Beast Taming: the More the Better

Chapter 4 - 4: The Perfect Recipe! Forest Wolf Breaks Through Racial Limits

The Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas actually has this effect?!

Su Ping could hardly believe it! But even with a disposition tempered by two lifetimes, his palm, gripping the ancient tome, couldn't help but tremble slightly from the intensity of his excitement.

Perfect the Magic Potion recipe!

Su Ping didn't even need to think before he immediately confirmed his choice in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas's prompt!

It was clear that the Experience Points for the Forest Wolf Catalog were also very important. And each time it leveled up, it would give Su Ping, the owner of the Catalog, rewards beyond his imagination. For instance, after activating it, the Beast Tamer Talented Ability: Eye of Truth, was granted. However, Catalog Experience could be earned by spending time with the Forest Wolf, nurturing it, evolving it, and even discovering mutant species like Xiao Qing.

However, the Heart of Woods, as the primary legacy of their family's cultivation base, had an impact on the Forest Wolf that was nothing short of revolutionary.

In an instant, Su Ping saw that the Forest Wolf Catalog, which had been mostly illuminated, dimmed considerably. The next moment, a blank entry below the Forest Wolf Catalog changed. It was the "Known Evolutionary Atlas, Special Cultivation" entry. Previously, this entry was blank, but now, an addition appeared:

["Heart of Woods" Magic Potion production: Upon consumption by a Forest Wolf, it can awaken the treasured Skill "Heart of Woods." The effects of other Level upgrades are unknown. The production method is as follows...]

Seeing the change appear in the Forest Wolf Catalog, Su Ping let out a long breath, his eyes shining radiantly, filled with anticipation and excitement.

Indeed! This time, the Forest Wolf Catalog's description of the Heart of Woods Magic Potion made no mention of the *chance* to awaken the Skill "Heart of Woods."

The implication was obvious.

However, what gave Su Ping a bit of a headache was the recipe perfected by the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas. A new ingredient had been added to the recipe.

It wasn't that this new ingredient was particularly expensive. Even though his old man was unreliable, their family's large cultivation base didn't require rent and had likely amassed some savings over the years. The primary source of these savings, however, wasn't from selling well-cultivated Forest Wolves for a high price. Instead, it was purely from renting out a large vacant lot connected to their cultivation base to their neighbor, the Yun Tian Pet Beast Combat Resort.

The reason Su Ping looked troubled was because of this one addition to the perfected recipe. Its name was 'Wolf Tobacco'. At first glance, it seemed related to the Forest Wolf, but in reality, there was no connection. This was purely because when lit, the plant produced a dense smoke, like a beacon fire, and the smell...

Ironically, this Wolf Tobacco was extremely abundant, growing wild all over the place in some areas. Often, Fire-type Pet Beasts or Beast Tamers would ignore the law and engage in Pet Beast battles in forests, igniting wildfires. For the firefighters from the Safety Bureau responsible for extinguishing those fires, the most critical task was to have their own Pet Beasts take precautions against this Wolf Tobacco. In the history of Dragon Nation, there had been many cases where Water-type Pet Beasts, particularly those extinguishing wildfires, were choked to death by the noxious fumes erupting from burning Wolf Tobacco.

Thinking of this, Su Ping silently mourned the brave little Pet Beast heroes who died extinguishing forest fires and protecting wild Pet Beasts. He also condemned the Beast Tamers who carelessly used Fire-type Pet Beasts for battles in forests.

It was precisely because this Wolf Tobacco was largely useless, had a terribly pungent smell, and its smoke could easily cause hallucinations when burned that Wolf Tobacco had such a bad reputation. Moreover, no one had discovered any other uses for it—though, perhaps someone had and simply hadn't made it public. Therefore, Su Ping was somewhat skeptical about whether this Wolf Tobacco could truly perfect the Heart of Woods Magic Potion.

However, trusting his Golden Finger and the undeniably real Eye of Truth he now possessed, Su Ping chose to believe.

Full of anticipation, he arrived at the door of another building in the base.

The Magic Potion Workshop.

This place, within the entire Heart of Wood Cultivation Base, had the most surveillance. After all, the resources needed for Magic Potions were extremely precious, and the auxiliary equipment for their creation was incredibly valuable. This was also the place his father had strictly forbidden him from approaching before he came of age. But now...

