish teamed up to teach it a lesson; that time, they used about eighty percent of their strength.

"Today, there's only one Level Nine on the other side. Will you go or shall I go?" Red Hair asked, stroking the Undead Dragon Fish, which could now shrink and expand freely in size.

The Undead Dragon Fish raised its head, flapped its wings, and then flew onto Red Hair's shoulder, transmitting a message.

"Together? You want to go back for the meeting?"

Red Hair couldn't help but laugh.

The Undead Dragon Fish's self-awareness was completely unleashed after evolution. Rather than saying it was an undead life, it was more like a life with an undead body.

Now, it was even interested in Cloud Peak's specific affairs.

Red Hair's smile only lasted halfway before the Undead Dragon Fish gave her another message.

"Huh? You said, you feel danger?"

Red Hair's expression became much more serious, and her super-sensing ability began to cover the surroundings.

"Is there some powerful lifeform near us? Or something else?"

"Just a feeling of danger, but not urgent?"

Red Hair was left baffled, not knowing what the Undead Dragon Fish really wanted to express.

Actually, occasionally, Red Hair also had some heart-palpating feelings, but they lasted too briefly. She preferred to regard this as an emotion produced as she gradually began to 'humanize'.

"Let's go then, let's go kill that troublesome guy and supplement your body."

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The battle, from its launch to its conclusion, lasted only six hours.

This still included the time spent pursuing the remnants. The formal battle only took a little over an hour before the enemy collapsed under the powerful offensive of the Cloud Peak army.

The reason the enemy collapsed so quickly in a battle involving several hundred thousand people was primarily due to two key factors. The first point was spiritual: not long after the battle started, the Level Nine Evolved they relied on and regarded as their leader was killed by one person and one dragon. The process didn't even take ten minutes. The second point was the overwhelming force of the Cloud Peak army. The sky-covering war beasts and the cavalry riding them were like a torrent, directly breaking through their formation.

Thus ensued a rout and pursuit.

For such enemy main forces that dared to challenge Cloud Peak directly, any Cloud Peak team, regardless of its style, would not show mercy or forgiveness. They would eliminate as many as possible. Only afterwards would they adopt a soft policy towards the surrounding people.

Six hours later, the pursuit stopped. Li Daqian, participating in battle for the first time as the overall commander after merging into Cloud Peak, quickly issued orders.

"Secure the battlefield within two hours, then withdraw from here. It's estimated that a large number of mutated lifeforms will come to feed after we leave. The teams remaining here can freely hunt under the leadership of their respective squad leaders. However, remember that they can only deploy one-third of their troops at most. The rest can hunt in sequence. They must ensure the camp remains intact. If they encounter a powerful Level Nine lifeform, they should immediately defend and send someone back to Cloud Peak to report."

Because the core members were all temporarily leaving to return to Cloud Peak for the meeting, Li Daqian was not only handling the post-battle aftermath this time but also explaining how the teams should respond to situations they might encounter after their departure.

"We probably won't be away for too long, probably about one day before we return."

Li Daqian looked up at the huge Undead Dragon Fish passing overhead, a flash of envy in his eyes.

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"Cloud Peak really thinks highly of me, sending two Level Nines at once."

Deacon Tong looked at Mo Ye and the strangely dressed woman beside her, smiling bitterly.

Five Ring Money, a name once resounding throughout the post-apocalyptic world, was now on the verge of destruction.

This 'impending destruction' came a bit too quickly.

Yesterday, the overall strength of Five Ring Money was still intact. Today, with Mo Ye and the Death King Tree, who was now no different from a human, standing here, it meant Five Ring Money was about to be destroyed.

"I've always been curious. You waited so long after launching the war against the whole world to come for me. Was it because of Deacon Water?"

This time, Mo Ye spoke.

"She did indeed plead for you, and even wanted to come to persuade you herself, but Sister Lei didn't agree."

"Oh? Why? Cloud Peak doesn't cherish a bloodless opportunity? Are you so confident about destroying Five Ring Money without significant losses?" Deacon Tong asked with great interest.

"No." Mo Ye shook her head. "Not letting Deacon Water come was just to prevent her from seeing the scene of her former good friend being killed due to different choices. That would be too cruel."

