

Beast T 401

Chapter 401: The Wolf King's Abilities! Mu Tou Challenges Again!_2

[Sapling of the Ancient Tree: Can grow into the Tree of Healing. Unable to move but can continuously release the Rain of Energy!]

(Note: The growth of seedlings requires 10-100 seconds to complete. The growth speed is related to the skill level.)

A powerful summoning skill... and yet, the growth time makes it relatively less useful.

[Domination Halo (Beginner): Within a certain range, all plant-type Pet Beasts, Wood Element Pet Beasts, etc., if the requirements are met, can be dominated by it. Under its domination, the Crown Wolf Emperor can issue mental commands to such Pet Beasts!]

The name of the Wolf Emperor indeed has its reasons for mastering other living beings. The Domination Halo illustrated that the Crown Wolf Emperor didn't just possess individual strength but also had strong synergy in group efforts.

However, this skill has its pros and cons. In group battles, it might be more effective, but as a Pet Beast of a Beast Tamer, its effect is relatively less significant.

The Forest Concealment Technique needs no further explanation; Su Ping had seen this special skill, the ability to become invisible in the forest, when Woodhead was first cultivated. After the evolution, the skill level had indeed improved, but there were no other changes!

Undoubtedly, what ultimately attracted Su Ping's attention was this skill, which seemed quite extraordinary just from its name!

[Jungle Carnival (Beginner): The Crown Wolf Emperor unleashes all of its Wood Energy and Life Energy, causing them to enter a state of wild agitation!

Once activated, the Crown Wolf Emperor cannot move, but the energy level of all its Wood Clones increases to Commandant Eighth Rank!

The energy levels of all dominated plant bodies within range increase to varying extents.

All living beings within range affected by the Domination Halo experience increased energy recovery, faster wound healing, and enhanced skill power.

The growth time for all Thorns Seeds and Ancient Tree Seeds within range is reduced to 1-3 seconds, and they can continue to grow and strengthen!

The duration of the release is determined by the Crown Wolf Emperor's own level. After release, it enters a temporary state of weakness, unable to recover through most means, for an uncertain duration.]

PHEW...

Before this, Su Ping had managed to remain calm even after seeing the other skills, including the peculiar Wood Clone, a type of Clone Skill Technique he had never encountered before. But after seeing this 'Jungle Carnival,' Su Ping began to understand why Qin Xiaoxue's Pet Beast of choice was the Forest Wolf. Given her status, she could have obtained all sorts of exotic Pet Beasts that others might not have even heard of. Yet, Qin Xiaoxue chose the Forest Wolf, a basic race with only an Elite Level.

This obviously indicates that, aside from some special Pet Beasts, those naturally evolved, strong young beasts with powerful Racial Potential are, in some sense, inferior. They can't compare to the Evolutionary Bodies developed by human Beast Tamers! The Crown Wolf Emperor before me, and the Wanmu Wolf before it, are prime examples!

Su Ping unconsciously licked his somewhat dry lips. The sheer scale of enhancement the Crown Wolf Emperor's abilities brought to forest-related aspects was beyond his expectations. At this moment, having seen this skill, Su Ping silently retracted his previous thoughts.

Damn, the Crown Wolf Emperor's evolution certainly doesn't seem cost-effective. Two entire Emperor Level resources! Not to mention over a dozen Monarch Level resources. To many, cultivating such an Emperor Level Evolutionary Body wouldn't be worth it.

But after seeing the 'Jungle Carnival' skill, Su Ping had no more second thoughts.

You get what you pay for! Although Jungle Carnival isn't a Super-Rank Skill, its effects might not be inferior to an average Super-Rank Skill. The main reason it's not a Super-Rank Skill is likely its fatal flaw. Being immobile is a real pain. It could easily be targeted by beheading tactics. Wouldn't that be disastrous? Yet, the power of this skill is undeniable!

"Bro, what do you think of this Crown Wolf Emperor?"

In the short time they'd been talking, Li Zhi was already addressing Su Ping with such familiarity that it felt like Su Ping had skipped a few rungs up the social ladder. Su Ping quite admired Li Zhi's straightforwardness, which didn't quite match his appearance. Although it sounded odd, Li Zhi insisted on addressing him this way, so what could Su Ping do?

At this moment, Li Zhi looked quite smug. He was ostensibly asking for Su Ping's opinion, but in reality, he had already noticed Su Ping's astonished gaze after observing the Crown Wolf Emperor's skills. Clearly, he just wanted the young man to praise his work!

Su Ping wasn't stingy with his praise, giving a direct thumbs-up. "Impressive! Absolutely breathtaking!"

He meant it sincerely! The Crown Wolf Emperor's abilities make me realize that not many renowned Breeders in this world truly have it easy!

The Crown Wolf Emperor's combat power... if it were at the same level, compared to the Wanmu Wolf... it's hard to say. Hmm... no, that's not quite right! It's when comparing it to Old Sha that it's truly hard to determine. However, if compared to other Wanmu Wolves of the same level, and if it could fully control the Wood Clones, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say it could thrash them; it would definitely be close to that level of dominance! Of course, other Crown Wolf Emperors would find it difficult to control those Wood Clones. Only one cultivated and perfected by me could master the Wood Clones so smoothly and quickly.

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However, the Wanmu Wolf I cultivated can also possess the Heart of Woods and the Super-Rank Skill—Heart of the Sun formed by the Sun Formula. In such a case, who wins and who loses is no longer certain. In fact, the Wanmu Wolf might even have a greater absolute advantage. Because once the Wanmu Wolf has acquired the Heart of the Sun, it becomes a pure battle Pet Beast!

Thus, with this thought in mind, Su Ping nodded in understanding.

Just as expected! It's not that the Evolutionary Bodies are powerful, but rather it's because of my impressive skills as a Breeder!

Li Zhi, who was nearby, couldn't imagine that this self-absorbed kid could come to such an absurd conclusion in such a short time. He was still basking in the satisfaction of Su Ping's apparent admiration.

And at this moment, just as Su Ping had anticipated, the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas reappeared in the depths of his soul. The Forest Wolf Catalog, for who knows how many times, surfaced in Su Ping's perception. At the same time, the Catalog notification that he had been anticipating appeared:

[Forest Wolf Catalog has collected the Evolutionary Body branch: Crown Wolf Emperor form, obtained Experience Points: 2,000!]

[You may now access the Forest Wolf Catalog to explore the analysis of the Crown Wolf Emperor form.]

[The Crown Wolf Emperor form is a branch of the Forest Wolf Evolutionary Bodies, thus the Crown Wolf Emperor form Catalog does not have a Level-based Experience Points system. Experience Points gained in its form will be reflected back to the Forest Wolf Catalog.]

2,000 Catalog Experience Points!?

A wave of joy surged in Su Ping's heart.

Indeed, it is an Emperor Level Forest Wolf Evolver. The Experience Points from this form have recouped a large portion of the Catalog Experience I spent!

The next moment, a new and distinct branch Catalog appeared atop the Forest Wolf Catalog. It depicted a Forest Wolf, standing proudly atop the canopy, looking down at the sea of trees and the numerous other Plant Type and Wolf Pet Beasts. It was no different from Woodhead at this very moment, but it possessed even greater nobility and arrogance.

An itch-inducingly cringe-worthy term nevertheless perfectly fit this Crown Wolf Emperor. That term is "wickedly wild and unrestrained."

Subconsciously, Su Ping clicked on the Crown Wolf Emperor's entry in the Catalog.

