

Beast T 51

Chapter 51: Paperman, Metal Element and Space Element?

"Old Sha, don't hurt it!" Su Ping called out softly.

Once the figure appeared, Su Ping sensed that its strength probably wasn't very high. Although the strength of a Pet Beast isn't necessarily related to its size, this creature under the moonlight, only as tall as an adult's calf, didn't seem to pose any threat at all.

And facing Old Sha's arrival, the figure showed no signs of nervousness or fear. It merely retreated a few steps and adopted a very peculiar stance, its hands placed at its waist, its body slightly lowered, poised for action.

Hearing Su Ping's call, Old Sha also reined in his charge somewhat, but his eyes, shining green in the dark moonlight, remained firmly locked on the little creature before him.

At this moment, Su Ping could finally make out what it was under the dim moonlight.

It had a tiny stature and a frail, exceedingly pale body that looked as if a gust of wind could blow it away. Folds and marks, painted facial features, and the so-called clothes all confirmed the creature's identity: it was a Paperman.

Indeed, from head to toe, its body lacked any semblance of flesh and blood. It wasn't a Spiritual Body of the Undead Elemental type, nor was it a bony skeleton. It looked as if it were crafted with exquisite origami techniques. Even its cheeks had blush painted on them, giving it an eerie appearance.

Ordinary Level Undead Pet Beast: Paperman. Reputed to be the shame of the Necromancy System, it competed with the Skeleton Soldier for the title of the weakest Undead Pet Beast.

However, as weak as Skeleton Soldiers might be, with their race's potential generally capped at the Ordinary Tier, they boasted a vast array of evolution pathways! As the most common Undead Pet Beast, Skeleton Soldiers have various evolutions like Skeleton Archers and Skeleton Warriors. They even have a Commander Level evolution path to Skeleton General, and legendary King Level evolution paths such as Bone Tyrant, or even the mythical Emperor Level 'Lord of Death'.

Although Papermen also had a few developed evolutionary paths, their fame and practicality clearly fell short of the Skeleton Soldier's effectiveness.

Su Ping had never imagined that the 'guest' in the backyard, the one that had kept Old Sha on edge for days, was actually such a little thing!

This brought him a wave of relief, but also a twinge of disappointment.

He'd thought there might be some unexpected surprise! But this was it?

However, in the hazy moonlight, Su Ping quickly noticed that this little Paperman was a bit different from the normal ones. Apart from its unremarkable height, what was slightly noteworthy was the posture this little Paperman was currently adopting.

It was bending slightly, its inverted-triangle eyes, drawn with black paint, staring intently yet blankly at Old Sha. Both of its papery hands were placed on its left hip, as if clutching something.

Clutching something?

Su Ping squinted. After getting a clear look, he couldn't help but feel a mix of amusement and exasperation. It was the hilt and scabbard of some weapon, though whether it was a knife or a sword was indiscernible.

The Paperman's main ability was that its body could take on many different forms by reconfiguring its folds. Its methods of attack were similar, and this was the first time Su Ping had seen such a little Paperman.

Of course, Su Ping wouldn't dare to be careless or underestimate it. The simple reason was that he still hadn't figured out how this little Paperman had appeared just now.

"Old Sha, don't act rashly!"

After instructing Old Sha, Su Ping slowly approached; he really wanted to get a good look and see what kind of secret this little Paperman held.

With that in mind, he slowly began to manifest his Eye of Truth.

However, the instant he got close enough to use his Eye of Truth, a fierce glint seemed to flash from the little Paperman before him:

"WAAH!"

A strange cry erupted. Before Su Ping even had time to react, this little thing, barely as tall as his calf, actually moved!

An indescribably sharp force shot out from its waist, instantly severing the Wolf Tobacco plants in front of it and creating a crescent-shaped vacuum.

Yet, Old Sha was faster.

Old Sha leaped directly in front of Su Ping. A wall of vines shot up, blocking the strike.

BANG! The sound was particularly harsh in the dead of night.

However, just as Old Sha let out an angry howl at the moon, and the wall of vines switched from defense to offense, about to envelop the little Paperman—

The Paperman's figure rippled, seeming to dissolve into the air, and vanished without a trace!

Just as it had appeared, its disappearance was utterly without warning.

What was going on?

Su Ping blinked. Old Sha rushed to where the little Paperman had just vanished, circling it repeatedly and scanning a full 360 degrees, but found nothing out of the ordinary.

The pale moonlight shone down, and Su Ping remained motionless.

He still hadn't recovered from the shock of that attack. Its power was too great, far surpassing his understanding of Papermen as Pet Beasts.

And, if his basic Beast Tamer knowledge wasn't mistaken, that attack... was it a Metal Element Skill?

But did Papermen, as a type of Pet Beast, even possess Metal Element attacks? Obviously not. If they did, Papermen wouldn't be considered the shame of the Necromancy System and the weakest of the Undead Pet Beasts by the entire Beast Tamer community.

