

Beast T 481

Chapter 481: The Return of the External Incarnation! The Flame-Eating Crow Returns

Feeling the feedback from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas in his mind, Su Ping stayed dazed for quite some time.

Is this even possible?

Could the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas even attempt to complete a Super-Rank Skill that had been lost in the annals of history?

From what he could see now, not to mention anything else, the few known effects of the External Incarnation far exceeded Su Ping's imagination.

It met all the expectations Su Ping had for Clone Skill Techniques.

Even from a certain perspective, these skills couldn't be considered Clone Skill Techniques anymore.

What kind of Clone Skill Technique would allow free switching between the original body and the clone, and even make it so as long as a clone doesn't die, the self wouldn't die either?

And yet it could still have the effect of practicing skills, comparable to the sharing connection of the Level 2 effect of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.

Plus, there were various other effects that remained unknown for the time being.

Such an ancient skill from the Ancient Times, could the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas even complete it by relying on the Cultivation Method speculated upon by numerous Breeders on the forums, along with the many clues from various countries?

Of course, it didn't take long for Su Ping to snap back to reality. It seemed it wasn't that easy to complete.

30,000 Catalog Experience Points, or 3,000 Universal Experience Points.

Su Ping had neither, and was far from reaching that amount.

The highest amount of Forest Wolf Catalog Experience he had, even after analyzing the causes of Xiao Qing's mutation, was just under 15,000. As for Universal Experience...

Su Ping glanced at it, and to his surprise, he actually had some! 500 Universal Experience Points.

Su Ping searched for the source of these Experience Points and quickly found the origin of the Skill in the Forest Wolf's log.

[Successfully cultivated a Super-Rank Skill: Heart of the Sun, obtained 2,000 points of Forest Wolf Catalog Experience, obtained 500 Universal Experience Points.]

(Note: This Skill has not currently been found to be cultivated on other Pet Beasts.)

(Note: Universal Experience Points can be freely converted into Experience Points for any activated Catalog. The conversion rate from Universal Experience Points to corresponding Catalog Experience Points is 1:5, and to convert Catalog Experience Points into Universal Experience Points is 10:1.)

Isn't this a rip-off?

Su Ping cursed as he looked at the so-called conversion ratio. What kind of profiteering is this?

Five hundred Universal Experience Points converted into Forest Wolf Catalog Experience is only 2,500 points, and then converting those 2,500 Forest Wolf Experience points back into Universal Experience Points would leave just 250? If it isn't a rip-off, what is it?

Who in their right mind would go through with such an exchange?

But strangely enough, to acquire the External Incarnation Skill, one would actually need to go through with that exchange. 3,000 Universal Experience Points would indeed be just enough to exchange for 30,000 Catalog Experience Points.

Unfortunately, he didn't even have enough if he combined the experience from the Forest Wolf Catalog with that of the Paperman Catalog.

Moreover, Su Ping was hesitant to part with the nearly 20,000 Forest Wolf Catalog Experience Points he had painstakingly accumulated over half a year, especially since he was about to upgrade the Forest Wolf Catalog to Level 4.

But where would the experience come from?

Very quickly, Su Ping thought of an important method. And, it didn't seem that hard!

The Heart of the Sun was able to yield 2,000 Forest Wolf Catalog Experience Points, and a full 500 Universal Experience Points. This indicated that Super-Rank Skill Cultivation research was greatly rewarded in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.

Currently, Su Ping had two ongoing Super-Rank Skill Cultivation research projects in his hands, didn't he?

Heart of Elements could be set aside since it benefited from the racial bonus of the Paperman, and it was being cultivated by Master Zhu Hong after all. He figured that even if there were rewards, they might not be much.

Yet, when the Cultivation of Five Elements came to fruition, there would surely be a significant amount of Universal Experience Points, right? At the very least, it should be not much different from the Heart of the Sun.

By that time, if one were to calculate strictly, only 20,000 Catalog Experience Points would be needed to complete the Cultivation Method for the External Incarnation. With this in mind, Su Ping suddenly felt invigorated.

Why look at any other Super-Rank Skills?

What other Super-Rank Skills would be more suitable for Su Ping's vision for Xiao Qing than this External Incarnation?

Moreover, with Skills, often being greedy ends up being counterproductive. With this thought, Su Ping immediately shut down the computer.

At the same time, Dong Muyun's call came through:

"Su Ping, I've sent the people I found for you over to your place."

So soon? Su Ping was startled.

"There happens to be a famous game studio right here in Linzhou. The people there are quite skilled. See what you think of their level first, and if it's not suitable, I'll keep looking."

"Sure."

The call ended.

Without keeping Su Ping waiting for too long, Lao Guan came over: "Xiao Ping, a group of people from Star Vault Entertainment have arrived. They said they were looking for you..."

"Have them wait in the guest room. I'll wash my face and be right there."

"Hmm..."

...

A group of four, somewhat cautiously and apprehensively looking at the middle-aged man before them, were led into a guest room. Guan Qianshan then smiled and said:

"Breeder Su will be here shortly; please wait just a moment longer."

Guan Qianshan didn't stay for long. After pouring a pot of tea for them, someone hurriedly found him. Watching Guan Qianshan leave, the four exchanged glances and relaxed slightly. All four were wearing glasses, appearing rather frail.

The leader, a man in his thirties, even as a rather famous figure in the industry, looked visibly nervous at this moment.

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I can't help but be nervous! After finding out who had approached them, Chu Yan couldn't have imagined it in his wildest dreams.

That famous Queen Dong in Linzhou, esteemed even in Jianghai, was leagues above them. The difference was like heaven and earth; they simply weren't in the same world. What surprised them even more was that Queen Dong wasn't the ultimate person behind wanting to find them. The person looking for them turned out to be this currently renowned figure in Linzhou.

Although Chu Yan hadn't watched this year's Breeder competition, after receiving a phone call late the previous night, he and his small team of four had hastily crammed information about it. Naturally, they now understood the significance of what the owner of Heart of Woods represented.

In the outside world, countless people were waving checks with eight or nine-figure sums, desperate for Breeder Su to help cultivate a Pet Beast for them. So, what could this prominent figure possibly want with them, a group of nobodies?

It wasn't just Chu Yan who thought this way. A young planner next to him asked curiously, "Boss, what on earth does Breeder Su want with us?"

"How would I know? Cut the chatter. Who can guess what such a big shot is thinking?" Chu Yan said, keeping his thoughts to himself.

In the meantime, a slightly chubby, round-faced youth nearby speculated, "Breeder Su isn't that old. Could he be an internet addict like us? Maybe he likes one of our studio's games and wants us to open a backdoor for him, tweak some drop rates or something?"

Chu Yan rolled his eyes at him. How could such an important figure be so trivial?

"With Breeder Su's achievements at such a young age, how could he possibly be addicted to games?" Chu Yan retorted. "At most, he might play them occasionally to pass the time when bored. Stop spouting nonsense and just wait patiently."

