

Beast T 251

Chapter 251: Qian Yi's Evolution Opportunity! The True Swordsman!_3

That was its goal: it wanted to become a true Swordsman!

But, having obtained its own sword and comprehended its own swordsmanship, what was it still missing to ultimately become a true Swordsman?

Right, what was it still missing? Su Ping didn't know either.

The Paperman now seemed to have thoroughly fulfilled all the conditions to be a true Swordsman; the sword and swordsmanship themselves were symbols of a Swordsman. But could the Paperman still not be called a Swordsman now?

Su Ping pursed his lips. He turned his head, his gaze slightly intensifying.

He suddenly looked beyond the isolation glass wall of the Undead basement, a place ordinary Papermen couldn't go, but Qian Yi could come and go freely.

There were sofas for resting. To cater to the Paperman's mood, Su Ping had also placed the martial arts film projection screen there. It was the Paperman's biggest pastime and entertainment, and Su Ping wasn't cruel enough to deprive it of that.

So, occasionally, when the Paperman was tired from training, it would come here. These projections were still playing those old movies and martial arts discs that Su Ping had found, on a 24-hour loop.

At this moment, the film playing on the basement projection screen was at a very special point.

It was when the film's protagonist, at the lowest point in his life, obtained his fortuitous encounter: the Sword-type Pet Beast with Spirit Saint Level potential called the Snowfall Divine Sword.

Clearly, it was a very traditional martial arts film.

Almost all elements were integrated into it along with the Beastmaster system: revenge, fortuitous encounters, the manipulator behind the scenes, winning the beauty, a perfect ending, and invincibility in the world.

The film's protagonist started off miserable, his family devastated due to someone's schemes, without even a chance to get a Contracted Beast. Afterward, with the Snowfall Divine Sword, he suddenly rose to power.

At this moment, the plot of the film was at this stage.

Clearly, many people could guess the subsequent plot. But the story of an underdog rising against all odds to become a dominant figure was one many enjoyed.

However, even with a fortuitous encounter, it wasn't so simple to rise to power. After all, Zhang Wuji had spent five or six years playing with monkeys before he managed to master the Nine Yang Divine Skill.

Of course, the timeframe in films isn't like in TV series. Everyone knew that this stage wasn't achieved overnight, but it could be shown through accelerated shooting techniques.

Several years' worth of time was consumed in the flickering of scenes in the film.

During this period, the protagonist of the film was communicating with the Snowfall Divine Sword. He was honing his spiritual power and learning to control Sword Artifact-type Pet Beasts. At the same time, he was waiting for his strength to reach the level where he could leave the mountains.

Su Ping turned his head back, his gaze firmly fixed on the movie screen.

He had regretted letting the Paperman watch these things before, for it hadn't learned a thing, just damn well learned the set of a Swordsman's show-off moves. But now, it seemed that it wasn't entirely a bad thing.

Watching the scenes, at this moment, Su Ping seemed to finally understand something. He felt as if he realized what the Paperman Qian Yi was still lacking to become a true Swordsman!

Finally, within the projector screen, a resounding thunderous explosion was heard.

As the film's protagonist held the Snowfall Divine Sword, looking towards the vast horizon, all viewers knew that at this moment, the protagonist of the film had mastered his divine skill! Or rather, he had finally cultivated the so-called Snowfall Divine Sword to the strength necessary for him to exact his revenge.

So at this time, was the film's protagonist a true Swordsman? No!

Because at this moment, the film's screen didn't expound on the protagonist's words or push the plot; there were only the scenes and actions of the protagonist stepping down the mountain.

In fact, the segment of him descending the mountain was almost as lengthy as the montage depicting his several years of sword practice.

But, nearly every step the film's protagonist took on the road down was thrilling because everyone knew the time that followed was when the protagonist would truly show his strength!

The previous scenes, plot, and achievements were all about practicing the sword. But one who only practices the sword is not a Swordsman! One who draws the sword is!

Only when one truly draws the sword, truly faces an enemy, do people know the sword is not just a decoration! That is a true Swordsman!

It had to be said, this film was truly worthy of being ranked among the top martial arts films online.

Even Su Ping, watching it again now, felt his heart stir involuntarily along with it.

The pace of the plot seemed to have reached its peak at this moment! Because the film's protagonist had finally made his entrance, arriving at the residence of his nemesis, which he had imagined countless times over the years.

The screen seemed to freeze at this point. The protagonist adjusted his bamboo hat, looking towards his nemesis's residence. At this moment, with nothing else present, accompanied only by the protagonist's award-winning acting and gaze, the film's subtitles displayed a poem Su Ping had heard in both his past and present lives:

'Ten years to forge a sword, its frost blade never tested.'

'Today I present it to thee, who has injustices unaddressed?'

Now, in this era's Beastmaster Society, this poem was revered as the ultimate truth by Sword-type Pet Beast Tamers of all ages.

Today I present it to thee, who has injustices unaddressed?!

The romanticism and boldness of the Swordsman were undoubtedly revealed in that final line!

At the same time, following the poem in the narration, the film's pace was driven to its climax.

Even though it later investigated the so-called nemesis and conspiracy, all the film's lengthy buildup exploded forth at this moment.

Su Ping's eyes shone brightly. At this moment, he finally understood completely and was also certain.

What the Paperman Qian Yi still lacked to become a true Swordsman... That was it: an opponent!

Chapter 252: Lightning Flashes! Qian Yi Evolves!

The Breeder Association building: amidst countless gazes, Su Ping descended from the "Black Blood."

The grotesque and exaggerated black sports car captured the attention of numerous onlookers.

Satisfied, Su Ping stowed the item into his Beast Taming Space and only then did he enter the building.

For the entire day and night yesterday, Su Ping had been helping the little Paperman, Qian Yi, in his search for a so-called opponent.

He wanted to see it become a true Swordsman in the course of their duels.

Regrettably, the final result was not promising.

Neither Forest Wolf nor any other Pet Beasts from the Yuntian Resort met the Paperman's criteria for an 'opponent.'

However, during its clashes with various opponents, the Paperman did indeed display more frequent flashes of the Light of Evolution on its body.

Therefore, Su Ping surmised that the opponents it required were either sword-oriented Pet Beasts and Beast Tamers, similar sword-wielding Pet Beasts, or perhaps the style of combat was at fault.

Yet, no matter the possibility, the Heart of Woods base could no longer meet the requirements.

So Su Ping had once again come to the Breeder Association.

With this in mind, he promptly made his way to Old Liu's office upstairs.

However, in his haste, he failed to notice several figures within the curious crowd. Unlike the general awe, their gazes held a different kind of admiration.

A group of four.

This quartet also drew the surrounding onlookers' attention.

Two of them, with blond hair and blue eyes, were clearly not from the Dragon Nation.

The other two, however, exhibited standard Dragon Nation features.

One of them even wanted to greet the rushing Su Ping but, alas, Su Ping was moving too fast and completely missed the person hidden in the crowd.

The leader of the group, an elderly man with a pale complexion, turned to the middle-aged man beside him and asked with a smile, "Judging by your expression, do you know this ostentatious youngster?"

"Yes, Father, this is the very Genius Breeder from Jianghai that I told you about: the favored Su Ping of Teacher Liu," Mu Hang replied.

"Tsk, a Genius Breeder?"

