

Beast Taming: the More the Better

Chapter 14 - 14 Mutated Skill: Heart of the Poison Wood!

Mutated Skill.

This was something the school had taught as well. Some Pet Beasts, due to resources, growth environment, or even personality reasons, experience mutations in the skills they are supposed to awaken. These Mutated Skills can be strong or weak and cannot be generalized. And now, Xiao Qing was undoubtedly one such example.

Eye of Truth, upon inspecting Xiao Qing at this moment, had already provided Su Ping with feedback.

[Mutated Forest Wolf (Contracted)]

[Current Level: Ordinary Fourth Stage]

[Racial Potential: Commander Third Rank]

[Skills: Sunlight Absorption (Beginner), Poison Vine Strangulation (Beginner), Mutated Poison Wood Heart (Beginner)]

Even though he was prepared, Su Ping couldn't help but draw in a sharp breath. The breakthrough to an Ordinary Fourth Stage was not surprising. In fact, this breakthrough was actually one rank lower than Little One's breakthrough. However, that was clearly not the crux of the issue. The real key point lay in the leap in Racial Potential!

Forest Wolves had the Racial Potential for the Elite Tier! Even Old Sha might have had all sorts of opportunities in the past to break through his Racial Potential and become the Commander Level he was today. But when observed through the Eye of Truth, Old Sha's Racial Potential, in fact, had not increased. This meant that Old Sha's breakthrough and advancement were a result of personal fortune, not a transformation of the race. Even if Old Sha had offspring, it wouldn't affect the race.

But Xiao Qing at this moment was different. After consuming the Heart of Woods and somehow completing the mutation, its Racial Potential had improved even further! Even without Evolution, even without needing to consume precious resources and Magic Potions, as long as Xiao Qing grew normally and wasn't too lazy, then in the future, it could break through to Commander Level!

For a moment, Su Ping fell into deep thought. *Was the effect of the Heart of Woods so ridiculous? Looking at it this way, if someone really did come to him for training, could he set his prices quite a bit higher?*

However, Su Ping also understood that the effect of the Heart of Woods Magic Potion was one aspect, but Xiao Qing's incredible talent was another. Although there was no change in the skill level displayed on the panel, through the Soul Contract, he could clearly feel that Xiao Qing's Poison Vine Strangulation had greatly improved.

The gap in proficiency between each skill level was considerable. This was also the main reason why Beast Tamers and their Pet Beasts had to constantly practice and cultivate them. And certainly, the improvement in the might of the attack-oriented Poison Vine Strangulation was a primary direction for enhancement.

It was a pity that there was no suitable opponent to battle right now. Shaking his head, Su Ping finally turned the Eye of Truth towards Xiao Qing's main mutation: this rare and precious Mutated Skill!

[Mutated Poison Wood Heart (Beginner): A special Mutated Skill that combines the characteristics of the Poison Type with the Wood Element's Heart of Woods. It enhances the activation effect, power, and casting time of Poison Type and Wood Element skills. Additionally, it can absorb the essence of plant power to restore itself and can also use Poison System Resources to accelerate its own Realm and the Skill Proficiency improvement of this specific skill.]

Su Ping blinked, and the effect of the Eye of Truth vanished. Yet, he didn't snap back to reality for quite some time. Even though the school had said that Mutated Skills could either become more powerful and strange or weaker, without a doubt, Xiao Qing's "Mutated Poison Wood Heart" was clearly one of the mutations that had become more powerful. But Su Ping had never imagined it would be so powerful.