They didn't have to wait too long. Soon enough, the door opened, and a young figure they had seen on TV appeared before them. Who else could it be but Su Ping?

"Breeder Su."

They all stood up together.

Su Ping smiled and quickly gestured for them to sit, then joined them. "The professionals from Star Vault Entertainment, right? Sorry to trouble you by making you come all this way."

"It's no trouble at all! It's an honor and a privilege to meet you, Breeder Su," Chu Yan eagerly flattered.

Su Ping didn't have time for idle chit-chat. After a brief exchange of pleasantries, he got straight to the point, "You professionals are probably very curious about my intentions, right? It's actually quite simple. I just want to ask you to help plan a game."

"Plan a game?"

For their profession, it seemed unlikely there would be anything else. However, the idea of making a game didn't seem to fit with the young man before them.

Chu Yan thought for a moment and asked, "Breeder Su, what kind of game are you talking about? Mobile games, PC games? What genre? MMO, card, role-playing single-player, real-time strategy, life simulation, FPS, or what?"

Su Ping had no idea what these technical terms meant. Scratching his head, he replied, "I don't need you to use any platform. Just focus on the planning and art design; don't worry about operations. Just construct the entire game framework, its settings, and its numerical values—that will be enough!"

The group exchanged glances, even more perplexed and doubtful. Just a game proposal? But what's the use of just a proposal?

However, their client wasn't an ordinary one. Chu Yan didn't even ask about conditions or remuneration; he agreed right away, "Sure, just tell us what you require!"

"The main requirement is simplicity!" Su Ping stated. "Of course, the game must also be enjoyable. However, it should primarily focus on battling monsters. There's no need for an elaborate plot, character designs, or epic storylines—a straightforward game centered on fighting monsters and leveling up will suffice."

Su Ping himself had no interest in such games. For him, this was all for Feifei's Meditation Method. According to Feifei's explanation of the Meditation Method, as long as one fought monsters and leveled up in the game, a Beast Tamer would naturally gain spiritual power. That alone would be sufficient.

But such vague conditions left the group visibly troubled. They weren't actually afraid of numerous requirements; in fact, more requirements often led to a clearer framework. A project with just one vague requirement like 'simple' was actually more troublesome.

However, their concerns vanished in the next second.

"If I adopt your creative concept, and both the planning and art design meet the standard, you'll receive 30 million in cash," Su Ping continued. "Furthermore, any future game updates based on your planning

will be compensated at the same rate! If you do a good job, there will be additional bonuses. Even if I don't end up using your proposal, your efforts won't go uncompensated."

Thirty million? That was 30 million in actual cash, not the kind of monthly salary earned working for someone else.

What did it mean to be truly wealthy and generous? Chu Yan felt that for a client like this, he'd almost feel uneasy taking the money unless the final product went through hundreds of revisions and was meticulously polished over three to five years. It was just as the old saying goes: empty talk is useless. As long as the pay was good enough, anyone would work themselves to the bone for you.

Forcing people to work overtime without pay was the despicable behavior of exploitative capitalists. Su Ping, on the other hand, was purely engaging their professional skills and time with money. Of course, if Su Ping paid them well but they still failed to meet his standards, then there wasn't much Su Ping could do about it.

In truth, this is really difficult, Su Ping thought. Simply grinding monsters and leveling up, yet keeping players engaged and enthusiastic for a long time... I can't manage that. If such a Meditation Method is boring, forget others, even I might not be able to stick with it. But isn't it precisely because I can't do it that I'm willing to pay professionals to do it?

"Breeder Su, rest assured!" Chu Yan promised excitedly. "Even if we work ourselves bald, our team will deliver a plan that satisfies you!"

However, Su Ping shook his head. "It's not about satisfying me. It's about satisfying it."

Su Ping stretched out his hand, revealing a continuously rotating spherical object.

"Huh?"

Several people were stunned. Then, the sphere began to speak, "Hello there. I'm my master's Mechanical Pet Beast. You can call me Feifei."

Uh...

The group was taken aback. Is this mechanical sphere the real client? So, Breeder Su is commissioning a game for a Mechanical Pet Beast to play? That's just too extravagant!

Su Ping glanced at his phone and then yawned. "Alright, that's the gist of it. You can add Feifei as a friend and discuss the details with it. Naturally, I'll still need to review the final product. Also, ideally, please have the basic plan ready before the New Year."

Before the New Year? Isn't there only about half a month left? To come up with something in such a short time... It's not impossible, but the quality definitely won't be as refined.

But what else could they say? The one who pays is the boss, they thought, even if this particular client feels a bit surreal.

After giving his instructions, Su Ping paid them no further mind. The secrets within the Heart of Dreams were already an unimaginably significant matter to others. After all, it was an incredibly precious, self-created 'Meditation Method.' For Su Ping, however, it was just one more thing on his plate.

He was juggling many matters far more important than this. With that thought, Su Ping, holding his phone, saw Lao Guan waiting outside the reception room.

Su Ping blinked. "What's up?"

"Xiao Ping," Lao Guan began, "do you remember that Flame-Eating Crow from last time?"

Hmm? Su Ping's eyes lit up.

He certainly remembered it, and with crystal clarity. He'd even offered a precious Elf Leaf but still hadn't managed to keep the little creature. If it weren't so close to the New Year, Su Ping would have already started planning the construction of an aviary for future bird-raising.

"What about it?"

"The little guy came back!" Guan Qianshan smiled, but his expression soon turned odd. "Not only that, but this time, it seems the Flame-Eating Crow has brought you a gift."

"Hmm?" Su Ping blinked. "Let's go take a look."

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Su Ping was deeply touched. Indeed, the ancients did not deceive me! Crows, as a species, are so much stronger than those ungrateful fish! It was a bit rude, leaving without even a farewell, but despite that impoliteness, it returned with a gift. This actually makes me a little expectant!

Su Ping hopped on the sightseeing car and, bringing Old Sha along, sped towards the Forest Heart botanical garden. The Forest Heart's construction was still a bit behind schedule. With the New Year approaching, it was normal for the project's pace to slow down, and Su Ping wasn't concerned.

Even so, the Wood Energy and life force in the Forest Heart were extremely dense. Entering in the early morning evoked an indescribable sense of spiritual refreshment and delight.

The Hundred Birds Parasol was still there, spreading out like a Buddha's hand on the mountainside cliff.

Sure enough, at the very top of this Hundred Birds Wutong Tree, the peculiar, pitch-black Flame-Eating Crow reappeared before his eyes.

However, Su Ping's eyelids soon twitched. It was because, at this very moment, the Flame-Eating Crow was still in that same sorry state.

That's right, its body was covered in wounds. On one wing, there was even a massive gash, as if pierced by a nail, with fresh blood gushing out.

Yet, there wasn't a hint of pain in the Flame-Eating Crow's eyes; it seemed almost as if it couldn't feel pain at all. Flapping its wings, it let out two GAGAs at Su Ping, as if greeting him.

