

Versatile 1721

Chapter 1721: The Grand Ceremony of the Wind Beasts, Part One

Jiang Shaoxu was not an outsider. Mo Fan promptly her about their plan to exterminate the Giant Purple Linden.

"I never thought that thing was such an evil demon!" Jiang Shaoxu was shocked. She had tried to climb the Giant Purple Linden, too. She had assumed the sacred-looking tree was a safer option, yet it was just a disguise the demon was wearing!

"Naturally, the beautiful things are usually more dangerous," Mo Fan said.

"That's true, it's the same with our society. The prettier women are deadlier, like me! Many men are terrified of me!" Jiang Shaoxu burst out laughing.

"...Miss, do you know that you are no different from a little ape that has fallen into a latrine pit?" Mo Fan was left speechless by Jiang Shaoxu's narcissism.

"I will be back to my gorgeous self after taking a shower... Huh, who's the little beauty behind you?" Jiang Shaoxu suddenly noticed Apas.

For some reason, Jiang Shaoxu felt uneasy describing herself as gorgeous around the little beauty.

"Miss Jiang, you should leave with us. The great commander is still awaiting your return," Li Dexin said respectfully.

"Li Dexin, what do you mean by that!?" Zhao Manyan snapped.

"What do I mean? I never gave you my promise. I do not want to stay here a second more!" Li Dexin answered coldly.

"General Li, isn't that inappropriate? They risked their lives to save us!" The tanned soldier almost burst into tears. He had already given Mo Fan his promise, yet his superior did not agree. He was extremely troubled!

"You can go back if you want. I'm going to the Ashwood Wind Layer with Mo Fan," Jiang Shaoxu said.

"Please don't make things difficult for us!" Li Dexin said hurriedly.

"I'm not making things difficult for you. You did come and save my life. Mission accomplished. It's my choice to bring doom upon myself. It has nothing to do with the Violet Imperial Battalion. You should go, stop being a nuisance around here!" Jiang Shaoxu was as unrestrained as usual.

She had spent so much time exploring the winged beasts' paradise because she was trying to climb higher and find traces of the Totem Beast. Even though the Violet Imperial Battalion had come, she had never planned to go back with them!

"It's true that we have done our job, but if the great commander learns we didn't bring you back in one piece, he's going to skin us alive. Miss Jiang, please come back with us. This place is too dangerous!" Li Dexin said urgently.

Li Dexin had been acting disdainfully since he first set foot into the Qinling Mountains, like a noble dragon entering a desolate valley. However, he had completely lost his proud demeanor. The many winged beasts were driving him crazy!

"It's fine. I'll explain it to him in person, if I'm able to make it back alive," Jiang Shaoxu said.

Li Dexin's expression darkened.

He glared at Mo Fan. He was highly suspicious of Mo Fan, thinking he had put Jiang Shaoxu under a spell that had convinced her to follow them to the Ashwood Wind Layer recklessly.

How ridiculous! The Vine Canopy Layer of Mount Baiba was already so terrifying, despite being the lowest level. If they reached the next layer, not only did they have to face more powerful winged beasts, they would be constantly tortured by the Wind of Sorrow, too!

Li Dexin wanted to advise against it, but Jiang Shaoxu raised her hand and said impatiently, "That's enough, I've never seen such a garrulous soldier before. Off you go, I'll be fine staying with Mo Fan."

Mo Fan nodded with a smile, "Yeah, we'll protect her. You guys didn't really do much apart from bringing us trouble along the journey. Just go back the way you came. The Qinling Mountains aren't suitable for young soldiers like you."

"Humph, what are you trying to say?! Are you humiliating the Violet Imperial Battalion!?" Li Dexin was enraged.

"I'm just speaking the truth. Just leave, we have a real business to attend to, later... oh, be careful not to stumble into any trouble again on your way back. We won't be able to lend you a hand again after we reach the next layer," Mo Fan added.

"Enough with your nonsense! Miss Jiang, we were told to keep you safe. We didn't just come to accomplish our mission half-heartedly. We won't leave before escorting you safely back to the Violet Imperial Battalion's camp!" Li Dexin said sternly.

"Then stop talking and follow me," Jiang Shaoxu said.

"We are just worried about..."

"Worried about what? It's just the Ashwood Wind Layer, so what if we are trespassing? Not only am I going to climb to the Ashwood Wind Layer, I'll make it to the highest point and witness the legendary Sacred Waterfall with my own eyes!" Jiang Shaoxu said proudly.

"..." Li Dexin did not dare to say a word further.

Things were a lot simpler after Jiang Shaoxu convinced the stubborn Li Dexin with just a few sentences.

"By the way, why isn't Zhang Xiaohou back yet?" Zhao Manyan blurted out after a thought suddenly crossed his mind.

“That’s right, I almost forgot about him. Is he alright?” Mo Fan only realized Zhang Xiaohou was not back yet.

“And you call yourself his bro?” Lingling rolled her eyes at Mo Fan. He had completely forgotten about Zhang Xiaohou, who was risking his life for them after seeing Jiang Shaoxu.

A mountain covered in dense vines and ancient trees poked through the clouds. The Wind of Sorrow swept fiercely, but the mountain remained firm!

A man in a gray-blue military outfit sprinted across the leaves, spreading them like a ripple on the surface of the ocean and leaving a strong gust of wind behind.

A huge beast with an icy transparent appearance circled in the air, scanning the leaves below with a sharp gaze.

The leader of the Skyice Beasts was trying to track down Zhang Xiaohou by observing the movement of the leaves. However, Zhang Xiaohou had used his Wind Element to stir up the leaves and scatter them across the place, blocking the Skyice Beasts’ view.

The leaves fell to the ground after some time. A strong flow of air was heading toward the woods of the Moon Mulberry Trees in the distance.

The leader of the Skyice Beasts eventually noticed the trail left by the human. It immediately led the flock of Skyice Beasts and followed the trail.

Their icy-white wings beat rapidly, leaving a trail of frost behind them. The Skyice Beasts, bringing a disastrous storm with them, soon headed to the woods of the Moon Mulberry Trees.

Somewhere below the area where the leaves were scattering, a head silently poked out from under a pile of leaves. It was none other than Zhang Xiaohou, who was on the run.

Zhang Xiaohou glanced in the direction the Skyice Winged Beasts were flying towards, and let out a relieved sigh.

“These creatures are indeed picking up the trail of their prey by following the flow of air. No wonder they were able to track me down when I was so far away,” Zhang Xiaohou mumbled to himself.

It was easy to shake off the Skyice Beasts after figuring out how they were tracking him down. Li Dexin and his men ended up being surrounded because they had no idea how the Skyice Beasts stayed constantly on their trail. The harder they ran, the more obvious the trail was, hence the Skyice Winged Beasts could pursue them effortlessly.

“Frosty birds, see you later. Time for me to go back,” Zhang Xiaohou climbed to his feet and waved at the Skyice Winged Beasts to bid them farewell.

Zhang Xiaohou was rather mischievous. He had plucked all the feathers off the leader of the Skyice Winged Beasts’ crown while it was resting alone.

The crown feathers were useless to many winged beasts, but they were the pride of the male birds, since the colorful feathers symbolized their manliness to the crowd, and attracted the female birds!

If Zhang Xiaohou had not taken such a step, he could not guarantee the Skyice Winged Beasts would chase him!

“Mm, these feathers are quite pretty. I should use them as decorations,” Zhang Xiaohou casually attached the feathers to his peaked cap. He looked slightly taller with the feathers on. “I think this is the way back...”

It was a lot easier to find the way back after shaking off the Skyice Winged Beasts. He had been leaving marks along the trail. Many Wind Mages would make the careless mistake of not blazing their trail to help them identify the way back. They would end up being separated from the team and lose their way in the wild.

Zhang Xiaohou had lost his way once, and almost died in the wild. He did not repeat the mistake.

He heard a noise not long after he began to make his way back.

Zhang Xiaohou had developed the habit of concealing his presence right away. He immediately jumped into a shrub nearby to avoid exposing himself to some powerful creatures. To his surprise, the bottom of the shrub was actually hollow. Zhang Xiaohou almost fell into a hole!

If it was somewhere else, Zhang Xiaohou could easily recover from the fall by using his Wind Wings, but it would be suicide to use the Wind Wings in the winged beasts' paradise. He quickly grabbed onto a thick vine nearby, hoping that it was firm enough to hold his weight.

Zhang Xiaohou started falling as he grabbed onto the vine tightly. It was wrapped around a tree, and barely held his weight.

“Lucky...” Zhang Xiaohou hung onto the dangling vine and let out a relieved sigh.

Every moment was a great thrill in a place like this!

More noises began to approach. Zhang Xiaohou quickly scanned his surroundings in a panic.

Feathers!

Feathers as dense as the stars in the night sky! Zhang Xiaohou noticed the sky was full of colorful feathers when he looked around him. More precisely, he was looking at the wings of different winged beasts soaring into the sky!

They had filled up the sky before he realized it, stretching from the Qinling Mountains to the Vine Canopy Layer Zhang Xiaohou was currently at. He was dumbfounded by the breathtaking sight. He remained hanging onto the vine as he totally forgot to climb back up!

Chapter 1722: The Grand Ceremony of the Winged Beasts, Part Two

“This is...this is crazy!” Zhang Xiaohou finally regained his wits after a long time.

It was his first time seeing so many winged beasts of different species soaring into the sky at the same time. It felt like the blue sky was covered in feathers!

Zhang Xiaohou climbed back to the Vine Canopy Layer and quickly followed the path he had blazed to regroup with the others.

Something serious must be happening if so many winged beasts, including several high-level species, had shown up at the same time!

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“Something big is happening!” Zhang Xiaohou blurted out as soon as he saw Mo Fan, even before he could catch his breath.

“What’s going on?” Mo Fan asked archly.

