

Ascension of the Sylvan Cosmos.

#Chapter 31. Aftermath, and the hidden depths of an SSS Rank Skill. - Read Ascension of the Sylvan Cosmos.

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During the week that Liu Shu was dormant, a few important things occurred. First of all, Froorar knew about the death of the Thornstrides that attacked the Rose Fairies.

His heart seethed with a potent mix of grief and rage upon learning of the Thornstrides' demise. The urge to charge headlong into the fairies' territory was almost overpowering, yet, against all odds, he managed to restrain himself.

For a fleeting moment, the Rose Fairies were granted a reprieve from the burdens that had weighed them down, a precious interlude of tranquility amidst the chaos.

Then, the fairies buried the corpses of the Thornstrides around Liu Shu to enrich the soil with their bodies. As their primary diet was made of trees, their bodies were actually highly suitable for use as fertilizer ingredients.

The Rose Fairies knew this, and that's why they buried them around Liu Shu. While in life, Thornstrides thrive while eating trees; in death, they become their food.

Other than that, the Rose Fairies ultimately settled down and even built a few outposts in some key places. They also created a small garden to raise the young Rose Fairies.

Speaking of children, Rose Fairies actually mated with trees to procreate. It was not in the complete sense of the word, as there was no sexual intercourse involved, well, usually. Instead, Rose Fairies used the natural pollen of some of them to fertilize their seeds. Then, they would plant them, and a flower would grow from the ground.

This flower would become large enough to cocoon the new life inside, taking the shape of a rose, hence their name, Rose Fairies.

Because there wasn't a cultural influence, mothers and daughters were mixed together without problems, as they actually didn't need to separate because of the lack of need to separate generations to prepare for searching for a partner, etc.

What mattered in the Rose Fairy group was knowledge and level. This didn't mean that there was absolutely no connection between mothers and daughters. It was just much milder compared to humans, sylvans, and similar races.

Therefore, they didn't create a room but a garden for their young. It was close to Liu Shu as well, close enough for Liu Shu to protect it if she wanted.

Flor knew that as a World Tree, Liu Shu's size would increase exponentially. However, the garden was not something complicated to move. As long as Liu Shu didn't suddenly grow without any warning and swallowed the garden, everything was going to be alright. The chances of something going wrong were minimal.

Clavel approached Flor, who was hovering before Liu Shu's dormant figure and asked. "Queen, what are you thinking about?"

Flor gave Clavel one look and stayed silent for a few seconds. Clavel looked around, killing time while observing the other Fairies busily move as they worked.

Suddenly, Flor's voice reached her. "What do you think about my actions two days ago?"

Clavel blinked, not understanding. "What do you mean?"

Flor's gaze moved down and looked at the gradually healing scars on Liu Shu's trunk. Mraar's attacks went quite profound, as she attacked with everything she had in her desperation. However, she still couldn't do anything other than slice off a large part of the tree trunk.

Unlike standard Trees, Liu Shu's regeneration could be said to be insane. So, after two days, the only thing that remained were scars.

Flor answered Clavel's question. "Was I right for telling Liu Shu to fight alone against all those Thornstrides?"

Clavel paused and looked at Flor. To be honest, Clavel thought Flor was probably the strongest and most knowledgeable leader their race had had in recent generations.

Flor was also insightful and not averse to change. Some Rose Fairies didn't like this, but in the end, it was what brought them to their current situation.

If, as some Rose Fairies wished, Flor never agreed to go with Clavel to come and check Liu Shu's peculiarity, if Flor dismissed it as just drivel, they wouldn't have been able to nurture her and stay by Liu Shu's side as they currently were.

So, after thinking of all of this, Clavel answered. "I guess?"

Flor looked at her speechlessly. While she didn't expect sound advice, she at least expected to hear her words. However, Clavel was not done. She spoke very slowly, carefully measuring her words and stopping to think when a hard word came by.

"Queen, you are the most intelligent of us, so what you do and what you don't do are some things I won't understand. As creatures of the forest, beings who are taken as non-intelligent beings, I really don't know what to say."

Flor paused and calmed down. 'Right, what can others do to help me with this?'

Clavel added. "Still, I can see that everything you've done until now was for Liu Shu, so I guess it is okay."

Flor smirked. "I guess, huh?" She extended her hand and caressed the woman's head. Flor was 45 centimeters and Clavel was 20, so the difference in sizes was quite telling.

It would be similar to transforming a 1.8-meter-tall man into a four-meter-tall giant.

Clavel smiled. "What are we going to do now?"

Flor shrugged. "Our plan is to expand our forces, so send a few scouts to the surroundings. If there are any suitable races that are not hostile, we could bring them to our surroundings."

Curious, Clavel asked. "Are we going to share Liu Shu with them?"

Flor smirked. "No. My plan is to use Liu Shu's berries as currency to get things we might want. They will live a bit further out, leaving the closest space to Liu Shu as ours," Flor humped. "We saw her first, so although I don't want to prevent others from benefiting from her, I want it even less to let other people take control of this place."

Clavel was a bit puzzled, but she didn't comment.

With all of that set up, Flor just needed to wait to see what would happen with those books she got. Whether Liu Shu could read or not was still a mystery. However, if she couldn't, Flor was prepared to become a storyteller for her.

And so, a week went by.

Liu Shu's mind activated, and her <World Tree Heart> sent energy all across her body, filling it with life. 'That was a nice sleep~.'

She sent a few pulses of energy to check her roots, an action similar to stretching for humans. 'Hm? What is this?'

Following her senses, she reached the garden the Rose Fairies created. 'A fertile land with a few seeds?'

Feeling that these seeds were somewhat fragile, Liu Shu approached with her nearby root and very gently touched the seed. 'Ho? A new life is growing here? But it isn't the same as some normal flowers...'

[Newly Fertilized Rose Fairy Seed]

After focusing on and investigating it for a few moments, her system finally told her what it was. 'A seed?'

Liu Shu became curious, wanting to ask as a Rose Fairy what this was about. However, she sulked right after. 'I can't speak...'

