

Beast Taming: the More the Better

Chapter 24 - 24 Another Bet? Crazy Bet!

Is this kid deliberately opposing me? Why is he so annoying at every turn?

Sun Chaoju's face looked somewhat displeased.

However, since Qin Xiaoxue had asked personally, it couldn't be considered Su Ping stealing business. Moreover, if anyone was to be accused of stealing business, it should be Sun Chaoju.

Yet, before Sun Chaoju could ponder further, Qin Xiaoxue had already nodded directly, "No problem, name your price!"

Su Ping did not hold back. He was indeed in dire need of money right now. Apart from cultivating the current Forest Wolf pack, he also had to train his own Xiao Qing.

Xiao Qing, unlike other Forest Wolves, required rare Poison Type resources.

Moreover, he needed to continue expanding the scale of his Pet Beast Breeding Base, all of which entailed considerable expenses.

"Let me make it clear," Su Ping began after receiving Qin Xiaoxue's affirmative answer, "I will only be responsible for cultivating the Racial Skills of the Forest Wolves, as well as the Wood Heart Skill I personally cultivated. I won't take care of other skills!"

He then stated his terms, "To advance a skill from Beginner to Proficient Level, it's 200,000 for each Racial Skill. To advance from Proficient Level to Proficient, it's 800,000 per attempt. As for reaching Perfection Level, I haven't decided yet. It also depends on the specific skill."

Upon hearing this, everyone was slightly startled.

Even the bald old man, who had been silent until now, paused and said, "Young Su, this isn't how skill level cultivation fees are calculated. It should be based on time. After all, Pet Beasts have varying aptitudes. If you charge by level of cultivation..."

He didn't finish his sentence. If charged by level, and the skill never materialized, would the Beast Tamer keep their Pet Beast indefinitely at your cultivation base? Clearly, this was impossible.

And Sun Chaoju, seemingly having found a weak point, said, "Young Brother Su must not have undertaken this kind of cultivation before. But that's normal. Achieving what you have is already quite impressive. You have a bright future ahead. However, everyone has their own specialty, and it seems there's still much for you to learn in this area!"

Su Ping snorted lightly, "This senior shouldn't compare me to those mediocre Breeders. If I say I can do it, I most certainly can! Unless this senior would like to put it to the test?!"

Vice President Liu frowned slightly, but Sun Chaoju, on the other hand, seemed to be instantly energized. "Oh? I won't speak of anything else, but I, Sun Chaoju, do have some insights into the cultivation of Forest Wolf skill levels. Currently, most of Woodhead's skills have reached the Proficient Level, with only Self-Healing still at the Beginner Level! If Miss Qin trusts me, I am confident I can elevate Woodhead's Self-Healing to Proficient Level within a month! Are you challenging me to a bet, young brother?"

As he spoke, a confident look truly appeared on his face.

However, the others were a different matter. If Sun Chaoju had looked at Woodhead at that moment—standing to the side, being petted by its master—he would have seen in the Forest Wolf's eyes a gaze that seemed to view him as a fool.

A month? From Beginner to Proficient Level? The problem was, just this morning, Woodhead had seen with its own eyes that little Forest Wolf elevate its Sunlight Absorption—a Forest Wolf Racial Skill—to the Proficient Level in just two hours! Although the initial progress of Sunlight Absorption might be relatively simple compared to Self-Healing, the difference was still significant!

Su Ping smiled too. He truly loved betting. The previous bet with Qin Xiaoxue had ended with him forgoing a large portion of the rewards due to his swagger. But now, with an offer landing right at his doorstep, why not grab it?

Besides, this was the result Su Ping had intentionally guided things towards! He had just heard this guy claim his base had a cultivation method for 'Accelerated Spellcasting.' Accelerated Casting, as the name implies, speeds up the casting time of skills and is considered a quite practical skill.

With the Shared Connection, Su Ping didn't need to worry about having too many skills causing the Forest Wolf's skill levels to be too low. Naturally, forming complete effect combinations with skills couldn't be better!

And he could guess that the man before him probably had a greedy eye on his Wood Heart Skill!

Thinking of this, Su Ping's mind stirred, but a disdainful smirk touched the corner of his mouth. "One month? Don't even mention a month. If I can't get the Self-Healing skill to Proficient Level within half a month, then I'll consider it my loss!"

