The People's God: Sacrificing Trillions to Ascend

: Chapter 1121

Chapter 1121 - Apology

Within the Forest Clan's meeting room, Patriarch Ye Feng was discussing business with Qing Ping, the Azurecea Merchant Guild's president.

"We've planted fifteen Divine Trees on our end. I've already ordered the family to gather various fruits. We can deliver them within three days," Ye Feng said.

Qing Ping nodded. She had worked with the Forest Clan for many years and trusted their word completely.

"In the future, we'll be counting on the Azurecea Merchant Guild to collect special trees from foreign civilizations," Ye Feng said politely.

Qing Ping smiled. "Patriarch Ye Feng, the Forest Clan has been collecting all kinds of rare Divine Trees for years now. You already have more than enough to support your clan's needs. Why would you spend such a huge price to keep stockpiling them? I'm just curious. If it's inconvenient to answer, please pretend I never asked."

Ye Feng replied casually, "It's not really a secret. The Forest Clan's members practice techniques that specifically draw on the power of a Divine Tree to enhance their strength."

"But the total number of Divine Trees your clan has purchased from our guild already exceeds 230. That's more trees than the people in your clan, isn't it?" Qing Ping asked.

Ye Feng glanced at her, and Qing Ping immediately realized she had overstepped. She quickly stood and apologized. "I'm sorry, I've spoken out of turn. Please forget I ever asked."

Ye Feng let out a sigh. "You're asking because someone sent you to find out, right?"

Qing Ping hadn't expected Ye Feng to see through her so easily. She smiled bitterly. "I couldn't hide it from you after all. I'm actually the one who wants to know.

“Your clan has purchased so many Divine Trees from our guild that we’ve profited a lot. I’m planning to build my own Divine Tree nursery, but I’m worried that you might stop buying them one day.”

Ye Feng carefully studied her face and sensed nothing out of the ordinary. “There’s no harm in telling you I suppose. Our clan’s collection of Divine Trees actually stems from the dying wish of the Forest God King. He ordered the clan to stop raising units and focus on cultivating Divine Trees instead. He also forbade any clansman from ascending to become the next Forest God King.”

“Is there some deeper reason behind that?” Qing Ping asked.

Ye Feng considered the question. “When the Forest God King fell, I was still young. I vaguely remember him saying it was meant to prepare for a certain person. As for who that person was and why the Divine Trees needed to be gathered for them, I don’t know.

“But rest assured. As long as the Forest Clan exists, we’ll never stop collecting Divine Trees. It strengthens the clan, and it honors the Forest God King’s final wish.”

Qing Ping nodded. “I understand. Thank you for clearing that up, patriarch Ye Feng.”

Just as she was about to change the subject, an emergency call request came through on Ye Feng’s end. Once they learned what had happened, both their expressions changed.

“Lord Ye Feng, please allow me to head to the detention room immediately,” Qing Ping said anxiously.

Ye Feng’s face darkened. He understood her desire to protect her younger brother, but after hearing the full story, he felt that while Han Wu was partly at fault, Qing Mu’s behavior had been far worse.

“Han Wu has very powerful backing in the Divine Civilization. I hope you can do me this favor, Qing Ping, and handle this carefully. Don’t escalate things.” Given their long partnership, this was the most Ye Feng could say.

Qing Ping nodded. “I’ll definitely handle this properly.”

The next instant, both of them teleported to the Forest Clan’s detention room.

The moment Qing Mu spotted his sister, he stood up. “Sis, you’re finally here! Our guild’s people got bullied. You have to stand up for me—”

Before he could finish, Qing Ping slapped him across the face. “Apologize!”

The slap stunned Qing Mu. He stood frozen, unable to comprehend what had just happened. Ye Feng was equally surprised. He had assumed Qing Ping would take her brother's side. He hadn't expected her to strike him in front of everyone.

Han Wu was the most surprised of all. He had already secretly pulled out a token that could send a message to the Death God King. If Qing Ping dared to pressure him, he would summon the Death God King to back him up.

Every family had a powerful elder they could call on! Of course, he would rather avoid doing so if possible. The Death God King was still recovering from the last divine war. Qing Ping's actions reassured Han Wu that he could put the token away.

"Didn't you hear me? Apologize!" Qing Ping scolded her brother.

The two bodyguards standing behind Qing Mu were stunned as well. The president they knew was as gentle as water. What had made her so fierce today?

Qing Mu's face burned red, partly from the slap and partly from rage. "Sis, he was the one who bullied our guild members! I'm in the right. Why should I apologize?"

Qing Ping gave him one final warning. "I'm saying this one last time. Apologize, or you're never leaving the house again."

Qing Mu knew full well that his sister meant every word. If she grounded him for good, he would go crazy at home. He might as well swallow his pride and just apologize. After all, pride meant nothing compared to freedom.

Qing Mu bowed ninety degrees toward Han Wu. "I'm sorry! I was wrong. Please forgive me."

Han Wu couldn't help but laugh. Even though Qing Mu had only apologized because his sister forced him, an apology was still an apology. Pushing the matter further would just make him look petty.

Han Wu extended his hand. "I was in the wrong too. Let's just call it a fight that turned us into friends."

Qing Mu stared at the outstretched hand, unwilling to shake it. Han Wu had humiliated him, so he wanted nothing more than to hate the man.

Qing Ping coughed behind him, and Qing Mu didn't dare throw another tantrum. He quickly reached out with both hands and clasped Han Wu's hand. With that handshake, the two agreed to settle their dispute peacefully.

Ye Xiao breathed a sigh of relief. If I'd known Qing Ping was this reasonable, I'd have called her in much sooner.

Qing Ping spoke up again. “There’s more, isn’t it?”

Qing Mu didn’t understand what she meant and turned around. “Sis, I’ve already apologized. You can’t seriously expect me to kneel.”

“I’m talking about that special plant,” Qing Ping reminded him.

Qing Mu finally remembered. He had stolen a Titanwood from Han Wu. It was useless to him anyway, and he had only taken it to spite Han Wu. Now it would make the perfect apology gift.

Qing Mu took out the card that contained the sealed Titanwood and presented it with both hands.