By the way, after the sleep, since Flor had never skipped a day when she was around, they gave Liu Shu around 7*12 experience.

The 98 Experience points, added to 84 Points, allowed her to reach a quite rich 890 accumulated experience. Liu Shu did a quick calculation and felt delighted. 'Only 220 Experience Points left for the next level up!'

She was gaining 12 points a day, nine from Flor's pollination and three from her own Energy Gathering method. Therefore, she only needed 19 days, and she would be able to Level up.

As she was lost in her thoughts about leveling up, which, by the way, was quite a thrilling experience, she heard the soothing voice of someone she knew pretty well.

"Are you awake, Liu Shu?"

Liu Shu opened her <World Tree Eye>, surrounding the people around in her presence. Then, she looked at the person who spoke to her. 'As expected, it is Flor!'

Flor, who felt the light wave phasing through her, smiled. "Good morning, Liu Shu."

It was very early in the morning, and some of the plants around were still soaked in morning dew. Birds chirped, and nature slowly woke up. Liu Shu looked at this scene for a little bit, feeling quite mesmerized.

Flor was a bit confused about why Liu Shu didn't react after waiting for almost an hour. Just to ensure that Liu Shu didn't fall asleep again, she gently approached and tapped the trunk. "Hey, Liu Shu, wake up. I have some presents for you."

Hearing "presents," Liu Shu's attention came back from nature and focused on Flor again. 'Presents? What kind of presents did you buy, Flor?'

Flor felt the tree's excitement and laughed. "Well, quite a few. Weren't you trying to do some <Woodcrafting>? I have here a few books that you can read to learn."

Liu Shu's gaze moved to the books, and she slowly read the titles and synopses.

[<World Tree Wisdom (SSS Rank), activates. You've gained the ability to read. This skill can be naturally trained.]

Liu Shu was surprised, not because of what the system said but because her highest-level skill made an appearance again! 'Oh! Does this skill have hidden effects? Or are they conditional? Do I unlock them over time? Or by Level?'

She was really curious about it. However, her attention was stolen by the now understandable letters of the book.

<[F and E Rank Material List and Properties]>: An encyclopedia with more than 4,000 entries that you will regret if you miss it. Moreover, do you want to know material prices as an amateur? How about which wood goes perfectly fine with another? Here is the official book that describes every item listed and gives insight into their synergy.

Liu Shu nodded. 'It seems very useful.'

Flor paused as she saw one branch slowly move toward the book. Flapping her wings, Flor flew upward and presented the book to her. "Do you want to touch it?"

Liu Shu's branch and that book connected, and the book began glowing. Flor looked at it with a stunned expression. 'What is happening now? '

[<World Tree Wisdom (SSS Rank), activates. You've gained the ability to absorb knowledge. This skill can be naturally trained.]

[Do you want to Absorb the contents of <F and E Rank Material List and Properties>? Yes or No?]

Liu Shu looked at that set of letters with wonder. 'I can absorb books?'

Then, without hesitation, she clicked yes. The entire thing was swallowed into her branch while being disintegrated into light particles.

Flor's lips began wildly twitching. 'Did she eat the book?'

Chapter 32. Even More Woodcrafting Increased Mastery!

After the book was absorbed, a bout of dizziness struck Liu Shu's mind as information poured in. Liu Shu felt the world around her spinning, making her become amazed at her first ever sensation of dizziness 'Ohh... The world is spinningggg!'

Meanwhile, Flor, who didn't know what was happening, decided to bring the other three books. "Hm. Well, if you can eat them, I suppose you are absorbing their knowledge one way or another?"

Flor's voice trailed off as a thought crossed her mind. "What if she actually ate it?"

Her face became a bit complicated. "Should I write them down or something, just in case?"

First, she looked at the tree, releasing small pulses of energy that could be translated as nothing but gibberish. Then, her eyes moved into the <Lignified Vault>, glancing at the three thick boos.

When Flor looked at the thick stacks of paper, her mouth began spasming. 'I haven't worked or written anything ever. Do I need to copy those giant books? Isn't it better to let her eat them?'

The wild Rose Fairy Queen was what one would call the opposite of hardworking, in other words, lazy. If she could not move for a few days from the tree she was guarding, she wouldn't.

Even going to hunt was done reluctantly.

Of course, when things needed to be done, she never slacked. On the contrary, she was the one who would put in the most effort. These last months with Liu Shu showed it clearly. She didn't hesitate to go to a nearby city, which was plagued with people wanting to hunt her down and get a few books for her.

So, after contemplating for a while, Flor looked at the tree that was moving without wind and decided to feed the books to her. 'If she later tells me that she didn't learn them, I can ask Verdantia for new copies. They are basic knowledge, so there should be many books as such across that large city.'

With that in mind, Flor prayed that her guess was right. 'Please, I don't want to speak with that strange Sylvan again.'

Then, Flor flew down into the vault and took them out with her wind control. "Liu Shu, there are more books here. They are called [Basic Aether Mana Control for Woodcrafting], [Elementary Anima Energy Infusion for Woodcrafting], and [Basic Structures For Woodcrafting Weapons].

While Liu Shu was starting to recover from her dizzy mind, three messages popped in her mind at once.

[Do you want to Absorb the contents of <Basic Aether Mana Control for Woodcrafting >? Yes or No?]

[Do you want to Absorb the contents of <Elementary Anima Energy Infusion for Woodcrafting >? Yes or No?]

[Do you want to Absorb the contents of <Basic Structures For Woodcrafting Weapons >? Yes or No?]

Our dear tree looked at those messages dazedly. 'What to do?'

That strange sensation that made the world spin was fun but also uncomfortable. She didn't want to go through that again. 'Ugh... Why do I become like that? It feels really strange~.'

However, looking at Flor, who was looking strangely between the books and her, probably wondering why these ones hadn't disappeared, Liu Shu decided to absorb them.

Flor looked at the three books and pondered. 'Are these ones not tasty? Why isn't she eating them like before? Do they need to be closer?'

