

## **Beast T 411**

Chapter 411: The Center of Attention! Time Potion!

January 1st, New Calendar Year 225!

The flow of the River of Time adds another ring to the year's growth. Each day in the relentless current is an imprint bestowed by time. For all people of future generations, this day is merely a number from the past. Perhaps history has seen many such days, but what remains most deeply etched in memory are the events that transpire on them. And undoubtedly, for everyone living in this era, such a day holds a particularly special significance.

In Jianghai, within the hall of the Breeder Association, the large screen displayed no advertisements or other content today. Early in the morning, it had been locked onto the television station's program—a broadcast many eagerly anticipated.

The Breeding Competition! This competition represented the pinnacle of achievement for all Breeders! It symbolized the highest research breakthroughs that Breeders from all over Dragon Nation could proudly present after a year of work.

The annual Breeding Conference always had some impact on the market for Beast Tamers and their Pet Beasts. There had been instances where previously unnoticed Pet Beasts rose to prominence at such competitions. They won favor with Beast Tamers who still had contract slots available, all thanks to a new Evolutionary Body. It could be said that each Dragon Nation Breeding Conference could even influence the Pet Beast market for the entire following year. It determined who would become the new darlings of the era in the upcoming new year!

At the same time, many people who had long been prepared were waiting. Once everything was completed, they were ready to stockpile Pet Beasts at the first opportunity to sell them for a high price. Of course, such behavior was strictly prohibited by the local Breeder Association.

Numerous Breeders within the hall of the Breeder Association watched. Some, like Yang He and other Wolf Pet Breeders from the Jianghai Province Breeder Association, had been well-prepared early on. Though they found Sun Chaoju's boasting disdainful and annoying, no one would forget to watch such a significant event. This was especially true when Su Ping and Vice President Liu were involved, representing Jianghai Province. For Breeders, it was an unmissable occasion.

However, such a grand occasion naturally captured the attention of more than just the Breeder Association.

Ordinary people aside, Heart of Woods rarely granted a day off for everyone to rest. After breakfast, Li Shu, Guan Lili, Guan Qianshan, and some other employees who had the day off with nothing else to do, all gathered in the large conference room of Heart of Cloud. They were waiting for the start of this year's Breeding Competition.

Perhaps in years past, some of them might not have paid much attention to the Breeding Competition. If something came up and they forgot, they wouldn't have been anxious to catch up. At most, they would have glanced at summaries from interested parties after the competition ended, then searched for outcomes they found intriguing—and that would be all. But this year was different; their boss was going to represent Jianghai Province. Such a situation would provide them with new talking points. If their boss's fame spread as a result, working at Heart of Woods would become a matter of great pride for many.

It wasn't just them. Dong Muyun was also sitting alone in the office, turning on the computer.

At Magic Capital Academy, many students and teachers were on holiday. The Sang family, with three generations—Sang Sheng, Qin Chuan, and Qin Xiaoxue—were also sitting together, a rare occurrence. Even within the stationed Legions in Jianghai Province, it was the same.

If one were to speak of who was the most notable among these people, it would have to be those in the furthest north. North, in Beiyuan Province. The immense Legion stationed on the cold snowfields there was connected to Beiyuan Province.

New Year's Day brought nothing particularly special to this Legion guarding the far north. Perhaps the only difference was some extra dumplings with their three meals. Stationed in the extreme north, after winter began, the harassment from the extreme cold Beast Tides on the snowfields and the ever-expanding armies of the Undead was relentless. Under such circumstances, enjoying the same ease and security as those within Dragon Nation was impossible.

And it was on such a day.

At the heart of the Legion's encampment, within the central hub of the Northern Border defenses that spread out like a great wall of ice, two figures had met early that morning.

Leng Ye yawned, looked at the man standing behind the office desk, and then said, "How are the preparations for the people coming along?"

"Reporting to the Commander! Within the Beiyuan Legion, from the four army corps, I have finished selecting fifty King of Soldiers Level Beast Tamers to enter training status!"

Leng Ye nodded, "There has been a development. Speed up the process! I want you to train a squad of elite Beast Tamer soldiers within two years—soldiers who fear neither extreme cold nor Death and can adapt to various combat environments!

"Of course, the most important thing is that after spring begins next year, the selection for the Special Beast Taming Forces Breeders will start! At that time, you, as an instructor, will also participate. See if there are any relatively suitable Cultivation Bodies to serve as the Pet Beast types for focused Cultivation!"

Su Anyong frowned slightly, "Commander, what exactly is the situation in the Heavenly Tomb? If it has restrictions like ordinary Secret Realms, where those at Emperor Level and above are forbidden to enter, then the requirements for Breeders aren't so stringent, are they? Why bother with all this difficulty?"

Leng Ye smiled and shook his head.

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"You don't understand the matter of the Heavenly Tomb! Back in Eagle Country, when we were exploring that Heavenly Tomb, although we didn't learn much about the specific situation, we still received quite a bit of news."

"Indeed, there is a Realm restriction, but do you know how many Monarch Level Beastmasters from Eagle Country died?"

Su Anyong was taken aback and shook his head.

"In total, twenty groups went in. There were even more than a hundred individuals who had covertly sworn allegiance to us and wanted to go in to investigate. But in the end, out of those twenty groups, each consisting of around fifty Beast Tamers, only one person from each batch eventually came out of that Heavenly Tomb!"

"Ah?"

Su Anyong was clearly not very aware of these secrets. Upon hearing this news—which, if not outright terrifying, was certainly close to it—he couldn't help but exclaim in shock.

"This Heavenly Tomb is extremely strange. Once a batch of fifty evolved beings enters, it seals itself again. Even with a key, it cannot be reopened. Either all the Beast Tamers inside the Heavenly Tomb Secret Realm must perish, or some requirement for clearing it must be met.

In summary, it's extremely peculiar. Even our own people haven't uncovered much information. However, they did learn a few things: that Secret Realm is primarily related to the Necromancy Series, and it's said to be teeming with Ghost Soul-type Pet Beasts!

With the four Heavenly Tombs, although we don't currently know what connections exist between them, they are ultimately similar. Under such circumstances, you should also prepare a little in this regard."

Leng Ye advised patiently.

Su Anyong nodded, then frowned slightly.