Other aspects aside, the fact that it could enhance the power of Poison Type skills—an effect analogous to the Heart of Woods' general enhancing properties for its own element—was already remarkable. However, the subsequent ability listed was what Su Ping truly hadn't anticipated. *Could it really speed up the improvement of one's Realm and Skill Proficiency by consuming Poison System Resources and related materials?*

Although Su Ping had previously thought about making money to buy some Poison System Resources for Xiao Qing to consume and fully exploit its Poison Type abilities, there was a certain risk involved. Why are Poison Type Pet Beasts so rare? It's because often, the use of Poison Type Pet Beasts and Poison System Resources can be fatal to the pets if slightly overdosed. *However, now with this Mutated Poison Wood Heart, does it mean that Xiao Qing has gained an additional layer of insurance?*

At this thought, Su Ping's eyes burst with an excited flame. He picked up Xiao Qing, still intoxicated by its newfound strength, and planted a kiss on the greenish wolf's head.

As expected, the price of a Pet Beast with a mutated bloodline far exceeds that of others, and this was precisely why. With Pet Beasts whose bloodlines have mutated, no one knows their limits, and they can sometimes give their owners unexpected and delightful surprises—like now, for instance.

Thinking of this, Su Ping longed even more for the Forest Wolf Catalog's mutation that requires a whopping 50,000 points of Catalog Experience—the reason behind the Forest Wolf's poison bloodline mutation.

All of a sudden, Su Ping, feeling somewhat worn out from making three batches of Heart of Woods Magic Potions, seemed to have regained his energy. He directly took Little One, who had returned to its normal size after retracting the 'Accelerated Growth' skill, and headed outside the manor's forest.

Putting other affairs aside for the moment, he decided to properly train Xiao Qing in combat and practice its skills. And he would ensure the other twenty-plus Forest Wolves bonded with him to the required level; once they did, upgrading the Forest Wolf Catalog would become much faster!

Speaking of which, the Forest Wolf Catalog had already reached (222/500) Experience Points after the breakthroughs of Xiao Qing and Little One. It was a big step closer to reaching Forest Wolf Catalog LV: 2!

Watching the wolf pack lounging lazily under the twilight sun, led by Old Sha, Su Ping's spirits lifted, and he called out to the wolves, "For Heart of Woods to become the world's number one Pet Beast Breeding Base! For me to become the top Breeding Master in Dragon Nation! Forest Wolves, give me your love tackle!"

"AWOO..."

"AWOO..."

The only ones to respond were Xiao Qing and Little One; the rest, including Old Sha, looked at their young master with a gaze usually reserved for the mentally challenged.

Laughing, Su Ping didn't mind and pulled out some tree fruit from the Beast Taming Space that he had prepared earlier. The Forest Wolves had their main meals provided automatically by a feeder. However, these little ones liked the dessert after dinner, which was clearly Su Ping's whim.

Unsurprisingly, the quick-to-adapt Forest Wolves, seeing the several large tubs of snacks and fruits, promptly came running over, shamelessly ready to sit in rows and share the treats.

Chapter 15 - 15: The Beast Tamer Who Scoops Poop, The First Customer!

The clear sky stretched endlessly, and the boundless sunlight poured down. The midday sun penetrated the leaves, creating dappled traces on the ground.

The Forest Wolves were either chasing and playing with each other or lazing under the trees, basking in the sun without becoming overly hot.

There were some exceptions, however, namely Xiao Qing and Little Ones.

In the sunlit jungle, the two little ones were truly using Skills to battle and practice.

After all, improving Skill Proficiency Levels was one of the main ways to enhance strength.

As for Old Sha, he watched over the two little ones to prevent any accidents.

The entire Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base seemed exceptionally light-hearted.

There was only one person, and he was the only human in this Pet Beast Breeding Base.

At the moment, Su Ping was not only unrelaxed but also quite speechless.

Under the scorching sun, he held a pair of specially made tweezers. The heat caused beads of sweat to form at his temples.

Despite this, he still wore a mask, crouched to one side with tweezers in hand and a bamboo basket on his back.

An indescribable stench wafted from in front of him.

Although it was not as overpowering as when making a Magic Potion, it was definitely enough to make people cover their noses and keep their distance.

After picking up a pile of wolf feces that looked like wood shavings and tossing it into the bamboo basket, Su Ping sighed behind his mask.