[Branch Catalog: Crown Wolf Emperor]

[The paramount Forest Wolf, one of the Forest Wolf Evolvers, wields the power of all the forest's Wood Energy, possesses its own clone guards, and has extremely powerful combat capabilities, making it one of the perfect Evolutionary Bodies!]

[Racial Skills include: Thorn Strangulation, Wood Clone, Sprouts and Seeds, Domination Halo, Jungle Carnival, and Thorn Garden.]

[Also, some of the Skills developed in the Forest Wolf before Evolution, depending on their Traits, will be transferred to both the original body and clone guards!]

Hmm?

Su Ping was just casually checking the branch Catalog, but the feedback he received from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas made him pause once again.

There are two main points. Firstly, the "Thorn Garden," which is not present on Woodhead at the moment. Clearly, it's a Racial Skill that Woodhead has yet to comprehend, similar to Old Sha's Blinding Technique. It should be mastered through subsequent Cultivation and growth or improvement. However, I'm not certain whether it's a skill I haven't cultivated out yet, or if it's only possible with the perfected Crown Wolf Emperor—which Li Zhi didn't achieve. Perhaps his wasn't perfected and thus couldn't comprehend it. Of course, this is a minor issue.

But the second point, regarding the analysis of the Crown Wolf Emperor, made Su Ping narrow his eyes slightly.

The Skills developed in the Forest Wolf before completing the Evolution will be transferred to the original body and clone guards, depending on the situation! This can be observed with Woodhead's Wood Clone, which possesses Skills such as Wood Spike and Armor of Wood, classified as combat Skills. And as for clone-related combat Skills... If that's the case, could I perhaps adjust my Cultivation strategy when cultivating Xiao Qing?

Su Ping licked his lips, an excited smile appearing on his face.

Suddenly, I have some new ideas! And they're ideas that I particularly like! This concept could potentially affect how Xiao Qing fights in the future. Nevertheless, it truly has great potential!

"Su Ping?"

As Su Ping was caught up in his thoughts, Qin Xiaoxue, who was beside him, finally couldn't hold back any longer and called out.

Miss Qin's face was flushed. "What are you thinking about? Smiling so... so..."

Miss Qin didn't specify what "so..." meant, but Su Ping understood.

Because the new method of Cultivation-based combat I just thought of... indeed isn't very honorable, is it?

Feeling a bit sheepish, Su Ping touched his nose. "Ahem, it's nothing. I just thought of some new directions for Cultivation!"

Upon hearing this, Li Zhi pursed his lips and then looked back at Woodhead.

Hmm... One head, two eyes, the crown of branches on its head, the long tail behind it—all these clearly marked the identity of this Crown Wolf Emperor. It really looks cool.

Li Zhi nodded in satisfaction.

But, looking at it again, it's still the same Crown Wolf Emperor! Nothing about it seems different! What new research direction could this kid have seen in this creature? Why haven't I, who has observed my own for decades, noticed anything?

Li Zhi questioned his life. Then, he smoothed down the few strands of hair on his head. Perhaps, this is just the difference between people!

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However, before Li Zhi could ponder further, Su Ping had already spoken up, "Old Brother Li, how many Racial Skills does this Crown Wolf Emperor have?"

Li Zhi didn't find such a question odd at all. After all, even though the Talent of the Eye of Truth was common, how could a genius like Su Ping possess such an ordinary Talent? Therefore, it was normal for him not to be familiar with some unfamiliar Pet Beasts.

Old Li didn't keep anything to himself and said directly, "The basic Racial Skills are actually just five: Vine Strangling, Wood Clone, Sprouts and Seeds, Domination Halo, and Jungle Carnival. But don't just look at there being only five basic Racial Skills. The Skills a Forest Wolf had before Cultivation can also be integrated into the Crown Wolf Emperor and its clones! So, it also depends on the combat power of the Forest Wolf before Cultivation! Of course, before Evolution, one shouldn't cultivate too many. Otherwise, if the Clone Skills become too complex, it can pose some difficulty in controlling them..."

As he spoke to this point, Old Li looked somewhat embarrassed. Su Ping took no notice.

As expected! he thought. There's no Thorn Garden, is there? So, is this an Ability that the Crown Wolf Emperor obtained only after being re-cultivated using the Experience Points from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas?

Su Ping looked at Old Li with a bit of sympathy. Poor Old Li. This Thorn Garden, just by its name, sounds quite impressive.

Old Li felt goosebumps from Su Ping's gaze and asked somewhat uneasily, "What's up?"

Su Ping quickly shook his head. "Nothing. The Evolution form of the Crown Wolf Emperor and its self-contained combat Clone Skills are really interesting! Thanks, Teacher Li!"

Old Li then breathed a sigh of relief and generously waved his hand. "What's that? Besides, haven't I already said it? Just call me Old Brother..."

"AWOO..."

Before Li Zhi could finish speaking, Woodhead had finally and completely adapted to its own strength. It walked out of the laboratory, dragging its long tail, attempting to wag it energetically. Unfortunately, it lacked its previous sycophantic vibe; instead, it looked like a huge broom sweeping the floor. This caused Woodhead some distress, but it didn't stop it from excitedly approaching its master and Su Ping, utterly thrilled.

"Amazing, Woodhead!"

Qin Xiaoxue's praise for her Pet Beast was as natural and convincing as her praise for people. If spoken by someone else, it might sound a bit fake or even sarcastic, but from her mouth, it sounded completely natural and believable.

"AWOO!"

Feeling its master's excitement, Woodhead proudly raised its neck.

HUMPH! it thought. Now, who dares to call me, Woodhead, a fool that follows its master? I am now the noble Crown Wolf Emperor! A Pet Beast with Emperor Level Racial Potential! Would that old fellow covered in branches dare to challenge me now?

That's what Woodhead thought, and that's what it did. It let out an "AWOO," calling out to Su Ping.

Even without using Psychic Communication, Su Ping understood the little guy's challenge.

Su Ping chuckled. "What, still keeping Old Sha in mind?"

"AWOO!" Woodhead affirmed.

"Alright! Miss Qin, how about letting Woodhead and Old Sha have another go?"

As soon as he said this, Qin Xiaoxue hesitated. However, Sang Sheng, who had been working nearby, also turned his head with interest. This Crown Wolf Emperor had indeed transformed now that its Evolution was complete. Only a test would reveal the specifics of the gap between it and the Old Sha from before.

Qin Xiaoxue hesitated. In fact, she hadn't even considered whether Woodhead, despite being at the same Realm, could now be a match for Old Sha after its Evolution. She worried that another failure might dent Woodhead's confidence. At the same time, she had a more pragmatic concern: Could it end up being killed by the Old Wolf?

However, Qin Xiaoxue's worries obviously didn't seem like a big deal to Li Zhi, who was standing beside her.

Old Li said with a smile, "Xiao Xue, if you want your Pet Beast to improve quickly, Cultivation and nurturing are one aspect, but nurturing through battle is also important!"

Qin Xiaoxue nodded, then took another look at the exuberant Woodhead, and finally turned to Su Ping with concern, "Su Ping..."

"Don't worry," Su Ping reassured her. "Old Sha knows what he's doing, and he'll suppress his strength to the same Level as Woodhead's!"

Upon hearing Su Ping's words, Woodhead expressed its anger, "AWOO!?"

Suppress to the same Level?

it fumed internally. What a joke! Am I still the same creature I used to be? I am now the noble Crown Wolf Emperor! A Pet Beast with Emperor Level Racial Potential! Wanmu Wolf? Monarch Level? Not familiar at all! Only after Evolving can one truly feel and experience the tremendous power contained within one's body.

And so, at this moment, Woodhead got cocky.