The elder nodded. "That old man Liu Fuhai has only had two wishes for so many years: one is to bring honor to Jianghai, and the other is to advance to a Breeding Master. It seems that with the advent of this young man, the first wish should soon come true. Mu Hang, you haven't made much progress at all over the years!"

Mu Hang, unashamed, simply laughed it off, "I'm not cut out for this. Naturally, I can't compare to geniuses like Su Ping."

The elder glanced at his son and then looked up at the familiar yet unfamiliar Breeder Association building, shaking his head and sighing, "Many years have passed since I last returned to Linzhou. Even the most familiar places have changed!"

The blond, blue-eyed foreigner chuckled, "Respected Breeding Master Mu, while the Beast Tamers of the Dragon Nation are far from the level of those in my Eagle Country, they certainly don't lose out to any other nation when it comes to saving face."

Before the Mu father-son duo could respond, the younger blond, blue-eyed youth scoffed disdainfully, "What sort of Breeding genius can the Dragon Nation's environment produce, dear senior brother... If you had the chance to visit the Eagle Country, you'd understand. Only there is the true paradise for all Pet Beast Breeders! Only in the Eagle Country can Breeders fully tap into the potential of Pet Beasts. The Dragon Nation? Their emperor is probably still reveling in the past!"

Mu Hang glanced at the foreign youngster. He didn't know why his father had taken such an arrogant disciple from across the ocean. However, he had to admit it was rare for a young person from the Eagle Country to speak the Dragon Nation's language as fluently as an embassy diplomat.

However, just as Sun Chaoju had previously said, Mu Hang was different from his father.

So he calmly said, "Su Ping awakened his talent less than half a year ago. In that time, he has already developed the Wanmu Wolf, a new evolutionary form for the Forest Wolf. This effectively makes him a Senior Breeder specializing in Forest Wolves... Though I do not know about the Eagle Country, such an accomplishment, I suspect, is rare over there as well..."

The young man named Chris opened his mouth, momentarily struggling to respond, "What? Senior Breeder? A new evolutionary form?"

Mu Yu also clicked his tongue, "Right, last time you mentioned that this youngster seemed to be researching the evolution of Necromancy Series Pet Beasts?"

Mu Hang nodded, then glanced at his father and, after some thought, decided not to keep it a secret, "That's correct, and... it is also research concerning the Paperman..."

This time, Mu Yu was truly taken aback, as if he had realized something, and a glimmer of darkness flickered in his eyes again.

Meanwhile, Chris laughed out loud again, "Ridiculous Dragon Nation people. Do they not realize that the Paperman is deemed the disgrace of the Necromancy System? Or, is it that this mere fresh graduate dares to challenge the authority of many Necromancy-specialized Breeders?"

Indeed, the specialized research on the Forest Wolf reaching an Advanced Level was admirable.

But to abandon his specialized research on the Forest Wolf, or at least on comparable wolf-type Pet Beasts, was undoubtedly emblematic of the Dragon Nation's arrogance.

Such arrogance and pride were doomed to be fleeting!

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"What a pity."

Mu Yu nodded. "Researching the Paperman is destined to be a waste of energy and time. Didn't I leave a note here at the Breeder Association back then? Hmm, didn't Liu Fuhai show it to this kid?"

Mu Hang nodded. "Of course he has seen it, but Su Ping probably has his own thoughts..."

"Right, a genius after all..." Mu Yu mused.

The group of four chatted as they walked into the main hall of the Breeder Association.

「Meanwhile, in the office of Liu Fuhai.」

Old Liu looked rather oddly at Su Ping before him. "You're saying you've come today to have your mutated Paperman complete its evolution? Are you sure?"

Are **you** sure? Whether Su Ping was sure or not, Old Liu didn't know. But Old Liu was genuinely uncertain.

As an Advanced Level Wolf Pet Breeder, he had experience assisting various mutated Wolf Pets in researching their evolutionary paths. The difficulty was exceptionally high, completely different from the evolution of other Pet Beast types. Under such circumstances, it was normal for the evolution to take three to five years. Old Liu wouldn't blindly trust Su Ping just because of the Wanmu Wolf's successful evolution. After all, although the Wanmu Wolf's evolution was incomplete, there were aspects that could serve as references.

However, the evolution of a mutated Pet Beast was a complex process. It required finding the evolutionary direction, clarifying the path, determining the details, and meeting all necessary conditions. If it were that simple, mutated Pet Beasts wouldn't be so rare, nor would they be synonymous with high risk and high reward.

Now, after three months, Su Ping had come to tell him to help his mutated Paperman complete its evolution?

In truth, Su Ping, seeing Old Liu's startled face, was still struggling with whether to tell him about the Paperman's discovery. But looking at him, he was really afraid that Old Liu's little heart couldn't take it.

And it had to be said, the matter concerning regular Papermen was significant. Su Ping was also unsure about it. The matter of cultivation for the Special Beast Taming Forces, which Zhao Deguang had mentioned to him, was still lingering in his mind. If possible, I should make it public after I've finished that matter, Su Ping thought. It wouldn't be too late then.

Could others discern clues from my little paper figure? Possible, but difficult. Firstly, the little paper figure was a mutation; mutated Pet Beasts were inherently different from regular Pet Beasts. Secondly, even if someone possessed a talent similar to the Eye of Truth, it was not an ability to be wielded casually. If the Pet Beast itself resisted, others could not spy on it. In this case, even if someone spied, they would only see the little paper figure itself. After all, ordinarily, no one would examine the sword held by a Paperman. To most people, that was just a part of the Paperman.

After receiving an affirmative response from Su Ping, Old Liu pursed his lips and then nodded. "A Beast Tamer specialized in Sword-type Pet Beasts, or other similar humanoid Swordsman Pet Beasts? And preferably one that can strike without reservation? Let me think..."

Old Liu stroked his chin and quickly thought of something. "Your Pet Beast's battles... it doesn't matter if it wins or loses, right?"

Su Ping shook his head, telling the truth. "I don't know. That's why I asked you for help, so we can try more options!"

"Well then..." Old Liu nodded and made a phone call. "Hello, Hu Yue? Yes, yes, it's me. I need your help with something. Are you at the dojo or at the Association now? Oh? That's perfect. Come directly to the simulation battle room on the second floor. I have something to discuss."

After hanging up, Old Liu stood up. "Let's go!"

Following Old Liu, Su Ping curiously asked, "Old Liu, who was that?"

"Heh, the young master of the Linzhou Spirit Fox Dojo, Hu Yue. His family's inherited Pet Beast, which they also cultivate, is the Spirit Fox Sword. Although in recent years, Artifact Pet Beasts have become less popular and the Spirit Fox Dojo's research has shifted towards fox-type Pet Beasts, the Spirit Fox Sword is still Hu Yue's primary Pet Beast. It may not be his strongest, but it's definitely good enough!"

Su Ping's eyes lit up. The simulation battle room was obviously different from the combat arenas in the hall downstairs. Old Liu confidently approached the nearby controller and pressed a few buttons. The massive battle room transformed as if it were alive, changing from an ordinary arena into a bamboo grove clearing in an instant.

Soon after, the man called Master Hu finally arrived. This was a man who looked to be around thirty, pale-faced, wearing black-rimmed glasses. He had a slender, bookish appearance, not at all like a dojo master.

"President Liu!"

