

Beast T 141

Chapter 141: Fusion! 3x1 Form! The Little Paper Man's Three Sword Style!_3

Su Ping breathed a sigh of relief.

In his view, Connection Sharing was indeed much more practical than any of the other potentially troublesome rewards. Thanks to Connection Sharing, he now also had the means for more advanced training. The most direct requirements for Evolution were its own Realm and skill level. And Paper Body Joint was clearly a primary requirement for Evolution.

With the effects of the Paperman LV2 Catalog, Su Ping could feel the bond between the three Papermen and himself grow stronger.

Then, Su Ping thought for a moment and directly used Telepathic Communication to command the three Papermen, "Merge! Assume Paper Sword Form!"

This time, it wasn't as complex as before; Su Ping didn't need to spend nearly as much effort.

The three Papermen adeptly began to transform.

This time, each transformed into its respective component, then completed the assembly and joining automatically while Floating in the air.

From beginning to end, it took less than five seconds!

Qian Yi, who was watching from the side, observed its kin transforming. It seemed to understand something instantly, blinking its eyes, full of curiosity and eagerness to try.

Su Ping also glanced at Qian Yi.

Qian Yi was his Pet Beast. Ultimately, the Evolution of the Papermen was primarily intended to serve Qian Yi. This was true for both combat power and experimentation. Therefore, no matter what, the same had to apply to Qian Yi.

But what should Qian Yi assemble into? A sword would undoubtedly be best! Because Su Ping hadn't forgotten that within Qian Yi lay the Sword Soul, born from the combination of the Sword Intent Origin and the Soul Seed. That Sword Soul possessed an incredibly heaven-defying effect. At Peak Command, it would comprehend the Super-Rank Skill: Sword Intent! However, according to the Sword Spirit from that Secret Realm, unless Qian Yi's body Evolved, it wouldn't reach that Realm, nor could it fully utilize the Sword Intent Origin. Nevertheless, there was a problem to consider before the joining! Qian Yi was not an ordinary Paperman! It was a mutated Paperman fused with a Sword Soul. If one had to pinpoint the biggest difference between it and all other Papermen... it wasn't its mutated Skills or Abilities, but the fact that it possessed a soul capable of forming its own consciousness and awareness without needing to be joined! In that case, could Qian Yi still complete the joining?

A hint of contemplation flashed across Su Ping's eyes.

He suddenly realized, why the heck had the Cultivation of his two Pet Beasts become significantly harder after they underwent special Mutations? But regardless, he had to try it first.

With this thought, Su Ping focused his attention and looked towards Qian Yi.

Qian Yi tensed up. "WAAH!?! Is it coming!?"

「An hour later.」

Qian Yi emerged from the loosely joined Paper Swords, reverting to its original form.

The attempt had failed.

Su Ping frowned.

Looking at the Paper Swords formed by Qian Yi and the other two Papermen, Su Ping noted that not only had Qian Yi failed to achieve comprehension and merge into the previous three-in-one Paper Sword state, but even the other two Papermen hadn't comprehended the Racial Skill, Paper Body Joint.

Indeed, his suspicions were correct. The biggest difference between Qian Yi and the other Papermen was that, in essence, it possessed a complete soul. And Paper Body Joint wasn't just the joining of paper bodies; it was also the connection of souls. With such a connection, Qian Yi was like a 4090 graphics card trying to run on an ancient computer—a successful connection was impossible. Even this analogy wasn't sufficient to describe the disparity between them.

Under Su Ping's watchful gaze, the other seven Papermen responded to his mental command and rejoined into the Paper Sword Form.

This fusion wasn't a fixed state. The initial three Papermen could also be joined with the Papermen that later formed the Paper Swords. There was no obstruction whatsoever. Clearly, as long as the Papermen comprehended the Skill 'Paper Body Joint' and acquired the 'Paper Sword Form' within that Skill, they could flawlessly join anytime, anywhere. Ten Papermen, if they wished, could quickly assemble into three Paper Swords.

But the joy from this tremendous discovery gradually faded, overshadowed by the new confusion surrounding Qian Yi, which plunged Su Ping into deep thought.

Su Ping now understood: if possible, he would never choose a Mutated Pet Beast again. He was just making things difficult for himself! It was true that Mutated Pet Beasts, due to their Mutations, had higher potential, a greater ceiling, and even possessed unprecedented, unique Evolutionary Body forms. But damn it, the difficulty was also immense! If it weren't for his own 'cheats,' Su Ping truly doubted he could ensure the smooth Evolution of Xiao Qing and Qian Yi! Even now, this problem had him stumped.

Su Ping was extremely confident about one thing. If this discovery were made public, it would cause a sensation throughout the Dragon Nation. A whole new blue ocean market for Pet Beasts would emerge. The influence it generated might even be greater than that of the Wanmu Wolf! But he wasn't running a charity, after all!

Chapter 142: Fusion! 3x1 Form! The Little Paper Man's Three Sword Style!_4

The research into Papermen was all for the enhancement of his own little Paperman, Qian Yi.

It was clear that Su Ping's contemplation had caused Qian Yi some frustration. The little fellow stared longingly at the distant swords, its expression so eager it was almost comical, yet also somewhat exasperating.

"Alright, alright, Qian Yi might not be able to become a sword, but we can use swords, right? Paper Sword Number One, merge!"

Su Ping cracked a smile. He ultimately couldn't bear to watch the little Paperman struggle for hours with nothing to show for it. At his command, three Papermen in the air transformed into Paper Swords and slowly approached Qian Yi.

Qian Yi's spirits perked up instantly. Such a large sword was much more invigorating to wield than the small dagger at its waist!

Instantly, on the soft ground of the basement, little Paperman Qian Yi let out a cry, grabbed the Paper Sword, and slashed fiercely!

A golden light shone upon the Paper Sword's blade. Simultaneously, the Paper Sword in the little Paperman's hands seemed to become quicker and sharper!

The Fengdu Sword King's Sword Spirit had been right. Bolstered by the Origin Sword Intent, Qian Yi possessed an almost innate control over swords.

It could master any sword instantly. If given the opportunity to learn corresponding Sword Technique Skills, its progress would likely be very swift as well.

However, Su Ping couldn't even find a way to activate the 'Sword Soul Mark' within Qian Yi to obtain the Super-Rank Skill 'Sword Intent.' Moreover, the current progress of research and cultivation was stalled because of the little fellow.

"WAH! (Slash!)"

"WAH! (Stab!)"

"WAH! (Flick!)"

"..."

"WAH! (This is what being a true Swordsman is all about!)"

"WAH! (A strong person won't fall due to a setback; they'll only become stronger!)"

The little Paperman's excitement and passion seemed endless.

Just as it had declared, as long as there was time to train, its Swordsmanship practice and the execution of the Jinge Technique would never stop.

Su Ping rested his chin on his hand, watching Qian Yi practice. As it trained, Qian Yi spoke of Swordsmen, strength, experts, and loneliness, while Su Ping pondered solutions.

But suddenly, Su Ping furrowed his brow as he watched the little Paperman practice its swordsmanship on a training dummy.

It was a training dummy made of Hundred-Forged Fine Steel that Su Ping had custom-ordered for several hundred thousand. Its only purpose was durability, and clearly, it was worth the cost.

Even with the Jinge Technique enhancing its blows, the little Paperman could barely leave a mark on it.

Watching Qian Yi, a peculiar idea seemed to flash through Su Ping's mind.

However, this idea was vague, and for a moment, Su Ping couldn't quite grasp its full implications.

Yet, the sight of Qian Yi's seemingly tireless, perpetual practice made the thoughts and images in Su Ping's mind grow increasingly clear.

And so, Su Ping abruptly turned his head towards the Papermen still in their original positions and commanded:

"Paper Sword Number Two, Paper Sword Number Three, merge!"

SWOOSH! SWOOSH!

The Paperman components rapidly shifted and combined. Before Su Ping's very eyes, they transformed anew into two pale Paper Swords.

"Qian Yi!"

Qian Yi's slashing motion stopped abruptly. Standing only forty centimeters tall and holding a sword of similar size, it looked rather comical. However, Su Ping clearly had no time for such trivialities; the flames of inspiration in his eyes were reigniting.

I've clearly been overthinking this!

What is Qian Yi, really?!

It's the most unique soul born from two Spiritual Level Resources.

A Sword Soul with tremendous potential! That's what allowed it to undergo such a mutation.

But this transformation is definitely not complete!

Trying to make Qian Yi merge and combine with these ordinary Papermen, which are considered the shame of the Necromancy System... wasn't that just me being foolish?!

What Qian Yi should be doing isn't combining with these Papermen, but rather utilizing them in a more advanced way!

Instinctively, Su Ping felt his idea align with the combat methods of using a multitude of Papermen!

