

Beast T 311

Chapter 311: Healing! The Perfection of the Heart of Woods!

Looking at Su Ping, who was dead serious, everyone could now tell that this human Beast Tamer didn't seem to be joking.

Even Shangguan Ye frowned slightly. Was it something he had just said that wasn't quite appropriate?

Currently, the root system of the Life Ancient Tree was severed, making it difficult to draw a significant amount of energy for revival. Being able to guarantee a lifespan of another year or two already demonstrated the substantial foundation of this Life Ancient Tree. Extending its life further would be incredibly difficult. The returns would definitely not be proportional to the investment. With that kind of capital, one might almost be able to purchase some young Life Ancient Trees; it was obviously a loss-making proposition.

However, at this time, the other Plant-based Pet Beasts clearly didn't care about such concerns. This was especially true for the Rouge Powder Peach Blossom Smile, which had been extremely close to Su Ping before; it now swiftly swayed and "looked" towards him.

For human Beast Tamers, there could be many Life Ancient Trees. But for these little creatures, there was only one Life Ancient Tree.

This was also why Su Ping, despite the risk, wanted to give it a try. With Old Sha's language of nature, Su Ping believed that even without the Life Ancient Tree, he would outcompete the Fire King Company for these rare Plant-based Pet Beasts.

Yet, witnessing this scene, Su Ping still couldn't help himself. For these little Plant System creatures, losing the Life Ancient Tree was akin to losing a family member.

The other Plant-based Pet Beasts felt the same way. Even the apparently fiery Flame Morning Glory couldn't wait to make its voice heard.

"PEEP PEEP PEEP! Human, if you can help the Life Ancient Tree, I am willing to leave with you!"

"RUSTLE RUSTLE! And me..."

"..."

For a moment, they all spoke up. Su Ping didn't respond because even he didn't have much confidence in himself.

Instead, the Life Ancient Tree in front of him shook its head. "Little ones, natural essence is such a precious resource. Using it on me would be a waste. Besides, even with natural essence, sustaining my lifeforce would be extremely difficult. Even if it worked, it would at most extend my life by a few months—not worth the effort!"

Su Ping smiled. "Whether it's possible or not, we still have to try! And I'm not planning on using natural essence!"

The Life Ancient Tree was slightly taken aback. It said no more, continuing to regard Su Ping with curious and interested eyes.

This odd young man... it had seen him interacting with the Rouge Powder Peach Blossom Smile on the hillside just moments before. The Life Ancient Tree found the Rouge Powder Peach Blossom Smile to be one of its most troublesome little ones—second only to that disobedient brat still refusing to leave the nursery. The fact that this young man had secured its direct agreement clearly indicated there was something unusual about him.

Considering this, the Life Ancient Tree didn't mind letting him try. Yet, as an old tree that had come to terms with its fate, it nodded and then said, "Alright. But, little one, if you fail, don't feel disheartened or discouraged. And you little kids, don't blame him. Having this kind of intention is already wonderful."

Clearly, the Life Ancient Tree worried that the other Plant-based Pet Beasts would blame and resent Su Ping if he failed. This concern made Su Ping feel an even stronger fondness for the Life Ancient Tree, which was like a kindly old person.

A Life Ancient Tree like this fit perfectly with the overall style of the Heart of Wood Cultivation Base. Having a presence like the 'Sweeping Monk' would make the construction of the botanical garden that much smoother.

Thus, under everyone's expectant gazes, he took a deep breath and patted Old Sha's head.

Old Sha clearly understood some of its young master's thoughts. Its gaze towards the Life Ancient Tree also held a touch of sympathy.

It had faced a similar exhaustion of its life force before and had been prepared to face the end of death. In the end, it was its young master who had pulled it back from the brink.

Now, looking at a Pet Beast in a similar predicament, how could Old Sha not empathize? Naturally, Old Sha too wanted to assist this Life Ancient Tree.

Hence, even without Su Ping's command, it followed him and slowly approached. The Life Ancient Tree regarded the old wolf that had come before it with curiosity, momentarily taken aback.

Although it didn't know what kind of Pet Beast this old wolf was, it could sense that the old wolf was merely a Peak Command Pet Beast. Could a Peak Command Pet Beast help it?

Clearly, the Life Ancient Tree itself had never held much hope and was now even less concerned. However, it was soon taken aback again.

All of a sudden, it felt an extremely unique power fluctuation emerging on its body. This power fluctuation enveloped and wrapped it, leaving it momentarily at a loss.

Even the other spectators watched the scene without blinking. Among those present, aside from Dong Muyun, obviously no one believed Su Ping could do it.

Only those who understood the specific circumstances could truly comprehend the immense difficulty involved, how hard it would be to restore it.

Only Dong Muyun had seen this young man produce too many miracles. These miracles weren't just one or two occurrences.

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Dong Muyun possessed an inexplicable, almost irrational confidence in Su Ping, who was merely an elite seventh-tier Beast Tamer. It felt as if anything Su Ping claimed he could do, he absolutely could achieve.

In the profound silence, where all the people and Plant-based Pet Beasts were nearly motionless, everyone's gaze was fixed on the trio at the center: a man, a wolf, and a tree. They were afraid to make the slightest sound, fearing it might disrupt the process. They could also sense a fluctuation spreading from the old wolf to the Life Ancient Tree. With this fluctuation, the Life Ancient Tree's expression even turned grave. It didn't continue speaking, allowing that sensation to merge with itself.

However, Su Ping's brow furrowed slightly as the fluctuation from Old Sha halted abruptly. Was it not working?

Indeed, even under such circumstances and with Old Sha's Natural Language, the decay and yellowing of the Life Ancient Tree were not alleviated; it was as if nothing had any effect on it.

A flicker of emotion crossed the face of the Life Ancient Tree, and it said with a smile, "Ah, this sensation! What a marvelous Pet Beast! Human Beast Tamers truly are the wisest of living beings!

"Any Pet Beast in your hands can display all sorts of miraculous abilities. Such wondrous Evolutionary Bodies are never seen in the wild!

"It has been a long time since I last felt myself growing so vigorously. It's just a pity..."