Han Wu looked at Qing Ping and broke into a bright smile. Since the president was being so sensible, he would be generous about it too. He accepted the Titanwood, and the misunderstanding was settled.

However, Han Wu had yet to address his real reason for coming here. He looked at Ye Feng, who stood at the back. “Senior Ye Feng, it’s good to see you again. Allow me to pay my respects.”

Ye Feng glanced at Han Wu and sensed the abundant Life Energy and pure aura radiating from him. There wasn’t a single trace of Death or Darkness Energy, which left Ye Feng perplexed.

Is this really the same Han Wu from before? Ye Feng wondered.

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Chapter 1122 - Mutated Azure Grass

Without the Darkness and Death Energy surrounding him, Han Wu was much easier on the eyes. Ye Feng acknowledged him with a grunt and vanished.

Qing Ping hurried off with Qing Mu in tow. Before leaving, she made a show of goodwill toward Han Wu, saying she would severely punish the Azurecea Merchant Guild members responsible for the mistake.

Han Wu nodded and said nothing more.

To outsiders, Qing Ping was reasonable and had the makings of someone destined for great things. However, Han Wu couldn't shake the feeling that she was putting on an act, that her entire demeanor was a facade. He couldn't pinpoint exactly where that impression came from. Something in his gut told him that he and Qing Ping weren't the same kind of people.

Upon returning to the residence the Forest Clan had arranged for him, Han Wu teleported directly into his divine realm to plant both trees first.

The Womb Peach carried a curse, but it also held considerable potential. Han Wu found a Microcosm with fertile soil and abundant water inside his consciousness and planted it there. Then he released numerous offspring of a female World mouse into the Microcosm. They would keep the Womb Peach fed for a while.

After that, Han Wu planted the Titanwood directly in his divine realm. The Titanwood didn't have the Womb Peach's drawbacks, but it didn't have many advantages either. It simply grew lush and abundant, radiating energy similar to that of the Gigantification Jurisdiction.

Once planted, the Titanwood began drawing nutrients from the soil of Han Wu divine realm, which accelerated its growth. Han Wu placed his hand on the Titanwood and absorbed the energy it released as it grew. Nourished by that energy, his Gigantification Jurisdiction started to advance rapidly.

After one month in the divine realm, the Gigantification Jurisdiction's development had increased by one percent. Given the flow of time there, one day outside equaled two years inside. That meant Han Wu could develop twenty-four percent of his Gigantification Jurisdiction per day. In just four days, his Jurisdiction would be fully developed.

That was great news. Once the jurisdiction was complete, his overall strength would rise further. The next time he faced Di Zangtian, he would have a better chance of defeating him.

The Forest Gathering lasted seven days. During the first four days, individual vendors set up stalls to sell all manner of plant-related treasures. The final three days were reserved for the main event: the auction hosted by the Forest Clan. They would auction off a portion of the usage rights to their Divine Tree Power. That was the real reason people attended the Forest Gathering.[1]

Han Wu learned about that from a stall owner while browsing the stalls on the second day. He had firsthand experience with the usage rights of a Divine Tree. He had once received a card from Ye Feng that was sealed with Divine Tree Power. Through that card, Han Wu had gained one-tenth of the Skyreach Tree's Divine Tree Power, which accelerated his Life Jurisdiction's development and steadily elevated his rank.

He had also witnessed Di Zangtian use Divine Tree Power to heal wounds and restore energy. The power of a Divine Tree was undeniably formidable. The only issue was currency. In the Forest Clan, Divine Essence was worthless. The most basic currency was Microcosms, but what the clan actually valued were plants, ideally Divine Trees with special properties. The rarer the Divine Tree, the more valuable it was in the Forest Clan's eyes.

Han Wu needed to figure out how to accumulate enough capital for the three-day auction. The only plant he had left was the Mourning Deathcap, but the Origin of Mutation had been nurturing it for so long that its potential was now limitless. He couldn't bring himself to sell it. He had to find another option, so he searched the stalls for something suitable.

After a full day of searching, he actually found a plant that could help: Grade 1 Azure Grass, the lowest grade of special plant. Despite its classification, it was extremely easy to grow and could even produce its own seeds.

The downside was equally obvious. It was completely useless. Azure Grass had terrible resilience. It snapped at the slightest bend, its sap was bitter, it had no medicinal properties, and most herbivorous creatures couldn't even consume it.

The only reasons Han Wu took an interest in it were its ease of cultivation and the vendor's massive stockpile. Han Wu spent just three Microcosms to buy the vendor's entire supply of Azure Grass seeds, fifty sacks in total, with over a trillion seeds.

Back inside his divine realm, Han Wu merged the seeds together. As the process progressed, the seeds underwent exactly the change Han Wu had predicted: evolution. Their rating climbed from Grade 1 to Grade 2, their base attributes improved to varying degrees, and they gained a new trait called Toughness.

Han Wu continued merging them until they reached Grade 3 and developed a new trait called Parasitism. It allowed the seeds to latch onto living creatures' skin and absorb their nutrients for rapid growth.

Han Wu didn't care for that trait at all. He summoned the Origin of Mutation and used Controlled Mutation to forcibly convert the new trait into Toughness. The two Toughness traits stacked, doubling their effect. If the first one made the Azure Grass as resilient as cotton cloth, the stacked version made it as tough as burlap.

Han Wu continued merging the seeds. With the Origin of Mutation's help, he converted every new trait the Azure Grass developed into Toughness. By the time he exhausted his supply of seeds, only one mutant Grade 10 Azure Grass seed remained. It possessed one trait and one trait only. The Azure Grass that grew from it would be stupidly tough.

Han Wu planted it in his divine realm and channeled his Life Jurisdiction, Life Aspect, and Life Infusion all at the same time to accelerate the mutant Azure Grass's growth.

Two years passed inside his divine realm, and the mutant Azure Grass had grown to two meters tall. Its entire culm only had seven leaves, but every single one was tough beyond measure.

Steely struck one with his Obsidrum greatsword, and the blade snapped in half. The mutant Azure Grass leaf only had a small nick in it.

Han Wu peered through the nick and saw plant fibers inside that looked like strands of Adamantine wire. He fed a small portion of Life Energy into it, and the nick healed instantly.

