

Beast Taming: the More the Better

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Chapter 1 - 1: Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base!

Linzhou City.

The bus traveled down the road, with Su Ping sitting by the window, gazing out at the familiar yet magical world unfolding before him.

Having been in this world for so many years, Su Ping had adapted to it.

It was a world where humans and Pet Beasts coexisted, with a structure somewhat similar to the one before he crossed over.

However, in addition to the realms of humans, there were also wildernesses and domains occupied by Ferocious Beasts, serving as forbidden zones for humans.

And humans, upon reaching the age of 18, could undergo the awakening of a Beast Tamer.

They could awaken their Beast Taming Space as well as their innate Talent.

Then contract Pet Beasts and become Beast Tamers.

A month had passed since he had graduated from high school and completed the awakening.

And now, he was already considered a prospective Beast Tamer, with his own Beast Taming Space and Talent.

Thinking of this, Su Ping's view seemed to double, and his Talent along with that cramped, claustrophobic Beast Taming Space entered his perception.

[Pet Beast Home: The Beast Taming Space can take in uncontracted wild Pet Beasts, but their Level must not exceed one's own.]

A very ordinary Talent, though uncommon, its effect was also average.

But something else quickly appeared before Su Ping's eyes.

Compared to the seemingly lackluster Talent of Pet Beast Home, this other thing that emerged from his consciousness was what Su Ping had always been curious about.

This had also appeared in his mind after completing his awakening a month ago:

[Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas: Transformed from the world's Origin, a Catalog that can accommodate all Pet Beast forms. Illuminating, replenishing, and perfecting the Catalog will grant rewards from the world's Origin feedback!]

(Note: Only Pet Beasts that meet the conditions can be included in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.)

(Note: Pet Beasts have corresponding Evolutionary Bodies. The higher the quality of the pet and the more Pet Beasts there are, the faster the Catalog can be replenished and perfected.)

With a thought, Su Ping directly opened the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.

Within this Catalog, all kinds of Pet Beasts were listed, but the Catalog was gray and white, obviously unlit. However, he had waited for a month already, and now he was in no hurry.

With that thought, Su Ping looked expectantly out the bus window.

As one of the few first-tier cities in the country, although it couldn't compare with the Magic Capital and the Imperial Capital, Linzhou City was bustling with activity.

Most importantly, it had a huge natural forest park, the Lingxi River, West Dragon Lake, and other places with abundant resources of wild Pet Beasts.

Even some Pet Beasts were unique to Linzhou.

And here in the suburbs, relatively secluded and quiet, a sign soon came into Su Ping's view:

'Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base'

"Passengers, please note that the Lingxi River station is approaching. Passengers getting off here, please prepare to disembark."

Listening to the bus stop announcement, Su Ping quickly stood up, walked down from the bus, and came before the grand estate.

Su Ping shook his head and sighed. *What a pity!*

What a pity it was a world dominated by Controlling Beasts. Otherwise, with such a large piece of land on the outskirts of his city, if it were priced as in his previous life, such a big Pet Beast Breeding Base in Linzhou City could have allowed him to live comfortably for a lifetime.

In this world, all industries related to Controlling Beasts were the most important and expensive.

Of course, even now it wasn't bad. As long as one didn't touch those Advanced Level Controlling Beasts and resources, one could still live without worry about food and clothing.

But having come to this world, if he didn't experience its wonders, how could Su Ping be content?

With that thought, Su Ping took out his phone again and opened up the message left by his father, Su Anyong:

"Son, you've come of age now, and you've awakened your Talent to become a qualified prospective Beast Tamer. Since that's true, I can safely pass on the mantle to you!

Come back, come back to Heart of Woods, and together let's make it the best Forest Wolf breeding base in Jianghai Province, or even the whole country!"

So, Su Ping returned.

It's not that he fully believed his father's words. Mainly, he was interested in exploring his own Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.

Over the month, he had encountered many Pet Beasts in Linzhou City, yet none met the requirements to be recorded in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas to light up, complete, or perfect the Catalog.

In this world, becoming a Beast Tamer wasn't just about awakening your Talent or forming a contract with your first Pet Beast.

A true, qualified Beast Tamer had to be acknowledged by the Beast Master Association after participating in the triennial Beast Tamer assessment competition.

After graduation, talented Beast Tamer prospects could choose to continue their studies at higher education institutions or be invested in by some factions.