“The winged beasts, the whole sky is full of them! It feels like they are performing some kind of ritual!” Zhang Xiaohou exclaimed.

Mo Fan and the others were at a spot surrounded by plants, an overgrown area that barely had any sunlight, so they could not see what was going on outside.

Mo Fan quickly found himself a spot where he could see out. He was dumbfounded after just a glance.

The sky was full of winged beasts, as Zhang Xiaohou had mentioned. They were beating their wings, but seemed to be hovering in the sky instead of flying about randomly.

The feathers were as dense as stars when there were so many winged beasts flying in the air. Their colorful feathers were dazzling under the sunlight, a miraculous sight!

“What’s going on? Why are they hovering there?” Mo Fan was confused.

“As I thought, as I thought... Haha, it’s finally happening!” Jiang Shaoxu suddenly yelled in excitement.

The others stared at her in confusion. Jiang Shaoxu proceeded to explain, “I read about it in my brother’s journal. The winged beasts of Mount Baiba will hold a grand ceremony toward the end of a year, when the Wind of Sorrow is at its strongest. Every winged beast will participate in it!”

“The winged beasts have their ceremonies, too? Could it be that their ceremony involves them hovering in the sky and showing their feathers under the sun, to see who has the prettiest feathers?” Zhao Manyan wondered.

“Of course not, it’s not a beauty contest!” Jiang Shaoxu snapped. One-track mind male...

“What are they doing, then?”

“They are waiting for the Wind of Sorrow! The Wind of Sorrow actually has its patterns. Apparently, the Wind of Sorrow will blow up at certain times. With its help, the winged beasts might have a chance to reach the legendary Sacred Waterfall!” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“What are you talking about?” Zhao Manyan’s thoughts were all muddled up.

“An old man living in the Qinling Mountains told me that the winged beasts are not keen about their strength, but their ability to fly. The higher they can fly, the more respect they will receive from their peers. The Emperor of Feathers is the best among them!” Zhang Xiaohou added.

“That’s right, that’s how the status of the winged beasts is determined! The Emperor of Feathers is the one that reaches the greatest height during the ceremony. Once in a while, the winged beasts will hold the ceremony when the Wind of Sorrow is blowing to decide their status and territory on Mount Baiba by the altitude they can reach. They are preparing for it now!” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“So the one that reaches the highest during the ceremony will become the Emperor of Feathers for the next few years?” Mo Fan asked.

“Exactly! The winged beasts treat the ceremony very seriously. They will use everything they have to fly to a higher altitude, to earn the respect of the other winged beasts!” Jiang Shaoxu nodded.

“But, isn’t the number of participants too insane?” Zhao Manyan wondered.

“This is why it’s regarded as a grand ceremony of the winged beasts!” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“But... is it even our concern?” Zhao Manyan said.

“Of course it is! Aren’t you trying to reach the higher layers? If we go up the normal way, we are going to be trapped by the powerful winged beasts before we can reach the altitude where the Tree of Vows is located. The Wind of Sorrow is constantly blowing at the Ashwood Wind Layer. It’s extremely difficult to fight the winged beasts amid the Wind of Sorrow. However, if we can sneak into the winged beasts and fly to the Ashwood Wind Layer together with them, we won’t catch their attention!” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“That’s pretty bold, you’re asking us to compete with the winged beasts. Aren’t we done for as soon as we show our wings?” Zhao Manyan said.

Zhao Manyan still remembered Zhang Xiaohou’s warning. He was not allowed to fly, since it would provoke the winged beasts and turn him into an obvious target!

“Normally, if you aren’t a winged beast, you will be targeted by every winged beast when flying at an altitude that doesn’t belong to you. However, the restrictions regarding altitude are lifted during the ceremony. It doesn’t matter what level or status you are, even the Winged Patrol Beasts will be promoted to a higher status if the altitude they can reach is higher than other winged beasts. It’s a great chance for the winged beasts to shuffle their status, a chance to alter their destiny! With a higher status, they will be able to occupy a higher altitude, thus allowing the winged beasts to evolve even quicker...” Jiang Shaoxu went on.

“It does sound intriguing!” Mo Fan rubbed his chin.

“Brother Fan, it’s a rare opportunity, since every creature with wings has a chance to take part in it, including humans!” Zhang Xiaohou sounded excited.

“Besides, it’s the most reliable way to reach the Tree of Vows’ altitude. I’ve been observing for a long time. There are many Ruler-level winged beasts around here. It’s going to be difficult to break through using force,” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“But even a Wind Mage can hardly compete with these winged beasts in terms of flying ability. They will easily outmatch us,” Bai Hongfei said.

“Not necessarily. If we can help the Moon Moth Silkworm evolve, the little Moon Moth Phoenix will be able to bring us to the altitude we are after,” Yu Shishi suddenly piped up.

The silkworm was currently riding on Yu Shishi’s shoulder. The transparent little creature was staring at the winged beasts with wide eyes, as if it had an urge to grow a pair of wings right away.

The Moon Moth Phoenix used to be one of the winged beasts here, too. Even though it had been reincarnated, it could still feel that this place was its home.

“Indeed, the little Moon Moth Phoenix can give us a ride!”

“Let’s hurry up and take down the Giant Purple Linden to help the Moon Moth Silkworm transform into a little Moon Moth Phoenix... humph, it’s time to get our revenge!”

Chapter 1723: Exterminating the Demon Tree

The winged beasts were preparing for the ceremony, including the powerful creatures of the Ashwood Wind Layer. For them, it meant the winged beasts residing on the Giant Purple Linden had all left to join the flying marathon. It greatly reduced the difficulty of Mo Fan and his crew’s objective of taking down the demon tree!

“Let’s pretend to climb the Giant Purple Linden. The demon is a cunning hunter. It won’t bother wasting its time on just one or two prey, nor would it reveal itself,” Mo Fan said.

Mo Fan began climbing the Giant Purple Linden. Zhao Manyan stopped him when he was on the trunk after recalling something.

“By the way, won’t it recognize you?” Zhao Manyan said.

“Recognize my ass, it’s just a f**king tree, I don’t believe it has the ability to recognize someone,” Mo Fan said.

“Ugh... you’re right, we Asians think Africans all look alike, too,” Zhao Manyan admitted after giving it some thought.

2

Mo Fan boldly climbed the tree, recalling seeing a huge cave just below the treetop in the past. He would have a hard time believing the sacred Giant Purple Linden was the evil demon tree if he had not seen it transform in person.

The Giant Purple Linden only had its main trunk left. He remembered how lofty it used to be, back in the valley of Mount Kunyu, but it was forced to hide in Mount Baiba among the rest of the towering trees. It

must be holding a strong grudge since then, having to pretend it was just a little kid among the younger trees.

“Old demon tree, aren’t you good at disguises? You must have drunk a lot of fresh blood and eaten a lot of fresh meat recently, but this is your end!” Mo Fan looked up and noticed he was very close to the tree cave.

The cave was closed right now. It looked just like an ordinary crack on the tree. It must have devoured many creatures while they were enjoying some moon baths on the branches and turned them into its nutrition.

The most disgusting about the Giant Purple Linden was its disguise!

The Giant Purple Linden would only reveal its true nature as a last resort. It would stick to its disguise as a sacred tree offering little creatures protection, so they would form a small ecosphere around it.

Once the population of the creatures reached a certain level, it would provoke them to kill one another. When the last creature standing thought it could finally claim the throne, the Giant Purple Linden would eat it and slowly digest it. Only then would the creature realize it had been prey all along.

The Giant Purple Linden’s patience was unbelievable. It was willing to spend ten, twenty, or even thirty years slowly laying down its plan. If Yan Shi had not exposed it, it might lay its hands on a human city next. After all, humans were easily deceived by appearance!

Mo Fan could already feel the stronger Wind of Sorrow blowing through the gaps between the branches at his current height, and could still see the colorful feathers of the winged beasts filling up the sky. They were well-behaved, as if they were awaiting further instructions from their god. They might not even care if their nests were invaded. After all, every ambitious winged beast had been waiting for the ceremony to secure a better house or mansion!

“Are you sure you can find the Sacred Linden Leaves?” Mo Fan asked Yu Shishi, who was climbing the tree with him.

“I can locate them when the demon tree starts to attack with the Devil Tree Spikes after you tear off its mask. The Sacred Linden Leaves are the source of its energy,” Yu Shishi said confidently.

“Very well...” Mo Fan nodded.

“But you have to be extremely careful. It is still a terrifying demon, despite its current state!” Yu Shishi reminded him.

Even a Totem Beast like the Moon Moth Phoenix had almost died to the demon tree, let alone a group whose combined strength was not even comparable to a tenth of a half-Forbidden Mage like Yan Shi. It would not be easy to kill the demon tree!

“Don’t worry, those people of the Violent Imperial Battalion are with us. Li Dexin might be an annoying jerk, but he is still quite strong,” Mo Fan said.

“Alright, you can start once I’m in position. If I can pluck the Sacred Linden Leaves, it will greatly weaken the demon!” Yu Shishi said.

They waited until Yu Shishi had climbed higher up the tree. Mo Fan asked Bai Hongfei to go with her to look after her. The winged beasts might be busy with the ceremony, but there was no guarantee the fliers would not intervene with their business. They had to be careful at all times!

“We’re in position!” Bai Hongfei signaled them.

Mo Fan ignited a small fireball, signaling the rest of the group to proceed with the plan.

“Keep up the disguise, have a taste of my Mount Lu Rise Dragon!” Mo Fan stomped his foot and engulfed himself in the flames of the Meteor Scarlet.

*{TL Note: **Mount Lu Rise Dragon** is Shiryu’s skill, a character from Saint Seiya.}*

1

At the same time, Little Flame Belle, who was lying on Mo Fan’s shoulder transformed into Flame Belle and Possessed Mo Fan. The flames of the Calamity Fire and the Ardent Sunset engulfed him!