He hadn't known before what the true purpose was behind this elder asking him to lead the team and train the new Special Beast Taming Forces. Although he had heard of the Heavenly Tomb, it was only now that he truly understood the extent of the dangers lurking within.

From what it looks like, it's practically a death sentence!

Although the situation in Dragon Nation might not be identical to that in Eagle Country, both are named 'Heavenly Tomb.' The level of danger can't be too different, can it?

"Alright, stop looking like someone important to you died. We're different from them. Even if we do explore, the safety of our Beast Tamers will be our top priority. That's not why I called you here today, to press you about this matter."

Leng Ye chuckled, dispelling the heavy and gloomy atmosphere of the previous topic, and then smiled, "Do you know what day it is today?"

Su Anyong obviously hadn't caught on and shook his head.

"New Year's Day. Your kid is over in Magic Capital now, getting ready to participate in today's Breeder competition!"

"Hm?"

Su Anyong was startled.

Then he realized and looked quizzically at the elder before him, "You're still keeping tabs on Xiao Ping?"

Leng Ye blinked, as if suddenly recalling something. He cleared his throat, touched his nose, and adopted a nonchalant air, saying, "Of course, the little guy is quite remarkable! He has much more potential in cultivation than Old Su ever did.

Sigh, that old fellow! Back when we were young, serving under Old Wolf in Ximo, he insisted on cultivating a new Wood Element head for Old Wolf's three-headed hellhound.

The most outrageous part was that Old Wolf was actually convinced by the old man and agreed.

As a result, that three-headed hellhound vomited for three days and nights. Old Su was almost strung up on the mast and whipped to death by Old Wolf. He only survived because we stood with him in the sandstorm for three days and nights. In the blink of an eye, so many years have passed.

Now, that old fellow's grandson has not only grown up but has also become talented. It's a pity Old Su can't see this."

Leng Ye said this, partly to cover his earlier slip and partly with genuine nostalgia.

Su Anyong fell silent for a moment, then smiled, "Father's talent was far inferior to yours!"

Leng Ye shook his head, "Actually, it was just so-so. That old fellow was stubborn. There were some things he wouldn't compromise on, and he had no intention of doing so. I, on the other hand, don't stick to the rules when I do things, so I naturally found more opportunities.

Besides, that old fellow was practically possessed, insisting on going down the path of a Breeder. What a blockhead.

But speaking of which, that old fellow can now rest in peace. He has a grandson with such a promising future in that field!"

A smile touched Su Anyong's lips as well.

Leng Ye lightly pressed a remote control beside him, and the office flashed with light.

A virtual screen projected before the two of them.

"Dear audience members! All the Breeders of Dragon Nation! Happy New Year!"

"In this new year, we meet again here to witness the research achievements of those Breeders who have toiled on the front lines of Pet Beast cultivation over the past year!"

"First, we would like to thank the Dragon Country Breeding Master Association, Dragon Prosperous Group, Ocean Ecology Group..."

This wasn't the first time Su Ping had watched the Breeder competition.

In the past, he had always watched it on TV or his smartphone.

It was, however, his first time watching from backstage, not far from the actual stage where a male and a female host faced the cameras, their faces beaming with enthusiasm.

Next to him, Sun Chaoju clicked his tongue, "This Lu Yangyang... she doesn't look as good in person as she does on TV, does she?"

Su Ping shot him a sidelong glance.

"Speaking of which, is the list out yet? When are we up?"

Sun Chaoju shook his head, "Our teacher is in the lounge getting it now. I suppose the order is already set!"

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Su Ping opened his mouth, Then what on earth are you here for? he thought.

However, remembering that he was also wandering around the broadcast hall of the TV station out of curiosity, he naturally had no reason to judge others.

With that in mind, Su Ping nodded and said, "Alright, let's head back first. I guess we still have a while to wait until they finish reading the sponsor ads and introducing the guests and judges!"

Su Ping wasn't in a rush. He estimated that the delegation from Jianghai Province wouldn't be on stage anytime soon. It wasn't because of the nonsense that the protagonist always appears last. It's purely my guess that the organizers of the Breeder Competition will also arrange the order of appearance based on

the importance of the cultivation types, right? he mused. Things like new Pet Beast breeding evolutions certainly count as the most valuable batch. Although there are said to be quite a few of these achievements this year, it's unlikely that they would be first.

Just as he was leisurely thinking of returning, Su Ping noticed, not without surprise, that he wasn't the only one with this idea. At the edge of the recording hall, another figure was also strolling in. And, notably, he recognized this person.

Ye Zhou?

It was none other than the legendary senior from Magic Capital Academy, the Time Series Beast Tamer who had discussed research on Pet Beast devolution with him during Jiang Zhiyuan's class yesterday.

What's he doing here? Su Ping wondered.

Ye Zhou, however, showed no surprise at Su Ping's arrival. He even turned, smiled, and waved cheerfully, saying, "We meet again, junior Su Ping."

"You... are you also participating in this Breeder Competition?" Su Ping asked.

Ye Zhou nodded.

It was only then that Su Ping understood why the man had previously said he looked forward to meeting him on the competition stage. So he's here to participate too?

"Aside from the various provinces, the few elite Advanced Colleges across Dragon Nation also qualify to attend this Breeder Convention. I am one of the research members representing our Magic Capital Academy this time, and I came with Professor Wang and the others!" Ye Zhou explained with a smile.

I see, Su Ping thought. Within Dragon Nation, Modu Advanced Academy certainly isn't the only elite Advanced College. There must be others in the Imperial Capital and other major cities across Dragon Nation.

"Impressive!" Su Ping offered his praise generously.

Breeding is a distinct discipline, a completely different domain from what other Beast Tamer students in the academy focus on, he thought. To have established such a reputation at Magic Capital Academy and also be involved in research for the Breeding Competition, this Senior Ye before me is indeed no ordinary person.

But Su Ping had no intention of prying for information. The competition is about to start, so there's no need. Besides, judging from his words yesterday, he clearly knew I was coming long before.

"I'm just assisting, really. I'm far behind you, Junior Su," Ye Zhou stated humbly, showing no intention to elaborate, as several people had already walked up behind him.

"Alright, Xiao Ye, we need to get ready. It's almost our turn to go on stage!" one of them said.

Huh? Su Ping was taken aback. Are Ye Zhou and his group the first to go on stage?

