

## **Beast Taming: the More the Better**

*Chapter 46: Chapter 46 The Research and Discovery of Wolf Smoke Grass (First Update)*

The growth of the tree was complete, but Su Ping did not hurry to find Qin Xiaoxue and have her call Sun Chaoju and Vice President Liu to fulfill the wager. A full fifteen days, half a month, remained, and there indeed was no need to rush.

Though he was eager to obtain the accelerated growth and the evolution methods for the Wanmu Wolf, meals must be eaten one bite at a time. Besides, even if he obtained these now, with the current experience of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, he would be unable to fully document them.

As for Su Ping's current schedule, it was quite packed. These were tasks he had set for himself, and the past days had been extremely fulfilling.

In the morning, he would take Li Shu to feed the Forest Wolves, clean up after them, and start planning the day's training for the wolves. Those whose training was most outstanding were rewarded with a portion of the Heart of Woods Magic Potion.

That's right, a portion. Previously, of two Forest Wolves, one consumed one-tenth of the Magic Potion with no change, while the other, after taking half, was given the other half by Su Ping the next day and then had an epiphany.

If half was effective, Su Ping later tried a quarter, which also worked. Directly consuming the Heart of Woods Magic Potion was too conspicuous, so feeding it in batches yielded even better results.

During the day, when the sunlight was plentiful and with the effect of Sunlight Absorption, the pack of Forest Wolves recovered their physical strength extremely well. Hence, the training effect was even better.

Not to mention, in just a few days, aside from the lack of unexpected Skill Level breakthroughs, several Forest Wolves experienced substantial improvements in Level and Realm. Even one young Forest Wolf that had been stuck at Common Tenth Level achieved a promotion to the adult Elite Tier.

The Cultivation of Pet Beasts is not solely dependent on the Race's Racial Potential limits! While the Forest Wolf's race limit is Elite Tenth Stage, this is the cap for Forest Wolf evolution, not the Level every Forest Wolf can reach! Some lazy Forest Wolves, without battle or training to improve themselves, would be considered quite fortunate if they could naturally break through to the Elite Level.

After the training for the Forest Wolves was arranged, Li Shu would act as the receptionist in the morning, while Su Ping was responsible for another matter: building a good relationship with Li Shu's Luozisong. In Li Shu's words, Bro Ping treated his Luozisong better than he treated him. Not only did Su Ping cultivate it personally, but he would occasionally use some low-level spirit spring water to water the Luozisong. As a result, in these few days, the Luozisong had "plumped" up a little.

Come afternoon, Su Ping conducted experiments on the theory Li Shu had mentioned a few days ago. He also cultivated new Forest Wolves.

That's right, after the Breeder Association's advertisements were officially registered and published, the business for Heart of Woods suddenly boomed. Even though Su Ping had raised his prices and limited the Cultivation to once a week, there were still people lining up. It was just one Forest Wolf, and indeed, it did not require much intensive Cultivation. If anything could be considered a bit of a waste of time, it might be Su Ping's need to foster the Forest Wolf's Affinity towards him during the process. Besides increasing the experience for the Forest Wolf's entry in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, *Who knows? It could turn into a returning customer.* Plus, he could make money on the side. Why not?

All these were fine, but what deserved special mention was Su Ping's experiment. This was, indeed, quite an inhumane experiment.

The subjects were two of his own Forest Wolves, both at Ordinary Level. These two were also special among the pack, as they had each consumed only one-tenth of the Heart of Woods Magic Potion. Su Ping had never thought much about Wolf Tobacco before, but its addition had greatly amplified the Heart of Woods' effects. *This indicated that this highly reproductive yet pungent special plant might have uses unknown to me?*

And so, these two little fellows had become Su Ping's test subjects. That's right, under Su Ping's orders and Old Sha's pitying, watchful gaze, they had been coming to the Lingxi River over the past few days.

What for? It was simple!

Eating grass! One ate grass while the other basked in the sun.

Also, every morning, Su Ping had been taking out one-tenth of the Heart of Woods Magic Potion to give to the two little ones. This was to ensure their changes wouldn't be affected by external factors.