However, just as he was about to step into the workshop, a huge shadow suddenly appeared behind him. Xiao Qing, nestled in his arms, immediately tensed.

Su Ping whipped his head around. The next moment, a massive dark shadow pounced, knocking him onto the soft grass. A warm, damp sensation immediately spread across his cheek.

Su Ping didn't know whether to laugh or cry. He looked at the massive, cyan-blue wolf sprawled on top of him, enthusiastically licking his face to show affection, and quickly said, "Alright, alright..."

Struggling to his feet, Su Ping wiped the drool from his face. He then fondly stroked the soft fur under the chin of the giant wolf—who was nearly as tall as he was—and asked, "Old Sha, have there been any problems these past two days while Dad's been away? Are the little ones alright?"

"AWOOO..."

The giant Forest Wolf named Old Sha shook his head.

Old Sha was a Forest Wolf raised by Su Ping's grandfather and, strictly speaking, was of the same generation as his father. Although Old Sha hadn't formed a Soul Contract with his grandfather or father, over the years, he had become the Su Family's closest kin.

As a Pet Beast's strength increased, so did its intelligence. Old Sha was clearly no exception. He was the only Forest Wolf in the Heart of Wood Cultivation Base that had broken through his race limit and reached the Commander Level. He was also, over many years, the sole Wolf King of the Forest Wolves in the Heart of Wood Cultivation Base. With Old Sha around, the mischievous and lazy Forest Wolves would behave and listen obediently. This was the main reason Su Anyong had been able to save money by not hiring others for help, managing everything himself all these years.

Looking at Old Sha before him, Su Ping activated his Eye of Truth. Old Sha could sense Su Ping using an ability on him but didn't resist at all. It was precisely this trust that allowed Su Ping to see some of Old Sha's Abilities:

[Forest Wolf (Wild)]

[Current Level: Commander First Stage]

[Racial Potential: Elite Tenth Stage]

[Skills: Sunlight Absorption (Perfection), Vine Strangling (Proficient), Self-Healing (Proficiency), Accelerated Growth (Proficient), Wolf King Majesty (Beginner)]

Old Sha's panel was relatively normal. His Skill training levels were standard, except for Sunlight Absorption, which had astonishingly reached the Perfection Level. Clearly, Old Sha's ability to break through his race limit was related to this Perfection-Level Sunlight Absorption and his status as Wolf King. He must have had his own fortuitous encounters in his early years.

However, before Su Ping could dwell on it further, a new message appeared in the log of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas's Forest Wolf Catalog:

[Discovered and interacted with a Forest Wolf that has surpassed its Racial Potential limit. Affinity requirements met. Catalog Level Experience +100!]

[This Forest Wolf is a powerful individual. For each subsequent day spent with it, Forest Wolf Catalog Experience +2!]

Su Ping was startled, then a smile touched his lips. *Indeed, returning to Heart of Woods to inherit the family business was an absolutely correct decision.*

Chapter 5 - 5: Making Magic Potion, Yun Tian Pet Beast Resort

Old Sha did not stop Su Ping from entering the Magic Potion Workshop.

When Su Anyong left, he had told him that from now on, this Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base would be under the command of this little master.

Old Sha, having watched Su Ping grow up, was the elder who doted on him the most.

The Magic Potion Workshop could be said to be the cleanest place in the entire estate, with spotless white walls, floors, and ceilings.

However, the smell of disinfectant in the air made him frown. Xiao Qing, perched on his shoulder and clinging to his collar, also sneezed several times due to the irritating smell.

After gently rubbing the somewhat uncomfortable Xiao Qing, Su Ping finally placed Xiao Qing into his own Beast Taming Space.

Inside the Beast Taming Space, a Beast Tamer's spiritual power provided comfort. This allowed a Pet Beast to remain in a comfortable state at all times and also accelerated its energy and injury recovery.

After all, Xiao Qing was still rather young.

Handling some equipment he had seen and learned about at school but never actually operated, Su Ping expertly opened the cold storage room.