Su Ping didn't mind the little guy's confidence, which had grown even more than its physical strength. He even stroked Woodhead's temple, and after it blissfully squinted its eyes, he said, "Let's go then. Old Sha is still in the dormitory. But if they are to fight, now that the Evolution is complete, they surely can't do it in the dormitory's battle room, can they!"

Qin Xiaoxue also nodded. "That's true. We'd better find a spacious place where they can let loose!"

Su Ping echoed, "Yeah, that's right. The best environment would be one where both Pet Beasts can use their full strength!"

Qin Xiaoxue continued to nod. "Exactly, exactly! One with sunlight shining down, and one with plenty of jungle. After all, both little guys are Forest Wolf Evolvers!"

Then, both of them looked at Sang Sheng, who had turned his head toward them, in unison.

Sang Sheng pursed his lips and fell silent. He then carefully weighed the hidden meaning in the two youngsters' words and finally got angry. "No! What's wrong with you two? Is the Linhai Secret Realm a place for you to have your Pet Beasts fight? I still haven't properly explained the incident in the Linhai Secret Realm to the students last time! If this time..."

What exactly do these two youngsters think the Secret Realm is? he wondered.

However, under their persistent gazes, Sang Sheng finally shook his head helplessly and said, "Fine, this is the last time! Luckily, yesterday's repairs are almost complete, and we haven't officially reopened yet. Also, Xiao Ping, control that Old Wolf..."

"Don't worry, Lord Sang Sheng, Old Sha knows what he's doing!" Su Ping replied.

That same phrase again, Su Ping thought. Last time, Old Sha's Solar Bombardment was truly an accident! He absorbed too much Solar Power. It was the first time Old Sha had harnessed this Ability without any sense of restraint and just let it blast to its heart's content. In a proper beast battle, how could Old Sha be allowed to accumulate power for so long?

Meanwhile, Li Zhi, listening on the side, was somewhat bewildered.

What exactly happened yesterday? he wondered. Which Pet Beast did Miss Qin and Su Ping fight with? And control what? From Miss Qin's perspective, the one that would fight Woodhead should still be a Forest Wolf, right? Could it be possible that there's an Evolutionary Body, at the same Level, that can match the Crown Wolf Emperor? That seems a bit unlikely! Although Su Ping's Cultivation Ability is indeed admirable, to the extent that even Master Zhu Hong praised it, nurturing an Evolutionary Body has its limitations! No matter how powerful or perfect, a Forest Wolf is still a Forest Wolf, and an Elf Wolf is still an Elf Wolf, right?

So, with this thought in mind, after getting approval from the group, Li Zhi followed Su Ping back to the dormitory. He finally understood after seeing the Forest Wolf Evolver he had never encountered before.

At the same time, Old Sha, accompanied by a very self-assured Woodhead, had also returned to the familiar Linhai Secret Realm, filled with pride and confidence.

Chapter 404: Crown Wolf Emperor VS The Solar Version of Wanmu Wolf!

Liu Fuhai was right! At this moment, Li Zhi rarely acknowledged his friend's correctness. It wasn't just about what he had said to Master Zhu Hong before; the outcome of Jianghai Province's participation in the Cultivation Competition was absolutely dominated by Su Ping! At the same time, there were the words he and this old fellow had secretly complained about:

This kid is so abnormal, he doesn't seem human!

Looking at it now, it was indeed the case. So, this kid had already cultivated a new Evolutionary Body of the Forest Wolf?

Li Zhi also became interested. Compared to Liu Fuhai, who was an all-rounded Wolf Pet Breeder, Li Zhi was actually the original Breeder specializing in Forest Wolves! Therefore, his affection for Forest Wolves was even deeper than Liu Fuhai's. Now, to be able to witness a brand new Evolutionary Body and to directly observe its combat capabilities—how could such an event not excite Li Zhi?

Clearly, at this moment, the only one more excited than Li Zhi was Woodhead itself!

The wheel of fortune turns; thirty years east, thirty years west! Don't underestimate Woodhead just because it's down on its luck!

With full confidence, Woodhead glanced sideways at Old Sha. However, despite a further acknowledgment of its power, Woodhead still called out.

Su Ping immediately understood. "Don't worry, Old Sha won't use the Wolf King Majesty!"

Su Ping was also quite puzzled. Even though Woodhead had evolved into the Crown Wolf Emperor with Emperor Level potential, it had not yet awakened Skills like the Wolf King Majesty. So, how exactly did Old Sha awaken such Skills in the first place? What exactly was the reason that Old Sha broke through the Racial Potential limit, but cut off the normal Evolution channels? Even Old Sha carried some mysteries that Su Ping didn't know about, awaiting exploration.

Su Ping shook his head helplessly. "Alright, Old Sha, go get ready!"

"AWOO!"

Old Sha let out a howl; it had never bothered to charge its Energy or practice its Skills like Woodhead did. Instead, it went to the grassy terrain under the Sun, basking in the warmth of the mottled sunlight on its body. The two milky-white Y-shaped branch-like horns on its head glowed with a platinum light. Old Sha paid no mind to this little newcomer challenging after completing its Evolution.

It's a good thing for youngsters to have spirit!

Clearly, compared to Old Sha's casual and effortless attitude, Woodhead had already entered into a combative state. Watching Old Sha from afar, who after a bit of preparation, issued a challenging roar:

"AWOO!"

The next moment, four figures emerged from Woodhead! Wood Clone!

As expected! A flash of light crossed Li Zhi's eyes. Such a perfect Crown Wolf Emperor had, after Evolution, immediately gained complete control. This Ability had sent the Crown Wolf Emperor's combat power skyrocketing to an unimaginable Level. In such a case, what method would this strange, never-before-seen Evolutionary Body use to defeat Woodhead?

Old Sha made no move and was still pacing with interest not far away, watching Woodhead intently. This time, it wanted to see the strength of this Evolutionary Body and play with the little guy a bit more.

Then, the four clones began to move. The combat power of the four clones was at the Commander Fifth Stage. Though their control was still slightly awkward, the thorns that swept up from the ground in an instant were like barbed pythons, attacking Old Sha from all directions! There was no space to dodge.

But Old Sha didn't need to dodge. The fearsome threat of the surrounding thorns stopped in their tracks the instant they got close to Old Sha, as if frozen in mid-air, motionless.

"AWOO?" Woodhead blinked its eyes.

Why? Why don't the thorns heed its command anymore?

The reason was simple. An external Energy had taken control of these thorns. Their manipulation was completely reversed. Language of Nature!

Even though Woodhead's clones were in control, preventing Old Sha from taking absolute command and attacking with them, it led to this static stalemate.

"How could this be?" Li Zhi furrowed his brow, somewhat baffled. This Evolutionary Body could indeed control Wood Attribute objects, but circumstances mattered. The thorny vines of the Crown Wolf Emperor were controlled by four clones and the main body. Under such circumstances, not to mention anything else, the Energy of this Wanmu Wolf couldn't possibly be compared with Woodhead's, right? Yet, this whole event was happening right before his eyes, incredibly real.

Li Zhi didn't understand, but Woodhead knew that if this old fellow were so easily dealt with, it wouldn't be the goal it had been longing to defeat. How could it be so easy to deal with?! Thus, Woodhead's eyes shone with a firm resolve.

The next moment, Woodhead's main body began to move quickly. Unseen seedlings and tree species were buried beneath Woodhead's feet without anyone noticing, waiting to mature and become a powerful presence that controlled the field. At the same time, the four Wood Clones stopped the stalemate and finally, one of their figures slowly vanished. In the midst of the jungle, it disappeared from sight, hidden in the darkness, ready to deliver a heavy blow at any moment!