"Hu Yue, I need your help with something. Su Ping needs a Sword-type Pet Beast for a battle. I remember your Spirit Fox Sword once had the strength of Commander Tenth Rank, right? Limit its strength a bit and have a bout with Su Ping's Pet Beast."

"Su Ping?" Hu Yue looked towards the figure beside him. Su Ping hurriedly reached out his hand.

"Hello, Senior Hu!"

Hu Yue nodded, shook hands with Su Ping, and smiled. "Hello, Su Ping! What's the realm of your Pet Beast?"

"Uh... I guess it's Elite First Rank!"

"Alright, then I'll limit Hu Hu to Elite First Rank!" Hu Yue appeared quite agreeable.

Su Ping hesitated. "Actually, never mind Elite First Rank. Elite Peak would be fine..."

"Ah, Su Ping, you don't understand," Hu Yue said. "Without my restrictions, my Pet Beast is quite prideful. It won't hold back and will go all out..."

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"However, since you're confident, let's go with Elite Fifth Tier. If anything comes up, I'll call out to Hu Hu right away..."

After hearing Su Ping and Liu Fuhai's request, Hu Yue entered the bamboo forest. With a flash of light in her hand, a strange long sword appeared there! This was a crimson long sword, and on its body was a lifelike pattern of a fox.

"Su Ping, would your Pet Beast fight against my Spirit Fox Sword's Sword Spirit, or do you wish to fight me holding the sword?" Hu Yue asked.

After glancing at the Spirit Fox Sword, Su Ping decided, "Let's fight purely against the Sword Spirit!"

Artifact Pet Beasts generally have these two methods of combat after reaching a certain Level. One is controlled personally by the owner; the other is by a Sword Spirit evolved from it.

"Great! Hu Hu, come forth! Limit your strength to Elite Fifth Tier!" Hu Yue nodded, tossed the Spirit Fox Sword into the sky. Her figure then retreated to the edge of the bamboo forest.

Su Ping uttered no more unnecessary words. A similar gleam of light burst forth in front of him! Qian Yi made a brilliant entrance.

In a flash, everyone's gaze, including Vice President Liu's, was fixed on the small paper figure. He had only heard of Su Ping forming a contract with a Paperman but had never before seen what this mutated Paperman looked like. Now that he saw it, he couldn't help but squint.

The little paper figure, only as tall as an average person's thigh, wore a conical hat and had three sheaths—almost as tall as itself—stuck in its back, looking extremely odd. However, it had to be said that such a Paperman truly drew attention.

"AWOO AWO!"

A sound came from the crimson Spirit Fox Sword in the sky. In the next moment, Su Ping watched as a fiery red, phantom fox emerged from the sword. It opened its mouth and bit the hilt of the Spirit Fox Sword, holding it firmly. The Spirit Fox held the sword in its mouth.

The little Paperman buzzed with excitement, finally seeing a sword in its opponent's hand. "Wow! (This is... a duel of Swordsmen!)"

Yet, the Spirit Fox Sword's Hu Hu merely glanced disdainfully at this odd Paperman. Just a mere Elite First Tier Paperman, and it dares speak of a Swordsman's duel? Though my power has been limited to Elite Fifth Tier by my master, that's only in terms of energy and output. My Commander Level Skills are still intact! Defeating such a small fry shouldn't be a problem.

Hence, Hu Hu merely gave the little Paperman a disdainful look. Swordsman? The phantom Sword Spirit shook its head. Very well, since that's the case, I might as well show this ignorant little Paperman, who has no idea what a sword truly is, what a real Swordsman is!

With that thought, a fiery red ripple slowly emerged from Hu Hu and the Spirit Fox Sword, as if they were enveloped in flames. And on the little Paperman's face, a change appeared: the symbol of an 'A', like from a playing card.

"Eh? Su Ping, your Paperman is indeed quite interesting!" Vice President Liu remarked, his eyebrows raised with interest as he saw the playing card symbol on Qian Yi's face.

Su Ping didn't respond because, in the next moment, Hu Hu had already made its move within the bamboo forest simulation battle room. Despite the strength restriction of Elite Fifth Tier, just as Hu Yue had said, her Sword-type Pet Beast never held back and always launched full-force attacks!

CLANG CLANG!

The clear sound echoed loudly within the battle room. The Thunder Sword in Qian Yi's hand quickly blocked Hu Hu's attack, and Qian Yi swiftly retreated. Its face, marked with the 'A', showed no signs of fluctuation—the so-called 'poker face of a Swordsman'.

"Thunder Element?" Liu Fuhai murmured, raising his eyebrows slightly.

But the very next moment, before he could take a closer look, the Paperman shot forward. Yet, it was still just an ordinary strike; Qian Yi did not hasten to use any Skills.

It was rare to encounter a fellow Swordsman, and Qian Yi's excitement for battle was greatly ignited. Though Qian Yi showed no outward expression, Su Ping could sense through their soul connection that it was relishing the fight. Relishing the duel with a Swordsman!

At that moment, a pure white light once again flashed across Qian Yi!

Old Liu saw the light and was visibly taken aback. "Is it really about to evolve right now?" he wondered.

However, in the next moment, the Thunder Sword, glowing with electrical sparks, was already chopping down towards Hu Hu.

CLANG CLANG CLANG CLANG!

At that moment, a Paperman and a fox phantom intertwined in the battle room like interlacing shadows. For a while, these two non-human Pet Beasts, both of whom could be called Swordsmen, actually fought on equal footing!?

"WOO-HOO! (Powerful opponent! Qian Yi acknowledges you!)" Qian Yi's voice declared.

But this only served to provoke Hu Hu. Who needs recognition from an oddball like you? I am Miss Hu Hu, a Peak Command Sword Artifact Pet Beast! A mere Paperman fighting on equal terms with me? This is an insult!

Suddenly, amidst the sharp glint of the sword's edge, an ear-piercing AWOO AWOO! from Hu Hu rang out! The next moment, a strand of fiery red sword glow wreathed the Spirit Fox Sword, like the tail flame of a brilliant comet streaking across the sky. The surrounding air temperature shot up suddenly. Clearly, everyone knew Hu Hu was about to get serious.

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Su Ping nodded in satisfaction.

Without using Skills, to fight a Sword Artifact-type Pet Beast suppressing its strength to the elite Fifth Rank and not be at a disadvantage was an impressive feat.

The combat prowess of the little Paperman was indeed remarkable.

However, what pleased him even more was the Light of Evolution flickering incessantly on the little Paperman's body at this moment. It was much faster than before.

This signified that the little Paperman's urge to Evolve had been awakened at the fastest pace amidst this very battle.

Old Liu and Hu Yue both let out a long sigh of relief. They had never anticipated this. Even though the Spirit Fox Sword, with its power suppressed to the elite Fifth Rank, wasn't at a point to declare

immediate victory, it should have been able to dominate the little Paperman in combat, shouldn't it? But now it seemed that was not the case.

Vice President Liu cast a complex glance at the young man. Indeed, perhaps only his own Pet Beasts could be nurtured by him into such freaks!

Were the previous Wanmu Wolf and the rest of their research merely superfluous demonstrations for outsiders?

Yet, just at this moment, Vice President Liu frowned slightly—not because of the battle, but because his cellphone had suddenly started ringing. He shifted his displeased gaze away from the battle, looking at the incoming call, which made his frown deepen. After thinking it over, he gave Su Ping a look and stepped out of the combat room, entering the lounge outside.