Ye Zhou gave Su Ping a slightly embarrassed smile, then joined Professor Wang and the other researchers from Magic Capital, moving to the side to prepare for their upcoming stage appearance.

Su Ping cast a curious glance at them before returning with Sun Chaoju to the dressing room where Old Liu and the others from Jianghai were.

Evidently, the television station in Magic Capital was quite large. Or perhaps, everyone at the TV station knew that no ordinary people attended the Breeder Convention; thus, the numerous provincial and regional representative teams all had separate rest and preparation rooms and dressing rooms.

After they entered the room, Old Liu, who was looking at a list in his hand, glanced up at them and asked, "You're back, huh?"

Su Ping nodded. "When's our turn to go on stage? Around what time?"

Although the Breeder Competition was a grand event, it actually concluded within a single day. The process involved presenting results, answering questions, then demonstrating achievements according to the scoring criteria, followed by grading. There might be some variations, but each participant would likely only have about ten minutes or so on stage.

Old Liu took out a list. "We have a brand-new Pet Beast breeding evolution, so we're in a relatively later position. The closing act this year is the Imperial Capital's breeding team, followed by Linjiang Province's team, and then Huaiyang Province's team. We're fourth from last!"

"Hmm?" Su Ping's eyebrows furrowed slightly.

Old Liu quickly asked, "What's wrong? Did you find out something?"

Su Ping voiced his thought, "We're not the last to go on stage?"

Old Liu paused, giving Su Ping a puzzled look.

"Indeed, fourth from last!" Old Liu confirmed. "It doesn't really matter what our order is. The Breeder judges and Master Zhu Hong who are here will definitely provide fair scores and rankings!"

Sun Chaoju, at his side, then explained, "Su Ping, the representative Breeder from the Imperial Capital's team is said to have found a new evolution pathway for the Ordinary Level Pet Beast, the Jumping Zombie. As a nationally popular, low-tier Undead-type Pet Beast, such a novel evolutionary body scores very highly! It's normal for them to be the closing act."

Su Ping obviously wasn't concerned about that. Instead, he was filled with doubt.

I'm not the last to go on stage? Not the grand finale? According to convention, doesn't this mean these last four slots—including ours—have the potential to produce something unexpected, like a dark horse? Aren't protagonists usually the last to appear?

No one paid heed to Su Ping's wild thoughts because, at that moment, every rest and dressing room had a TV screen broadcasting the event live.

Finally, the lengthy sponsor announcements concluded. After thanking numerous Breeders, introducing all the judges who had taken their seats, and explaining the rules of the Breeder Competition, the Breeder Competition officially began!

The host announced, "Let's welcome our first Breeder team to the stage: the representative delegation from Magic Capital Advanced Beast Tamer Academy! Their project is a brand-new Magic Potion development named 'Time Potion'!"

Su Ping's spirits immediately lifted, his gaze fixed on the screen.

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"Magic Potion research and development?"

In front of the television, someone turned to their companion with surprise. Clearly, even they had not expected this.

In the world of Pet Beast cultivation, Magic Potion research was nothing special. New Magic Potions were hardly inventions that could shock the entire Breeder community. Generally speaking, they were presented only when there were no particularly outstanding research accomplishments that year. Obviously, that was the consensus. However, the name of this Magic Potion had garnered a lot of interest.

And Su Ping was even more interested, because he had not forgotten that Ye Zhou had once said to him that he looked forward to encountering him on the competition stage!

What did this mean? Su Ping didn't know if Ye Zhou was aware of his cultivation accomplishments. But Ye Zhou's confidence and assuredness in his Magic Potion research clearly meant it was no trivial thing!

On the television, a line of five figures emerged from backstage. They appeared behind the two hosts at the large experimental platform. The leading Professor Wang waved toward the hosts and the main camera:

"Good evening, hosts, esteemed judges, Master Zhu Hong, and friends watching from all over the country."

Among the three of them, Su Ping and Sun Chaoju watched very attentively. The reason was simple: neither of them had ever been on television before, and it was crucial to learn some of the necessary procedures.

"It seems that Magic Capital's performance is quite ordinary this time. Magic Capital Academy is representing the Magic Potion category, and the delegation from the Breeder Association branch also seems to lack any particularly remarkable research!"

"Who knows? But the name does seem a bit interesting, doesn't it?"

Similarly, in the backstage area, there were hushed conversations, clearly indicating a lack of concern for the first team from Magic Capital Academy to take the stage.

After a brief greeting, Professor Wang, standing behind the experimental platform, continued to speak, "The cultivation achievement brought by our Magic Capital Advanced Beast-Taming Academy this time is this Time Water Potion! It is a rare Time Series special Magic Potion with a variety of effects!"

As he spoke, his assistant and Ye Zhou had already opened the silver briefcase.

Inside the case, six silver-white test tubes were revealed to everyone and the camera of the photographer. Under this close-up shot, everyone saw the silver-white liquid flowing inside the tubes, rolling like mercury, looking so mysterious and beautiful.

Yet, these spoken words stirred something in many people's hearts.

A Time Series Magic Potion?

This time, it wasn't just the unimpressed spectators; the other Breeders from across the nation backstage also instantly focused their attention. This was primarily because it involved the Time Series,

which was associated with mystery and rarity. Being rare, it also possessed a variety of magical abilities. It could even produce effects unimaginable to ordinary people.

It was just unknown what the effect of this Time Water Potion was. The effectiveness would soon be known.

Professor Wang promptly took out a vial, opened it, and then, under the watchful eyes of all, plunged a sharp blade directly into his own heart!

Blood spurted from his heart, immediately staining his white lab coat blood red.

Everyone was stunned! At that moment, everyone was utterly bewildered.

This was no joking matter!

"WHAT THE FUCK?!"

Such exclamations were not just one or two, but thousands upon thousands. All those watching the Breeder competition broadcast couldn't help but exclaim in shock.

Although for some powerful healing Pet Beasts, as long as the head wasn't smashed to pieces, there would theoretically be no mortal wound. But still, it depended on the situation! A ruptured heart was extremely difficult to repair! Even for a Beast Tamer, this was a deadly, vulnerable spot!

No one had anticipated that the first act of the New Year's Breeder competition would begin so explosively!