Old Sha glanced over. In the next moment, roots rapidly grew into towering trees, their spreading branches chasing after the four Wood Clones of the Crown Wolf Emperor! Under the shining Sun, Old Sha's power seemed endless. In the astonished gaze of Li Zhi, in an instant, this place had become a realm resembling an ancient forest.

Damn it! This old guy's strength is not to be underestimated! Woodhead's heart was burning with urgency. But even as it mentally controlled the four clones, its own movements were slowed as a result. Even so, the Old Wolf showed no intention of capturing it, the king; instead, those endless trees were still rapidly capturing the Wood Clones.

BANG! BANG! BANG! The sound of the forest wood shattering the ground was explosively loud, shocking everyone.

However, everything in the jungle had become too blurry for them all to see clearly. They could only see Thorn Demons and Healing Ancient Trees slowly growing on the outskirts of the jungle. The Thorn Demons swayed their thorny bodies, which were like whip-like vines, continuously swinging, while the Healing Ancient Trees kept dropping life-giving raindrops. After the rain fell, the Wood Clones' wounds healed at an unimaginable rate, and they moved even faster.

But still, Old Sha, in the heart of the jungle, remained calm and composed. It strolled leisurely through and above the jungle, even standing directly on top of the highest canopy, looking down at the five

Crown Wolf Emperors. It felt like a cat playing with mice; the countless trees beneath it constantly shrank the space for the four Wood Clones to move, yet it never attempted to attack the main body.

At this moment, Li Zhi understood. This Wanmu Wolf was simply playing! But how could that be? With such a frequency of attack, how could that be possible? Wouldn't its Energy be depleted? Is this Wanmu Wolf really at the same Level Realm as Woodhead?

This question also puzzled Woodhead! It could feel that if this went on like this, it was only a matter of time before the four clones were destroyed.

"AWOO!" Old timer, I'm going all out! At this moment, Woodhead finally stopped holding back.

WOO WOO WOO... A strange low hum began to sound. Then a special force, indescribable, rippled out. At this moment, it was as if endless Wood Attribute power had completely flared up. The aura on the four Wood Clones surged instantly! At the same time, the countless Thorn Demons and Healing Trees on the outskirts grew even more terrifyingly fast. The thorns spewed out by the Thorn Demons, in frequency and power, caused even Old Sha to feel annoyance and wariness.

This little guy's improvement in strength is indeed rapid! Old Sha nodded in satisfaction. It was quite pleased with the performance of the Pet Beast that its young master had helped to cultivate! Since that was the case, after seeing the little guy's true combat power, it was about time.

Even Old Sha, facing the frenzied Jungle Carnival, found it a bit difficult to cope and finally took a deep breath. Then, a scene all too familiar to the three people present unfolded.

The condensation of sunlight turned Old Sha's body into a radiant beacon once again. Then, this glowing figure opened its mouth and spat toward the Wood Clone below, which hadn't reacted yet and was still charging at Old Sha.

BOOM! A dull sound. This completely dumbfounded Woodhead, which had entered a state of immobility during the Jungle Carnival frenzy. Then, it saw that in the nearby jungle, its four Wood Clones instantly lost their connection. After being blown into the air, they burst into bubbles—POP! POP! POP!—disappearing.

The next moment, a basketball-sized orb, like a lightbulb, was sprayed toward its proximity. Following that, Woodhead saw a blinding white light.

Lastly, Woodhead saw that it was flying. Flying so fast... Eventually, everything vanished.

The immense weakness in its body couldn't hide Woodhead's utterly perplexed face. Who am I? Where am I?

And at that moment, its young master and Su Ping had already arrived by its side.

Woodhead opened its mouth wide, looking puzzled at the Old Wolf who had returned, then at its owner who looked distressed, and finally at the ever-smiling Su Ping. Of course, Woodhead conveniently ignored the haunted expression of the Breeder responsible for nurturing it.

At that moment, Woodhead finally grasped what had happened. Then, Woodhead couldn't hold back any longer and burst into tears!

"AWOO AWOO AWOO..."

Chestnut-sized tears rolled down from the eyes of the no-longer-so-little one. How could this be? I'm an Emperor Level Race Pet Beast with Emperor Level Racial Potential! How can I still not beat this old guy? This isn't reasonable! How on earth was this old thing cultivated?

Chapter 405: New Year's Day! The Arrival of the Breeder Competition!

Time slowly passed. Winter's chill gradually enshrouded all of Dragon Nation's lands, and Magic Capital was no exception. As the days went by, New Year's Day finally drew ever closer.

Although it wasn't Chinese New Year, the streets were still decked out with lights and decorations, aside from business promotions. The festive atmosphere was undoubtedly quite intense.

However, beyond the New Year's celebrations, this day also held a more special and keenly anticipated significance: the Breeding Contest!

Each year, the Breeding Contest attracted the attention of numerous Beast Tamers and Breeders. It represented the peak of Pet Beast breeding achievements from all over the country for that entire year! At the same time, many talented young Breeders had risen to fame overnight because of this contest. Even though the vast majority of ordinary people couldn't discern much, they would still join in to watch the excitement and buzz.

This year, for the first time, the event was moved from the Imperial Capital to the Magic Capital.

「Magic Capital Breeder Association's hotel restaurant.」

Two figures sat at a restaurant table. Sun Chaoju, looking at his completely composed teacher, finally spoke, "Teacher, tomorrow is the official New Year's Day competition. When is Su Ping coming over? And you said, what kind of results can we expect to achieve?"

"Tsk, what's the rush?" Liu Fuhai put down the bowl of porridge he was holding and casually wiped his mouth. There wasn't a hint of nervousness on his face.

Because he had already received the exact news. It was a done deal!

But Sun Chaoju wasn't feeling so secure!

In fact, when Sun Chaoju first arrived in Magic Capital, he had also felt very confident! This was due to the Cultivation method for Pet Beast Evolutionary Bodies that had the potential for widespread adoption.

The Forest Wolf, as an Elite Level Pet Beast, was a quite common choice for Beast Tamers. And he had heard Yang He, that fellow, boast about the Wanmu Wolf's power many times. He had even tried to cultivate it himself during this period. Although it fell short of what Yang He had claimed, Sun Chaoju was still very satisfied.

Therefore, Sun Chaoju, representing the Wanmu Wolf, arrived in high spirits! He thought that first place might be difficult, but the top three should be no problem.

However, after staying in the guesthouse for half a month, Sun Chaoju started to have doubts.

During this half-month, Breeders from all over the country had arrived one after another. Each one represented their local province's highest cultivation achievements of the year! As you can imagine, those who made it here were not ordinary. And this year, for some unknown reason, compared to previous years, they were each more unbelievably formidable than the last.

In previous years, not to mention anything else, there would be at most a few entirely new Pet Beast Evolutionary Bodies, whether Low-level or Advanced Level. But this year, more than ten entirely new Evolutionary Bodies had been cultivated and emerged!

What did this represent? It meant that from tomorrow, when the Breeding Contest began, more than ten new types of Evolutionary Bodies would become known to the world! They would become known to countless Breeders!

In such a situation, what advantage did the Wanmu Wolf have among them?

If it were as Yang He had boasted, it might be considerable, but Sun Chaoju felt that the Wanmu Wolf wasn't as extraordinary as he had been made to believe!

Not to mention, among the Breeders arriving from various regions this year, the breeding result from the Imperial Capital's breeding team was for the Evolutionary Body of a very common Low-level Undead Pet Beast, the 'Jumping Zombie.'