The Life Ancient Tree didn't elaborate on what was a pity, but Su Ping knew. Natural Language could accelerate the growth of Plant-based Pet Beasts, but it couldn't induce their recovery! Furthermore, with the Life Ancient Tree's life force nearly extinguished, even standard healing methods were unlikely to take effect. Su Ping hadn't even let the Elf Wolf try because he knew if it were that simple, the Life Ancient Tree wouldn't be so desperate. In such situations, most attempts were futile. It wasn't merely a case of treating the symptoms without curing the root cause; rather, it couldn't even alleviate the symptoms.

Seeing this, everyone shook their heads; even Dong Muyun frowned slightly. Had it failed? But it made sense. Su Ping hadn't truly delved into the domain of Plant-based Pet Beasts. It was normal for some deviations to occur, and Su Ping wasn't to blame. Indeed, the Life Ancient Tree had simply delayed too long and was now at its last gasp.

The other Plant-based Pet Beasts also seemed to dim at once. The faint glimmer of hope that had just arisen was extinguished, replaced once more by disappointment. However, with the Life Ancient Tree's earlier admonition, no one blamed Su Ping. They knew Su Ping was trying to help their revered Life Ancient Tree.

Yet, just when everyone else had given up, one person had not. Su Ping was never one to give up easily. Since he had stepped forward, he hadn't truly expected the issue with the Life Ancient Tree to be resolved so easily.

He let out a soft breath. Everything circled back, and the responsibility once again rested upon that one skill he found most unforgettable!

Heart of Woods!

This was his grandfather's legacy. It was one of the most remarkable passive-type ordinary skills for Wood Element Pet Beasts. It was an evolution of the Heart of Elements, the primary reason the Wanmu Wolf and its other Evolutionary Bodies stood apart from others by an unimaginable margin.

The Heart of Woods allowed it to absorb the vitality of ordinary trees to nourish itself, drawing their strength to replenish its own. Similarly, Natural Language had a somewhat comparable effect, able to absorb the power of other Plant System life forms to give back to itself. And naturally, if it could absorb, it could also release! If it could draw power, it could also feedback power! Old Sha didn't even need to absorb the life force and vitality from other Wood Element plants or Plant-based Pet Beasts to compensate. This was because its 'Photosynthesis + Sunlight Absorption' ability was sufficient to replenish the energy Old Sha expended.

And this was precisely what Su Ping truly wanted to attempt! Using the power of the Heart of Woods to restore other Plant-based Pet Beasts.

Undoubtedly, this was an unprecedented attempt. And any new attempt ignited an unimaginable passion and excitement within Su Ping. Therefore, his gaze showed no trace of disappointment; in fact, as he looked at the Life Ancient Tree, his eyes held an undeniable excitement. This made even the Life Ancient Tree feel something was unusual. But it had clearly seen that this little fellow had not given up at all.

Since he hadn't given up, what reason did it have to abandon hope?

So, the face on the Life Ancient Tree nodded again. "Little fellow," it said, "if you have any other methods, please continue."

Of course, he would continue.

Almost as soon as it finished speaking, Su Ping lightly patted Old Sha, employing a special skill that Old Sha had rarely ever used. This skill had shone brilliantly in the Legion's grand competition, dumbfounding numerous Commanders and exceeding the imaginations of many Beast Tamers. This skill was the Wanmu Wolf's most unique ability: Mutation: Wood Body!

And at this very moment, Old Sha had already entered a state of wood transformation. Transformed into a tree, Old Sha seemed to take root in the ground, becoming indistinguishable from the other Plant-based Pet Beasts.

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The multitude of plant-based Pet Beasts nearby all seemed too stunned to react.

However, Su Ping and Old Sha were unconcerned by these flickering gazes, as branches from Old Sha's body slowly spread out to connect with the Life Ancient Tree.

Only then did Su Ping turn with a smile to the nearby Longevity Banyan and say, "Esteemed Longevity Banyan, could you please move aside a little to let the sunlight shine through?"

The Longevity Banyan was enormous. Though it had deliberately left some sunlight for the spot where the Life Ancient Tree stood, it was still not enough.

Once these words were spoken, the surrounding plant-based Pet Beasts swiftly made way, clearing a large space and exposing Su Ping and the others to direct sunlight. Su Ping nodded, pleased.

Under the sunlight, Old Sha's body seemed to glow with a faint, hazy radiance. The branches connected to the Life Ancient Tree appeared to sway slightly.

The next moment, a tremendous wave of energy surged forth from Old Sha. With Sunlight Absorption fully activated, Old Sha, now in his woody state, seemed enveloped in a shell of sunlight, causing the rays of sunlight near Su Ping to dim slightly.

This is... Shangguan Ye's pupils contracted as he incredulously watched the Wanmu Wolf before him. At this moment, Jianghai's sole Advanced Plant Cultivator looked at Old Sha with nothing but fervor in his eyes. This peculiar Forest Wolf Evolver was far too enigmatic—enigmatic to a degree that went beyond his expectations. Such power...

Indeed, at this very moment, the Life Ancient Tree also seemed to sense something amiss. It could feel an overwhelming life force being transferred from the strange Pet Beast before it. Is it trying to borrow life? But has this little fellow lost its mind? And isn't this life force far too great?

At that moment, everyone could clearly see something happening on the Life Ancient Tree. Though its roots showed no signs of change, still looking decayed with no indication of recovery, atop its canopy, some peripheral withered branches and leaves were slowly regaining their green hue. While root decay was still inevitable, this replenishment of life force was enough to slightly extend the Life Ancient Tree's lifespan.

However, it seemed that wasn't all. At that moment, the light released from Old Sha's body seemed to become even denser. Boundless sunlight poured down, as if covering everything, yet it was all absorbed by this peculiar Pet Beast.

What is this situation? Even Su Ping was slightly taken aback.

Of course, Old Sha's Sunlight Absorption and Photosynthesis were both at Perfect Level, so such a phenomenon was expected. But the problem was, Old Sha's Heart of Woods was only at Mastery Level! Though he wanted to heal the Life Ancient Tree, Su Ping never intended to harm Old Sha in the slightest.

After all, Old Sha was his true family. But at this moment, Old Sha seemed to have entered a state of reckless abandon.

Fortunately, at that critical moment, the Life Ancient Tree seemed to detect something wrong and severed its connection with Old Sha. Even so, a tenth of the Life Ancient Tree's withered branches had recovered their lush greenery, and some of its life force had been restored.