“Fiery Swamp!”

The surfaces below Mo Fan’s feet were covered by blazing flames, reaching over a hundred meters away. The flames devoured all the leaves around him.

The Giant Purple Linden did not show any reaction. Its body was very resistant to fire. Mo Fan might be casting a powerful spell atop it, but it was unsure if the spell was targeting it.

Who would bother attacking a tree? The winged beasts and other creatures would only bother killing one another!

Mo Fan shoved his fist into the air, as if he was trying to mess up the winged beasts’ ceremony!

“Rise and shine!”

Fiery dragons sprang higher into the sky from the flames, dyeing his surroundings red. The winged beasts roaming nearby were terrified by the strong magic, and immediately fled for their lives!

The fiery dragons made up of the Meteor Scarlet and the Ardent Sunset flew across the sky. They gradually enlarged as their flames grew stronger!

“Come back here!”

Just as the Giant Purple Linden assumed Mo Fan was attacking the winged beasts, the fiery dragons returned and slammed down heavily on the tree cave!

The destructive flames spread wildly. The Giant Purple Linden was enjoying the competition between the winged beasts, while waiting to reap some long-awaited harvests. It did not expect there to be a maniac that would bother attacking a tree!

The branches of the Giant Purple Linden shook vigorously. It was able to use its Demon Tree Spikes to set up a perfect defense, but the problem was, it did not expect the humans to be after it in the first place!

It was only a tree, after all, and so was not as intelligent as most creatures. More precisely, it did not have a real brain. It happened to taste the fresh blood of demon creatures once after a huge battle happened between two tribes, so it kept using the same trick to nurture itself into a demon!

With a huge blast, the fiery dragons penetrated the weak defense the demon tree had set up in a panic, and slammed into the tree cave on the Giant Purple Linden.

The Giant Purple Linden shuddered suddenly, but it was useless, since it did not have any chance to dodge the attacks.

The tree's bark was extremely thick, yet the flames still managed to scorch it and leave a huge hole in the Giant Purple Linden's forehead!

The Giant Purple Linden realized its identity was exposed. It stopped disguising itself and turned its branches into deadly weapons, pouring them down at Mo Fan!

Even though it only had a main trunk left, the Devil Tree Spikes covered a huge area, with almost no gaps between them. Mo Fan thought he was prepared, yet he still had no chance to escape to safety with Blink!

"Old Zhao!" Mo Fan yelled.

"Titan Hug!" Zhao Manyan responded instantly.

An enormous silhouette backlit by a brown light expanded rapidly. It had grown to the size of a small mountain by the time it reached Mo Fan's position. Its actions were synchronized with Zhao Manyan. It leaned forward and spread its arms to protect Mo Fan with its back.

The Devil Tree Spikes left countless tiny holes in the sturdy back of the titan. Some of the thicker branches even punctured it and attacked Mo Fan!

It gave Mo Fan a huge fright. He quickly dodged the branches, but they kept pouring down, and destroyed Zhao Manyan's spell!

"Damn it, is that thing made of diamond!?" Zhao Manyan was startled at the outcome.

The Titan Hug was one of his strongest defensive spells, but the Giant Purple Linden had punctured it like it was something made of Play-do. The giant figure was beyond recognition in just a brief moment!

Mo Fan turned into a shadow bird and fled to the edge of the cliff. He heard Bai Hongfei yelling before he could set down, "Teacher, look out!"

A massive elastic branch swept at Mo Fan like a powerful tentacle, fierce and brutal!

The rocks were smashed into pieces, shattered like mere bubbles. Mo Fan's figure faded away amid the dust that had been swept into the air. He reappeared on top of an ancient tree three hundred meters away.

The tree was like a little sapling compared to the Giant Purple Linden. The demon tree was able to track Mo Fan's location with ease. The truth was, a distance of three hundred meters was like a little hop compared to its enormous size, which had shrouded the whole sky!

Chapter 1724: The Tragic Scale-Winged Serpents

“Do it quick!” Mo Fan yelled as he began to feel uneasy.

His voice echoed for a moment before he heard the answering cry of the Lesser Dragon from below!

Li Dexin had Summoned his Great Lesser Earth Dragon. The muscular dragon rammed into the trunk of the Giant Purple Linden with its horn!

The dragon possessed incredible strength, and the entire Giant Purple Linden shook from the hit. The Devil Tree Spikes that were aiming at Mo Fan missed too.

Mo Fan immediately fled to a safe spot using Fleeing Shadow. As a matter of fact, there was not really a safe spot in the vicinity of the Purple Giant Linden. Its Devil Tree Spikes could reach some distance away, so Mo Fan would always be within its reach if he was still planning to attack it.

The Violet Imperial Battalion launched their attacks. The soldiers were indeed strong. They managed to inflict injuries on the Giant Purple Linden’s body, scraping off several layers of its thick bark. Many of its branches and leaves were blasted off, too!

Their attacks managed to distract the demon tree, allowing Mo Fan to summon his Soul-grade Flames again after catching his breath!

“Sky-Flame Funeral: Flame Belle Sword Feathers!”

It was the fourth-tier Sky-Flame Funeral combined with the three Soul-grade Flames. The Star Constellation Mo Fan was constructing was a lot bigger than usual. When the Stars finally connected, he lifted the huge fireballs and tossed them into the sky!

The two fireballs split continuously, turning into fiery swords floating above Mo Fan. They eventually formed a blazing red formation of swords!

The swords filled up the area like feathers. As Mo Fan flung his arm out, the fiery swords poured down and stabbed the Giant Purple Linden in the same spot on its ‘forehead’.

The fiery swords were spectacular, each stabbing deeply into the trunk of the Giant Purple Linden. The demon tree was unable to dodge, and could only defend itself with the Devil Tree Spikes, but if it fended off Mo Fan’s flames, it would expose the bottom part of its trunk to the Violet Imperial Battalion. Even if it did, it could only block so many fiery swords at once!

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“How did he become so strong already!?” Jiang Shaoxu exclaimed, staring at Mo Fan’s magic in astonishment.

He was only an Advanced Mage, yet his spells were already at the Super Level. If he was not going up against the demon tree, his spells were enough to kill some of the more powerful winged beasts in an instant!

Following that thought, Jiang Shaoxu glanced at the gorgeous young woman beside her with a confused face.

Lingling was an intelligent Hunter, but what about this girl called Apas? Was she only here for decoration? But she did not look scared, judging from her calm expression...

“Aren’t you going to do something?” Jiang Shaoxu asked.

“My expertise is Psychic Magic, it’s no use against the tree,” Apas replied. She insisted on being a bystander.

“Oh, me too, what a coincidence. It looks like there’s nothing we can do but cheer for them,” Jiang Shaoxu agreed.

“They will soon alert the winged beasts that are preparing for the ceremony by creating such a scene. The ceremony might be important, but some of them will still return to protect their habitat. You two will have to drive the winged beasts away,” Lingling said.

“We are all bystanders here. Who gave you the right to order us around?” Apas snorted disdainfully.

Apas was a very lazy snake beauty. She would rather find a place to take a nap, if not for the noise. She had not had a chance to take a pleasant nap ever since she came to the wild.

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As Lingling thought, the loud noises from the battle attracted a number of winged beasts, including those that had been living on the Giant Purple Tree.

They were a bunch of flying serpents, their wings covered in scales. They were waiting for the Wind of Sorrow with the rest of the winged beasts when their home suddenly came under attack by a group of humans out of nowhere. The angry Scale-Winged Serpents immediately returned to protect their home.

“Are these creatures considered winged beasts too?” Mo Fan turned around and saw five Scale-Winged Serpents glaring at him.

“Every creature with wings is qualified. Brother Fan, I’ll lure them away so you can focus on the tree,” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“Those unambitious creatures have returned to protect their home. They might be winged beasts, but perhaps they can be considered a snake species too...” Mo Fan hesitated for a moment. He stopped attacking the Giant Purple Linden and used Blink to move to another spot.

The Scale-Winged Serpents immediately dove at him. They were obviously obeying the Giant Purple Linden’s will to keep Mo Fan busy!

“Apas, will these snakes take orders from you? Get rid of them for me!” Mo Fan yelled.

“Humph!” Apas was extremely unwilling. She just wanted to be a bystander. Little did she know, the ‘residents’ on the Giant Purple Linden ended up being some snake species with wings!

Apas lifted her gaze and glanced at the five Scale-Winged Serpents coldly. A strong pressure penetrated their minds. They began to shiver as they were diving from the sky.

They quickly spread their wings, like they were slamming hard on the brakes. The five Scale-Winged Serpents suddenly turned into statues in the air, not knowing what they were supposed to do.

Apas’ eyes glittered once again, emitting a sharp golden flicker. The Scale-Winged Serpents immediately fled for their lives, as if the snake empress was telling them to piss off with the look in her eye.

“Wait, tell those Scale-Winged Serpents to attack the Giant Purple Linden instead. Let them deal with the Devil Tree Spikes!” Mo Fan said as a sudden thought crossed his mind.

If Apas could ask the creatures to leave so easily, why couldn’t she order them to attack the Giant Purple Linden too? Why was he so stupid?

Apas’ eyes were filled with impatience. Why did he not say that in the first place? She had to waste her energy again!

The Medusa’s mental strength was overwhelming. She was able to call the Scale-Winged Serpents back even without looking into their eyes.

The Scale-Winged Serpents were relieved after heading back into the sky. They were preparing to rejoin the competition when they saw a pair of terrifying eyes among the clouds above them. The eyes delivered an order into their minds which they could not disobey!

If the Scale-Winged Serpents could shed a tear, they would be soaked in tears by now...