As expected, given that these were ingredients for the Heart of Woods Magic Potion, even though his father was unreliable, he had definitely tried making it many times over the years. Consequently, there were still some ingredients left in the cold storage room, which made things much easier.

Su Ping's eyes lit up. Then, under Old Sha's astonished gaze, he quickly ran out of the Magic Potion Workshop and patted Old Sha, saying, "Old Sha, is there Wolf Tobacco growing near the Lingxi River behind our base?"

Old Sha nodded. Then, he watched as his young master sprinted towards the Lingxi River area behind the base.

Old Sha didn't dare to overthink it and quickly chased after him.

This little rascal had just returned; how could he already be such a handful?

Wolf Tobacco? Wasn't that stuff even smellier than the dung produced by those little creatures in the forest?

Old Sha's speed was much faster than Su Ping's.

While Su Ping was studying in Linzhou City—perhaps because he was a person with memories of two lives—he had been an undeniable top student in the meditation course among his peers.

After awakening his Beast Taming Space and Talent, he had now reached the Ordinary Fourth Stage Beast Tamer. However, his speed was still far behind Old Sha, who had reached the Commanding Rank.

Seeing Old Sha catch up, Su Ping deftly grabbed Old Sha's mane and flipped onto his back.

Their breeding base wasn't small, and it was still some distance to the banks of the Lingxi River across the entire grounds.

"...OOWA"

Ridden by the young master he had watched grow up, Old Sha felt a surge of excitement and let out a resounding howl.

In the suburbs, the sudden wolf howl was indeed extremely loud and piercing.

It seemed the Wolf King's howl had been sensed.

Instantly, from the vast woodlands of the base, a chorus of howls rose in response.

Obviously, even though it was on the outskirts of the city, the 'Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base' occupied a vast area, and there were people nearby.

Not far from the base was another enormous estate.

Above the main entrance of the estate, a huge signboard likewise stood: 'Yun Tian Pet Beast Combat Resort'.

However, compared to the Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base, this resort estate boasted a much finer environment.

Not only was it noticeably adorned with a rather beautiful garden and exquisitely maintained, but the estate also featured a row of small villas and an eight-story building towering among them.

At the topmost level of the central building, within the enormous living room that spanned two floors, a graceful figure stood before the window.

This was a woman appearing to be in her thirties. She was dressed in ordinary home attire, yet it could not conceal the potent allure and attractiveness women of that age possessed.

At that moment, however, the woman—whose poise and figure were outstanding—furrowed her brows slightly, her gaze fixed on something distant with displeasure.

The piercing wolf howls drew her attention, her gaze penetrating the distance, looking down upon the babbling Lingxi River miles away, as well as the Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base hidden by the forest.

And there was that figure, riding a wolf, rushing towards the riverbank.

The woman finally spoke, "Is this the young owner of the breeding base? Our little landlord?"

Not far behind the woman stood a man, his demeanor cautious and subservient.

If Su Ping were here, he would immediately recognize the man. This was the rich fool who had rented the large empty land from his family, the very same person who built what Su Ping and his father considered a somewhat foolish Pet Beast training ground and resort.

Now, facing the woman who stood commandingly before the window, he dared not even glance at her well-defined silhouette, let alone venture any closer.

In response to the woman's question, he wiped the sweat from his forehead before replying, "Yes, Chairwoman."

The woman turned her head to give him a look, "It's been two years, and you haven't made any progress with the task I gave you. How can you still face me?"

Facing the reprimand, the man dared not defend himself in the slightest, only bowing his head even lower.

Seeing her subordinate's dejected state, the woman didn't press the issue, merely pausing before saying, "Forget it. You said that Su Anyong has temporarily left Linzhou City, and now this Heart of Wood Cultivation Base, along with this large tract of land of ours, is under this youngster's control, right?"

"It should be. Old Su... Su Anyong said he was heading to Beihai City up north for a while and definitely won't be returning soon. Su Ping is making all the family decisions."

The woman nodded in satisfaction, her striking red lips revealing a faint smile, "If that's the case, our battle arena has been running low on Elite and Ordinary Level wolf-type training beasts recently, hasn't it?

"Moreover, in a few days, graduates from Linzhou City's schools will be looking for actual combat practice after training their Pet Beasts for a while. We'll likely be short on Low-level training beasts by then.