Almost simultaneously, a light that wasn't dazzling under the sunlight appeared on Old Sha's body. Old Sha's aura suddenly shifted.

Su Ping seemed to realize something too and turned his gaze sharply towards Old Sha. Old Sha's power surged skyward!

Monarch! Is Old Sha ascending to Monarch rank?

Yet, that wasn't what truly moved Su Ping. The Wanmu Wolf's racial potential limit was not high enough for such an event to surprise him. What truly astonished and elated him was that Old Sha's Heart of Woods, amidst the reverse outpouring of life force, had ascended to Perfection!

With this, all three Skills of the Sun Formula had reached Perfect Level!

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This ray of light was so splendid. Under the high sun's radiance, it was as if it were a statue frozen in time, with everything revolving within the brilliance of its glow.

Su Ping stared blankly at the scene before him. At this moment, beneath the cover of the sunlight, his body felt little warmth. All the sunlight that shone on the summit of Bull Horn Mountain seemed to be drawn toward that one power: the wood-petrified Old Sha.

During this time, Su Ping and Heart of Woods had never given up on the cultivation of Old Sha's Heart of Woods. Dozens of Forest Wolves continuously trained in Heart of Woods, linking and sharing with Old Sha. According to the connection-sharing rules of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, as long as they were of the same Evolutionary Body origin and possessed the same Skills, linkage was still possible. However,

the unique Skills of the Wanmu Wolf that Old Sha possessed could not receive enhancements from the other Forest Wolves.

In addition to the improvements from connection sharing, Old Sha had also been consuming 'Heart of Wood' magic potions daily like they were food. At the same time, Su Ping also tried a version of the Heart of Wood potion with added ingredients, making the medicinal properties even more potent. Since Forest Wolves could comprehend the Wood Heart Skill by consuming the Heart of Wood magic potion, naturally, after taking it multiple times, the effectiveness of the Wood Heart Skill would also correspondingly improve. Therefore, over the past half year, Old Sha's improvements in this aspect had never ceased. Now, it had finally paid off, like the clouds parting to reveal the moon.

Looking at this scene, Su Ping let out a long sigh of relief. While achieving Perfection in Heart of Woods didn't necessarily mean that the Sunlight Absorption Super-Rank Skill would manifest, there was no doubt he had taken the most important step.

A terrible majesty emanated from that figure.

Wolf King Majesty!

This was monarch-level majesty, and now, with Old Sha's own Level having advanced to this stage, Wolf King Majesty truly lived up to its name.

Majesty of a King, this Skill, truly wasn't something an ordinary person could possess.

Su Ping had previously speculated that Old Sha had once had an unimaginable unique encounter. In that encounter, its Sunlight Absorption Skill reached Perfection, breaking through its race limit. In the process, it also obtained this extremely special Skill, 'Wolf King Majesty'.

Previously, Su Ping hadn't paid it much mind. But now that Old Sha had advanced to Monarch, Wolf King Majesty was finally unleashed in its entirety.

San Ha, the Elf Wolf, was whimpering softly, as if worshipping its king. At the same time, countless Plant-based Pet Beasts around them, after this peculiar Wolf King's promotion, could feel the surging vitality

emanating from it. It was as if Old Sha were one of their own, making them instinctively want to draw near and approach it.

About ten minutes passed. Old Sha reopened its eyes, having already reverted to its beast form. The light gradually faded. When Old Sha reappeared, there were no particularly special changes. Perhaps the Y-shaped horns on its head had become a more vibrant green, and the forest-like branches and leaves on its body more dense.

But Su Ping could see from the Eye of Truth's feedback that Old Sha was now a solid First Stage Monarch. This proved it had succeeded.

This old Forest Wolf, merely a Commander First Stage half a year ago, had completed its most magnificent metamorphosis in this half-year period. In just half a year, it had risen to Monarch Level!

The difference between the Monarch Level and the Commander Level was like heaven and earth. This was evident in the difficulty for a Beast Tamer to rise from Commander to Monarch—it was extremely high. Pet Beasts possessed the Ability of Evolution, so in many cases, it wasn't too much of a concern. However, promotion wasn't something that could be achieved casually either. To Su Ping's surprise, Old Sha had indeed 'casually' completed its advancement. A difference of one Realm, yet the disparity was enormous.

And now, his Heart of Woods endeavor finally possessed its own Monarch Level combat power!

Although, given his connections and status in Linzhou, it was unlikely anyone lacking judgment would come looking for trouble. However, in this era of extraordinary Controlling Beasts, nothing was more reliable than genuine, tangible strength.

Indeed, good deeds do pay off.

Although Su Ping also knew this was Old Sha's own accumulation, that Old Sha itself had trained to a critical point. However, without such an opportunity, it might still have required some more time.

At this time, Su Ping truly didn't have the spare attention to continue observing the Life Ancient Tree's situation; all his thoughts were on Old Sha. The sunlight returned to normal. Old Sha didn't continue to

absorb sunlight, converting it into the Energy of Heart of Woods, and transferring it to the Life Ancient Tree.

Su Ping could see that, for now, there was nothing abnormal about Old Sha. However, he wasn't anxious; this wasn't the place for investigation anyway.

Su Ping exhaled slowly.

Moreover, back then, Er Zhuang was able to unleash such terrifying power because of the complete consistency of those three Skills. There was also another condition that Old Sha lacked: mastering the Skill 'Blinding Technique'. This Skill was the Wanmu Wolf's method for absorbing and utilizing sunlight. It was also preliminary proof of mastering Light Power. As a Racial Skill of the Wanmu Wolf, mastering this Skill wasn't considered troublesome. It could even be mastered during natural growth and improvement, but Su Ping felt he couldn't wait that long.

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He was no longer a novice in Pet Beast cultivation. He had already acquired his own insights into the cultivation of Pet Beasts.

Mastery of such skills fell under the Wanmu Wolf's Racial Skills; corresponding resources could be used to accelerate its growth.

As for the Blinding Technique, it was an energy release of sunlight power. Therefore, by replenishing solar energy to a certain limit, one would naturally comprehend it.

Thinking of this, Su Ping obviously didn't want to stay here any longer. He spoke to Dong Muyun, who was beside him, saying,

"After we go back, prepare a large quantity of Sunspring Water for me."

He still had some Sun Crystals in his possession, scrounged from the legion. The Breeder Association had also given him two more, so he definitely wasn't lacking in them.