Chapter 1725: Hellflame Firestorm

It was fine that the Snake Empress was stopping them from protecting their nest. After all, if they managed to achieve a good result during the ceremony, they would be able to find themselves a better tree to live on. To their surprise, the snake empress was forcing them to attack the Giant Purple Linden, too!

Not only did they fail to stop the people burning their household, they were forced to help them carry the bricks away, too! How unacceptable!

The Scale-Winged Serpent leading the others was totally regretting it. Why did it bother to come back to protect the tree? It should have waited for the ceremony to start instead!

The Scale-Winged Serpents soon returned, and started tearing at the thick branches of the Giant Purple Linden right away. Their fangs were sharp and had a strong acidic effect. Their poison might not be effective against the tree, but the corrosive power was still deadly to it.

The Devil Tree Spikes were the Giant Purple Linden's branches. The Scale-Winged Serpents' numbers were surprisingly high, and the Giant Purple Linden was struggling to fend them off when they all lunged at the tree and tore at its branches!

As a matter of fact, the Giant Purple Linden was furious. These goddamned snakes had been eating and drinking on it for at least half a year, but not only were they ungrateful, they were helping the outsiders to attack it too! What the heck was going on today!?

Meanwhile, the Scale-Winged Serpents were not brainless, either. They were quite confused when they saw the true appearance of the Giant Purple Linden. The Scale-Winged Serpents were enraged once Apas told their leader about the Giant Purple Linden's disguise. The tree they had been living on was actually a bloody trap!

The number of Devil Tree Spikes was greatly reduced following the attacks from the Scale-Winged Serpents. The Violet Imperial Battalion continued to damage the tree's stem and roots, while the trunk was burned by Mo Fan's magic. The treetop was under heavy attack from the Scale-Winged Serpents who had turned against it. The Giant Purple Linden began to let out cries of agony, finally exposing its true self!

The winged beasts hovering in the air were astounded and terrified after seeing the Giant Purple Linden's true appearance. They did not expect a demon to be hiding among the trees they were living on. The winged beasts no longer bothered to interfere with the matter. They might not like the outsiders, but they were more afraid of the monster that had disguised itself in their territory!

"At last, they have shown up!" Yu Shishi blurted out in joy.

The Sacred Linden Leaves finally appeared after the demon tree revealed its true appearance. The Giant Purple Linden had no clue that Yu Shishi, Bai Hongfei, and Zhang Xiaohou were still hiding higher up in it. Its Devil Tree Spikes were busy attacking its foes further down. It completely ignored the three at the top!

"The Sacred Linden Leaves are located at the center of the Devil Tree Spikes. We shouldn't approach them recklessly, or the Devil Tree Spikes will turn us into beehives," Bai Hongfei noticed.

"Let's wait a little longer. Let them deal with the Devil Tree Spikes first," Zhang Xiaohou agreed.

"Mm, alright," Yu Shishi seemed a little nervous. After all, the Sacred Linden Leaves would decide the fate of her moths. If she managed to help the Moon Moth Silkworm evolve into a little Moon Moth Phoenix, it would guarantee the safety of the moths, too!

"How strange, where did so many white wolves come from?" Bai Hongfei suddenly asked.

Zhang Xiaohou looked down and noticed many white wolves weaving through the branches and attacking the trunk. With the combined efforts of a few hundred demon wolves and the Scale-Winged Serpents attacking the tree, the Giant Purple Linden began to lose its branches rapidly!

"It's Brother Fan's Advanced Summoning Spell!" Zhang Xiaohou was overjoyed.

"How many wolves did he Summon with the spell? It looks like some of them are even Commander-level creatures!" Bai Hongfei blurted out in disbelief.

The wolves could easily pluck away every Sacred Linden Leaf with a bite each. The three at the top slowly moved closer when they noticed that there was not much defense left around the Sacred Linden Leaves.

Zhang Xiaohou was leading the way. He noticed the purple leaves wriggling when he was approaching them on the wilted branches!

“Don’t tell me these leaves can attack too?” Zhang Xiaohou exclaimed.

The purple leaves began to move as he went a little closer. They surprisingly extended their edges and revealed spikes like porcupines.

“They are parasitic worms, they are not leaves!” Yu Shishi told Zhang Xiaohou after taking a closer look.

The number of the purple parasitic worms was shocking. The ‘leaves’ around them began to swarm toward Zhang Xiaohou along the branches.

Their jumping ability was quite insane. They sprang at Zhang Xiaohou from all directions like the head of a morning star with poisonous spikes once they were close enough.

“Wind, rise!”

Zhang Xiaohou spun around in a circle. A gust of wind rose from his feet and formed a barrier around him. The strong wind bounced off the parasitic worms!

“More of them are coming from below!” Yu Shishi noticed the leaves below them wriggling, too.

Bai Hongfei looked down and saw parasitic worms climbing up the branches. It felt like they were going to devour them at any second!

“I’ll handle them!” Bai Hongfei quickly cast an Advanced Fire Spell.

Six Hellish Flames lunged at the Parasitic Leaf Porcupines that were surging up the branches like a tide. The powerful flames set the parasitic worms ablaze and turned them into scorched balls. However, they continued to climb toward the invaders recklessly.

Bai Hongfei’s Hellish Flames kept pouring down. The flames had almost turned the layer they were at into a blazing sea of fire, but the numbers of the Parasitic Leaf Porcupines showed no sign of falling. They continued to pounce at the invaders like sharp and poisonous fangs, spinning at an insane speed. Bai Hongfei began to panic a little. He had no choice but to back away with Yu Shishi.

“We can’t get any closer!” Bai Hongfei said.

The Parasitic Leaf Porcupines were like a bunch of death knights raised by the Giant Purple Linden. They would launch suicide attacks at any invaders trying to steal the Sacred Linden Leaves. They did not have an outstanding defense, but they were abusing their speed and poisonous spikes to drive away the enemy, or end their lives in mutual destruction!

“Your flames are effective against them, but they aren’t concentrated enough!” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“I’m aware of that,” Bai Hongfei said.

“Keep using the same spell!” Zhang Xiaohou said.

Bai Hongfei did not ask Zhang Xiaohou what his plan was. The truth was, he did not dare to stop Casting. The parasitic worms only knew to attack invaders mindlessly. These creatures were even trickier to deal with than the undead in some ways!

The Hellish Flames began pouring down again. This time, Bai Hongfei used his magic equipment to increase the temperature of the flames. The Parasitic Leaf Porcupines would burn to ashes if they were exposed to the flames for more than three seconds!

Unfortunately, the Hellish Flames could not last for long!

“Wind, absorb!”

Zhang Xiaohou was still surrounded by the Parasitic Leaf Porcupines. However, these parasitic worms had no chance of hurting him with his outstanding control of the wind.

Zhang Xiaohou had slightly modified the traits of his Wind Magic, scattering a dozen Wind Seals in the flames. The seals would be triggered once the Hellish Flames were at their strongest, turning them into gusts of wind!

A dozen gusts of wind formed, wielding a special absorbing force that swiftly drew in the flames nearby. They soon turned into burning gusts of wind!

“Wind, merge!”

Zhang Xiaohou forcibly merged the gusts of wind into one.

The winds were now blowing in the same direction. Zhang Xiaohou had obviously done something like this before. The gusts of wind had turned into a shocking firestorm!

The winds had absorbed the flames, and the firestorm was full of the Hellish Flames, making them even deadlier!

“Die!”

Zhang Xiaohou shoved his hands forward. The Hellflame Firestorm swept forward, igniting both the Devil Tree Spikes and the Parasitic Leaf Porcupines along the way before burning them into ashes.

The hurricane left nothing but destruction along its path. Zhang Xiaohou turned to Bai Hongfei and Yu Shishi, “Quick, this is our chance. The firestorm will last for some time!”

Bai Hongfei and Yu Shishi, who had been stunned by the spectacular sight, immediately caught up to Zhang Xiaohou. The path was clear thanks to the Hellish Firestorm. The Parasitic Leaf Porcupines kept showing up in numbers even after they saw how destructive the Hellflame Firestorm was. They were mindlessly pouncing at the firestorm instead of waiting for it to pass!

The temperature of the Hellish Flames had significantly increased under the concentrating effect of the wind. The Parasitic Leaf Porcupines immediately turned into ashes as soon as they were close to the flames. They had no chance of escaping the power of the firestorm that was drawing them in!

The Hellflame Firestorm was like a moving cremation machine, sucking everything nearby into it. Countless Parasitic Leaf Porcupines died to it. Zhang Xiaohou, Bai Hongfei, and Yu Shishi cleared a path to the Sacred Linden Leaves.

The firestorm lasted for quite a while. The Hellish Flames had already dissipated, but the hurricane winds continued to travel into the distance.

“Do we just pluck the leaves?” Zhang Xiaohou asked. The Sacred Linden Leaves were less than ten meters away from him now!

Chapter 1726: Evolve, Little Moon Moth Phoenix!

“I’m not sure, either,” Yu Shishi had never done anything like this.

“Will there be some kind of trap?” Zhang Xiaohou was being extra careful.

After all, they were going up against an insanely high-level demon tree. It should not be that easy to pluck the Sacred Linden Leaves. What if something like the Parasitic Leaf Porcupines showed up again?..

“What the heck are you waiting for? Hurry up and grab the Sacred Linden Leaves. We can’t hold on for much longer!” Mo Fan’s angry roar came from below.

Mo Fan was lost for words. The three were already standing in front of the Sacred Linden Leaves. Shouldn’t they pluck the leaves first before worrying about what was going to happen next? The Devil Tree Spikes were still stabbing at the others, while they only had to worry about some disgusting worms!

“Oh, right,” Zhang Xiaohou looked down and noticed Mo Fan, Zhao Manyan, Li Dexin, and the rest of the group were still suffering the wrath of the Giant Purple Linden.