Then there was its sudden disappearance. While Su Ping had never witnessed such a thing firsthand, he understood the principle behind it. That was a Space Element ability!

A Paperman possessing Metal Element abilities was already peculiar and outlandish enough. How could it possibly have Space Element abilities too?

Yet, the evidence was right before Su Ping's eyes. The mark left by that attack was still on the ground.

Unfortunately, his Eye of Truth hadn't managed to capture the Paperman's specific details just then.

Nevertheless, Su Ping could tell from its keen defensive awareness and strong offensive intent that this Paperman was probably not a Beast Tamer's Contracted Beast, but a purely wild one.

But such a bizarre Paperman couldn't possibly have wandered into Linzhou City from the wilds, could it? And those strange spatial fluctuations...

Suddenly, Su Ping felt like he understood something. A few days ago, Qin Xiaoxue had mentioned that Dong Muyun, the chairman of Tianyun Group, supposedly had a Space Element Pet Beast, hadn't she? This situation right now...?

Su Ping's brows furrowed even tighter. He suddenly began to understand why Tianyun Group might be in such a rush to buy his family's plot of land.

Clearly, this was most likely related to the current situation. But what exactly was happening?

Chapter 52: This Child Cannot Stay!

Nighttime.

Tossing and turning, unable to sleep, Su Ping finally sat up in bed.

Although he had some experience from his past and current lives, what happened tonight was simply too bizarre.

He was also certain that the Paperman had mutated. Otherwise, why would it have Metal Element abilities?

But compared to that spatial ripple, the possibly mutated little Paperman didn't seem like much.

What on earth was that thing?

So, unable to sleep and finding no answers online, Su Ping picked up his phone and dialed a number.

It was neither Qin Xiaoxue nor anyone else, but the person closest to him in this world—bar none: his own father, Su Anyong.

Ever since his dad went to Beihai City, he'd occasionally send a message to say hello, with no further contact. It was as if Su Anyong had forgotten he had such a son and his own family business.

However, after so many years, Su Ping had long grown accustomed to his unreliable old man.

But regarding today's events and their connection to the Tianyun Group, Su Ping really didn't know where to begin.

Unfortunately, the phone rang for a full minute with no answer. Anyone else might have assumed the person was asleep, or perhaps that something dangerous had happened. But Su Ping clearly wasn't worried. After a short while, though no call came through, a message did.

Su Anyong: [What's up?]

Su Ping: [Can't we talk on the phone?]

Su Anyong: [Not convenient.]

Su Ping: [?]

Su Anyong: [She just fell asleep. Waking her would be bad.]

Su Ping: [Nice.]

Su Ping: [So you really went and found me a stepmom?]

Su Anyong: [Nonsense! Your Second Uncle found a reliable one this time, and she's a wealthy widow! Once your old man has money, just tell me whatever you want to buy!]

Reading the message from his father, Su Ping felt suspicious.

Is this for real?

After all, even though his father was unreliable, Su Ping didn't recall him being the type to fool around. But seeing his confident tone, Su Ping didn't hold back.

Su Ping: [At the Breeder Association, there's a Mechanical Core Compression Extractor. Our family's old medicine furnace should have been retired long ago. I want to replace it. It's not expensive, just three hundred million.]

Su Anyong: [?]

Su Anyong: [Kid, aren't you afraid that thing will shorten your lifespan? Besides, you're not a Breeder. Why buy it?]

Su Ping: [Who says I'm not a Breeder? I'm now an Intermediate Level Breeder specializing in Forest Wolves, certified by the Jianghai Province Breeders Association, and I've mastered Wood Heart Skill cultivation! A vice-president personally delivered my certificate! Su Anyong, for your son's path to becoming a Breeding Master, it's time to invest. The future returns are unimaginable!]

Su Anyong: [Alright, alright, an Intermediate Level Breeder, huh? On the path to becoming a Breeding Master, huh? Mastered Wood Heart Skill cultivation, huh? A vice-president personally delivered it, huh? You're wrong! A vice-president isn't enough. It should be the president of the Imperial Capital Breeder Association who delivers it to match my son's talent and abilities!]

Su Ping: [Indeed. To think we father and son are on the same page. But it's fine. There will be opportunities in the future.]

Su Anyong: [You little rascal, now you're even pulling my leg! Just wait until I get back. I'll have you show off in front of your grandfather. We'll see if the old man's lifetime wish being fulfilled by his grandson will make him come back to life just to drag you down to the underworld to show off properly!]

Su Ping: [I'm serious! Also, there's something else I need to tell you.]

Su Anyong: [Whatever it is, we'll talk later. Damn, she woke up again! My poor back... Not talking now. I'll be back in a while. Take care of the house.]

He watched speechlessly as the last message came in, and Su Anyong's profile picture turned gray.

Su Ping was speechless.