Su Ping paid it no mind. At this time, nothing seemed as important as the little Paperman Qian Yi's Evolution.

The little Paperman's poker face remained calm, without a hint of fluctuation.

The battleground was tense. Even the little Paperman could feel the temperature in the air surging intensely. Its paper body seemed to singe for a moment, but soon, a light slowly enveloped its entire form.

Yet at this moment, the terrifying surge from the Spirit Fox Sword made the little Paperman's body stiffen on the spot. Even its Thunder Sword seemed to have been sheathed at some unknown point.

However, at this moment, the electric glints on the little Paperman's body sparkled even more brightly, as if it were a child of lightning, wrapped in thunder.

This is...

Even the usually detached Hu Yue narrowed his eyes and stared intently at the little Paperman, poised to strike. At this moment, he could even feel an exceedingly dangerous sharpness emanating from this

little Paperman, a sharpness that could cut through anything. Coupled with this was a force compressed to its absolute limit, ready to erupt!

Weren't Papermen said to be the weakest of the Necromancy Series?

Hu Yue cast a peculiar glance at Su Ping. No wonder President Liu values this young man so highly. It's said he possesses extraordinary Talent with Wolf Pets, and now, it seems his Talent in the Necromancy System is not weak either!

However, he was not given much time to ponder.

"You're very strong! How about becoming Qian Yi's sword?"

This statement, which sounded like a challenge, made Hu Hu's temper flare even more.

Finally, the little Paperman moved. It even moved simultaneously with Hu Hu, who had also unleashed her full strength. But at that moment, the speed at which it burst forth was even faster than Hu Hu, who was biting the hilt of her long sword!

BOOM!

Was it a blade of sword light, or lightning? In the instant the little Paperman exploded into action, a straight line was cleaved before the two observers.

Subsequently, a heavy thud resounded!

BANG!

It was the sound of blades clashing.

The next moment, as Hu Yue watched in disbelief, his Spirit Fox Sword traced a lofty parabolic arc through the air, sent flying instantly. This strike shattered the spectral illusion formed by Hu Hu's Sword Spirit!

ROAR!

An enraged roar echoed through the combat room. Hu Hu's figure reassembled in the air. The Sword Spirit lacked a physical form, dependent on the Sword Device itself for existence. Therefore, the might of this strike had indeed dispersed Hu Hu's Sword Spirit, but it inflicted no real harm. Nonetheless, without a doubt, it was a monumental disgrace for Hu Hu to have an opponent like this inflict such an effect.

The entire Spirit Fox Sword turned into flames in that moment and smashed down from the heavens!

Yet, the little Paperman still didn't dodge or evade. Moreover, its poker face continued to speak!

"Lightning... Second Flash!"

BOOM!

Another sound, like thunder exploding beside their ears, rang out. The little Paperman's body flew out again, intertwining directly with the sword of Flame descending from the sky.

CLANG!

A grating sound of metal clashing against metal resounded. Hu Hu's Spirit Fox Sword staggered. Finally, a look of disbelief appeared in Hu Hu's eyes.

However, this was clearly not the end! Qian Yi's combat intelligence was almost top-tier. Su Ping had known this since he first met Qian Yi. Its understanding of battle allowed it to judge the best course of action at any given moment.

Therefore, almost before the Spirit Fox Sword could react, a sound similar to the previous one rang out once again.

"Lightning... Third Flash!"

Its voice was comical, but no one dared to underestimate it in the slightest. As it cried out, the flashes of electricity shot past again!

CLANG! Another impact.

This time, Hu Hu and the Spirit Fox Sword could no longer hold on and were sent flying out of the sky. And at the same time, the light on the little Paperman's body seemed to finally reach an unprecedented limit!

"Four Flashes!"

"Five Flashes!"

"..."

In the entire combat room, those flashes of lightning were like crisp, straight lines. With each flash, the Spirit Fox Sword stayed airborne a little longer.

One-Word Electric Sword's Consecutive Lightning Flashes!

This was the little Paperman's greatest achievement during this time, aside from the Qian Yi Whirlwind. By controlling the Energy outflow for temporary activations of the One-Word Electric Sword, it could greatly reduce its Energy consumption without significantly diminishing its power. This was the little Paperman's understanding of swordplay!

For Qian Yi, this was just a minor test of skill. But, undoubtedly, it was already enough.

Because at this moment, the Sword Spirit Hu Hu on the Spirit Fox Sword was completely numb. Not just mentally, but physically, too.

Who could tell her why a sword made of paper could also make her feel so numb?

At this moment, Hu Hu, locked within the Spirit Fox Sword and relying on the sword's body to protect herself, only wanted to tell her idiotic owner, What the hell were you thinking, letting me, Miss Hu Hu, use only Fifth Rank elite strength against such an opponent? Fight this kind of freak using only Fifth Rank elite strength?

Finally, the flashing sword tip stopped moving as quickly as thunder in the room. The little Paperman, whether due to Energy depletion or some other reason, stood still, not moving a step. And it was during this breather that the Spirit Fox Sword, no longer daring to fight the freakish little Paperman, instantly flew back into Hu Yue's arms. It emitted whimpering sounds, filled with both aggrievance and anger.

But at this time, the focus of the two men was not on it.

Because at the same time, the Light of Evolution on the little Paperman suddenly flared, rising into the sky! However, compared to the Evolution of other Pet Beasts, this beam of light seemed relatively weak.

Hmm?

Su Ping's brows furrowed, but Hu Yue quickly realized, "Quickly give it some supplemental Energy resources! Its own Energy is temporarily insufficient to support direct Evolution!"

Su Ping then reacted. Without a second thought, he retrieved the 'Frozen Soul Fire'—a Monarch Level Necromancy Series resource he had kept in his Beast Taming Space for emergencies—and threw it to the little Paperman.

The little Paperman swallowed it in one bite, simultaneously sheathing its Thunder Sword.

The next moment, the true Light of Evolution soared upward.

Meanwhile, Liu Fuhai, who had just finished his phone call, walked back in. Then, seeing the Light of Evolution soaring into the sky, he took a moment to react.

Chapter 256: Paper Swordsman! Jianxin, Flying Immortal!

Evolved?

Liu Fuhai blinked.

He had just stepped out to answer a phone call, and it evolved just like that?

Damn it! As expected, nothing good ever happens when Mu Yu returns. He just got back, and he already made me miss such an important event!

Liu Fuhai turned to Su Ping. "Has it finished evolving?!"

Su Ping also revealed a satisfied smile. "This... should be considered so, right?"

The Light of Evolution soared into the sky, then slowly enveloped the little Paperman, shrouding it in a large Light Cocoon. It seemed as if an unprecedented, mythical creature, one never before seen from ancient times to the present, was hatching.

In fact, it was indeed so.

Su Ping slowly exhaled, the anticipation in his eyes nearly spilling out.

How exciting! This was the cultivation and evolution of his very first Pet Beast. Although Old Sha's Wanmu Wolf had also undergone evolution, that was first discovered by Sun Chaoju and then perfected with the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas. Paperman Qian Yi, however, was truly nurtured step-by-step by Su Ping himself from the very beginning. From the initial discovery, Realm enhancement, Paper Body Control, the mutated Sword Body comprehended after its Realm increased, to the later Sword Technique Skills—it could be said that more effort had been poured into the little Paperman than even Xiao Qing.