Zhang Xiaohou jumped forward and hesitated for a moment. He put on a pair of armored gloves made of some unique material before plucking the Sacred Linden Leaves.

The lines on the Sacred Linden Leaves were golden, different from the ordinary leaves on the tree. Zhang Xiaohou noticed a tiny glow flowing along the lines, as if the Sacred Linden Leaves were transferring something to the branches of the Giant Purple Linden!

However, the Sacred Linden Leaves did not even budge even after Zhang Xiaohou started pulling them with all his strength. The special branches connected to them were glowing, transferring energy to the rest of the branches. The branches that had received the energy became strong and flexible. They were the Devil Tree Spikes that were attacking Mo Fan and the others!

“I can’t pull them off!” Zhang Xiaohou yelled.

“Let me try!” Bai Hongfei rolled up his sleeves.

He pulled a Sacred Linden Leaf with great strength, but it remained in the same spot.

“What should we do now? It seems like the leaves are enchanted!”

Bai Hongfei and Zhang Xiaohou had experienced it first-hand. It was impossible to pluck the Sacred Linden Leaves!

Bai Hongfei even tried using a Fire Spell to burn the branch connected to the Sacred Linden Leaves, but the glowing branches were impenetrable, just like the Sacred Linden Leaves.

“Step aside,” Yu Shishi said.

“You won’t be able to pluck it either,” Bai Hongfei said.

“Go, eat it!” Yu Shishi boldly placed the Moon Moth Silkworm on a Sacred Linden Leaf.

The silkworm happily wriggled onto the Sacred Linden Leaf and took a bite without any hesitation.

Zhang Xiaohou expected to see the silkworm break her teeth, but he was surprised to see a tiny hole appear on the Sacred Linden Leaf.

The silkworm ate the Sacred Linden Leaf like a little harvester, even quicker than she was eating a normal leaf. In less than half a minute, she had already moved to the next Sacred Linden Leaf after she was done with the first one.

Zhang Xiaohou and Bai Hongfei exchanged glances with one another.

That’s right, they were going to feed the Sacred Linden Leaves to the Moon Moth Silkworm anyway! They could just let her feed on the Sacred Linden Leaves instead of plucking them off!

The Giant Purple Linden uttered a painful and enraged cry. It seemed to have noticed the leaves at its core were being eaten by a tiny creature!

The cry was extremely unpleasant. It began to shake its enormous body, as if it was trying to shake off the Moon Moth Silkworm.

The problem was, despite the lofty appearance of the Giant Purple Linden, there was nothing it could do against a tiny creature like the Moon Moth Silkworm without its Devil Tree Spikes. The Moon Moth Silkworm could care less if the tree was shaking its head vigorously, and showed no mercy when eating the Sacred Linden Leaves. She was totally indulging in them, like a little harvester going out of control!

The Moon Moth Silkworm ate the leaves at a remarkable pace, even though it did not make any sense that her tiny body could contain the huge Sacred Linden Leaves. She began to emit a sacred glow as she continued to feast on the Sacred Linden Leaves. The light was strong enough to encapsulate her entire body.

Yu Shishi was familiar with that glow, staring at the Moon Moth Silkworm passionately. When the little silkworm devoured the last Sacred Linden Leaf, she turned into a sacred orb of light, its brilliance shining down from the top of the Giant Purple Linden!

The Giant Purple Linden seemed to have finally realized the creature eating its leaves was the Moon Moth Phoenix in her silkworm phase. It let out a ghastly cry, as if it was trying to use everything it had to kill the Moon Moth Silkworm.

The Moon Moth Silkworm was no longer the same. The orb of light was a cocoon full of energy, inside of which the silkworm was evolving rapidly!

A pair of wings slowly spread out from inside the light cocoon. The silkworm was tiny at first, but the shining wings were huge. The wings soon loomed over Zhang Xiaohou, Bai Hongfei, and Yu Shishi, and they were only the first pair!

When the second pair of wings took shape, it immediately attracted the attention of the winged beasts. After all, the Moon Moth Phoenix was a Totem Beast, the strongest ancient species in history. She used to have a hallowed status among the winged beasts of the Qinling Mountains, and now, the creature that had been gone for many years had returned to Mount Baiba. How could the winged beasts that had been around for hundreds, or even thousands of years not be shocked?

The brilliant light shrank and turned into tiny points of light on the Moon Moth Phoenix's tail before dissipating.

Zhang Xiaohou and Bai Hongfei froze in place. They had witnessed the little silkworm's transformation into her noble and sacred adult form. The process was indeed fascinating. It was difficult to imagine such a unique creature existed in nature. Their lifespan might be short, but their transformation was as dazzling as the cycle of birth!

The Little Moon Moth Phoenix hovered above the branches, emitting a gentle light. Her demeanor was completely different from the unveiled Giant Purple Linden, bearing a warm, gentle aura. Perhaps she was the real protector of nature, as her brilliance alone was enough to purify all murderous intent exposed to it.

The Giant Purple Linden was still uttering unpleasant cries. It was struggling to accept the fact that the Moon Moth Phoenix it had almost killed had entered the next cycle of life and evolved successfully with the energy of its own leaves!

The Sacred Linden Leaves contained the energy that the Giant Purple Linden had accumulated over thousands of years. Their energy allowed it to keep bearing fruits of fresh blood so it could become the ruler of all.

But now, the Moon Moth Phoenix had taken everything from it!

The Little Moon Moth Phoenix flew to the middle section of the Giant Purple Linden, flying around the trunk as fragments of her previous life's memory surged into her mind.

Even though she was unable to recall the details and appearance of her previous guardian, the emotions she inherited were deeply imprinted on her soul, inerasable even when she had entered the next cycle of life!

Chapter 1727: Purple Linden Fruit

The Little Moon Moth Phoenix stopped in front of the tree cave and stared at the demon that had brought her nothing but misfortune.

The remorse that Yan Shi had displayed prior to her death...

The loneliness of the Moon Moth Phoenix in her previous life, hiding in the deep mountains...

The misunderstanding that was only resolved at the end of their lives...

However, time would only flow in one direction. There was no going back in time!

The only thing she could do was annihilate the demon tree. Otherwise, the souls of the last Moon Moth Phoenix and Yan Shi would never find peace!

The Giant Purple Linden opened the tree cave to vent its frustrations!

The Little Moon Moth Phoenix suddenly beat her wings. She dove into the tree cave on the Giant Purple Linden, leaving a glowing trail behind.

The Giant Purple Linden was suddenly terrified. It began twisting its trunk vigorously, trying to spit the Little Moon Moth Phoenix out, yet it did not stand a chance against the special creature.

The Giant Purple Linden's trunk had begun to wilt after losing the energy of the Sacred Linden Leaves, not to mention the damage being inflicted on it by Mo Fan and the others. It was already at its limit!

Rays of sacred moonlight burst out of the Giant Purple Linden after the Little Moon Moth Phoenix dived inside it. Its insides were organic and bloody, mainly consisting of blood-sucking tubes that maintained its elegant and vivid appearance on the outside. However, the Moon Moth Phoenix's brilliance was effective at purifying any evil presence!

When the insides of the Giant Purple Linden were purified, it could no longer maintain its elegant and sturdy appearance. Cracks began to widen as more light burst out of the tree!

Segments of the Giant Purple Linden began to collapse amid the purifying light, starting from the trunk, extending to the branches, and finally its leaves!

The demon tree that had relied on its beautiful and elegant appearance to trick its prey slowly turned into purple ashes. The Wind of Sorrow carried them away, and slowly blew them into the distance.

Mo Fan looked at the remains of the demon tree and let out a relieved sigh.

He had finally managed to eliminate the demon tree. Yan Shi and the last Moon Moth Phoenix had sacrificed their lives to stop the demon tree, but the new Moon Moth Phoenix was able to evolve through its final death. It had finally ended in a pleasant way!

"Mo Fan, leaves, the leaves!" Zhao Manyan reminded him urgently.

"What leaves... holy crap, we're rich!"

Mo Fan was focusing his attention on the Little Moon Moth Phoenix's brilliance so much that he did not even notice the purple-golden leaves scattering across the place after the Giant Purple Linden died. These leaves might not be as valuable as the Sacred Linden Leaves, but some enterprise at Mount Kunyu was buying them at a high price, offering at least a hundred thousand for every leaf. The leaves falling from the sky were basically stacks of cash!

Mo Fan and Zhao Manyan were money-grubbers. They quickly collected the leaves while everyone else was still lost in thought. They were moving even faster than they had during the battle!

1

Mo Fan managed to collect a full sack of the leaves in no time. Zhao Manyan had also collected a lot of them. The two roughly estimated their profit: they had collected enough leaves to become suppliers! They could easily earn millions with them!

"Let's see if there's any other loot!" Mo Fan exclaimed.

Zhao Manyan was searching, too. Even a ninth of the demon tree's body would still be full of treasure...

After the light reached its peak, the Little Moon Moth Phoenix beat her wings and flew toward Mo Fan. She was carrying a purple fruit with a red sheen on its surface.

Any way you looked at it, it was Mo Fan that had insisted on eliminating the demon tree. Little Moon Moth Phoenix obviously knew she should be grateful. She voluntarily offered Mo Fan the fruit.

Mo Fan looked at the fruit. To be honest, the thing looked more like a pumping heart than a fruit. Was there any fruit that would pound like a heart?

"What is this?" Mo Fan asked.

Little Moon Moth Phoenix uttered a soft cry. Mo Fan could only feel a soft breeze blowing at his ear.

Mo Fan could not understand her. He immediately called Apas over.

Apas rolled her eyes and said, "I don't understand her language!"

"Little Flame Belle, you do it."

Little Flame Belle stood on his shoulder and stared at Little Moon Moth Phoenix with wide eyes. The Little Moon Moth Phoenix stared back at her with wide eyes, too.