At this moment, Su Ping pursed his lips, then cast a skeptical glance at Guan Qianshan beside him.

At this point, how could he still care about the Flame-Eating Crow's return gift? He now seriously suspected this Flame-Eating Crow was treating his place as a free medical station! Was this damn thing really not here to get healed? It got addicted to the Elf Leaves from before, didn't it?

Still, it was ultimately a good thing. The prospect of being able to 'light up' avian Pet Beasts like the Flame-Eating Crow now seemed somewhat hopeful.

Moreover, Su Ping looked at the Flame-Eating Crow, which was circling, flapping its wings, and slowly approaching him with something in its beak.

It was a feather.

A fiery red feather.

Su Ping's eyebrows rose slightly.

From this feather, Su Ping felt an indescribable sense of gentle warmth. In the depths of winter, it radiated an unmistakable warmth.

How was this possible?

Su Ping was slightly stunned and instinctively squinted at the feather.

It was clearly a bird feather.

It was about thirty-odd centimeters long. From this, one could infer that the body of the feather's owner was likely not too large. However, it was unclear what part of the bird it came from—whether it was a flight feather, or a wing or tail feather—that remained unknown.

Undoubtedly, the owner of this feather must be a Fire Element Pet Beast.

Of course, that's stating the obvious; the Flame-Eating Crow itself is Fire Element. It's just that this little fellow before me seems to have undergone some kind of Mutation.

The fiery red feather drifted down slowly, giving Su Ping the impression of a brazier gently descending. The feather's temperature was evident from this alone.

Su Ping reached out and took it. A warm sensation spread from his palm to the depths of his heart. He didn't rush to examine it, instead looking at the Little Crow with surprise, "Is this for me?"

"GAGA..."

The Black Crow cawed, clearly confirming his suspicion.

Su Ping smiled faintly and then reached out. Although he couldn't rule out the possibility that this little fellow was using his place as a medical station, the mere fact that it knew to bring a gift made it countless times better than other Pet Beasts.

Su Ping was very pleased.

So, the moment he reached out, a light glowed once more. It was none other than the Elf Leaf, so familiar to the Flame-Eating Crow—its miraculous healing remedy.

"GAGA!"

The Black Crow was extremely excited and snatched the Elf Leaf that Su Ping tossed to it.

Using Commander Level Life Resources to feed a Pet Beast at the Elite Tier cap—anyone who saw this would call it profligate.

Even Guan Qianshan, standing to the side, thought the same.

But as Su Ping narrowed his eyes slightly, looking at the item in his hand, he suddenly felt that perhaps what he'd given wasn't such a loss after all?

Only when it truly rested in his hand did the fiery red feather begin to reveal some of its unusual qualities.

The gentle, warm sensation made Su Ping's entire body feel cozy.

This feather is extremely strange. Viewed from a distance, every marking on it was so clearly visible. But now that it's in my hand, it's paradoxically less distinct. The fiery red of the feather, in this state, seems to have transformed into real flames, as if it's become a feather condensed from actual fire!

What is this?

Su Ping unconsciously activated his Eye of Truth and looked at the item.

[Unnamed Fire Element Pet Beast Feather: Contains a certain amount of Energy. The owner's strength is estimated to be between Peak Commander Level and Monarch Level. However, the Energy is incomplete, with very little remaining. Evidently, a considerable amount of time has passed since it was plucked.]

And that was all.

However, the Eye of Truth isn't primarily for observing the Talented Ability of resource materials like this, so Su Ping wasn't too bothered. Still, it did confirm that this thing was indeed a material from some unknown Pet Beast.

I don't know its specific effects, but, if nothing else, its appearance alone is quite impressive.

With this thought, Su Ping looked towards the Flame-Eating Crow.

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"Little Crow, thanks for your gift! But how did you get all these injuries?"

"GAGA..."

When this was brought up, the Black Crow revealed a cold killing intent, clearly having gone through a fierce and irreconcilable fight.

Su Ping raised an eyebrow.

However, he didn't continue to ask any questions.

Getting closer to wild Ferocious Beasts in the wilderness required careful consideration.

Patience is key.

Wild Pet Beasts possess a strong sense of vigilance towards everything in the wild. Su Ping ultimately just nodded and, using Psychic Communication, said, "If there's anything I can help you with, I'm willing to help."

Without waiting for the Black Crow, who cocked its head in surprise, Su Ping waved his hand and turned to leave.

Su Ping was still quite interested in this mutated Flame-Eating Crow.

The value of a Mutated Pet Beast was clear.

Although Su Ping had no intention of making a contract with it, he did hope to keep it as the main subject for future bird Pet Beast cultivation.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have gone to so much trouble.

Su Ping was not in a hurry to leave Forest Heart.

He and Lao Guan chatted while walking along the mountain road in Forest Heart, looking at the plant garden area that was beginning to take shape.

"Is Heart of Woods currently short-staffed?" Su Ping asked.

"It's okay for now," Lao Guan replied. "Why do you ask all of a sudden? When Heart of Water opened, we had a batch of applicants. However, Forest Heart isn't finished with renovations yet. Plus, there are quite a few Plant-based Pet Beasts guarding this place, so it's not as dangerous as Heart of Water. We probably don't need too many people."

"That may be true," Su Ping suddenly said, "but I plan to hire another batch of Beast Tamers. Not ordinary service staff, but actual Beast Tamers. In fact, a large portion of them will be retired Legion Beast Tamers!"

"Oh?"

Su Ping smiled. "For one, we need some high-quality sparring partners for the fighting arenas at Heart of Cloud. Secondly, regarding security, no matter how convenient Pet Beasts are, they can't adapt like humans can."

Guan Qianshan nodded. "Shall I make the contact?"

"No need for that. I'm familiar with the Legion. When the time comes, I'll see if I can find a way to recruit retired Beast Tamers. It's more reassuring to use people recommended by acquaintances. However, once things at Forest Heart are wrapped up, there's indeed more to be done inside Heart of Woods."

Su Ping ordered, "The current situation at Heart of Woods requires some re-planning!"

Infrastructure construction again! Guan Qianshan inwardly groaned, but he had no choice but to listen at this moment.

He understood the ambitions Su Ping had for Heart of Woods: to build it into the largest and most diversified Pet Beast base in the Dragon Nation.

The current Heart of Woods is already quite impressive, but evidently, it isn't enough for this young master!

Su Ping paid no mind to Lao Guan's inner reluctance.

He directly said, "Firstly, Heart of Woods needs to be divided. Previously, the forest where the Forest Wolves lived was connected to the living area of Heart of Woods. That wasn't an issue at first, of course.

"But as time goes on, it might become inconvenient. That area is also a bit crowded with the number of Forest Wolves. So, we should partition it off. This entire area will be used as a cultivation zone, reception area, laboratory, and my core living space. I plan to introduce additional equipment that will take up more space.

"Secondly, we need to expand the Undead underground chamber."

