

Ascension of the Sylvan Cosmos.

Chapter 6. Clavel's Considerations.

Liu Shu looked at Clavel with happiness. It was the first time she heard someone speak! Moreover, this little friend was so gentle and pretty. Liu Shu liked her a lot.

Her ability to process speech still left a lot to be desired, so Liu Shu was slowly thinking about what Clavel had told her. Even if she was a World Tree, she was a sapling that had been a normal tree for a long time.

Clavel knew that even if the tree understood her words, she probably would not answer her instantly. Now that the presentations were over, she looked closely at Liu Shu's branches and spotted a few blue fruits that smelled quite tempting. They were not big, but for Clavel who was 20 centimeters tall, they were not small.

She gently hovered around them as her leaf-like wings buzzed behind her and asked. "Little Darling, can I eat one?"

She moved her hands, slowly approaching while keeping an eye on the dangerous branches. After a few seconds, Clavel didn't feel hostility coming from Liu Shu, so she moved and took one of the fruits.

After taking it, Clavel paused, just in case, and seeing that the little darling allowed her to eat her fruits, she was delighted. "Thank you, Little Darling. I'm sure that your fruits will be delicious."

Clavel sniffed the berry that was as big as a coconut for someone her size. 'Smells good.'

Then, she opened her tiny mouth and took a bit. An explosion of flavors filled her mouth as the juicy meat of the fruit created a refreshing feeling in her. Her eyes shone with delight. "Delicious!"

Clavel elegantly but quickly ate the whole berry. When she finished, she tilted her head. 'Hm? There are no seeds? Strange.'

Then, a message appeared in her mind.

[You've eaten <Delicious Berry>. You've gained 1 Experience Point.]

Clavel froze in place, looking at the message with wide eyes. 'I-I have what?'

She reread the message two times to be sure that her eyes were reading it correctly, and then she looked at Liu Shu as if she were a precious treasure. "Oh my! Little Darling, you have more and more surprises on you the more I got to know you, and we've just met each other!"

Liu Shu cheerfully looked at Clavel, understanding that "delicious" was something to be happy about. '

Clavel got thoughtful and looked at Fraar's dead body. 'I need to warn the chief about this Little Darling's existence. We must protect this little dear from danger if possible. If the Thornstride, Ants, or Beavers discover her...' Clavel frowned with worry. 'I need to move quickly.'

She picked another berry and ate it, just in case, and saw the same message appear again, making her dizzy. 'Does it work more than once a day? What is this?'

Just gaining one extra experience a day passively by eating fruit was good enough for many creatures to go crazy about it. Now that it worked more than once, it could lead to an entire race's evolution.

Clavel looked at the few dozen berries on Liu Shu's branches and became thoughtful. 'Should I eat until the effect disappears to check how many times they work?' Then, she looked at Liu Shu and shook her head. 'This little darling has probably used several resources to grow them. I must not be greedy and plunder her fruits just for me without her permission. We need to prepare proper offerings for her to exchange for the <Delicious Berry>.'

She approached Liu Shu's trunk, and she spoke while hovering in front of her. "Little darling, your fruits are extremely delicious. I want to take a few with me back home so that I can call my friends over to protect you, can I?"

Liu Shu didn't answer as she processed the words. Clavel waited patiently for a reaction, as she knew that plant creatures usually took their time in answering.

After a while, Liu Shu understood and thought to herself. 'Aren't my fruits grown for eating? Why is she asking me? She is a strange little friend.'

Liu Shu's branches swayed to communicate agreement, and Clavel's eyes softened while she hugged her. "Thanks a lot, Little Darling. I swear I'll protect you in the future."

Then, Clavel moved toward the ground, crafting a handcrafted basket with a few grass blades and a thin branch. After a few minutes, she flew up and picked 20 fruits, leaving the rest behind. Even if Liu Shu gave her permission, one must never be greedy. As their ancestors, one must respect a Tree's belongings.

Especially those who can defend themselves.

A Tree's strength was in its survivability, sturdiness, and strength to protect certain areas. If a city had the protection of a giant and high-level tree, it would be more secure than a city with large walls built around it.

That's why 90% of the land was covered in forests.

With the basket full of fruits, Clavel smiled and gave one last hug and kiss to Liu Shu's trunk before leaving to inform her tribe.

Of course, before leaving, she moved Fraar's corpse far away from Liu Shu. She would regret it to death if something happened to Liu Shu because of her carelessness.

Moreover, to make it more convincing, she resolutely used her skills to slice Fraar's corpse into pieces, making it look as if a living creature did the damage. 'With this, it should be impossible for those beasts to find out that Little Darling did it. Anyway, our tribes are already in conflict; it doesn't matter even if they reach the conclusion that we did it.'

She gave one last look to the young tree, and while she wanted to use her pollinate skill, she was going to ask her chief, who had a much higher level in that skill than her. That way, Liu Shu would benefit more.

Meanwhile, Liu Shu saw the small friend exiting her <World Tree Eye> radius with some regret, but she soon recovered. 'Today was really fun! I hope the little friend returns with more little friends in the future~.'

Then, Liu Shu thought back to when the fairy hugged her. 'It felt strange. Comfortable? Ticklish? Warm?'

The feeling was strange for our Liu Shu, who had never had contact with flesh-like living beings other than when she whipped the River Beaver to death.

The rest of the day passed uneventfully, with the most exciting thing being that her experience was approaching the 150 Experience point mark. Liu Shu was delighted. 'I gain so much experience~. At this pace, I'll reach 150 Experience Points in two days!'

Meanwhile, after Clavel left, she flew fast through the forest, ignoring some things that she would have normally stopped to collect for her tribe. 'I need to quickly return to Little Darling's side before something happens to her.'

Her body was like a green and red blur as she flew quickly and eventually reached the canopy of a large tree.

This tree was incomparable to our Liu Shu. It was at least 30 meters tall, with an extremely thick trunk and a wide canopy that gave shade to a few creatures below it.

The aura of vitality around it was incredibly thick, attracting many creatures.

Clavel focused on it for a moment, and the system page appeared.

Level: 16

Aether Mana Shards: 3956/3956

Phoer Body Shards: 13048/13048

Anima Energy Shards: 6548/6548

Clavel laughed a bit as she thought back about Liu Shu. 'I wonder how strong Little Darling will become when she reaches this level?' Clavel smiled wistfully. 'I hope I can be alive by then.'