He knew it. Three sentences into a conversation with this old guy, and he'd be led astray. Sure enough, he hadn't managed to discuss any serious matters, nor even successfully show off to Su Anyong.

Now he even had to worry that his father might accidentally bring home a half-brother or half-sister for him.

Damn it!

Su Ping, already burdened with complex emotions, found it even harder to fall asleep.

If I can't sleep, I'll go train! I'll go meditate!

As long as my own strength is great enough, all obstacles will cease to exist.

「Late that night」

Su Ping stood at the edge of the forest. Clearly, he had come out because he couldn't sleep and was curious about the results of the little one's training that day.

By this time, all the wolf packs had also ceased their training, but they had not yet dispersed.

Innumerable vines were entwined on the ground, and large pits were scattered everywhere, testament to the Forest Wolves' training results over the past few days.

Qin Xiaoxue's Woodhead was among them. Although Woodhead's Self-Healing ability had reached the standard, its innate Talent was also exceptionally good. As a member of the shared-link training, its excellent Talent also helped the other Forest Wolves when they practiced Skills. This allowed the other Forest Wolves to achieve breakthroughs faster.

Unfortunately, during this time, Su Ping had been busy researching Wolf Tobacco and breeding matters, and had somewhat neglected his own meditation, so his Realm had not improved.

However, it was worth mentioning that after all this time, Xiao Qing's own Realm Level had once again caught up with Su Ping's Realm. It had reached the common Seventh Rank.

The reason was simple: in the past few days, after Xiao Qing had fully digested the effects of its last consumption, Su Ping had it consume another Poison System Resource. A Heartbane Fruit.

The effects of this consumption were good. After swallowing it, Xiao Qing's Realm had risen by one Level. Although its Poison Vine Strangulation Skill had not leveled up this time, experiments with San Ha—the only Forest Wolf in Su Ping's pack that had upgraded its Self-Healing Skill to Master Level—had shown that the toxicity of Xiao Qing's Poison Vine Strangulation had further increased.

At the same time, the experience cost for the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas to analyze Poison Type mutations had also decreased further.

And it was during Su Ping's patrol that he suddenly paused, his gaze turning toward one of the Forest Wolves. This Forest Wolf was none other than Qin Xiaoxue's Woodhead.

At this moment, there was something not quite right about Woodhead's state. Even at night, green specks of light seemed to swirl around its body, like encircling fireflies. At this moment, Woodhead seemed as though it truly belonged to this forest, as if the grass and trees were calling out to it. This sense of profound connection with its surroundings made Su Ping keenly aware that Woodhead had made special progress. Indeed, it had.

The Eye of Truth activated instantly.

Su Ping quickly saw what had happened to this Forest Wolf—a top-tier specimen belonging to a wealthy scion—that had stayed at his home for the better part of half a month:

[Heart of Woods (Proficiency)]

Seeing the Heart of Woods Skill increase to Proficiency, Su Ping knew he couldn't keep Woodhead any longer!

I have to notify Qin Xiaoxue to come and pick up her wolf!

Otherwise, if it suddenly masters another Skill, it'll be hard to explain.

Chapter 53: Fifteen Days of Torment! The Final Result!

Shuhua City.

In the urban area lay a Pet Beast Breeding Base covering an enormous area.

Above the main entrance, two large characters shone brilliantly:

Wolf Den!

Next to this signboard stood an impressive sculpture of a Forest Wolf, a massive five meters tall, exuding valor and majesty. Anyone passing by couldn't help but look on with envy.

This was the largest Forest Wolf breeding base in Shuhua City. Its owner was Sun Chaoju, an Intermediate Breeder and a student of Liu Fuhai, the vice president of the Jianghai Province Breeders Association. An Intermediate Breeder—such a status and ability commanded respect from anyone. In Jianghai Province, he was definitely a person of importance.

However, at this very moment, this renowned Sun Cultivator, who had made quite a name for himself, hadn't been eating or sleeping well for the past few days. The deadline for the bet he'd made with Su

Ping and Qin Xiaoxue was drawing ever closer. Although Sun Chaoju had good composure, it was unrealistic to expect him to remain completely unruffled by a gamble of this magnitude.

During this period, Sun Chaoju had been paying relentless attention to the Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base. After becoming an Intermediate Breeder and being registered by the Breeder Association, the constant stream of customers seeking Cultivation didn't surprise Sun Chaoju. In fact, some of his own people were even among them. Nevertheless, Sun Chaoju refrained from resorting to any underhanded tactics or competition; his teacher had warned him once before. He simply wanted to see if Su Ping's abilities and success rates were truly as high as he claimed. Such high success rates!

However, the outcome was beyond his wildest expectations. This kid only took in one customer per week for Cultivation, which was understandable; the five million price tag was also fairly reasonable. But what he hadn't expected was that, over these past few days, only two Beast Tamers had sought Cultivation, and both attempts had been successful!