Flor suddenly saw three branches approach, and her face lit up. 'Perfect!'

For Liu Shu, the sensations this time were much more pronounced. Her mind was hit, and the world around her spun so much that she had to deactivate <World Tree Eye>. That didn't make it much better, as even the signals coming from her roots, leaves, trunk, and other parts of her body were getting skewed.

Then, as the information entered her mind, a few messages appeared.

[Because <World Tree Wisdom (SSS Rank)> has helped perfectly internalize and understand the knowledge, <Woodcrafter (E- Rank Level 5)> is no longer appropriate to show Tianlian Liu Shu's skill level.]

[Updating <Woodcrafter (E- Rank Level 5)> to <Woodcrafter (E Rank Level MAX)>]

[<Woodcrafter> has tiered up!]

[<Woodcrafter> has leveled up!]

[<Woodcrafter> has leveled up!]

[<Woodcrafter> has leveled up!]

[<Woodcrafter> has leveled up!]

[<Woodcrafter> has reached maximum Level!]

[Do you want to use 20,739 Experience Points to Increase <Woodcrafter (E Rank Level Max)> to <Woodcrafter (E+ Rank Level 1)>? Yes or no?]

[Not enough accumulated experience points, <No> will be selected.]

Liu Shu was extremely dizzy about everything. First, information was entering her mind and lodging there in extremely large amounts, and second, it was doing it ridiculously quickly. The SSS Rank skill was working to the point of helping Liu Shu use her mind's capacity with atomic precision.

So, other than learning information, Liu Shu could do nothing more, and she shut down to internalize everything.

Flor looked from the outside as the activity levels of the World Tree significantly dropped, signifying another sleep. "Well... It seems that I was right."

Flor smirked. 'Perfect. This way, I won't need to teach anything~.' She took a deep breath, filling her lungs with the fresh air of the forest, and then exhaled. "Perfect. Now, I have nothing to do other than my daily routines~."

Flor was about to go to one of Liu Shu's branches and rest when Zinia arrived with news. "Queen, Ignatia is here again."

Flor paused and looked at the sky with resentful eyes. 'My rest time...! Give it back!'

Still, even when she felt like telling Zinia to go shoo away the guest, she turned around and ordered. "Guide me there, Zinia."

Zinia nodded, and both of them flew away.

Arriving at the place where Zinia guided her, Flor looked at Ignatia's figure with surprise. "How?"

Ignatia smirked. "Surprised? You are no longer the only Level 12 in the Golden Sap Forest, Flor~."

Flor lifted her eyebrows. "I never was. There are plenty of old trees that have reached a quite higher level."

Ignatia hummed. "Like the one your species took as your territory?"

Flor nodded. "That tree is Level 16. Sadly, it lacks intelligence."

Hearing her reluctant words, Ignatia laughed. "If it had intelligence, I don't think the Thornstride would've dared to attack you."

Flor shrugged. "It was their choice. I tried my best to make clear that we are not to be trifled with, and yet, you saw. They didn't care and attacked us."

Ignatia nodded. "Anyway, now that I've cleaned the nest and killed that other..." Her face became disgusted as she spat. "... Queen." Then, her face returned to normal. "We will be living really close."

Flor asked, curious. "Where are you exactly?"

Ignatia didn't mind telling Flor; she believed that her defenses were strong enough now that she was not only not afraid, but she could tell them where she lived. "Well, Flor, if you go up that hill and then move to search for places with a lot of vines, you will see..."

Flor nodded and listened. "I'll keep that in mind." Then, she asked. "So, anything else you wanted to speak with me?"

Ignatia used her antennae to clean her eyes. "Anything more? Why? Are you kicking out your good neighbor already?"

Flor rolled her eyes. "Are you really an ant? Don't ants like to keep themselves busy?"

With a snort, the Ant Queen answered. "Why should I? I'm laying eggs daily; my children can do the rest."

'Tsk. I envy her mindset.'

"Since you don't want to leave... Would you like to drink tea?"

Ignatia asked. "You can prepare it?"

Flor tilted her head. "Isn't it just throwing savory leaves into hot water?"

"Right, that's the problem. Where do you get hot water from?"

Flor frowned. "Hey, what do you take me and the Rose Fairies as? There are quite a few hot water resources nearby. Should I guide you to some?"

Ignatia nodded. "Please."

Flor sighed. "Sure, sure. Let's go... Also." Flor looked at Ignatia and smiled. "Don't think that because you are at the same level as me, you are as strong as me."

With that warning, both of them left to explore the surroundings.

Time passed, and one day, Liu Shu awakened. 'Wow~. Another nice sleep~. Hehe.'

Then, she moved her gaze and looked at the system messages. 'Oh! So my skill has leveled up a lot again!'

Thinking of what happened during this time, our tree started humming in joy as her branches softly moved with the wind. 'Finally, I know how to make things!'

Before that, though, she wanted to check one message that she couldn't read before going to sleep.

[Congratulations! You've absorbed enough knowledge. You have unlocked <Lignified Library>.]

<Lignified Library>: This is a library where books with your knowledge can be created and stored. Share your knowledge with your followers and allow them to climb to heights they've never expected!

Liu Shu exclaimed. 'Oh! A library!... What's a library?'

Some knowledge was previously learned as a World Tree, but others were not. For example, building knowledge was not essential for survival; hence, it was not shared.

[System hint: A library is a building where books are stored and where other people can come and read them.]

Thankfully for Liu Shu, the reliable System Hints kept providing her with information that she would need in the future. 'Thanks system!'

Then, Liu Shu began thinking about what she just learned. 'So, to create equipment, I need to use the shards I have gained!' Then, Liu Shu checked every currency.

<Sylvanium Shard>: The most basic form of this material. It is found in energy-rich mana terrains. This ore is the most commonly used, but as it is used everywhere, it is extremely valuable. Most people don't even think of gifting or exchanging Sylvanium Shards.

<Etherium Shards>: The most basic form of this material. It is found in Aether-rich mana terrains. This one is commonly used for magical enhancement or potion-making. It is valuable, and many people don't think about gifting or stretching shards.