As she flew upward, Clavel pondered. 'However, even if she is not as strong, Little Darling is really clever and fast-thinking.'

Unlike the cute tree she found recently, this giant tree wasn't sentient and didn't understand words. No matter how we spoke or did with it, there would never be an answer. Which, by the way, was the normal thing. Most trees were like that.

So, for Clavel and the other Rose Fairies, it was just a sturdy home that was able to grow a few interesting fruits. 'Still, the berries that little one produces are much better. This large tree only creates fruits that can satiate hunger for a few days.'

Which, again, was the normal thing for a tree. Fruits with special effects related to experience were unheard of.

Even when this tree was nothing special, because of how large and solid it was, many creatures wanted to take this tree as a home, but the Rose Fairies, one of the strongest races in this forest area, had monopolized it.

'Now that I think about it, I haven't given her a name. Well, I'll think about one later.'

Clavel shook her head and flew upward, entering the tree canopy.

Inside its lush tree top, many more of her kind flew around. There weren't any constructions, as her Rose Fairy tribe was nomad. Rain was not bothersome to them, and chilly weather was also not too troublesome.

Still, there was a hierarchy in the tribe, and the higher she flew in the tree's canopy, the more status and level those fairies would have.

There were about 120 of them, and in the highest place of the canopy, there were four fairies seated around each other.

The aura around them was even stronger than that of Clavel, making them look eye-catching. All of them had beautiful red hair and eyes, with petite statures.

Between them, there was one fairy who was much taller. If a normal Rose Fairy was about 20 centimeters tall, this one was about 30 centimeters tall. It didn't look as much but put in human terms; if an average human was 175 centimeters, the leader was comparable to a human that measured 260 centimeters.

Looking at the taller and elegant fairy, Clavel's eyes shone respectfully.

Level: 10

Aether Mana Shards: 6380/6380

Phoer Body Shards: 1932/1932

Anima Energy Shards: 2984/2984

Level 10 was a divisor where creatures would go the first significant jump in strength. Reaching this level was difficult for creatures like Rose Fairies, who were born with very little innate talent. Looking at books in cities, their race would appear as a "F Tier race."

Similar to skills and everything else, the ranks of creatures that the inhabitants of this world had discovered went from F to D, E, and C rank. In between, there were three sub-levels, F-, F, and F+.

Each change of tier was a relatively large jump in strength, knowing that even a 10% difference in attributes could be detrimental in a fight.

Even then, this relatively tall fairy had reached Level 10 reasonably quickly, becoming the pillar of the entire race and the reason they could monopolize this tree for their race.

Moreover, while most of the Rose Fairies were considered F Tier beings, their current chieftain had shown talent and broken through into the F+ Tier creature tier.

Clavel's respect for this woman increased when she remembered all of this.

Chapter 7. Flor, Leader of the Rose Fairies.

After Clavel flew in front of the Rose Fairy Leader, she spoke, trying to hold the excitement for finding Liu Shu. "Leader! I've found a fascinating tree! We need to leave here and move to that place before something happens to it! Although we might be a bit worse for a while, if we invest in that Little Darling, we'll probably have a breakthrough as a race!"

Flor, the leader of the Rose Fairies, looked at Clavel with interest in her eyes. "Oh? So much praise for that Tree?"

Another of the fairies by Flor's side snorted. "Clavel, aren't you exaggerating too much?"

Clavel rolled her eyes. "Aster, do you think I would joke around about this when it took so much effort to secure this Tree for our race?"

Aster frowned. "If you know that, then you should know that this one is the highest-level Tree around. Stop being annoying and leave."

Clavel frowned. "Aster, you have yet to see what I have to explain. What the hell are you being so butthurt for?"

Aster sneered. "I was the one who found this place, so if someone comes trying to take merit from me, I'll naturally be angry!"

Clavel rolled her eyes and gave Flor one of the <Delicious Berries>. "Look at this, Leader. You should be able to read its effects with your level."

Flor didn't say anything at first. Discussion between them was not as rare as one might think. However, Flor knew deep down that even if they acted aggressively, in times of need, they took care of each other the most. She had seen Clavel and Aster fighting side by side plenty of times.

She picked the <Delicious Berry> and read its effects aloud for Aster to listen.

"Let's see... <Delicious Berry (F- Rank)>: It is a common, seedless berry with a savory taste and pleasing scent. Low-level animals love it, especially birds. It can give one experience point when Level 9 and lower creatures consume it. A creature can ingest a maximum of three each day."

The other three fairies who didn't take Clavel's words too seriously froze. Aster's eyes were the ones that opened the widest. "W-What? Leader, did you misread?"

Even Flor blinked twice and reread it, incredulous.

Seeing that the text she was reading didn't change, Flor asked with a serious face. "What level is this tree? Is it a Level 20 tree? Or a Level 25 one? To produce such a strong fruit... It is incredible."

Clavel laughed and said smugly, feeling proud of the Little Darling. "She is Level 1!"

The other three fairies that had remained silent gasped.

Aster became a bit angry, thinking that she was trying to lie to them. "Clavel, stop joking around! How could a Level 1 tree produce this fruit? We can get more than 1000 Experience Points a year as long as we ingest the three berries daily! 1000! Do you know how much that means? Now, it is not the time to speak jokingly!"

Reaching Level 10 in their entire lifetime was almost impossible. So, if their youngest fairies could gain 1000 Experience points a year, the number of Level 10s that would begin in the future would explode. After all, for these fairies, the amount of experience they needed to go from Level 0 to Level 9 was about 12,000. The higher the tier, the higher the experience needed. However, since most fairies were F Tier, they all hovered around the same numbers.

If they could ingest this kind of berry constantly since birth, by the age of 12, a fairy would reach level 9!

Not to mention the creation of Level 10 beings, since the children of higher-level creatures had a chance to evolve or have an easier time reaching those higher levels, it would improve the overall strength of their entire race for future generations.

In short, it was, as Clavel said, a fruit that could change the Fate of an entire race.

Clavel snorted and commented. "It's not a lie, Aster. Moreover, this little darling is super interesting and clever!" Then, turning toward Flor, she said. "Leader, we need to move quickly before something happens to her!"