These Papermen were different from his Xiao Qing or the Forest Wolf pack.

Currently, although Xiao Qing had undergone a Poison Type mutation and gained the Poison Flower ability, it was trending towards developing a 'Flower Tree Advent,' based on the 'Tree Advent' created by the Wanmu Wolf.

However, Xiao Qing's influence in this process wasn't indispensable, at least not for now.

But Qian Yi was different! Compared to the other Papermen, Qian Yi was irreplaceable!

And now, Su Ping wanted to see if his new idea was correct.

Qian Yi looked up at its master.

And in its master's hands, two more swords had appeared!

"A true Swordsman can wield more swords and face more complex situations and more challenging foes! Qian Yi, do you have the confidence to do this?"

"UWA? (Two swords?)"

Qian Yi lowered its head, glancing at the sword in its hand.

Including this one, was it supposed to wield three swords simultaneously?

The corners of Qian Yi's mouth curled up:

Q(˘v'Q)

The smirking Swordsman Qian Yi murmured softly, a low "Uwa..." under its breath, "Looks like things are finally getting a little challenging..."

Then, under Su Ping's watchful eyes:

Qian Yi's expression changed—it literally changed.

'A.'

On its cheek, the poker face had surprisingly returned.

This little fellow hasn't forgotten that abstract poker face, has it?

What Su Ping hadn't expected was that this little fellow had already unknowingly mastered drawing a spade!

At this very moment, the little Paperman's face was precisely that of an Ace of Spades!

A Swordsman's poker face, huh?

Su Ping also narrowed his eyes slightly and involuntarily held his breath. Then, under his gaze...

Then, before Su Ping could react, Qian Yi directly took the two Paper Swords.

However, the Paper Sword it had been holding fell to the ground.

Evidently, Qian Yi's body was too small. It was already a size smaller than a typical Paperman, and the Paper Swords were assembled from three Papermen, making their blades longer than Qian Yi itself.

Holding two such swords in its small hands simultaneously was out of the question.

However, just as Su Ping was about to suggest taking one Paper Sword back, Qian Yi moved!

Without a second thought, it thrust one of the Paper Swords through its own chest!

The sword pierced straight through its chest. Then, its tip seemed to dull slightly. It was as if this three-in-one Paper Sword understood Qian Yi's intent; the part of the blade embedded in its chest fused and secured itself, connecting firmly with the little Paperman's torso.

Su Ping blinked. He then saw the pierced part of Qian Yi's body directly meld with the Paper Sword, as if they had become one entity.

Evidently, this was a racial advantage of Papermen. Their bodies were made of paper. As long as they could use Paper Body Folding, and provided the paper body wasn't completely torn apart, what would be a grievous injury for an animal-type Pet Beast wasn't even considered a wound for a Paperman.

This time, Qian Yi had all three swords under its control.

Wielding two large swords, with a third Paper Sword piercing its chest, the little Paperman under the Ace of Spades poker face exuded an entirely different aura!

Even Su Ping felt a jolt, like an electric current shooting straight to the crown of his head.

Is this still the same chattering little Paperman I know?

CLANG!

A sudden sword chime, seemingly from nowhere, jolted Su Ping, making him instantly focus his gaze on Qian Yi.

The next moment, the brilliant edge of the Jinge Technique lit up simultaneously on all three of Qian Yi's swords.

And this time, when Qian Yi struck the training dummy before it, the sword left a terrifying, deep gash!

Before Su Ping could fully register his astonishment, a brilliant light burst forth from Qian Yi's body!

It was the glow of skill enlightenment!

Chapter 143: Mutation - Paper Body Control! Qian Yi, the union of man and sword!

The Ace of Spades on the little Paperman's face remained impassive, as if such changes still couldn't affect a swordsman's heart. It was just like the three Paper Swords it firmly grasped, still and unmoving.

For the first time, Su Ping found the Paperman's poker face rather endearing.

The Paperman indeed possessed a natural mastery and an almost instinctive understanding of swordsmanship.

In this peculiar stance, wielding swords in both hands, Qian Yi executed a strike by spinning its body. It used the sword piercing through yet fixed by its body, along with the swords in its hands, to form a circular arc—the Three Sword Style.

After delivering this strike, Qian Yi held the pose.

The next moment, as if quite satisfied with this strike, it sighed softly with its featureless face, "UGH... (This sword, feels so lonely...)"

Su Ping pursed his lips, forcibly suppressing the urge to quip. He did his best to ignore this private display before using the Eye of Truth to examine Qian Yi.

In Su Ping's eyes, this light was dazzling, brilliant. At the same time, it was so captivating.

This signified a momentous change had finally occurred in Qian Yi.

As Su Ping watched, Qian Yi's abilities finally materialized before his Eye of Truth:

[Mutated Paperman (Contracted)]

[Attribute: Metal, Undead]

[Current Level: Common Tenth Level]

[Racial Potential: Elite First Rank]

[Skills: Paper Body Folding (Beginner), Jinge Technique (Perfection), Sword Soul Mark (Special), Accelerated Casting (Proficient Level), Mutated-Paper Body Control (Beginner)]

The breakthrough of Accelerated Casting to Proficient Level couldn't divert Su Ping's attention. Compared to Qian Yi's next skill, Accelerated Casting seemed so trivial it was hardly worth mentioning.

Because this skill was too eye-catching.

[Mutated-Paper Manipulation (Beginner): A special mutated skill derived from the Paperman's 'Paper Body Joint'. It enables perfect control over its own paper body, the separation of its paper, and control over Papermen within a certain range or those it has touched! It also allows for special jointing with any Paperman.]

The skill description was deceptively simple and unpretentious.

It was similar to Xiao Qing's 'Heart of the Poison Wood,' which had mutated and evolved from the 'Heart of Woods'.

It not only encompassed the 'Paper Body Joint' skill itself but also possessed an even more incredible control effect.

In other words, compared to Xiao Qing's relationship with the Forest Wolf pack, Qian Yi was now the absolute monarch among the Papermen! It was the true 'head'—the leader.

How interesting!

Breeding Pet Beasts is just too fascinating!

Su Ping watched Qian Yi with great enthusiasm.

At that moment, Qian Yi also seemed to be sensing the power it had comprehended. The Paper Swords in its hands seemed even easier to command at this moment. Any of its intentions, even under such circumstances, could be more thoroughly understood and executed by the Paper Swords it wielded.

At this moment, in Qian Yi's perception, to use the terminology from those martial arts movies it had seen: This was 'Man and Sword as One'!

The little Paperman muttered to itself in bewilderment, "UGH... (Have I become this strong...)"

The next moment, Qian Yi moved. Around the training dummy in the basement, CLINKING and CLANKING sounds rang out. Every strike left a faint sword mark on the dummy.

Su Ping intently watched Qian Yi's every move.

The mutated Paper Body Control could very well be crucial to Qian Yi's evolution!

That was certain.

So, what were the prerequisites for evolution?

Based on Qian Yi's current foundation, Su Ping considered several factors: the consolidation of resources from the Metal Element and Necromancy Series, the improvement of its own Realm, and, possibly most importantly, the skill level of this Paper Manipulation.

Su Ping scratched his head.

Xiao Qing's Heart of the Poison Wood, when linked with the regular Forest Wolves' Heart of Woods through the Shared Connection in the Forest Wolf Catalog, experienced an increased skill enhancement speed.

But would Qian Yi's Paper Body Control, if linked with other Papermen's Paper Body Joint through the Origami Man Record, also experience an increased rate of improvement?

Su Ping didn't know, but he was certain that ten Papermen were far from enough! To train Qian Yi's Paper Body Control quickly, he needed even more Papermen!

The only drawback was that the Shared Connection limit was common to both the Forest Wolf Catalog and the Origami Man Record.

However, fortunately, the cultivation of Forest Wolves had recently hit a bottleneck. Most of the initial Forest Wolves' skills had reached Proficient Level, and some had even broken through to Mastery Level. At such levels, even with the boost from the Shared Connection, advancing to Perfection would not be easy.

Moreover, it was time for Su Ping's cultivation focus to shift to the little Papermen.

The reason was simple. Although Xiao Qing hadn't evolved and hadn't even found a path or direction for evolution, Xiao Qing's race limit had reached the formidable Third-Rank Commander. It still had a long way to improve.

But Qian Yi is already nearing the limit of its race limit. If it doesn't evolve, it will significantly hinder Su Ping's growth rate.

As he was thinking, a sharp cry erupted before him!

"UGH! (Finisher!)"

The Paperman suddenly retreated. Then, the Paper Sword in its hand unexpectedly flew from its grasp, crossing over ten meters like a hidden weapon thrown by a martial arts expert from the movies.

The Paper Sword struck the dummy unerringly.

A crisp, clear STRIKE echoed!

Then, the tough, refined steel dummy was actually pierced through the throat by that Paper Sword.