Although this creature was even creepier than the Skeleton Soldier and its appearance more grotesque, as one of the lowest-level Undead Pet Beasts, many people still chose it. Although its popularity wasn't as high as the Skeleton Soldier's, the difference wasn't too great!

One could imagine the significance represented by the appearance of such an all-new cultivated Evolutionary Body. The specifics of the Evolution difficulty and the required resource costs were unknown. However, just considering the Rank and the evolved Pet Beasts, the Imperial Capital's breeding team had already won by a large margin!

Moreover, there were various other research findings from different regions that Sun Chaoju had managed to gather information about during this time. There was even the breeding achievement from Huaiyang Province, which adjoined Jianghai Province.

And at this very moment, while Sun Chaoju was feeling somewhat anxious and uncertain, and Liu Fuhai remained perfectly composed, it was truly a case of "speak of the devil, and he shall appear."

In the dining hall, despite an abundance of empty seats, several figures sat down right beside the two of them.

"Old Liu, you don't mind if we join you, right?"

Liu Fuhai glanced at the person who spoke. "I do mind."

But obviously, his objection was useless. The newcomers, four in total, directly sat down next to the duo.

"Don't be so distant! It's just a matter of us poaching a few people from you. Besides, hasn't Jianghai also poached quite a few of our Huaiyang's talents?"

The speaker was a woman who looked like a young matron. She sported big, red, wavy hair that gave off an extremely wild and passionate vibe. However, judging from her casual manner of addressing Liu Fuhai, it was clear she wasn't young.

Next to the woman, besides two other people, there was an acquaintance Liu Fuhai recognized. It was none other than Ding Yan, who had been responsible for leading the exchange team previously.

"Speaking of which, Old Liu, your Jianghai's Old Zuo hasn't rushed back from the Imperial Capital, has he? It seems that old fox is really planning to step down and make way for new talent!" the woman said with a smile.

Liu Fuhai ignored her, his eating speed increasing noticeably.

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But the woman seemed not to notice his attitude and continued chattering, "This time, the one Jianghai is entering must be the Wanmu Wolf, right? Heh, Ding Yan told me all about it. That Evolutionary Body is indeed impressive! So, how about it? Do you have confidence?"

Liu Fuhai's heart stirred, and he scoffed lightly. "Of course, I am confident! I trust Master Zhu Hong and the other judges to give a fair score to the Wanmu Wolf!"

The woman chuckled. "If it were any other year, Jianghai might indeed have a chance this time. It's just a pity that it's so difficult this year! Never mind others, our Huaiyang's achievements are certainly not inferior!"

Liu Fuhai's small eyes narrowed again. "Since that's the case, shall we make a little competition out of this?"

The woman with the wavy hair felt her heart skip a beat. This old fox is so cunning, she thought. Much more deceitful than that bastard Zuo Guang. If he's speaking like this, does he have some kind of unsavory plan?

However, the woman frowned slightly and glanced at Ding Yan beside her. Ding Yan had previously told her about the Wanmu Wolf. The Wanmu Wolf was indeed very strong! Its first-place finish in the Legion contest spoke volumes.

But being strong in combat doesn't mean it would be as strong in a Cultivation Competition! Quite the opposite! Anyone with even a slight understanding of the Cultivation Competition knows this. In the Cultivation Competition's Cultivation results contest, it's not about whose creation is strongest! It's about comprehensive scoring based on a multitude of multi-faceted evaluations! If it's only cultivated for combat strength, but the cost-effectiveness of the Cultivation resources and various other scores aren't high, then it's useless!

So, Evolutionary Bodies that performed well in the Legion combat might have some hidden disadvantages in the Cultivation Competition. This is because the Cultivation costs and the rarity of materials for powerful Evolutionary Bodies are very high. And the Cultivation Competition emphasizes national and public benefit! It should be something that ordinary Beast Tamers can widely adopt. Otherwise, if the competition were about cultivating combat strength, everyone would focus on researching Advanced Level Pet Beast Evolutionary Bodies.

So, after receiving the news from Ding Yan, the woman was somewhat confident. But now, this insidious old fox's ill-intended opening made her doubt. This old geezer wouldn't be hiding some other tricks, would he?

Seeing the woman's guardedness and doubt, Liu Fuhai clicked his tongue. "TSK TSK, Han Laohu, if you don't have the skills next time, don't come provoking me, understand?"

The woman paid no mind to Liu Fuhai's words. "Old Liu, do you have some trick up your sleeve? Don't try to provoke me; I'm not falling for your act!"

"PSHH! What trick could I possibly have? I'm not afraid to tell you, our entry this time is the Wanmu Wolf. If you're scared, just admit it! You might as well stop calling yourself Han Laohu. Han Kitten would suit you better! If you don't have what it takes, don't come posturing in front of me!"

Old Liu put down his chopsticks, appearing utterly composed and unruffled.

Sun Chaoju, watching from the side, couldn't help but admire him. This is my teacher indeed! Unflinching even if Tai Shan were to collapse before him! Just a while ago, when we were chatting privately and he was asking about Huaiyang Province's Cultivation achievements, he seemed somewhat nervous. But now, in front of Chairman Han, he's brimming with such confidence!

In fact, Sun Chaoju had no idea that Old Liu wasn't pretending—he truly was brimming with confidence!

The woman, noticing Old Liu had put down his porridge bowl and was slowly standing up, finally spoke. "Old Liu, what do you want to compete over? What from our Huaiyang has caught your eye?"

Old Liu, who had just stood up, sat down again. "I'm very interested in Breeder Ding's Evolution Cultivation Method for the Ashen Wolf Lord..."

Ding Yan raised an eyebrow, but the woman shook her head. "That's a Cultivation Method from Huaiyang Province that only Breeders of Huaiyang origin are qualified to exchange for. It's also Ding Yan's personal achievement, so I can't offer it as a stake for a competition!"

Old Liu smacked his lips, his tone tinged with disappointment. "In that case, forget it."

The woman had refused without even hearing his conditions, clearly indicating there was no room for negotiation.

"Old Liu, we're just having a bit of fun, why take it so seriously! How about this: Huaiyang recently unearthed some new Secret Realms. Among the finds are two rather fine Sea Core Spirit Turtle hatchlings. If I give you one, would that be satisfactory?"

"A Sea Core Spirit Turtle?" Old Liu's eyes lit up slightly. "A Water Element Monarch Level potential Pet Beast? Are you willing to part with it?"

The woman's eyebrows rose. "I said this is a competition, not a gift. What can you offer?"

Seeing how generous the woman before him was, Old Liu didn't hold back either. He waved his hand decisively. "Since you're putting up a Pet Beast hatchling, I'll do the same! Although the Sea Core Spirit Turtle is a common Water Element Pet Beast, considering its relative rarity, how about I wager a Storm Elf hatchling?"

"Deal!"

For both of them, Monarch Level Pet Beast hatchlings were comparatively precious yet still within an acceptable range of stakes. Such betting stakes wouldn't strain their relationship or cause tempers to flare. Both parties seemed quite satisfied to treat it as a little extra something for their contest.

Liu Fuhai finally stood up, content, and left the cafeteria.

Then, looking at the somewhat hesitant and nervous Sun Chaoju, he finally said, "Alright, time to give that brat a call!"

...

"Good day, students. Today's lecture is on the evolutionary history of ancient Pet Beasts..." The lecture was underway inside Magic Capital Academy.

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The spacious and bright classroom was packed with figures sitting closely together.