Every unit that witnessed this demonstration recognized the plant's immense value. If it were forged into a weapon, any damage could be repaired just by pouring in some Life Energy. That was essentially an indestructible Divine Weapon.

The mutant Azure Grass is still only two years old. How tough will it become after 100 years, 1,000 years, or even 10,000 years of growth? The thought changed the way Han Wu looked at it.

This random mutant plant, which he had casually created through experimentation, was essentially a growing armory. He had originally planned to use it as currency at the auction, but now he couldn't bear to part with it!

1. Kinda like carbon credits? ☜

Chapter 1123 - Divine Tree Auction

Back at the Azurecea Merchant Guild, Qing Mu was still furious. Qing Ping's slap had humiliated him in front of the entire Forest Clan. How was he supposed to show his face here when making deliveries in the future?

Qing Ping stepped forward to comfort him. "Qing Mu, don't blame your sister. It was all a strategic move. Bear with it for now. Once everything's done, I'll make sure you get your payback."

Qing Mu was confused. "What strategic move? Is the guild planning something new?"

"You're too simple-minded to understand the details, but trust me. On the last day of the Forest Gathering, every bit of humiliation you suffered will be repaid," Qing Ping promised.

Qing Mu grew even more puzzled. "Sis, you're the only person who hit me!"

Qing Ping turned and glared at her dim-witted brother, then sighed. Just then, a guild employee arrived with a report. “President, the shipment from the Jade Starfield has been logged into storage. As instructed, we didn’t conduct any inspections.”

“Understood. You may go.” Qing Ping said flatly.

After the employee left, Qing Mu asked, “Sis, since when are you ordering goods from the Jade Starfield? The Nine-Eyed race there is extremely cunning. Won’t skipping the inspection cause problems?”

Qing Ping eyed her brainless brother and wondered, Do we truly share the same blood. How am I so sharp when all he knows how to do is pick fights?

“Don’t worry about it. You’ll understand on the last day of the Forest Gathering.” She couldn’t be bothered to explain further.

Qing Mu could only nod.

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Meanwhile, as representatives from various Divine Civilization clans and foreign civilization factions continued to arrive, the Forest Gathering finally entered its critical stage.

The Forest Clan’s Divine Tree Power auction was about to start!

Over the next three days, the Forest Clan would use its ancestral techniques to extract thirty portions of Divine Tree Power and put them up for auction. Every portion was priceless. Possessing even one meant gaining a Divine Tree’s protection and the ability to wield a fraction of its power. That prospect held immense appeal for many people.

News had also spread that Di Zangtian had used a Divine Tree to restore his Life Energy during battle, which in turn drew a swarm of powerful Divine Civilization fighters who wanted to witness the auction firsthand. They were eager to see what other miraculous effects Divine Tree Power could produce.

Once the auction began, every stall emptied as the crowd rushed to bid on the Divine Tree Power lots. Han Wu was among them. However, with only one mutant Azure Grass as his trump card, he wasn’t confident he could win anything.

To ensure the auction’s safety, the Forest Clan had opened a special Peace Zone that suppressed all combat abilities. The auction would take place within its boundaries.

The moment Han Wu entered, he sensed the rich natural energy that permeated the area. Divine Trees filled the Peace Zone. Some were still saplings, others had reached maturity,

and some had grown into towering giants. Every single one was Grade 10 or above. Even the Grade 9 Wisdom Tree didn't qualify to stand among them.

The other guests were just as stunned. Outside, a single mature Grade 9 Wisdom Tree could fetch the astronomical price of 100,000 Microcosms. The value of the lush forest of Divine Trees before them was incalculable. If all of those were converted to Microcosms, then the Forest Clan's hundred-odd members were filthy rich.

Han Wu was thoroughly convinced that the Forest Clan was the Divine Civilization's hidden tycoon. He had plenty of assets himself, but his wealth paled in comparison.

It seems that the saying is true. Plant trees, and get rich! Han Wu was tempted to secretly learn the Forest Clan's methods so he could quietly plant trees and shock everyone someday!

As the crowd continued to marvel at their surroundings, Ye Feng's projection appeared before them. His projection expanded to 1,000 times its original size as he announced the official opening of the Forest Gathering auction.

The first item was the power of the Skyreach Tree, a Divine Tree over 100,000 years old. A card's information appeared before everyone. Sealed inside was one-tenth of the Skyreach Tree's Divine Tree Power.

Han Wu recognized it immediately. Ye Feng had once offered this exact card as payment for the 50,000 Microcosms the Forest Clan owed.

Han Wu was also familiar with the Skyreach Tree's effects. It provided a powerful supply of Life Energy that subtly strengthened the user's physique every second of every day. In fact, Han Wu had fully developed his Life Jurisdiction with its Divine Tree Power.

How much would it cost to use a power like that?

Ye Feng announced that the starting price was one mature Grade 10 special plant. Each participant would have a single chance to bid and submit their offered plant's information to Ye Feng. He would then evaluate all the submissions and assign scores according to his judgment. Whoever received the highest score would win the right to use one-tenth of the Skyreach Tree's Divine Tree Power.

With no other option, Han Wu submitted information about his mutant Azure Grass. He made sure to emphasize in the description that its toughness rivaled that of a Divine Weapon, hoping the detail would boost his score. However, this was the very first lot, and the prize was the Skyreach Tree, no less.

Competition was fierce, with bidders submitting all manner of special plants.

Ye Feng reviewed the submissions and assigned scores based on his years of experience. Whenever he encountered an unfamiliar mutant plant, he awarded bonus points.

Soon, he came across Han Wu's mutant Azure Grass. Aside from its toughness, this plant had little less to offer. Yet that extraordinary toughness made it stand out. Ye Feng gave it a second look. After all, the possibilities for improving a plant were vast and complex. For one to specialize in a single trait was exceedingly rare.

Ye Feng rated the mutant Azure Grass above Grade 10. Even so, Han Wu didn't win the first auction. Someone else had submitted a mature Grade 12 special plant called the Red-Eyed Blood Tree, whose value surpassed that of every other entry.

That bidder secured the right to use one-tenth of the Skyreach Tree's power.

When the winner's identity was revealed, Han Wu was stunned. It was none other than Qing Mu, the vice president of the Azurecea Merchant Guild, who had clashed with him just days earlier.