Su Ping pursed his lips. He suddenly felt he might have truly created an extraordinary new Pet Beast.

This new Pet Beast might even be more incredible than the 'Sword Soul' that the Fengdu Sword King had been so fixated on creating.

「That night.」

Su Ping slept especially soundly. He actually had another dream.

Perhaps it was because, after so many days of nurturing the Paperman, such terrifying improvements and progress had finally been made, leading to his thoughts by day becoming dreams by night.

Or perhaps the impact of the so-called 'finisher' unleashed by the Paperman had simply been too overwhelming for him.

This was despite the Paperman fainting from energy exhaustion immediately after that strike. Simultaneously, the nine Papermen forming the Paper Sword Form went completely limp, unable to maintain the shape any longer.

Yet, Su Ping's dream remained exceptionally vivid.

The style of this dream didn't match the world he was in; he even dreamed he had transmigrated again.

Before him stood an immortal in white robes, floating above the Nine Heavens. Particularly noteworthy was his stance atop a long sword—clearly a Sword Immortal employing a flying sword technique. But what was more terrifying was that with just a few hand seals from this Sword Immortal, a multitude of flying swords shot out from behind him, beheading enemies thousands of miles away as easily as reaching into a bag to grab something.

Unfortunately, in this scene where the Sword Immortal should have gracefully departed, Su Ping saw that the Sword Immortal didn't have a human face, but a sinister Ace of Hearts! And it was accompanied by a crisp 'UGH'!

Even the 'flying swords' eventually transformed into paper swords.

Besides these, amidst his heightened mental state, Su Ping also dreamed of other scattered scenes. There was something about a man wielding a pink sword spouting nonsense about 'Bankai.' And something about a blond-haired, red-eyed man, wreathed in a golden aura, disdainfully uttering words like 'mongrel' or some other incomprehensible things.

There were too many varied images. So, he slept deeply, and his dreams were equally muddled.

「The next morning.」

Su Ping sat at the dining table, munching on a steamed bun. Beside him lay the legacy left by the Fengdu Sword King.

He had mentally mastered the creation of the Sword Soul, but it was useless for now. Soul Seeds and Sword Intent Origins weren't easily obtainable either.

What he was currently examining was, in fact, the true core of the Fengdu Sword King's legacy. To understand it better, Su Ping had even gone online to do some research.

He learned about a famous Marquis Level Beast Tamer from the Liang Dynasty, several hundred years ago. The Marquis Level is now known as the Emperor Level. However, in ancient times, the word 'Emperor' was exclusively used by the supreme ruler and was naturally taboo. It was only in modern times that the Marquis Level was renamed the Emperor Level. Pet Beasts at this tier are emperors among their kind, and Beast Tamers of this rank are considered kings in society, hence 'Emperor Level'.

The book he was reading contained some of Yu Liangqing, the Fengdu Sword King's, unique skill cultivation methods. All were Swordsmanship-related skills applicable to Sword Type Pet Beasts.

Although he couldn't directly train Qian Yi, the Paperman, with these, he could still draw insights and perhaps find some inspiration.

Su Ping read intently. Guan Qianshan, currently the only person able to dine with him in the Heart of Woods' private dining room, watched his serious expression.

Eventually, Guan Qianshan couldn't hold back any longer, "Xiao Ping!"

"Hmm?" Su Ping's cheeks were bulging with food as he looked at Lao Guan, who had spoken.

"Well... Lili came today. She's at the resort right now. The girl brought a few classmates to have some fun, and by the way..."

Su Ping paused, then a smile spread across his face as he remembered something, "Alright. Has your daughter formed a contract with a Forest Wolf yet?"

Lao Guan finally breathed a sigh of relief, "She has, she has! The girl is very obedient, and she really likes the Forest Wolf."

Su Ping nodded, unconcerned, and turned his gaze back to the Sword King's legacy in his hand. "Good. Have Lili come over later. She can stay here, and I'll help her cultivate the 'Heart of Woods'!"

Although with Yun Tian's legacy, the staffing situation was relatively less strained, Su Ping had given his word and naturally wouldn't go back on it.

Lao Guan chuckled.

Parents who love their children always plan far ahead for them. If it weren't for his own daughter, he wouldn't have swallowed his pride to ask Su Ping. Over this period, he had truly and deeply understood how powerful the 'Heart of Woods' skill was and its excellent compatibility with the Forest Wolf!

Not long after, Su Ping saw Guan Lili, Uncle Guan's daughter.

Unfortunately, the circumstances of their meeting were somewhat unexpected.

"Quick, someone fell into the water! There are monsters in the water!"

A sharp voice cried out as someone rushed over from the direction of the Lingxi River, attracting the attention of everyone at the Heart of Woods service base.

Chapter 144: The Monster in the Water, Su Ping the Protector!

Outside the large medical room of the Heart of Woods Pet Beast Base.

Su Ping's eyebrows were slightly furrowed.

The Heart of Woods had just connected to the Yuntian Resort, and now this trouble had arisen.

Guan Qianshan's face turned red with anger as he scolded a sweet-looking girl with glasses, "I've told you not to come to the Lingxi River area, why wouldn't you listen?"

Su Ping glanced at the girl whose eyes were red-rimmed, teardrops falling like golden beans, and then at the few similarly aged, helpless-looking teenagers standing beside her. He shook his head with a sigh and then turned to the medical Beast Tamer beside them.

The latter immediately understood and hastily said, "Boss, the Beast Tamer is all right, just some water in his lungs. He coughed out most of it and will recover soon. However, the condition of the Pet Beast, the Back-Stone Turtle, is not very good. It has a wound on its neck, and the shell is slightly cracked. Even if it heals, it will probably need a long time to recover."

Su Ping nodded. It was fortunate that it had been discovered quickly and treated in time; there should be no loss of life. Otherwise, while it wouldn't directly involve Su Ping or affect the Heart of Woods' operations, it would still reflect poorly on them.

Only then did Su Ping turn to the young men and women who stood there like schoolchildren being scolded, and stopped Guan Qianshan's admonishment, saying, "Tell me, what exactly happened?"

Obviously, they all saw and heard the title the Beast Tamer providing treatment had used, and Lao Guan's attitude towards him.

It seemed none of them had expected that this young person, who looked to be their age, was actually the owner of this place.

The fair-skinned Guan Lili, wearing glasses, hadn't spoken yet when a girl next to her interjected, obviously feeling more aggrieved and frightened at the moment, "How do you even run this Pet Beast Base? Don't you know there are aggressive Pet Beasts in the river?"

Su Ping's brows furrowed slightly, his gaze somewhat displeased.

Another young man beside her quickly said, "A few of us heard that this Pet Beast Base was connected to the Lingxi River, so we went fishing to see who could catch more. Then, Lu Xiao wanted to cheat, secretly letting his Back-Stone Turtle into the water to catch fish and shrimp to put on his hook.

"Then... then... Lu Xiao suddenly screamed and jumped right into the river from the shore.

"When people came to rescue him, Lu Xiao was unconscious, and the Back-Stone Turtle was seriously injured. There was blood in the water and a dark shadow..."

So it really was an attack?

There were definitely Pet Beasts in the Lingxi River, but I didn't expect my luck to be so bad as to actually encounter an aggressive one.

However, as these thoughts crossed Su Ping's mind, his expression remained unchanged, and he said calmly, "Although the Lingxi River area does indeed belong to our Cultivation Base, the path leading to the riverbanks has been sealed and marked with a prohibition sign! All outside visitors are forbidden from going there!"

The path leading to Lingxi River, especially from the Yuntian Resort side, had indeed been opened, but the main reason was the need for renovations after the land deed had been obtained. Su Ping planned to introduce river water to create a large, in-house artificial lake near Lingxi River behind Yuntian Resort, to breed aquatic Pet Beasts for the future industrial development of the Heart of Woods. Another plan was to build a bridge over Lingxi River to reach the hill behind, which was the intended scope of the botanical garden Su Ping had planned. Even though there wasn't enough money at the moment, the roads still needed to be developed.

Therefore, this area had always been under construction, with preparations underway for the road and the early stages of excavation work. At the same time, numerous signs warning against approaching the construction site and highlighting the dangers by the riverbank had also been posted.

So, these reckless brats, who likely had never experienced the dangers of wild Pet Beasts and were sheltered like greenhouse flowers... Even if they really did get bitten to death, it wouldn't have much to do with us. At most, we'd be blamed for lax supervision and have to pay some compensation, and that would be it.

Of course, for Su Ping and the Heart of Woods at present, paying any amount of money was a significant loss.

However, seemingly noticing Guan Lili being continuously scolded, the young man spoke up again, "Also, Lili didn't go fishing with us. She said her dad needed her for something today, so it was us who sneaked out this morning. Uncle, please don't blame her."