Of course, both of those paths were challenging.

And clearly, their family's breeding base was not among that list.

In fact, it was just a small-scale breeding base specializing in Forest Wolves.

It was somewhat noteworthy that, because of its location in the suburbs of Linzhou City, and because Su Ping's grandfather had indeed been prosperous—a Monarch Level Beast Tamer who had sacrificed himself to defend against Beast Tides—they had managed to hold on to this large breeding base and a sizeable rented plot nearby.

Shaking his head, Su Ping took out the key and unlocked the gate.

The breeding base was vast.

Beyond the several square kilometers of forest that provided a playground and rest area for the Forest Wolves, there were their living quarters, the constant temperature and humidity birthing rooms, testing labs, control rooms, Magic Potion workshops, medical rooms, and many other facilities that made up the estate.

Furthermore, at the back, the Lingxi River flowed by, originating from West Dragon Lake.

His father had always been clamoring to use such great resources to develop some Water Element Pet Beasts, but he'd forget all about it the next day.

Walking straight into the house, Su Ping gazed at the empty living room, and a vague, unpleasant premonition rose in his heart.

"Dad!"

"Su Anyong!"

"Where are you?!"

The empty living room echoed back Su Ping's voice.

Then, he approached the sofa and saw a piece of paper on the coffee table. Su Ping's mouth twitched rapidly as he quickly picked it up. Sure enough, the familiar handwriting of Su Anyong was clear:

"Son, your Second Granduncle mentioned introducing a stepmother to you. He wants me to go to Beihai City to check it out. You're an adult now, a real man!

So, it's time for you to take on the responsibilities at home. The future of Heart of Woods is in your hands! You grew up here; you should know how to operate things.

Don't worry about the rest. The feeder has enough food for the little ones for two months, and Old Sha is here to help you get settled during this time.

Oh, and you probably haven't formed a contract with your first Pet Beast, have you? I've been picky and have chosen one for you. It's in the hatching room.

Call me if there's anything, and as long as it's not about money, your dad will figure out a way for you. That's it.

—Loving father, Su Anyong."

Looking at the familiar handwriting, Su Ping was speechless.

Luckily, he had long since grown accustomed to his unreliable father's behavior.

Such a large breeding base, if he'd paid a bit more attention to it, wouldn't have ended up like this.

Nevertheless, Su Ping was quite intrigued. His unreliable father had actually remembered that he hadn't contracted his first Pet Beast! He wondered what kind of creature Su Anyong could have possibly picked out for him after such careful selection.

Moving quickly, Su Ping took only a couple of steps to reach the nearby constant temperature and humidity birthing and hatching room.

He looked at the little creature inside the box.

Chapter 2 - 2: The Mutant Poison Attribute Forest Wolf, Eye of Truth!

This is a little wolf cub.

Su Ping wasn't surprised.

The Heart of Woods is mainly used for cultivating Forest Wolves.

However, Su Ping's brows quickly furrowed, as he could tell at a glance that this little wolf cub seemed to be no ordinary Forest Wolf.

Forest Wolves have the Racial Potential to reach the Elite Level.

On Blue Star, Pet Beasts, Beast Tamers, and resources are categorized as Ordinary, Elite, Commander, Monarch, Emperor, Saint, Legend, and Myth.

Moreover, each Pet Beast has corresponding Evolution methods and pathways that have been discovered by Beast Tamers.

Generally speaking, the Racial Potential detected in a Pet Beast before it evolves is its highest potential for natural growth.

In other words, without the means and resources to evolve a Pet Beast, the natural growth limit for a Forest Wolf would normally be the Elite Level.

But as the world is full of wonders, there are also some relatively rare occurrences, such as bloodline Mutation.

Generally, the fur of Forest Wolf cubs is mostly gray-yellow, only turning into a bluish-green color during the Growth Period or upon reaching adulthood.

But this little cub lying in the automatic feeder was completely different.

Its body was a lush green, and at first glance, it didn't even seem like a living creature, but more like a carving made of jade.

The round, pitch-black eyes looked at Su Ping, who was observing from outside the box, and made a WHINING sound.

Su Ping immediately felt amused and called his father right away.

"Hello, Su Ping? Are you back home?" came the hearty voice of his father, Su Anyong.

"Yeah, what's with this little wolf?"