Chapter 1124 - Uncovering the Plot

The auction continued. Han Wu submitted his mutant Azure Grass in every round, but he never managed to win a single lot. Every time, some Divine Tree outranked his mutant Azure Grass.

He hadn't thought much of it at first. Then he happened to sense a strange aura emanating from all the Divine Trees that kept beating his bids. He also noticed that the successful bidders all shared a peculiar aura of their own. His soul was powerful enough to detect these subtle differences. Something was off, and he was certain of it.

On the final day of the Divine Tree auction, Han Wu sought out Ye Xiao before the auction began and told him what he had discovered.

Ye Xiao promptly brought him before Ye Feng. As a Macrocosm powerhouse, Ye Feng had also noticed something unusual about the bidders. He had even sent people to secretly observe and investigate them in hopes of finding a connection, but they had uncovered nothing.

Without solid proof, the Forest Clan couldn't take action. Subsequently, Ye Feng had no choice but to let events unfold and wait for something to happen. What surprised him, though, was that Han Wu had noticed the same irregularities.

"Han Wu, what exactly did you discover?" Ye Feng asked directly.

Han Wu hoped to strengthen his relationship with the Forest Clan so he could achieve his true goal of obtaining the coordinates to the Chaos Clan's secret realm.

"PatriarchYe Feng, I sensed a particular type of aura on all of them. That's what led me to this conclusion." Han Wu replied plainly.

"I didn't sense anything unusual about them. How did you?" Ye Xiao sounded skeptical.

"I absorb large quantities of Soul Stones every day to strengthen my Soul Energy. My perception is sharper than most," Han Wu explained.

Ye Xiao nodded. Ye Feng studied Han Wu carefully and reached out with his own perception. Han Wu's soul was indeed denser and more solid than that of an average Mesocosm life form.

In truth, Han Wu's soul wasn't strong solely because he absorbed Soul Stones daily. The Underworld he had built constantly reinforced his soul as well. Thanks to the Underworld, Han Wu's soul potential was second only to Jing Jing's, who possessed the Soul Jurisdiction.

"Even if these bidders share the same aura, that doesn't prove anything on its own. As long as they don't disrupt the Forest Gathering, I'll leave them be," Ye Feng stated.

The Forest Clan was reclusive by nature. Minding their own business and tending to their trees was their guiding principle.

Han Wu remained suspicious. "What if they're here specifically for the Forest Clan?"

Both Ye Xiao and Ye Feng fixed their eyes on him.

"The vast majority of the winning bidders share this same aura. Only one is different: Qing Mu, the vice president of the Azurecea Merchant Guild. He was the first to win a bid, but his aura is different from the others," Han Wu said boldly. "Now, suppose Qing Mu, or even the entire Azurecea Merchant Guild, is working with those bidders who share the same aura..."

Ye Feng's mind raced as he considered the possibility Han Wu raised. The Forest Clan and the Azurecea Merchant Guild had worked together for ages. They knew each other inside and out. If they truly were colluding, the Forest Clan would face enemies both within and without. Such a coordinated assault would devastate the Forest Clan even if they survived.

Nevertheless, this was just Han Wu's hypothesis. The two sides had cooperated for so long without a single incident. The Azurecea Merchant Guild was even planning to build a Divine Tree nursery specifically for the Forest Clan. Surely, that was the mark of a loyal partner. Ye Feng refused to believe the guild would betray their clan.

Han Wu continued, “I know the Forest Clan and the Azurecea Merchant Guild have built deep trust over many years, and it’s not my place to question that. Still, it never hurts to take precautions.

“The main reason I suspect they’re working together is the Divine Trees used in the bidding. Patriarch Ye Feng, you’re an expert on special plants. Haven’t you noticed that the Divine Trees they submitted share a strong connection?”

Ye Feng’s eyes widened. He immediately gathered every Divine Tree acquired during the first two days of the auction: the Red-Eyed Blood Tree, Dragon-Eye Black Vine, Emerald-Eye Rain Tree, and so on. Every tree varied in quality and attributes, but they all shared one common feature. Each one had a characteristic related to eyes.

Following Han Wu’s lead, Ye Feng placed all the trees together. Only then did he sense the same eerie aura emanating from every single one.

The evidence forced Ye Feng to consider the possibility that this was indeed a trap set by the Azurecea Merchant Guild and some unknown faction.

“Ye Xiao, immediately transfer all 230 Divine Trees the Azurecea Merchant Guild has sold us into quarantine. Be careful, and make sure nobody sees you,” Ye Feng instructed. “Also, send clan members to secretly verify whether the identities of the winning bidders are legitimate.”

“Understood, Patriarch.” Ye Xiao nodded and left at once.

Ye Feng’s expression darkened, and a deathly chill radiated from his entire being. If Han Wu hadn’t pointed out those irregularities, he wouldn’t have realized the danger until it was too late.

“Han Wu, thank you for helping the Forest Clan. If your theory proves correct, I will present you with a generous gift on behalf of the Forest Clan,” Ye Feng promised.

Han Wu was elated. However, the generous gift wasn’t what he really cared about. What he truly wanted were the coordinates to the Chaos Clan’s secret realm.

“If the truth turns out to be as I’ve described, I want you to tell me the location of the Chaos Clan’s secret realm,” Han Wu said directly. “During the last battle, Di Zangtian summoned a complete World Tree and used the Forest Clan’s secret technique to absorb its power and restore himself. Since he knows that technique, he must’ve been close to the Forest Clan at some point.”

Ye Feng studied Han Wu’s earnest expression and finally admitted, “I do know where the Chaos Clan’s secret realm is. But the friendship between our clans ended a long time ago. If things turn out as you say, I have no problem telling you the coordinates.”

With Ye Feng's promise secured, Han Wu could barely contain his excitement.

Meanwhile, the auction continued into its final day.

: Chapter 1125

Chapter 1125 - Plot Revealed

After several more rounds, a number of bidders had won cards sealed with Divine Tree Power.

Han Wu had kept his senses trained on them throughout. Just as he had observed before, every one of them carried a peculiar aura. The special plants they'd submitted varied wildly in quality and attributes, but they shared one common trait: every plant possessed a feature related to eyes.