Upon hearing this, Guan Qianshan let out a sigh and then said to Su Ping, "Xiao Ping, this is my fault..."

Before he could finish, a clamorous voice came from the not-too-distant corridor, "Where's my son! Where is my son! What kind of shoddy place is this that can't even keep an eye on a child..."

The noisy commotion made Su Ping's brows furrow quickly. He gave Lao Guan a look. Lao Guan understood and took the initiative to intercept them.

After that, Su Ping turned to Guan Lili and the others and asked directly, "Did you get a clear look at what exactly it was under the water?"

Normally, Lingxi River connected to West Dragon Lake. Whether on West Dragon Lake itself, the Eastern Sea entrance connected to West Dragon Lake, or the inflow from Lingxi River into West Dragon Lake, Beast Tamer Legions were stationed. The Navy Beast Tamer Legion had the strongest patrol force. Great effort had been invested to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that powerful Ferocious Beasts from the ocean did not enter Dragon Nation through the rivers.

So generally speaking, even if there were Pet Beasts attacking underwater, they wouldn't be inherently very strong, because the truly powerful ones couldn't get past West Dragon Lake.

But Su Ping had to take this matter seriously. Just as he'd planned, Su Ping wanted to create an artificial lake in the vast open space connecting Yuntian Resort and Lingxi River. This would require excavating the river channel, so it was crucial to eliminate any potential dangers beforehand.

The group glanced at each other. Guan Lili hadn't gone, so she obviously didn't know. It was still the young man who had spoken earlier; he thought for a moment and then said, "It seemed like a fish, pitch-black, over a meter long, but as to what kind of Pet Beast it actually was... we didn't get a clear view..."

That's as good as saying nothing, isn't it?

Aquatic Pet Beasts were predominantly fish. Could it be that a bird or an Insect-type Beast bit the turtle?

Su Ping's brow furrowed. He suddenly felt somewhat overwhelmed.

Neither the Paperman nor Old Sha could fight in that river, and Su Ping couldn't possibly let them take such a risk.

It looked like I'd have to seek external help again. But would it be appropriate to bother Old Qin again over such a trivial matter? After all, he was the dignified president of the Beast Master Association, one of the figures at the pinnacle of Jianghai Province. It seemed a bit much for him to be constantly dealing with the trivial matters of a junior like me. This was quite different from the last Secret Realm exploration, after all.

Su Ping rubbed his temples with some distress.

In that case, I could either ask Sun Chaoju or those Breeders I met at the Breeder Association if they knew any powerful Water Element Beast Tamers. Or I could directly approach companies that offer such services and pay them to handle it.

However, Su Ping was currently so frugal he wished he could split every penny. Spending money to hire someone for cleanup again could cost hundreds of thousands, possibly even millions. It was a well-known fact: while not directly impacting common livelihoods, any business involving Pet Beasts was never cheap.

Su Ping was distressed, but clearly, there was nothing he could do.

Some money just had to be spent.

However, just then, a crisp SNAP broke Su Ping's ruminations.

At the same time, Guan Lili exclaimed in front of him, "Dad!"

Su Ping turned his head abruptly and saw Lao Guan in the corridor, his face flushed, with an extremely clear slap mark on his cheek.

Bright red like blood.

The force of the slap had been so strong it made him stagger and fall to the ground.

Guan Lili had already run over and hurriedly helped her dad up, "Dad, are you all right?"

Guan Qianshan didn't seem angry. He waved his hand dismissively but looked even more anxiously towards Su Ping.

Sure enough, Su Ping's expression had turned pitch black.

Guan Qianshan did not pay attention to the couple behind him and walked up to meet Su Ping, who was coming forward, "Xiao Ping, let it go. They're angry, and we are indeed somewhat at fault here."

Su Ping gave him an odd look. Why are **we** at fault? He'd just heard their account: those graduating students had sneaked out, bypassed surveillance, ignored the warning signs, and insisted on fishing by the Lingxi River. Now that something had happened, what did it have to do with his base? Was his Cultivation Base supposed to assign a dedicated attendant to them? If that's the case, there's no point in doing business anymore. After their Beast Taming Talent is awakened upon graduation, they are considered adults on Blue Star. Adults must be responsible for their actions; that's basic common sense. Legally and morally, it had nothing to do with his base. And now, just because they were angry, they could hit someone?

Clearly, the couple was indeed furious. With Guan Qianshan trying to block Su Ping, they strode towards him menacingly.

The woman said directly, "So you're the one in charge here! You better give me an explanation today..."

"Was it you who just hit someone?" Su Ping interrupted.

The woman was startled. Looking at Su Ping who interrupted her, her elaborately drawn eyebrows furrowed, "My son..."

"Even if your son died, it has nothing to do with the Heart of Woods. Now, I'm asking you: was it you who hit him?!"

Su Ping generally had a good temper. His personality was also considered amiable. For instance, when Zhou Shuchen had provoked him, it was just youthful rivalry that caused no real harm. Su Ping hadn't truly held it against him; a little ego-deflating to show him there were always stronger people out there was enough. Similarly, when Sun Chaoju initially acted arrogantly but later recognized Su Ping's talent and willingly humbled himself to befriend Su Ping, Su Ping hadn't put on airs either, letting bygones be bygones over a drink.

But Su Ping had one particular trait: he was someone who tended to be protective of his own people.

Perhaps influenced by Su Ping's tone, the woman's cheeks flushed red.

And it was clear that Su Ping had already gotten his answer. He turned to the man beside her who had remained silent and said, "Your wife hit someone. I'm not an unreasonable person, but so many people are watching. So, have your wife apologize right now, and we can discuss this matter privately later."

"You little brat! My son had an accident at your place and you want me to apologize to you?" The woman was furious.

Su Ping, however, was still looking at the man who hadn't spoken.

The man didn't respond, but a hint of disdain flashed in his eyes. He seemed to have no intention of engaging with Su Ping, a mere child, nor did he care about the commotion. His primary concern was clearly his son Lu Xiao's condition.

Meanwhile, Guan Lili gently tugged at Su Ping's sleeve and whispered, "Brother, let's just let it go, Lu Xiao's family..."

She didn't continue, but the implications were clear.

Come to think of it, that Back-Stone Turtle was a Pet Beast of a special race with Racial Potential reaching Peak Command; it was also a Dual-type Pet Beast of water and earth. Its value was even higher than Zhou Shuchen's Crimson Fang Tiger. A family that could provide such a creature as an initial Pet Beast for their graduating son was certainly no ordinary one.

Clearly, the woman also noticed Guan Lili's hesitance and scoffed.

Just then, suddenly, from outside the door, a voice tinged with amusement spoke up, "Little Brother Su, it seems you've encountered some trouble?"

Su Ping turned his head. A figure had already walked in from outside.

Jet black hair, a stunningly enchanting face, and those distinctive red lips that were deeply ingrained in his memory.

Who could it be if not Dong MUYUN?

Chapter 145: Racial Degeneration? Cultivation of Forest Wolf and Elf Wolf!

Su Ping's gaze shifted from the two people before him. With a bewildered expression, he looked at the suddenly appeared Dong MUYUN.

"What are you doing here?"

Dong MUYUN's fox-like eyes held a smile Su Ping had never seen before. "Listen to you! I have an exclusive room here, you know. I can come back whenever I want. We agreed on this from the beginning!"

They indeed had an agreement. Previously, during the handover, she had said that the topmost room would remain hers to use indefinitely. But you're not some idle loafer! You're Queen Dong of Tianyun Group! Don't you have work to do?

However, these words, these questions, were clearly not for this moment. And just as clearly, some present didn't want to see them continue their conversation.

"I said, what exactly is the situation with my son? How do you plan to take responsibility?"

Su Ping's gaze returned to the woman, whose expression was also unpleasant. The fact that Su Ping still had the mood to 'banter and flirt' at a time like this clearly made her extremely impatient.

The man beside her, however, had his gaze fixed on Dong Muyun ever since she appeared. Despite his seemingly respectable facade, an uncontrollable streak of greed seemed to flicker within him.

Before Su Ping could speak, Dong Muyun chuckled. "Alright, what's the point of wasting time showing off and humbling such insignificant people? Leave it to the staff. Don't worry; Lao Guan was one of my subordinates, after all. He won't be treated unfairly. I came to find you today because I genuinely have serious business to discuss."

From start to finish, Dong Muyun's gaze hadn't lingered for even a moment on the couple, or indeed on anyone other than Su Ping.

Su Ping slowly exhaled, the rising anger within him gently subsiding.

The couple before him, however, looked slightly startled, as if they hadn't quite processed the turn of events. They stared at Dong Muyun with uncertainty. Even the woman's gaze was fixed on her; clearly, Dong Muyun's casual dismissal of them as 'insignificant people' had wounded her pride.