However, over the course of these days, Su Ping had not noticed any changes. He looked at his journal. On it, a simple line was written: [Investigating the effect of Wolf Tobacco on Forest Wolves consuming the Heart of Woods Magic Potion to deduce Wolf Tobacco's unknown properties.]

This was already the sixth day of the experiment. For these six days, this was how Su Ping had spent his time.

He watched one Forest Wolf lazily soaking up the sun, while the other begrudgingly chewed on the abundant Wolf Tobacco on the ground. Clearly, from this little fellow's infuriated gaze, one could tell that it was extremely discontented. *Why can't I finish all this damned Wolf Tobacco?*

Su Ping paid no attention to the little one's resentment, glanced at his journal, then looked over at Old Sha, who was extremely alert on the other side, and smiled, "Don't worry, although the Heart of Woods is on the outskirts of Linzhou City, the Beast Master Association and the military's Beast Tamer Corps regularly patrol the city's outskirts to drive out wild Pet Beasts. There's no danger."

Strangely enough, lately, whenever Su Ping brought the two little ones here, Old Sha would always follow. Even if Su Ping had told it to properly oversee the Forest Wolves' training, Old Sha refused. From Old Sha's stubbornness and certain behaviors, Su Ping understood the creature was actually worried about his safety, fearing enemies might be nearby.

Of course, this was Su Ping's speculation; although he had a full understanding of Forest Wolves, he couldn't completely comprehend a Pet Beast's thoughts without the Telepathic Communication Talent, especially a wild Pet Beast without a Soul Contract. However, Su Ping didn't mind; Old Sha was one of his own. How could he force it against its will? Besides, it was a gesture of goodwill from Old Sha, and now, the training Forest Wolves were working very hard. Even without Old Sha's supervision, he didn't need to worry too much.

Yet, looking at Old Sha at this moment, Su Ping couldn't help feeling worried. Old Sha had lived for over forty years; it was indeed very old.

Just as his spirits sank, Su Ping's gaze suddenly shifted.

It wasn't that an enemy had appeared, but one of the Forest Wolves had unexpectedly changed!

Halos of light enveloped it, with specks of light adhering to it. The next moment, a piercing Wolf Howl, though immature, rang out, filled with indescribable joy!

Su Ping shot to his feet and rushed to its side, staring in disbelief. The other Forest Wolf, which was still lazily sunbathing, perked up its ears, blinked, and with great confusion in its small eyes, looked at its companion that had suddenly transformed.

The sixth day! Su Ping clenched his fists. The sixth day!

This meant that this Little Forest Wolf had, in effect, only consumed six-tenths of the Magic Potion—just a little over half.

*Yet under these circumstances, the Little Forest Wolf actually managed to complete its comprehension so many days ahead of schedule. Could it be that Wolf Tobacco truly possesses effects unknown to me?*

And at this moment, abruptly, in Su Ping's mind, the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas's entry for the Forest Wolf once again slowly turned open.

*Chapter 47: Chapter 47: Side Effects of the Wolf Smoke Herb, the Value of the Laboratory! (Second Update)*

At the very bottom of the Catalog, above the previously recorded logs, a new entry appeared:

[Discovery of the partial effects and applications of Wolf Tobacco on the Forest Wolf, Forest Wolf Catalog Experience Points +100. Fully understanding and excavating the specific effects and uses of Wolf Tobacco can yield additional experience points.]

*As expected!*

A look of unimaginable joy surfaced in Su Ping's eyes as he firmly fixated on the Forest Wolf that had completed its comprehension.

But soon, a slight frown creased Su Ping's forehead.

As the light faded, the small Forest Wolf appeared before Su Ping's eyes.

And the Eye of Truth quickly assessed the status of the young wolf:

[Forest Wolf (Wild - Weak)]

[Current Level: Common Seventh Rank]

[Racial Potential: Elite Tenth Stage]

[Skills: Sunlight Absorption (Beginner), Accelerated Growth (Beginner), Vine Strangling (Proficient), Self-Healing (Beginner), Heart of Woods (Beginner)]

Indeed, from the feedback of the Eye of Truth, it seemed there was no change or difference in the young wolf; even the Heart of Woods skill had already appeared on this little fellow.