Ye Feng was now certain that they all came from the same source. As the auction progressed, his curiosity about the unknown faction's true goal only grew. Before long, with Ye Feng deliberately accelerating the proceedings, the auction reached its final item, something truly precious.

According to legend, the Forest Clan's founder, the Forest God King, had personally cultivated three Divine Trees. Han Wu had seen two of them among the options on the card Ye Feng had given him: the Fusang Divine Tree and the Skyreach Tree.

The third, the Immortal Divine Tree, was the one whose power had been best preserved within the Forest Clan. It could absorb the essence of heaven and earth to nurture an Immortal Peach. The final auction item was one such peach.

Ye Feng announced its effect. Consuming the fruit would grant a life form a lifespan equal to that of heaven and earth. In simpler terms, it would purge all impurities from the life form's body, making them one with the essence of heaven and earth. The consumer would cease to age, and barring any accidents, they would live forever, their lifespan effectively infinite. At the same time, they would also gain the ability to absorb the essence of heaven and earth to accelerate their cultivation and rapidly grow into a more powerful life form.

Ye Feng's announcement of such extraordinary effects sent the expectations of every life form in attendance through the roof.

As the final bidding commenced, everyone listed every resource they had, all for the slimmest chance of winning this fruit that granted a lifespan equal to that of heaven and earth.

Han Wu was no exception. He submitted his mutant Azure Grass once more, then gritted his teeth and added his Grade 9 Mourning Deathcap. He knew perfectly well that these two special plants combined still couldn't match those high-tier Divine Trees, but he submitted them anyway.

Ye Feng methodically evaluated every resource list. He soon came across Han Wu's. The mutant Azure Grass was old news, so he didn't even need to review it.However, the Mourning Deathcap surprised him. It was inherently a low-grade special plant, and raising it to Grade 9 was already an extraordinary feat. What truly caught his attention, however, was the Immortality trait it had gained after being planted in the Golden Pot. That trait gave it unlimited growth potential.

Was there any plant trait in the world that could compare with unlimited growth? After careful consideration, Ye Feng gave the Grade 9 Mourning Deathcap his evaluation: priceless. Every other plant on the list had a calculable value. Han Wu's offering was beyond calculation. Thus, the Immortal Peach went to Han Wu.

When the result appeared, Han Wu was dumbstruck. This actually worked?

He hadn't held much hope for the Mourning Deathcap, but it turned out to be his winning card.

Just as he was about to go claim his prize, the unknown faction hiding in the crowd finally made its move.

One of the bidders jumped high into the air, hovered in place, and threatened, "Everyone here, stay put. I can't guarantee your lives if you don't."

Nobody below took the threat seriously.

"Who do you think you are, running your mouth like that?"

"Why are you floating up there? Think you're a kite?"

"I didn't win a single lot, and I'm already pissed off. You dare jump up there to cause trouble? Get down here and let me take it out on you!"

Against their threats and jeers, the figure in the sky laughed and ordered, "Attack. Kill every last one of them."

Everyone tensed up and prepared to fight back. However, all forms of combat were forbidden inside the Peace Zone. No weapons could be drawn, and any energy released in

an offensive manner was instantly converted into nourishment for the Divine Trees and drained in the blink of an eye.

The attackers had come prepared. They revealed their hidden weapons, which were made from powerful special plants and could bypass the Peace Zone's restrictions entirely, then surged forward with them in hand.

The venue erupted into chaos as many of the guests were injured.

Han Wu was attacked too, but his agility allowed him to retreat to a relatively safe spot and watch from the sidelines.

Ye Feng immediately sprang into action, commanding every Divine Tree in the zone to heal the wounded guests and deploying Divine Tree Power to restrain the attackers.

Within moments, every attacker was bound and immobilized. Ye Feng also used his Divine Tree Power to strip away the seals that concealed their true identities, exposing their true forms as members of the Nine-Eyed race.

Han Wu watched from the shadows. The Nine-Eyed race's distinctive features immediately reminded him of the Nine-Eyed Evil God he had fought before.

It appears that the Nine-Eyed Evil God is behind this, he thought.

The one hovering in the air showed no concern for his captured comrades. He continued to look down at Ye Feng's projection with contempt. "The Forest Clan's conquest by the Nine-Eyed race is inevitable. I advise you not to resist, Ye Feng."

Ye Feng scoffed and hurled Divine Tree Power at him.

The man didn't flinch. He activated his power, sealed off the space around him, and temporarily blocked the Divine Tree Power from reaching him. He then issued one final warning to Ye Feng. "Withdraw your Divine Tree Power, and you may still survive. Refuse, and the entire Forest Clan goes down with you."

Ye Feng didn't withdraw and instead intensified his assault.

Seeing that Ye Feng refused to yield, the man played his trump card. Every Divine Tree acquired through the auction responded to the man's signal. The eye-like features on their trunks came alive, and the trees began lashing out in every direction as if they were going to destroy the world.

However, nothing happened inside the Peace Zone.

The man was stunned. "What? Why aren't those Divine Trees going berserk? What did you do to them?"

Ye Feng replied calmly, “I simply placed them in quarantine. Whether they go berserk in there has nothing to do with anything out here.”

The man nearly coughed up blood. Who could’ve predicted that Ye Feng would seal the auctioned Divine Trees away instead of planting them in the Peace Zone immediately? Their intel had been wrong.

The next second, Qing Ping arrived. With her Macrocosm strength, she easily captured the man and dropped him at Ye Feng’s feet.

“Patriarch Ye Feng, I’ve subdued this attacker. He’s yours to deal with.” As she spoke, Qing Ping casually drifted closer to Ye Feng.

He had been expecting that. His expression showed the warm relief of seeing a trusted ally, but beneath the surface dozens, he had already erected dozens of defensive barriers made of Divine Tree Power inside him.

The two finally stood side by side, and Qing Ping’s true intentions became clear. She was there to kill Ye Feng.

She erupted with violent Divine Tree Power. All the Divine Tree Power cards the Nine-Eyed race had won had ended up in her hands. Empowered by their combined force, Qing Ping’s strength surged. She seemed to be approaching a level beyond the Macrocosm rank.