Dong Muyun, however, paid them no mind. As she herself had said, as a direct daughter of the Jianghai Dong Family, she understood the rules of this world and its cold, hard class divisions better than anyone. To her, getting angry, or even wasting an extra breath on such trivial matters and insignificant people, was a waste of time. People like her were long accustomed to standing on high, observing the world from their lofty perspective. This way of looking down on others wasn't like how humans view ants; it

was an absolute, clear-eyed understanding of her own position. This was the inherent quality cultivated in a direct heir of a 'Saint-level' Family.

Su Ping couldn't quite grasp this feeling, nor did he particularly want to. But Dong MUYUN was right about one thing: this matter indeed didn't require his personal attention. It wasn't worth calling in favors for such a petty issue.

And indeed, it proved to be so.

A figure slowly stepped out from behind Dong MUYUN. It was another woman, with blonde hair and black-rimmed glasses. She wasn't strikingly beautiful but possessed an air of indescribable competence.

"Director, Young Master Su, please leave this to me."

Su Ping was momentarily taken aback, but before he could react, a fragrant breeze enveloped him as Dong MUYUN put her arm around his shoulder, saying cheerfully, "Alright, alright, let's go!"

Somewhat speechless, Su Ping could only follow her into the private elevator heading to the top floor. However, glancing back briefly before the doors closed, he saw that in that short instant, SMACK!

The man, who moments before had worn a composed and haughty expression as if disdainful of everything, now had a distorted face. He slapped the woman beside him, then turned to Lao Guan with a subservient smile never seen on him before.

Neither Dong MUYUN nor the blonde, bespectacled secretary showed any change in their utterly tranquil expressions, as if they had anticipated everything. Not the slightest flicker of attention or emotion betrayed them.

A strange, indescribable feeling suddenly arose in Su Ping's heart. This feeling made him realize, as if only at that moment, that he was becoming somewhat different from ordinary people. Yet, Su Ping didn't understand what this feeling meant. So, when he sat down on the sofa in Dong MUYUN's vast office, he was still pondering it.

Seeing Su Ping lost in thought, Dong MUYUN smiled faintly. "What's wrong? Still dwelling on that trivial matter? How about this: I'll have that couple brought up here. I'll tell them, right to their faces, exactly who you, Su Ping, are.

"You're the Breeder Association's soon-to-be youngest Senior Breeder! You're the favored junior of President Qin from the Beast Master Association! You're also the business partner I, Dong MUYUN, value most!

"You're a Beast Tamer and Breeder with immeasurable prospects! Want me to call President Qin over?

"Then, we can have that shrewish woman wail and sob, and that clueless man kneel before you and Lao Guan to apologize.

"If that still doesn't appease your anger, go ahead and kill their seriously injured son. Don't worry. Forget President Qin; with me here, not a whisper of this will get out. Even the couple themselves wouldn't dare make a fuss."

Chapter 146: Racial Degeneration? Cultivation of Forest Wolf and Elf Wolf!_2

Because they knew if they dared to make the slightest noise, or even reveal your name or my name, they wouldn't leave a single trace of their existence in this world.

How about it? Does that satisfy you?"

Su Ping let out a helpless grin.

He absolutely believed that Dong MUYUN could do everything she said.

But he also knew it wasn't necessary.

Dong MUYUN's smile faded, and she didn't sit down. Instead, she stood before the enormous, wrap-around floor-to-ceiling window, just as before, calmly observing the world.

"Su Ping, I'm truly envious of you, and I admire you. You possess such talent that you rose from the ranks of ordinary Beast Tamers, and you might even advance further in the future. So, I also want to tell you that in this world, people are different. You must learn to adapt to these differences, not enjoy them. And you have to strive to harness these differences."

In a past life, there were some very famous aphorisms or lines of poetry.

'Are kings, dukes, generals, and ministers destined to be so by birth?'

'Royal treasuries burn to ash, and noble bones trampled in the streets...'

Sentences like these are endless.

However, in this traversed world of Beast Tamers, although it's said that ordinary Beast Tamers might still have a day to stand out due to assessments and strong Beast Taming Talents, in reality, the class barriers and solidification are much more exaggerated than in the past life.

Not to mention anything else, any transaction value related to the Pet Beast industry is astronomical. This is the most direct class barrier.

An average family, after a year of hard work without eating or drinking, might only save up one or two hundred thousand at most—and that's being generous.

But just to cultivate a Pet Beast, considering the success rate, costs millions, and cultivating Skills on a Pet Beast offers only limited combat enhancement.

This is enough to show that for ordinary Beast Tamer families, it is very difficult to carve out a future on the path of Beast Taming.

Dong Muyun mentioned this lightly because she believed Su Ping, with his cunning, would be able to think things through.

So, Dong Muyun suddenly turned around, that indifferent demeanor she had previously shown the world instantly transformed into a warm smile,

"Let's discuss our collaboration, shall we?"

Su Ping slowly emerged from his previous contemplation.

Looking at Dong Muyun, whose demeanor changed so swiftly it caught him off guard, he found it hard to pinpoint which of her personas was the real one.

When he thought about it like this, Qin Xiaoxue's straightforward nature seemed much easier to get along with.

"What kind of collaboration? Hasn't the Secret Realm already collapsed?"

Dong Muyun chuckled,

"I have high hopes for you, so I'd like to invest in you! Tianyun is willing to commit one billion yuan in exchange for forty-nine percent of the shares in Heart of Woods. How does that sound?"

Su Ping frowned decisively,

"I won't sell shares in Heart of Woods."

Su Ping indeed was in dire need of cash; what Heart of Woods needed most right now was money!

Renovations cost money, digging lakes costs money, creating a botanical garden costs money, perfecting the various Species Pet Beasts for each zone costs money, and building his own professional Advanced Level laboratory costs money.

All those different types of laboratory equipment cost money, and the vast amount of resources needed in the future to attempt the Evolution of Xiao Qing, Paperman, and others also cost money!

Without money, he couldn't do anything.

But selling shares was out of the question.

Heart of Woods was passed down by his old man; how could he sell it to others?

Never mind that Dong Muyun only wanted a mere forty-nine percent, ostensibly leaving Su Ping in complete control—who knows what the future holds?

And really, one billion yuan was just too cheap.

Dong Muyun wasn't surprised by Su Ping's outright rejection.

She smirked cunningly,

"That's the investment value assessed by Tianyun's board of directors and evaluation team. Of course, I haven't told them about the Wanmu Wolf! Heh heh."

After a pause, Dong Muyun continued,

"I plan to invest one hundred million yuan in Heart of Woods under my own name for a one percent share. In addition, I won't interfere with or pry into the Pet Beast Cultivation formulas, Evolution formulas, or similar matters, nor will I try to manage them. I'll only be responsible for profit sharing. Furthermore, I'll use my capabilities to help resolve any manageable troubles.

Also, if you ever want to buy it back, you'll have the right of first refusal, and the repurchase price won't exceed two hundred million yuan! How does that sound?"

Huh?!

Su Ping blinked.

Well, it goes without saying that he could never agree to the initial harsh conditions.

But Dong Muyun's current proposal...

One percent share? It wasn't nothing, but it was practically negligible. And Su Ping understood her intention: tying their interests together was the most direct approach.

Although one hundred million yuan was a drop in the bucket for the current Heart of Woods, it could certainly alleviate many pressing needs.

Clearly, the most important part of this offer wasn't the money!

After all, should he wish to buy it back later, he would retain the right of first refusal.

So, was this woman actually offering money to form an alliance of mutual interest with him through this investment?

"What kind of trouble can you solve?"

Su Ping looked curiously at the woman.

Dong Muyun gave a slight smile; she knew Su Ping would be tempted by such excellent conditions.

Chapter 147: Racial Degeneration? Cultivation of Forest Wolf and Elf Wolf!_3

She did not make empty promises but used an example that was readily available:

"For instance, the dangerous Pet Beast that might exist in the Lingxi River!"

Su Ping gave her a suspicious glance. Could this woman have deliberately 'poisoned' the water for such a reason?

But he didn't voice this thought aloud. That would be too cynical of me, he considered.

Ultimately, Su Ping did not reject Dong Muyun's kindness again.

He understood that Dong Muyun was also investing in his talent. In fact, she wouldn't care the slightest about a one percent share of the Heart of Woods.

Let alone now, if the monthly profit, after deducting expenses, could leave a million or so, that would be quite good. And a million in dividends would only amount to ten thousand.

As the Chairwoman of Tianyun Group, Dong Muyun controlled fixed assets worth hundreds of billions or even more. In terms of cash flow, she could easily overwhelm a mere Heart of Woods.

However, Dong Muyun's involvement could indeed quietly solve many troubles behind the scenes.

For one thing, if she had gone to Linzhou to purchase the land deed, having Tianyun Group's Chairwoman Dong Muyun as a shareholder would likely have significantly reduced the purchase price.