"You know, Cloud Peak is always very good to its own people." Mo Ye's hand slowly lifted.

Deacon Tong smiled coldly, flames rising in her eyes.

"It seems you didn't understand." Mo Ye suddenly said.

Deacon Tong was slightly stunned, but she still didn't give up on raising her aura; she prepared to fight.

"Deacon Water pleading for you... And coming to persuade you personally is a different thing. Sister Lei didn't agree to her coming personally, but she agreed to the plea for you."

"Hmph, if you want to fight, then fight! Why say so many complicated things!" Deacon Tong felt insulted; Mo Ye and the Death King were just lecturing her from a high-up position, like victors.

"I think you should listen first, then decide whether to fight or not. Neither your Five Ring Money's 'Money Army' nor our Cloud Peak's teams mind waiting a little longer."

"Fine, you speak."

Mo Ye nodded upon hearing this and said slowly, "Deacon Water pleaded, asking if we could delay dealing with Five Ring Money for a while. That way, the others would exchange all their resources for magic crystals, allowing the most talented Deacon Tong to first become a Level Nine Evolved to increase her courage to resist Cloud Peak. Then, when she came here afterwards, she could get a good position

and wouldn't feel like she was living under someone else's roof. It should be more acceptable to her than when she was Level Eight. She is a stubborn person; if she can't think it through, she would foolishly fight to the death."

Deacon Tong closed her eyes. Mo Ye and the Death King Tree weren't in a hurry and just waited there.

A full five minutes later, when Manager Tong opened her eyes again, the flames within them were gone.

Mo Ye smiled. She knew that from today on, there would be no more Five Ring Money in the world.

Chapter 1970: Changing mountains

"Why are you angry again?"

Xia Lei imitated the tone from a certain skit before the apocalypse to tease Yellow Ball, who was lying to the side.

Yellow Ball drooped its eyelids, looking like it didn't want to deal with you.

"Alright, you are Cloud Peak's trump card. We can't just let you out casually. When we need you, we'll let you take action. Didn't we let you bite off someone's head a while ago? That was also a Level Nine lifeform. Still not satisfied?"

Stroking the even softer golden fur on Yellow Ball's body after it evolved to Level Nine, Xia Lei spoke to it as if she were speaking to a child.

The world now knew that Cloud Peak had seven Level Nines: Mo Ye, Yangos, Red Hair, Undead Dragon Fish, Death King Tree, Talking Lady, and her Black Cat.

But they didn't know that Cloud Peak actually had nine top-tier existences; there were also Liang Chuyin and Yellow Ball.

Moreover, after this period of striking out in all directions, Xia Lei already had some Level Nine magic crystals and could spin the Level Nine wheel. If luck were good enough, Cloud Peak would soon have another Level Nine lifeform born!

These top-tier lifeforms were the confidence for Xia Lei and others to make their crazy decision.

If they only had one Level Nine lifeform, and still wanted to unify the entire planet? Unifying the country would be a delusion.

Launching war was a method that accumulated wealth faster than any other means. During this period, Cloud Peak won consecutive victories, and their gains... actually far exceeded that of peaceful times.

"How about this: tomorrow, when that dragon Yangos returns, let you fight it, okay? Don't look at me with that expression. The other Level Nine lifeforms won't bother with you even if you want to fight them."

Yellow Ball directly turned its head away.

Yes, a top-tier lifeform on this planet had to stay in a small mountain villa's underground castle and couldn't go out. Anyone would be unhappy about that.

But Yellow Ball was the most obedient among Cloud Peak's non-human Level Nine lifeforms. Although unhappy in its heart, it would still stay here and not go out.

"Alright, alright, looking at you, throwing a little tantrum. After tomorrow, we won't confine you anymore, okay?"

Upon hearing this, Yellow Ball immediately turned its head back, its eyes fixed on Xia Lei, meaning, 'Are you not lying?'

Xia Lei laughed heartily. "We won't confine you today then, we'll let you out, okay? However, you can't leave the mountain villa's range. After tomorrow, you can go wherever you want!"

Yellow Ball jumped up happily, wagging its tail wildly at Xia Lei, lowering its big head to nudge Xia Lei's head, looking like you are the best.