1

The two little creatures remained silent for a few minutes, as if they were comparing who was more adorable between them!

"It's the Purple Linden Fruit. It contains the hatred of every living creature that the Giant Purple Linden has slaughtered. Little Moon Moth Phoenix believes you can deal with it!" Yu Shishi stepped forward to be the interpreter.

"What do you mean? She's giving me something that contains hatred? I'm not a vengeful spirit collector!" Mo Fan grumbled.

“Mo Fan, the orb!” Lingling tugged Mo Fan’s sleeve and reminded him.

“What orb? What does Little Moon Moth Phoenix mean? Why is she giving me such an evil fruit... hah?” Mo Fan suddenly remembered something in the middle of his diatribe.

He lowered his eyes and saw the Essence Orb he had been carrying emitting a bright light, as if it could not wait to devour the Purple Linden Fruit with a single bite.

That’s right, he could fill the Essence Orb with the energy inside the fruit!

If the Essence Orb had a temper, it might have jumped up and smacked Mo Fan in the head. It was specifically designed to absorb all evil presences. Wasn’t it obvious that the fruit full of hatred was the perfect food for it?

“Here you go, take it, it’s yours!” Mo Fan was overjoyed. He quickly shoved the Purple Linden Fruit toward the Essence Orb.

The glow of the Purple Linden Fruit began to weaken as soon as it was drawn close to the Essence Orb. Streams of energy were flowing from the Purple Linden Fruit to the Essence Orb, the fruit gradually shrinking during the process.

The Essence Orb soon absorbed the energy of the fruit. It fell silent after enjoying the pleasant meal, needing some time to digest the energy.

The Essence Orb was satisfied, but it was the Little Loach Pendant’s turn to throw a tantrum. It was vibrating in protest!

Little Loach had no interest in the fruit. If it was fond of the fruit, it would have absorbed its energy before Mo Fan could even ask his retarded questions. The Essence Orb would have no chance of competing with it. It was protesting because Mo Fan had yet to find any food to feed it!

“Don’t worry, be patient, we’ll soon find the Tree of Vows. Little Moon Moth Phoenix is still too young to provide you with the energy of Totem Beasts, but the Deer God at the Tree of Vows should have plenty of energy for you. You will be enjoying a great feast in no time!” Mo Fan comforted the Pendant.

Little Loach was easily deceived. It soon fell silent, as it believed Mo Fan was going to find the Tree of Vows and the Deer God for it.

“Speaking of which, did any of you notice that the winged beasts are watching us?” Ling Fei suddenly spoke up.

The Giant Purple Linden had occupied a huge space on Mount Baiba. It was like a mountain covered in plants, and the winged beasts could only see magic flickering through the gaps, instead of the humans.

However, after the Giant Purple Linden wilted away, the group was basically standing on a barren mountainside, completely exposed to the winged beasts in the sky. Their sharp gazes were like stars, thousands of cold arrows aiming at them. The group could even feel cold sweat sliding down their necks.

“Are they going to attack us? We just did them a huge favor by taking out a great threat. How could they turn against us?” Zhao Manyan protested in a trembling voice.

Loud cries sounded continuously. Zhang Xiaohou followed the cries and saw a large group of Winged Patrol Beasts flying to their altitude, circling a powerful winged beast with steel gray feathers, as if the lesser winged beasts were reporting to their superior.

“This is bad!” Zhang Xiaohou’s heart skipped a beat.

“It’s those things again!” Li Dexin was enraged as soon as he saw the Winged Patrol Beasts.

“That’s the Mountain Crusher Ruler, the leader of the Winged Patrol Beasts. Those Winged Patrol Beasts have recognized us... We did kill a lot of their friends along the way,” Zhang Xiaohou sighed.

“How vengeful are these creatures? How did they know it was us? Do they have a facial recognition system?” Zhao Manyan said.

“We are stained with the smell of the Winged Patrol Beasts’ blood! Damn it, the Winged Patrol Beasts weren’t supposed to reach our current altitude, but the restrictions are lifted because of the ceremony. The Winged Patrol Beasts that attacked us are here too!” Zhang Xiaohou pointed out.

1

The powerful winged beast beat its steel gray wings. The large group of Winged Patrol Beasts led by the Mountain Crusher Ruler were approaching them like a cloud of bats!

The Mountain Crusher Ruler had a formidable aura, like a small gray mountain floating in the sky. It soon loomed over them and stared down at them imperiously.

“Is it looking for a fight? We can take it out together if it’s holding a grudge against us,” Mo Fan was ready to fight the creature.

“Brother Fan, don’t do it! That creature is the Qinling Mountains’ peace officer. If it thinks we are a threat to the Qinling Mountains, it will alert the Emperor of Feathers, and every winged beast in the sky is going to attack us...” Zhang Xiaohou interrupted him.

“What should we do then!?” Mo Fan began to panic.

If the winged beasts decided to attack them... if he remembered correctly, he still had yet to fill up the Essence Orb...

Chapter 1728: Public Enemy of the Winged Beasts

Zhang Xiaohou was asking Mo Fan to stand his ground, but the winged beasts were the ones making the decision, not them. If the winged beasts refrained from attacking, nothing was going to happen.

The Mountain Crusher Ruler let out a loud cry, but this time, it was looking into the sky instead of directing it at Mo Fan and his crew.

The cry traveled a long distance. A while later, a deep thunderous rumble responded from above the clouds. The Mountain Crusher Ruler's gaze sharpened afterwards.

Meanwhile, the eyes of the winged beasts nearby began to emit a cold light. Mo Fan and the others immediately felt a great pressure from the winged beasts. Their gazes alone could easily shatter one's mind!

"Zhang Xiaohou, what are they doing now?" Zhao Manyan asked in a cold sweat.

"Isn't it obvious? They are going to tear us outsiders into pieces!" Mo Fan grunted.

The winged beasts were displaying great hostility. The humans' outstanding cultivation was unimportant when faced with the overwhelming numbers of the winged beasts. However, Little Moon Moth Phoenix beat her wings and flew toward the Mountain Crusher Ruler while everyone else was clueless about what to do!

The Mountain Crusher Ruler stared at Little Moon Moth Phoenix coldly. The rest of the Winged Patrol Beasts scattered after sensing Little Moon Moth Phoenix's formidable aura, not daring to get any closer.

Little Moon Moth Phoenix was confronting the Mountain Crusher Ruler. They seemed to be communicating with one another. The Mountain Crusher Ruler would occasionally lift its head and cry at the clouds.

Little Moon Moth Phoenix was not to be outdone, either. Her voice might be soft, but it still managed to reach the top of the clouds!

The deep thunderous rumbling descended from the clouds once again, delivering instructions to the winged beasts.

The unfriendly winged beasts suddenly stopped approaching the humans. The murderous looks in their eyes vanished, too.

Little Moon Moth Phoenix soon returned to the group. Mo Fan could only look confused. He had no idea what the Little Moon Moth Phoenix had done to nullify the winged beasts' hostility.

"Little Moon Moth Phoenix said we are here to participate in the ceremony with her. The fight with the Winged Patrol Beasts is only a personal conflict with the Mountain Crusher Ruler. It has nothing to do with the rest of the winged beasts," Yu Shishi explained.

"Oh, right, we are here for the ceremony. I have wings, too!" Zhao Manyan immediately Summoned out his fancy wings.

The truth was, his Magical Wings were considered high-quality when he first bought them, but the golden wings were nothing worth mentioning now, since any of the Commander-level winged beasts could easily outmatch him.

"They were negotiating with a higher-level winged beast above the clouds. The winged beast stated that since the ceremony is about to take place, whoever secures a higher status between the Little Moon Moth Phoenix and the Mountain Crusher Ruler will decide the fate of us outsiders," Yu Shishi said.

"What now!? We didn't agree to bet our lives on it!" Zhao Manyan yelled.

'We did kill many of the Winged Patrol Beasts. The Mountain Crusher Ruler won't let us go easily, so unless we can help Little Moon Moth Phoenix secure a higher status among the winged beasts...' Zhang Xiaohou said.

"Are you out of your mind? Why did you kill the Winged Patrol Beasts? Don't you know you should stay as far away from them as possible!?" Jiang Shaoxu swore at Mo Fan.

"The person who was so keen to save you is the one who was out of his mind." Mo Fan glanced at Li Dexin.

Li Dexin did not dare to speak, standing at the side with a grim face. He did not expect the Winged Patrol Beasts to be led by such a powerful Ruler-level creature!

"Damn it, we are supposed to be looking for the Tree of Vows! Why are we wasting our time fooling around with these winged beasts in a competition? There are at least ten thousand of them. Are you telling me we are all going to die if Little Moon Moth Phoenix loses?" Zhao Manyan said.

"Little Moon Moth Phoenix doesn't have to win the competition. She only needs to beat the Mountain Crusher Ruler to guarantee our safety. Besides, the Tree of Vows must be higher than we imagined. Isn't it in our favor if Little Moon Moth Phoenix can bring us up there!?" Yu Shishi said.

"Mm, the Little Moon Moth Phoenix isn't weak! I doubt she will lose to the Mountain Crusher Ruler!" Bai Hongfei said.

"It's hard to say for now. At least from what I can tell, that creature is still stronger than little Moon Moth Phoenix. Didn't you see its steel feathers? It's a sign that they have been refined by the Wind of Sorrow for many years. It clearly has adapted better to the environment than Little Moon Moth Phoenix. If it's a showdown between them, I don't think the Little Moon Moth Phoenix is going to stand a chance against the Mountain Crusher Ruler." Apas poured a bucket of cold water on everyone's head.

Apas was merely stating the facts. The Little Moon Moth Phoenix was still too young compared to the old Mountain Crusher Ruler.

Gusts of strong wind suddenly blew from all directions while the group was feeling troubled. The wind gathered at Mount Baiba and began to form a rising airflow, soaring into the clouds!