This made Sun Chaoju both thrilled and anxious. Thrilled, because if he could obtain such Cultivation techniques, his own Wolf Den would undoubtedly achieve further advancements! Anxious, because if Su Ping truly possessed such bizarre abilities and methods, did that mean he was genuinely capable? Was he truly able to improve the Self-Healing Skill of Qin Xiaoxue's Forest Wolf, Woodhead, from Beginner to Proficient Level within a mere fifteen days?

Of course, this thought only flickered through his mind for an instant before he cast it aside. In fact, if it had been any other skill of Qin Xiaoxue's Pet Beast that needed enhancement, Sun Chaoju would have felt genuinely uneasy. After all, someone of Qin Xiaoxue's status wouldn't choose anything but the best Pet Beasts. Moreover, with Miss Qin's previous training, the Pet Beast might have been just a step away from a breakthrough in its skill level!

But for Woodhead, it was the Self-Healing Skill that needed Cultivation!

Firstly, Sun Chaoju had reason to believe that even with Miss Qin's thorough training of the Forest Wolf, including multiple instances of practical combat, its training in Self-Healing was likely still unsatisfactory. After all, how many people could actually manage to injure Miss Qin's Pet Beast? A little thought made it clear that such an occurrence was highly improbable. Indeed, that was the case; otherwise, Woodhead's Self-Healing Skill wouldn't still be at entry-level even after reaching the Elite Tenth Stage.

Secondly, and most importantly, as an Intermediate Breeder specializing in Forest Wolves, Sun Chaoju knew all too well which Forest Wolf skills were the hardest to improve. Apart from skills acquired later,

among the Forest Wolf's innate skills, Self-Healing and Sunlight Absorption were the two most difficult to enhance. Sunlight Absorption was easy to improve in the initial stages, but becoming Proficient in it, much less achieving Perfection, was extremely rare. It was generally not something a Breeder could cultivate to such a high level, much less to Perfection. The same went for Self-Healing.

Among the derivative attributes of the Wood Element, the most formidable was naturally the Life Series attribute. As a relatively rare attribute, the Life Series attribute might not be as directly powerful as the Psychic Element, Space Element, or even Time Series, but it was definitely a rare attribute. Ultimately, the Forest Wolf was a pure Wood Element Pet Beast. However, the Self-Healing Skill was a Racial Skill born from the Life Series attribute. This meant that compared to skills like Vine Strangling or Accelerated Growth, the cultivation of the Self-Healing ability fell within the domain of the Life Series.

Under these two conditions, Sun Chaoju truly couldn't believe that Su Ping could train Miss Qin's Woodhead to the Proficient Level from scratch within fifteen days! What a joke! What is skill level Cultivation? Child's play?

Thus, as time marched on and the deadline drew nearer day by day, the excitement and agitation in Sun Chaoju's heart grew harder to contain. The closer the fifteen-day limit approached, the greater he felt his chances of winning the bet became. However, it was precisely because of this that Sun Chaoju felt even more helpless. After all, when the bet was made, his own teacher had said that even if he genuinely lost, he would have to hand over his Accelerated Casting technique to the other party.

To be honest, Sun Chaoju wasn't overly concerned about the incomplete Evolution Method for the Wanmu Wolf. Because only he knew just how flawed that thing was. Developing the Wanmu Wolf's Evolution Method was like trying to fill a bottomless pit. Forget Su Ping, who was only an Intermediate Breeder; even for a Senior Breeder like his teacher, successfully developing it would likely be extremely difficult.

But Accelerated Casting was different. This was the cornerstone of his Wolf Den Pet Beast Breeding Base. It was a Secret Technique for Cultivation that couldn't even be exchanged within the Breeder Association. Although he was confident that without his guidance, Su Ping would find it difficult to fully master it to the same degree as him, what if he did?

No! There could be no 'what ifs'!

With that thought, Sun Chaoju shivered involuntarily. What was I thinking? Why was I bolstering someone else's prestige and diminishing my own morale?

With the fifteen-day deadline just a couple of days away, as long as he could endure these last excruciating days, he would undoubtedly get his hands on the Cultivation method of the Heart of Woods! By then, the Wolf Den's reputation and profits would soar to unimaginable heights!

Thinking this, Sun Chaoju let out a slight sigh of relief. However, at that very moment, his phone suddenly rang.

He looked down, and his eyebrows shot up.

Caller ID: Teacher Liu.

The arrival of this call at such a time, for some reason, sparked a rather unpleasant premonition in Sun Chaoju's heart.

He cautiously answered the call, "Hello?"

However, quite rapidly, the latest model mechanical smartphone in the hands of the locally renowned Sun Cultivator slipped from his grasp, THUDDING onto the ground.

It shattered into pieces.

Chapter 54: Sun Chaoju Accepts His Loss with Conviction and Satisfaction!

Before returning to the vast breeding base in the suburbs of Linzhou, Vice President Liu and Sun Chaoju wore different expressions; the former was just slightly sentimental, while the latter's was pitch-black.