It seemed as if the program was heading in a gory direction. Even the female host named Lu reflexively made a sound, as if she wanted to call for a healing Pet Beast.

While still alive, Professor Wang swallowed the Time Water Potion. He then splashed the remainder on the wound in his heart.

Then, the next second, a scene unfolded that made everyone, including Su Ping, widen their eyes.

An indescribable ripple appeared. Then, although nothing in the world changed, the wound on Professor Wang and the gushing blood all disappeared. Simultaneously, even the bloody stains on his white lab coat vanished without a trace!

It was as if everything that had just happened was merely an illusion—an illusion that had startled everyone! Yet now, all traces of it had vanished. The only thing remaining on the experimental platform was the splattered blood, proving that what had just occurred was definitely not an illusion.

How was this accomplished? Clearly, this was the effect of the Time Water Potion.

Professor Wang exhaled. Ye Zhou, smiling by his side, stepped forward and continued, "This is the Time Water Potion's first effect. It allows Beast Tamers and some Pet Beasts, after using the Time Water Potion and consuming a certain amount of Energy, to restore themselves to their previous, unharmed condition."

As expected.

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Many people looked at each other. Even Master Zhu Hong, seated at the head, became interested and directly asked, "Is the energy consumed only by the life form using the Time Potion, or can others nearby also benefit? Also, how far back in time can its state be restored?"

Master Zhu Hong's question was indeed to the point.

Ye Zhou continued to answer, "Replying to Master Zhu Hong, using the Time Potion to restore one's own state depends on the user's energy consumption. Similarly, the amount of energy expended dictates how far back in time one can go. A Commander Level ninth-rank Beast Tamer, by fully utilizing their spiritual power, could revert to their state from three days prior. Additionally, the Time Potion cannot be used again during the recovery period immediately following its use. However, all injuries and any changes inflicted upon oneself will be reversed by the Time Potion. Nevertheless, Skills learned by

Pet Beasts, Evolution, and similar aspects cannot be altered, though their potency will diminish according to the individual!"

Master Zhu Hong nodded, pondering and admiring as he spoke, "Remarkable!" Indeed, although it didn't affect changes in Skill learning and Evolution, the fact that it could achieve such restorative effects was outstanding. It was far superior to any so-called elixirs that could bring the dead back to life and grow flesh on bare bones! Most importantly, it was fast-acting, taking only a few seconds to work!

However, Su Ping, who was backstage, looked as if he had seen a ghost.

What the hell! That kid wasn't being honest! What did that bastard say yesterday? Where was there any time-reversal effect that could exist perpetually? Although this Time Potion might not actually reverse time, its effects certainly offer something to learn from! He was so adamant yesterday, and yet today, he brought out this thing? Damn it! In this world, there are truly too few honest people like me!

However, just as Su Ping was feeling indignant, the presentation was clearly not over.

Professor Wang, having briefly recovered, took out another bottle of the Time Potion and said, "In addition to the time reversal just mentioned, the Time Potion has another ability!"

Everyone watched intently without blinking. They hadn't expected this year's Breeding Conference to begin with such an Ultimate Ability!

This was a plant buried in the soil. Upon seeing this, nearly every Breeder present understood the capability of the Time Potion. And indeed, it was as they expected. As drops of the Time Potion fell onto it, the unnamed plant resource began to grow steadily. In just a fleeting moment, it had developed into a plant as thick as an arm.

"The Time Potion can accelerate the growth of plant-type resources, though it cannot be applied to Plant-based Pet Beasts that have developed spiritual awareness. If used on a Plant-based Pet Beast, the previously described effect applies," Ye Zhou explained. "Currently, for Monarch Level plant-type resources, one bottle of the Time Potion can accelerate its growth by approximately one-third of its total growth period!" Ye Zhou concluded with a smile for the camera.

The ten judges looked at one another. Hailing from various places, they certainly understood the significance of this.

Su Ping was also shocked. The effect of this thing is indeed extraordinary. If it were in some Xianxia novel, this would definitely be the protagonist's Golden Finger!

Before Su Ping could fully process his thoughts, Master Zhu Hong spoke directly, "If there are no further abilities to present, the Soul Judge can begin its assessment!"

In that instant, a spectral figure wearing a tall hat coalesced before them. It stood atop the testing platform, calmly observing the people before it.

The Soul Judge! An Emperor Level special Mental Category Pet Beast! Its sole purpose in appearing here was to verify the truthfulness of the words spoken and the accuracy of any subsequent statements.

"Respected Master Zhu Hong, and esteemed judges, these are the current effects of the Time Potion!" Ye Zhou stated.

The Soul Judge showed no anomaly, indicating the truthfulness of their statements.

Master Zhu Hong nodded and then declared, "Alright, the judges may now discuss and assign a value score!"

The scoring involved a value score and a difficulty score. For the value score, the higher the value and the better the effect of the cultivated item, the higher the score. The difficulty score, on the other hand, was graded based on the resources used in Cultivation; the more precious the resource's grade, the lower this score.

Upon Master Zhu Hong's command, the previously quiet venue erupted into a buzz of discussion. Clearly, the effects displayed by the Time Potion could only be described as phenomenal! Any fatal damage could be healed instantaneously with the Time Potion. And with its ability to accelerate the Cultivation of Plant-based Pet Beasts, one could only imagine its overall efficacy.

The discussions continued for a good few minutes. Since it was the first presented result, many judges were naturally hesitant. Some even looked towards Master Zhu Hong, eager to see the score assigned by the lead Breeding Master.

And Master Zhu Hong did not disappoint them. With a maximum possible score of one hundred points, he gave an unimaginably high score for this first presentation: 95!

"Ninety-five points! Damn!" Sun Chaoju also exclaimed in disbelief. From monitoring past events, he knew that value scores rarely reached above 90. Typically, the lead Breeding Master tended to score more conservatively.

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It goes without saying what the scores from the other judges would be.

Scoreboards appeared in front of everyone, as well as in front of the national audience!

'95' '98' '99' '93' '97'

'...'

The average score of the ten ordinary judges reached an astonishing 96 points!

According to the rules of the Breeding Competition, the score is determined by the average score of the ten judges plus the score given by the head judge, the Breeding Master; this constitutes the value score for this round!

In other words, the Time Potion that stunned the audience upon its first appearance had a terrifying value score of a full 191 points!