And now, the time had come to reap the rewards of this effort.

At this moment, nobody wasted words. Even Hu Yue, standing beside them holding his Spirit Fox Sword, stared unblinkingly at the huge Light Cocoon shrouded in the Light of Evolution. Everyone present knew that after the Light of Evolution erupted, they wouldn't have to wait too long.

Indeed, they didn't have to wait long. After only about twenty minutes, the light gradually receded, and within the Light Cocoon, a brand-new figure slowly emerged.

In the faint light, it was still a humanoid figure.

Clearly, the little Paperman's appearance hasn't changed much?

However, just as Su Ping was about to take a closer look, his face suddenly flushed red. His boiling spiritual power erupted like scalding water, causing the colors in his vision to seemingly invert and the world around him to become hallucinatory!

Quick to react, Liu Fuhai hurriedly supported Su Ping, who was on the verge of fainting. Then, he felt the terrifying surge of spiritual power erupting from Su Ping! Liu Fuhai looked towards the focus of Su Ping's gaze, shocked.

This mutated Paperman that evolved... what a significant improvement! he thought. The extent of Su Ping's spiritual power breakthrough is somewhat beyond my expectations!

That's right; this single evolution of Qian Yi had catapulted Su Ping's spiritual power Realm straight from Elite Fourth Rank to Elite Sixth Rank! Even though his spiritual power had already been on the cusp of advancing, this consecutive increase still caught Su Ping by surprise.

However, one can only imagine, if the feedback to the master's progression is so substantial, just how exaggerated must the Pet Beast's improvement be?

After slightly stabilizing his chaotic and turbulent spiritual power, Su Ping finally turned his gaze towards the center of the field where the light had faded. The evolved little Paperman finally appeared before his eyes.

It was still the same little Paperman as before; however, the slight difference in appearance was that a peculiar cloak now adorned its back, and its robes seemed fuller. At the same time, the three scabbards that the little Paperman had previously folded for its swords were now a single, much larger Sword Box, housing all three Paper Swords. However, the conical hat on its head and its papery body had apparently remained unchanged.

But for some reason, at this moment, the little Paperman gave Su Ping an extremely special feeling, as if surrounded by an aura, immediately possessing a unique, ethereal quality.

Su Ping was a bit slow to react. He simply used the Eye of Truth to look at Qian Yi, who had changed so much that he was somewhat unrecognizable:

[Paper Immortal Swordsman (Contracted)]

[Attribute: Sword, Undead]

[Current Level: Elite Ninth Order]

[Racial Potential: First Stage Monarch]

[Skills: Paper Body Folding (Proficient), Jinge Technique (Perfection), Sword Soul (Special), Accelerated Casting (Proficient), Mutated Paper Body Control (Proficiency), Mutated Sword Body (Proficiency), One-Word Electric Sword (Proficiency), Qian Yi Whirlwind (Proficiency), Mutated Sword Heart (Beginner), Flying Immortal (Beginner)]

Elite Ninth Order!? Although Su Ping had been prepared, he couldn't help but draw a sharp breath. No wonder I advanced by two Great Realms! Such a huge advancement, such an immense increase—no form of cultivation could possibly compare to it!

Paper Immortal Swordsman? Su Ping looked at Qian Yi, who had become remarkably ethereal, and couldn't deny the name was indeed apt. Even the attributes reflected by the Eye of Truth had changed, shifting from the previous 'Gold' to what belonged to the 'Sword' category within the Metal Element.

Of course, Level was one aspect and appearance another, but the most important thing was undoubtedly the skills the little Paperman gained after its promotion. Not only were some of its previous skills enhanced, but it also gained two new ones.

[Mutated Sword Heart (Beginner): Passive ability. With the heart of a swordsman, it can exhibit 120% of the effect of sword-type skills!

Mutated Effect: Greatly enhances control over sword-related actions, allowing it to multitask. Also, it can actively unleash its full power, causing the next sword technique's effect to double!]

Although it was a Mutated Skill, compared to the Paperman's Mutated Sword Body, this skill certainly fell a bit short. However, its effects were extensive and acted directly upon Qian Yi itself. Simple, but it could be considered a jack-of-all-trades! Su Ping was quite satisfied.

[Flying Immortal (Beginner): By adjusting its body, it can achieve a certain ability to hover and fly. Simultaneously, it can activate the Flying Immortal effect, significantly increasing its speed by ignoring wind resistance, and achieve a degree of Elementalization, allowing it to ignore a great deal of physical attacks.]

Holy moly? Su Ping blinked. Then, in the next moment, without any command from him, a crisp sound emitted.

"WAH!"

Then, under the watchful eyes of the three people present, the newly evolved Paperman leaped vigorously. The cape behind it made a series of RUSTLES, and then, to Su Ping's astonishment, it transformed into something akin to a paper airplane's gliding wing.

Next, Qian Yi floated playfully here and there in front of him.

Qian Yi chirped excitedly, "WAH! I can fly now!"

Right. The impressive aura and stylish temperament from just after the evolution completely crumbled. Not a trace remained.

Su Ping pursed his lips, pretending not to see the strange looks from Hu Yue and Vice President Liu. He continued to examine Qian Yi's changes. Soon, he noticed other differences. The rest of the skills were nothing special; even if their skill levels had increased, the extent and effect of the improvements weren't significant. But what truly made him slightly taken aback was one skill he had never expected.

[Sword Soul (Special): Special Skill, cannot be upgraded. A Sword Soul born purely for the sword, it has a great sensitivity to any sword-related items. Other effects are unknown.]

The previous Sword Soul Mark had become a true 'Sword Soul'. Even after the Paperman's evolution was complete, this Sword Soul was no longer just a purely ineffective embellishment. Instead, at this very moment, it had become a skill with a genuine effect.

So, does this mean...

Su Ping suddenly remembered what the Sword Spirit had said in the Fengdu Sword King's Secret Realm. The effect of the Sword Intent Origin could allow a true Sword Soul Pet Beast, upon reaching the Commander Level, to comprehend the Super-Rank Skill 'Sword Intent'!

A Super-Rank Skill! Su Ping's eyes lit up with excitement. If Paperman could grasp a Super-Rank Skill while at the Commander Level, what would its future hold? He dared not imagine it.

It was just a pity that while these two new skills from the evolution were quite useful, Su Ping still felt a bit unsatisfied. Its Racial Potential actually reached the Monarch Level! Logically, it should have gained three to four more skills!

But after giving it some thought, Su Ping understood. Generally, a Paperman's evolution would occur at the Peak Commander Level. As for why its final Racial Potential could reach the Monarch Level, it was very likely because, at the very end, he had the little fellow consume Monarch-Level resources to replenish its energy. Therefore, Paperman had only acquired two additional skills this time. However, with its Mutated Sword Body, as long as Paperman had enough swords, it probably wouldn't lack

combat-oriented Sword Technique Skills. This was evident from the fact that the two skills it gained after evolving were not direct combat skills.

Thinking this, Su Ping relaxed.

Meanwhile, within the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, the Catalog entry for Paperman opened. A prompt then appeared!

[Mutated Paperman completes individual evolution, unlocking Evolutionary Body 'Paper Immortal Swordsman', earned 1500 Catalog Experience Points!]