Su Ping didn't bother to ask what his father was thinking, to just hand over the cultivation base to him like that. Nor did he care that his father had left without a word to find him a stepmother.

He was used to his father's ways all these years.

"HEH HEH, could I possibly cheat my own son? This little wolf has a mutated bloodline; its Wood Attribute bloodline has purified and gained a Poison Attribute. If it's trained this way, it might possess both Wood and Poison Attributes in the future. Someone offered twelve million, and I didn't sell. How could I? My good son has awakened as a Beast Tamer and needs his first Contracted Beast. How could a mere twelve million compare to a father's doting affection..."

Su Ping promptly hung up the phone, but his eyes had already lit up.

A Poison Attribute mutated Forest Wolf? This is indeed interesting.

While the Poison Attribute was not as rare and precious as those with Spirit, space, or time Attributes, it was still quite uncommon.

His father had actually been reliable for once!

Thinking this, Su Ping didn't hesitate. Most of his classmates from the same graduating class had already completed contracts with their first Contracted Beast; only he had still been indecisive.

The Forest Wolf was a creature he had been familiar with since he was young. A mutated Poison Attribute Forest Wolf was undoubtedly an excellent choice.

The Soul Contract slowly connected with the little wolf cub in front of him.

The cub, which was obviously just born not long ago, did not resist at all.

In less than ten minutes, Su Ping opened his eyes and looked at the little one in front of him.

At the same time, inside the incubator, through the glass cover, the little one also opened its eyes and looked at Su Ping.

The moment their gazes met, an indescribable sense of closeness seemed to emanate from deep within their souls.

A connection through a Soul Contract is the closest relationship possible.

And the moment Su Ping established the contract with the little wolf, its body visibly became a bit stronger.

This is the bond and connection between a Beast Tamer and their Pet Beast.

A Beast Tamer's spiritual power can feedback into the Pet Beast's improvement and growth; likewise, a Pet Beast's breakthrough and enhancement in Realm will also raise the Beast Tamer's Realm through the soul link.

The two are truly complementary to one another.

Su Ping reached out and took the little wolf from the constant temperature box. Its emerald green body was incredibly soft, yet it lacked the warmth of living creatures, feeling somewhat cool instead.

"Seeing as you're like this all over, let's call you Xiao Qing."

Su Ping was never good at naming. His Pet Beasts were unique to him, so whatever name they were given was just an identifier. Clearly, the little wolf in his arms was indifferent to its name, opening its milky-scented mouth as if to respond to Su Ping:

"AWOOO... WHIMPER WHIMPER WHIMPER..."

This call of the bloodline was slightly strange due to its undeveloped vocalization.

Su Ping smiled faintly.

However, at that moment, he suddenly paused.

In his mind, the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, which had not changed since his previous awakening, slowly opened without his control.

With the rustling sound of flipping pages, it quickly locked onto a particular image!

The creature in this picture was none other than an adult, a perfectly standard Forest Wolf.

At the same time, on the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, a line of text appeared before Su Ping's eyes.

[Catalog 'Forest Wolf' illuminated, current Catalog Level: 1, Origin Reward acquired: Eye of Truth]

[Eye of Truth (Beast Tamer Ability): Allows the user to see the specific Level, Skills, and Race of Pet Beasts and Ferocious Beasts through spiritual power.]

Huh?!

Su Ping hadn't even had time to react when he felt a surge of information being directly poured into his mind from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.

The next moment, Su Ping saw a line of text appear on Xiao Qing in his arms:

[Variant Forest Wolf (Contracted)]

[Attribute: Wood, Poison]

[Current Level: Ordinary First Rank]

[Racial Potential: Elite Tenth Stage]

[Skills: Sunlight Absorption (Beginner)]

Eye of Truth?

Isn't this one of the Talents that can be awakened after a Beast Tamer's awakening?

But the problem is, each Beast Tamer only has this one opportunity to awaken their inherent Talented Ability, right?

Isn't my Talent 'Pet Beast Home'?

Su Ping was not surprised by the illumination of the Forest Wolf in the Catalog due to the contract, but the reward for this illumination left him completely stunned.

Although it was true that the Eye of Truth wasn't considered an earth-shattering Beast Tamer Talent, in fact, Eye of Truth, alongside Telepathic Communication and Rapid Recovery, was one of the three most common Beast Tamer Talents, accounting for nearly fifty percent of all Talents.