However, everyone knew that what was coming next was the main event!

The Difficulty Score!

This precious Magic Potion could promote growth for Monarch-Level plants and save lives at critical moments. Its creation undoubtedly required high-level resources and was certainly difficult to make!

After the scores were calculated on the big screen beside him, Zhu Hong continued, "So, what are the specific main materials required for the cultivation, and approximately how much do the supplementary materials cost? Of course, the exact ratio and the categorical details of the many supplementary materials need not be mentioned."

Each research accomplishment is the personal property of the Breeder, and the Breeding Masters Competition actively ensures that these recipes are not disclosed.

"The main ingredient of the Time Potion is half a drop of the Monarch-Level Time Series resource, Moment Springwater. This is approximately one-tenth of a complete Moment Springwater. However, considering the preciousness of Time Series resources, the cost value of the main material should be increased accordingly. Please, teachers, make your own judgment!"

"As for the other auxiliary resources, there are no other Time Series resources; they are all low-level resources, valued at around one million!"

Moment Springwater!

Su Ping was hearing about this special Time Series resource for the first time and raised his eyebrows slightly.

Half a drop of Moment Springwater? Just one-tenth of the total amount?

So, a complete Monarch-Level resource is equivalent to five drops of Moment Springwater?

He calculated roughly that the cost for a single bottle of Time Potion was close to ten million. This was not much less than some of the lower-tier Monarch-Level resources.

This value isn't small at all!

Of course, regardless, the value of the Waters of Time was certainly worth acknowledging. Such a cost was within acceptable limits. The Soul Judge showed no fluctuation either, indicating the truthfulness of the statement before him.

Zhu Hong nodded slightly and narrowed his eyes, lost in thought. Judging the Difficulty Score was much harder than determining the Value Score. But regardless, Monarch-Level resources were not likely to receive a high Difficulty Score.

Indeed, as expected, amidst the discussions among the judges and under the watchful eyes of countless Dragon Nation viewers, Zhu Hong, who was in the lead, was the first to announce his score: 65 points.

This score was not low; in fact, in the eyes of many, it was quite high. At that moment, among the ten judges below, some had even given scores as low as 50 points or less.

In the end, the average score of the ten judges was locked in at 59 points. Added to Zhu Hong's score, this totaled 124 points.

At the same time, it solidified the final score for the team representing Magic Capital Academy's Beast Breeding Group at 315 points.

A very good start indeed.

Professor Wang and the others seemed quite pleased. It was rare to achieve such a high score in the Magic Potion development category of the Breeding Competition!

"Thank you to all the judges, thank you Master Zhu Hong! Also, to show our gratitude for this Breeding Competition, the remaining four bottles of Time Potion can be given away in a lottery conducted by the program team for all viewers to enter!"

Professor Wang's final statement sent most of the TV viewers into a frenzy. A brand-new Magic Potion with the terrifying effects of the Time Series! Getting one's hands on this, forget using it—just reselling it could mean a swift profit of several million, or even tens of millions.

This prospect instantly energized countless people. The two hosts who had disappeared earlier quickly came back onstage, taking the four remaining bottles of Time Potion from the silver briefcase.

The female host smiled brightly at the camera. "Thank you to the teachers from Magic Capital Advanced Beast-Taming Academy for showing us such an eye-catching Magic Potion! And thank you for your generosity! So, viewers at home, what are you waiting for? Send a text to..."

The male host beside her chimed in, "Also, you can follow Magic Capital TV's online media. Follow and leave a comment, and we will draw lucky viewers from among those who commented..."

Instantly, everyone sprang into action.

Even at Heart of Woods, it was the same. All employees, including Li Shu, took out their phones to enter the draw.

While entering, Li Shu muttered, "This team from Magic Capital Academy is quite skilled! With that score, is it high or low, though? Can Bro Ping win?"

Guan Lili, who had followed the Breeding Masters Competition for years, spoke up from the side, "According to the standards over the years, any score above 300 is considered quite good in the competition's history. This Time Potion scored 315, which is already a very high score!"

"Does that mean Bro Ping is in danger?" Li Shu asked.

"No! The Wanmu Wolf is a brand new Cultivated Evolutionary Body; it Innately has an advantage in competitions like this! Believe in Bro Ping!" Guan Lili raised her small fist in support.

Ever since coming to Heart of Woods, Guan Lili had regarded Su Ping as an idol. Now, she had full confidence in Su Ping and his research. Of course, despite her words, she didn't stop participating in the draw herself.

And so, after Professor Wang, Ye Zhou, and the others bowed to the camera, they stepped down from the stage.

Simultaneously, the two hosts began to speak again. "Next up is the Breeder team from Xi Jing Province. The cultivation achievement they've brought is related to a special Earth Element, the Undead Pet Beast 'Terracotta Warrior,' and a special Cultivation Method for its Skill, 'Warrior Soul' ..."

#### Chapter 417: The Assembly of Heroes! Su Ping Arrives!

In comparison, the second team to take the stage, a group of Breeders from Xi Jing Province, clearly did not achieve results as stunning as those of the Magic Capital Academy. Their efforts could only be considered barely passable. The final score they received was quite a bit lower than Ye Zhou and his team's, a mere 277 points. This was to be expected. Relatively speaking, perfectly cultivating a Skill for a specific Pet Beast, while significant in effect, lacked the same level of achievement or impact as more groundbreaking results. The unique Pet Beast resembling terracotta warriors presented by this team, for instance, was somewhat interesting. Their Battle Spirit Skill was also quite impressive, but it paled in comparison to the astonishing effects of the Time Potion.

Although its value score wasn't high—even lower than the Time Potion's difficulty score—the Xi Jing team's own difficulty score was somewhat noteworthy. This was because the resources required and the cultivation difficulty itself weren't excessive.

At this moment, sitting in a room backstage, Su Ping found himself deep in thought. I wonder how many points my own Wood Heart Skill cultivation would have scored if showcased at this Breeder Competition? At most, it might score slightly higher than the Xi Jing Province's Breeders, but the difference would be relatively marginal. I estimate it would be around 300 points.