Sun Chaoju would have never imagined that, as the fifteen-day deadline neared, this young man had actually achieved it.

When they got out of the car, both men were slightly startled. Qin Xiaoxue was standing at the entrance waiting for them, her face blooming with a smile, unable to contain her excitement and joy.

When had either of them ever seen such an expression on Miss Qin's face?

They were also a bit doubtful. Just reaching Proficient Level in Self-Healing—was that worth such excitement?

However, her current attitude clearly showed just how satisfied Miss Qin was with Su Ping's cultivation.

"Grandpa Liu, Breeder Sun, you're here! Come in quickly, Su Ping is waiting for you."

Vice President Liu looked incredulously at Qin Xiaoxue. Having known this girl for so long, it was the first time he had heard the term 'Grandpa Liu' from her.

He subconsciously glanced at the sky. Had the sun risen from the west? Otherwise, how could such an unbelievable thing be happening?

Nevertheless, Vice President Liu was also curious about what exactly had happened to make Miss Qin so delighted.

Together with a silent Sun Chaoju, they walked into the reception room. Su Ping, whom they hadn't seen for over ten days, was half-kneeling there, combing the fur on Woodhead's neck.

And Woodhead, the proud Forest Wolf who had looked down on everyone just half a month ago, was now comfortably lying on the ground. His eyes were narrowed, his tongue was lolling out, and his limbs were curled towards the sky, exposing his belly for Su Ping to handle as he pleased.

This posture stunned both Sun Chaoju and Vice President Liu.

What kind of magic did this young man possess? Not only had he appeased Miss Qin, but he had also tamed this Forest Wolf, making it as docile as a house dog instead of a ferocious beast.

However, it was evident that, at this moment, Sun Chaoju was the most impatient one among them.

Without a second thought, his eyes focused intently on Woodhead.

Feeling the fluctuation of the Eye of Truth, Woodhead glanced at him but paid him no further attention, continuing to pant heavily with his tongue lolling out.

However, just one glance was enough to leave Sun Chaoju petrified.

Only then did Su Ping look up, put the comb aside, and sit down with a smile. "Breeder Sun, are you ready to admit defeat?"

Sun Chaoju opened his mouth.

He desperately wanted to deny it. In fact, on his way there, he had already concocted excuses: Miss Qin's Forest Wolf Pet Beast naturally has the best talent! Its successful cultivation wasn't because Su Ping was so capable, but because Woodhead's talent was high enough! Maybe Woodhead's Self-Healing was already on the verge of a breakthrough, and just a little training was all that was needed for it to advance, as simple as pushing a boat with the current.

But now, in this reception room, he couldn't bring himself to utter a single word of those excuses.

Moreover, the young man before him suddenly didn't seem so detestable anymore.

After all, people don't often express strong emotions towards those who are far beyond their reach.

At this moment, he finally began to understand why his teacher had said those words.

When faced with true genius, reasoning often falls short.

And the Su Ping before him had utterly conquered Sun Chaoju.

Facing Su Ping's smile, which seemed somewhat challenging, Sun Chaoju took a deep breath. Then, to the surprise of both Su Ping and Qin Xiaoxue, he actually nodded. "A bet is a bet, and I admit defeat! I'm thoroughly convinced! Su Ping, you are the most incredible young Breeder I have ever met!"

These words of sincere admiration made Su Ping feel somewhat embarrassed.

But Sun Chaoju paid no mind to that.

Actually, there wasn't much direct business competition between the Wolf Den breeding base and services related to the Heart of Woods skill, aside from matters involving Qin Xiaoxue. Plus, Shuhua City was quite a distance from Linzhou. While there might be some impact, it wouldn't be significant.

So, at this moment, after seeing Woodhead's current state, Sun Chaoju knew that something like 'Accelerated Spellcasting' might truly be, as his teacher had said, not that important for Su Ping's future.

One must have foresight and look to the long term. And that was precisely what Sun Chaoju was considering now.

It couldn't be helped; the words "Proficient Level" displayed for the skills in the Eye of Truth's feedback on Woodhead were simply too glaring!

In just over ten days!

Not only had Self-Healing reached Proficient Level, but even the newly cultivated Heart of Woods skill had also reached Proficiency!

Such a level of cultivation expertise, and such natural control and affinity for Forest Wolves—Sun Chaoju had already lost any desire to compete.

On his way here, he had been resentful, indignant, and even held some grudges. But now, seeing the feedback from the Eye of Truth, all those feelings had vanished, replaced entirely by sheer astonishment at the young man before him.

He even extended his hand, placed a USB drive directly on the coffee table in the reception room, and looked at the somewhat astonished Su Ping, who hadn't yet reacted. Sun Chaoju said, "Inside this is the cultivation method for 'Accelerated Spellcasting,' the incomplete evolution methods for the Wanmu Wolf, and some data I've compiled from my research on its evolution. It's all yours! If you're worried, you can have Teacher Liu or President Qin verify it first."