Jiang Zhiyuan wasn't particularly concerned about this. However, he found it unimaginable that, for the first time in his many years of teaching at Magic Capital Academy, so many students were attending his history class.

Of course, he knew the reason why.

The cause lay among the figures in the first three rows of seats, particularly one sitting there.

A young face with bright eyes, watching Jiang Zhiyuan in front of him, and the blackboard.

It was none other than Su Ping.

And now, the main reason Professor Jiang had such a large turnout was this youngster. Many of these students were originally uninterested in the history of Pet Beasts!

Indeed, a large portion of the students had come to see Su Ping, a rare temporary student at the Magic Capital Academy.

After all, he was a Fairy who had reached the 15th wave in the Elite Level Trial Tower.

Many were indeed very curious about him.

「After these past few days,」

Su Ping had adapted quite well to life at Magic Capital Academy.

Of course, it seemed that wherever Su Ping lived, he never had any trouble adjusting.

During these days, aside from burying himself in research and looking for Cultivation materials, Su Ping was studying.

He was talking and learning with Li Zhi about the further Evolution of Wolf Pets, especially Cultivation related to their clones.

Old Li, a Senior Breeder adept with Forest Wolves and deeply researched in the Evolutionary Form of the Crown Wolf Emperor, had extensive knowledge and understanding in this area. He became even more enthused, especially when he learned that Su Ping's Contracted Beast, Xiao Qing, was a Forest Wolf Mutant and a rare Poison Type one at that. And after hearing Su Ping's affirmation of the Crown Wolf Emperor Cultivation Method and his desire to steer Xiao Qing's Evolution in that direction, Old Li immediately regarded Su Ping as a bosom friend, despite their age difference.

What about Liu Fuhai? Not familiar!

From Old Li, Su Ping also gained some new insights and understandings.

For example, the Cultivation and Evolutionary direction of Clone Skills was worth researching.

At the same time, Su Ping also thought about several Skills he had intended to apply to Xiao Qing's clones.

However, Magic Capital Academy was primarily focused on Beast Tamers, and there weren't many Cultivation Methods for Skills. Finding something useful for Su Ping was even rarer.

Besides, the only class Su Ping attended at the academy was the historical Pet Beast course taught by Director Jiang.

This made quite a few other instructors feel indignant.

Certainly, being able to become an instructor at Magic Capital Academy meant they were quite capable.

However, since Su Ping's arrival, even among the instructors, there had been quite a bit of gossip about him. His mysterious origins, the favor from Academy Head Sang Sheng, and Miss Qin's nearly undisguised closeness—all these factors made the young man the center of countless gazes. Being chosen by this youngster to attend their classes was an unspoken competition among the instructors, even though no direct comparisons were made.

Yet, this Young Master Su, who in their eyes seemed to have a screw loose, was interested in historical Pet Beasts?

What use was this subject?

Could it be that one could dig up those Pet Beasts from the past that had gone extinct from the dirt?

Many were puzzled, but Su Ping did not care.

Because after Jiang Zhiyuan tapped on the blackboard, the noise in the classroom ceased:

"Today, we will focus on a special Pet Beast named the Crimson Heart Ancient Serpent. It was documented, unearthed from history, and vanished approximately three thousand years ago..."

"As everyone knows, on Blue Star, countless years of development and the presence of Evolution Rules mean that new types of Pet Beasts are born under various circumstances nearly every hundred years. Similarly, various Pet Beasts gradually become extinct when they can't adapt to their environment. The emergence of human Beast Tamers essentially slowed this process. However, in ancient times, the protection and Cultivation of magical Pet Beasts were not systematic. The Crimson Heart Ancient Serpent is one such example..."

Su Ping listened very earnestly. Historical studies were by no means useless in the era of Pet Beasts.

Certainly, modern Pet Beasts had been cultivated for many years. In terms of combat power and various aspects, they were probably more advanced than in ancient times. But that didn't mean ancient Pet Beasts had nothing of value to offer.

Plus, the main reason Su Ping came to attend the class was another matter.

The hypothesis about Pet Beast de-Evolution that Su Ping had previously proposed was something he had never completely abandoned.

And finally, Professor Jiang had touched on this topic today.

It must be admitted that Professor Jiang's teaching was relatively average.

Although his knowledge was solid, his teaching style was somewhat stiff.

Some listened sleepily. The class didn't involve combat and focused purely on theory, so it was true that not many were genuinely interested.

But Su Ping was nodding from time to time.

As he understood more about this ancient Pet Beast known as the Crimson Heart Ancient Serpent, he also gained a clearer perception of the development of ancient Pet Beasts.

Then, Su Ping raised his hand.

"Su Ping, do you have something to say?"

Jiang Zhiyuan admired Su Ping's eagerness to learn and found the various questions he raised quite interesting.

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At the same time, quite a few idle people, who had been extremely bored and drowsy, suddenly perked up. They turned their attention to Su Ping, who finally brought up his previous idea:

"Professor Jiang, regarding the ancient Pet Beasts that have disappeared from history, I have some thoughts!"

"Oh? Let's hear them!"

Jiang Zhiyuan was intrigued. All the other students also looked at Su Ping as he stood up. Ignoring their gazes, Su Ping spoke eloquently:

"Professor Jiang, I have some insights into the Cultivation of the Forest Wolf. I previously considered how the Forest Wolf evolved from the Wood Wolf. Under a normal trajectory, the Forest Wolf is also a higher Evolutionary Body of the Forest Wolf.

"In nature, the Evolution of Pet Beasts is a matter of chance and also a means for better adaptation to harsh environments!

"So, if thousands or even tens of thousands of years were to pass, wouldn't Forest Wolves gradually vanish completely, with all Forest Wolf species evolving into Forest Wolves?"

"In such a scenario, isn't it likely that other Evolutionary Bodies derived from the Wood Wolf, particularly lower-level ones like the Elf Wolf, would also become Pet Beasts lost to history?"

"Then, could the Pureheart Ancient Snake also be one such case? Perhaps an alternate Evolutionary Body of a snake-type Pet Beast that hadn't completed its Evolution?"

Upon hearing this, Professor Jiang was slightly stunned. He hadn't expected Su Ping to develop such profound thoughts after attending classes for only a few days. He nodded and said,

"Your idea is interesting and indeed quite plausible. This theory is also one of the main areas of research in historical Beast Mastery Studies.

"However, it's true that after Evolution, many young Pet Beasts experience atavism. Of course, such instances do tend to decrease over time.

"We haven't seen a Pureheart Ancient Snake among any newly evolved snake-type Pet Beasts that have experienced atavism."

Su Ping continued, "So, I have an idea. Could there be a way to cause wild Pet Beasts to devolve? After devolving, could they be recultivated to resurface those possible Evolutionary Bodies of Pet Beasts that disappeared in ancient times?"

As soon as Su Ping finished, everyone was slightly taken aback, and many fell into contemplation. Even Jiang Zhiyuan showed a look of satisfied approval and said,

"Su Ping, your ability to think at this level is commendable. It shows you're truly interested in the study of historical Pet Beasts, Pet Beast Cultivation, and the prosperity of those ancient Pet Beasts that have gradually vanished!

"However, achieving this is very difficult. Currently, Breeders find it hard to control devolution. The only way to achieve devolution is through some of the rarest and most precious Time-Series Pet Beasts, and even then, it's exceptionally difficult."

Saying this, Jiang Zhiyuan looked towards a figure not far away and added,

"On this point, Ye Zhou is quite authoritative!"

Everyone's gaze shifted, including Su Ping's, towards the figure sitting nearby.