It wasn't because of the foul stench of the wolf feces. After all, he had grown accustomed to it after so many days, and the results weren't bad.

He didn't know why the Forest Wolves bonded faster with him when he smelled of their feces, but a few days of experimentation had proven it true.

He was extremely grateful that his own Pet Beast Breeding Base was a haven for Forest Wolves, which were pack creatures.

Within a wolf pack, there is a Wolf King, whose dominance over the pack is unquestionable.

And since Old Sha, as the Wolf King, had a relationship with him akin to family, the other Forest Wolves naturally followed suit under Old Sha's influential and authoritative rule.

Added to that was the Su Family's recorded knowledge of Forest Wolf habits.

Over these past few days, all the Forest Wolves, except for the few at the Elite Level, had reached the standard intimacy level with him, and the Forest Wolf Catalog had included them.

Although these ordinary Forest Wolves, with no particular highlights, contributed very limited experience to his Forest Wolf Catalog, the time spent with them and the experience gained in the past few days had also reached just over four hundred.

Approximately, in a few more days, or after reaching the standard intimacy level with those few Elite Level wolves, I can probably upgrade the Forest Wolf Catalog to LV2.

He sighed purely because he was somewhat distressed about his family's money.

Li Shu was right. Who even looks at local news these days? The effect of local media advertising is just too poor.

After so many days, only a few people had called to inquire.

And as soon as they heard it was a Pet Beast Breeding Base with no reputation, run by someone who didn't even have a Junior Breeder certificate, the conversations decisively ended.

So, Su Ping felt he had been hasty.

The advertisement was pointless. If it weren't for that last sliver of hope, I would have used up the last bottle of Magic Potion and called it quits.

Fortunately, however, besides the Forest Wolf Catalog, he hadn't been without other gains these past few days.

The most direct improvement, among others, was the advancement in his Realm.

The advancement in a Beast Tamer's Realm mainly depended on feedback from improving Contracted Beasts, using special resources, and the most common foundation: meditation.

This aspect, besides one's natural Beast Taming Talent, was also a test of a Beast Tamer's Ability.

And Su Ping had much to say in this regard.

His meditation progress had always been the best among the six. He didn't know if it was due to his two lifetimes of experience or the hidden effects of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.

Moreover, from his knowledge of Controlling Beasts, he knew that after contracting a soul-bound Pet Beast, the effects and progress of meditation would be much faster.

Looking back now, it indeed seems so.

In just a few days of meditation, Su Ping had advanced from an Ordinary Fourth Stage to an Ordinary Fifth Stage.

Xiao Qing had also made some progress. Although it didn't advance a Level, its strength had improved considerably.

Shaking his head, he placed this batch of wolf feces in the forest. Forest Wolf feces promoted plant growth, making them a sort of low-cost special resource.

It was precisely because of this that the plants in his forest grew so well.

When I become wealthy in the future, should I consider Cultivating some Plant-based Pet Beasts? After all, the Forest Wolves provide such good conditions right here.

Su Ping pondered with wry amusement amidst his struggles.

Unfortunately, as soon as this thought emerged, Su Ping sighed.

It's the same problem again—no money!

Endowed with dragon-slaying skills but unrecognized, the frustrated Su Ping, a great Beast Tamer, finished cleaning up the mess. He had no mood to play with these "silly dogs" and headed straight toward the manor.

However, just as he arrived, he heard a DING-DONG, DING-DONG sound from the door.

It was urgent yet prolonged, clearly being pressed continuously.

Is it Manager Guan again? Or perhaps one of my classmates, who, except for Li Shu, hasn't bothered to keep in touch?

Su Ping didn't bother guessing and went straight to the door.

"I'm coming, I'm coming! Stop pressing it!"

When the door opened, the person who appeared before him made Su Ping pause.

It was a woman who looked to be in her twenties, slightly older than him, wearing sunglasses. Even so, Su Ping could still make out her snow-white complexion and the suppressed anger on her cheeks.

Of course, there was also the way she instinctively covered her delicate nose.