But no matter how common, this was still given for free!

Beast Tamer Talents—these were genuine Abilities with no other means of acquisition.

Su Ping originally imagined that the rewards from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas would at most be some special resources, possibly some special Pet Beast Evolution schemes, or other things.

But he truly did not expect that this first illuminated reward would bring him such a big surprise.

With that thought, Su Ping, while stroking Xiao Qing in his arms, couldn't wait to look at the illuminated 'Forest Wolf' entry in the Catalog.

Chapter 3 - 3 Forest Wolf Catalog, Magic Potion: 'Heart of Woods

As Su Ping's gaze focused, the only illuminated pattern on the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas slowly enlarged, appearing before his eyes.

[Catalog: Forest Wolf]

[A wolf tribe proficient in using Wood Attributes, with extremely strong Life Force. An average adult Forest Wolf is of Elite Level, with Skills such as Sunlight Absorption, Vine Strangling, Self-Healing, and Accelerated Growth.]

[Current Catalog Level: 1 (300/500)]

Known Evolutionary Atlas, special cultivation:

[Not discovered yet]

Preferences, habits:

[Enjoys basking in the sun, playing in the woods, moving in groups, and has stronger combat ability in daylight or within forests.]

Record log:

[Encountered and made contact with a Forest Wolf of a Poison Attribute mutation lineage; intimacy met the requirements. Catalog Experience +300!]

[This Forest Wolf is a special mutant. For every day spent with it, Catalog Experience +5! Each day of companionship offers a certain chance of discovering the reasons for the bloodline mutation. Alternatively, a large amount of this Catalog's Experience can be consumed to analyze the mutation reason.]

[Daily, Catalog Experience can be gained based on the number of interactions with such creatures and their level. It can also be gained by enhancing the biological abilities of creatures that meet the intimacy standard, thereby perfecting the Catalog and upgrading its level.]

Looking at the Catalog of the Forest Wolf, which had analyzed it quite thoroughly, Su Ping blinked once more.

This Catalog can actually be upgraded.

And there are rewards for each upgrade? Thinking of the Eye of Truth he had just discovered, Su Ping's eyes lit up.

It was clear in the Catalog's records that the more you interact with the creatures in the Catalog, and the higher their quality, the more Catalog Experience you obtain.

It's just unknown whether this interaction will count if they are not one's Contracted Beasts.

Moreover, the unlocking of the Forest Wolf Catalog happened after he established a Soul Contract with Xiao Qing.

Could it be that to illuminate the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas with its numerous Pet Beast Catalogs, one must contract each one individually?

That's obviously impossible.

After all, a Beast Tamer's Contracted Beast slots are limited.

Each Beast Tamer only gained one Pet Beast slot per Great Realm breakthrough.

In other words, Su Ping could only contract a second Pet Beast once he broke through to the Elite Level himself.

However, upon scrutinizing the Catalog again carefully, especially the text in the last line of the record, Su Ping's gaze locked on.

Intimacy!

Indeed, in the half-month since my graduation from Linzhou City, I've come into contact with quite a few Pet Beasts.

None could light up the Catalog, and the reason must be this so-called intimacy!

This means that as long as I frequently accompany these Pet Beasts—even if they aren't my Contracted Beasts—they can be included in the Catalog and count towards its upgrade requirements, provided their intimacy is high enough.

With this realization, he finally recognized that the Pet Beast Breeding Base his unreliable father left him might actually have some value and use!

Immediately, the idea of going on an adventure was cast to the winds from Su Ping's mind.

Adventure? What joy could it hold compared to the delight of cultivation here?

Recalling his understanding of the Forest Wolf and the Heart of Wood Cultivation Base over the years, Su Ping was invigorated.

Cradling Xiao Qing, he returned to the living quarters and rummaged through Su Anyong's room. After a long search, he finally found what he wanted to see.

It was an ancient book with yellowed pages.

In this era, such ancient books were obviously rare. However, according to his father, it was the Su Family heirloom and the key reason why the Heart of Wood Cultivation Base had persisted until today.

Previously, his father had put on a show, refusing to let Su Ping see it until he had turned eighteen, awakened his Talent, and become a prospective Beast Tamer.

Now, this thing was tossed under a cabinet, evidently not treasured or carefully preserved.