A greedy light flickered in Sun Chaoju's eyes. Without waiting for others to speak, and just as Su Ping began, he responded decisively, "Good! If Brother Su is so confident, then let it be half a month. How about this: if Brother Su can't do it within half a month, we'll make the cultivation method of the Wood Heart Skill the stake. What do you say?"

As soon as these words came out, Su Ping sneered inwardly, his face remaining calm. Even Qin Xiaoxue, Qin Erlong, and Vice President Liu furrowed their brows.

This Sun Chaoju's behavior is quite unseemly, isn't it?

Seeming to sense the displeasure in their eyes, Sun Chaoju hurriedly added, "Of course, if you can do it, I'm willing to accept the loss! If Brother Su has any demands, just say the word!"

Su Ping's expression remained unchanged. "Alright, this half-month, if I haven't raised Self-Healing to Proficient Level, it's my loss! The question is, what can you put up? Could it possibly be the cultivation method of that 'Accelerated Spellcasting' the senior just mentioned? Never mind how much value your cultivation method has; even if it has some, it's far from comparable to the Wood Heart Skill, right?"

If it were any other Forest Wolf, Su Ping wouldn't dare make such a boast, but Woodhead was different. At this very moment, Woodhead's bond with him had reached the required standard. They could now share skill experience through the Forest Wolf Catalog. Increasing its level wouldn't be difficult at all.

Upon hearing these words, Qin Xiaoxue glanced at Su Ping. In this moment, he looked exactly as he had a few days earlier when he stopped her in this guest room.

Something stirred in Qin Xiaoxue's mind, as if she understood something, and she followed with a cold snort, "Exactly. I've already experienced what that 'Accelerated Spellcasting' of yours is. Besides, you can only get one Beginner Level skill to the next level in a month, while Su Ping has chosen to do it in half a month. The difficulty is clearly not on the same level. Such an unequal contest and bet might as well not happen."

Vice President Liu nodded in agreement.

However, Sun Chaoju's eyes narrowed, his mind racing. Although he was a bit uncertain, a thought emerged—*Is this young man bluffing with this kind of reasoning and method, merely seeking a way out!?*

Yet, thinking of the Wood Heart Skill cultivation method, greed flashed in Sun Chaoju's eyes.

The Wood Heart Skill! What massive benefits could he rake in if he controlled the cultivation method that could grant this Ability to the Forest Wolf?

With this in mind, Sun Chaoju gritted his teeth, determined to make this youngster agree.

Thus, before everyone's gaze, Sun Chaoju plainly said, "In addition to the cultivation method for Accelerated Casting, I have another stake! It is the incomplete cultivation method for Evolution into the Wanmu Wolf!"

In an instant, it wasn't just the others; even Su Ping could only think one thing: *Has this guy lost his mind?*

Chapter 25: Chapter 25: Forest Wolf's Evolution: Wanmu Wolf!

In the world of Beast Tamers, what is the most precious and valuable thing? Pet Beasts and everything related to them. If one were to discuss what holds the highest value, the evolutionary path of cultivation would undoubtedly be among them.

Apart from some high-level Pet Beast Races that possess great innate Racial Potential, for anyone walking the path of a professional Beast Tamer, Evolution is a necessity. The Forest Wolf is undoubtedly one such Pet Beast.

However, obtaining the methods of Evolution is actually very difficult for ordinary people. Even though some evolutionary methods are public, the resources required are extremely difficult to obtain.

Officials indeed encourage Beast Tamers to explore discovered evolutionary channels and Cultivation methods, but people often have selfish interests. However, such cases are a minority. After all, discovering a Pet Beast's evolutionary path is not something an ordinary Breeder can achieve. The development of a new evolutionary Cultivation path often requires a large number of experiments and a frightening amount of financial support.

Evolutionary paths are so precious, and at this moment, Sun Chaoju actually proposed such a gamble. Feeling everyone's surprised attention, Sun Chaoju also felt a bit smug as he looked towards Su Ping.

However, people quickly came to their senses, and this time, Qin Erlong finally spoke:

"To what degree is it incomplete? And what type of Evolutionary Body is the Wanmu Wolf?"

This person indeed had broad knowledge and immediately pinpointed the key issue.

As expected, when directly asked about the issue, Sun Chaoju scratched his head:

"It's a pure Wood Element Evolutionary Body of the Wolf Tribe. As for its other Abilities... I only accidentally achieved Evolution once. After that Evolution, the Wanmu Wolf died three days later. Despite many subsequent attempts, I only succeeded one more time, but it also died after just two days."