"You are...?"

Before Su Ping could finish his question, the woman had already started berating him.

"What kind of Pet Beast Breeding Base is this? How do you even do business? I've been pressing this doorbell for nearly an hour! I can't believe I actually found this godforsaken place..."

Faced with the woman's anger, undoubtedly built up from pressing the doorbell under the scorching sun for so long, Su Ping quickly interrupted her.

"Um, are you here to train your Pet Beast's Skills?"

"Duh! Why else would I come to this godforsaken corner?"

With that, the woman took off her sunglasses, revealing a face that even Su Ping found quite stunning.

What a beautiful young lady.

Too bad, Su Ping thought with regret. Such a pretty young lady, but her brain doesn't seem to work too well.

"I'm sorry, I was just taking care of the Pet Beasts. Have you been waiting long? Did no one respond when you rang the doorbell?"

"What do you think? Did you think I was lying?"

Su Ping quickly waved his hands. He could understand the frustration of waiting a long time for someone to open the door, but...

Su Ping looked conflicted, unsure how to put it.

Instead, it was the young lady before him who, looking suspiciously at this man reeking of wolf feces and his expression, asked, "What is it?"

Su Ping pursed his lips before finally saying, "If you were really in a hurry, you could have called the number on the signboard or the advertisement."

The woman opened her mouth, then looked up at the phone number on the signboard and fell into an awkward silence.

At that moment, Su Ping felt somewhat certain. *This might be my first, and only, walk-in customer... and her brain might not be working too well.*

Chapter 16 - 16: A Wager? The Terrifying Profits of Pet Beast Cultivation!

Under the sunlight, the entrance of the Heart of Woods was extremely quiet.

Only the sound of two or three chirping cicadas could be heard.

In the end, Su Ping broke the silence, "Please come in and take a seat."

The girl's slightly flushed face finally looked a bit better as she entered the reception room.

Su Ping took the fastest bath of his life before stepping through the door.

This time, the girl's eyes lit up.

Despite a poor first impression, Su Ping's reappearance surprised her.

He had a handsome appearance, infused with a sense of steadiness uncommon for his age.

Compared to the unbearably arrogant, so-called campus heartthrobs and young elites at the Magic Capital Beast Taming Academy, he was far more pleasant to look at.

Even on the street, he was the type of person she would glance at several times.

But obviously, she wasn't here to admire handsome men.

Although the sight of the handsome young man had somewhat soothed the impatience brought on by her long wait, she still said with a cold expression, "Enough, can your facility cultivate the Forest Wolf's 'Heart of Woods' skill? Call out your Breeder; I'll talk to him."

Su Ping sat down directly. "Let me introduce myself. I am Su Ping, the owner and Beast Tamer of the Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base."

The girl was stunned for a moment. Then, her eyebrows knitted slightly, her expression turned cold, and she even revealed a hint of mockery, "Does that also include being a janitor and a poop scooper?"

Without waiting for Su Ping's response, she stood up and said, "Never mind, I'll take my leave."

He had anticipated all of this. In a world where people judge by appearance, it was unfair to an excellent Breeder and genius Beast Tamer like himself.

But there was no helping it; a penny can stump a hero, as the saying goes.

Having finally encountered a customer who didn't seem to have all her wits about her, Su Ping couldn't just let her walk away.

"You don't believe me?"

If the young man before her hadn't been so pleasing to the eye, she obviously wouldn't have looked back. After hearing his words, the woman turned around. "Judging by your age, you must have just graduated, right? Do you even know what the Heart of Woods skill is?"

Before Su Ping could respond, she continued, "Heart of Woods is a passive, amplifying skill. It's a Sub-Rank Skill of the Super-Rank Skill 'Heart of Elements,' which only Wood Element Elemental Type Pet Beasts have a chance to comprehend on their own.

Other Wood Element Pet Beasts, let alone Forest Wolves—even Plant-based Pet Beasts with Racial Potential like the Life Ancient Tree that have reached Monarch Level rarely possess it.