"It's the Wind of Sorrow, the ceremony is about to begin!" Jiang Shaoxu exclaimed in joy.

Different cries echoed across the sky. The winged beasts spread their wings as their feathers rose, like they had just received an order. Even the feathers on their crowns were following the direction of the airflow.

The winged beasts in the sky beat their wings and rode the rising wind to fly into the sky. Their colorful feathers formed a spectacular sight as the gales they produced from beating their wings clashed!

The Mountain Crusher Ruler had missed its chance to ride the initial rising wind due to the interlude involving the humans. It had no intention of wasting its time on humans when it saw the rest of the winged beasts soaring into the sky. It quickly beat its wings and gathered the Wind of Sorrow to launch itself around five hundred meters into the sky.

The Winged Patrol Beasts did not leave, either. They rode the wind that the Mountain Crusher Ruler had produced and followed behind their leader like a black cloud.

"It doesn't seem to care about us. Should we run away now?" Zhao Manyan blurted out in surprise.

"That's not a smart choice. The Qinling Mountains are huge. We can't make it out in a day or two. Once the ceremony ends, the Mountain Crusher Ruler can still hunt us down, especially since the Winged Patrol Beasts are everywhere in these mountains. We are really going to become the winged beasts' public enemy if we run away now," Zhang Xiaohou said.

Chapter 1729: The Sky Is High

"Look, the Winged Patrol Beasts are preventing the other winged beasts from flying higher," Lingling pointed into the sky and said.

Mo Fan followed her gaze and noticed the misdeeds that the Winged Patrol Beasts were committing while they were riding the wind to soar higher into the sky. They were attacking the other winged beasts close to the Mountain Crusher Ruler fiercely to stop them from riding the Wind of Sorrow. The victims ended up spinning in circles in the Wind of Sorrow and were almost torn into pieces by it!

"What's going on? Isn't it supposed to be a fair competition?" Zhao Manyan asked with a confused face.

"Fair competition my ass! How many among the low-level creatures like the Winged Patrol Beasts do you think are going to make it to an impressive altitude? Their wings are not strong, and their attacks are weak. The Wind of Sorrow might even tear them into pieces if they accidentally flew against it. Therefore, they would rather submit to the Mountain Crusher Ruler and help it defeat its opponents, allowing the Mountain Crusher Ruler to secure a higher status. That way, the lives of these lesser winged beasts will prosper, too!" Jiang Shaoxu said.

"Damn it, that works too? I was wondering why so many lesser winged beasts are participating in the ceremony. How could they possibly compete with the powerful winged beasts when their feathers are not even fully grown? It turns out they are divided into factions to protect the powerful creatures they have submitted themselves to!" Zhao Manyan said.

"Doesn't that mean we can assist Little Moon Moth Phoenix during the competition?" Mo Fan asked.

"That's right, if those goddamned winged beasts have lackeys, we can be Little Moon Moth Phoenix's running dogs, too! We'll get rid of anything that is in her way!" Zhao Manyan declared.

"Can't you think of a better term?"

"Little Moon Moth Phoenix won't necessarily lose to the Mountain Crusher Ruler with our help!" Jiang Shaoxu promised.

Little Moon Moth Phoenix shared the same thought! Since she had just evolved, it was unlikely she would stand a chance against the Mountain Ruler Crusher. However, the outcome was yet to be decided with the humans on her side!

Little Moon Moth Phoenix lowered her body, signaling the group to climb onto her back.

“Come up here, she will give us a ride first. She will use her wings to protect us from the Wind of Sorrow, but once we reach the higher altitudes, we’ll have to lend her a hand!” Yu Shishi said.

The Little Moon Moth Phoenix was not small at all. There was still plenty of space after the entire group of over ten people was on her back.

Their weight was negligible to Little Moon Moth Phoenix, so carrying them on her back did not really affect her speed.

The Wind of Sorrow was rising continuously. Little Moon Moth Phoenix made a late start, while many winged beasts had already reached the clouds. Their huge bodies were like tiny dots in the distance.

But Little Moon Moth Phoenix was extremely fast. She was not beating her wings quickly, but she was an expert at balancing herself while riding the wind. The strong winds had overcome many winged beasts, and some even tumbled from the sky after losing their balance, but Little Moon Moth Phoenix was soaring into the sky stably. The group could feel her wings beating while her body remained perfectly still.

Little Moon Moth Phoenix soon overtook the winged beasts that had a head start. The huge winged beasts with seemingly strong wings fell behind Little Moon Moth Phoenix and slowly faded into the distance!

“Quick, we must hurry, don’t let the Mountain Crusher Ruler run away. Our lives are at stake!” Zhao Manyan yelled.

Under the spacious blue sky were magnificent mountains and countless colorful feathers densely packed together. The massive winged beasts included winged tigers and snakes, while the Colorful Demon Sparrows and Skyice Birds had graceful appearances. The Iron-Feathered Eagles and Blood-Steel Vultures had a menacing bearing, while the Hundred Feelers Butterfly and the Dark Serene Birds had a mystical aura.

It was indeed a grand ceremony of the winged beasts. A few rare species had shown up, and even Lingling, an expert about demon creatures, was having trouble identifying them.

The group on the back of the Moon Moth Phoenix could feel their blood boil as they competed with the variety of winged beasts in the sky!

Jiang Shaoxu had waited a long time for this, and was willing to risk her life for this chance. Mo Fan was also feeling excited, since he was a non-flyer and non-swimmer. He could see the tiny canyons between the mountains and the powerful winged beasts being overtaken by Little Moon Moth Phoenix. The distant clouds were now within his reach. He took a deep breath of the cold air. It was an unforgettable experience he had never had before. Perhaps this was the charm of going on adventures; he could always feel his adrenaline rushing and his heart pounding heavily!

To infinity, and beyond!

2

To the Ashwood Wind Layer...

The Skycloud Realm! And the legendary Sacred Waterfall!

Mo Fan noticed a noble creature with golden-blue wings above them as the Moon Moth Phoenix continued to gain altitude. Its white feathers formed an elegant curve from its crown to its long and beautiful tail. It was using its tail to balance itself in the strong wind while utilizing its wings to propel itself into the clouds!

“Isn’t that the creature we saw before?” Zhao Manyan exclaimed when he recognized it.

“You’re right, that creature is pretty fast. The Moon Moth Phoenix is struggling to catch up to it!” Yu Shishi said.

The Golden-Blue Sparrowhawk looked down and saw Little Moon Moth Phoenix and the humans that passed by its territory. Its eyes flickered with pride and disdain.

It beat its wings fiercely while waving its tail, directing the Wind of Sorrow toward the spot the Little Moon Moth Phoenix was heading to. Little Moon Moth Phoenix was caught in a strong turbulence. She began to lose her balance!

The others did not feel great when Little Moon Moth was off-balance, and the Wind of Sorrow was as deadly as a strong spell too! Their skin would crack rapidly when exposed to it, since they did not have feathers protecting them like the winged beasts!

“Damn it, that thing is trying to mess with us!” Mo Fan’s head was spinning in the wind. He cursed after regaining his balance.

The turbulence had forced Moon Moth Phoenix to spin around at the same height for some time. By the time she recovered, the Golden-Blue Sparrowhawk had already gotten a huge lead. It seemed impossible to catch up to it!

“I’ll lend you a hand!” Zhang Xiaohou called out, constructing a Wind Star Constellation.

White airflow appeared around Little Moon Moth Phoenix’s wings, gathering into an extra pair of wings to protect her while increasing her momentum as she beat them.

Little Moon Moth Phoenix quickly adapted to the protection of Zhang Xiaohou’s Wind Wings. She spread her wings and broke free from the annoying turbulence to chase after the Golden-Blue Sparrowhawk.

“Go after it, we’ll give it a piece of our minds too!” Zhao Manyan yelled.

As a fan of luxurious cars and street racing, Zhao Manyan enjoyed shaking off his opponents and watching them disappear in his rear-view mirror. He had to admit that the chase in the sky was a lot more thrilling than street racing!

Little Moon Moth Phoenix was unwilling to admit defeat, too. She began to beat her lower wings rapidly while maintaining the spread of her upper wings. The boost from Zhang Xiaohou's Wind Wings sped her up significantly. She was quickly drawing closer to the Golden-Blue Sparrowhawk!

The Golden-Blue Sparrowhawk soon noticed Little Moon Moth Phoenix catching up to it. The creature seemed a little annoyed as it snapped its tail to trouble Little Moon Moth Phoenix again.

Little Moon Moth Phoenix would not fall for the same trick twice. She increased the beat of her upper wings to assert control over the Wind of Sorrow, and was able to take advantage of the gust of wind that the Blue-Golden Sparrowhawk had directed at her to rise a few dozen meters. She soon reached the same altitude as the Blue-Golden Sparrowhawk.

Little Moon Moth Phoenix glanced at the Blue-Golden Sparrowhawk before overtaking it. She did not bother wasting her time on it!

1

The Golden-Blue Sparrowhawk felt humiliated. It began to beat its wings at a faster pace to maintain the distance between it and the Moon Moth Phoenix, but after reaching a certain height, beating its wings was no longer the deciding factor. The Wind of Sorrow would send it tumbling if it failed to find a balance between its rhythm and the speed of the wind!

The Golden-Blue Sparrowhawk was obviously losing its patience. The harder it tried, the more it was panicking. It began to spin around in the air after losing its balance after being struck by a gust from the Wind of Sorrow.

The Golden-Blue Sparrowhawk completely lost the chance to compete with Little Moon Moth Phoenix. Even though it managed to recover its balance, it could only see Little Moon Moth Phoenix's tiny figure in the sky when it lifted its head again. It had no chance of catching up to her.

Speaking of overestimating one's own capabilities!