Flor caught something else in Clavel's expression and waved her hand to the other three. "Leave us alone for a while."

The three of them didn't dare disobey and flew downwards. When only the two of them were left, Flor commented with a gentle smile as she hugged Clavel onto her lap. "Now, tell me. You seem a bit too anxious. Did something happen?"

Clavel smiled shyly. "Nothing escapes you, Mother." Then, she approached Flor's ears and whispered. "Fraar died by the hand of this Tree. Moreover, he could only create one gash on her before being whipped to death."

Flor was not foreign to trees that could defend themselves. However, when she remembered Fraar's level, her eyes widened. "She killed a level 7 being at Level 1?"

Clavel nodded.

Flor's face became serious. The strength difference between levels was, more often than not, absolute. The only way to overcome this difference was with equipment and powerful skills or with tier difference.

Equipment was not something creatures like them would wear, and powerful skills on a Tree were rare. So, in Flor's mind, the only way for her to overcome such an abysmal chasm in strength was Liu Shu's tier.

Flor asked, curious. "What's her tier, Clavel?"

Clavel shook her head. "I don't know. But her Ternary Essences are already over a hundred, and her Phoer is approaching the 200 shards."

Flor asked again, incredulous. "Clavel, are you sure she is level one? Mother won't blame you if this was a complex prank or something, so tell me the truth."

Clavel pouted. "It is the truth!"

Flor looked into Clavel's red eyes and nodded. "Okay, I believe you."

Then, she stood up and told her. "Guide me quickly. We must never allow her to fall into the wrong hands." Then, she spoke aloud, her voice spreading by her use of Aether Mana through the entire canopy. "Those above level 7 that are not ordered to act as guards follow me."

Meanwhile, our Liu Shu didn't know that she had made one of the strongest creatures in the nearby forest area worried and was leisurely growing her berries and slowly increasing her experience by slapping the bugs that approached her.

For her, the flow of time was fuzzy, so she didn't feel bored even if a few hours passed without anything happening. She was happy to bathe in the Sun, feel the wet and nutritious soil, or look around with her <World Tree Eye> at the nearby creatures.

While she peacefully continued with her day, a notification from her <Charm of the seedling> triggered.

[<Charm of the Seedling> has attracted a <River Beaver Level 6>. Proficiency increased by 6.]

When Liu Shu saw the name of the creature, she couldn't help but feel helpless. 'Is this bad friend coming for me again? Why are so many bad friends coming for me?'

Before becoming a World Tree, Liu Shu had had a very uneventful life. Some bugs and such sometimes attacked her roots, but all in all, she was just a small sapling in a large forest that got ignored by everything.

She was relatively lucky that no one passed by her side and decided to uproot her out of boredom as some people might do with flowers on the side of the road.

However, now that she had gained so many auras, the creatures that previously ignored her were now looking her way. With everyone who ignored her now looking her way, it was normal for her to attract so many beings.

After a few moments, the Level 6 beaver appeared in the range of her <World Tree Eye> skill.

It had 483 Phoeer Body Shards, which were neither too many or too little.

Liu Shu calmly observed the beaver approaching and waited. If this beast went its way, then she wouldn't bother attacking it.

However, if it came to bite her...

Meanwhile, the River Beaver strode forward, confident in itself. In this forest section, trees that were level 5 and above were rare, so it was a perfect place to find timber for its dam. He had recently found a partner and was now finding wood to create the nest where they would live in the future.

Looking around, the beaver observed the trees until she spotted a peculiar one.

Looking at the relatively short and somewhat thick tree, the beaver got thoughtful. Although she was tiny compared to the surrounding trees, the wood quality was the best this beaver had ever seen.

It decided to take it. Even if it was one log, it could be used in the inner part of the nest.

What the beaver didn't know was that, besides Liu Shu, there were another 15 or so beings observing it.

Flor looked at the Level 6 River Beaver approaching Liu Shu with cold eyes and asked, her tone worried. "Clavel, are you sure that little thing can defend herself? It's just a little over two meters tall."

Even Clavel was a bit unsure. After all, she hadn't seen Liu Shu in action other than slapping one bug. Fraar's body was good proof, but who knew if the Little Darling could replicate that achievement?

Therefore, she said. "This beaver is much weaker than Fraar, so it should be possible..." Not entirely confident, she asked. "Leader, can you save her if things go wrong?"

Flor easily nodded. "Don't worry. I can see that it is the one you spoke about by the fruits on her branches. Moreover..." Flor squinted while looking at Liu Shu, feeling a strangely strong vital aura coming from her. She muttered to herself. "It can't be, right? Why would one of those appear here?"

Clavel asked. "What's wrong?"

Flor shook her head, placing the idea in the back of her head. 'Regardless of whether she is or isn't, what we came here to do doesn't change.'

"Don't worry, Clavel. I was thinking about how much damage to let that little one take before I stopped the fight."

Aster looked at Clavel and smirked. "The Leader is probably feeling exasperated. Even if it has 176 Phoer, it has three times less than that Beaver. How could it fight it? Isn't it better to just protect her instead of letting her fight?"

Clavel frowned at her. "Hey, did I do something to you lately? Why are you being so annoying?"

Aster stuck out her tongue. "When I see your face, I just want to be annoying!"

Flor sighed with a smile. "Both of you, stop it."

"Yes, leader!"

Then, she looked closely at Liu Shu and the beaver. 'Well, little one. Show me what you have.'

The beaver walked forward with confident strides, and Liu Shu's aura began leaking as a warning.

The beaver was surprised, and then it made a face similar to a sneer. 'How dare the thing that he uses as a house be arrogant? I'll gnaw you down!'

Then, the River Beaver ran forward at a very quick speed.

The fairies around tensed, prepared to rush forward just in case. Even Aster looked closely, all her focus placed between the two. While she had mocked Clavel, she was as much of a lover of trees as the others, and seeing that Clavel wasn't lying, this little tree was more than worth protecting.

Although the beaver was relatively quick, Liu Shu's senses were much sharper than what the beaver could imagine when she entered combat mode.

Once it was two meters from her body, Liu Shu realized that it wouldn't stop, so she attacked.

<Willow Strike>

The Rose Fairies that came attentively looked at the Aether Mana and Anima Energy enveloping one of the Branches.

Then, Liu Shu attacked.

BANG!