That was the type of help she could provide on an official level. And, as in the current situation, she could quickly resolve troubles related to Pet Beasts as well.

Even access to intelligence and special resources could be considered a channel she could provide.

For Su Ping, naturally, the more such channels and connections, the better.

Beyond that, Dong Muyun also brought Su Ping help he hadn't anticipated.

After the contract was signed, Dong Muyun nodded with a smile and handed over a bank card.

"Here is one hundred million. You can transfer it to the Heart of Woods' account, and in the future, deposit my dividends into this card too," she said.

Su Ping nodded without much concern. However, Dong Muyun wasn't finished. She took out a small file folder from her bosom and handed it to Su Ping.

The folder still retained the woman's body heat and a faint, delicate fragrance.

Su Ping, however, kept his composure, not daring to entertain any distracting thoughts, and was somewhat inexplicably bewildered by the folder.

"This is..."

"I know you possess an uncommon Cultivation Talent, capable of developing the Evolution channel for the Wanmu Wolf, and you specialize as a Beast Tamer for Forest Wolves!

However, since you specialize, you should delve even deeper! Inside are the complete and perfected Evolution plans for the Forest Wolf's Forest Wolf and Elf Wolf."

As Dong Muyun spoke, a gleam of irrepressible excitement burst forth from the depths of Su Ping's eyes, his gaze filled with eagerness.

Dong Muyun cast a slightly resentful glance at this unromantic young brat.

And here I went to the trouble of preparing all this so thoughtfully, she mused.

However, perhaps it's precisely because of such focused determination that he has been able to progress so far in Pet Beast Cultivation?

Su Ping, of course, was oblivious to Dong Muyun's thoughts at that moment; his entire attention was on the two documents in front of him.

The Forest Wolf and the Elf Wolf.

These two were currently the most popular Evolutionary Bodies of the Forest Wolf on the market.

Especially the Forest Wolf. It was a direct Evolution of the Forest Wolf that further strengthened its Abilities. Although the improvement wasn't substantial, it was at least officially recognized as having evolved.

As the most popular Evolutionary Body, its acquisition wasn't particularly difficult.

Some Beast Tamers specializing in Forest Wolves were exceptionally adept at mastering it, including ones like Sun Chaoju.

However, while they had mastered it, they couldn't reveal it to just anyone.

Their Cultivation methods were mostly acquired through exchanges for Points within the Breeder Association.

And the number of Points required was not small.

I was planning to take out some research results, submit them to the Breeder Association to exchange for a large number of Points, and then get these two Evolutionary Bodies, Su Ping had been thinking.

Yes, I did consider exchanging for them, Su Ping affirmed to himself.

Although the Wanmu Wolf is truly excellent, far exceeding my expectations, the Forest Wolf and Elf Wolf, as standard popular Evolutionary Bodies, definitely have their merits, he considered.

Moreover, my goal is to strengthen in two directions: the wolf pack and the Wood Element.

Within the wolf pack, I can't just have the Wanmu Wolf as the only Evolutionary Body; a diverse wolf pack would have a mutually enhancing effect.

And for the Wood Element, using the 'Forest Torrent' battlefield strategy could greatly improve the combat capability of Plant-type Pet Beasts within it.

I naturally want to capitalize on my advantages, Su Ping thought.

However, I haven't decided which Plant-type Pet Beasts to focus on cultivating in the future, and there's no rush for now.

For now, the Luozisong (Pine) seems pretty good.

Still, I'm not very familiar with Plant-type Pet Beasts. When I have time, I can visit the Pet Beast market and the Breeder Association to look around properly and see if there are any suitable ones to bring home and try raising, he mused.

And now, the Cultivation and Evolution methods for the Forest Wolf and Elf Wolf had just been given to Su Ping by Dong Muyun.

Su Ping paid no mind to the fact that he was still in Dong Muyun's office.

He hurriedly opened the documents and looked at the contents:

"The Forest Wolf is the basic Evolutionary Body of the Forest Wolf, the longest-existing Evolutionary Body of the Forest Wolf, and it is also the first choice for optimizing the Forest Wolf Race!"

Chapter 148: Racial Degeneration? Cultivation of Forest Wolf and Elf Wolf!_4

Species optimization?

Su Ping slightly narrowed his eyes.

He had come across this term before while studying the educational materials from the Breeder Association.

However, this was essentially not closely related to the work of Beast Tamers and Breeders; it was a change that occurred over a long period.

I wonder how many years ago—perhaps a few hundred or even thousands—today's Forest Wolves were not so numerous! Instead, there was a Pet Beast called the Wood Wolf. It was a very basic Wood Element Wolf Pet, possessing only the Racial Potential of an ordinary peak species, making it a considerably Low-level Pet Beast. And the Forest Wolf was actually an Evolutionary Body of the Wood Wolf! Of course, this also seemed somewhat discernible from their names. So, the Forest Wolf was the species optimization after the initial Evolution of the Wood Wolf. After the Wood Wolf evolved into the Forest Wolf, the progeny born from Forest Wolves were new Forest Wolves.

Of course, in ancient times, such probabilities might have been lower because a generation of evolved Forest Wolves had a greater chance of producing Wood Wolves with relatively better aptitude. Only when the evolutionary bloodline was more concentrated was there a chance for the direct birth of Forest Wolf offspring. Therefore, even in modern society, offspring produced by Forest Wolves occasionally show atavism, reverting from Forest Wolves to Wood Wolves. This is the most compelling evidence supporting this deduction.

The Forest Wolf, as a further Evolutionary Body of the Forest Wolf, with its relatively simple and unadorned Evolution and its widespread appeal—it's possible similar situations might occur in the future. This could lead to Forest Wolves breeding among themselves to produce new Forest Wolves, causing the original Forest Wolves to become increasingly scarce. This is called species optimization. It's a likely occurrence with the passage of time.

However, this suddenly gave Su Ping some ideas.

Those inherently powerful Pet Beasts, Pet Beasts with a high race limit, like the so-called Life Ancient Tree—could it be that long ago, they too were other Low-Level Pets that evolved and then underwent

lengthy species optimization to become what they are now? So, could it be that some initial atavistic, degenerated forms of powerful races have actually disappeared over the long expanse of time? The history recorded in the civilization of Beast Tamers, even for the oldest Dragon Nation, doesn't reach tens of thousands of years. Yet, the time that Living Beings have existed on Blue Star is an unimaginably vast number. It could easily be in the hundreds of millions of years.

If...

Thinking this, Su Ping blinked, his interest genuinely piqued.

If there were a way to cause powerful Pet Beasts to degenerate to their basic race, and from that foundation, either allow them to breed anew or explore other research angles to unearth different evolutionary branches... wouldn't this mean one could develop even more, perhaps unprecedented, species of Pet Beasts and entirely new Evolutionary Bodies?

The answer to this is almost certainly affirmative. Some ancient Pet Beasts, in their Evolution over countless eons, were influenced by the environment, underwent subtle and gradual Evolution, or experienced survival of the fittest. However, Evolution driven by the environment can only be said to be best suited for survival in that specific environment, not necessarily the strongest or most laden with potential!

Take the Forest Wolf as an example. After a Forest Wolf evolves into a Forest Wolf, it naturally still has a chance to evolve into the Wanmu Wolf. However, it has absolutely no chance of transforming into an Elf Wolf of the same level, because their race limit is the same: Commander-Level Peak.

So, for the Elf Wolf, whose Evolution focuses mainly on the Life Series and partial Elementalization—even though its direct combat strength might be less than the Forest Wolf's, can one say its potential and utility are lower?

No! In fact, because of its Life Series healing abilities, the Elf Wolf could be even more useful. However, compared to the Forest Wolf, the Elf Wolf has a higher difficulty in Evolution. Furthermore, its primary abilities lie in life-healing, making its survival and overall combat effectiveness in the wild inferior to the Forest Wolf. Therefore, it is not adapted to the survival environment of Pet Beasts in the wild.

Su Ping believed that the examples of the Forest Wolf and the Elf Wolf were definitely not unique. In those distant Ancient Times, throughout the long history of Pet Beast development, there were undoubtedly many similar weak Pet Beasts that completed their Evolution under the natural laws of survival of the fittest.

It remains the eternal maxim and truth of the Breeder world:

The weaker the Pet Beast, the more infinite its potential. The lower the tier of the Pet Beast, the more diverse its Evolution!

There are no truly useless Pet Beasts, only Breeders who have yet to unearth their potential.

So, if one wants to take this as a subject and study these possibly existent degenerated ancient species—brand new, ancient Pet Beast basic juveniles unrecorded in history—then degeneration is, paradoxically, what needs to be researched. But how can a Pet Beast's degeneration be achieved? Especially for those incredibly powerful Pet Beasts of Advanced Level Racial Potential. Thinking about it, this research direction seems quite extravagant, doesn't it?