If the Golden-Blue Sparrowhawk had simply minded its own business, it might have been able to achieve a great result in the ceremony. However, many winged beasts that were weaker than it had now reached a higher altitude. It was unlikely it could catch up to them now!

"Look, it's the Mountain Crusher Ruler! How is it so fast!?" Jiang Shaoxu exclaimed.

The Mountain Crusher Ruler was surprisingly fast. They could barely see its tail. They would not even have recognized it if it weren't for the gray cloud of Winged Patrol Beasts following behind it!

"It feels it might be a little difficult to catch up to it!"

"It's fine, the sky is high!" Jiang Shaoxu proclaimed excitedly.

Chapter 1730: The Strongest Flamebird

A loud howling shook the sky. Jiang Shaoxu glanced in the direction of the noise and noticed many winged beasts suddenly tumbling from the sky. Some were crying out in agony as they began to fall after losing their balance!

“It’s coming from the west. Little Moon Moth Phoenix, brace yourself!” Jiang Shaoxu warned her.

The wind was invisible, but they were able to identify where it was coming from by judging the winged beasts’ reactions, and the wind was carrying a lot of feathers along. The colorful feathers quickly outlined the terrifying incoming wind!

Little Moon Moth Phoenix immediately altered her approach. Most of her feathers were upright to ride the rising wind, allowing her to save a lot of time. However, when this Wind of Sorrow came, Little Moon Moth Phoenix immediately changed her flying path. She followed the wind’s direction and continued to rise at a slant.

The strong wind struck Little Moon Moth Phoenix’s wings and pushed her east!

“Little Moon Moth Phoenix is so smart. Not only will she be able to maintain her balance, she is using it to fly higher too!” Lingling complimented her.

Many winged beasts assumed they could resist the strong Wind of Sorrow sweeping in their direction with their feathers, but they ended up getting tossed around. Meanwhile, Little Moon Moth Phoenix continued to ride the wind and use it to her advantage, allowing her to fly quicker and more effortlessly than the brainless winged beasts!

Little Moon Moth Phoenix’s trick helped her to gain a huge lead over many of the winged beasts. They were getting closer to the Mountain Crusher Ruler.

The Mountain Crusher Ruler was seriously affected by the Wind of Sorrow too, forcing it to slow down. Little Moon Moth Phoenix was slowly catching up!

The Mountain Crusher Ruler shrieked as if it was holding a strong grudge against Little Moon Moth Phoenix.

The cry formed a destructive sonic wave. The group felt their heads spinning, like they were going to explode.

The feeling slightly dissipated after some time. Little Moon Moth Phoenix purposely deviated from her path to avoid the sonic wave, increasing the distance between her and the Mountain Crusher Ruler again!

“That son of a b**ch, I swear I’m going to tear its throat into pieces!” Li Dexin was extremely annoyed by the cry. He angrily clenched his fists and swore at the Mountain Crusher Ruler.

“Too bad your Great Lesser Earth Dragon can’t fly. Otherwise, we could fly up there and tackle it!” Mo Fan said.

“Humph, it doesn’t matter. Once this Moon Moth Phoenix overtakes it, I’ll ask my Great Lesser Earth Dragon to sit right on that ass** and smash it to death!” Li Dexin cursed.

They could only see the Mountain Crusher Ruler's displeasing tail after its lead increased. The Winged Patrol Beasts were circling it like flies around a latrine pit to reach the greater heights!

Little Moon Moth Phoenix continued to rise into the sky. The Vine Canopy Layer was now some tiny greenery in their vision. There were not many mountains and towering trees left at their current altitude.

"Have we reached the Ashwood Wind Layer?" Mo Fan asked.

"We've long passed it. We are now getting closer to the Skycloud Realm," Jiang Shaoxu said.

"Didn't you say the Wind of Sorrow is ridiculously strong at the Ashwood Wind Layer?" Mo Fan said.

"Brother Fan, you can reach your hand out past Little Moon Moth Phoenix's tail and feel it," Zhang Xiaohou said.

Mo Fan moved to Little Moon Moth Phoenix's tail with a confused face. He noticed a faint barrier protecting Little Moon Moth Phoenix. Zhang Xiaohou was asking Mo Fan to stick his hand outside of the barrier.

Mo Fan actually stuck his hand out and immediately felt like it was being shredded. He quickly snatched it back.

He glanced at the back of his hand and saw several bloody cuts there. It was close to being cut to pieces!

"Holy crap, is there like a formation of wind sabers out there? Wouldn't my hand only have bones left if I leave it out there for a few more seconds?" Mo Fan blurted out in shock.

"If we weren't protected by Little Moon Moth Phoenix's wind barrier, we wouldn't survive for long at this height. I believe Advanced Spells would only last briefly," Zhang Xiaohou told him.

"Is it too late to get off the ride now?" Zhao Manyan wondered.

"Not at all, you can just jump!" Jiang Shaoxu answered.

They were around the middle of the Ashwood Wind Layer. The Wind of Sorrow was strong enough here to tear a winged beast with sturdy flesh into pieces in a few minutes. The creatures that managed to make it so far either had strong control over the wind, or their feathers were very tough.

"Look at that black winged beast, its feathers are covered in blood," Lingling suddenly pointed at a black winged beast to their right.

The feathers of the black winged beast looked ordinary. At first glance, it looked just like an ordinary demon bird that was commonly seen in many places. One could easily tell some winged beasts were not high-level creatures with a single glance, by observing their crowns, the quality of their feathers, their strength, and overall appearance. The black winged beast seemed rather normal based on these criteria, so it was already a miracle that it had managed to come so far!

"That thing seems to be just a Warrior-level creature!" Apas blurted out in surprise.

Most creatures in the Ashwood Wind Layer were already in the Commander-level, let alone those at their current height!

“Warrior-level? Little Moon Moth Phoenix is a Ruler-level creature. How did that creature possibly reach the same height as her?” Jiang Shaoxu said.

“Its feathers are no longer able to withstand the strong wind. It will be torn into pieces if it keeps going higher,” Apas said.

The black winged beast was covered in blood, yet it was still beating its wings relentlessly to keep up with Little Moon Moth Phoenix, the Mountain Crusher Ruler, and the Dawn Swordbird! How was this even possible?

“Houzi, isn’t it unlikely for a Warrior-level to rise so far? How did it keep flying so high?” Mo Fan asked with a puzzled face.

“It looks like a Flamebird...” Zhang Xiaohou said.

“Nonsense, a Flamebird’s feathers are crimson gold, but that thing is pitch-black, like a piece of charcoal. How could it be a Flamebird?” Jiang Shaoxu immediately broke in.

“It’s indeed a Flamebird, but it’s different from the others,” Lingling said.

“Could it be one with a mutated lineage?” Zhao Manyan said.

“No, it’s a Flamebird with the purest lineage. I once heard a special trait about the Flamebird. Apparently, every time their feathers evolve, the color of their feathers will darken slightly...”

Zhang Xiaohou nodded. He said with a deep voice, “I think I know why it managed to reach this height. It must have exposed itself to the Wind of Sorrow continuously so the wind would tear its feathers off. The Flamebird is able to grow new feathers the fastest among the winged beasts, so it waited for new feathers to grow out after losing the old ones and repeated the same action to train itself. Every time it molted its feathers, their color would darken a little. Its feathers are pitch-black now, indicating that it must have replaced its feathers a hundred, or even a thousand times! The new feathers are more resistant to the Wind of Sorrow!”

Mo Fan was amazed after hearing the explanation!

Peel off the feathers, regrow, and peel them off again...

Even though he was not a winged beast, he could imagine that peeling off the feathers would feel like slicing off his flesh, yet the Flamebird had gone through the torture a hundred or even a thousand times, just to help its feathers adapt to the Wind of Sorrow, allowing it to reach its current height!

The Flamebird’s determination truly deserved his respect.

“What a pity. If it was a Commander-level creature, it wouldn’t suffer such serious injuries. Its Warrior-level flesh can’t withstand the damage. If it doesn’t back away, it will be torn to pieces,” Zhang Xiaohou sighed.

Despite its outstanding feathers, its strength, the sturdiness of its body, and its control over the wind were no match for the Ruler-level winged beasts. If it kept going higher, it was doomed to die a horrible death!

“Why is it trying to fly higher? Its current height is enough to guarantee a Warrior-level creature a status that greatly surpasses other Great Commander-level winged beasts. Its already a significant achievement. Why did it bother...” Yu Shishi felt sorry for the creature too.

Mo Fan looked at the pitch-black Flamebird. He was touched when he saw the determination in its eyes to go higher, despite its miserable appearance.

Some lives deserved to be respected, even if they were demon creatures.

“Apas, make it leave,” Mo Fan said.

“Mm,” Apas nodded. She began to use her Psychic Magic.

Apas fixed her eyes on the Flamebird, transmitting a hypnotizing order into the Flamebird’s mind.

Apas could easily control the mind of a Warrior-level creature with her Psychic Magic. It was difficult to resist her order.

However, the light in Apas’ eyes faded away. The pitch-black Flamebird glanced at them and continued to fly higher.

“What happened? You failed to hypnotize her?” Mo Fan asked.

Mo Fan was feeling it was a pity if the Flamebird died here. He wanted the creature to live, yet to his surprise, Apas’ Psychic Magic did not work.

“No,” Apas shook her head. She said, “I can control its mind, but it seems to be different from the other demon creatures.”

“How different? Don’t tell me that creature has another soul in it?” Mo Fan asked.

“There’s an imprint in its soul, the same imprint as mine,” Apas said.

COMMENT

“The same imprint as yours?” Mo Fan failed to understand what Apas meant at first. However, he immediately understood when he saw the gloomy look in her eyes!

The imprint!

It was the imprint of the Summoning Element!

The Flamebird was not a wild demon creature, it was a Contracted Beast!