[Gained substantial understanding of the reasons behind Paperman's mutation; analysis of the reason for Paperman's mutation completed!]

Su Ping exhaled. He had long known the reason for the Paperman's mutation; what need was there for analysis?

However, to satisfy his curiosity, Su Ping still merged his consciousness into the Paperman's Catalog entry. Since no additional Experience Points would be consumed, taking a look couldn't hurt.

But this look made him slightly startle:

[Mutation Direction for Paperman 1: Sword Soul Mutation]

[Using the Spiritual Level Resource 'Soul Seed', using the Spiritual Level Resource 'Sword Intent Origin', with Paperman as the body, implanting both allows Paperman to give birth to a complete soul, which will be a Sword Soul with remarkable potential...]

[Mutation Direction for Paperman 2: Metal Element Jinge Technique Mutation]

[After its paper body is pierced by a Sword Artifact-type Pet Beast between ten thousand to one hundred thousand times, there's a certain chance of completing the mutation during this process.]

So Paperman's mutation wasn't just a single type? Was it a combination of Sword Soul and Metal Element? Its Jinge Technique came about this way? Pierced ten thousand to one hundred thousand times?

At that moment, looking at Paperman floating to and fro in the air, Su Ping's gaze softened immensely.

Just then, Hu Yue, who was standing by, spoke up, "Su Ping, do you want to test out your Pet Beast's combat strength after its evolution?"

Su Ping was startled, then he nodded gladly.

Only Hu Hu, the Sword Spirit, which had retracted into the Spirit Fox Sword, emerged again from the blade. It looked at its master with scrutinizing eyes, thinking, Does this damn Beast Tamer want me dead?

Chapter 257: Pet Beast Breeding Knows No Borders? But Beast Tamers Do!

In the Breeder Association, inside Liu Fuhai's office.

Several figures were seated there, two of them wearing expressions of impatience.

"Breeder Mu Hang, is this how your Jianghai Breeder Association treats its guests?" the blond-haired, blue-eyed Caucasian man asked, somewhat displeased.

They had been waiting here for nearly an hour. Liu Fuhai had sounded so accommodating over the phone, yet he still hadn't returned.

Mu Hang glanced at the man. Of the three people present, Mu Yu was his father. Even if he didn't agree with some of his father's practices, he couldn't say much. Chris was a disciple his father had accepted from across the ocean, and he always respectfully addressed Mu Hang as "Senior Brother." Naturally, Mu Hang couldn't be too harsh with him either. As for this fellow, he was merely one of the envoys stationed at the Eagle Country's embassy in the Dragon Nation. What right did he have to complain?

Therefore, Mu Hang shot him a glance and said, "Mr. Harman, if you're impatient, you can leave first."

Harman stiffened, choked by the response. He could only glance at Mu Yu, whose expression remained calm, but he didn't say anything further.

On the other hand, Chris also said unhappily, "Teacher, what is Master Liu doing?"

Mu Yu replied indifferently, "He said it was about Breeder Su Ping, whom he had just met. It's probably related to Pet Beast breeding, right?"

Harman snorted derisively. "It can't be about that Paperman, can it?"

Mu Hang glanced at these people. Damn, they actually hit the nail on the head, he thought.

The others might not know, but Mu Hang actually knew quite a bit about Su Ping. His main source of information was Sun Chaoju, that big mouth. Regarding Su Ping's Paperman cultivation, the subsequent Wanmu Wolf, and the rumor that Su Ping had actually formed a contract with a mutated Paperman as a Pet Beast—details unknown to others—Mu Hang had indeed heard whispers of these things.

Therefore, even though Mu Hang knew what the Paperman meant to his father, he still said, "Not all Papermen are the same. Su Ping's mutated Paperman has potential!"

Hmm?

At this remark, even Mu Yu looked at Mu Hang with suspicion. "A mutated Paperman? What, that Su Family boy actually has a mutated one?"

Mu Hang nodded.

Although he was the son of a Senior Necromancy Breeder, his chosen path was different from his father's, and he didn't know much about Undead Pet Beasts. However, Mu Yu had faced such significant setbacks because of Papermen in the past that his understanding of them was naturally far beyond that

of ordinary people. When research into ordinary Papermen yielded no progress, Mu Hang had turned his attention to mutated Papermen. However, after all these years, he had only encountered a few. Even when such specimens were found, research into their mutation directions hadn't proven very significant.

Compared to Mu Yu's son, Mu Hang, Chris undoubtedly understood his teacher's thoughts better. He said directly, "A mutated Paperman? For such precious experimental material to be in the hands of a mere Dragon Nation citizen is too much of a waste, isn't it? Senior Brother Mu Hang, could you discuss a price with that Su Ping and see if we can buy it?"

Mu Hang frowned. What he hated most was their attitude towards Pet Beasts.

"Su Ping's mutated Paperman is his Contracted Beast. It's not for sale!"

"This..." Chris glanced at Mu Yu beside him.

As expected, even Mu Yu was quite intrigued. "Little Hang, could you talk to Breeder Su and see if I can join the research for a bit? Perhaps I can help it complete its Evolution. Hehe, I won't even charge him a fee for the cultivation and Evolution..."

Mu Yu was truly interested. After all these years, the Paperman had always been his obsession. He had been imprisoned by the Dragon Nation years ago due to a Paperman Evolution experiment, and only then had he seized the opportunity to join the Eagle Country. Even after arriving across the ocean, he never gave up his research on Papermen. However, he always lacked a clear direction.

So, he had a further thought. Could I perhaps find a new path by studying mutated Papermen, and then apply those findings back to ordinary Papermen?

He had never expected to make such a discovery upon returning to Jianghai this time.

However, before Mu Hang could answer, laughter came from outside the door. "Hehe, Mu Yu, still can't let go of your Paperman research, can you!"

The office door was pushed open, and Liu Fuhai entered, followed by Su Ping. The speaker was none other than Liu Fuhai.

Mu Yu stood up and chuckled, "You old rascal! I come all this way back, and you make me wait this long!"

"Haha, well, something came up. Su Ping's mutated Paperman completed its Evolution, and he had me go take a look with him..." Liu Fuhai patted Su Ping beside him, and they sat down on the sofa together.

Su Ping's gaze swept across all those present. He was already familiar with Mu Hang, so no need for introductions there. As for the others, Senior Breeder Mu Yu had a gaunt face and pale complexion, perfectly fitting Su Ping's stereotype of a Necromancy Breeder. As for the other two, the blond-haired, blue-eyed Caucasians, he swept his gaze over them once and couldn't be bothered to pay them any mind.

However, almost as soon as Liu Fuhai's words faded, the entire office fell deathly silent.

Even Mu Yu, the smile still on his face, was visibly stunned.

Chapter 258: Pet Beast Breeding Knows No Borders? But Beast Tamers Do!_2

"Mutant Paperman... has it completed its evolution?"

Mu Yu's gaze was firmly locked on Su Ping.

It made Su Ping involuntarily get goosebumps all over.

Liu Fuhai, however, did not answer that question and simply crossed his legs.

"So, what brings you back this time? Any business?"

Mu Yu quickly withdrew his gaze from Su Ping, but a fervent look still occasionally flashed in his eyes.

"Haha, isn't it because I was thinking that it's been so many years since we've met, so I specially came back to see you?"