The pervasive scent of grass and trees further confirmed this.

The state of weakness was nothing much.

However, the biggest issue was that, prior to this, to ensure the experiment would not be affected, Su Ping had specifically chosen two wolves of the same level and realm for cultivation.

And the realm of these two wolves was Common Eighth Rank!

This meant that while the Wolf Tobacco had indeed further enhanced the Forest Wolf's affinity with the Heart of Woods, it had caused a decrease in its own level realm.

*What was the principle behind this?*

Su Ping frowned, but for the moment, he couldn't figure it out. It was then he truly felt what it meant to be 'lacking knowledge only when it's needed.'

Still, he quickly made a mark on the young wolf and wrote down this research discovery in his notebook as a record.

Afterward, without wasting any more time, Su Ping took out a sickle from his Beast Taming Space and continued harvesting the vast expanse of Wolf Tobacco.

Before, Su Ping hadn't been sure and therefore hadn't tried anything more complex.

But now it seemed that the effects of the Wolf Tobacco definitely held a mystery beyond his imagination.

He needed to extract the essence directly and begin live experiments.

However, while he had some refining equipment at home, he was still missing certain items. For instance, his home cauldron, though generally sufficient, would be too cumbersome for extracting essence from Wolf Tobacco. The process would be too demanding in terms of both time and labor.

There were also some instruments needed for observation and recording.

Thinking of this, Su Ping, who had just harvested a large amount of Wolf Tobacco, also felt a bit of a headache.

Some materials and resources were widely available online and in the real world, but when it came to precision instruments only used by Breeders, he really didn't know where to buy them.

Luckily, Su Ping now had some connections.

"Hey, Su Ping? It's rare for you to call me. Could it be that you've finished your bet with Xiao Sun?"

Probably no one in Linzhou knew more about this area than Vice President Liu.

Meeting Vice President Liu's hearty laughter on the other end, Su Ping played coy for a moment: "You'll know about that in a couple of days. Old Liu, I wanted to ask, where can I buy equipment for extracting material essence and cultivation instruments for observing materials? I have some new ideas and want to give them a try."

"Haha, I guessed as much. Su Ping, do you know what the most important thing for a Breeder is?"

Perhaps because Su Ping was being coy, Vice President Liu didn't answer directly but instead asked a question in return.

"What?" Su Ping asked obligingly.

"It's naturally the laboratory! With your ability, you could certainly come to our Breeder Association and apply to rent a private laboratory. Of course, if you'd prefer to buy your own equipment, that's also an option. Our Breeder Association sells it."

Having said that, Old Liu went straight to the point: "The instrument you mentioned for extracting material essence? Our Breeder Association has three types, each with its own strengths and effects. We also have the other equipment you need. I'll send the details directly to you. After you take a look, you can place the order right away."

At this point, Vice President Liu seemed very straightforward: "When you've placed your order, give me the order number, and I'll use my authority to give you the maximum discount."

Su Ping revealed a smile: "Then I must thank you. I'll come to see you when I have time!"

"When will that be? I'll adjust my schedule," came the chuckling voice of Vice President Liu, causing Su Ping to falter in his speech.

He pursed his lips, about to speak, when he heard laughter from the other end of the phone: "Hahaha, just joking with you, kid. However, if you have time, you could come over at the end of the month. I'll be teaching a class at the Breeder Association that is only accessible to wolf-type Pet Beast Breeders.

"I don't know if it will be of any use or help to you, but no matter how talented a Breeder is, it's best not to always work in isolation."

This time, Su Ping's eyes truly lit up. Even though he had the help of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, it was like being handed an advanced-level math Olympiad problem along with its solution. While he now knew the answer and could replicate it for an identical problem, the underlying problem-solving methodology, the ability to draw parallels, or to extrapolate from it, was entirely beyond him.

A book is invaluable at the right time, and he certainly wouldn't miss such an opportunity.

Excitedly hanging up the phone, Su Ping then opened the website address Old Liu had sent, which only member Breeders of the Breeder Association were qualified to use for purchasing.

However, upon looking, Su Ping was stunned.

