

Super Power

Chapter 1165: Sky Tree

"I have only just arrived. This is my first time doing this," Han Sen said.

"You'll need to put your back into it and work hard. There may be no guards here, but you have a quota of ten walnut powder sacks a day. If you don't meet that quota, they'll bump you back down a level. Then, you'll have to do the test all over again," the man explained.

"What use is the powder for?" Han Sen asked, as he began to work.

"Those of us down here don't have a clue. But it's a material that's wanted by the big cheese, and since we're required to produce it, we don't question it any further." The man briefly paused, look around, and then spoke again in a quieter tone. "You didn't hear this from me, got it? But... rumors say that Immortal Emperor, the big boss of this place, uses it to craft what has been dubbed Immortal Pills."

"What are they for? Do they make him immortal?" Han Sen inquisitively asked.

The man laughed and barked. "Spirits are immortal already! Immortal Pills, however, are said to grant spirits access to the Fourth God's Sanctuary. They were created by Immortal Emperor, so naturally, they were only named after him."

The man then stopped chatting, so he could focus on working the stone mill and grinding the walnuts.

Han Sen didn't push very hard. He casually worked the mill while his mind relaxed to ponder the nature of Immortal Emperor.

"He needs all this labor for the production of these Immortal Pills?" Han Sen did not believe eating the pills would allow one to ascend and become a demi-god.

He believed this due to his experience with Xiang Yin. To ascend, you had to literally ascend an excruciatingly painful staircase. Walnuts wouldn't allow you to skip that, and Han Sen believed the best they could do was make a person temporarily stronger to weather the cleansing fires a little better.

By the time the day was done, Han Sen had created twenty sacks of walnut powder. When the spirits came to take them, they provided him with two drops of lifewater.

"You're good. You've only just arrived and you've already produced twenty sacks-worth," the man, receiving his lifewater, said to Han Sen.

The man had produced fifteen sacks, but that only granted him one drop of lifewater. The additional five, however, would count for the next day of work. If he did another fifteen the next day, he'd receive two lifewater drops.

Han Sen spoke to the man briefly, but then fled the shelter, exiting via the tree hole he had entered from. He wanted to spend time researching the effects of the lifewater.

Han Sen returned to his own shelter, and on the third day, his body returned to its ordinary size.

And while Han Sen may have been ordinary, the drop of lifewater he had received was still as small as it used to be. The vial of liquid was so small, it couldn't even be classified as a drop. It was almost invisible to the naked eye.

Han Sen summoned Moment Queen and Dragon King and asked them about Immortal Emperor, to see what they knew. They both claimed not to know who he was, but Dragon King told Han Sen that it was most likely a fake emperor.

"Why would you say he is fake?" Han Sen asked.

"Emperor is a title, not a self-given name. It is bestowed upon a spirit by other spirits in recognition of their greatness. If he is not widely recognized, how can he be an emperor?" Dragon King explained his reasoning.

"What you say makes sense, but what if he does have the strength of an emperor? What if he does, and he just maintains a low profile and keeps to himself?" Han Sen asked.

"Impossible. The actual body of an emperor is not much stronger than that of a king spirit, but it provides the emperors a higher chance of opening ten gene locks. Unlocking your tenth gene lock, however, requires many resources. Do you think this fellow could obtain all the resources he would need silently, without others becoming aware?" Dragon King said.

"I suppose you may be right. He doesn't have many resources, actually. Plus, out here in the normal-sized world, he only commands a tree." Han Sen agreed with Dragon King, hearing it put like that.

Han Sen then showed Dragon King the lifewater he had received, and to this, Dragon King said, "Holy smoke! Lifewater, you say? This is a skydrop! You've met Sky King."

"Who? Sky King? Skydrop? This is lifewater." Han Sen was confused.

"Immortal Emperor must be that *sshole Sky King. Just when I thought he couldn't stoop any lower, the guy goes and proclaims himself to be an emperor!" Dragon King almost looked amused.

"Who is he?" Han Sen asked.

Dragon King explained, "He is another one of the eight generals. I'm surprised he didn't meet a grizzly end yet. And now he's moved on to call himself Immortal Emperor? It makes me shudder."

Han Sen believed Dragon King must have held some sort of grudge against Sky King to possess such a strong reaction, so he said, "It has been a long time, you know. Are you sure there wasn't a chance for him to level up and become an emperor?"

Dragon King looked at Han Sen with disdain and said, "My *ss! He used to be an emperor. He became too big for his breeches, so you know what he did? He challenged Ancient Devil Emperor himself. And of course, Ancient Devil defeated him. But he was taken in as a general. During their battle, though, Sky King was injured quite badly. His wounds were so grievous, they knocked him down a peg. He became a king spirit, as a result. He'll always have to remain so, as well. He'll never be an emperor, ever again."

Han Sen then told Dragon King about the laboring, and what was whispered about the Immortal Pills.

Han Sen asked, "If he is indeed Sky King, might it be possible he has found a way to recover? Is that why he hides atop the shelter inside the tree hole?"

Dragon King frowned and said, "Ancient Devil said he cannot be healed. Not now, not ever. But Sky King, he's as slippery as an eel. It wouldn't wholly surprise me if he truly did find a way to recover. Might I ask, is that shelter a black and red walnut tree?"

Dragon King stared at Han Sen with a queer look.

Han Sen confirmed his suspicion and described the tree in further detail. He also went on to explain how the interior looked.