The charging River Beaver was slammed face-first against the ground with a pitiful cry. The branch dug deep into the tissue, damaging bones and making the Beaver's eyes almost pop out of its skull.

When the Beaver felt the harsh waves of pain, it knew it had provoked something out of his league and hastily turned to flee.

However, when the World Tree was attacked, it was not merciful.

All creatures that offend a World Tree once became nothing but enemies.

So, far from being done with it, even before it could turn around, five more branches were coated in Aether Mana and Anima Energy, and they lashed one after another in quick succession.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

The Rose Fairies saw with widened eyes as Liu Shu smacked the Beaver around, the branches digging deep into the animal until it dropped dead. Clavel was no exception, as her mouth was hung open.

Clavel reacted the first since she had previously seen Liu Shu killing that bug, and she turned toward Aster with a smug smile. "Hey, what do you say now? Was I right or not?"

Aster's eyebrows were twitching.

Chapter 8. First Level Up!

Aster looked at Clavel and back at Liu Shu, stuttering. "What the hell was that? That attack can probably cripple even me if it takes me off-guard."

Even Flor was shocked. If she didn't use her Aether Mana to defend herself, that attack could probably damage even her.

At Level 10, she had 18 points for physique, which was not much more than the 13 points Liu Shu had. Still, that was if Flor stood still and received attacks; with her main attribute, Aether, being 55 points, it was quite impossible for Liu Shu to even face her.

With 55 points of Aether, if Flor attacked, our Liu Shu would probably be uprooted even before she knew what happened. Regardless, the fact that she could potentially damage someone at level 10 while she was at level 1 was already an accomplishment.

While the Rose fairies spoke with each other, curious about the Tree that could slam a Level 6 River Beaver into the ground, Liu Shu was looking at her System page with her mind dancing in happiness.

[Congratulations on defeating <River Beaver Level 6>. You've gained 14 Experience Points.]

Why did it make her happy?

Liu Shu's gaze moved on her system and landed on the last line of text.

[Accumulated Experience: 161]

Then, she looked at her level.

[Level: 1 (0/150)]

'161 is bigger than 150!' Liu Shu thought confidently. 'That means that I can increase my Level!'

For the first time in her life, Liu Shu was going to increase her level. This made the young Tree ecstatic. 'Let's do it!'

With a single thought, the experience points accumulated in her body started to flow around her.

Flor and the others were about to approach, but they suddenly felt a profound aura spread from the little tree before them.

Clavel exclaimed. "She is leveling up!?"

Aster mumbled while feeling the profound aura that spread around. "Great branches above. What kind of little monster did you find, Clavel?"

Even Flor's expression was severe. 'I feel... threatened?'

As a Level 10, all beings under Level 10 should feel like small creatures. That Level was the first of many milestones for a creature. So, if a creature going from Level 1 to Level 2 felt threatening even after crossing Level 10, no matter how small that feeling was, it meant that the creature's tier was far above her own.

Flor's red eyes gleamed with interest and curiosity. 'Why would someone like her appear in our forest? So strange.'

Meanwhile, Liu Shu felt extremely comfortable as powerful waves of energy nourished her roots and body. Each time she poured an experience point into her Level, she could feel her insides being filled with all kinds of energies that were previously slumbering.

From the center of her trunk, her <World Tree Heart> released a soothing and refreshing aura, nourishing not only her body but her soul as well.

Below the soul, as the energy waves moved through the roots, they nourished them and pushed them to grow. The feeling of her roots digging deeper and further into the ground made Liu Shu feel liberated as if this was her purpose. 'My roots... I want to spread them everywhere.'

The feeling of piercing into the moist land below, pushing the rocks aside as her reach grew, fed her most primal instincts as a World Tree. If she had a mouth, she would probably be letting out a hot sigh of comfort.

Her own body also grew, from being two meters tall from base to crown to being about three meters tall. Her roots similarly spread for about 25 meters around her.

Then, her trunk thickened, and the silhouette of a woman became clearer while her canopy widened and the number of branches increased. The bark was also smoother than before, even if it still had a rough surface. Instead of sharp, now caressing her bark would be bumpy.

The process didn't last longer than a few seconds, but for the Rose Fairies looking, it felt like a few minutes. The sight of a World Tree increasing in level filled those looking with awe, no matter how large or small the World Tree was.

Finally, the events occurring around our Tree ended.

Curious, Liu Shi looked at her system. If she had eyes, they would've widened in surprise.

[Level Up!]

[Aether +7, Physique +9, Anima +8, Willpower +10, Destiny +100.]

[Natural Resistance Formula has been updated!]

[Some Skills Have Been Adjusted! System Hint: Those skills and numbers are marked with an "**"]

Name: Tianlian Liu Shu

Titles:

<Awakened>: A title that's gained when a tree gains sapience and evolves, gaining human-like intelligence.

<World Tree>: A tree that can grow to be an overlord, admired by many, hated by some.

Hidden titles: [9]

Race: World Tree.

Energy Method: Basic World Energy Gathering (Gathers experience points*Level per day.)

Level: 2 [0/520]

Aether Mana Shards: 450/450 (+16,2/Hour)

Phoer Body Shards: 675/675 (+24,3/Hour)

Anima Energy Shards: 480/480 (+17,28/Hour)

Attributes: Aether 18 (14+4), Physique 25 (18+7), Anima 20 (16+4), Willpower 20 (20), Destiny 200 (200)

Affinity Percentage: Aether Resonance (25), Physique Refinement (35), Anima Affinity (20)

Resistance Percentage: Aether Resistance (28), Physique Resistance (34), Spiritual Resistance (29), Mental Resistance (32)

Talents:

<Enchanted Growth (E+ Rank level 1 [2/18000])>: Stimulates the rapid growth of nearby flora, creating vibrant and mesmerizing plant life. Use consumes Aether Mana and Anima Energy.

*<Nature's Gift (F- Rank level 3 [12/300])>: Produces small, magical fruits with unique and beneficial properties. It uses Anima Energy and Aether Mana to produce. Depending on the strength of the fruits, there is a chance that they will also need Phoer.

Current Fruits Available: Delicious Berry (F- Rank) (30 Days), *Basic Phoer Berry (F- Rank) (30 Days), *Basic Mana Berry (F- Rank) (30 Days), *Basic Energy Berry (F- Rank) (30 Days).