Dong Muyun gave him a somewhat surprised look but did not ask anything.

At this moment, Su Ping represented miracles themselves.

Because not only him, but everyone around—even the Life Ancient Tree itself—had never expected that it could possibly regain vitality one day.

Even if such vitality only extended its life a little.

However, this was the release of someone else's skills, not the consumption of precious resources.

If possible, was there really a chance to continue living?

Even a lowly insect clings to life. Being resigned to death does not mean one desires it.

If there was a chance to continue living, what living being would want to die without reason?

Without a doubt, the Life Ancient Tree felt the same. It silently observed the Old Wolf still experiencing a surge of power and the Beast Tamer who had lowered his head, lost in contemplation. Eventually, the face on its bark finally spoke:

"Little fellow, what kind of Pet Beast is this?"

Su Ping then came back to his senses and smiled.

"The Wanmu Wolf. Heart of Woods... it's one of the family members from my cultivation base."

"Family..."

The Old Tree chewed on these words and then smiled faintly. "Little fellow, may I visit your home? If you don't mind the short time I have left."

Su Ping smiled broadly.

"Of course, don't worry. With me here, I definitely won't let you die so easily."

The Old Tree hadn't really believed these words before. It knew its own condition better than anyone else. Whether it could continue to live was unclear.

But it had to be said, this strange tree wolf was just too bizarre.

The Beast Tamer who had cultivated such an odd Pet Beast was undoubtedly even more extraordinary.

Just as the Old Tree had previously mused, only under the care of human Beast Tamers would such odd, yet marvelously magical, Pet Beasts be born and come into existence.

So, it was willing to believe in this little fellow.

Xu Li and the others looked on with complex expressions.

This time, they were truly convinced.

They wished they could thump their chests with such certainty and take this old Life Ancient Tree away too.

If they could take it, not to mention the numerous low-level, mass-produced varieties of plant-based Pet Beasts, acquiring the surrounding rare and valuable plant-based Pet Beasts would certainly be no problem.

If they could take all of them back to Fire King Company, it would undoubtedly represent an unimaginable wealth.

But how could they make such a promise?

During the 'fishing'—when Xu Li had been subtly probing—he had heard some things about the background and miraculous deeds of the young owner of Heart of Woods.

But he had never seen it with his own eyes.

And now, he had finally witnessed it.

It was no wonder such a young person was held in such high regard by Queen Dong and Presidents Qin Liu. Impressive indeed.

However, neither Fire King Company nor Xu Li himself had much of a relationship with this young man. Otherwise, establishing a good relationship with him would undoubtedly bring all benefits and no drawbacks.

Suddenly, an idea flashed through Xu Li's mind.

He recalled someone from the company mentioning that among this year's interns at Fire King Company, there seemed to be a classmate of this young owner—the same lad who had come along to do menial tasks on this trip.

Could he perhaps foster a closer connection through this contact?

While Xu Li from Fire King Company was still mulling things over, he saw that the Life Ancient Tree had agreed to relocate. The other plant-based Pet Beasts, which were to accompany it to Su Ping's cultivation base, had already gathered around again.

They began chattering again with renewed vigor:

"RUSTLE RUSTLE! (Tree Grandfather, how are you doing?)"

"BLUB BLUB BLUB! (Life Ancient Tree, Your life force...)"

"[...]"

Su Ping also looked towards the Life Ancient Tree. He could naturally see its condition as well.

The problem with the Life Ancient Tree was not resolved.

The decayed roots within its body were still not showing any signs of improvement.

However, quite a few of the withered branches and leaves within the canopy had been restored.

Although it was still only a temporary solution, not addressing the root cause, the restored vitality had nourished it considerably. Thus, it could extend its lifespan for a while longer.

Indeed, as expected, the Life Ancient Tree continued with a slight smile,

"Thank you to this human Beast Tamer's Pet Beast. I might be able to live about five more months."

An extension of half a year was indeed not much.

But one must realize, this was only after a single treatment by Old Sha.

Upon hearing this, the other plant-based Pet Beasts couldn't help but rustle as they turned their gaze towards Su Ping.

Nearby, Rouge Powder Peach Blossom Smile made a sound,

"RUSTLE RUSTLE! (It's... him. His name is Su Ping. Lord Peach Blossom knows him...)"

Obviously.

Most of the other plant-based Pet Beasts had witnessed Su Ping winning Lord Peach Blossom's 'affection' on the hillside earlier.

And now that Su Ping had once again helped treat their Life Ancient Tree, there was no doubt. At this very moment, all the sentient, rare plant-based Pet Beasts regarded Su Ping with a 'gaze' that was vastly different.

Then, as expected, the Longevity Banyan, whose huge branch canopy was closest, rustled as it spoke,

"RUSTLE RUSTLE! (Human, you were able to help the Life Ancient Tree, and since the Life Ancient Tree is willing to leave with you, I'm also willing to go with you.)"

The Longevity Banyan's stance did not surprise anyone; in fact, it was entirely expected.

However, what also didn't surprise anyone was the Life Ancient Tree's unimaginable rallying power.

Following the Longevity Banyan, the towering King Gunpine, its form reaching into the clouds, also made its voice heard,

"RUSTLE RUSTLE! (I will always follow the Life Ancient Tree...)"

"BLUB BLUB BLUB! (Wherever the Life Ancient Tree goes, I will go. Thank you, human Beast Tamer...)"

"..."

"RUSTLE RUSTLE! (Right! Lord Peach Blossom... indeed saw at first glance that Su Ping could help the Life Ancient Tree! That's... that's why I wanted to go!)"

Amidst the chorus of voices, Rouge Powder Peach Blossom Smile chimed in, adding its own reason for having 'surrendered' so early.

Su Ping chuckled, not minding.

However, what happened next was something he couldn't just ignore.

Because at that moment, his Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, which had just quieted down, suddenly and swiftly unfurled once more from within his soul.

Yes, incredibly swiftly!

Page after page of the Catalog appeared in the depths of Su Ping's mind.

If illuminating a Catalog page before was like drawing a single card, then this time, it was akin to performing a ten-pull!

The Catalog pages unfurling from deep within his soul were so numerous it was dazzling.

[Catalog 'Longevity Banyan' illuminated, Current Level: 1. Origin Reward: Talent 'Telepathic Communication' effect enhancement (2/10)!]