Suddenly, everyone present understood. Qin Xiaoxue, standing to the side, snorted disdainfully:

"This counts as an incomplete evolutionary path? It's clearly just a research direction."

Sun Chaoju felt helpless. If this thing were truly so precious, he wouldn't have offered it as a bet. Over this period, all the funds the Wolf Den had saved up for years had been poured into this without yielding any clear results. Even if not used as a bet, Sun Chaoju wanted to sell it or let his teacher's Breeder Association collaborate on the research.

Qin Erlong and Vice President Liu didn't show much reaction. The latter asked:

"Why did it die?"

Sun Chaoju, after all, was an Intermediate Level Breeder, not someone who only talked without substance. He quickly said:

"Teacher, as you know, the Wood Element Attribute is relatively special. Most plants belong to this Attribute, and very few animal-class Pet Beasts possess it. The reason is that although the Wood Element has compatibility with the Life Series, awakening it is extremely difficult. Moreover, most Life Series creatures are primarily healing-type Pet Beasts, which doesn't fit the expectations the majority of people have for the Forest Wolf. Most evolutionary forms of the Forest Wolf aim to suppress the Wood Element's progression towards the Life Series or attempt to derive other Attributes. The Wanmu Wolf, however, goes a step further by significantly strengthening the Wood Element! This enhances its Wood Element Abilities, but when these Abilities intensify, the evolved Wanmu Wolf's body undergoes fibrosis, its organs suffer severe failure, and it dies, transforming into a withered plant-like body."

With these words, Vice President Liu nodded as well, falling into thought. Then, he finally turned to Su Ping:

"Su Ping, you've heard it. Although this is an incomplete method of Evolution, the defects are very apparent. The method of Cultivation and Evolution is probably difficult, if not impossible. You need to consider this carefully."

What more was there for Su Ping to consider? In truth, during this brief period, he hadn't really heard what these individuals were saying; all his attention and Spirit were on the Wanmu Wolf. Defects? An incomplete evolutionary method? To others, these might be critically important, perhaps even rendering the method valueless. But for Su Ping, with his Forest Wolf Catalog, he could even analyze the reasons behind Xiao Qing's mutated Poison Type bloodline, let alone an already proposed evolutionary method! As long as the Forest Wolf Catalog contained sufficient experience, Su Ping was absolutely confident that the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas could complete the Wanmu Wolf's evolutionary path!

Evolution! This is indeed the most exhilarating step in Pet Beast Cultivation.

However, facing everyone's probing gazes, Su Ping pretended to ponder for a while before nodding:

"I can try. Perhaps I could perfect the Wanmu Wolf's Evolution method!"

His face showed the unique confidence of a young Beast Tamer, radiant as the rising Sun in the early morning. He seemed entirely unconcerned about the possibility of losing the bet; instead, his focus was already on cultivating the Forest Wolf's Evolutionary Body: the Wanmu Wolf.

Such confidence made the few onlookers sigh, and Vice President Liu even candidly laughed:

"Hahaha, young Su, if you can achieve this, never mind anything else! If you qualify as a Senior Breeder, I'll personally handle your application. And if, one day, you wish to take the Master Breeder proficiency certification, I'll vouch for you and contact the examiners at the Breeder Association headquarters!"

Perfecting and developing a new evolutionary path is the mark of a Senior Breeder. In all of Jianghai Province, there are very few Senior Breeders! One can imagine the weight of his promise.

However, Qin Xiaoxue clearly wasn't buying it, snorting dismissively:

"Didn't someone just say that if Su Ping could cultivate the Heart of Woods, he would be given Intermediate Breeder certification?"

Su Ping was taken aback. The balding Vice President Liu, looking somewhat embarrassed, touched his nose and quickly said:

"Young Su, what do you reckon your chances are of cultivating the Heart of Woods?"

Su Ping, seeing everyone's eyes turning to him with tension, felt somewhat reassured. He thought this was a chance to reveal some of his Abilities. After considering, he said:

"Probably about sixty to seventy percent."

The moment these words were spoken, the others might not have reacted much, but Sun Chaoju's breath once again grew rapid. No one would doubt Su Ping; the best proof was right beside them! A sixty to seventy percent chance of success in Cultivation was more than enough.