Efficiency: 15 Days per Aether and Anima Shard.

*<Willow Strike (F- Rank level 3 [160/300])>: The World Tree is from a willow family, with characteristic long but thin branches. She can use Aether Mana to move them and strike a target. Range 5->10 meters.

*<Willow Strike Barrage (F Rank level 1 [20/200])>: The World Tree uses all her branches to strike at her enemy. She can use Aether Mana to trigger this skill, allowing her to attack for three seconds uninterrupted. Range 3->5 meters.

Passive Skills:

<World Tree Heart (A Rank Level 1 [0/589900])>: A core has formed in the middle of the Tree. As long as the core doesn't receive heavy damage, the tree can recover from any external injury. Depending on the damage, it will take longer. Innate Regeneration Increased, Innate Resistances increased, and Innate Affinities increased.

*<World Tree Eye (C Rank level 1 [261/144000])>: You can see as far as your roots extend. *25 meters.

<World Tree Wisdom (SSS Rank Level Max.)>: You can understand all languages as long as they are complex enough to be considered a language by the system.

<Charm of the Seedling (F Rank Level 1 [75/200])>: Attracts small animals and insects to the area, fostering a harmonious ecosystem. There is a very small chance of attracting a friendly, bigger animal or insect that will help protect you. Creatures below the F Rank will be affected with much ease. Range 20 meters.

Accumulated Experience: 11

Liu Shu exclaimed in her head. 'Wow, big numbers!'

Her Aether Mana, Phoer, and Anima Energy had basically tripled, while her basic stats had almost doubled. Moreover, her skills had become slightly more complex.

While reading her system page, Liu Shu realized that she had three more fruits that she could grow. Curious, she read their descriptions.

<Delicious Berry (F- Rank)>: It is a common, seedless berry with a savory taste and pleasing scent. It can give one experience point when level 9 and lower creatures consume it. A creature can ingest a maximum of three each day. It has a ripening period of 30 Days.

<Basic Phoe Berry (F- Rank)>: It is a common, seedless berry with a minty taste and scent. It can heal 10 Phoe Body Shards per consumption. A creature can ingest a maximum of five each day. It has a ripening period of 30 Days.

<Basic Mana Berry (F- Rank)>: It is a common, seedless berry with a sweet and tart taste and an earthly scent. It can recover 10 Aether Mana Shards per consumption. A creature can ingest a maximum of five each day. It has a ripening period of 30 Days.

<Basic Energy Berry (F- Rank)>: It is a common, seedless berry with a sour taste and fresh scent. It can recover 10 Anima Energy Shards per consumption. A creature can ingest a maximum of five each day. It has a ripening period of 30 Days.

Other than the deep blue Delicious Berry, the other three had, in order, a light-red, light-blue, and light-yellow color.

The energy it took to accelerate their growth had also lessened by a lot, and now, she could use about two Aether Mana and Anima Energy to grow one fruit every two days. With a recovery speed of about 16 Aether Mana per hour, she could grow around 200 fruits a day and accelerate their production speed without feeling a strain on her energy reservoirs. If she used all the capacity of her energy regeneration, she would probably be able to grow about 390 of them, but that would mean that Liu Shu had to feed her fruits constantly.

While Liu Shu was not clever enough to do this kind of math easily, she had an intuitive way of knowing more or less how much she could produce without being bothersome for her.

As a Tree and a resident of this world, she innately knew these things. So, while she wouldn't go all out in production without a proper reason, she would create them at her own pace.

'Now I can grow a lot of fruits! I hope that the little friend that took a few away is happy and comes often.'

Curious about the new range of vision, she extended her <World Tree Eye> to the new maximum range. The World around her expanded, and her "eyes" took in the nearby trees, animals, and creatures with extreme clarity. While humans would be dizzy if they

had a 360-degree spherical vision, Liu Shu was a natural tree, and she didn't have any problems.

At 25 meters in height, she could even spot a few birds that were flying low while looking around for a spot to rest.

'Wow! I can see so far~.'

Furthermore, thanks to her new range, she had realized the existence of a few visitors looking at her from a distance.

'Oh! So many little friends similar to that little friend! Hm? Even that little friend is here~.'

Her vocabulary still had some work to do, but she was slowly getting there.

Clavel and the others didn't realize that Liu Shu was looking at them, but as someone with much sharper senses, Flor knew right away that something had begun observing them. 'Hm?'

Looking around, she couldn't sense anyone nearby, so she was momentarily confused. 'Where is this gaze coming from?'

Closing her eyes, she sent a pulse of Aether Mana to check her surroundings, but she didn't see anything. 'There is nobody... Wait.'

Her eyes opened with surprise. She didn't take long to realize that the one looking at them was the little tree in front of them. Flor laughed gently. 'She can see from so far away? That's impressive.'

"Let's go."

With her order, Flor flew toward Liu Shu with the other fairies, not delaying it anymore.

Chapter 9. Rose Fairies' Decision.

When all the fairies approached, Liu Shu heard many notifications about her <Charm of the Seedling> skill, and the proficiency increased by around 250 points, increasing the level of the skill by one.

One of the messages was especially eye-catching, which made Liu Shu exclaim in her head.

[<Charm of the Seedling> has attracted a <Rose Fairy Level 10>. Proficiency increased by 100.]

Liu Shu looked at the tallest fairy in the group with interest. 'Level 10! The highest-level little friend yet!'

She also realized that the proficiency points gained were ten times as much, making her feel happy inside. 'Will I gain extra every time a level 10 comes? Or is this friend special?'

The fairies flew around her, and a few of them approached the carcass of the beaver she just killed. Liu Shu heard them speak.

"Look at this!"

"What's wrong?... Wow! Even the bones are broken. How strong is she?"

"I would hate to be on the other side of her attacks."

A relatively low-level fairy commented. "But she can only attack from a close distance, no? Any of us should be strong enough to defeat her."

However, a few seniors looked at her with frowns. "Little girl, have you seen her bark and trunk thickness?"

The low-level fairy looked over and saw that Liu Shu was relatively thicker than other trees of her height. "Huh?"

The low-level fairy looked closer and asked. "Say, do you feel like her trunk has a strange womanly shape?"

A few fairies who heard them looked over, closely examining her, and laughed.

"It's true! Hahaha."

"So strange~."

"Such coincidences are rare."