[Catalog 'King Gunpine' illuminated, Current Level: 1. Origin Reward: Talent 'Telepathic Communication' effect enhancement (3/10)!]

[Catalog 'Laurel Tree' illuminated, Current Level: 1. Origin Reward: Talent 'Telepathic Communication' effect enhancement (4/10)!]

[...]

[Catalog 'Flame Morning Glory' illuminated, Current Level: 1. Origin Reward: Talent 'Call for Rain'!]

[Catalog 'Sky-reaching Vine' illuminated, Current Level: 1. Origin Reward: Talent 'Call for Rain' effect enhancement (1/20)!]

Chapter 316: Talent Upgrade Successful! Sky-reaching Vine!

Was it really a ten-pull summon?

Su Ping blinked. This time, he even felt a headache coming on.

This was because the intimacy levels with the plant-type Pet Beasts whose Catalogs were being illuminated had reached the standard.

The illuminated Catalog affected his Spirit directly.

His Telepathic Communication Talent was enhanced, and he gained the new Talent 'Rain Prayer'. Such rapid improvement made it somewhat difficult for Su Ping to accept.

Of course, difficulty in accepting it didn't mean he was unwilling to accept it.

If a mere headache could grant such improvement, then Su Ping would say, please continue, whip me harder.

He rubbed his throbbing temples, yet still felt a tinge of dissatisfaction.

What a pity.

Those Low-level Pet Beasts below Commander Level, being plant-type Pet Beasts, did not possess strong intelligence or understanding. They only followed passively and naturally couldn't quite grasp what was happening.

Therefore, the difficulty in illuminating those Pet Beasts' Catalogs was likely to be much more challenging than for the others.

However, Su Ping was satisfied.

Because at this very moment, he had not only acquired the brand-new Talent 'Rain Prayer.'

While these plant-type Catalogs were being illuminated, his 'Telepathic Communication' Talent indeed reached its full potential.

It must be said, thanks are due to the Life Ancient Tree.

It was not just because of these Life Ancient Trees that a Catalog could be illuminated.

More importantly, there was a special notification from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas:

[Catalog 'Life Ancient Tree' illuminated, Current Level: 1, received Origin reward: Talent 'Telepathic Communication' effect increased (11/10)!]

[Talent 'Telepathic Communication' upgraded to 'Psychic Communication']

Compared to the illumination of other Catalogs, I wonder if it's because of the Life Ancient Tree's higher race Level that it directly resulted in a three-point increase in effect!

It was precisely because of this that after the Catalogs of ten plant-type Pet Beasts were illuminated, his Telepathic Communication Talent reached its full potential!

Su Ping closed his eyes, sensing the Origin feedback from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas:

[Rain Prayer: Can use spiritual power to cause localized rainfall! Moistens plant-type Pet Beasts, and at the same time, amplifies the concentration of Water Element.]

Hmm?

Su Ping's eyes lit up.

Though it was somewhat abstract to receive such a Water Element Talent from illuminating the Catalog of a clearly Fire Element Pet Beast like the Flame Morning Glory.

But it had to be said, this Talent was truly useful.

Moreover, it was critical in battle.

Even though he didn't have any Water Element Pet Beasts.

Thinking of this, Su Ping fell silent.

Thinking of those cute plant-type Pet Beasts and then those damn annoying silverfin fish, Su Ping became infuriated.

He decided to refocus his attention on the change in another Talent!

The elevation in Talent Level was something Su Ping had wanted to understand for a while.

But he never had the chance.

And such information was not taught at basic Beast Tamer schools either.

Now, with the help of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, he had finally completed this Talent Skill upgrade.

[Psychic Communication: Can use the power of the Spirit to fully understand others' intentions, and without speaking out loud, allow other Living Beings to hear one's voice! It also has a certain bewitching effect.]

It was still very plain; even fundamentally, there wasn't much change in the Talent upgrade.

If it weren't for that last sentence, there might hardly be any change.

At best, an additional 'sound transmission' effect was added.

Although, this effect was also quite significant.

Su Ping's registered Talent was 'Pet Beast Home'; he didn't inherently possess Telepathic Communication.

Often, when he rushed to communicate with his Pet Beasts, it was indeed easy to give away his position. Silent communication would indeed save him from a lot of trouble.

But that explanation at the end added quite a bit of color to this Psychic Communication.

Of course, Su Ping absolutely did not approve of the term 'bewitching.'

For a righteous Breeder, isn't educating and influencing far superior to bewitching?

It seemed as if his thoughts had willed it; the final word in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas's feedback for the Psychic Communication Talent actually changed to 'influencing.'

This finally made Su Ping nod in satisfaction.

Very good.

The effect of the Talent upgrade is excellent!

Such improvement was exactly what could truly bring out a Beast Tamer's Talented Ability.

It just remained to be seen if the enhancement effect of Telepathic Communication was like this, then what about the other Talents, like the most versatile Eye of Truth?

By the way, why did all the Talents enhanced in these plant-type Catalogs turn out to be Telepathic Communication?

What he really wanted to enhance was indeed the Eye of Truth.

The Ability of the Eye of Truth was too universal.

Nevertheless, Su Ping reopened his eyes. He instinctively glanced over, confirming with each illuminated Catalog one by one.

But soon, Su Ping was slightly startled again.

The Flame Morning Glory and King Gunpine were naturally present.

The others, like the Laurel Tree and the Blade Ginkgo, which were relatively silent, were all there.

But, he looked all over the hillside and couldn't spot the Sky-reaching Vine that was the last to be illuminated in the Catalog.

In the Catalog, this was a very common vine.

Lush green, at first glance, it even looked a bit like the 'Vine Strangling' Skill summoned by the Forest Wolf.

But its body was extremely long.

It belonged to the same category as extremely rare Pet Beasts.

However, if such a special vine Pet Beast were present here, Su Ping should have seen it.

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He shook his head and paid it no mind.

Opening his sparkling eyes, he looked at the Life Ancient Tree and all the beings present with a smile:

"So, seniors, when do you plan to depart?"

He had to get them secured. Without moving them to his own place, Su Ping couldn't feel at ease.

The Life Ancient Tree naturally understood this and chuckled, "I brought them here because I'm ready to leave. There's nothing more to prepare; we can go at any time!"