Ye Zhou? That name did sound familiar. Wasn't that the famous genius at Magic Capital Academy who had even overshadowed Miss Qin?

Su Ping glanced at him, observing a young man whose appearance was not particularly handsome and who did not seem like the genius Beast Tamer who had previously overshadowed Miss Qin in the Magic Capital.

However, the situation had reversed in recent days for a simple reason. After the Crown Wolf Emperor completed its Evolution, although Miss Qin hadn't made any breakthroughs in the individual Commander Level Trial Tower, she had managed to surpass Ye Zhou in the group combat Trial Tower, besting him to become the current top ranker.

Meeting Su Ping's gaze, Ye Zhou smiled slightly and nodded, saying,

"Professor Jiang is right. Some Time-Series Pet Beasts can indeed cause Pet Beasts to devolve. However, such devolutions are mostly temporary and cannot be permanently maintained.

"The flow of time is irreversible! If accomplishing permanent temporal regression for an individual were feasible, wouldn't that mean humans and certain Pet Beasts could achieve immortality?"

Su Ping frowned slightly. He felt something was off. Ye Zhou's words seemed reasonable at first, but they didn't quite hit the mark. So, he spoke again,

"Biological devolution isn't about reversing an individual's strength over time. Instead, it's a decline in Level, leading to a 'metamorphosis' in form and Energy!

"This kind of devolutionary 'metamorphosis' is the opposite of Evolution, but it certainly has the theoretical potential to be realized!"

Su Ping was sure of this. Where there is Evolution, devolution must also exist.

Jiang Zhiyuan also nodded and said,

"In the history of Blue Star's Pet Beasts, there have indeed been instances of devolution. If extraordinary Pet Beast life forms don't enhance themselves, don't fight, don't actively utilize their Energy, or if their Evolutionary Forms are unstable, cases have occurred where they evolved and then devolved.

"However, it's very difficult to make progress in this area! But I must say, Su Ping, this is indeed an excellent research direction!"

Beside him, Ye Zhou also nodded in agreement. His reason for coming here, like the other students, was to see this student, Su, who had caused such a stir upon entering the academy.

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Because just yesterday, he had received a message from a mentor that was so unexpected, he hadn't even had time to process it.

That was why he had taken an interest in Su Ping for the first time.

Now, having seen him in person, he truly lived up to his reputation! Indeed, quite interesting. Thinking this, Ye Zhou couldn't help but take another glance at Su Ping.

Noticing his gaze, Su Ping glanced back at him.

A Time Series Beast Tamer, huh? Su Ping realized.

Professor Jiang hadn't elaborated on this aspect. Obviously, in his view, as well as in the eyes of many others, Su Ping's proposals were interesting, but realizing them would require many more steps.

And these could not be completed in a short amount of time!

The duration of one class soon passed.

Su Ping quickly got up and left the classroom.

However, as soon as he stepped out of the classroom, a voice rang out:

"Student Su!"

It was none other than Ye Zhou, who had just been mentioned by Professor Jiang.

Su Ping looked towards this top genius from Magic Capital Academy.

"Your proposal just now was very interesting. I think it has research value for the future!"

Ye Zhou spoke directly. Su Ping was somewhat puzzled. Had he come over just to say this to him?

Su Ping nodded and then said, "Thank you, but there are many difficulties in this domain! Regressing is, after all, a domain seldom touched upon."

"There will be a chance! It seems the rumors were not wrong, Su Ping. I look forward to meeting you on the field of competition!"

After Ye Zhou responded, he didn't say anything more or even wait for Su Ping to speak. He just nodded, waved his hand, and left.

Watching his retreating figure, Su Ping was puzzled. What a strange person.

What field of competition? Next year's professional assessment? Su Ping shook his head.

But at that moment, another voice came from not far away: "Su Ping."

Turning his head, Su Ping was slightly startled to see a familiar silhouette in the distance.

It was the figure of a man, and he knew him very well.

It was none other than Qin Chuan.

Qin Chuan had no intention of coming over to talk. He simply smiled and nodded from a distance.

Facing the father of Miss Qin, Su Ping didn't think it appropriate to say much, so he merely nodded politely in return, then turned and left.

Watching Su Ping walk away, a thoughtful look crossed Qin Chuan's face, followed by a helpless shake of his head.

If he could be like Su Ping, would his mother not be so harsh on him?

Su Ping, of course, was unaware of Uncle Qin's complicated thoughts and, even if he knew, he wouldn't care to pay them any mind.

Truth be told, Qin Chuan was one of the types of people Su Ping least liked.

If it weren't for the fact that this was Miss Qin's father, he wouldn't even bother giving him a second glance.

Having returned to his dormitory, Su Ping glanced at Old Sha and, most importantly, at the figure beside Old Sha: Xiao Qing. He had summoned Xiao Qing from the Beast Taming Space.

Over the past few days, Su Ping had purchased two special materials.

Commander Level Poison System resources: the 'Plague Pearl' and the 'Blood Rose'.

Xiao Qing's strength had been continuously increasing, and its resistance to the Poison Type had reached a very high level.

Of course, even so, Su Ping had not directly let Xiao Qing consume a Commander Level Poison System resource.

Therefore, the 'Blood Rose' was still sealed away.

But the 'Plague Pearl' was not a virulent poison resource meant for direct consumption.

Over the past few days, Xiao Qing had been constantly absorbing the Commander Level plague energy emanating from the 'Plague Pearl', and the effects were strikingly evident.

Elite Seventh Stage!

Not far from the Elite Eighth Stage that Rong Qiu had mentioned.

Looking at Xiao Qing, who was still slowly absorbing, Su Ping nodded in satisfaction.

With the Heart of the Poison Wood, absorbing such Advanced Level resources was clearly not a strain for Xiao Qing.

When the time came, he could even consider giving the more advanced 'Blood Rose' to Xiao Qing to consume.

As he was pondering, the phone finally rang. It was a call from Liu Fuhai.

"Su Ping, the official Breeding Competition is tomorrow, New Year's Day. Come to the reception hotel today, so we can participate together in the morning. We can also chat tonight, to be fully prepared for tomorrow's event!"

"Tomorrow?"

Su Ping was startled, then realized.

He had been so engrossed at Magic Capital Academy these past days that he had almost forgotten the passage of time.

"All right! I'll head over now. Please send me the address."

After hanging up the phone, Su Ping suddenly rose to his feet.

Luckily, he didn't have much to pack.

After quickly tidying up, he left the temporary dormitory where he had stayed for half a month.

After informing Sang Sheng and Miss Qin, he boarded the bus prepared for him by Magic Capital Academy, heading towards the Breeder Association in the city center.

Barely arriving at the reception hotel of the Magic Capital Breeder Association, Su Ping saw Liu Fuhai and Sun Chaoju wearing anxious expressions.

Before Su Ping could even greet the two, Liu Fuhai hastily blocked the bus door, scrutinizing Old Sha who was trailing behind Su Ping with extreme caution, and asked,

"On your way here, you weren't discovered by breeders from other provinces, were you?"

His current demeanor made him look exactly like a secret agent on an undercover mission.

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Su Ping was somewhat baffled, but he quickly realized.

"Don't worry, there won't be any trouble! Even if they see something, it's useless!"

Indeed, at this moment, Old Sha was wearing a mechanical interference device that Su Ping had snatched from the huge Mechanical Titan Haotian at the Mechanics Association! It could block the Spirit probing of Beast Tamers. Even if they used the Eye of Truth, they would not be able to see anything on Old Sha.