However, Flor looked at that shape with a deeper expression, her mind spinning with many thoughts.

After a few moments of hesitation, Flor took the initiative and approached with a smile, floating very close to Liu Shu. Of course, as she approached, she was very alert. She was confident in defending herself, but if she took one of the attacks she had just witnessed with her bare body, she might get an injury.

"Hello, little one. It is the first time I've seen a little tree as beautiful as you in my 38 years of life."

When she heard her speaking, Liu Shu felt joyous, and her branches swayed happily at her compliment.

The fairies around giggled when they saw her reacting to Flor's words.

"She is really cute."

"So, it was true that she could understand."

Clavel snorted at the side. "Why would I lie about these things?"

The second in command of the fairy group, a fairy called Amapola, commented. "We have to protect this little one." The fairies nodded, and then Amapola added wistfully. "Maybe she can become our forever home."

Flor and the rest of the fairies became a bit silent.

They constantly moved around because strong creatures or natural events sometimes toppled the trees they lived in, and they could do nothing to prevent it most of the time. While Flor was strong, she was only strong relative to the creatures living in the nearby forest area.

When mass migrations, beast tides, powerful hurricanes, and other natural events occurred, her power was nothing but a raindrop against the wind.

Flor snapped out of her daze, and she quickly reprimanded. "Don't discuss things here. The little one can understand us, and she might get the wrong idea that we want to use her. If she can become our home, it is nothing but a result of our actions of protecting her, not the objective."

The fairies realized and stopped commenting.

Liu Shu heard them, but she didn't really understand what they meant by a forever home, so she ignored it. These little friends had a pleasant aura around them, so she was happy they were by her side.

Flor hovered about one meter above the ground to gently touch Liu Shu's trunk and ask. "Little one, do you mind if my clan stays near you?"

Liu Shu's mind spun, taking in the meaning of her words. 'Hm, since I feel comfortable around them, and they help me increase my <Charm of the seedling> skill, why not?'

Liu Shu didn't consider her loss of prey if they came around her, the main reason being that, as a tree, her concept of increasing strength was to do so naturally.

Even after leveling up and feeling that rush of strength, she didn't sprout any greed for more, unlike most living creatures did. Killing many creatures just to gain experience had never crossed her mind, even as an idea.

As a World Tree, her first instinct was to protect creatures that didn't harm either her or nature in a significant way. Her second instinct was to eliminate all that did otherwise.

After about 40 minutes, her dropping branches began to sway cheerfully, caressing Flor's body, which was resting on one of her sturdy branches. Flor felt comfortable while waiting because of Liu Shu's crisp, clean, and earthly scent that surrounded her.

It was very similar to the scent of freshly cut grass, with a touch of mint that made the nostrils feel refreshed and open.

Although the movement was very light, the aura around her could transmit some basic thoughts.

Even without words, these fairies, who had lived between all kinds of flora for all their lives, could understand that Liu Shu didn't mind.

Flor laughed, delighted, and commented. "I had yet to use my daily pollination, and Clavel told me she didn't do hers to you, so I'll do it. What do you say, little one?"

Liu Shu didn't know what that was, so she didn't answer. 'Pollination? What does that do?'

Flor waited for about 30 minutes, but seeing no answer, she guessed that this young tree probably didn't know what 'pollination' was.

With that in mind, she smiled and commented. "Little one, if you hate it, use your branches to swat me like a fly. Don't worry, I won't get hurt."

Liu Shu heard her and understood what she meant, so she didn't react and looked at Flor intently with her <World Tree Eye>.

Flor felt like she was being observed again, and she confirmed in her mind that this small tree had a method of observing creatures around her.

With that in mind, Flor's leaf-like wings began buzzing, and her body floated upward. Her long red hair and eyes swayed with Aether as she began circling Liu Shu, and from there, a cloud of sparkling red dust began falling on top of Liu Shu.

Liu Shu looked at how that sparkling dust landed on her bark, leaves, and roots, delivering a refreshing feeling all around her body. If our little tree had eyes, she would be squinting them in comfort. 'So nice~.'

Flor saw that Liu Shu's branches began swaying with a comforting feeling, and her eyes were filled with mirth and gentleness. "Do you like it? Then, let's finish it."

She accelerated, creating a small reddish dust cloud that swallowed Liu Shu's entire body, and when Flor finished, she used her mastery over the wind to push it onto Liu Shu.

For a few seconds, Liu Shu was covered in reddish dust, but that soon was assimilated into her.

A message appeared in Flor's and Liu Shu's minds.

[You've Pollinated a <??? Level 2>. You gain 2 Experience Points.]

[A <Rose Fairy Level 10> has used <Basic Pollination> on you. You've gained 10 Experience Points.]

Seeing an extra ten experience points appearing in her system, Liu Shu cheered in her mind. 'This little friend is so good!'

Flor, who was prepared to gain nothing because of Liu Shu's low level, was surprised. 'Huh? I usually gained about four experience points from that Level 16 Senior Tree, and I've gained two from a Level 2 Tree?'

Her eyes softened even more as she looked at Liu Shu. 'This little one is a box full of surprises. The fact that I can't tell her race after pollinating her is also really mysterious.'

Flor looked around the area where Liu Shu was and realized that there were a few tall trees nearby.

'Hm. This should be enough for our race to live until she matures.'

Flor commented to the others. "I'll stay here with the little one. Go and fetch the rest of our kind. We are moving here."

Clavel's eyes shone with delight. "Really?"

Flor nodded with a smile. "Yes."

Then, Flor caught the corpse of the River Beaver in her periphery and got thoughtful. 'What should we do about those who covet her? Hm...'

After giving a thoughtful look at Liu Shu, Flor told the fairies with a stern tone. "Explain to all the other fairies that we won't protect her as we usually do. Unless she is at risk of dying, let her face against the beings that come to attack her." Flor's eyes shone

murderously as she finished her sentence. "They will become good fertilizers for the little one to grow."

The eyes of the rest of the fairies landed on the dead River Beaver with indifference and nodded. Regardless of their motives, anyone who hurt Trees and Flowers was nothing but trash in their eyes.

Liu Shu didn't understand the more complicated parts of the conversation that ensued afterward, but she understood these little friends wanted to live by her side. Thinking of how much more fun it would be in the future, Liu Shu was delighted.