Dong Muyun's eyes also brightened. "I'll send someone to drive over right away!"

The plant-based Pet Beasts before them were of such a high level that they couldn't be stored in the Beast Taming Space. Transporting wild Pet Beasts had always been a hassle. Ordinary spatial storage couldn't hold living Pet Beasts. In this respect, one could see that Su Ping's Pet Beast Home Talent wasn't bad at all. Unfortunately, its Level wasn't high enough.

Other matters were easier to handle. Su Ping looked at the King Gunpine and the Longevity Banyan. The Longevity Banyan's canopy spanned over a hundred meters, forming a forest by itself. He scratched his head. Fortunately, it turned out Su Ping didn't understand them well enough. The Longevity Banyan's body could actually be split apart, and the slender King Gunpine could shrink down to just twenty or thirty meters. Pet Beasts capable of reaching Commander-Level Peak indeed possessed abilities beyond ordinary Pet Beasts.

While Dong Muyun went aside to make arrangements, Xu Li thought for a moment, then walked over with a helpless expression, saying, "Su Ping, can we discuss this? Could you spare some of the plant-based Pet Beasts?"

Xu Li felt truly helpless. He had anticipated this kid's cunning, but he hadn't expected it to reach this extent. Although he hadn't truly expected to win the competition for the plant-based Pet Beasts, he hadn't foreseen such an outcome. All the high-end, rare plant-based Pet Beasts were taken by this brat? Then why the hell did our Fire King Company spend so much money to buy this huge piece of land? Now, the development trends at the Beast Master Association were shifting again, and they hadn't managed to acquire any plant-based Pet Beasts. This business venture was a total loss, a complete write-off. At this point, he could only approach Su Ping and try to negotiate, to see if anything could be salvaged.

Unfortunately, Su Ping shook his head. "Mr. Xu, as you can see, it's not that I don't want to help you. These Pet Beasts appear to be coming with me, but it's actually out of respect for the Life Ancient Tree. How can I help you? We can't just force them away, can we?"

That was indeed true. So many plant-based Pet Beasts... Although raising them would incur costs, the value of plant-based Pet Beasts lay in their extremely low breeding costs compared to other Pet Beasts. This made them incredibly cost-effective. The sheer number of these Pet Beasts represented an unimaginable value. Unless he, Xu Li, was Su Ping's most favored son, there was no way Su Ping would agree.

"Sigh..." Xu Li sighed.

He knew it wasn't just about the rare plant-based Pet Beasts on the hillside. Even obtaining the ordinary, Elite Level ones below would likely be difficult. Once the Life Ancient Tree spoke, those Pet Beasts would undoubtedly leave obediently with it.

Around a thousand plant-based Pet Beasts! Although these low-level plant-based Pet Beasts were mostly of common, repetitive species, their variety was still excellent! Those willing to accompany the Life Ancient Tree were primarily plant-based Pet Beasts that weren't aggressive and weren't skilled in combat. Such Pet Beasts usually shared a common trait: most of them possessed agricultural value. For example, they could produce resources—their fruits, leaves, or even branches all had various useful effects. For a company, these types were the most precious. What a pity.

Xu Li shot Su Ping a resentful glance. Just then, the Life Ancient Tree, having overheard their conversation, chuckled. "In this vast forest farm, there are still some 'children' who don't wish to be with me. Among them is a rather naughty and rebellious one. You can try to find it; you might be able to take some from the forest farm with its permission."

Xu Li's eyes lit up slightly. He bowed to the Monarch Peak Life Ancient Tree. Although searching Bullhorn Mountain within the forest farm would be quite arduous, it was far better than returning empty-handed.

Su Ping, however, was slightly taken aback. "Elder Life Ancient Tree, is there another Advanced Pet Beast in this forest farm?"

The Life Ancient Tree nodded, then sighed like an elderly human. "That child is stubborn. It always felt I no longer needed to protect them and even wanted to protect us. It's also the only little one who knew of my condition, which is why it was unwilling to come with me. It wanted to stay here, to accompany me and protect the other young ones."

Hearing the Life Ancient Tree's words, Su Ping couldn't help but picture a headstrong young one—appearing rebellious and dismissive of protection, yet deeply caring for its family and secretly wanting to shield them all. Although Pet Beasts were plant lifeforms, once they developed emotional intelligence and self-awareness, they became increasingly similar to humans.

So, Su Ping smiled. But soon after, he was suddenly taken aback. "Elder, the one you're referring to... could it be the Sky-reaching Vine?"

That was the only Pet Beast listed in the Catalog that he hadn't seen on the hillside. However, for it to be aware of the situation here, it was very likely a Commander Level or higher Pet Beast.

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As expected, the Life Ancient Tree was also slightly taken aback. "Little guy, how did you know? Could it be that your Pet Beast has such an ability?"

Su Ping, of course, wouldn't reveal the truth. He stood up and, under its astonished gaze, turned to look at the mountains and fields. Then, he directly tried to use 'Psychic Communication,' extending his spiritual power infused with his voice, "Sky-reaching Vine, come out!"

Since it was possible to know the Life Ancient Tree's situation and have its affinity for him max out instantly, it was clear that the Sky-reaching Vine definitely had its eyes and ears on this hillside!

True to his expectations, a few seconds later, dense green vines, like thousands of massive green pythons, spread over the rocks, slithering towards them from all around the hillside. A main vine, as thick as Su Ping's waist, coiled and approached him.

"PUFF. Human, how did you find me?" The mental voice truly sounded like that of a curious and astonished young boy.

Su Ping smiled faintly and replied mentally, using his spiritual power, "Because I know your heart; you care very much about Senior Life Ancient Tree."

"PUFF. Hmph, who cares about it? Just an overconfident, stubborn old thing." The vine coiled itself up, like a young boy folding his arms and turning his head away. Then, it cast a sidelong glance at the Life Ancient Tree, which was just smiling, and Su Ping, who remained silent.

Afterward, seeing that neither of them was speaking, the Sky-reaching Vine's mental voice took on a somewhat coy tone, "PUFF. However, I find you quite interesting, human. Well, those idiots all want to leave with you, right? If I'm left here by myself, I won't even have an opponent. So, I'll reluctantly go with you..."

"PUFF. Don't get me wrong, it has nothing to do with that stubborn old thing. I just find you humans quite interesting."