The book title was quite lengthy:

"Forest Wolf Breeding and Training Manual with the 'Heart of Woods' Magic Potion Recipe"

The origin of their family's Pet Beast Breeding Base lay within this.

According to his dad, this was also his grandfather's lifelong research.

Magic Potions were concoctions made from various resources combined according to a recipe, and the vast majority were for Pet Beasts to consume.

'Heart of Woods' was clearly the same.

The effects of Magic Potions varied: some accelerated Pet Beasts' growth, some enhanced their Realm, others restored their energy, some caused them to evolve, and some enabled them to learn a certain Skill.

Among these types of Magic Potions, those that could induce Evolution in Pet Beasts were undoubtedly the most precious—no need to elaborate on that.

Beyond that were Magic Potions that enabled Pet Beasts to learn Skills.

And the 'Heart of Woods' Magic Potion recipe from this ancient book was just that.

'Heart of Woods' was a Skill. Although not a 'Super-Rank' Skill with mighty effects comparable to forbidden spells from games in his previous world, it was still quite remarkable.

On Blue Star, Pet Beast Skills were generally divided into ordinary Skills and Super-Rank Skills.

Although 'Heart of Woods' was an ordinary Skill, it was an extremely rare ability, sometimes even more useful than certain offensive Super-Rank Skills!

Its effect was actually quite simple: all Wood Attribute Skills of the Pet Beast were passively enhanced. When injured or its energy was depleted, it could actively absorb nutrients from trees and plants for Rapid Recovery.

This ability, combined with a Forest Wolf's Skills, was an unmatched treasure if used in battle in a forest or on the plains!

Across the entire Blue Star, not many Wood Element Pet Beasts naturally possessed the 'Heart of Woods' Skill.

Were it not for the fact that his family's 'Heart of Woods' Magic Potion recipe had an exceedingly low chance of successful awakening—with only a few successes over decades—and was exclusively for Forest Wolf use, this recipe alone, regardless of its monetary value, might have contended for the top prize at the Breeder Association's annual Breeder Research Competition, achieving nationwide fame!

However, since it was the family heirloom, Su Ping, having already decided to run his family's Pet Beast Breeding Base well, naturally had to master it.

He quickly skipped over the information about Forest Wolf breeding, which he was already familiar with, and carefully read the 'Heart of Woods' recipe.

'Raw materials: three sections of hollow willow branches, one Wood Spirit herb, three drops of hundred-herb juice, one nectar-absorbing bee stinger.'

'Production method: The hollow willow branches must be pounded by hand for 30 minutes over fire until they become crushed. Then, 100ml of clear water and one drop of the hundred-herb juice are added. Continue to pound by hand for another 30 minutes until it becomes paste-like. After that, add another drop of the hundred-herb juice and one Wood Spirit herb. Continue to pound by hand for another 30 minutes until it becomes a pulp. Then, add the nectar-absorbing bee stinger. Finally, pound it into a concentrated liquid before cooling for over six hours to form a jelly-like state. Only then is it considered successfully made.'

'Effect: After consumption by a Forest Wolf, there is approximately a one percent chance of learning the rare Skill: Heart of Woods, and a chance to raise the Pet Beast's Level.'

'The better the innate Talents of the Forest Wolf, the higher the success rate.'

After reviewing the 'Heart of Woods' recipe from beginning to end, Su Ping let out a sigh.

Damn, no wonder such a rare and precious Skill Magic Potion recipe has been well preserved by our family, yet nobody knows or seems to care about it.

It's bad enough that it's only for Forest Wolves, but this success rate is just too low, isn't it?

Instead of spending time researching and trying this, wouldn't it be much better to directly contract a Pet Beast with Commander-level or Monarch-level Racial Potential?

But it's still better than nothing, I suppose.

Shaking his head, Su Ping was just about to stand up when he was suddenly taken aback.

At this moment, the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas in his mind started flipping pages on its own, and the Forest Wolf Catalog appeared before his eyes.

Feedback from a Catalog entry then emerged in Su Ping's mind:

[Discovery of a 'Forest Wolf' special cultivation method: 'Heart of Woods' Magic Potion.]

[Detected that the 'Heart of Woods' Magic Potion recipe is in an incomplete state. Do you wish to spend 285 Forest Wolf Catalog Experience to perfect the 'Heart of Woods' Magic Potion recipe?]

Su Ping couldn't help but open his mouth wide, his eyes revealing an incredulous surge of elation.