Liu Fuhai squinted. He always felt that it wasn't that simple, but he couldn't figure out why for the moment.

Mu Yu clearly had no intention of elaborating on this, and his gaze returned to Su Ping.

"I've heard from Mu Hang that there's an extraordinary disciple of yours in Jianghai. Now it seems he's truly remarkable indeed."

Liu Fuhai chuckled.

"I can't really take credit as Su Ping's teacher. It's just my luck that Su Ping was born in Jianghai!"

In the past, Liu Fuhai might have boasted in front of others, but now, he truly felt ashamed.

Not to mention the mutant Paperman, just the embryonic form of the Super-Rank Skill of the Wanmu Wolf made him green with envy.

Mu Yu didn't mind the old man's modesty.

He watched Su Ping with a smile.

"Su Ping, are you researching the evolution of Papermen? I've done some research on Papermen myself, so if you have any questions, you can ask me..."

In his view, he was extending a great deal of goodwill.

Although it was purposeful, Mu Yu felt there was nothing wrong with his offer.

But Su Ping just smiled faintly, giving a light nod.

Ask you? Ask you what? Witness your bold proclamations from the early diary entries, then the nonsensical babble in the middle, and then watch as you conduct soul-devouring experiments after a breakdown? Finally, see you leave Dragon Nation with your tail between your legs?

Su Ping knew people were different. He also understood that choices varied. But understanding didn't equate to approval.

However, it was clear that Mu Yu wanted to see more than just this attitude from Su Ping.

He quickly turned to Liu Fuhai again.

"Old Liu, did you just say that Breeder Su's mutant Paperman has evolved?"

Liu Fuhai nodded. "Mhm."

Of course, he knew what Mu Yu was probably thinking at this moment, but he didn't care, nor did he have any intention of playing matchmaker.

He and Mu Yu had once been the best of friends, but Old Liu knew better than anyone else.

Even when Mu Yu was imprisoned, Liu Fuhai had visited him frequently, ensuring his life in prison wasn't much worse than outside.

But once the other party left Dragon Nation and joined Eagle Country, Mu Yu was no longer his best friend. He was no better than a stranger, at most.

Who knew what Mu Yu was up to, returning to Dragon Nation this time?

Clearly, Liu Fuhai knew Mu Yu's purpose, and so did the few people beside him.

The younger Chris laughed.

"Breeder Su, you must know that Teacher has always been very interested in Papermen. Now that your mutant Paperman can complete its evolution, it may be of great significance to the Paperman race itself! For the sake of the evolutionary prospects of Papermen, for the development of Necromancy Series breeding, Breeder Su, can you summon your mutant Paperman for us to see and enlighten us all?"

For the evolutionary prospects of Papermen. For the development of Necromancy Series breeding. Two very grand justifications.

Facing Mu Yu—an elder, Mu Hang's father, and someone whose diary he had read (though it offered no practical help)—Su Ping felt some connection, however tenuous.

Therefore, even though Su Ping had no particular fondness for him, there was no reason to speak rudely.

But clearly, facing this presumptuous foreigner, Su Ping was not in such a good mood.

He simply glanced at Chris, and under Mu Yu's expectant gaze, shook his head.

"The little guy is still adapting to his abilities; let's not bother."

Qian Yi's situation was special. Moreover, the evolutionary principles of ordinary Papermen were actually encapsulated within Qian Yi.

It wasn't that Su Ping was being overly protective of his own discovery, but showing his achievements to his own people, like Old Liu and Hu Yue, wasn't much of an issue, even if it exposed something.

But what if these foreigners got a hold of it?

In Pet Beast research, the initial direction of research can often be a decisive key.

What if his findings were plagiarized? Albeit unlikely, why should he take a risk just to satisfy the curiosity of this bunch? Who the hell do you think you are?

Su Ping's blunt refusal made Chris's face darken, and Mu Yu also lost face.

Mu Yu finally couldn't hold back.

"Breeder Su, the pursuit of Pet Beast breeding knows no borders! Breeders also aim to advance humanity's Beast Taming further!"

Liu Fuhai had been silent all along. Even at this moment, he only frowned without speaking, his gaze also turning towards Su Ping.

But Su Ping just smiled.

"Perhaps. But Beast Tamers do have borders. Of course, that may not matter to you, but for me, some things are destined to mean we're not on the same path!"

Su Ping smiled faintly, remaining indifferent to Chris and the other white man from beginning to end.

A hint of a smile touched Liu Fuhai's lips. He was clearly very pleased with Su Ping's response.

Su Ping stood up.

"Since Old Liu, you still have matters to attend to, I won't overstay my welcome!"

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Having said that, he turned to leave.

But having only taken a few steps, he seemed to remember something. He turned his head back; under Mu Yu's somewhat surprised gaze, he pondered for a moment and took out a book.

It was none other than the Paperman Cultivation Journal that Sun Chaoju had given him.

"This belongs to you, doesn't it, Breeder Mu? I must admit, I admire your professional attitude, but forgive me for saying I cannot agree with your cultivation methods! I hope you can make further progress in the lands across the ocean," Su Ping said.

Mu Yu was slightly taken aback as he looked at the journal handed to him. He didn't take it, but instead, raised his head and gave Su Ping an interested look, his slightly narrowed eyes showing no clear emotion.

However, Mu Yu eventually smiled faintly and accepted the journal.

"Then I'll take your kind words to heart. And, that pendant looks quite nice," Mu Yu said.

Su Ping looked down slightly, glancing at the sword-shaped pendant from which he had taken the cultivation journal.

It was none other than the Space Device of the Fengdu Sword King.

Su Ping smiled, not minding it at all.

However, it was just then that Vice President Liu finally spoke up, "Su Ping, go have something to drink first. I won't be busy for too long, and we can have a chat later..."

...

Just as Vice President Liu had said, he indeed didn't spend too much time with Mu Yu.

After a little over half an hour, he came to find Su Ping again.

Meanwhile, Mu Yu and his two companions walked out of the Breeder Association building.

—Mu Hang had already left when Su Ping did.

Mu Yu's expression was calm; he didn't seem to care at all about the cold reception he had received at the Breeder Association.

However, the fact that the two Caucasians beside him didn't dare to speak even a word showed that Mu Yu's mood must be quite bad.

The evolutionary cultivation of the mutated Paperman.

The rejection by a mere junior, and the disdain for him evident in that junior's words and tone.

Furthermore, the one he once considered his best friend showed him no regard, not even bothering with basic superficial courtesies.

This made Mu Yu, who had actually come back wanting to catch up with an old friend, feel like a clown.

However, the old and shrewd Mu Yu was not as angered as the two had imagined. Instead, he was puzzled.

Indeed, once in the vehicle, his puzzlement could no longer be masked. He even muttered softly, "It really looks like that thing. A coincidence? But it's also unlikely; it lacks that aura. It must be a coincidence, or just one of many fakes..."

Supporting his chin, he no longer cared about the previous Paperman incident.

Chris, beside him, carefully asked, "Master, what thing were you talking about?"

Mu Yu gave him a sidelong glance and replied indifferently, "Don't ask about things you shouldn't! You go out first..."

"Oh..."

Although Chris didn't understand his master's meaning, he obediently left the car.

Afterward, with a thought from Mu Yu, a Spirit Barrier completely sealed the space inside the car. Only then did he look at the Caucasian man beside him.