Someone like me, not rushing to think about Evolution, but instead pondering troublesome degeneration—I'm probably the first, huh?

Su Ping couldn't help but smile wryly.

However, at this moment, he had clearly forgotten that there was another person in the office.

Dong Muyun looked at the youngster before her with a peculiar expression.

Has this brat already forgotten there's another person here? He's been staring at the first page of that document for nearly half a Xiaoshi now. What on earth is he thinking about? And now he's making such an unsightly smile. Don't tell me my good intentions backfired?

Undoubtedly, from ancient times to the present, the methods by which powerful, long-standing Families maintained their continuity—just like in the world Su Ping had transmigrated from—were all the same: investment, recruitment, and marriage alliances.

And Su Ping was undoubtedly a talent most worthy of investment and recruitment.

Thus, Dong Muyun coughed lightly.

Only then did Su Ping look at her.

"What are you thinking about? Have you had some other insight?"

"Um..."

It had to be said, now that the investment was formalized, Dong Muyun was essentially an ally. Su Ping indeed felt considerably more at ease around her and didn't conceal anything, sharing his recent thoughts with her in full. Her background was considerable; perhaps she had some understanding in this area. Or perhaps she knew some Secret Technique for degeneration unknown to others.

Unfortunately, Su Ping was clearly overthinking. In this world, Breeders who studied Evolution were a dime a dozen. But those who researched degeneration were exceedingly rare. Even if there were some, it was very difficult to produce any results.

So, Dong Muyun listened to Su Ping's far-fetched ideas. He had extrapolated so much from just the four words 'species optimization' and the relationship between the Forest Wolf and Elf Wolf species. He had even proposed such a bold direction—one that sounded utterly preposterous at first, but upon careful consideration, actually seemed remarkably plausible. For a moment, Dong Muyun herself became somewhat bewildered.

Is this the thought process of a Genius Breeder? The Low-level form of a Pet Beast with Advanced Level Racial Potential before species optimization. After degeneration, explore and develop new unknown Evolutionary Bodies from other directions? Is this something that a Beast Tamer like you, merely Elite Level and a recent adult graduate, should be contemplating?

However, she had to admit, in this regard, Dong Muyun was thoroughly impressed.

Then she became flustered and could only stammer, "Uh... I... I really don't know..."

She couldn't deny Su Ping's ideas, yet she was also unable to provide any advice or help.

So Dong Muyun, who had originally wanted to further close the distance with this brat, could only choose to change the subject very awkwardly, "Anyway, I'll go check out what's happening in the Lingxi River!"

Su Ping also came back to his senses.

The matter of species optimization, as well as Evolution and degeneration, was naturally just a topic and direction worthy of research. However, for the current Su Ping, the difficulty was still too great.

Thinking this, and since it concerned his own territory, Su Ping didn't remain idle. He nodded and said, "I'll go with you to take a look!"

Su Ping also wanted to see what exactly was causing harm in the area near his territory.

Chapter 149: Rainbow Coral! The Most Special Aquatic Pet Beast?

Arriving at the spot pointed out by Guan Lili and the others, Su Ping once again looked over this part of the Lingxi River.

Then, under Su Ping's envious gaze, Dong Muyun said softly, "Yunning!"

Instantly, Dong Muyun extended her hand, and a mechanical voice came from the watch on her wrist, "Master, awaiting your commands!"

"Switch to single underwater combat form and detach for remote control!"

"Yes, Master!"

The mechanical voice replied. Then, with a faint electronic whirring sound, the watch detached from Dong Muyun's wrist.

The next moment, a specially-shaped individual robot appeared and, with a PLOP, jumped into the water.

Dong Muyun, meanwhile, leisurely took out a tablet. After a few taps, the live underwater feed from Yunning appeared on its screen.

The deep underwater world appeared pitch-black. Fortunately, Yunning was equipped with an extremely powerful searchlight that illuminated everything in its beam.

Su Ping had never imagined that the Lingxi River connected to his home would be so deep.

As Yunning dove deeper, Su Ping could clearly see it had already descended more than thirty meters.

The surging undercurrents and the pitch-black underwater environment made Su Ping feel a sense of unfamiliarity and terror.

However, even more terrifying than the environment itself was what had now appeared before their eyes!

Su Ping had never, ever considered that the Lingxi River, so close to his home, would be teeming with such a vast number of aquatic Pet Beasts!

Yes, as Yunning continued its descent and finally reached the pitch-black riverbed, the surroundings were revealed to be filled with what could only be described as dense swarms of aquatic Pet Beasts!

Spiny Scaled Fish, Glint Fish, Rose Poison Stingray, Dual-Horned Tiger Fish, Ghostly Tuna...

Many aquatic Pet Beasts were identified by Su Ping in just this short time.

And these were only the ones he recognized; there were many more he didn't.

The highest Level among them had even reached Commander Level.

This was effectively the apex for common aquatic Pet Beasts found inland.

But both Su Ping and Dong Muyun sensed that something was amiss.

The reason was simple: there were just too many of them!

Even though the Lingxi River wasn't far from West Dragon Lake, the occasional passage of a few Pet Beasts would have been normal. But how many were there now?

A rough estimate suggested there were definitely more than a hundred, without a doubt.

Keep in mind, these were Ranked Pet Beasts!

Moreover, this was only in the area Yunning had explored, a section of water merely thirty to fifty meters deep.

Seeing this, Su Ping broke out in a cold sweat.

During the past month or so, he had played more than once with the little Paperman on the banks of the Lingxi River.

Although it was some distance from this spot, it wasn't that far.

And while most aquatic Pet Beasts don't leave the water, higher-Level ones could still fight on land.

If any of the Commander Level Pet Beasts they had just seen had appeared on the bank back then...

Su Ping didn't dare to complete the thought.

Fortunately, they had discovered it now.

Dong Muyun, however, showed no surprise. Instead, a hint of excitement glinted in her eyes.

Such a bizarre scene definitely had a reason behind it!

Usually, even in the Pet Beast World, the principle of 'big fish eat small fish, and small fish eat shrimp' applies.

Therefore, these Commander Level fish would not normally coexist in the same area with lower-Level ones. Otherwise, the latter would have already been devoured.

But now, while it couldn't be called peaceful coexistence, at least no such rampant slaughter was occurring.

However, Yunning's powerful searchlight did attract attacks from many fish.

Of course, for Yunning, which had reached Monarch Level, this was no threat. Several Low-level, less intelligent fish were lured in by the intense light and quickly dispatched by Yunning.

The higher-Level ones, seeing the newcomer's ferocity, immediately turned and fled without a second thought.

Instantly, a clear zone formed in the chaotic underwater depths.

"Yunning, continue exploring ahead. Let's see what's really going on down here!"

Yunning, in its underwater robot form, moved swiftly forward, propelled by its arms and the mechanical fins on its body.

Finally, after it swam about another three hundred meters, a glimmer of light appeared at the edge of the searchlight's beam, seeming to reflect it.

It was a splendidly colorful light.

The moment it appeared and interacted with the searchlight, it created an indescribable rainbow-like shimmer in the pitch-black water.

"What is this..." Dong Muyun murmured, then quickly instructed, "Yunning, keep moving forward."

The rapid current had no effect on the distant rainbow light. This time, even when illuminated by the searchlight, the schools of fish around the light showed no startled reaction, as if they hadn't noticed anything at all.

They continued to circle that Rainbow Light, their swaying movements showing complete enthrallment with the object at the center!

Yunning loyally fulfilled Dong Muyun's command. Carrying the searchlight, it moved slowly through the water, finally approaching within ten meters of the light's source.

Simultaneously, the source of the light became clear through the relatively clear water.

It was located within a crevice in the riverbed, where an undercurrent flowed.

It was an incredibly large coral!

Easily over ten meters across, it was nestled in this crevice on the riverbed.

The coral glowed with a fluorescent light, beautiful and mysterious.

It wasn't just the fish that saw it underwater with their own eyes; even Su Ping and Dong MUYUN, observing from YUNNING's perspective onshore, couldn't help but show looks of fascination.

This thing was too beautiful!

From any angle, it emanated a colorful, misty glow.

Combined with the schools of fish also illuminated in these brilliant colors as they circled the coral, the scene resembled a true underwater paradise.

But clearly, this thing was anything but paradise.

In fact, its essence wasn't that of an incredibly precious resource at all. It was a Pet Beast!

Staring at it, Dong MUYUN finally asked uncertainly, "Rainbow Coral?"

Her voice held an indescribable mixture of joy and shock.

Su Ping looked at her. He was still too young, and even with his current achievements, it was impossible for him to recognize all Pet Beasts.

This was especially true for aquatic Pet Beasts, which were incredibly numerous, with many still unknown.