To show her appreciation, large amounts of Aether Mana and Anima Energy began gathering around her branches.

The fairies who were about to move out realized and looked at her curiously. They couldn't sense a shred of hostility, so they weren't worried. On the contrary, a spark of excitement flashed in their eyes.

First, they saw the energy flow from the bottom of the tree's roots across the beautiful trunk and into the branches.

It didn't take long to envelop all of Liu Shu's branches, giving her an enchanting azure and amethyst glow.

After that, from between the leaves, small flowers of four different colors started appearing one by one and growing at a visible rate.

The fairies were mesmerized by the extraordinarily beautiful spectacle.

The large amounts of Aether Mana and Anima Energy focusing on creating the flowers was something sacred for the Rose fairies. If hurting nature was something they loathed, the action of creation and life was something they adored.

Seeing the little one use such a large part of her Aether Mana and Anima Energy made them all feel touched.

Clavel wanted to say that it wasn't necessary, feeling a bit of heartache at the enormous amounts of Aether Mana and Anima Energy being used, but Flor stopped her. "Let the little one do as she pleases. We are not going to pamper her but guide her. If she wants to give us something, we should accept it with a smile and use it to the best of our abilities. In the future, we will repay with our lives if necessary. Nature is about giving and taking, an exchange, a cycle. Regardless of what she gives us, we will return in kind."

Clavel and the rest of the fairies nodded. "I understand."

After about half an hour, the Aether Mana and Anima Energy she had gathered were completely consumed, making Liu Shu a bit tired. After all, she had used almost all of her entire Aether Mana and Anima Energy pools.

Four messages appeared in her eyes.

[You have produced 50 <Delicious Berries (F- Rank)>! -50 Aether Mana Shards. - 50 Anima Shards.]

[You have produced 50 <Phoer Berries (F- Rank)>! -50 Aether Mana Shards. - 50 Anima Shards.]

[You have produced 50 <Mana Berries (F- Rank)>! -50 Aether Mana Shards. - 50 Anima Shards.]

[You have produced 50 <Energy berries (F- Rank)>! -50 Aether Mana Shards. - 50 Anima Shards.]

[You've reduced the ripening time on 200 flowers by 15 days. - 200 Aether Mana Shards. - 200 Anima Energy Shards.]

[You've gained 40 Proficiency points!]

Aether Mana: 50/450 (+16.2/Hour)

Anima Energy: 80/480 (+17.28/Hour)

Chapter 10. Rose Fairies Move In!

After about half an hour, the Aether Mana and Anima Energy she had gathered were completely consumed, making Liu Shu a bit tired. After all, she had used almost all of her entire Aether Mana and Anima Energy pools.

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[You have produced 50 <Delicious Berries (F- Rank)>! -50 Aether Mana Shards. - 50 Anima Shards.]

[You have produced 50 <Phoer Berries (F- Rank)>! -50 Aether Mana Shards. - 50 Anima Shards.]

[You have produced 50 <Mana Berries (F- Rank)>! -50 Aether Mana Shards. - 50 Anima Shards.]

[You have produced 50 <Energy berries (F- Rank)>! -50 Aether Mana Shards. - 50 Anima Shards.]

[You've reduced the ripening time on 200 flowers by 15 days. - 200 Aether Mana Shards. - 200 Anima Energy Shards.]

The tree in front of the fairies suddenly had hundreds of flowers appear and grow at an incredibly fast pace. This made them feel dumbfounded.

While they've known creatures who could accelerate the growth of plants and other flora, it wasn't to the point of what they just saw.

However, when they looked at it and felt its aura, the tree's current state entered their eyes.

Aether Mana: 58/450

Anima Energy: 89/480

Their heart softened as they all flew around Liu Shu in a sign of gratefulness. While they couldn't use their pollination skill, they had skills to make flora feel more comfortable.

Liu Shu, feeling tired after using almost all her energy reserves, felt a wave of drowsiness and comfort hit her, and her <World Tree Eye> slowly closed.

With the comforting aura of the fairies, Liu Shu's mind began drifting away, finally sleeping.

Flor ordered the fairies to stop, and they floated around Liu Shi with gentle smiles. They could feel that the tree had entered deep sleep.

Clavel giggled, hugging her trunk. "The little one is sleeping~. Thanks a lot for the hard work~."

The other fairies also laughed and sat on the sleeping tree's branches. While Liu Shu was not that tall, and her branches were very thin as a Willow Tree, they were sturdy enough to hold the petite fairies.

Flor looked around for a few moments and said to them. "Let's organize how we'll go about this."

Clavel commented. "Leader, have you seen what the flowers do yet? With your high level, it's probably possible to see the hidden stats of the flowers. Sadly, I can only see the names of the fruits and not the effects."

Flor nodded thoughtfully and approached each of the flowers to look at them. As she read further, her eyes kept widening. Once she read the effects on the four types of flowers, Flor stayed silent, her face thoughtful. 'This... Are these truly the fruits a level two tree can grow?'

Be it the <Delicious Berry> that could give three exp a day or the Phoer, Aether, and Anime berries that could regenerate fifty points of each a day, all of them were incredibly valuable.

Normal beings' natural regeneration took between a week and a month to recover all their energy reserves. Only special beings had fast-paced energy regeneration.

For example, Liu Shu could recover her entire Aether, Phoer, and Anima reserves in around 28 hours. However, Flor needed ten times that, at around 280 hours.

An extra 50 a day wouldn't be a lot for her Aether Mana pool. After all, she could recover around 22 points per hour. However, her Phoer and Anima Energy were different. With the ability to recover not more than 7 Phoer and 10 Anime Energy, 50 extra a day would make a difference.

And this was for her, who had nearly ten times the reserves of the other fairies. For level 1 or level 2 fairies, carrying these berries would be like having two or three times their total ternary reserves.

Flor commented. "All of you leave quickly. I'll protect her for a while as we move in. We've already delayed it enough."

The Rose Fairies flew toward their nest and went to call and escort the low-level ones. Meanwhile, Flor rested on one of Liu Shu's branches, surrounded by her relaxing and pleasant scent. She couldn't help but laugh. 'She is not even a flower, but the scent around her doesn't lose to one.'

"What should I do in the meantime?"

Flor became thoughtful and looked around. Everything was very tangled, with corpses of many small creatures like bugs and such and a layer of dead leaves.