As expected. Lao Guan had seen this coming.

With Old Liu and Master Zhu Hong constantly visiting, it was clear to Su Ping that the relatively cramped Undead underground chamber was unsatisfactory.

But even though he knew this, Guan Qianshan had been pondering this problem for many days.

How to build a sufficiently large Undead cultivation base had always eluded him.

Simply put, if it were to be built underground, the required area would be too large, and extensive underground excavation could lead to unpredictable problems. Besides, it wasn't ideal.

Guan Qianshan voiced this concern, and Su Ping gave him a sideways glance.

"If the area isn't enough, we compensate with more levels. Besides, who said it had to be built underground?"

Guan Qianshan blinked, not quite grasping the meaning.

Hadn't Su Ping previously said that Pet Beast Breeding Bases should completely simulate natural environments? And that they should also incorporate a commercial model, allowing for participation in cultivation and enjoyment of use? How could the gloomy atmosphere of the Undead fit Heart of Woods?

After a pause, Su Ping continued, "In Linzhou now, hasn't a new type of entertainment emerged in recent years? Things like realistic haunted houses, scripted murder mysteries, and escape rooms? We can absolutely use these concepts to build the Undead cultivation base! It wouldn't just serve for Undead Pet Beast cultivation; Beast Tamer guests could also participate in these kinds of games when they have free time.

"We could even develop it into a tourist attraction, an entertainment venue, or even a competitive event. Building a few large structures or various types of buildings, enclosing the area, and adopting such a format—wouldn't that be great?

"Let me think... We should have a hospital-themed area, a mental asylum, and a school. These are indispensable for horror. For the Undead Pet Beast cultivation in these types of buildings, let's focus on Ghost Soul-types. Their elusive, phantom-like nature would suit the atmosphere perfectly.

"Then, we could create something like an ancient manor or estate, primarily featuring Zombie-types and ghost beasts. Also, a Western-style cathedral with mummies, Vampires, and Witches as the main attractions. And how about a chaotic graveyard scene with skeletons, Zombies, Papermen, and so on? Wouldn't all of these work?"

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I must say, this idea thoroughly lit up Old Guan's eyes.

It seems... like it really could work?

This mode, together with the Undead Cultivation base, does sound quite interesting?

"However, before that, there's a very important matter! I need your help to decide on something, Uncle Guan!"

Su Ping patted Guan Qianshan earnestly on the shoulder.

Guan Qianshan's expression turned eager, apparently excited by Su Ping's proposal, and he quickly said, "You just say it, whatever the challenge is, I'll give it my all!"

"Well, it's about what we should name this area in the future?" Su Ping asked with a serious face.

Guan Qianshan blinked, his initial fervor momentarily stifled, and he opened his mouth, "Uh... Heart of Ghosts?"

"TSK, feels like it's missing something?"

"Then... Heart of the Undead?"

"But all the other places have three-character names, won't a four-character name be quite jarring?"

"This... Heart of Shadows?"

"..."

The two men stood on the mountain path staring at each other for a while, unable to come up with a name that satisfied Su Ping. Eventually, they chose to temporarily skip this topic.

"In any case, if you're short on money, just say it. If we need more land, we'll buy it. But please choose carefully. Don't pick a location too close to Forest Heart and Heart of Water, as it would ruin the atmosphere. Of course, don't go too far from the core either. Otherwise, the round trip for Cultivation will be too long and unbearable."

"We also need to solve the transportation issue. Although sightseeing cars can work, they are still troublesome. It's a pity there isn't a space Pet Beast that specializes in Teleportation for people."

Guan Qianshan glanced at his boss who was letting his imagination run wild. Which space Pet Beast wasn't treated like a treasure?

Luckily, Su Ping didn't dwell on this.

Su Ping paused, then continued, "Also, in some time, Old Liu will be sending over a large batch of Wolf Pets. As previously discussed, the Forest Wolves' original woodland within Heart of Woods, along with the connected area to its east, requires little artificial sculpting.

"In the future of Heart of Woods, this place will become the largest base sector! It will not only accommodate these Wolf Pets but also other Pet Beasts.

"So, we'll need to plan on adding some deserts, woodlands, and small snowy terrains. We don't need to worry about anything else. However, for the snowy terrains, we need to create a small to medium-sized ski slope. For the grasslands, we need to carve out a horse racing track with a circumference of over twenty to thirty kilometers..."

What? Guan Qianshan looked at Su Ping in disbelief. Just how huge is this place going to be? A grassland horse racing track isn't enough, but also deserts, woodlands, even snowy terrains, and ski slopes? Is this really a Pet Beast base? Just say you want to build a mini-city outright!

Seeing Guan Qianshan's shock and embarrassment, Su Ping patted his shoulder, "Uncle Guan, where there's a will, there's a way! Plus, it's not like I'm asking you to make it happen right away; this is our 225-year vision! As always, if you lack money, take money; if you need people, find people!"

Guan Qianshan sighed and shook his head helplessly, "You kid. It's just that you can't fly; otherwise, would you also want to build a Floating City up there?"

Hmm? Su Ping glanced at Lao Guan.

Lao Guan, seeing Su Ping focusing intently, quickly waved his hands in shock, "No, I was joking."

Su Ping laughed heartily, "Of course, I know. Rest assured, I definitely don't have that thought for now."

"That's good... That's good... Alright, if you don't need anything else, I'll go get busy."

"Mm-hmm."

Smiling amiably at Lao Guan's departure, Su Ping was in no rush to leave Forest Heart.

Instead, he took Old Sha to see the Life Ancient Tree.

The two oldest Pet Beasts, although one was a plant and the other a wolf, had a good relationship.

The Energy Old Sha infused revitalized the Life Ancient Tree significantly.

However, it was still only a temporary solution, not a cure.

But Su Ping hadn't yet found the cure either. He wasn't in a hurry now, anyway.

Then, he continued with Old Sha to Heart of Flowers.

There, they found Rouge Powder Peach Blossom Smile.

When Su Ping had first brought these little fellows from the nursery, Rouge Powder Peach Blossom Smile's request was for a weekly amplification by Wanmu Wolf's natural language.

Accompanied by the sweet, cloying moans of the peach blossoms, Su Ping again smiled amiably as he took the rouge powder peach, saying, "Do you like your current environment, Peach Blossom?"

"Like... Peach Blossom likes it here... likes Su Ping..." The branches of Rouge Powder Peach Blossom Smile gently swayed.

Su Ping laughed heartily.

Then he patted his chest and said, "When I have time, I'll find your Evolutionary Body and try to evolve you! As the first plant Pet Beast to come to Heart of Woods, Su Ping really likes you, Peach Blossom! Would you like others of your kind to come here and form a peach garden together?"

"GIGGLE GIGGLE, it's very nice here... Su Ping is nice too... and the humans who come are nice... Peach Blossom wants others of her kind to come play together..." The branches of the Peach Blossom waved continuously, emitting wafts of sweet, cloying fragrance that was thoroughly enjoyable.