<Ascendium Shards>: The most basic form of this material: It is found in Anima-Energy-rich mana terrains. This one is commonly used as a medium for channeling energy and complex technology because of its connection with the ethereal soul.

<Celestium Shards>: The most basic form of this material. It is found in Phoer-rich mana terrains. Perfect for anything that needs increased vitality, durability, or similar. It

is not as widely used, but its significance to lifespan makes it almost as valuable as Sylvanium.

<Cognium Shards>: The most basic form of this material. It is found in the corpses of creatures as concentrated energy. It is the rarest of them all, as the creation of one of them is nothing but luck. It is used to increase concentration and focus while creating articles to elevate Willpower.

With the summary of all the materials in her head and adding this, Liu Shu felt happy. 'To create equipment, I need to use these ores plus standard materials and combine them in different shapes and forms, creating internal structures that help with the desired effects for the weapon. For example, if I need to create a small staff that enhances Aether, I need to use Sylvanium Shards, Etherium Shards, and materials.'

With that in mind, Liu Shu got to work and started creating her first weapon.

Chapter 33. Liu Shu Checks Out Her New Knowledge!

After looking at the information newly stored in her head, Liu Shu began pondering what to create. 'What do Flor and the others need?' She was interested in asking, but because she couldn't communicate complex thoughts yet, she decided to do something that could be used.

Thankfully, Liu Shu had seen them fight a few times, so she knew that they preferred ranged attacks. Looking through the catalog of weapons stored in her mind, she excluded all the melee weapon designs and focused on ability-enhancing ones.

'Hmm... What to do~? What to do~?' Liu Shu pondered and went one by one through what she had. 'Bows? Hm... It doesn't suit them. A bow usually relies on tension force to transform into kinetic force. With their petite size, creating a helpful bow would be very inefficient. Not to mention, the arrows would be needle-like.'

Something Liu Shu learned with all the information indirectly was how tiny Rose Fairies were. At first, she thought that Rose Fairies were the standard humanoid size while Thornstride, River Beavers, and similar monsters she had seen were giant. But after seeing the measurements needed for weapons for average-sized races, she learned that Rose Fairies were very petite and cute. 'Hehe, I didn't know they were so tiny~. They are very cute!'

Considering all of this, Liu Shu ignored all projectile-based weapons and moved toward staves, orbs, talismans, chains, amulets, etc.

'Which one would be best for them?'

Each had an advantage that could be used, but taking into account her current production capabilities and the Rose Fairies' combat style, she finally decided to make amulets.

While it didn't change much weapon-to-weapon basic stats-wise, they each had a certain chance to have different types of abilities. For example, <Staffs> usually had offensive abilities that could be channeled often but lacked explosive strength, <Orbs> were useful while summoning creatures, <Talismans> had powerful abilities with long cast times and rest times, <Chains> were apt to develop immobilizing spells, and <Amulets> were adequate to give buffs to the user.

There were more types that Liu Shu wasn't currently considering, like <Books>, <Wands>, and many more.

While some of the ones she discarded would be perfect, she didn't have the materials for them, and the process of creating them was not maintainable.

While Liu Shu was not a genius of any kind or a planning master, she was a tree, and trees liked the "long-term" benefits of things. Creating a non-sustainable production method was entirely against her nature, only doing such things when she either had no chance or didn't realize the "long-term" benefits of something.

'Hm... Let's go with... Amulets!'

After considering it for a long time, she believed that amulets were the best choice. First of all, amulets were one of the easiest equipment to obtain materials for. They were smaller and, therefore, needed much less to create effects similar to those of others. However, in turn, the complexity of making them was much higher.

This was not that big of a problem for a World Tree; after all, the complexity spoken about before was related to standard races. If World Trees were known for something other than their specialness, it was their energy manipulation abilities.

Seeing the miracles that World Trees could create with the same amount of Aether Mana or Anima Energy that other creatures used was mind-boggling. As a recent example, Liu Shu's ability to assimilate the entire <Lignified Vault> as hers at Level 3 was nothing but miraculous, even between World Trees.

Usually, a World Tree would need five to ten thousand minimum Aether Mana Reserves to perform a similar action, but Liu Shu did it with 1,000.

'Hm. Let's begin. What do I need to get first?' Liu Shu pondered and exclaimed. 'Right, I need to choose which rank item I want to create. How much does it cost each?'

Liu Shu explored her mind, and she knew the costs of each item. 'So, for F- Rank items, I need around 10 <Shards>; for F Rank, I need 100; and for F+, I need 500. Then, for E-

Rank, I need around 10 <Ores>; for E Rank, I need 100; and for E+ Rank, I need 500 as well.'

Liu Shu recalled. '<Ores> need to be either collected directly or fabricated from <Shards>. To create one, you need to fuse around 100 <Shards>. It depends on the efficiency.'

Then, she looked at how many she had in her system interface.

Currency: Sylvanium Shards [150], Etherium Shards [150], Ascendium Shards [150], Celestium Shards [150], Cognium Shards [150].

'What to do... Do I create one F Rank and Five F- rank amulets? Or do I create 15 F-Rank amulets?'

The possibility of failure didn't cross Liu Shu's mind because, with her current knowledge, it was almost impossible to fail at creating Basic-Grade equipment, meaning equipment ranging from F- to F+ rank.

Equipment from E- to E+ was called Low-Grade equipment, the ones from D- to D+ were called Medium-Grade equipment, and finally, the ones from C- to C+ were called Advanced-Grade equipment. Then, the sublevels were the same for all and were called Flawed, Complete, and Flawless.

For example, Flawless Medium-Grade equipment would be D+ Rank equipment.

Of course, Liu Shu was simple, and she preferred calling everything by the letter. In her mind, it was more straightforward and easier.

Liu Shu thought about it for so long that the light around her turned orangish as the Sun slowly set.

'Hm. I'll do the F Rank and then five F- Rank. These amulets are meant to help the strong people get stronger. When I gather more Sylvanium, I can create weaker ones to help the lower-level little friends.'