Undoubtedly, the one before them was such a case!

"What is a Rainbow Coral?"

Pleased at this rare instance of the usually knowledgeable young man's ignorance, Dong Muyun explained excitedly while watching the footage, "It's one of the most special and precious aquatic Pet Beasts. Nominally, it's a Water Element Pet Beast, but it's a unique type combining Insect and Elemental characteristics. Its Racial Potential is extremely low, and it completely lacks combat abilities, yet it is extremely valuable!"

"Oh? Why is that?" Su Ping asked, his curiosity piqued.

In the Pet Beast World, there were countless magical Pet Beasts with all sorts of astounding abilities. Not all could be measured simply by combat power. And quite evidently, this Rainbow Coral was one such exception.

Because Dong Muyun had already begun to explain its purpose.

"The Rainbow Coral Worm is a very special kind of Pet Beast," she continued. "They possess no combat capabilities and can hardly even move without external forces. However, no Water Element Beast Tamer can resist the allure of the Rainbow Coral Worm! This is because the Rainbow Coral Worm creates such a Rainbow Light around itself, attracting schools of Pet Beast Fish. Furthermore, water touched by this Rainbow Light can effectively nourish aquatic Pet Beasts! This allows the fish to thrive without needing to consume large quantities of food. Moreover, rumors say that aquatic fish-type Pet Beasts spending extended periods near the Rainbow Light not only experience faster Level growth than usual but also have a chance to comprehend the Special Skill 'Rainbow Aurora.'"

Su Ping blinked, looking once more at the massive coral, easily over ten meters in size. The Pet Beast World was indeed full of wonders. There really were such special Pet Beasts?

At the same time, a burning desire surged in Su Ping's heart.

However, what Su Ping didn't expect was that there was even more.

Dong Muyun paused, then continued, "Additionally, the beautiful Rainbow Coral formed by the worm's secretions is also an excellent material for Water Element Pet Beasts. If the Tianyun Group could obtain

a Rainbow Coral Worm for Crescent Island, then its endeavors there would become smoother by an unimaginable factor!"

Su Ping narrowed his eyes slightly. "Is this thing really that rare?"

"Extremely rare!" Dong Muyun affirmed. "There are three reasons. First, the attracted fish schools can sometimes bring in powerful aquatic Pet Beasts. These Pet Beasts are very domineering. If the Rainbow Light cannot satisfy their hunger, they will directly consume the Rainbow Coral. Even a slight bump could cause its death.

"Second, unlike other coral worms, while the outer coral structure appears large, there is actually only one Rainbow Coral Worm inside. They are mostly solitary creatures.

"Third, and most importantly, is their method of reproduction. Generally, a Rainbow Coral Worm only reproduces asexually when the previous generation dies. Most of the time, it lays only a single egg, with an infinitesimal chance of producing two. However, despite the protection of the outer Rainbow Coral, any mishap can cause the fragile eggs or newly born Rainbow Coral larvae to die. Furthermore, the coral worm's growth cycle is very short, with a lifespan typically only three to five years."

Dong Muyun recited these facts as if enumerating treasured heirlooms.

It was apparent that her earlier decision to send Lao Guan to Crescent Island for aquatic Pet Beast Cultivation was no joke; the Tianyun Group was indeed seriously pursuing this direction.

Naturally, they had thoroughly researched such a rare Pet Beast.

She didn't notice, however, that Su Ping's eyes were now shining as he gazed at the Rainbow Coral Worm in the footage.

If he could get this Rainbow Coral Worm into his artificial lake, wouldn't the Heart of Woods have a new industry?

Chapter 150: Resource Production? A New Industry! The Terrifying Cost of Breeding!

It's capable of producing resources: Rainbow Coral.

Although the rank of these coral polyps isn't high, considering how rare this thing is, the value of this resource must be around Commander Level, right?

It can attract schools of aquatic Pet Beasts. So, if I connect the artificial lake with the Lingxi River and take some measures, I just need to prevent large and powerful Pet Beasts from arriving.

Then, I could set up a paid fishing activity on this artificial lake. That wouldn't be excessive, would it?

Of course, fishing is fishing. However, the fish you catch aren't necessarily yours to keep. After all, these Rainbow Corals attract schools of aquatic Pet Beasts.

Are these ordinary fish?

At most, whoever catches them can sell them back to me at a fraction of the market price. HEY!

A single venture could earn double the money! And what's most important, this business very likely wouldn't require any initial investment!

Su Ping had been thinking earlier. Although buying Pet Beasts for the botanical garden, the Undead basement, and the Forest Wolf packs required money, it was nothing compared to the cost of purchasing aquatic Pet Beasts for the artificial lake.

Who would have thought that the Pet Beast business could be run without any initial investment?

Even with the Beast Tamer Legions present, there wouldn't be too many Pet Beasts coming in and out of the connection point between the Lingxi River and West Dragon Lake.

But that's relative to the entirety of Jianghai Province and the Lingxi River, which flows through both Jianghai and Huaiyang Provinces.

In fact, as one of the main waterways leading to the sea, how many aquatic Pet Beasts pass through the Lingxi River daily?

It's impossible to calculate!

And now, if I have this, do I still need to buy aquatic Pet Beasts to raise?

That would be an utter luxury.

Once these coral polyps are placed, to the passing schools of fish, it's an irresistible lure, like Tang Monk's flesh.

Su Ping's gaze was clearly too intense.

Dong Muyun finally snapped out of her excitement. When she noticed Su Ping's fervent gaze, her eyelids twitched.

"Su Ping, you shouldn't need this, right? Isn't Heart of Woods mainly focused on the Forest Wolf cultivation industry?"

Su Ping chuckled,

"To be honest, I've already bought all the land behind Yun Tian, including the banks of the Lingxi River and that deserted mountain five kilometers away. I was planning to dig an artificial lake on the land behind Yun Tian that connects to the Lingxi River. Otherwise, why would I have cleared out the aquatic Pet Beasts near the Lingxi River that might harbor aggressive intentions?"

Dong Muyun pursed her lips,

"The problem is, I discovered this Rainbow Coral, and Yunning is still down there..."

Su Ping shifted his gaze from the Rainbow Coral—seen through Yunning's perspective—back to Dong Muyun and blinked.

"But, as I just said, I've bought all the land deeds for this area. According to Article Nine of the Dragon Nation's Land Protection Law..."

"..."

Dong Muyun clenched her fists, wishing she could punch this smug brat who was so easily rattling off the land protection law.

It's the land deeds again! Always the land deeds!

Previously, with the Secret Realm, she was constrained by this brat because of those damned land deeds, and now it's happening again because of this blasted land deed!

I hate real estate!

Should Tianyun Group transition into real estate? Who knows, there might be some incredible treasure on that plot of land!

No, that can't be right. If that were the case, the world would be full of lucky people.

It's purely this brat's ridiculously good luck.

Dong Muyun took a slow, deep breath.

"How about this: you've always wanted a Mechanical Core, right? Tianyun Group will offer two billion, plus a Mechanical Core, in trade. That should be sufficient, shouldn't it?"

However, Su Ping shook his head again.

"Your cultivation base is only so big. Even if you manage to build an artificial lake, getting it to a few kilometers in diameter would be a feat. Using this Rainbow Coral on it would be an extravagant waste, wouldn't it?!"

Dong Muyun was exasperated.

The area behind Yun Tian was only a few kilometers from the Lingxi River at most.

Under such circumstances, even if Su Ping wanted to build an artificial lake, how large could it possibly be?

Su Ping didn't even blink,

"I've changed my mind. I've decided to expand the artificial lake's scale. I'll directly connect the area behind Yuntian Resort to the Lingxi River and then extend it southward. It will form a large, Taiji-shaped artificial lake with the Lingxi River as the dividing line. I conservatively estimate its diameter to be about twenty kilometers."

Dong Muyun was out of options.

She sighed helplessly. Seeing Dong Muyun looking defeated and ready to give up, Su Ping quickly said,

"Look, we're in the same boat now. Besides, you hold shares in Heart of Woods; nominally, you're the second-largest shareholder after my family! If Heart of Woods becomes powerful, wouldn't that be much better than Tianyun Group? You're the chairperson of Tianyun Group, but it's not entirely yours, is it? Your Dong Family has so many brothers and sisters. What if someone else takes over? Wouldn't all your efforts just be paving the way for someone else?"

Su Ping had laid it all out.

Dong Muyun, however, just glared at this brat who was gloating after getting his way.

It was true that she personally held only five percent of Tianyun Group's shares. However, her father's and brother's shares, totaling twenty percent, were managed by her.

Aside from her grandfather, who had relinquished his authority, she was the Dong Family's largest shareholder in Tianyun Group. She was the actual person in charge, second only to her grandfather, the highest authority.