But Su Ping also knew that this score, if compared horizontally in terms of Skill Cultivation at the Breeder Competition, was already quite high. The effects of the Wood Heart Skill are undoubtedly significant. The ability of the Heart of Woods, applicable to common Wood Element Pet Beasts, holds unimaginable significance. And the difficulty score wouldn't be too low either; after all, the cultivation cost for the Heart of Woods isn't steep. With resource costs for common Elite Level materials at over two hundred thousand, the value score could be around sixty to seventy, and the difficulty score likely in the range of eighty to ninety.

Looking at this, could my grandfather, Su Zhongguang, truly be a genius? Su Ping was astounded. A result that could score around 300 points at a Breeder Competition was already quite remarkable.

And there's still so much about Old Sha that I haven't figured out. The Wolf King Majesty, an ability that commands immense influence over wolf-type Pet Beasts of lower Levels, is a Skill that even Woodhead, who has evolved into the Crown Wolf Emperor, shows no signs of comprehending. Who knows how Grandfather managed to cultivate such a trait in him?

Su Ping shook his head and continued to watch the presentations.

All non-participating members were waiting in their respective rooms or dressing rooms. As one of the last four teams scheduled to present, they were clearly quite far down the list of over thirty Breeder teams. In fact, a quick calculation suggested they wouldn't be on stage until the afternoon session.

However, Su Ping, having sat through the entire morning's competition, felt no impatience. Instead, he found it quite engaging. This year, the accomplishments from each province were all extremely noteworthy—surprising and intriguing cultivation results. In addition to Pet Beast Skills and Magic Potions, even the grafting and cultivation of some new resource materials had significantly impacted parts of the Pet Beast breeding ecosystem.

Yet, throughout the morning, with more than twenty Breeder teams having presented before the lunch break, only one had managed to score higher than Ye Zhou and his team's Time Potion. That was the breeding result that sparked the most discussion that morning, and it came from Minyue Province.

Previously, during the Legion combat exercises, Su Ping had encountered a Breeder from Minyue Province but hadn't engaged in any substantial interaction. Unexpectedly, at this year's Breeder Competition, Minyue Province had made a significant splash, even causing quite a stir backstage! Their score reached a staggering 365 points, only thirty-five points shy of a perfect 400! It was a full 48 points higher than the Time Potion.

Minyue Province's accomplishment wasn't a new Magic Potion formula or a novel Pet Beast Skill cultivation. It was the only result concerning the hybridization of Pet Beasts. Indeed, it was the birth and cultivation of a new Mutated Pet Beast! Furthermore, according to their Breeder team, they could already guarantee stable cultivation of this new species.

This was a very special Mutated Pet Beast. It possessed both Flying and Water Element abilities! Indeed, this new Mutated Pet Beast, presented by the Minyue Province Breeders, was named 'Skyducker Falcon.'

Su Ping found this perplexing. This is because the parent creatures used for cultivation were the 'Blackspotted Flying Fish,' a Water Element Commander Level Pet Beast, and the 'Diving Gull,' an Elite Level Pet Beast. On the surface, these two seem utterly unrelated! That's outrageous! What were these Breeders thinking? How did they manage to create such a thing?

A Pet Beast capable of diving into water and soaring through the air, simultaneously mastering the domains of both sea and sky. It had to be admitted, this creation was indeed quite intriguing. It even made Su Ping and many others recall a creature from myth and legend: Kunpeng, from the legends of the Dragon Nation!

The nature of the legendary Kunpeng from the previous world remained unknown. However, current research in historical Beast Mastery Studies suggested that the Kunpeng might have existed in Ancient Times.

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And this Skysurfer Osprey Falcon, which could barely be associated with the Kunpeng from Ancient Times, was already quite significant. One could imagine the tremendous shock its appearance had caused!

However, as impressive as it seemed, it also had many flaws.

Otherwise, the emergence of an entirely new mutated Pet Beast would have almost rivaled the brand-new Evolution of a Paperman. Naturally, it couldn't have received a score of just 365.

First of all, this type of mutated Skysurfer Osprey Falcon was incapable of reproducing offspring on its own. In other words, similar to the mules of a past generation, while they possessed some of the strengths of donkeys and horses, they lacked the Ability to reproduce. This meant that each mutated Skysurfer Osprey Falcon had to be personally cultivated by the Breeder Association of Minyue Province. Furthermore, the cultivation requirements included several Peak Command resources, which undoubtedly significantly reduced the difficulty score.

Secondly, this was, after all, something only recently cultivated. The Evolutionary Body from Minyue Province had, at that point, only grown to the common Ninth Rank. Although it had mastered some of its parents' Skills, its future development was still an unknown. Whether there were any undisclosed flaws also remained a mystery.

These were all highly probable occurrences that could not be ignored.

Therefore, after some deliberation, this mutated Skysurfer Osprey Falcon received a value score of 196 and a difficulty score of 169. With this high score, it led far ahead, firmly taking the top spot in the current Breeder competition!

This also made the Breeders scheduled to compete in the afternoon wary.

Newly cultivated Evolutions were, of course, the main highlight of any Breeder competition. But the appearance of both the Timereaver Potion and the Skysurfer Osprey Falcon had instilled a sense of threat in them.

In previous years, the top three scores had hovered just around this 365-point mark, with some even achieving first place.

In just one morning, Breeders across the Dragon Nation who were following the competition became engrossed in intense discussions.

However, for the Breeders from various provinces currently competing at the Magic Capital Television Station, it didn't make much difference. By this time, those who had already competed, even if their scores were low, had played their hands. Those who had yet to compete naturally didn't have the leisure to discuss matters with others.

Su Ping, Old Liu, and the others were no different. In fact, they didn't even go out for lunch, instead casually ordering some takeout to make do.

Reclining on the sofa in the break room, Su Ping took out his phone and scrolled through major online social media platforms. As expected, several prominent headlines dominated the top trending searches!

'Breeder Competition Commences: Breeders From Across the Nation Compete on Stage!'

'Skysurfer Osprey Falcon! 365 Points!'

'Minyue Province Breeder Association's Five-Year Masterpiece!'

'A Rare Special Mutant!'

'Timereaver Potion: The Miraculous Potion That Lets People Return to the Past!'

'...'

Many trending topics were completely dominated by that morning's Breeder competition.

Su Ping casually clicked on a few. Underneath, incredibly heated discussions raged, with some self-proclaimed experts providing commentary:

'With my many years of watching Breeder competitions, I'd say the Skysurfer Osprey Falcon is a lock! It should secure a top-three spot and contend for first!'