With that in mind, she used her connection with the <Lignified Vault> and began gathering materials. 'Wind attribute... Wind-attributed materials... Ah, here they are.'

[You've retrieved one unit of Zephyrheart (F Rank) and five units of Breezewood (F-Rank) from the <Lignified Vault>.]

'These will be the primary materials... then, I need support materials.'

Basic-grade weapons were easy to make for our World Tree, so Liu Shu just needed to find three support materials for each of them. The support materials didn't have a specific attribute and could mix perfectly with the main component.

They were very easy to find in nature, so the Rose Fairies had plenty stored, which translated to Liu Shu having plenty, as they had stored all their belongings in the <Lignified Vault>.

Her roots, highly mobile around the vault, slowly picked up things and gathered them at the side in piles. Liu Shu saw how many she gathered, and she became a bit concerned. 'There isn't much... Even if I had enough Sylvanium and Etherium, I could make, at most, around twenty amulets.'

She opened her <World Tree Eye> and searched for Flor. 'Oh? She is resting on my branches~. Hehe.' Then, she recalled. 'Hm. Let's try to communicate with Flor about what I need.'

As Flor had taught her before, she sent a pulse of energy, meaning "come."

Flor was resting on Liu Shu's branches, covered from the Sun by the thin but lush branches, when she received a pulse of energy coming from the tree below her. "Hm? What's wrong Liu Shu?"

She didn't move, which made Liu Shu feel a bit helpless. So, as a young tree would, she spammed the pulses.

Flor was suddenly assaulted with the "come" feeling once a second, and her lips twitched as they bent upward in an amused smile. 'Really, she is like a child.'

"Okay, okay. I'm moving. You can stop sending signals."

Her wings quickly buzzed, and she gently lowered her body, looking at the middle part of her trunk. "Well, what's wrong?"

Liu Shu looked at Flor. 'How do I tell her to go the vault?'

Flor waited in front of the tree and heard no answer, making her eyebrows twitch. 'This time difference between answers is sometimes difficult.'

BAM!

Flor jumped as she heard a loud sound and looked over. She saw one of Liu Shu's roots opening the vault's upper door and then closing it at once.

BAM!

The second loud sound made Flor understand. "You want me to go into the Vault?"

She quickly received an affirmative energy pulse, and Flor nodded. "Okay, don't touch it."

With her words, the roots stopped holding the half-opened vault, and the door closed, trapping one of them.

Liu Shu screamed in her mind. 'Ouch! My root!'

Thankfully, the Rose Fairy Queen was quick to realize and moved the heavy door up. "Oh dear. Are you okay? That must've hurt, right? This door is quite heavy, after all."

Flor carefully caressed the injured root. Liu Shu felt a strange, pleasant, and tingling sensation, making her avoid Flor's touch by hiding the root in the ground again. The Rose Fairy Queen blinked twice; not sure of what caused that. 'Hm. Did it hurt when I touched it? Anyways, let's go inside and see what she wants.'

Once inside, Flor looked around with curious eyes. 'Did something change? Hm...'
Looking around, she felt that everything was like before. If she had to point at something, a few piles of items were separated from the rest. 'Did someone sort them like that?'

As Flor approached, she saw one of Liu Shu's roots pop from the ground below them and surround one of the piles. "Hm... Did you separate these? What are these for? Ah."

Flor almost smacked her forehead. 'I feel like I've wanted to do this action more often lately.'

Liu Shu looked at Flor, who was wryly smiling in confusion, waiting to see if she understood what she wanted.

Flor commented. "These are probably the materials to create the weapons, right?"

Liu Shu became ecstatic that Flor understood right away and sent a few acknowledging pulses of energy, like a child nodding her head a lot. Flor was bombarded again with signals, making her laugh as she waved her hand. "Ok, ok. I understand. Congratulations, Liu Shu. You can start creating those soon! You were quite eager lately, right?"

Liu Shu happily sent another affirmative pulse, and Flor asked. "So... You wanted me to see that you are going to begin the weapon-making process?"

Our Tree realized that she still hadn't made her guess the most important thing! 'Oh, I need Flor and the other little friends to search for the materials! Not for you to admire them!'

So, she sent a negative pulse of energy. When Flor received it, she was surprised. "Not for that? Then why?"

Liu Shu became thoughtful about how to go about it, making Flor wait until midnight. Finally, when Liu Shu had an idea, she looked at Flor and saw that she was sleeping on one of her protruding roots. 'Huh? When did she fall asleep?'

Looking outside, she saw that it was already nighttime. 'Hm... I should wait until Flor wakes up. She always waits for me to wake up, after all.'

So, Liu Shu patiently waited while preparing how to tell Flor about it.

Chapter 34. First Ever Equipment: [Wind Leaf Amulet].

It took Flor four hours to suddenly wake up with a start, as her brain remembered that she was speaking with Liu Shu. 'I fell asleep? I must've been tired...'

Rubbing her eyes, she looked around the vault and saw something different from yesterday. 'Hm? What's this?'

The large pile of items at the corner was still there, but it was much more messed up. Clearly, Liu Shu had been searching for things inside of it. "Then, the things Liu Shu searched for... Ah, there they are."

With a quick glance, the Rose Fairy Queen spotted a new pile of wooden materials. Thanks to her affinities, Flor realized that all the materials here had some affinity for Air Aether Mana. 'Hm... What does she want to tell me? First, she told me to come here and showed me six piles of many different items, one of them being clearly bigger. However, her intention is not to show that to me.'

Flor rationalized. 'Still, Liu Shu was in quite a hurry for a tree. So, what can make our tree feel nervous or excited enough to call me here in a hurry?'

To help her understand a bit, Liu Shu used one of her beautiful roots to squeeze around the pile of air-related wooden materials. As the roots became smaller, more and more pieces of wood fell from the sides. Flor looked at that action and saw the roots squeezing more and more until all items fell from the sides. 'She didn't grab...Oh. OH!'