After hearing Su Ping's explanation, Liu Fuhai finally breathed a sigh of relief. He patted Su Ping's shoulder, and Old Liu laughed heartily. "Very good, very good, this concerns our Sea Core Spirit Turtle! If someone discovered our secret and then refused to acknowledge it, we would be at a loss!"

"What Sea Core Spirit Turtle?" Su Ping was stunned.

Sun Chaoju hurriedly explained what had happened in the hotel restaurant at noon.

"Let's talk more inside!"

Leading Old Sha, the three men and a wolf entered the separate courtyard guesthouse belonging to the Jianghai Province Cultivation team. Sun Chaoju then continued, "Su Ping, the teacher has full confidence in you! And he has also invested heavily. The Storm Sprite is a Wind Attribute Elemental Pet Beast, and its worth is not much less than that of the Sea Core Spirit Turtle!"

Elemental Sprite class Pet Beasts were naturally more precious, but were they almost as valuable as this Sea Core Spirit Turtle?

But Su Ping didn't care much about it.

Ever since the incident where he got injured by the pale-eyed fish drawn up by his own Heart of Water, Su Ping had been thoroughly disheartened with these aquatic Pet Beasts.

Moreover, this was Old Liu using the Association's name and resources to compete with Huaiyang Province. Even if they won, it wouldn't have much to do with him.

However, after some thought, Su Ping asked,

"What is the entry from Huaiyang Province?"

"It's said to be a brand-new Pet Beast Cultivation Body! And it's an Evolutionary Body of the relatively common Insect Pet Beast, the 'Starfire Bug'!"

Sun Chaoju had done nothing but gather information on the Cultivation Bodies of the competing provinces lately.

"Insect type? Starfire Bug!"

"That's right. Insect types are the weakest initial race, and the vast majority of Insect Pet Beasts, before Evolution, are at the Ordinary Level or Elite Level! But because many Insect Pet Beasts have the 'Cocoon to Butterfly' Evolution rule, they all have considerable potential!" Liu Fuhai explained from the side.

During this trip to Magic Capital, Su Ping had indeed encountered quite a few Insect Pet Beasts. Although not real, it had been an eye-opener.

Undoubtedly, the most impressive was the Emperor Level insect larva 'Netherworld Ghost Butterfly' in the Trial Tower. A Necromancy Series Insect Pet Beast. But it did not display much before being killed by Qian Yi with a single slash of her Paperman.

Speaking of this, Sun Chaoju still looked a bit worried. "The race limit for the Starfire Bug is only at the fifth tier Elite Level, which makes it an Intermediate Level Elite Pet Beast. But the Forest Wolf is an Elite Peak Species Pet Beast! Moreover, the value of the Insect Clan is the lowest among all Pet Beast types. Cost-wise, the Cultivation requirements for the Starfire Bug are far lower than for the Forest Wolf. And right now, we don't know what the final Evolutionary Body of the Starfire Bug looks like, or what its combat capability and required resources for Cultivation are. Our chances of winning are still unknown!"

Sun Chaoju's furrowed brow made Su Ping and Liu Fuhai exchange a glance.

Su Ping looked at Vice President Liu in bewilderment.

"Old Liu, didn't you tell Brother Sun?"

Although Vice President Liu had not seen Old Sha's Super-Rank Skill completed last time, it was already undergoing Skill Fusion. While they couldn't be completely at ease before the fusion was finished, Old Liu had already inquired about it with Su Ping earlier! Of course, he already knew that at this very moment, Old Sha had completed that most crucial step!

Liu Fuhai nodded. "He talks too much. If I told him and he went out to brag about it, do you think I could still have tricked them into handing over the Sea Core Spirit Turtle?"

Su Ping was startled and then looked at Vice President Liu with great admiration before giving him a big thumbs-up. "Still, you're the ever... crafty... and calculating one!"

Beside them, Sun Chaoju looked somewhat bewildered as he watched the two exchange glances and then burst into laughter. He blinked his mung bean-sized eyes. "Teacher Liu, what do you mean?"

Liu Fuhai chuckled. This time, after Su Ping arrived, he finally stopped hiding things from his inept student. "Before coming to Magic Capital, that first Wanmu Wolf that Su Ping used as a reference for the competition had already started the Super-Rank Skill Fusion! Just a few days ago, at the Magic Capital Academy, Old Sha's Super-Rank Skill had already fully integrated!"

? When I type this question mark, it's not because I have a question, but because I feel like you, all of you have one.

Sun Chaoju looked bewilderedly at the Wanmu Wolf that stretched lazily in the courtyard, basking in the last rays of the afternoon sun.

Super-Rank Skill?

Had he heard wrong?

No doubt! He definitely heard wrong.

According to Teacher, a Super-Rank Skill is the domain of a Breeding Master...

Then, Liu Fuhai abruptly shattered Sun Chaoju's daze with a slap.

"Teacher, I, you, this..."

"Alright, I know you're anxious, but don't be in a rush. The competition starts tomorrow; just calm down for now. I still have to chat with Su Ping. Go cool off somewhere else. But remember, if you dare go babbling about this, you'll have no part in claiming the name for this Wanmu Wolf."

Not feeling the slightest bit resentful about being ejected and watching the two turn and enter the house, Sun Chaoju made his way with the speed and posture of a spider to where Old Sha lay under the eaves, giggling.

"Er, Wolf Bro, no wait, Sha Bro..."

Old Sha, completely bored, gave the human a glance, his eyes filled with despair. Then he took off his Spirit interference device.

He then released a half-hearted luminescence from his entire body.

Sun Chaoju hastily activated his Eye of Truth.

Five seconds later, Old Sha yawned and put the Spirit interference device back on, ignoring the stunned Sun Chaoju. He found a spot not shaded from the sun and comfortably lay down again.

After being dumbfounded for a full half-minute, Sun Chaoju finally seemed to realize something.

"WHOA!"

Old Sha watched as Sun Chaoju ran off, howling in the sunset like some throwback monkey, looking puzzled himself. Some Breeders claimed humans evolved from a special Psychic Element ape-like Pet Beast, something it never believed! How could a genius Beast Tamer like its little master possibly evolve

from a monkey? But now, seeing Sun Chaoju like this, Old Sha suddenly felt it might be possible. This creature did seem to be developing in that direction.

After venting for a full ten minutes, Sun Chaoju finally calmed his agitated blood.

He then took out his phone, subconsciously wanting to click into the 'Jianghai Wolf' group chat.

Only to find out that he had been kicked out of the group chat when he first came to Magic Capital.

"Old Zhao, Old Zhao, hurry up and approve my request to join the group!"

[DING~ You have joined the group chat: Jianghai Wolf!]

[Sha in the Sands: Why did they add this guy back? Isn't the Cultivation competition starting tomorrow?]

[Not the Old Wang Next Door: Maybe he's cooled down and is ready to make amends?]

[Li Weiwei: Or could it be that he's too nervous because he'll be on TV tomorrow?]

[Old Zhao: Xiao Sun was urging me, so I let him in to give him one chance to speak.]

At this moment, Sun Chaoju clearly wasn't paying attention to the group chat and quickly sent out a message:

[Wolf Den-Sun Chaoju: Guys, do you know the deal with Su Ping's Wanmu Wolf that he's Cultivating for the competition!? You'll never guess!]

Sun Chaoju's fingers flew as he typed. But just as he finished typing the words 'Super-Rank Skill,' followed by a series of exclamation marks indicating his excitement, he saw a new message pop up:

[You have been removed by the admin from the 'Jianghai Wolf' group chat.]

"DAMN!"

「In such circumstances, the night slowly passed, and the new day, marking New Year's Day, finally arrived.」