Although Linzhou is the birthplace of Forest Wolf breeding, when it comes to cultivating the Heart of Woods, I didn't hold out much hope to begin with. Sorry for the disturbance."

After speaking, the woman shook her head, a self-deprecating, almost amused smile on her face.

However, Su Ping looked at the woman, his expression unwavering, still calm and confidently composed. He said calmly, "Why not give it a try?"

The woman was taken aback. She glanced at this young Beast Tamer who had clearly just graduated.

Meeting her scrutinizing gaze, Su Ping smiled slightly. "If you're willing to give it a try, as long as the Heart of Woods isn't cultivated, you won't have to spend a single penny on any preliminary fees or material costs!"

At this statement, the woman was truly shocked.

Typically, for Pet Beast Breeding Bases, especially those that specialize in skill Cultivation, there are two crucial conditions.

First and foremost, the Pet Beast's safety must be guaranteed.

Generally, this isn't a major concern, because when a Pet Beast is in danger, its Beast Tamer can sense it and stop the Cultivation at any time.

Moreover, contracts usually include a clause stating that if a Pet Beast dies, not only will the breeding base be shut down, but the Breeder might even face prison time.

Therefore, not just anyone can become a Breeder. Without a certificate from the Breeder Association, it was understandable that people wouldn't trust Su Ping.

Secondly, before Cultivation, regardless of success or failure, the client Beast Tamer has to bear certain costs.

After all, even those few Breeding Masters cannot guarantee success every time.

A breeding base isn't a charity; expecting to pay only upon success is unrealistic.

Yet, the young man before her dared to make such a statement.

Is he planning to use me as a guinea pig?

Yet, at this moment, she hesitated. There was an inexplicably convincing and steady aura about the young man before her.

And she did indeed have a compelling reason for her Pet Beast to comprehend the Heart of Woods.

Of course, perhaps it was also because her way of thinking wasn't quite the same as an ordinary person's?

Besides, she didn't believe that someone running such a large breeding base wouldn't understand the consequences of causing trouble.

Thus, her interest was piqued.

"Qin Xiaoxue!"

Su Ping, surprised by the pale hand extended towards him, reached out and shook it gently.

Qin Xiaoxue, however, remained direct. "Since you're the one who made the offer, don't say I'm taking advantage of you. If it's not successful, and Woodhead doesn't learn Heart of Woods after the Cultivation, you won't get a single penny!

If you succeed, besides the agreed-upon price, I'll grant you one request, whatever it may be. How about that wager?"

Su Ping's reply was equally straightforward.

He immediately printed out the contract.

Qin Xiaoxue might have seemed scatterbrained, but she was meticulous when it came to reading contracts.

She pointed to a section. "I just said, on top of the price to be paid, I can agree to one of your conditions. But here, the Cultivation fee is only three million five hundred thousand!"

Su Ping just smiled. "You're the first person to trust me. If it fails, the materials are free, and I don't need any other conditions from you."

Su Ping, having lived two lives, was worldly-wise. He could tell that this Miss Qin before him was likely no ordinary person.

Indeed, not many would bat an eye at such a Cultivation price.

But right now, he just needed money and didn't want to deal with unnecessary complications.

This price was already making his conscience prickle.

A cost of two hundred thousand for nearly twenty times the profit.

While for a Beast Tamer who could easily afford this price, it was absolutely a bargain, Su Ping, conducting this kind of business for the first time, still felt somewhat uncomfortable.

After all, becoming a qualified, cold-hearted capitalist also required a certain talent.

Qin Xiaoxue looked at Su Ping with a complicated expression. Her promise, in truth, was of a value that couldn't be measured by a mere three million five hundred thousand, let alone thirty-five million.

However, this very young Beast Tamer had left an extraordinarily unusual impression on her.

Consequently, Qin Xiaoxue found herself irrationally harboring an unrealistic fantasy.

Could he really do it?