Flor, this time for real, smacked her forehead with a loud and sonorous smack. "... Ouch."

She saw that she had actually shaved off five points of Phoeer Body Shards, making her lips twitch. 'This hit will leave a handprint, won't it?'

Flor, leaving that problem for later, asked, "Do you want me to gather more materials of this kind?"

Instantly, her mind was bombarded with happy feelings from Liu Shu. The World Tree was clearly excited, making Flor smile as well. "Sure. We'll make a group search for materials with wind affinity. What about the others in the pile? Do we search for them as well?"

This time, Flor received a much less enthusiastic response, but it was a yes nonetheless. "So... We search for them, but with less priority. Got it." Then, Flor asked. "Was this all, Liu Shu?"

After receiving one final affirmative response, Flor flew out of the vault with one piece of wood from each of the materials to use as an example. When she was out, she realized that the Sun had yet to start rising, but since it was a new day, she approached Liu Shu and started using her Royal pollination on her.

The red dust her wings released quickly filled the air around the World Tree, and then Liu Shu received nine experience points.

She had been asleep for one week, and adding today's share, she had received a total of 87 experience points.

'Now, let's create those amulets!'

Liu Shu didn't waste time as everything had been prepared for a while. First, she cut off her <World Tree Eye> from relaying information anywhere other than the vault, where she would do the Woodcrafting.

First, Liu Shu activated her skill, allowing her Aether Mana and Anima energy to flow through her roots and surround the entire <Lignified Vault>. Usually, a room specially prepared for this needed to be used.

Rooms for Woodcrafting were surrounded in arrays, something akin to circuits that conducted energies to increase the density of energies and also fed the tools the wood crafter would have in their workplace.

Liu Shu had none of this, so she had to make do with her own energy and create a similar environment inside the Vault. Thankfully, the vault was entirely surrounded by her roots, so controlling this had many fewer complications than one would imagine. All of this, taking into account Liu Shu's nature as a World Tree.

It took a while to create this proper environment, around 30 hours. Liu Shu had even to stop <Enchanted Growth> to have more room for maneuvering. However, now that she had created it once, recreating it would be much easier as long as the vault's door wasn't opened often.

'Now, let's begin with the easiest one to familiarize myself.'

Her roots extended from the walls, slowly reaching out and taking the materials for the Basic-Grade, Flawed amulet.

'Hm. Following the book's instructions, I should first infuse the <Shards> with energy until they are completely activated.'

Her roots gently spread over the 20 shards, ten Sylvanium Shards, and ten Etherium Shards, then, she fed them with the energy required.

For Etherium, Aether mana was enough. However, Sylvanium was different.

Sylvanium was considered the most precious of the five materials because if an item were done with just it, it would give all types of stats. Yet, the drawback was that to activate the shards, you needed the same energies that they gave.

The use of Phoer Body Shards to create items was risky for some, to the point that there had been previous deaths while creating items that were much higher level than what the crafter could do.

As Liu Shu fed them, she felt 200 Aether Mana, 100 Phoer, and 100 Anima Energy get sucked out of her. Not only that but because Sylvanium also affected the mind like Cognium would, Liu Shu became a bit dazed.

This didn't faze her, in any case. With the knowledge she had learned, she knew why it was happening, so she ignored it. 'Good. Now that they are charged, I can set them aside and work with the materials until the shards are needed later.'

Her gaze moved and landed on the first pile of materials, and then her <Woodcrafter (E Rank Level MAX)> skill started working.

Tendrils of energy spread from her roots, entangling the materials in what other wood crafters would call nothing but beyond perfect control.

Her tendrils coiled around and pierced through the materials as if they were foam. But these tendrils were ethereal, so they could both hold and pierce through the material.

Her energy seeped inside, further consuming her Aether Mana and Anima Energy. While others usually didn't speak about it much, the Willpower stat was also extremely important.

The system interface didn't show an "Energy" pool, but mental power could be exhausted, and with it, energy consumption increased. Thankfully for our cute World Tree, she had an absurd 30 points in the Willpower stat.

As her tendrils worked, the materials started changing forms as if they had lost their rigidity. This state was similar to what happened to metal when heated up by the forge; it became malleable enough to be hammered into shape.

With Woodcrafting, it was similar. Instead of increasing the heat of the material to loosen energy bonds, the World Tree infused enough pure energy to make those bonds weak and, thus, create a material state similar to that of heated metal.

Of course, while Liu Shu made it look easy, it was nothing but such.

In fact, this step separated who could and could not become a Wood Craftsman in Society.

When the materials became softer, Liu Shu began molding them using her actual roots. They still weren't as deft as proper hands, but their range of motion was better than hands in some aspects.

Liu Shu focused and continued, gradually merging the materials and making them take shape. While she transformed the materials, some of the Sylvanium and Etherium began flying, being attracted by the energies released by the wood crafting. Liu Shu felt happy. 'Oh? Perfect! The equipment is created perfectly when the Sylvanium and similar don't need to be manually placed; instead, they fly into where the crafter intended. After all, the energetic attraction created by the spots left for them could, in theory, attract things like magnets would.' Liu Shu paused. 'Or so the book says... What are magnets, though?'

While she was curious, she was as quick to leave those thoughts aside and refocus on her current task.

So, as Liu Shu crafted the amulet, the shards that were not bigger than half a fingernail slowly moved and merged into the craft. The amulet was meant to be tiny as it should be worn by 20-centimeter-tall women.

But that was not a problem. Once the Sylvanium and Etherium melded in their spots, they would melt and become one with the piece.

That's why rings of extremely high tiers could be created. If not, for top-tier materials that needed exaggerated amounts of materials, it would be impossible to make them small enough to fit around a finger.

The amulet shaping continued for a while, and finally, after much effort, a neat amulet with the shape of a leaf was created.

[Congratulations! You've created [Basic Grade Wind Leaf Amulet (Flawed)]! You've received one experience point.]

[Congratulations! You've created [Basic Grade Wind Leaf Amulet (Flawed)]! You've received five proficiency points.]