At such close range, Ye Feng couldn’t dodge. Yet, with victory within reach, she held back her attack and issued a threat. “Ye Feng, I’m afraid I have some unfortunate news. The 230 Divine Trees the Azurecea Merchant Guild sold you over the years have all been tampered with.

“With a single thought, I can make them all form an Extinction Seal and lock this entire realm shut. No one will be able to escape. Please be reasonable, Ye Feng. Don’t make a woman resort to force.”

Ye Feng felt the pressure radiating off her and replied, “Then I’m afraid I also have some unfortunate news. The 230 Divine Trees your guild sold us have all been quarantined. Go ahead and try contacting them. Also, the Forest Clan can sell Divine Tree Power, but it can also take that power back, like right now.”

The terrifying mass of Divine Tree Power surging throughout Qing Ping’s body was forcibly ripped away, as though it were answering to his summons.

She tried to reach the 230 Divine Trees and trigger the Extinction Seal, but received no response. Only then did she realize she had lost completely.

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Chapter 1126 - The Emerald Jade Pendant's Trial

With Qing Ping subdued, every last attacker was subdued. All the Azurecea Merchant Guild's people, along with the large group of Nine-Eyed fighters, were bound by Divine Tree Power and could no longer cause trouble.

"Lock every one of them in the Divine Tree Prison. Their Life Energy will serve as nourishment for the trees," Ye Feng ordered.

The clan members stepped forward and dragged them all away. Only then did Han Wu approach. With too many eyes around, Ye Feng personally escorted him to his study.

"Patriarch Ye Feng, how was my guess?" Han Wu asked eagerly.

Had he not spotted the anomalies in time, the Forest Clan would've suffered devastating losses under the combined assault of the Azurecea Merchant Guild and the Nine-Eyed race.

Ye Feng nodded. "You've truly made an enormous contribution to the Forest Clan. I did promise you a great gift."

"You also said you would give me the coordinates of the Chaos Clan's secret realm," Han Wu reminded him.

"Naturally." Ye Feng channeled his energy and formed a sheet of paper in his hand. Intricate diagrams and text rapidly appeared across its surface, imbued with Spatial Energy. The Forest Clan's patriarch had used every type of Divine Tree Power at his disposal to craft a teleportation scroll.

Han Wu accepted it excitedly. Now that he knew where the Chaos Clan's secret realm was, Di Zangtian had nowhere left to run.

Ye Feng continued with the gift he had prepared for Han Wu. He reached into his pocket, pulled out an emerald jade pendant, and said, "This is the great gift I've prepared for you. This pendant is a relic the Forest God King obtained while adventuring in a foreign civilization. You could also think of it as a trial he left behind."

Han Wu reached out and took it. "What happens if someone passes the Forest God King's trial?"

Ye Feng smiled. “This trial has existed for ages. Over 6000 Forest Clan members have attempted it, but not a single one has passed. Even so, each participant received the Divine Trees’ favor based on their performance.

“I don’t know what the reward for passing would be, but its total value would certainly be no less than that of a complete set of the three great Divine Trees!”

Han Wu gulped. The three great Divine Trees were the Fusang Divine Tree, the Skyreach Tree, and the Immortal Divine Tree, all of which the Forest God King had left behind. All three possessed extraordinary effects and were tens of thousands of years old filled with immense energy.

He had once received just one-tenth of the Skyreach Tree’s power. That alone had been enough to fully develop his Life Jurisdiction and elevate him to the Mesocosm rank. If he could obtain a complete Divine Tree, Han Wu estimated the effects would be enough to push him to the Macrocosm rank at least.

The more he thought about it, the more excited he became. This really was a magnificent gift, just as Ye Feng had said.

“Thank you, Patriarch Ye Feng. I won’t let you down,” Han Wu said gratefully.

Ye Feng smiled to himself, thinking, Han Wu is far too optimistic. Not a single person in the entire Forest Clan has ever fully passed this trial. What makes him so sure he can?

Ye Feng only hoped that Han Wu could complete as much of the trial as possible and earn as much favor from the Divine Trees as he could. That would be enough to repay the debt.

After storing the emerald jade pendant, Han Wu also collected the Immortal Peach from Ye Feng. This was what he had won at the auction by trading away the mutant Azure Grass and the Mourning Deathcap.

The price had been steep, but the moment he consumed the peach, the transformation it brought about in his body made him feel that it had been worth every bit of the cost.

Under the Immortal Peach’s effects, every last impurity in his body was purged. He experienced a refreshing sensation unlike anything he had ever felt before.

Every breath he took drew in the pure essence of heaven and earth. Every cell in his body radiated vigorous Life Energy, and he could clearly sense the elemental types of energy that drifted through the air. His cells automatically absorbed those energies at tremendous speed.

His energy recovery rate had increased at least tenfold. At this pace, even if Han Wu did nothing but sleep inside his divine realm all day, he would reach the Macrocosm rank within a year.

All of this was thanks to the Immortal Peach, which made him even more eager to undertake the trial associated with the emerald jade pendant. Before starting though, Han Wu made inquiries with the Forest Clan members he was on better terms with.

To his astonishment, everyone gave him a completely different answer. One person claimed the trial simply involved planting and tending to a plant in a special space. Another said they had been given a special plant and tasked with fighting a war alongside it. Someone else claimed they had been asked to create an entirely new plant species and test its ability to survive in various harsh environments.

The more Han Wu asked, the more confused he became. With too much contradictory information and no clear idea of what to expect, he could only hope for the best.

After completing his preparations, Han Wu activated the emerald jade pendant, and his consciousness entered the trial the Forest God King had set within.

The first task was planting.

The trial's first phase required him to cultivate a Grade 1 special plant all the way to Grade 10. Any materials or tools he needed could only be purchased from the trial's shop, and he had to earn the necessary currency by selling the plants he grew.

In simple terms, it was a continuous cycle: plant, sell, buy more seeds, plant again, earn more, buy more seeds, and repeat until he fulfilled the trial's requirements.

Once his consciousness entered the trial, all his Jurisdictions were sealed away. Fortunately, his Chosen One talent resisted the trial's suppression, allowing him to retain four Exclusive abilities. That gave him far more options than the trial had anticipated.