"And, Yellow Ball, I have some news to tell you."

Yellow Ball looked at Xia Lei in confusion, feeling that today, this one of the female masters was indeed somewhat unusual.

"We've made contact with your master." This sentence almost made the fur on Yellow Ball's body stand on end. Xia Lei immediately calmed it down, "Not direct contact, but Zhongming seems to have joined some race in the universe, called the Star-Eye Clan, and they chose me as their spokesperson on Earth."

Nowadays, the agent system wasn't a secret among the higher officials of various major forces. Previously, everyone in Cloud Peak's leadership knew that Ye Zhongming was the spokesperson of the Taros Red Dwarves.

They just didn't understand why, after going up there, Ye Zhongming changed factions.

However, regardless, being chosen made Xia Lei extremely excited. It took her several hours to calm down, barely.

All the previous anxiety and restlessness disappeared without a trace.

Although she couldn't directly communicate with Ye Zhongming for now, and she couldn't even be sure if this Star-Eye Clan was truly the target Ye Zhongming had joined, just being able to confirm that her man was safe and sound in the sky was enough for Xia Lei.

Otherwise, that scene of disappearing in light, leaving a pile of equipment behind, had become a nightmare she couldn't shake off.

"Tonight is my second contact with the Star-Eye Clan. I heard they are going to transmit some things over. At that time, both you and Chuyin need to be by my side, just in case. However, no matter what happens, you must not act impulsively. After all, they are the universe's myriad races. Your master might still rely on them to survive. So even if we suffer frustration, we must endure it."

Xia Lei stroked Yellow Ball's head and instructed.

In Cloud Peak, not just Yellow Ball, but everyone else was actually the same; they had already developed a pride from strength and victory.

This pride could be said to be Cloud Peak's spirit, Cloud Peak's soul!

On Earth, Xia Lei didn't think there was anyone or any force worth Cloud Peak placing this pride down for.

But facing the universe's races was different.

What kind of existence those were, Xia Lei couldn't imagine. What was certain was that they were definitely lifeforms infinitely more powerful than Cloud Peak.

In front of these lifeforms, Cloud Peak must raise its tail.

She believed that as long as her man was given some time, as long as Cloud Peak was given some time, this situation would reverse.

She could understand, and she also needed others to understand, especially Yellow Ball. The loyalty of dogs to their masters was one of the most reliable emotions in the world. Yellow Ball, who had been through life and death with Ye Zhongming since the beginning of the apocalypse, had elevated this loyalty to the utmost. Xia Lei was truly afraid that the arrogance of the universe's races would anger Yellow Ball, causing an accident for her spokesperson status. That would mean there would be no chance to communicate with Ye Zhongming directly.

Leaving the underground fortress with Yellow Ball, Xia Lei saw a letter that would appear on the table every day.

That was the daily report from Chameleon.

After Ye Zhongming left, Chameleon was temporarily taken over by Xia Lei again.

Xia Lei let Yellow Ball play by itself. Soon, she heard exclamations from outside; those were Cloud Peak soldiers seeing Yellow Ball after it evolved to Level Nine.

Opening the letter, there were three pages.

The first page was the internal intelligence of Cloud Peak. It covered everything, no matter how small, as long as Chameleon noticed it and deemed it valuable, it would be reported.

The second page included intelligence outside Cloud Peak, encompassing information from the major forces Chameleon could currently reach, as well as from the vast territories.

The third page had only appeared after Cloud Peak declared war externally. It was military intelligence, including battle reports, losses, gains, etc. On the one hand, Xia Lei used this intelligence to understand things that the main teams might have overlooked in their reports. On the other hand, she also needed to compare it with the intelligence the teams sent themselves.

It wasn't that she didn't trust others, but that she didn't want to test human nature.

After reading today's report, Xia Lei thought for a moment, then gently knocked on the table. Immediately, a black shadow appeared in the room.

"Two matters. First, confirm where the Secret Realm opened by that force in the north leads to, and how far their exploration has progressed."

"The second matter is a military order. Use your channels; it's faster this way. Order Guang Yao, Tong Hu, Ah Yang, Mei Na, Gan Lan, and the Talking Lady to abandon the attack on the Glory Army and temporarily stay in place, awaiting further notice."