"In the next few days, find some time to invite this young man over. Discuss a collaboration for renting those Forest Wolves from their base."

"Yes, I understand, Chairwoman."

"Get to it. then."

After giving the order with a casual air, the woman paid no further attention to her subordinate's departure.

She, too, was aware that her subordinate was likely curious why Tianyun Group, a leading corporation in the entire Jianghai Province, would care about such an inconspicuous piece of land in the suburbs of Linzhou City. Although the land was indeed sizable and, after the urban planning changes in Linzhou City, not too far from the city center, it wasn't so critical as to warrant such attention from her, the chairwoman.

The door closed, leaving the woman alone in the vast living room, staring at the distant Lingxi River, lost in thought.

In the silent room, only the woman's solitary murmur could be heard,

"I wonder if the Qintian Monitor has received news and sent anyone yet. I need to find a way to speed things up.

"It's truly exciting. I wonder which predecessor's Secret Realm will appear here in the future..."

Chapter 6 - 6: Old Sha's Grief and Rage, the Magic Potion is Complete!

Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base, inside the manor.

The door to the Magic Potion Workshop swung open.

Old Sha's expression was fierce as he looked at the smoke-filled workshop.

Old Sha didn't know what his young master was up to.

But this process, as abhorrent as stewing shit, made Old Sha doubt for the first time whether it had been the right decision for Su Anyong to leave and entrust the family's Pet Beast Breeding Base to his young master.

Now was the most struggling and conflicted moment in his wolf life.

He feared that his young master would suffer from the fumes.

If he were to pass out or even be suffocated by the stench inside, Old Sha wouldn't be able to explain it to Su Anyong.

However, with the Magic Potion Workshop's door standing open, the overpowering stench was no longer just an assault on the nose. It also stung the eyes!

For canine-type Pet Beasts, their sense of smell is already the sharpest.

One can imagine, for Old Sha, a Commander Level being, standing in front of the door to the Magic Potion Workshop and enduring the pungent smell to check on Su Ping inside required an enormous amount of courage and deep loyalty.

Su Ping stood atop a footstand, holding a medicine pestle half a meter tall in his hand.

The cauldron below heated the entire interior to a constant high temperature of eighty degrees.

Fully equipped, he wore a gas mask and oxygen tank, peering into the billowing smoke of the medicine cauldron.

At this moment, Su Ping extolled Blue Star's technology.

If this were ancient times, the concoction of Magic Potions could only be done by oneself, and without this equipment, I would have reason to doubt that I could produce much of the perfect 'Heart of Woods' Magic Potion, even if I knew the formula.

The tremendous technological advancements of the new era are just wonderful.

It has not only yielded high-value mechanical-type Pet Beasts but also made life much easier for Beast Tamers and Breeders.

The various medicinal ingredients had already been thrown in.

The Wolf Tobacco had also been completely added.

Next came the final phase of the process.

The next moment, within the thick smoke, Su Ping twisted the temperature control of the cauldron, immediately raising the temperature to one hundred and twenty degrees.

The rapid stirring of the pestle made Su Ping's arms ache.

Fortunately, after officially becoming a Beast Tamer and advancing in rank, a Beast Tamer's physical body also receives a certain enhancement.

If it had been before, Su Ping definitely couldn't have sustained such high-intensity concoction.

With the sudden increase in temperature and rapid stirring, the previously pulp-like dark green slime below started to bubble. GURGLE. GURGLE.

An even more indescribable foul stench arose from it. The gas mask filtered out this smell, but the smoke had gradually dissipated. Through his gas mask, Su Ping observed the liquid at the bottom of the cauldron.

Finally, when Su Ping's arms had gone numb, the thick liquid fully formed. Su Ping then leaped down from the footstand and reached the outlet beneath the cauldron, taking out the Vessels he'd prepared beforehand.

Immediately, from the outlet valve, a dark green liquid resembling slightly diluted loquat syrup slowly flowed out.

Su Ping finally breathed a sigh of relief.

After closing the cauldron and activating the self-filtering function, Su Ping, holding the now sealed potion, stepped out of the workshop.

Through the gas mask, Su Ping saw Old Sha, who was wearing a look of silent complaint.