Vice President Liu made a decisive comment:

"Young Su, there are still procedures to follow, but don't worry. Since it was I, Old Liu, who personally made a promise in front of Miss Qin, I certainly won't renege on it. Give me your personal information later. Once I've handled the procedures, I'll personally deliver the certificate to you tomorrow! Then, you'll be an Intermediate Breeder registered with the Breeder Association!"

The certification for a Breeder is much simpler than for a Beast Tamer, yet there are far fewer certified Breeders. Su Ping had no intention of refusing. During the days Qin Xiaoxue was absent, he had learned how challenging breeding work could be without fame or official endorsement. *Anything that could make money for himself was a good thing!*

However, compared to these matters, all of Su Ping's thoughts were now tied up with the Forest Wolf's Evolutionary Body. He nodded, exchanged a few more words of pleasantries with them, officially confirmed the bet, and then saw them off.

Chapter 26: Chapter 26: Ancient Spirit-Nurturing Tea! Forest of Myriad Forms Meditation Method!

The scent of tea lingered.

At this moment, in the reception room, only Qin Xiaoxue and Su Ping remained.

After the previous three people left, Woodhead, excited to be allowed to stay at Heart of Woods, had already run out to play.

As Su Ping inhaled the tea's fragrance, he wondered if it was his imagination, but his mind felt many times clearer than usual. Even the circulation of his spiritual power seemed brisker.

This tea is extraordinary! Su Ping affirmed internally as he gazed at the brewed tea.

Although, after realizing the young lady's identity, it seemed normal for her to casually produce such a thing.

However, Su Ping hadn't asked Qin Xiaoxue about the identities of the individuals from earlier. He understood the art of currying favor with the wealthy.

Having missed the previous chance, he was quite content with the current situation.

It was Qin Xiaoxue who asked somewhat nervously, "Su Ping, are you confident?"

Su Ping waved his hand. "Don't worry, what's this tea? Just wait and see, Sister Qin. Providing Woodhead with Accelerated Casting for his cultivation will be a piece of cake."

Su Ping himself wasn't concerned, so Qin Xiaoxue breathed a sigh of relief. If possible, she certainly hoped for Su Ping to win. "It's good you're confident, but Accelerated Casting won't be necessary; having Heart of Woods is enough. As for this tea, my grandfather got it from a Spirit-Nourishing Ancient Tea Tree. After brewing, it enhances meditation effects and the speed of learning the Meditation Method. It's even beneficial for future cultivation, so drink more! If it's not enough, I have more."

Enhancing meditation effects and the speed of cultivation?

Su Ping's eyebrows raised sharply. "Meditation Method? What's that?"

He, of course, knew what meditation was, but this was the first time he'd heard of a Meditation Method.

Qin Xiaoxue blinked. "The Meditation Method is a special meditation technique that greatly enhances the effectiveness of meditation. It also makes it more convenient for Beast Tamers to control their Pet Beasts to some extent. However, it's normal for you not to have access to it. Genuine Meditation Methods are seldom circulated in the market. Only Advanced Tamer Academies, the Beast Master Association, and some major powers or inherited families possess them. And even if you come across one, it's hard to cultivate. The reason is simple: to practice the Meditation Method, a Beast Tamer may even require a specific kind of Pet Beast to assist! Without exposure from a young age, few Beast Tamers meet the requirements."

At this point, Qin Xiaoxue lowered her voice slightly. "For example, the Forest of Myriad Forms Meditation Method that I practice is one such method. It's also one from the collection of the Magic Capital Advanced Beast-Taming Academy."

The Forest of Myriad Forms Meditation Method? The Magic Capital Advanced Beast-Taming Academy? Su Ping's mind stirred.

Half a month ago, he wouldn't have even known such things existed, let alone come into contact with them.

Seeing Su Ping deep in thought, Qin Xiaoxue smiled slightly. "Of course, don't think too much. Although the Meditation Method is precious, in reality, the foundation of a Beast Tamer mainly lies in their Pet Beasts. Some with good spiritual Talent don't need the Meditation Method to improve rapidly and can control stronger Pet Beasts. Moreover, with your Talent, these opportunities are not out of reach in the future. However, if you

do wish to join the Magic Capital Advanced Beast-Taming Academy and have a chance to practice advanced Meditation Methods from the academy..."

At this point, Qin Xiaoxue lowered her voice. "Remember, when choosing your second Pet Beast, either pick a Plant Type or an Undead Type. As for specific Pet Beasts, I'll compile a list and send it to you for consideration. Remember not to tell anyone!"