But Su Ping wasn't just making empty promises.

Although he didn't have the energy to research a brand new Evolution for this type of plant-based Pet Beast, such Evolutionary Bodies were not hard to find in Dragon Nation. He could just search the Breeder Association.

Moreover, the fruits of Rouge Powder Peach Blossom Smile were indeed delicious, even though it was generally difficult to purchase seedlings of this type of plant-based Pet Beast.

However, as long as one was willing to spend money and effort, there was nothing that couldn't be done.

Fully satisfied with his visit to Heart of Flowers, Su Ping was about to continue to Heart of Water and that area below said to have a special magnetic field for another tour.

He wanted to see how that uniquely different area could help with his construction plans, but just then, the almost incessant ringtone of his phone sounded again.

This time, it was from Master Zhu Hong, whom he couldn't ignore.

"Hello, Master Zhu?"

"Su Ping, where are you?"

"Uh, I'm at Forest Heart. Is there something you need?"

Zhu Hong was currently engrossed with the Paperman. After so many days, aside from their fishing outings, he was now proactively contacting Su Ping. Clearly, something important was up:

"Haha, I've succeeded! I've cultivated a Heart of Fire in the body of the Paperman!"

The hearty laugh brightened Su Ping's eyes instantly.

At that moment, he had no mood to continue touring his own place and quickly mounted Old Sha, speeding toward his Cultivation laboratory base.

Chapter 486: The Heart of Elements that is About to be Completed!

The Undead Basement was still the same as always, unchanged.

In the pitch-black basement, an air of gloom lingered, but it could not suppress the joy Master Zhu Hong felt at this moment.

In fact, providing a Pet Beast with a Heart of Elements corresponding to its Five Elements Attribute was really nothing new to Master Zhu Hong; he was quite adept at it.

However, attempting to cultivate five, or even seven or eight, Hearts of Elements for the same type of Pet Beast, as he was doing now, was quite an interesting affair.

As soon as Su Ping entered the basement, before he even spoke, he noticed the fiery red Paperman next to Master Zhu Hong at the far end of his line of sight.

This Paperman was visibly different from the other Fire Element Papermen.

The body of this Paperman was predominantly fiery red, and its flame-like radiance was strikingly bright—not just a pure color but glowing with a vividness like real flames.

It looked like a Paperman shrouded in flames, its body engulfed in intense fire, clearly distinct from the other merely red-hued Fire Papermen.

Instantly, Su Ping's Eye of Truth activated, and he examined the creature:

[Paperman·Fire (Wild)]

[Attribute: Undead, Fire]

[Current Level: Elite Sixth Rank]

[Racial Potential: Elite Tenth Stage]

[Skills: Paper Body Folding (Proficient), Paper Body Joint·Fire (Proficient), Paper Body Compression (Beginner), Fireball Technique (Proficiency), Heart of Fire (Beginner)]

It really was the Heart of Fire!

Su Ping let out a deep breath.

Master Zhu Hong also showed a hint of a smile. "How is it? No problems, right?"

Su Ping nodded repeatedly. "No problem, no problem."

Then he turned to Master Zhu Hong and asked, "Master Zhu Hong, once the Heart of Fire has been successfully cultivated, is it possible to quickly develop the other types of Hearts of Elements using the method for the Heart of Fire?"

Master Zhu Hong nodded. "That's correct. Resources correspond with one another; despite differing attributes, they possess similar inherent qualities. Once research on the Heart of Fire is complete, by following the same cultivation method, as long as the Paperman itself has no issues, cultivating the other Hearts of Elements will be quick."

Meanwhile, a new log suddenly appeared on the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas:

[Paperman cultivation of Heart of Fire skill, obtained Catalog Experience: 200 points!]

Though not much, even a small mosquito is meat nonetheless.

But Su Ping wasn't really in the mood to care about these things at the moment; he continued asking, "Master Zhu, if every Paperman assembled has the Heart of Fire skill, will the effect be enhanced?"

The biggest difference between Papermen and other Pet Beasts is that they can be jointed.

Master Zhu Hong thought for a moment and then shook his head. "It's possible, but not necessary. I have studied your Paperman carefully during this time and found it very interesting. However, the power of the Heart of Fire acts upon the core. After jointing, the Papermen's energy flow becomes

completely interconnected. If one component Paperman has the Heart of Fire skill, adding more with the same skill would likely disrupt the energy absorption pathways rather than enhance the effect."

Su Ping nodded in understanding. He directly said, "In that case, let's not waste time, Master Zhu Hong. Can I help cultivate the corresponding Hearts of Elements?"

Without hesitation, Master Zhu Hong took out his notes. "Why be so courteous, kid? This Paperman is your invention. I've merely been working on the cultivation research to match it. Furthermore, the Five Elements Cycle of this Paperman has given me entirely new insights into Elemental Series cultivation. Naturally, I'd welcome your help."

Though this was the case, Su Ping still felt it appropriate to ask, since the development of the Heart of Fire was the sole research of Master Zhu Hong.

As Su Ping looked over the notes, Master Zhu Hong instructed him from the side, "Resource materials with different attributes share strong commonalities. The energy quantity and focal points of each attribute may vary, leading to diversity even among resources of the same level and attribute. However, once you find the balance point among them, you can discern the commonalities of other attributes. Look, for example, at the Wood Element's Spirit Grass and the Fire Element's Blazing Flower..."

Master Zhu Hong's explanations were crystal clear, and Su Ping listened intently.

After all, such an opportunity was incredibly rare.

Su Ping never thought that with the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas he could disregard these well-established Breeding Masters.

On the contrary, it was precisely because of the various effects of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas that he admired these many Breeding Masters even more.

Master Zhu Hong before him was undoubtedly one such Breeding Master.

Even after hearing Master Zhu Hong's explanation of the cultivation essentials for the Heart of Fire, it wasn't just Su Ping who benefited—even the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas itself issued a prompt:

[Discovered Catalog 'Paperman' special cultivation method: Heart of Fire cultivation.]

It was a simple prompt, but importantly, the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas didn't suggest that Su Ping use Catalog Experience to improve anything. Clearly, according to the Atlas's detection and evaluation, there was no need to refine the Heart of Fire cultivation for the Paperman developed by Master Zhu Hong.

Within just a few days, a brand new Pet Beast cultivation skill was nearing perfection.

The abilities of an Elemental Series Breeding Master are not to be underestimated.

And more importantly, as Su Ping had previously said, for the Heart of Elements skills, mastering one meant understanding them all.

Chapter 487: The Heart of Elements that is About to be Completed!_2

Upon the Paperman, once the Heart of Fire was cultivated, the rest of the Five Elements' Hearts were not far off.