Is it really that exaggerated?

Su Ping belatedly took off his gas mask.

Then he instinctively sniffed. Within less than a tenth of a second, Su Ping quickly directed the nearby oxygen mask toward himself.

He rubbed the even more resentful Old Sha.

"Old Sha, I've wronged you, but don't worry. After eating this stuff tomorrow, you'll know the benefits!"

Looking at his young master's face, brimming with determination, Old Sha glanced again at the dark green 'essence' in the small bottle that Su Ping had painstakingly concocted over several hours.

His eyes were filled with complexity; he never imagined that one day, his young master, whom he had watched grow up, would attempt to poison him.

To feed him shit!?

And to do it right in front of him, no less.

Old Sha swallowed hard, and his massive wolf body emitted a crisp GULP.

Then, before Su Ping could react, Old Sha dashed off toward the forest of the base as if he were a puff of smoke, so fast that not even his shadow was visible.

Su Ping scratched his head and looked again at the modified 'Heart of Woods' Magic Potion in his hand.

Is it really that exaggerated?

A bit belatedly, he turned his head back to the still foul-smelling Magic Potion Workshop, and recalling the odor from earlier, he involuntarily shuddered.

Huh... Refreshing and mind-clearing!

Although this stuff is indeed a bit hard on the eyes, I still need to consume it.

But not now.

The Magic Potion formula required the concoction to cool and set into a gel after the final simmering to be considered fully complete.

After a busy day, Su Ping wasn't in the mood to ponder further. Once the bottle of Heart of Woods had returned to room temperature, he put it into a refrigeration box and then headed back to his own room.

Xiao Qing was still sleeping in the Beast Taming Space.

Since becoming his Contracted Beast, Su Ping's own Realm could greatly reflect on the Pet Beast itself, accelerating its growth.

And Xiao Qing was in a phase of rapid growth.

He opened his phone, and the first thing that appeared was a message alert from his class group.

Su Ping had just clicked in when a message appeared:

"Heard the class leader contracted a Crimson Fang Tiger with Racial Potential for Commander Level. Impressive! Looks like we'll be under the class leader's protection from now on! @Zhou Shuchen"

No sooner had this message been sent than a few seconds later, another message appeared:

"Not bad. I just got lucky. Director Zhang helped me find a connection, and the down payment was 2,000,000. Sigh, time to start paying off the loan. But it's worth it. The Crimson Fang Tiger has already mastered Flaming Pounce after just half a month since the contract—a talent that not any ordinary Pet Beast can match."

Despite a tone of self-deprecation, the underlying message was clearly one of pride.

It was none other than the class leader, Zhou Shuchen, who had even changed his profile picture to a crimson-hued young tiger.

Clearly, even though the world had changed, the same behavior endured within the class group.

Only now, the topic was about Contracted Beasts.

But frankly speaking, a Crimson Fang Tiger with Commander Level Racial Potential was indeed impressive.

A down payment of 2,000,000 wasn't expensive.

However, Zhou Shuchen's family was just an average household. Given the connection with Director Zhang, the figure for the loan was still unimaginably high.

This guy really had some guts.

Speaking of which, the class leader's talent was said to be the relatively rare 'Fire Element Affinity.' This talent was capable of providing a certain boost in combat power to fire Attribute Pet Beasts and was quite suitable for becoming a Combat Beast Tamer.

It's no wonder he and his family probably emptied their savings to secure him his first Contracted Beast, the Crimson Fang Tiger.

"In our class now, is Su Ping the only one left without a Contracted Beast?"

Someone suddenly asked.

"Su the Rich Kid has high standards. Previously, Director Zhang kindly recommended him a species with Commander Level Racial Potential, the Scythe Giant Centipede, yet he refused it."

Zhou Shuchen's Crimson Fang Tiger avatar flickered again.

Su Ping arched an eyebrow. During school, this 'fine' class leader had always been courteous with him—not overly friendly, but he had never offended him either.

After all, even though the Su family wasn't part of the so-called 'Beast Taming Elite,' they did have a minor heritage.

This class leader was the type who knew how to play his cards right.

Yet here he was, acting so passive-aggressively in the group chat after graduation. Was this his true nature revealing itself?