'Exactly! Now we just have to wait for the second half to see the results from the other provinces' Breeders who have cultivated new Evolutionary Bodies.'

'That's a long shot.'

'...'

Su Ping smiled faintly, but soon his brow twitched. He had spotted a comment under the official trending topic about the start of the Breeder competition that made his eye twitch:

'Support Jianghai Province! This year, Jianghai Province's cultivation achievement is undeniably number one! Breeders from other provincial universities, just wait and see!'

This message itself wasn't a big deal. Similar messages could be found in other trending comment sections. And those who disagreed would naturally stand up for their own supported teams, starting heated arguments. As a result, after the arguments between the two sides began, their comments would naturally rise to the top.

But what made Su Ping purse his lips was the username of the account that had posted this top comment: Sui Sui Ping An Sui Sui Ping.

Yes, this somewhat old-fashioned internet username was none other than Su Ping's own!

The problem was, when had he ever posted such a comment?

Su Ping seemed to realize something. He let out a long sigh and tapped the screen.

"Feifei, come out!" Su Ping commanded.

"DING-DONG! Your super-cute internet Elf, Feifei, is here!"

A Q-version cartoon caricature of Feifei appeared on the phone screen, leaving Su Ping speechless. Pointing at the post on the social media platform, he asked, annoyed, "Was this your brilliant idea?"

Feifei blinked. "Eh? Master, you think it was a good idea too?"

"..." Su Ping was silent.

Feifei then said, "Some people were saying really nasty things in those threads, targeting Jianghai Province! Master, you poured your heart and soul into this, so of course Feifei has to support you! Hee hee, and look, there's lots of support down below!"

Su Ping glanced at the top comments below. In just one morning, the thread had amassed over three hundred thousand replies; no wonder it had become the number one top comment.

And those supporters, without a doubt, all had IP addresses from Jianghai Province.

Nonetheless, Su Ping didn't truly blame Feifei. Feifei acted with a sense of proportion. During debates, she was rational and coherent, meticulously picking apart her opponent's arguments by seizing on loopholes for relentless attacks. Her prowess was such that even Li Shu would have wanted to become her disciple on the spot.

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"Aren't you playing mobile games? How did you start getting into these online forums?" Su Ping asked incredulously.

"Master, I have a grand plan! I'm learning! Once I'm done studying, when I get home, I'll accomplish both your Meditation Method and some things I want to do! Getting involved in forums is a necessary part of it."

If this little fellow had just been born, Su Ping might have believed the words of this mutated Psychic Element mechanical life form.

But now, Su Ping felt that this mechanically intelligent Pet Beast, originally supposed to be 'rigid' and 'serving its master,' was even more unreliable than Qian Yi and Xiao Qing, the Biological Type Pet Beasts.

Thus, Su Ping didn't even bother to find out what this little guy wanted to do.

Ever since this little fellow learned how to surf the internet, it had started acting oddly.

Su Ping no longer cared to pay attention to it.

However, just at that moment, his phone lit up with messages, many of which had been sent earlier.

[Qin Xiaoxue: When are you going to take the stage? Do you have the confidence to beat that guy Ye Zhou?]

[Dong Muyun: What does it feel like to be about to appear on TV?]

[Li Shu: Bro Ping, give it your all...]

[...]

Su Ping looked through each message and replied one by one before casually chatting with these folks, his mind elsewhere.

As time passed, 1:30 arrived, and the much-anticipated second half of the Breeder's Competition finally began.

More than twenty Pet Beast cultivation teams had already showcased in the morning, and with the afternoon remaining, there were only eleven left.

However, these eleven were undoubtedly quite attention-grabbing.

What none of the viewers of this competition expected was that, while new Evolutionary Bodies traditionally appeared as the finale each year, one such creation was the *\*first\** to take the stage that afternoon!

"Next up, we have a Breeder team from Lingnan, and their cultivation achievement is a new Evolutionary Body: the 'Mountain-Shaking Goat'—an Emperor-Level Racial Potential evolution from a Commander Level Pet Beast!"

At these words, not only were the spectators shocked, but even the eleven judges from the west, who had returned after lunch, were noticeably taken aback. Their spirits, slightly relaxed during the break, instantly concentrated once more.

Over the years, the development of the Beast Master Civilization has accelerated significantly. In past years, the number of new Evolutionary Bodies presented at the Breeder's Competition was five or six at most. This year, however, there was a significant increase. And the number of Secret Realms that

emerged also greatly surpassed that of previous years. The era of the Beast Master Civilization in full bloom is steadily approaching.

Mountain-Shaking Goat!

Just from the name, one could guess what kind of Evolutionary Body it was.

And indeed, it was proven true.

When the Lingnan Breeder team, which had hitherto hidden their Evolutionary Body from all eyes, finally appeared on screen with their now fully evolved new Evolutionary Body, even Su Ping was slightly startled.

This was a massive goat standing three meters tall.

Its fur was tan-yellow. It wasn't the soft wool of ordinary sheep; instead, it was sparse, revealing tightly coiled, solid muscles beneath. Atop its head were gigantic horns, seemingly constructed from piles of granite mountains.

What would be the result of being rammed by this creature?

Su Ping didn't know, only that this thing's score wouldn't be low, but of course, it wouldn't be too high either.

"The Emperor-Level Mountain-Shaking Goat possesses Skills such as Mountain-Shaking Power, Immovable as a Mountain, Earthquake Technique, Thunder Strike, Gravity Technique, and so on. Although it has not awakened a Super-Rank Skill, it's still a strategic-level new Evolutionary Body..."

On the testing platform, the Lingnan province Breeder team spared no effort in introducing the beast. In appearance, it was nothing like the cute and edible sheep from Su Ping's previous life.

The judges below nodded their heads.

Then, the Mountain-Shaking Goat, which had yet to reach its Peak and was currently only at Monarch Third Order, demonstrated its Skills at the prepared skill power testing device.

After several Skills were activated, the testing device shook continuously, and the combined evaluation of skill power displayed a number on it!

10,045!

Among Monarch Level Pet Beasts, this was quite top-tier.

Obviously, all the judges present were true connoisseurs.

They could see that while the Mountain-Shaking Goat was powerful, it was slightly sluggish compared to other Pet Beasts of the same Level.