Nearby, Liu Fuhai couldn't help but sigh with emotion. Over these past few days, he had been so busy that he was stretched thin. There was no helping it; the research conditions provided by Su Ping were simply too tempting. A brand-new Evolutionary Body of Paperman. And such a special Evolutionary Body at that. He was not needed in the Cultivation of the mutually-constraining Five Elements just yet. His task, unlike Master Zhu Hong's, was merely to strengthen the Levels of these Elemental Papercraft People and also to explore further basic Evolutionary Bodies. For many Breeders, this was a challenging endeavor, but not for him. Pet Beast Evolution, as long as it wasn't some particularly strange and intricate form, was traceable. For instance, after evolving into an Elemental Papercraft Person, the Paper Body Compression Skill that emerged anew on the Paperman became Liu Fuhai's main research direction over these days. The Skill he primarily trained was this one as well. Paper Body Compression, through continuous compression, made the paper body stronger, while also providing resource enhancement that expanded the paper's surface area. Under relentless compression, the Paperman's strength would also continue to rise. Provided that the Level Realm reached its Peak and the Skill of Paper Body Compression reached a high Level, the next stage of basic Evolution would naturally extend from there. Once the Realm and quality improved, the cycle of the Five Elements renewing their mutual conquest would naturally start again. That's why, even though he finally assumed his office at the

Breeder Association with legitimate authority, he didn't really care much about it. Instead, his main focus over these days was on the Heart of Woods. Nonsense. With two Super-Rank Skills involved and the research of a novel Pet Beast Cultivation Body at hand, it was an irresistible temptation. Not just any Senior Breeder like him, but any Breeding Master who came by wouldn't possibly be able to refuse it, right? Didn't they see that Master Zhu Hong, too, had been holed up here for days, even setting aside his task of arranging the Evolution for his Earth Dragon for a while? Indeed, this trip had proven to be extremely fruitful.

Thinking this, Old Liu also spoke to the two who were discussing, "Su Ping, the initial five Papermen have reached Elite Seventh Rank! Shall we try the cycle of the Five Elements again?"

Hmm? Su Ping and Zhu Hong both turned their heads.

Between the Heart of Elements and the cycle of the Five Elements' birth and conquest—two Super-Rank Skills—there was no doubt the latter was more significant. The Heart of Elements was a relatively more common Super-Rank Skill. As a representative Super-Rank Skill, while still powerful, it ultimately wasn't as satisfying as the cycle of the Five Elements' birth and conquest, which he had cultivated from start to finish.

Elite Seventh Rank represented the Elite Advanced category. For the Elemental Papercraft People, whose race limit was only Elite Peak, it was a major threshold. Such a Level breakthrough inherently carried the significance of continuing the experiment.

Su Ping nodded. "Good!"

"Qian Yi!"

At Su Ping's loud call, Qian Yi, who was inside the reinforced glass of the Undead basement practicing Swordsmanship on a dummy, turned its head and hurriedly flew to Su Ping's side.

"WAA!"

Liu Fuhai and Zhu Hong also looked on with smiling eyes at Su Ping's Contracted Beast, the little Paper Swordsman, of whom they were quite fond. Moreover, the key point was that Papermen had

fragmented souls. This made it difficult for them to understand a Breeder's commands, necessitating the help of the little Paper Swordsman.

"These five, let them form the Five Elements Paper Diagram again."

Pointing at the five Five Elements Origami Men of Elite Seventh Rank cultivated by Liu Fuhai, Su Ping gave the little guy its orders.

Qian Yi nodded and began arranging them.

Soon, under the watchful eyes of the three, the familiar Five Elements Paper Diagram was once again assembled.

However, it was clear that the Papermen, upon reaching Elite Seventh Rank and forming this Five Elements Formation Map, were different.

Their Realm had reached Elite Peak.

The Energy fluctuations of the Five Elements were much more turbulent and intense.

Such power caused the Energy variation within the entire Five Elements Paper Diagram to reach a Peak.

"Begin!"

With Su Ping's command, the cycle of the Five Elements' birth and conquest started again.

As expected, the Energy unleashed during the conversion of this Five Elements Formation Map on the Energy Detector was much stronger than that of the original Elite First Rank Papermen.

Energy Detection: 184.

Initial Fire Element Paperman Energy release: 184.

Simultaneously, as fire gives birth to earth under the law of birth and conquest, Earth Element Energy: 236!

Still a 20% increase, remarkably high.

Earth gives birth to Gold, Energy detection: 290.

Gold gives birth to water, Energy detection: 362.

Water gives birth to wood, Energy detection: 445.

Wood gives birth to fire, Energy detection: 533.

This number seemed quite substantial; compared to the initial time, it had truly tripled. But the increase provided by Super-Rank Skills was definitely not that simple.

To give an example, Old Sha's Heart of the Sun—Old Sha was only at First Stage Monarch, and the normal Energy detection value of his Skill's power was only about six thousand. However, the normal enhancement by the Heart of the Sun allowed Old Sha's Skill power to reach over twenty thousand—a fourfold increase. Not to mention the ability to use Charging Power to release the Sun Tail Beast Cannon, which could blast a fissure into Linhai Secret Realm. Its Energy power values could even exceed one hundred thousand, undoubtedly reaching Emperor Level, and even that of a high-level Emperor.

Chapter 488: The Heart of Elements that is About to be Completed!_3

This enhancement wasn't just several times greater; it was dozens of times greater. Currently, such a Five Elements Cycle did not meet the expected effects of a Super-Rank Skill.

Therefore, at this point, the group exchanged glances and involuntarily held their breath, knowing what was coming. It was the most critical moment. A complete Five Elements Cycle had just finished. Before

this, the cycle had almost never managed to break through to the next round. Each time it started, it resulted in the cycle exploding during the process.

This was obviously a quality issue with the Paperman. Now, with the Paperman's Level upgraded, the question was whether the upper limit of Energy it could withstand had increased accordingly.

The three of them watched intently. Simultaneously, Master Zhu Hong and Old Liu were also prepared to intervene and prevent any potential mishaps.

The fiery red Energy fluctuations lit up once again.

At the same time, the Earth Element, Wood Element, and even the Metal Element were ignited, causing the entire Five Elements Formation Map to shimmer with four colors: yellow, red, green, and white.

The next moment, the fiery red Energy fluctuations slowly moved towards the next cycle.

Everyone held their breath.

Then, before their eyes, the fiery red light gradually faded, and the next moment, the yellow light burst forth.

It was a success!

It wasn't just Su Ping; Zhu Hong and Liu Fuhai also clenched their fists, their excitement palpable as they focused intently on the scene. Simultaneously, the Energy Detector, which had been aimed at the setup all along, provided the most direct numerical increase. This increase surpassed all their expectations.

Earth Element Energy fluctuation detection: 794!

From the previous 533, it had surged by 50%!

It was an unprecedented improvement. A full fifty percent!

The three of them exchanged glances, each seeing the shock in the others' eyes.

Then, the cycle began again. The Earth Element continued to move towards the Metal Element.

However, this time, the Energy response reverted to the previous increase rate of approximately 20% per step.

Metal Element: 960!

Water Element: 1,142!