While Han Wu's consciousness was in the trial, two Forest Clan members arrived at the Azurecea Merchant Guild's warehouse under orders. Their task was to get the inventory of everything inside, seal them all, and await further instructions.

After completing the inventory, they discovered a massive crate stamped with the Jade Starfield's brand. It appeared to contain merchandise from the Jade Starfield.

They pried it open with Divine Tree Power. The instant the lid came off, a dark figure burst out. Two hands clamped around their throats and snapped their necks, killing them before they hit the ground.

The shadow didn't reveal itself. Only a pair of eyes gleamed in the dark, each bearing nine pupils that were deeper and more regal than those of any ordinary Nine-Eyed race member.

: Chapter 1127

Chapter 1127 - Divine Tree Power

Han Wu's consciousness floated inside a special space, a barren wasteland stretching out beneath him.

If he wanted to grow special plants, he would have to till the soil himself. He could purchase items or sell his harvest by communicating with the trial's Will.

A large countdown timer hung in the sky overhead. He had ten days to cultivate a Grade 1 special plant to Grade 10. It was an absurd demand. Luckily, Han Wu had confidence in himself. Not everyone had his abilities, after all.

He immediately activated Avatar Creation and made four copies of himself. All four started tilling the surrounding land.

Not one to stand idly by, he used Replicate to birth a fake Origin of Mutation using its template from his stored copies.

Then came the seeds. He bought the cheapest Azure Grass seeds from the trial shop in bulk and used Merge on them. They were already at Grade 2 by the time they were in the ground.

While the seeds grew, Han Wu kept tilling. The farmland expanded steadily with his four avatars working nonstop.

The space itself was special, allowing plants to reach full maturity in just half a day. The Azure Grass had a low value, but Han Wu's harvest was massive and of high quality, earning him a hefty sum.

Instead of spending the money on the overpriced quality-boosting items in the trial shop, he spent it only on more seeds. Merge could handle the quality upgrades, and the fake Origin of Mutation could use Controlled Mutation to replicate his earlier success.

After three days of this, he managed to cultivate a Grade 10 mutant Azure Grass. Han Wu had finished the task seven days early.

The trial didn't end. It simply moved on to the next phase: resistance testing.

In seven days, the environment would undergo rapid, violent shifts. Han Wu's task was to ensure that as many of his plants as possible survived.

And so came another round of planting.

The Grade 10 Azure Grass only had the Toughness trait. It could survive normal weather, but extreme droughts, floods, and other disasters would still kill it. He needed to breed mutant Azure Grass variants that could withstand those conditions.

He dedicated himself to the work loop of tilling the land, planting the grass, and using Controlled Mutation.

Seven days later, thirteen Grade 12 mutant Azure Grass stood on his farmland, all radiating powerful auras. They each possessed a unique trait, and when grouped together, produced a synergy effect that helped absorb damage for one another.

The resistance test began. Torrential rain came down in a slurry. Water levels surged, flooding the wasteland. However, Han Wu remained unconcerned, as one of his thirteen plants possessed a trait that let it absorb water to grow.

As expected, that particular plant started absorbing water at a rapid rate. The water level dropped rapidly as its body swelled from a stalk of grass into something resembling a towering tree. The more it grew, the faster it consumed the surrounding water. Soon, even the rain couldn't keep up with it.

After the rain came a drought, the blazing sun in the sky blasting the wasteland with scorching heat.

The water-absorbing plant now served as a canopy for the others, providing shade and releasing water to keep the others alive.

But Han Wu also had a plant specifically bred for drought. Its trait caused it to grow deeper roots in response to heat.

Above ground, it appeared unchanged and remained barely a meter tall, but underground, its root system had already plunged a hundred meters deep. It drew on groundwater to survive the scorching sun.

The climate continued to change. Han Wu's mutant Azure Grass plants endured extreme cold, violent winds, insect plagues, and hailstorms, but not a single one died. Even the trial's Will expressed high praise for his completion rate.

It wasn't over yet, though. There was one last task: combat.

Han Wu had to use his thirteen special plants to kill enemies. The trial's Will bestowed a temporary blessing that granted Han Wu the ability to wield Divine Tree Power so he could fully demonstrate the plants' power.

His Divine Trees were the thirteen mutant Azure Grass plants he had cultivated. Consuming the Immortal Peach had allowed his body to reach a state of harmony with the

heavens and earth, meaning he could channel Divine Tree Power into himself with zero resistance or losses.

He fully absorbed the Divine Tree Power from all thirteen plants and broke through to the Macrocosm rank, which massively enhanced his body, mind, and energy.

The surging energy within him was truly wonderful. With the Divine Tree Power on top of that, he could wield the strength of all thirteen mutant Azure Grass plants. In this condition, he felt he could even defeat himself in Dragonification form.

At that moment, the final phase commenced. A gate opened in the wasteland, and waves of enemies poured through, charging toward him.

Their only goal was to destroy his thirteen plants. His job was to use Divine Tree Power to kill every single invader.

Seeing them rush in, Han Wu drew on the energy within him and unleashed it. “Divine Tree Power, Needle Leaves!”

Hundreds of thousands of long needles formed from tightly curled leaves materialized around him and rained down on the enemies below.

The barrage was like a storm of arrows that pierced the invaders where they stood. As if sensing his strength, a second gate opened, and more enemies surged in.

Han Wu held firm, repelling them with his Divine Tree Power.

Time passed. Even Han Wu couldn’t be sure how long it had been, but by the end, the space was a field of corpses and rivers of blood.

His thirteen mutant Azure Grass plants stood proudly on their patch of earth, growing strong.

He had completed the trial.

The emerald jade pendant shattered, and particles of green light solidified into a Jurisdiction.

It was the Forest Jurisdiction, the very Jurisdiction the Forest Clan had inherited.

Han Wu touched it. The Forest Jurisdiction merged into his body. The wasteland was drawn into his consciousness, forming a lush green Microcosm within him.

With that, Han Wu’s consciousness snapped back to reality.

Every Divine Tree in the Forest Clan resonated with his awakening, and the Life Energy they emitted doubled. Their long-awaited Forest God King had returned.