Is this exclusive information? Su Ping was taken aback.

But... joining the Magic Capital Advanced Beast-Taming Academy?

Su Ping hadn't really considered it. With the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas and the Heart of Wood Cultivation Base, he felt he didn't need anything else.

That can wait until later.

As for the second Pet Beast, Su Ping had indeed considered a few. In his view, the most important aspect was not high Racial Potential. On the contrary, a species that was common and numerous would be even better.

Seeing Su Ping's demeanor, Qin Xiaoxue did not say more on this topic.

Picking up the teacup, Su Ping took a sip. He felt a warm yet refreshing sensation that made his entire brain incredibly clear and extremely comfortable.

「Meanwhile, on the other side, after Qin Erlong and his two companions left, they split into two groups.」

Qin Erlong returned to the Beast Master Association, while Sun Chaoju and his teacher, Vice President Liu, went to the Breeder Association.

In Sun Chaoju's car, he glanced at Vice President Liu, who was resting with his eyes closed, and then asked, "Teacher, what do you think of that Su Ping?"

Vice President Liu slowly opened his eyes, gave his student a sidelong look, and said coldly, "I know what little scheme you're up to. Since Su Ping agreed to the bet, let it be. But as for other tactics, keep them all above board. Even if you lose, honor the bet and accept your loss. If you win, you are to deliver the Accelerated Casting cultivation method to Su Ping as well."

At these words, Sun Chaoju was startled. "Teacher, I..."

Before he could finish speaking, Vice President Liu interrupted. "It's only because you're my student that I'm willing to say this much. Since Su Ping has managed to gain Miss Qin's attention, and even her friendship, he has great potential. Besides, making friends with a highly talented Breeder is a good thing. We are all from Jianghai Province, so

don't be so narrow-minded. If that kid really manages to develop the evolution method for the Wanmu Wolf and enters the Breeder Competition, then as the initial discoverer, even if you're not the primary research Breeder, your name will still be mentioned."

Upon hearing this, Sun Chaoju's eyes lit up, but he quickly looked at the elder with surprise. "Teacher, do you really think that Su Ping could accomplish such a feat?"

"Who knows? But I do know that it's much better to befriend a talented young person than to make an enemy. We live in a society governed by law now. Why can't things be settled amicably?"

Listening to his teacher's life experience, Sun Chaoju nodded, but he still said with some doubt, "Teacher, after all, even though President Qin is only half a level higher than you, you don't need to be so deferential towards Miss Qin..."

How exactly Sun Chaoju thought he was being deferential towards Miss Qin, he didn't say, but Vice President Liu understood his meaning. He just looked at his student, then sighed and shook his head. "You don't understand."

Sun Chaoju didn't know what he didn't understand, but he didn't press further. He knew that even if he asked, his teacher wouldn't tell him. *Dealing with cryptic people is frustrating, but one must always consider who they are.*

「At this moment, Qin Erlong, having returned to his office, began to contemplate.」

It was the first time he had seen his granddaughter place such trust in a stranger of the opposite sex.

This sparked a peculiar thought in Qin Erlong's mind. *Could it be possible that my granddaughter has taken a liking to Su Ping?*

The thought made Qin Erlong involuntarily gasp. *If that's the case, then that would be... excellent! Come to think of it, this Su Ping fellow might be a tad arrogant, but for someone his age, such achievements and youthful spirit are to be expected. Plus, with his aptitude, even if his Beast Taming Talent is a bit lacking, it's not a major issue. His looks are even comparable to mine when I was young! And though his family background is ordinary, if my granddaughter likes him, none of that matters.*

Thinking of this, Qin Erlong also became enthusiastic. He was incredibly eager to marry off his granddaughter to a good family soon, saving his old bones the trouble she caused. That damn Magic Capital Advanced Beast-Taming Academy, insisting on a summer break just so this little troublemaker could come and torment an old man like me! Now that she might have a new target for her antics, Qin Erlong was thrilled.

With that thought, the elder took out his phone and dialed a special number.

After three rings, a voice on the other end answered the call. "It's rare for you, Qin Erlong, to call me at this time. Has something happened to Xiao Xue?"

"Wife, our Xiao Xue might be in love!"

"Hmm?"

"A youngster, just graduated from a basic Beast Taming school, cultivated a rare Heart of Woods for our girl. Now they're getting along splendidly!"

"Hmm? Heart of Woods? That's interesting. Tell me more about it."