Wood Element: 1,380!

However, just as the three thought the energy conversion of the Five Elements generating and overcoming each other would complete a full Grand Circulation this time, a change occurred during the Wood-generating-Fire process, which had the Fire Element as its focal point.

BOOM!

An explosion sounded.

The previously fused Five Elements Paper Diagram shattered again.

Fortunately, the two beside him were not only Breeders but also High-Level Beastmasters. Their vast spiritual power instantly dissipated the explosion, catching the five scattered Papermen. They immediately applied the prepared resources for recovery.

Once everything was settled, the three finally let out a breath of relief.

"It's still not enough!" Su Ping stated. "The Paperman's Realm has indeed improved. But after the Realm advanced, the Energy it contained was much stronger than before. Although the upper limit of what it can withstand has increased, the increase isn't sufficient."

Liu Fuhai thought for a moment and then said, "Su Ping, if the initial Fire Element Paperman component that drives the Five Elements transformation could be activated with slightly less Energy, would that help? The activation starting point for the Fire Element Paperman is 184. If we halved it to 92, wouldn't the number of Grand Circulations it could complete increase?"

Su Ping shook his head helplessly. If only it were that simple. Before he could speak, Zhu Hong interjected:

"The interplay of generation and restraint in the Five Elements doesn't just use the power of this one Paperman, Old Liu. What you're seeing is only the Energy being channeled by that single Paperman. In reality, when the cycle first starts, the Energy within the other Papermen must also be mobilized in accordance with the principles of generation and restraint. That's the core of the Five Elements Formation Map. Therefore, the amount of Energy mobilized is very difficult to change. Currently, based on my experience with Super-Rank Skills and elemental Cultivation, achieving the perfect formation of this Super-Rank Skill requires at least three to five complete Grand Circulations! And that's not even considering if other conditions might be necessary."

"Three to five times?"

Even Su Ping and Liu Fuhai were taken aback.

Five Grand Circulations? Going from the Fire Element back to the Fire Element counts as one Grand Circulation. Old Liu spent half a month painstakingly cultivating the Paperman, upgrading it to the Elite Tier, only to barely complete a little more than half a Grand Circulation. And now they needed three more just for a chance to form a Super-Rank Skill?

The difficulty was truly immense.

Su Ping, however, wasn't particularly concerned. He remained full of confidence:

"If it weren't difficult, Super-Rank Skills would be everywhere, wouldn't they? Besides, it's not like we're without direction!

"First, and most importantly, once the five Five Elements Origami Men each complete the Cultivation of their Heart of Elements and are fused into the Five Elements Paper Diagram, might the Five Elements Cycle become easier and simpler?

"When it comes to the effects of the Heart of Elements, you two surely have more experience than I do, right?"

Seeing the sudden spark in their eyes, Su Ping continued with a slight smile, "Secondly, this is only an upgrade to Elite High Order. Once the assembled form of the Five Elements Paper Diagram reaches Commander First Stage, we'll see if there's even greater progress. And most importantly, what if the Paperman undergoes Evolution again?

"Old Liu, when upgrading the Paperman, we can reduce the materials used for Energy enhancement and instead focus on boosting the Paperman's physical strength."

Old Liu also nodded.

Regardless, while the path ahead was still challenging, the experimental results achieved in less than half a month were undeniably exciting for everyone involved, including Su Ping.

Simultaneously, the Cultivation of the Heart of Fire was completed.

This gave Su Ping full confidence for the subsequent condensation of the Heart of Elements.

And indeed, while the research and Cultivation of the Heart of Fire had taken just under half a month, in the following few days—merely two or three—Su Ping and Zhu Hong successfully cultivated the Heart of Woods for the Wood Element Paperman.

Meanwhile, as they immersed themselves in these tasks, time passed steadily.

New Year's Eve drew ever closer.

Chapter 489: The Preliminary Completion of the Heart of Dreams! The Encounters of Everyone!

「Inside the Heart of Cloud.」

On the top floor of the tallest office building, Su Ping sat on the sofa, while Dong Muyun lay not far away. Of course, nothing worthy of anyone's imagination had occurred between them. Su Ping sat there, impeccably dressed, one leg crossed over the other. Dong Muyun, lying nearby, was also neatly dressed, distinguished only by the large helmet covering her head. Wires connected to the helmet, and purple-red flashes of light twinkled across its highly technological surface.

A smile played at the corners of Su Ping's mouth. Indeed, merely ten days had passed, and Su Ping had already assembled a basic trial version of the Heart of Dreams. This speed was remarkable, yet, in truth, quite normal. The reason was simple: the Heart of Dreams, created by Feifei, could be constructed instantly as long as the specific settings and content were defined and there was ample spiritual power data. For instance, while some novelists might have ideas, they cannot necessarily write them down instantaneously. Feifei, however, using spiritual power, could materialize creations in mere seconds, or a few minutes at most. Within the super local area network memory built by the Mechanical Core, Feifei was akin to a legendary creator. Thus, after Star Vault Studio proposed some fundamental concepts and confirmed them with Feifei, the creation process began.

The gaming helmet was an even simpler matter. With the Mechanical Core, basic circuits were connected, and the entire process from design to production took no more than three days. The Pingyun Group's factories, all at Su Ping's disposal, naturally operated at peak efficiency. Now, Dong Muyun was undoubtedly the first tester besides Su Ping himself.

Star Vault Studio had also shown Su Ping their initial creative drafts. The game's content was exceedingly simple, as Su Ping's initial request had been for simplicity itself; there was no need for intricate plots or character-driven narratives. Maximizing the sense of growth and reward from defeating monsters and leveling up within the game's framework was sufficient.

Therefore, in the game, the players' map consisted of only a small village. Yes, just one small village. Within this village resided about ten to twenty NPCs.

Among them was Ah Ning, Feifei's Second Favorite, responsible for guiding new players and acting cute.

There was Ely, Feifei's First Favorite, responsible for maintaining and evolving mechanical Pet Beasts.

There was Ailin, Feifei's Third Favorite, responsible for all other Pet Beasts.

There was Xiao, Feifei's Number Four, responsible for the cool, arrogant, and complex task of issuing hunting missions.

And finally, there was Bobo, responsible for map teleportation.

Besides these, two other NPCs served as mentors for two additional professions—these were purely fictional constructs. Additionally, there were other NPCs selling equipment, potions, and various miscellaneous items. These need no further elaboration.

The game's content was equally straightforward. Players would receive various tasks from Xiao, then, in the blink of an eye, be teleported to entirely new maps to hunt enemies in diverse landscapes. These enemies were varied, and they dropped loot, including materials to enhance equipment. Beast Tamers might drop Evolutionary Atlases for the Cultivation and Evolution of Pet Beasts, along with the required resources. In a way, it wasn't particularly extraordinary. This game bore some resemblance to a monster hunting game Su Ping had played in his past life, though it differed in certain details.

However, any seemingly ordinary game becomes quite remarkable once integrated with full virtual reality 3D technology.