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: Chapter 1128

Chapter 1128 - Han Wu Descends

Inside the secret realm, the Forest Clan's members had retreated to the Divine Tree grove, where over a hundred Divine Trees combined their power to shield them with a barrier.

Outside the barrier, Ye Feng and three elders grimly faced the enemy.

Not only had the Nine-Eyed race and the Azurecea Merchant Guild been freed from their Divine Tree Prisons, but a seemingly endless army of Microcosm Huang Shengjun soldiers also stood with them.

A barrier large enough to cover the entire Forest Clan's secret realm encompassed the scene. Nine eyes of various sizes and shapes were embedded in the barrier, all staring down at the battlefield below. Three of the nine had gone dark. The other six still glowed.

"Ye Feng, give up this pointless resistance," Qing Ping urged. "It doesn't matter how strong your Divine Tree Power is. It's useless before His Holiness, the Nine-Eyed Lord."

"The Nine-Eyed Lord? Bah! A parasite that steals other people's bodies doesn't deserve to be praised as holy!" Ye Feng spat.

The three darkened eyes had sealed his three strongest types of Divine Tree Power. If not for that, he would not have hesitated to charge over and slap Qing Ping and the Nine-Eyed Evil God across their faces. Without those three powers, though, he had the body of a Macrocosm life form but lacked the firepower to match it.

Ye Xiao transmitted a secret message from behind him. "Patriarch, I've sent a distress signal to the Wealth Faction. Reinforcements will arrive in three hours at the earliest."

Ye Feng took a deep breath. Three hours. The Forest Clan will be wiped out by the time they arrive.

But it was a sliver of hope.

“If something happens to me, fall back into the Divine Trees immediately. Even if Qing Ping and the Nine-Eyed Evil God are all-powerful, it’ll still take them time to destroy those trees,” Ye Feng instructed.

The three elders were worried. “Patriarch, please don’t do anything rash. The Forest Clan needs you.”

Ye Feng kept his eyes locked on the enemy and transmitted his reply. “The only thing the Forest Clan needs to survive is the Divine Trees, but those trees can never fall into the hands of outsiders. If we can’t hold them, prepare yourselves to burn them. That’s better than letting them become tools for these invaders!”

“Yes, Patriarch,” Ye Xiao responded.

The Azurecea Merchant Guild and the Nine-Eyed race noticed the defenders exchanging glances and knew a silent conversation was happening.

“Enough stalling. Kill them!” the Nine-Eyed Evil God ordered.

The Huang Shengjun legion charged forward.

Microcosm soldiers were little more than cannon fodder at this level. The real threat was the Nine-Eyed race members moving among them, with their innate ability to seal an enemy’s power, designed to strip the Forest Clan of their Divine Tree Power one piece at a time.

The six remaining evil eyes in the sky darted between Ye Feng and the three elders, ready to seal a powerful Divine Tree Power the moment they unleashed it.

Under such a disadvantage, the Forest Clan’s resistance inevitably crumbled. Qing Ping seized the opportunity to join the fray and use her Macrocosm strength to batter the weakened Ye Feng.

He took a heavy blow. Several lesser Divine Tree Powers worked to heal him, but they were too feeble to do much more than keep him hanging on to life.

“Everyone, retreat to the Divine Trees now!” Ye Feng roared.

The battle had lasted barely half an hour.

At the earliest, the Wealth Faction’s reinforcements would arrive in another two and a half hours. Ye Feng needed to buy time. Barring that, he needed to at least preserve the clan’s future.

“Run? You’re not going anywhere!” The Nine-Eyed Evil God shot upward like a beam of light, ricocheted off the barrier overhead, and slammed down directly in front of the three retreating elders, cutting off their escape.

He then unleashed his full pressure. Nine evil eyes materialized behind him in a Divine Ring, and a powerful wave of pressure crashed down on all four of them. They couldn’t breathe, but they stood tall and firm.

“The Forest Clan will perish today!” the Nine-Eyed Evil God bellowed, increasing the pressure.

The three elders coughed up blood, almost caving under the pressure, but their feet held as firm as roots deep in the earth.

Ye Feng was furious, but there was nothing he could do. The Nine-Eyed Evil God’s power was overwhelming and inescapable. Even the Forest Clan’s patriarch couldn’t fight back with so many of his Divine Tree Powers sealed.

The Forest Clan is finished, Ye Feng despaired, struck by grief. A lifetime of building up his clan, only for it to end like this.

“Don’t worry. I’ll take good care of your Divine Trees.” The nine eyes on the Nine-Eyed Evil God’s Divine Ring blinked in unison. A devastating blast of energy struck Ye Feng and sent him flying.

His injuries were piling up. As he was on the verge of death, a faint green glow appeared across his body. It was the few remaining unsealed Divine Tree Powers releasing Life Energy to recover his wounds.

This left Ye Feng bewildered. Those weaker powers were far too feeble to heal injuries this severe, yet they were somehow not only keeping him alive but even attempting to mend his shattered bones. It was like a colony of ants trying to lift a fallen tree.

He strained to sense the reason and discovered that those lesser Divine Tree Powers had grown stronger. Before he could pinpoint the source, a familiar aura enveloped him.

“The Forest Jurisdiction?!” Ye Feng blurted out in confusion.

The Forest God King had forbidden any member from ever comprehending the Forest Jurisdiction, so he couldn’t comprehend where this aura was coming from.

Then Han Wu dropped from the sky above. The natural aura emanating from his body was so warm and familiar that even Ye Feng felt a deep kinship.

Han Wu glanced around, taking in the escaped Azurecea Merchant Guild forces, the Huang Shengjun legion, and the Nine-Eyed Evil God radiating the strength of a Macrocosm life form.

“You again?!” The Nine-Eyed Evil God snarled.

His hatred for Han Wu ran deep, having clashed with him secretly on multiple occasions and coming out the loser every time. He viewed the man as the one obstacle standing in the way of his invasion of the Divine Civilization.

Sensing the Nine-Eyed Evil God’s aura, Han Wu immediately glanced at the barrier overhead and saw that eight of the nine evil eyes had gone dark.

A gleeful smile stretched across Han Wu’s face as he crowed, “I’d like to see you try to seal me this time!”

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No further chapter has been posted yet. This does not mean the story has ended.

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