Liu Shu looked at those two messages with a deadpan. 'Oh.'

Our cute tree understood that these were too easy to create, but they took their time. For example, to create this one, she needed around 20 hours.

Her lack of proficiency was largely at fault as well. Most probably, in the future, she would be able to do them almost unconsciously, like she was currently growing flowers and feeding them to mature quickly into delicious fruits.

Liu Shu, curious, decided to take a look at its stats.

[Level 3 Wind Leaf Amulet (Basic-Grade Flawed Level)]

+26 Aether Mana

+0 Phoe

+0 Anima Energy

Aether (+6), Physique (0), Anima (0), Willpower (0).

Aether Resonance (0), Physique Refinement (0), Anima Affinity (0), Mental Palace (0)

[Windy Currents (active)]: Use to increase movement speed by 20% for a short 2-second duration. It can be used every 10 minutes or by using 10 Aether Mana.

Note: This is the first item created by Tianlian Liu Shu. It's crafted decently, and it gives the stats she aimed for. Overall, it's a decent item for the low-level materials she used.

{Author Note: Following this, stats that are 0 won't be shown. I just wanted to show the general "interface" for equipment. Also, don't expect "notes" on all equipment, hahaha.}

'Level 3? Oh... I can't make equipment of a higher level than my level?'

Liu Shu became a bit sad. She thought that quality could raise the level of the equipment, but she seemed to be wrong. 'Well... Then... Should I wait until I'm Level 4? I'm not that far away, after all.'

After pondering for a bit, Liu Shu chose to wait. While she wasn't that worried about the slight loss of stats, as she would be creating as many of these as possible, she didn't want to waste the F Rank material they had.

'Nice~. I'll call Flor to see if she likes it~.'

With a happy tone, Liu Shu checked around her, and when she found Flor, she began sending spam messages. 'Flor, come! Come! Flor~. Floooooor! Flor? Flor~. Flor Flor!'

A certain Rose Fairy Queen somewhat regretted teaching the World Tree how to communicate.

Chapter 35. Rose Fairies Receive The Amulet.

The Rose Fairy Queen flew toward the World Tree and asked with a smile. "What's wrong, Liu Shu?"

Liu Shu, this time, was quick and opened the <Lignified Vault>'s door with her roots in a swift and eager manner. 'Come, come~. Hehe, I hope Flors like it~.'

Flor went in, closing the door behind her. Before she closed it, she heard Clavel's voice. "Queen, where are you going?"

Flor paused, holding the door from closing with one hand. Then, she commented as she lifted it slightly and looked at Clavel. "I'm going to check something Liu Shu created. Do you want to see with me?"

Clave blinked. "Creating?"

Flor smiled. "Liu Shu has done a weapon or something similar for us. It seems that it is a skill she has learned not long ago."

Clavel's eyes opened. "She has created equipment!?"

Flor shrugged. "As I said, this is my first time checking it out. I don't know if it will work or not. But, from what I've guessed, that was her intention."

Clavel was awed, and as she approached, she realized. "Oh? Is that why you asked us to collect those materials?"

Flor nodded. "That's right." Then, she asked. "How is it going?"

Clavel shrugged. "We are doing what we can, but searching for trees of that kind and picking their dropped branches is not easy. We've managed to spot a F- Rank Tree, so we'll have one Level 5 harpy go there from time to time to pick up fallen branches, trim those the tree doesn't need or finds bothersome, and, well, take care of it overall."

Flor smiled. "That's Good. If possible, be sure to check her return daily. Thornstrides have retreated, but they might be lurking. The last thing I want is for them to start ambushing you."

Clavel grinned. "We'll be careful, Queen."

After their short conversation, both of them flew inside. Once inside, Flor looked around and was quick to spot a cute and adorable amulet. Hung around a branch by a finely crafted rope made out of thin blades of grass.

Flor asked. "Is that it, Liu Shu?"

Clavel looked over, her eyes widening. "So pretty!"

The amulet's very simple shape still managed to resemble Liu Shu's overall form while emitting a soft and faint Aether Mana.

Clavel and Flor looked at each other, and Clavel even whispered. "Do you think it will work?"

Flor rolled her eyes, clearly expressing disapproval. "It is her first time. She shouldn't have done something successful. I heard that average wood crafters take a few years of preparation to create their first complete items."

Looking at the Rose Fairy Queen with a strange thought, she asked. "You are trying to teach her these things? Do you know how long it will take her to start creating an effective production method?"

Flor naturally knew these things. She smiled and commented. "I'm not planning to have her finish everything for us, Clavel. We are the first generation to create the foundation for our race's future with her."

Clavel paused, looking at Flor with a deep gaze. "Are you planning for us that long term?"

The Rose Fairy Queen answered, "Well, sowing seeds for harvest is quite a common way of getting the food you want. Our current actions are the seeds, and what the future might hold for us will unfold depending on whether the seeds we grow learn the importance of Liu Shu."

Flor sighed. "Even then, a bad seed might eventually appear, breaking a delicate balance that had held up everything together. One Fraar incident is all that must happen, and things can go south quickly."

As she spoke, the Rose Fairy Queen flew before it and picked it up. 'Oh... It's quite small...' Flor blinked. 'Will it even fit around my head?'

She tried it, and as she feared, the rope holding the amulet was a bit small to hang around the neck. Her head was too big for the short rope holding it. 'Hm... Is it not for me? Or does this go around the wrist or ankle?'

However, the wrist was too thin to wear the amulet, and the ankle risked the item flying off or getting loose, making it awkward for Flor to wear. After a few tries while being looked at by Clavel and Liu Shu, Flor coughed and asked, "Is this for me?"

The Rose Fairy Queen was quick to receive a negative answer, making her sigh and give it to Clavel. "Here, try it."

Clavel looked between the amulet and Flor and then nodded. "Sure. I'll put it on, then."

She grabbed the rope and passed it around her head with relative ease. She was less than half Flor's height, so it was normal for the amulet not to fit around Flor's head.

A message appeared in her eyes after Clavel placed the amulet on her neck.