For example, at this very moment.

BEEP...

A crisp notification sound chimed, and a point of light blossomed on the mechanical helmet. Then, Dong Muyun opened her eyes and slowly removed the helmet. She let out a long exhale. She didn't even pay attention to Su Ping's subtle smile. Her phoenix eyes were filled with a dazed confusion and a lingering shock that had yet to subside!

Yes, at this moment, Dong Muyun experienced only this singular, overwhelming sensation. It was so shocking; the mental experience felt utterly authentic. Although the sparse plot resulted in little sense of immersion, the pure fun of adventuring and improving was truly captivating.

However, that wasn't the most important part.

What mattered most was that after closing her eyes and sensing for a moment, Dong Muyun realized her spiritual power had genuinely improved. Even though it had only been half an hour, an improvement that might be considered negligible for a Monarch Level Beast Tamer, it was still an improvement! It was entertaining, and it could also improve her strength? Improving her strength while playing a game... True, any interest could become tedious if it turned into work. But this was surely far better than just closing her eyes and dryly engaging in Spiritual Meditation, right?

Most importantly, someone as perceptive as Dong Muyun immediately sensed the terrifying business opportunities this device held. She also recognized the profound impact and shock it would deliver to all Beast Tamers in the Dragon Nation.

She snapped out of her dazed state and rushed over to Su Ping. "This Heart of Dreams... this is it? When it's released to the public, will the effects be exactly the same?"

Su Ping, unconcerned by Dong Muyun's shock, simply nodded with a smile.

Then, Miss Dong could no longer sit still. She began pacing quickly in front of the floor-to-ceiling window by the sofa. "Using this device purely for gaming for now is fine, but it seems a bit too wasteful. In the game, we could completely replicate reality, including advertising, promotions, and incorporating other elements. This could be an entirely new revolution..."

Chapter 490: The Preliminary Completion of the Heart of Dreams! The Encounters of Everyone!_2

Su Ping had great admiration for Miss Dong's business acumen.

This ability was somewhat similar to the so-called metaverses of his previous life.

However, Su Ping felt it necessary to temper Miss Dong's excitement.

"Um, the creation of each virtual helmet requires a Mechanical Core that failed to awaken..."

"Er..."

Dong Muyun's steps came to a halt, her eager anticipation stiffening, then she slumped onto the couch, her voice tinged with regret and annoyance, "Why didn't you say so sooner!"

"What a pity... such a great pity!"

Dong Muyun repeated those words, slightly relieved that such costs wouldn't allow for mainstream distribution in the short term.

After exhaling deeply and calming her excited emotions, Dong Muyun then asked, "So, what price do you plan to sell Heart of Dreams for?"

Su Ping shrugged. "Isn't that up to you? But judging by the way you've priced things before, a billion?"

Dong Muyun rolled her eyes at him. "If it was a billion, this thing really wouldn't sell! Pricing high-end creations isn't calculated like that. Even at a fifty percent margin, each unit's profit is in the tens of millions. So, this product could actually adopt a low-margin, high-volume approach. A Mechanical Core that failed to awaken would come to about 85 million using Tianyun's channels and internal pricing. As for the rest, it shouldn't cost much... Hmm... What about a price tag of 120 million?"

Su Ping was noncommittal; marketing wasn't his area of involvement.

Realizing that it was pointless to ask him, Dong Muyun nodded to herself and continued, "Alright, let's just settle on that for now. Heart of Dreams is absolutely a top-tier product. Even though it's expensive, there certainly won't be a shortage of wealthy buyers. We need to figure out how to keep up with production capacity. Moreover, to break away from Pingyun's established image as primarily a Magic Potion business, we need to launch a new advertising campaign. The ad placements should be set during the startup animation sequences of supercars and in some high-end locations..."

In just a few minutes, Miss Dong had meticulously covered everything from positioning to advertising and marketing, down to the smallest detail.

Then, looking at Su Ping who was lost in thought, Miss Dong suddenly threw out a question, "Speaking of which, isn't the person from Magic Capital and Miss Qin returning to Linzhou soon?"

"Yes, they'll be in Linzhou two days from now... Hmm? How did you know?" Su Ping glanced at Dong Muyun strangely. Qin Xiaoxue had indeed told him two days ago that she would be returning to Linzhou in two days to prepare for the New Year.

Dong Muyun ignored his question and asked seriously, "When can we expect a batch of Heart of Dreams to be officially produced?"

Su Ping was speechless. This woman's topic jumps were a bit too abrupt, weren't they?

He sighed and responded, "It's impossible to mass-produce these with an assembly line; each mechanical helmet needs my Mechanical Pet Beast to establish the connection. So there won't be many. You can take twenty after the New Year to start. As for now, counting the one you have, I've only made five so far. But these five I made myself recently, and I still have use for them. I won't sell them."

Dong Muyun pouted and then declared stoutly, "I don't care. Of these five you made yourself, you absolutely have to give me one. Consider it my dividend for investing in your Heart of Woods this year."

"Fine, fine..."

Su Ping waved his hand dismissively, not fussed about it.

Two helmets would go to Qin Xiaoxue and Sang Sheng to try out, he'd keep one, and Dong Muyun had claimed one.

That left one more, which he'd give to Li Shu and Guan Lingling to use in rotation, depending on their performance.

Others, like Zhu Hong and Liu Fuhai, weren't particularly interested in this kind of thing.

"Hehe, by the way, Mu Xuan will also be in Linzhou in a couple of days. He's actually looking forward to visiting you."

Su Ping wasn't concerned. He had a decent impression of Dong Muxuan and no prejudice against him, so there was naturally no reason to turn him away.

Seeing Su Ping's noncommittal expression, Dong MUYUN continued to make conversation, "What are your thoughts on the Heart of Dreams advertisement? Should we hire a popular influencer? Do you have any favorite stars or actors? We could fulfill some of your wishes this time~"

Su Ping gave her a strange look. "Are you bored or something? My idol is the Legendary Divine Dragon, is that okay?"

Dong MUYUN rolled her eyes at this romantically clueless guy before sighing and saying, "The Dong Family also wants to strengthen ties with you. What do you think?"

"I'm not really interested. But if it's for your sake, I suppose I could exchange a few pleasantries. As for any deeper collaboration, let's just forget about it."

Standing up, Su Ping concluded, "Alright, in short, you handle the promotion for Heart of Dreams. But forget about any popular celebrities; Heart of Dreams doesn't appeal to their fan base, and it would just lower its prestige. If the advertisement absolutely must feature people, try to use ordinary individuals."

With that said, without waiting for Dong MUYUN's reply, Su Ping waved his hand and walked down from the top-floor office of Heart of Cloud.

After the Heart of Dreams prototype was completed, Su Ping had tried it for a whole night before seeking out this woman to test it. It seemed to work well. However, this was still an initial result, and from Dong MUYUN's experience, Su Ping couldn't see any room for further improvement.