Su Ping looked at the USB drive, then back at Sun Chaoju, genuinely startled. Setting aside everything else, judging from Sun Chaoju's words, the research he'd conducted on the Wanmu Wolf's evolution must have cost him an unimaginable amount. And now he was just handing it all over?

Seeing Su Ping's astonishment, this time it was Sun Chaoju who felt a surge of pride. You brat, did you really think that just because I could become Vice President Liu's disciple and own such a large breeding base, I'd be a petty and vengeful person? A fool with no foresight? An idiot with no strategic sense?

With this thought, Sun Chaoju, now feeling as if he were cloaked in a holy light, added, "Regarding the research on the Wanmu Wolf's evolution, if you need anything, you can call me. I might not be able to offer much direct help, but I can provide some Forest Wolf test subjects for evolutionary attempts."

At that moment, Su Ping finally recovered, looking at Breeder Sun with some amazement.

Whether Sun Chaoju wanted to invest, repair their relationship, or simply bet on Su Ping's future ability to develop a complete evolution method for the Wanmu Wolf (thereby getting his own name on the list of developers), as long as it wasn't all for show, then this Sun Chaoju had genuinely changed Su Ping's impression of him, making him more willing to interact.

After all, anyone still passionate about pursuing the path of a Breeder and enthusiastic about the Pet Beast cultivation industry inevitably possessed admirable qualities.

It was for this very reason that Dragon Nation had thrived over the past century. Numerous Pet Beast evolution and cultivation breakthroughs had blossomed like a hundred flowers, greatly strengthening the overall national power and allowing Dragon Nation to once again become one of the largest countries on Blue Star.

Thus, facing the expectant gazes before him, Su Ping also nodded with a smile. "Alright."

Chapter 55: Secret Realm? Qin Xiaoxue's Departure and Promise!

Sun Chaoju and President Liu did not stay for long. After a brief chat about the Forest Wolf's cultivation, they left. Vice President Liu, before departing, reminded Su Ping not to forget to attend his lecture when the time came.

Su Ping also inquired about the specific time and confirmed his attendance.

Vice President Liu was a Senior Breeder skilled in wolf-type Pet Beasts, and such Breeders were not plentiful in the Dragon Nation. They were all figures renowned in their own right. Learning more about his theories would only benefit Su Ping's study of Pet Beast cultivation, with no drawbacks.

Qin Xiaoxue, on the other hand, was not in a rush to leave. It wasn't until the other two had departed that she patted Su Ping on the shoulder.

"Good lad! You've really made me proud this time! Those two old chaps were so distrustful at first, they almost told me to my face I'd been swindled. Seeing them like this now is just delightful!"

It was clear that Qin Xiaoxue was indeed very happy today.

However, Su Ping didn't rush off to meticulously study Accelerated Casting and Woodhead's Evolution methods. He stayed, clearly having some business with Qin Xiaoxue.

He didn't ask directly but instead said with a smile, "Now that I have Accelerated Casting, I'm quite confident. How about leaving Woodhead with me a bit longer? I can cultivate that Skill for him too."

His confident inquiry was met with a refusal from Qin Xiaoxue. "No need. Summer break is almost over, and I'll be tidying up to return to Magic Capital in a couple of days."

Upon hearing this, even Su Ping was taken aback. After all, he had grown accustomed to having Qin Xiaoxue around during the past half-month.

But he quickly gave a light smile. "Well then, have a smooth journey, and don't forget to message me when you get to Magic Capital."

It was Qin Xiaoxue, however, who turned her head and gave him an odd look, before seemingly explaining as she continued, "Actually, the purpose of Woodhead learning so many Skills was indeed for his Evolution. The Evolution path of the Crown Wolf Emperor requires a Forest Wolf to master eight Skills before the initial cultivation plan for Evolution can begin! Thanks to you, we've finally achieved this!"

"Crown Wolf Emperor?"

This was an Evolution path Su Ping had never heard of before.

Qin Xiaoxue did not withhold any information. "Yes, it's a Pet Beast with the Racial Potential to reach Emperor Level. But given the name, you should be able to guess."

Saying this, Qin Xiaoxue spoke with some regret, "It's a pity your Xiao Qing has a mutated bloodline; otherwise, he could also try this path. The old lady still has some stock of the Heart of Woods and the Thorny Crown. If you come to Magic Capital's Beast Taming Academy, with my connections, trying this Evolution path wouldn't be a problem."

Heart of Woods?

Thorny Crown?

Su Ping did not know what the latter was. But he did know the former.

It was an Emperor Level Peak resource of the Wood Element, with a value beyond imagination. In the mobile app's marketplace, materials of this Level were not sold publicly; there was no price set for them.