Su Ping chuckled. "Alright then. But if you're coming, I don't support idlers. What can you do?"

He was, of course, joking, but the Sky-reaching Vine before him was extremely confident. "PUFF. Heh, I'm really good at fighting! My body can extend a whole lot—very, very long. If your base isn't too big, I could coil around the walls. If anyone tries to sneak in, heh, I'll make them regret it!"

This little fellow really is quite amusing, Su Ping thought with a smile, then nodded. "Alright, I suppose you have your uses."

Su Ping readily agreed. Since the Sky-reaching Vine had made the offer, and the Life Ancient Tree looked on with amusement, the matter was settled. Thus, none of them saw Xu Li, who had started to walk slowly down the hillside but had stopped in his tracks due to the commotion caused by the Sky-reaching Vine. Xu Li looked resentfully at the last Commander Level rare Pet Beast in the forest nursery and the unabashed Su Ping, then let out a sigh.

He swore that he would never again get involved in any business collaborations with this little terror, nor would he engage in business that put him in competition with Su Ping. Fishing at home and living a leisurely life, perhaps even fleecing some unsuspecting folks—that sounded much better. Otherwise, he was afraid the aggravation would give him high blood pressure.

「The sun slowly moved across the sky, and it was well into the morning.」

Li Shu was in the manor below the hillside, chatting idly with Zhou Shuchen nearby. Although he hadn't liked this guy before, he had to admit they were the only two of the same age present, and former classmates at that. With Zhou Shuchen eagerly calling him 'Brother Shu' repeatedly, Li Shu naturally had no reason to give him the cold shoulder, especially since it wasn't as if there was any deep-seated hatred between them.

When Zhou Shuchen heard that Li Shu was now studying Pet Beast Cultivation under Su Ping, his face filled with envy. There were many Beast Tamers, but those who could be considered Breeders were few and far between. In the future, he might have to risk his life constantly, while Li Shu could earn capital beyond his wildest dreams, all from the comfort of his home. Such were the differences in choices!

And indeed, over the course of that short day, he had gleaned a fair bit of information about Su Ping from Li Shu.

"Brother Shu, Bro Ping is already an Intermediate Breeder. Do you think it's possible for him to advance to Senior Breeder, or even a Senior Specialized Breeder, within three to five years?"

"Three to five years?" Li Shu glanced at Zhou Shuchen, then clapped the old class president on the shoulder. "Little Zhou, I don't blame you, and Bro Ping won't blame you for underestimating him. Your perspective and vision are just limited, that's all. There are some things I can't say. Even though Bro Ping doesn't care, we need to be discreet with our words. So, just you wait and see. Watch when Bro Ping gets promoted to Senior Breeder. And it's possible he won't just be a Specialized Breeder then."

Zhou Shuchen didn't mind Li Shu's pretentious attitude; after all, the man had the capital to back it up. He was truly curious.

What else about Su Ping didn't he know?

Initially, Gold, from their company, had told him that Vice President Liu had personally delivered Su Ping's Intermediate Breeder Association certificate. Of course, after Gold saw his attitude towards Su Ping, he had only sneered and grown distant, never approaching him warmly again.

However, listening to Li Shu, it seemed the situation wasn't that simple, was it? But he was no longer the naive person he once was.

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The promotion of a Breeder isn't so easy; there are many who go their whole lives without becoming a Senior Breeder.

He originally thought he was already brown-nosing, suggesting a promotion to Senior Breeder in three to five years? Yet with Zhou Shu, did it suddenly become a case of not thinking big enough? That damn guy always looked like he was speaking in riddles. And yet, his words had been so clear that Zhou Shuchen found himself in a dilemma, unsure whether to ask or not.

All he could do was give a somewhat awkward smile.

"Ah, when we were in school, I knew Bro Ping was no ordinary person. I never expected that after graduation, he would soar into the nine heavens! Of course, Shu, you're also exceptional. Following Bro Ping, your future is bright..."

Li Shu was indeed quite pleased with the flattery.

Of course, he also knew what this guy was like back in the day.

A little flattery was one thing. But as for other nonsense like earnestly keeping in touch with classmates, he naturally wouldn't take it seriously.

"You could make it, too. Fire King Company is a well-respected big company in Jianghai. Do your best."

After a pause, Li Shu then inquired, "Speaking of which, with Fire King Company coming here, from your perspective, the Low-level ones are one thing, but how many of those Advanced Level Plant-based Pet Beasts can they take away?"

As insiders, the two of them were aware of each other's purpose for being there.

Zhou Shuchen smiled, "Shu, I can't speak for everything else, but Fire King Company is genuinely wealthy. This time, to take these Plant-based Pet Beasts, they've invested heavily. Although Bro Ping is formidable, it seems he didn't bring many resources. I reckon it'll be about fifty-fifty."

His statement was relatively conservative.

In his opinion, Fire King Company, having spent such a fortune on resources, must be brimming with confidence. He estimated that about seventy percent of the Plant-based Pet Beasts would be taken away.

Li Shu also felt a bit uncertain.

His Pet Beast was the Luozisong.

He knew full well how difficult these Plant-based Pet Beasts were to deal with.

But he still said, "Bro Ping is not someone who plays by conventional rules; I reckon he'd take away at least sixty percent!"

Zhou Shuchen glanced at him.

Damn, I thought I was good at brown-nosing, but it turns out you're the real king of flattery? Man, I at least do my flattering in front of people. You, on the other hand, don't miss a chance to suck up to your Bro Ping, even when it's just me here? And sixty percent? Including you, Bro Ping only brought six people. What's the plan? Each person taking ten percent? You're just here to watch the luggage!

Zhou Shuchen complained in his heart but dared not say much, just smiling.

Although, for some unknown reason, the Rouge Powder Peach Blossom Smile at the foot of the mountain had been captured by Su Ping, Zhou Shuchen was clearly still skeptical.

Just then, the sound of a convoy of vehicles starting up echoed, coming from the entrance.

Li Shu and Zhou Shuchen quickly stood up and looked towards the entrance.

The next moment, one by one, large trucks drove in, more than a dozen in total.

All were long trailers, thirty to forty meters each.

"This is..."

Li Shu was stunned, but Zhou Shuchen beside him said, "It's probably over. They're leaving with those Plant-based Pet Beasts."