He seemed to understand why, when he asked Old Liu about purchasing equipment, Old Liu had bluntly told him that he could go to the Breeder Association to apply for a laboratory rental first.

Because the things in front of him were just too damn outrageous:

[Automated Polymer Mechanical Core Compression Extraction Machine: An integrated machine controlled by a Mechanical Core, capable of compressing all types of resources except Elemental Type, extracting the essence according to its needs, and condensing it into...]

There was a long, convoluted description, of which Su Ping understood little. What he did see clearly was the string of zeros trailing after the price of this large machine, which resembled a cross between a large toilet and a washing machine, connected to a computer screen.

At this moment, Su Ping fell into deep thought. *Old Liu just said he could give me a discount within his authority. So, how big could his discount be?*

*Could he discount three hundred million down to one million? Hmm, even ten million would be acceptable!*

Clearly, if this were a dream, Su Ping's thoughts might have a chance of becoming reality.

Unfortunately, this was real life.

And that was just the cost of purchasing one machine, not including usage costs and the purchase of other machines.

Instantly, Breeder Su, who just moments ago had felt his funds were sufficient, gazed at the innumerable stalks of Wolf Tobacco crammed into his tiny Beast Taming Space and roared at the heavens:

*I need customers! I need to make money! I need to build my own lab!*

*Chapter 48: Chapter 48 Pine Nuts Intimacy Meets the Standard! (Third Update)*

The urge to make money didn't last long.

After all, the decision made a few days ago to cultivate a maximum of one Pet Beast each week shouldn't change so quickly—it wasn't a good habit.

And besides, it was just for researching Wolf Tobacco. Su Ping thought there was no need to use such high-quality equipment!

*What was wrong with his own medicine stove? It couldn't isolate smells, and without a gas mask, one could easily be overcome by the fumes. It lacked an automatic stirring feature, requiring manual grinding with a pestle. It didn't have a decomposition function and could only process materials into liquids or powders. It just... Forget it, even Su Ping himself was having a hard time continuing this list.*

However, as long as his determination didn't falter, there were always more solutions than difficulties.

He had no reason to stop researching Wolf Tobacco just like that. Using basic experimental facilities was also an option.

After all, although he didn't have high-quality equipment, he had people!

So, after bringing back the slightly weakened Little Forest Wolf, Old Sha, and another Forest Wolf from the banks of the Lingxi River behind the forest, Su Ping found Li Shu, who was training Songzi.

After all, it wasn't a technically difficult operation. He just needed to control the temperature, wear a gas mask, and continuously work the medicine stove. At most, he just needed to add some water in the middle and heat this big bundle of Wolf Tobacco until it completely condensed into liquid. That was all there was to it.

There was no technical difficulty.

But without a doubt, this was a necessary step on the path of a Breeder.

Yes. All these words were what Su Ping said to Li Shu.

Then, meeting Su Ping's trusting gaze, Li Shu fastened his gas mask and nodded with resolve.

*It wasn't easy! Having been at Su Ping's place for a week now, he could finally participate in work relevant to a Breeder's job. Although Li Shu could see that Wolf Tobacco wasn't commonly found in the city, it was widespread in the uninhabited areas outside it. These herbs were clearly brought back by Su Ping deliberately to train him. He absolutely couldn't betray his adoptive father's trust!*

"Go for it!"

After teaching Li Shu how to use the heating medicine stove, Su Ping called Old Sha, who wore a special wolf-dog gas mask, to watch for any issues. Only then did he fully relax.

Su Ping then went to Songzi.

Even though its master was gone, Songzi, the Luozisong, knew that Su Ping, who stood before it, was its master's best friend. It was also thanks to this very person that it had been able to grow so robustly during this time. Its Realm had even broken through to ordinary Third Rank.

Plant-type Pet Beasts generally lacked strong mobility but offered many functional uses.

If it weren't for the fact that Songzi, the Luozisong, was difficult to cultivate and required a large area, making it hard to grow in large numbers, Su Ping would have considered choosing it as his second Pet Beast.

However, while he couldn't choose it, this couldn't hide his fondness for this type of Pet Beast.