Su Ping pursed his lips, suppressing the complex emotions rising within him. He could only offer a faint smile. "I believe Xiao Qing's future development and Evolution will be no less impressive than Woodhead's!"

"AWOO!" Xiao Qing, who had come out to his side, howled in agreement. Strong... Evolve...

Woodhead, however, merely glanced at this little brother, Xiao Qing, uninterested. Now at Elite Peak, Woodhead was wiser than Xiao Qing and naturally understood he would soon part ways with Su Ping. Therefore, reluctant to leave, he didn't want to argue about such trifles.

"By the way, when Woodhead evolves in the future, can I watch in person?" Su Ping seemed to have thought of something and suddenly asked.

Qin Xiaoxue naturally nodded in agreement. "No problem. You can come over then, or I might find some time to return to Linzhou."

As she said this, Qin Xiaoxue suddenly added without any particular reason, "By the way, your Talent is Pet Beast Home, right?"

Su Ping nodded. "What about it?"

"Nothing."

Qin Xiaoxue didn't elaborate, and Su Ping didn't inquire further. The pleasantries were over, and it was time to discuss serious matters.

"I think I know why Dong Muyun wants to acquire my family's business," Su Ping said.

Upon hearing this, Qin Xiaoxue abruptly turned her head to look at him. "What reason?"

Unable to contact his unreliable father, and among all the people he knew, it was indeed Qin Xiaoxue, whom he had only known for a little over ten days, that Su Ping could trust the most.

Su Ping didn't conceal anything and recounted last night's events to Qin Xiaoxue.

When he mentioned the ripples in the space, Qin Xiaoxue's face showed a look of understanding. "A Secret Realm? I see!"

After that, Qin Xiaoxue looked at Su Ping with a complex expression. "Su Ping, do you have any idea what a Secret Realm is worth? And you just told me about it like that?"

As he looked at Qin Xiaoxue at that moment, Su Ping thought to himself, if it hadn't been for her, I wouldn't even know the thing was called a Secret Realm, let alone its value. But at a time like this, telling the truth would be just plain stupid, wouldn't it?

He blinked and looked calmly at Qin Xiaoxue. "I trust you!"

Sincerity is the ultimate move.

Qin Xiaoxue was taken aback. Then, as Su Ping watched, she blushed for the first time in her life and, without thinking, quickly turned away and spoke at a rapid pace, "A Secret Realm is the ownerless Beast Taming Space left behind by a powerful Beast Tamer upon their death. There's no corresponding course in the basic taming academy; only Advanced Colleges teach about it. Secret Realms are incredibly rare, precious, and dangerous. Some may contain the heritage of the Beast Tamers who left them, or even descendants of their Pet Beasts, along with various resources—all can be found within a Secret Realm. In the Dragon Nation, there's a special organization called the Qintian Monitor; their duty is to detect the emergence of Secret Realms throughout the nation to prevent powerful Pet Beasts from emerging and harming other Beast Tamers. However, if a Secret Realm appears on private property, then the owner of the land has the right to deal with it. They can choose to explore it themselves, hand it over to the Qintian Monitor, or even sell it to others."

After finishing in a rush, Qin Xiaoxue took a deep breath and then continued, "Su Ping, I can't give you any advice about your Secret Realm, but rest assured, if you don't want to sell it, no one can force you!"

Having said that, Qin Xiaoxue, as if possessed, suddenly stood up, grabbed Woodhead, who let out a pitiful cry, and ran quickly toward the door.

Her hasty departure left Su Ping unable to react. Just when he thought Qin Xiaoxue had left for some unknown reason, she suddenly returned, holding the nearly breathless Woodhead, whose eyes were rolling back. With her cheeks still flushed, she stood at the door of the reception room, looking at a baffled Su Ping.

"Su Ping, work hard for the professional Beast Tamer assessment in a year's time! It's important! So right now, you need to focus on improving your strength! I'll be waiting for you to participate!"

"?"

Su Ping was even more confused. He then saw Qin Xiaoxue truly disappear without a trace this time.

He pondered for a while. What on earth was that woman talking about at the end? How do these things even connect? And waiting for *me* to take the professional Beast Tamer assessment? She's already been admitted to Magic Capital's Advanced Beast Taming College, so why would she wait for *me* to take an assessment? Don't tell me she hasn't taken it yet? Not likely, right? Besides, even if she hadn't, *I'll* be taking *my* assessment here in Jianghai Province, while she should be in Magic Capital. We're worlds apart! What's there to wait for?

Su Ping looked suspicious and utterly confused. Indeed, Miss Qin's thinking can be a bit muddled at times.

However, just then, Su Ping suddenly started. He leaped up from the sofa and, in a few quick strides, rushed to the front door of his Heart of Wood Cultivation Base, shouting, "You haven't paid yet!"

However, Qin Xiaoxue was nowhere to be seen in front of the door.