Dragon King squealed, and said, "Oh, no! That really must be the Sky Tree! This is what he owned during his time as an emperor. It should have been destroyed, after the battle. It's growing again? But if it's growing, there must have been a life force on it."

Dragon King suddenly widened his eyes, and he said, "Haha! I know! This is what Sky King wants... This is a good chance..."

Chapter 1166: Trade with a Dragon

"What is this?" Han Sen frowned, seeing Dragon King cackle like a maniac.

Dragon King managed to recompose himself and respond, "Kid, I have quite the opportunity for you. I'm keen to see if you'd dare accept."

"What is it?" Han Sen guessed it'd be related to Immortal Emperor, but he wasn't entirely sure what the proposition might be.

If Dragon King was going to suggest Han Sen should conquer and claim Immortal Shelter, his answer would be an immediate no. Han Sen didn't believe he was strong enough to tackle such a place.

"The walnut tree you mentioned? That is the Sky Tree. It's an emperor geno tree. Sky King uses it to level up."

Dragon King went on to say, "The tree was supposedly destroyed amidst the battle I mentioned. But you just said the tree had no life force, which would also indicate it was dead. I think he is currently attempting to revive the tree. I know what he is up to, but I must applaud him for the difficulty of the task he has undertaken."

"And what does that have to do with the opportunity?" Han Sen frowned.

Dragon King said, "If I am correct, he is growing another Sky Tree inside the original Sky Tree. These things are supposed to take millions of years to grow, though. He must be using the remains of his dead one to jumpstart the growth of a second. A suitably parasitic approach for him."

Dragon King looked directly at Han Sen and told him, "I have a way in which you can get your hands on that new tree. Even at the stage it's probably in right now, a seedling, it can greatly benefit you. If you grow it successfully, well, it would be priceless."

"And what would you require in exchange?" Han Sen asked.

Han Sen didn't think Dragon King would help him for nothing. For Dragon King to tell Han Sen the tree was that good, there had to be a catch.

Dragon King smiled and said, "You know I only have a tiny piece of my soul remaining. If I continue to stay inside this ring, even that will be extinguished. I'm on a leash, tethered to a ticking time bomb. I'm living on borrowed time."

"Get to the point." Han Sen didn't want to waste time, hearing him beat around the bush.

"If you can find me a body, I can evolve a bit. Do that, and I'll tell you what you need to do to get a hold of that tree," Dragon King said.

"How would I help you? You want the body of a king spirit?"

Dragon King shook his head said, saying, "I'm not doing too good. Even with a king spirit's stone directly in front of me, I could not take it."

Dragon King went on to say, "I just hope you can find me a super creature's egg. A super creature is at its weakest when its egg is about to hatch. If you provide me such an egg, I'll be happy to forfeit my spirit-life and take over the super creature's body and live as one."

"A super creature's egg? They aren't easy to find. Where do you expect me to find one around here?" Han Sen said.

"You don't have to get one for me right now. Just make me a promise that if you stumble across such an egg in your travels, you will keep it for me," Dragon King said.

"If the tree is as good as you're making it out to be, then you have my word," Han Sen said.

“It won’t disappoint you,” Dragon King said.

Although Dragon King could not entirely trust Han Sen would help him, it was a chance at something better than his current state of existence.

“Now, tell me how I can get my hands on that Sky Tree.” Han Sen was ready.

“The new Sky Tree will be growing on top of the old one. Right now, Sky King is probably trying to amass a number of subordinates to help break down what remains of the old tree, to aid in the growth of the second. You will have to get close. With the Night Cloak, you can sneak in unnoticed and steal it,” Dragon King explained.

Han Sen thought it’d be worth a shot. The Night Cloak made a person wholly invisible while it was nighttime. It could even hide one’s scent.

The Night Cloak was an item of many layers, and it was difficult for Han Sen to get a complete grip on all of its functions. He could, however, use it as an actual cloak of invisibility, and he was content with that function for the time being.

Han Sen stuffed his belly with more walnuts and went to visit the Sky Tree.

Entering the tree hole shelter, he looked around for Zhang Yuchen. As a “thank you,” he provided him the lifewater vials.

Han Sen asked Dragon King what he thought of the lifewater, and he was told that the vials of lifewater could indeed be beneficial, but they were low-tier items. For an elite such as Han Sen, they were useless. As a result, Han Sen was happy to give them away.

Zhang Yuchen, seeing the lifewater, was shocked. He exclaimed, “Whoa! Are you really giving those to me?”

“You helped me, even when you were injured. It’s the least you deserve,” Han Sen explained his reasoning for the generosity.

Zhang Yuchen wished to say something, but someone called him.

He quickly pushed the door and went out, as Han Sen followed.

The man who called him was the guy who had worked alongside Han Sen. His name was Cheng Hu.

“Brother Zhang, you must hide. Qui Ping has returned!” Cheng Hu quickly spoke, not noticing Han Sen there.

Zhang Yuchen shook his head, and with a dismal look said, “Where? Where can I run? Let him come for me.”

“What’s going on?” Han Sen frowned.

Cheng Hu was surprised to see Han Sen there.

Zhang Yuchen gave Han Sen the lifewater back, saying, "I appreciate the gift, but it would be wasted on me. Run. If others say you know me, pretend we never met." Zhang Yuchen then pushed the two away and told them both to leave him.