Zhou Shuchen was indeed right.

Not far away, the sound of spatial fluctuations rippled through the air, and Su Ping and his group came down from the hillside again.

However, this time, following behind them was a sight that made everyone blink slightly in surprise.

At least a dozen Advanced Level Commander Plant-based Pet Beasts followed Su Ping and the others, their massive bodies stood in the distance.

"Bro Ping, what's going on?"

Su Ping glanced at him and Zhou Shuchen beside him, then said, "It's finished. Let's pack up and head home."

"It's finished?"

Li Shu blinked his eyes. So many Pet Beasts... how was it all finished so quickly?

He looked back and naturally recognized that these were all Commander Level Plant-based Pet Beasts.

And, even more astonishingly, further back, there was a Life Ancient Tree.

"Bro Ping, how many of these Advanced Level plant Pet Beasts are we taking?"

Su Ping gave him an odd look. However, considering Li Shu would be one of those responsible for these Plant System Pet Beasts in the future, he explained, "We're taking them all. Back to Heart of Woods."

Zhou Shuchen was a bit slow to react.

Li Shu blinked, instinctively wanted to let out a curse, but seeing Bro Ping already boarding the vehicle, he turned his gaze towards the large fellows behind them.

Then he suddenly slapped himself.

Damn it, how could I have doubted Bro Ping?

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Su Ping was incredibly relieved.

He had a decent background, so he didn't have to toil away in various companies as if he were a draft animal. But today, he was doing just that. Although working like an ox was tiring, since it was all for his own Heart of Woods, he endured the pain with a measure of joy.

If he joined a company like Zhou Shuchen, given his talent with the Pet Beast Home, he probably wouldn't have to do anything else but spend his days in a car.

Even though the current Pet Beast Home had grown enormous, Su Ping had still been busy transporting those Ordinary Level and Elite Level Pet Beasts to the Heart of Woods, running back and forth from noon until evening.

His Beast Taming Space was close to three hundred square meters. However, in this space, he could fit a hundred large Plant-based Pet Beasts at a time at most, which was already quite good; for the smaller ones, the maximum was just over two hundred. This was even after sacrificing some of the land that Xiao Qing had worked hard to plant with smiley-face sunflowers.

Even so, Su Ping had been shuttling back and forth all afternoon between the Heart of Woods and the Victory Forest Farm. After six or seven trips, he finally managed to take away all the low-level Plant-based Pet Beasts.

「He returned to the Heart of Woods.」

At this moment, all the guests and staff members, including Guan Qianshan, were at the resting and playing area of the Heart of Cloud. They watched, somewhat dumbfounded, as truck after truck entered the base.

Guan Qianshan blinked. He knew that his boss, that young master of his, was out causing a stir again, but he wasn't well-informed about the specifics and hadn't expected such a big situation to arise.

"What the hell was that just now? Why does that flower look like it's burning like fire, and it doesn't seem like a plant?"

"Is that a Blade Ginkgo? When that leaf swept by just now, it directly sliced off a piece of the stone next to it."

"I heard that the Heart of Woods is going to build a Plant Zoo. Could these be the Pet Beasts for the Plant Zoo?"

"My God, the Heart of Woods is really going big!"

Watching the trucks stream in, some people couldn't help but remark.

"The Heart of Water was already a big move, but this Plant Zoo seems even more incredible. The only question is, does this Plant Zoo have a business model? Lao Guan, how does your Boss Su plan to manage this Plant Zoo?"

Listening to the question from the guest beside him, Guan Qianshan scratched his head. Truth be told, he didn't even know what the Plant Zoo would entail, let alone anything about the Plant-based Pet Beasts delivered today. Facing the guest, Lao Guan could only offer a helpless smile.

He also wanted to say that he, as a manager, was at best a head of miscellaneous affairs. He dealt with trivial personnel matters among employees and various administrative disputes. It was only when that young master of his concocted another idea and tasked him with executing it that his skills were truly utilized. Beyond these, he had no real involvement in decisions affecting the base's overall direction.

Nevertheless, Guan Qianshan was more than satisfied. Especially since his daughter was able to study Pet Beast cultivation with Su Ping—that was a huge, unimaginable surprise. If he were asked to help with the base's future development, he wouldn't dare.

Managing the established parts of the base so proficiently was already a significant achievement for Lao Guan.

Su Ping was responsible for brainstorming ideas and expanding the base's potential, while Lao Guan ensured its foundational management was solid. This division of labor allowed Su Ping to focus wholeheartedly on his own Pet Beast cultivation, aside from these broader strategic matters.

It was Guan Qianshan's good fortune to encounter Su Ping, and having such a dedicated steward like Lao Guan indeed saved Su Ping a lot of trouble.

Finally, the large trucks that had been transporting beasts since noon continued their trips back and forth all afternoon. The first arrivals were exceedingly rare Commander Level Plant-based Pet Beasts, followed by truckloads of Elite and Ordinary Level Plant-based Pet Beasts. Then, towards the end, just as everyone had grown accustomed, even numb, to the spectacle, an explosive surprise arrived.

"Holy smokes, is that the Life Ancient Tree?"

"Damn, it's a mature Life Ancient Tree? I saw the face on the tree!"

"No way, can you actually buy these? Do I also have a chance to buy one?"

"How much money do you have to buy it?"

"It's impossible to buy something like that! Never mind a Monarch Level ownerless Pet Beast, even a Commander Level one is incredibly hard to acquire through trade! Could the rumors be true?"

"What rumor?"

"Rumor has it that Boss Su is allegedly the grandson-in-law of the Jianghai Beastmaster Association..."

"Holy shit? Is that for real?"

"..."

Undoubtedly, the news that a Monarch Level Life Ancient Tree was being transported to the Heart of Woods' Plant Zoo spread quickly. Even more rampant were the speculations and rumors regarding Su Ping's identity, though Su Ping himself had no interest in heeding these baseless rumors at this time.

As the winter evening descended quickly, Su Ping sat on a hillside under the night sky. Looking over the vast expanse of Plant-based Pet Beasts, he discovered a particularly vexing problem. He suddenly realized that he had to redesign his Plant Zoo. Originally, he had envisioned the Plant Zoo as simply a large expanse of wild mountain forest, with some stone paths laid through the woods and a few pavilions for rest—that would have sufficed.