The small Songzi swayed gently. Though it had no face, the slight trembling of its trunk and branches clearly signified an interesting soul nestled within.

During this past week, Su Ping had spared no effort in cultivating this little Songzi. Furthermore, before he returned to the Heart of Woods, Su Ping, while spending time with Li Shu, had interacted with this little guy on multiple occasions.

However, since it was not a wolf-dog type Pet Beast, even with guidance from Old Sha, the Wolf King, and after such a long time, there wasn't even a hint that the intimacy level had been reached.

This made Su Ping a bit helpless.

Now, he was well-acquainted with the nature of Forest Wolves. After his Forest Wolf Catalog reached LV2, and with Old Sha's guidance, even the Forest Wolves brought to

him for Cultivation reached the required intimacy level in two or three days at most, some even in a single day.

However, this little Songzi had truly taken a long time.

From this, Su Ping could infer, albeit with some difficulty, that getting wild Pet Beasts to reach the required intimacy level in the future—and thus light up new entries in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas—would be considerably more challenging.

But today, Su Ping came with a confident heart.

Because today, Su Ping had something extra in his hands.

It flickered with wisps of refreshing fragrance, but in reality, it had no physical form.

*This thing, if called a treasure, indeed was one, but if not, it wouldn't be of much use to other Pet Beasts or human Beast Tamers.*

The Life Ancient Tree was Qin Xiaoxue's second Pet Beast.

However, that day, when Qin Xiaoxue saw Xiao Qing, who was also a Mutated Pet Beast, she answered Su Ping's questions and satisfied his curiosity. This answered his question about the nature of the mutation of Qin Xiaoxue's Life Ancient Tree and the direction it had taken.

Death!

*Right, although Su Ping had previously realized that Qin Xiaoxue's Mutated Pet Beast was definitely not mediocre, he had not imagined that the Life Ancient Tree was a Mutated Pet Beast with both Life and Death Attributes coexisting.*

The challenge of cultivating such Mutated Pet Beasts with completely opposite Attributes was unimaginable. It was vastly more complex than the Forest Wolf by countless degrees.

Qin Xiaoxue, however, was not stingy and had shared some of her Cultivation insights with him.

The Life Ancient Tree could not be handled carelessly; its Life and Death Attributes always needed to be balanced. However, since the Life Ancient Tree was a mutation, its essential Attribute was still predominantly Life, so its Death Attribute was more suppressed.

Therefore, to maintain this balance, Qin Xiaoxue's Life Ancient Tree needed to expel some Life Energy periodically to foster some Death Energy. Only under these

circumstances could the Attribute balance of the Mutated Life Ancient Tree be prevented from collapsing.

Yes, the cluster of Energy Su Ping held was precisely the Life Force expelled by the Life Ancient Tree.

This Energy normally had no significant effect beyond healing injuries, but for Plant-type creatures, it was an excellent thing. It could not only expedite the growth of Plant-type Pet Beasts but could also enhance their potential and intelligence.

*After all, the Life Ancient Tree remained a powerful Pet Beast with the Racial Potential of the Monarch Level! If this Energy didn't dissipate over time, Su Ping would indeed be reluctant to use it on little Songzi. And now, this was the trump card Su Ping was using to coax this little Songzi aboard his 'pirate ship'!*

As expected, when Su Ping took out this pale green Energy, he could vividly feel little Songzi's excitement, its branches waving even more swiftly.

Su Ping couldn't help but roll his eyes at this little fellow. *All Pet Beasts behaved the same way, not showing any interest unless they saw advantages to be gained.*

The Life Energy slowly merged into little Songzi's body.

A faint green glow emanated from its body, slowly blooming. Then, as Songzi trembled, a fruit appeared on its branches.

Next, the fruit shot out like a cannonball and burst open in the air!

This surge of Life Energy had actually helped the little fellow comprehend its most powerful combat Skill: Pine Cone Bomb.

Although its power was negligible for now, there was great potential for future development.

And not surprisingly, almost immediately after this anomaly vanished, the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas in Su Ping's mind opened slowly.

A brand-new page, one he had never seen before, appeared before Su Ping's eyes!

The intimacy level of Songzi, the Luozi song, had been reached!