"Harman."

"Mu Sir! What is it?"

A cold light flashed in Mu Yu's eyes. "That Su Ping is very interesting. I want three things from him. You go get them for me!"

Harman was taken aback, then said with some difficulty, "Mu Sir, this is Dragon Nation, after all. If I act rashly..."

He hadn't finished his sentence when Mu Yu's gaze swept over him. "After so many years in Dragon Nation, has your brain frozen? I recall you have a rare 'Mind Worm' Pet Beast, right?"

"..."

"In Dragon Nation, even in the most glamorous cities, there are always people lurking in the grey areas! No one cares about their lives or movements. That kid is merely an elite Beast Tamer..."

"This... Yes, I understand!"

Harman nodded. Indeed, compared to Mu Yu, a native of Dragon Nation, he was still far too lacking.

However, what truly chilled Harman's heart was this Mu Sir's icy and ruthless nature.

Perhaps this is the reason this Mu Sir is appreciated and heavily relied upon by that entity?

"Remember, leave no trace! The reason Dragon Nation's security is countless times stronger than Eagle Country's is because of the omnipresent official forces! So, from now on, do not have any direct contact with Su Ping, understand? Furthermore, when you make your move, you and I must have a strong witness to provide us with an alibi. Also, it must be done quickly."

"Yes, Mu Sir. What are the three items you require?"

Mu Yu smiled faintly. "The Soul Fire of that Genius Breeder, that mutated Paperman, and..."

A puzzled look flashed in Mu Yu's eyes. After a moment's pause, he continued, "And that sword-shaped space pendant."

Although reason told Mu Yu it was highly unlikely—after all, if that item were real, its significance would be unimaginable. Moreover, there were indeed too few clues. With only a slight resemblance, there was no need to be overly sensitive.

However, Mu Yu's style was to rather eliminate the wrong person than let a potential target escape.

After all, that item was supposed to have appeared in some Secret Realm. It was clearly impossible for it to be on that young fellow.

Shaking his head, Mu Yu dismissed the thought, a cold glint flashing in the depths of his eyes. Liu Fuhai, since you can't even be bothered with superficial courtesies, don't blame me for meddling in your affairs!

Observing the cold glint in the Undead Cultivator's eyes, Harman involuntarily shivered. "I understand, rest assured!"

"Go. It would be best to act tonight. Coincidentally, this evening I have to meet with President Qin again; he's always been keen on joining the 'Heart of Gold'."

Chapter 260: Su Ping Attacked! A Thin Line Between Life and Death!

Black Blood's car window opened. The night wind dissipated the excitement and restlessness Su Ping had felt during the day. Experiencing the different scenery of the night, Su Ping couldn't help but smile. Finally, the evolution is complete.

The Paperman's evolution boosted Su Ping's confidence in preparing to evolve Xiao Qing as well, raising it to unprecedented levels. Once they both evolved, Su Ping would have sufficient confidence for tomorrow's professional aptitude test. He didn't understand what Qin Xiaoxue had meant at the time. However, if things continued to develop this way, his strength might reach an unimaginable level by the mid-year professional aptitude test next year.

Thinking of this, Su Ping grinned, instantly feeling completely satisfied and in high spirits.

"Feifei, how's my driving?!" he asked Black Blood's mechanical intelligence.

"So amazing! Master, your growth rate astounds Feifei! To think you could increase your speed from twenty kilometers per hour to forty in such a short time! Look, the last bus is already very close to you!"

Su Ping said proudly, then quickly eased up on the gas pedal, his heart still pounding a bit from the speed. It had been too fast, making his heart race.

"By the way, Feifei, why can't you merge with a mechanical body like other awakened Mechanical Cores?"

The car's screen displayed a cartoon image of a big-headed baby doll, Feifei's virtual avatar. It shook its head.

"Feifei doesn't know either. Perhaps my core material is a bit different from other Hearts of Gold Element! But it doesn't matter, Feifei can still serve Master from the car system! Plus, this is good too, since I don't have to fight. Feifei hates fighting the most!"

Su Ping smiled slightly. "Hehe, Feifei doesn't like fighting?"

"Yes, Feifei is afraid of pain."

Su Ping was taken aback. "Mechanical Cores can feel pain too?"

"Of course!" The virtual character on the car screen adopted a scared expression. "It's because merging with a mechanical body is so painful that Feifei can't merge!"

Merging with a mechanical body is painful? Su Ping scratched his head. Is it really that painful? He hadn't heard Dong Muyun mention this. He indeed knew very little about Mechanical Pet Beasts. When I have time, I should ask Dong Muyun if Mechanical Cores really fear the pain of merging with a mechanical body.

However, in this moment of distraction, Su Ping suddenly froze. At the same time, Feifei's voice resounded from inside the car, "EEK! Master, there's someone ahead! Hit the brakes, quickly!"

"Damn it!"

Instead, Su Ping slammed his foot on the accelerator.

Instantly, Black Blood shot forward, accelerating from 0 to 100 kilometers per hour in 0.9 seconds. Fortunately, this wasn't an ordinary sports car but an intelligent one. Feifei detected the car wasn't slowing but lunging forward, and instantly initiated an emergency brake through the intelligent system.

SCREECH...

The friction between the tires and the ground left a ten-meter drag mark on the road.

Su Ping blinked rapidly, still reeling from the shock, and looked rather speechlessly at the figure not far away. The figure seemed frozen in fear, just standing there.

Su Ping felt somewhat helpless. It's the dead of night, on this deserted suburban road, for someone to just pop out like that... who could handle that?

The person in front of him, however, seemed so frightened by the incident that they just stood there motionless. Su Ping felt a pang of remorse; after all, he knew he was usually a competent driver. Indeed, one shouldn't get too complacent. The moment you do, you lose your composure.

Su Ping reflected inwardly, then quickly got out of the car and approached the person. "Um, are you okay? Do you need to get checked out?"

However, the moment that figure turned to look at him, Su Ping felt a sensation he had never experienced before. It was like when he was in school and saw the peak Commander-level Pet Beast, an Iron Thorn Over the Mountain, which had been caught in the wild and kept behind a reinforced glass wall. When that Iron Thorn Over the Mountain had stared at him with its cold, triangular eyes, Su Ping had felt as if all his strength was being drained away. Because his biological instincts told him that if that thing pounced, he would undoubtedly die. Back then, there was the reinforced glass wall for protection. But this time, there was no barrier whatsoever between him and the being before his eyes!

In a split second, almost at that very instant, two beams of light flared simultaneously. The Paperman and another figure appeared almost instantly on the dark street.

Su Ping quickly backed away, finally seeing what had appeared before him. It was an Evolutionary Body of an Iron Arm Ape: a Steel Arm Ape.

Su Ping was quite familiar with the Iron Arm Ape. During the Legion tournaments, one Legion had a unit based on Iron Arm Ape Evolutionary Bodies. Their evolved individuals were even Great Strength Vajra Apes, powerful Monarch-level Pet Beasts.

Fortunately, the evolved Iron Arm Ape before him was 'just' a Steel Arm Ape. As a common Evolutionary Body of the Iron Arm Ape, the Steel Arm Ape had merely gained a further enhancement in strength. Nonetheless, even this Steel Arm Ape caused Su Ping's pupils to contract with wariness.