"Hm. Should I clean up all of this and transform it into a fertilizer that the little one can eat?"

While they didn't have specialized skills, as fairies who lived on trees, they were experts in taking care of them. The system didn't record every creature's skill, just those that required Aether Mana, Phoer, or Anima Energy to use.

Architecture, gardening, and many other skills weren't recorded until they evolved enough to be involved with the ternary essences in the surroundings.

Flor flew down and used her Wind Aether mastery to sweep the accumulated dead leaves and insects around Liu Shu.

So, while their values were about "letting nature take its course," that didn't stop them from aiding nature.

Slowly, the things around Liu Shu got ground together with dirt, creating something similar to fertilizer. Then, Flor sprinkled it around Liu Shu. 'When it rains, it will seep into the ground better.'

Liu Shu got a good and restful sleep, and when all her energies were full, her mind slowly woke up, her senses gently extending outward. She felt her trunk being pleasantly clean, a few of the fairies attending her branches, and when she gently moved her roots, the earth was tastier. 'Oh? What happened?'

Liu Shu opened her <World Tree Eye>.

Every fairy flying around paused, feeling the small tree's presence spreading and enveloping them. A few of the low-level ones playfully flew around her while pleasantly giggling.

"Good morning, little one."

"Did you have a good rest?"

"By the way, we trimmed your branches a bit. Do you mind?"

"Little one, do you have a name?"

"Right, we need a name!"

Liu Shu's mind couldn't keep up with the conversation, making her feel a bit dizzy. Flor approached with a smile, her red hair and red eyes looking soft. "Don't chat so much around her, children. Remember that trees are transcendent beings, so they take time to think about things."

They all nodded while giggling.

Flor approached and commented. "Little one, we've decided to give you a name, are you okay with it?"

Clavel appeared, hugging Liu Shu with a large smile. "While calling you little one is fun, we want to give you a proper name. How about it?"

Liu Shu looked at them, understanding that they wanted to name her. She instantly becomes upset, her aura clearly taking a sullen look.

This startled the fairies, and Flor asked softly. "What's wrong?"

Liu Shu, unable to communicate, wanted to tell them that she already had a name. 'I don't want to be called other than my name! Tianlian Liu Shu is really nice! Tianlian Liu Shu is my name!'

Liu Shu paused. 'Wait, why is "little one" allowed?'

She pondered at the instinctive knowledge of pet names, which was a bit strange to have. Of course, Liu Shu was not aware of what pet names were, nor that it was strange to know about that. She was confused because she didn't feel bad when they called her little one.

Clavel looked at Flor and commented. "Leader, maybe she doesn't like being named?"

Flor pondered. "But she didn't react when we called her 'Little one' or any other pet names."

Clavel paused, looking at the moody tree with a helpless look. "Then, do we continue calling you 'little one'?"

Liu Shu stopped swaying around moodily. Internally, she thought. 'I wonder if it is possible to communicate with others in the future?'

Flor commented. "By the way, dear."

Liu Shu paid attention and looked at her.

"I wanted to tell you about how to use your ternary essences better so that you don't get tired."

'Oh! I can use them better?'

Flor commented. "You should see that you have a recovery speed, right? You can gain a few points by absorbing the ambient essence, and that rate is fixed on your system page."

Liu Shu looked at the numbers and internally nodded.

Flor smiled. "Then, use just a bit more of that so that you are constantly cycling the energy. This will make your expertise at using them even better, and in the future, things that now cost you 10 Aether Mana might cost you less."

After speaking, Flor left with Clavel to check out the surrounding trees, where the fairies would live until Liu Shu grew big enough to become their house.

In the meantime, Liu Shu slowly mulled over Flor's words in her young mind. Soon, she reached a conclusion. 'Hmm... So, I can increase the growth of 17 flowers an hour?'

With that in mind, she started moving her Aether Mana and Anima Energy. Instead of just using the skill as it was, following her instincts, she did so more consciously.

An hour had gone by since Flor mentioned it, but when her energy began moving, the Rose Fairy leader looked over together with other high-leveled Rose Fairies that had good energy sensitivity.

Instead of the massive wave of Aether Mana and Anima Energy that she had gathered in the past, they could see controlled strands of it flowing from the roots touching the ground, up her trunk, and into one of her branches.

There, the two energies slowly intertwined, flowing into one of the flowers. This flower lightly glowed, surrounded by Liu Shu's energy, and the fairies could see a small fruit appear from her stem, slowly fattening and becoming larger.

The fruit grew, and in a few minutes, it became a plump and delicious-looking berry.

Aster was speechless. "Isn't she just Level 2? How in the Great Root's name does she have such precise energy control?"

Clavel laughed. "Isn't that control better than ours?"

Flor looked at them. "It's not like we have exquisite control."

Clavel pouted. "We are not that bad!"

Flor rolled her eyes. "While Level 10 is a big number around here, levels go much higher. I remember hearing that some people in a city to the east have even reached Level 20 and above."

Clavel and Aster opened their eyes and stuttered.

"L-Level 20?"

"H-How old are they, 200?"

Flor looked at them and regretted telling them about it a bit. 'Maybe they will become upset about it and become scared of adventuring... The shock I received back when I realized it was also quite large. I almost stopped going out of fear. After all, if someone like that finds you and wants to harm you, what can you do other than lay down and wait for death?'

Flor looked at the hundreds of fairies flying around and sighed. 'Our race is quite weak... We are quite fortunate that this forest area has very low-level resources, and therefore, the groups and races here are quite low-leveled. That old tree we resided in is the highest-level being, at Level 16.'

She couldn't help but look wistfully at the relatively tiny tree that was slowly learning to control the energies around it. 'Level 20 and above... Maybe you are the answer to that.'

Flor smiled at them. "Don't worry. Such beings are very powerful and usually never leave because they must protect their people against other similarly strong powers. It's similar to what I represent for you. Do you see me leaving our home often? Still, be careful when you see new beings."

The two fairies released a sigh of relief, becoming cheerful again.

Flor smiled secretly. 'A small white lie will not harm anybody.' Then, she looked around and pondered. 'We need to eliminate our traces as best as possible so that creatures don't get scared and stop approaching the little one. We don't want to come in the way of her natural development, after all.'

With that in mind, she began giving orders.