In such a case, its effectiveness against training dummies was naturally high, but in actual combat, it would be somewhat cumbersome.

Therefore, the final value score settled on a number that was neither high nor low.

Zhu Hong gave it 86 points, while the judging panel averaged two points higher, at 88 points.

In the domain of cultivating new Evolutionary Bodies, such scores were not high.

Furthermore, in terms of value scores, the same was true.

In the Breeder World, there are some unwritten rules.

These involve evaluating the cultivation difficulty based on how the new Evolutionary Body's racial potential class corresponds to the cultivation resources used.

For example, this Mountain-Shaking Goat is a Pet Beast whose conventional race limit is Emperor Fourth Stage. If the resources required for its cultivation include one Emperor-Level resource, it would be considered barely decent.

If it were like the Crown Wolf Emperor, which required a full two Emperor-Level resources, countless Monarch-Level resources, and even had what could be called outrageous cultivation prerequisites, then the cultivation difficulty would be far too great.

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At the Breeding Conference, the score for an evolution wouldn't be particularly high if, for example, the resources consumed were disproportionate to the evolutionary outcome. For instance, if a Pet Beast race with a maximum racial potential of Emperor Level was evolved using only Monarch Level resources and materials at most, that would be considered an exceptionally excellent evolution method! The Shock Mountain Goat, however, fit the former scenario. While its resource consumption wasn't as extravagant as the Crown Wolf Emperor's evolution, it still ultimately used an Emperor Level resource named 'Earth Essence Magnet,' along with six other Monarch Level Earth and Metal Element resources. Consequently, the difficulty score for the Shock Mountain Goat was not considered high.

After discussions among the judges, it ultimately received 139 points for this aspect, just 19 points above the passing mark. Its final total score was locked at a mere 313 points. This score, let alone being comparable to the morning's Sky-Diving Eagle, was even slightly lower than that of the first contestant's Time Potion.

Clearly, the Lingnan breeding team was not particularly satisfied with this score. But in the end, they could only walk off the stage dejectedly.

The score of the first new cultivated evolutionary body to take the stage didn't even surpass the two from the morning. Although those two were admittedly quite abnormal, it still gave many people in the audience food for thought.

Are they seriously going to crash and burn?

However, the next team to take the stage, from the Southwest Advanced Tamer Academy of Tianfu Province, allowed everyone who had yet to present to breathe a slight sigh of relief. This was a new evolutionary body of a unique and cherished Pet Beast from Tianfu Province: the new evolutionary body of the Iron Eater.

As one of the representative Metal Element Pet Beasts, the Iron Eater is relatively rare. Being a Pet Beast unique to the Dragon Nation, it is especially representative of Tianfu Province.

The Monarch Level evolutionary body of the Elite Level Iron Eater:

'Kung Fu Panda!'

Upon hearing this name backstage, Su Ping almost spat out his water. But that was indeed its name. And this Kung Fu Panda evolutionary body was quite interesting. The Iron Eater is a Metal Element Battle Pet primarily known for its strength and sharp claws. After evolution, however, it became quite different.

"The Kung Fu Panda, still a Metal Element Pet Beast, is an evolutionary body with Monarch Fifth Order racial potential!" the Breeder from the Southwest Advanced Tamer Academy of Tianfu Province announced. "After evolution, it possesses Skills such as: Weapon Master, Indestructible Body, Jinge Technique, Agile Body, Gold Swallowing Technique, and so on! Among these, Weapon Master and Agile Body allow the Kung Fu Panda to master various weapons from the human world. Our evolutionary body here chose spear-type and halberd-type weapons!"

As the Breeder spoke, a panda, standing as tall as a person, appeared. It held a six-foot-long Square Sky Halberd.

Su Ping was momentarily stunned. What in the world is this?

However, its performance was quite remarkable. When swung, that massive Square Sky Halberd—forged from who knows what—demonstrated power comparable to the Shock Mountain Goat's when tested against the skill power assessment device. Yet, the Kung Fu Panda's combat agility was far more astounding than that of the Shock Mountain Goat. It was conceivable that although its racial potential was lower, this creature held an absolute advantage at its current Level if its abilities were fully utilized. Moreover, the possibility of further evolution in the future couldn't be ruled out.

Ultimately, with commendations including those from Master Zhu Hong, this Kung Fu Panda's final value score reached a terrifyingly high 192 points! Only 8 points shy of a perfect score. Had it not been for the fact that the Iron Eater, while exclusive to Tianfu Province, was only an Elite Level Pet Beast, it might have garnered a few more points.

As for the material cost of this Kung Fu Panda, it was deemed just barely manageable. It required one Monarch Level metal and five other Commander Level metals. However, according to the Breeder, the cultivation of this Kung Fu Panda did not have stringent requirements regarding the types of metal materials, so some points were added to its difficulty score accordingly.

In the end, its difficulty score was also somewhat higher than that of the Shock Mountain Goat, coming in at 157 points. Thus, this Kung Fu Panda's final breeding score was 349 points. Close to 350 points, which was also quite impressive! But it was still 16 points short of the Sky-Diving Eagle's 365. Nevertheless, it was now the second-highest score presented so far.

The Sky-Diving Eagle, a hybrid Pet Beast resulting from derived mutations, was indeed a historic breakthrough and differed from typical Pet Beast cultivation.

And there were still nine teams to go!

According to the competition's rules, the likelihood of witnessing a major highlight increased as the event progressed. Scores later on were generally not lower than earlier ones; even if they were, it wouldn't be by much. Besides, setting other factors aside, the appearance of just these two new evolutionary bodies had already generated considerable excitement among many observers throughout the Dragon Nation.

In fact, it was understandable for the Lingnan team to feel aggrieved. Before this, no one had successfully cultivated an evolutionary body for the Giant Strength Disk Sheep. This Shock Mountain Goat was the first of its kind. Although it was unique, the high cultivation difficulty lowered its score. However, in the outside world, the price of many Giant Strength Disk Sheep had already skyrocketed.

This was just the beginning. The Breeder Competition's impact on the Pet Beast cultivation ecosystem in the Dragon Nation was unprecedentedly vast!

For the third presentation of the afternoon, the team from the Ice Plains Advanced Tamer Academy took the stage. They represented the Breeders from academic institutions in the Dragon Nation's northeastern region.