[Do you want to use this equipment? Yes or no?]

Clavel was surprised by the notification and quickly said yes. The amulet was successfully equipped, and with it, her body instantly felt refreshed as her Aether Mana pool increased while the equipment linked with her.

It was only then that Clavel managed to finally realize that the amulet was successful and that it really worked. They hadn't check them before because they never expected Liu Shu to make a successful first attempt, so until now, they had been trying to avoid making their tree feel bad.

Clavel was quick to inform the calm Flor with an excited stutter. "Q-Queen, it works! Analyze it!"

Flor's eyes widened and she quickly looked at it.

[Level 3 Wind Leaf Amulet (Basic-Grade Flawed Level)]

+26 Aether Mana

Aether (+6)

[Windy Currents (active)]: Use to increase movement speed by 20% for a short 2-second duration. It can be used every 10 minutes or by using 10 Aether Mana.

Note: This is the first item created by Tianlian Liu Shu. It's crafted decently, and it gives the stats she aimed for. Overall, it's a decent item for the low-level materials she used.

Flor was stunned. "It gives six points to the Aether stat!? That is six levels worth of pre-tenth-level stats for the average Rose Fairy."

Clavel laughed. "With this, I think I can even beat Amapola in a one-against-one fight. Hahahaha."

Flor got thoughtful and looked at Liu Shu. "I would ask how many you could build, but probably the stacks you showed the other day are it, right?"

Liu sent a pulse of affirmative energy, making Flor nod. "Will you create them?"

Having realized the <Level> problem, Liu Shu sent a negative pulse of energy, making both Flor and Clavel pause. Flor became worried that Liu Shu might've forced herself, so she asked. "Was it difficult, Liu Shu?"

Liu Shu was confused. 'Why is she asking that? No, it wasn't. It was actually fun!'

Of course, all her thoughts were communicated like a "no." which confused Flor and Clavel further. Clavel asked carefully. "Do you have a reason for not wanting to do them now?"

Our cute tree answered enthusiastically. 'Of course, I want to make better equipment, and I just need to wait for 12 days, and I'll be able to Level up!'

Again, all her thoughts were transmitted like a "yes," which gave Clavel and Flor a hint of what was happening.

By the way, while answering questions was something that Liu Shu took her time to do, that was not always the case. If the questions had a straightforward answer or Liu Shu didn't need to think much for one, her answers would come out quite quickly.

Clavel turned toward Flor and questioned again. "Do we try to ask her why she wants to wait?"

Flor shook her head. "Do you want to stay here for two days straight doing questions? It's probably something related to her skill, the fact that she might've not absorbed all the knowledge and she wants to digest it first, or that she wants to become stronger or more proficient before doing them."

Then, the Rose Fairy Queen answered wryly, raising her arms. "If it is something else, then I'm not sure what it would be, and asking questions to find out is not worth it."

Clavel nodded. "Fair enough."

Flor said. "Thank you for the amulet, Liu Shu. We'll take care of it and use it wisely until you give us more." She smiled gently and continued. "We'll take care of you in return and give you any materials you need. If you want to ask for any materials, here."

Flor moved to the side of the vault and created a corner where she cut a line with her wind energy. "Place those items here, and we'll find more of them for you. We'll check every day for them, and..." Flor moved toward another corner and did the same. "This corner is for materials you need with haste. We'll always focus on these while searching the others with care."

Clavel clapped. "That's a really nice idea!"

Flor nodded and sighed. "I should've thought of it quicker. Well, now we have it. Did you understand Liu Shu?"

Liu Shu was processing what she said while looking inside the vault. 'Hm... So, what is an urgent situation? For example, um... When do I really need it? But how do I know if I really need it? Um... So, right now, is there anything I really need? Well, I can take my time, so nothing is really urgent...'

Liu Shu began thinking about different situations, leaving the two Rose Fairies there, waiting. Clavel blinked. "Well, it seems that it will take a while."

Flor nodded and slowly flew toward a branch that was sticking from the side of the vault, lying there and closing her eyes. Clavel looked at how quickly Flor moved with a stunned expression. 'Even her speed to get comfortable is Queen Grade.'

Meanwhile, Liu Shu remembered. 'Right, I need to build... what did I need to build?' While she could remember, she was a bit lazy to do so, so she asked. 'System, show the ongoing quest.'

[Quest Received: Clear the nearby surroundings and build a safe town for human-sized creatures.

Completion Conditions: Create or assimilate 10 <Basic House>, 1 <Basic Well>, 1 <Basic Farmland>, 1 <Basic Inn>, 1 <Basic Town Hall>, 1 <Basic Defensive Fence>, 2 <Basic Defense Building>.

Rewards: Sylvanium Shards [50], Etherium Shards [50], Ascendium Shards [50], Celestium Shards [50], Cognium Shards [50].]

Liu Shu looked at the rewards with a disdainful expression. 'Miser. That's only enough for amulets of the worst grade.'

[System Hint: This is a chain quest. Once completed, new conditions will appear, and rewards will become higher.]

Liu Shu snorted. 'Even then, the rewards are really little. I have to build so many things! ' And everything I get is 50 shards of each? It's too little!'

[...]

Ignoring the system, Liu Shu refocused on answering Flor's question. 'Well, I think I got the gist of it, so... I should answer that I understood, but not entirely.'

After waiting for a few hours, Flor finally received an answer, two more specifically. First, an affirmative one, and then, a negative answer, leaving her eyebrows twitching incessantly. 'So... Which one is it!?'

The Rose Fairy Queen took a deep breath. 'Calm down, it probably has a reason. She answered, "I understand." And then. "I don't understand." So, this means...' Flor thought hard and long, feeling like she too would become a tree. 'Is it that she understands, but not completely, so she answered like this?'

Flor smiled. 'Aha! I think it is that!'

After asking Liu Shu and receiving a yes as an answer, Flor grinned. "Great!"

Clavel, at the side, couldn't help but feel amazed at Flor's ability to interpret Liu Shu's messages. 'Well, she is the Queen because of something, after all.'