At that moment, Su Ping was once again plunged into self-doubt. Was Miss Qin just toying with me? That escape act, running off without paying—that doesn't seem like someone with a muddled mind! Could it be that I was too naïve?

Shaking his head, Su Ping decided not to dwell on it. The help Qin Xiaoxue had given him was far more valuable than a mere million or two.

Right now, the most important thing was undoubtedly his spoils.

Su Ping took out the USB drive, excitement shining in his eyes.

Chapter 56: Universal Cultivation Method, The Birth of Wanmu Wolf!

Excitedly, he inserted the USB drive into the computer.

Su Ping was practically rubbing his hands together in anticipation.

This posture reminded him of his previous life when he first encountered something on the computer that opened the doors to a new world.

At the same time, while looking at the computer, he also paid attention to any activity in the Myriad Spirits Catalog in his mind.

Finally, the first folder on the USB drive opened, and a document appeared before Su Ping's eyes:

[Accelerated Casting is an extremely practical passive Pet Beast Skill, speeding up a Pet Beast's casting time and skill release speed. In battle, a second's difference can decide life or death, and Accelerated Casting can make skill use smoother and more fluent...]

Upon opening the document, the introduction that appeared first went on and on about the effects and abilities of the Accelerated Casting Skill.

However, Su Ping wasn't the slightest bit impatient, reading each word carefully—this was, after all, Sun Chaoju's cultivation labor of love.

Beyond the method for cultivating Accelerated Casting, it also contained his cultivation insights and his years of understanding in nurturing the Forest Wolf.

It goes without saying that such knowledge was like a treasure to a Beast Tamer who had just stepped through this door.

Su Ping was so engrossed that he almost lost track of time.

It was only after he finished reading everything that a new prompt appeared in the Forest Wolf log within the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas in his mind, and Su Ping snapped back to reality.

[Detected Catalog 'Forest Wolf' special cultivation method: Accelerated Casting Secret Cultivation Technique.]

[Detected 'Accelerated Spellcasting' Secret Cultivation Technique has certain flaws and biases. Do you wish to spend 500 Catalog Experience Points to fully perfect it into a universal Pet Beast cultivation method?]

Huh?

What?

Su Ping felt the feedback from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas in his mind, and his first thought was simply:

What?

At first, he was puzzled. The Skill effect of Heart of Woods seemed far more precious than that of Accelerated Casting. Moreover, Heart of Woods was a Magic Potion formula. Compared to the now fairly complete cultivation method for Accelerated Casting, why would perfecting it cost more Experience Points than perfecting Heart of Woods?

This clearly didn't make sense!

But after carefully sensing all the feedback from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, Su Ping finally understood.

It wasn't that it didn't make sense, but that he hadn't believed in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas's wondrous abilities!

Now, Su Ping believed!

Because according to the feedback from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, the effects and abilities of this Accelerated Casting could be perfected into a universal cultivation method!

What did that mean?

Before this, Sun Chaoju's Secret Cultivation Technique for Accelerated Casting could only be used on the Forest Wolf, allowing only the Forest Wolf to achieve comprehension.

But now, after his own perfection, it was no longer limited by Race! Instead, it could be used by all Pet Beasts!

Such a leap in advancement, Su Ping believed, not even Vice President Liu could have conceived of, let alone achieved.

Yet with the feedback from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, Su Ping could achieve it with just a thought.

Restrain himself!

He absolutely had to restrain himself!

Su Ping took a long, deep breath. The big gift package from Sun Chaoju contained another trump card, and Su Ping suspected that this one was likely the big pit that would require Experience Points to fill!

Although 500 Experience Points weren't much for Su Ping at this stage, he still needed to finish reviewing the other document before he could feel at ease.

Still wanting to explore it further, Su Ping closed the document and opened another.

To his surprise, this document was ten times larger than the other one!

One could easily imagine the extent these experimental data and the Wanmu Wolf's evolution had reached.

Indeed, that was the case.

From the very first glance, with the accompanying illustrations and explanations, Su Ping became deeply engrossed.

From this research report, Su Ping also learned how Sun Chaoju and the Wolf Den breeding base had discovered the evolution method for the Wanmu Wolf.

The Wanmu Wolf was a special evolutionary type of Pet Beast, created by further intensifying the Forest Wolf's Wood Element Attribute.

The focus of enhancement was on that Wood Attribute!

Previously at the Wolf Den base, an odd Forest Wolf had emerged. It seemed to have eaten too much meat and one day suddenly started gnawing on a tree stump.

At first, the Wolf Den paid little attention.

But later, they noticed that after gnawing on those trees, the Forest Wolf, in addition to its normal behavior, started displaying new actions, such as standing perfectly still or burying its paws in the ground.

It truly seemed as if it was developing into a plant.

This situation was very strange. Initially, they thought it might be some kind of illness. However, the Wolf Den was a substantial operation; after tests revealed nothing abnormal, they didn't pay much mind to a single Forest Wolf.

Until one day, after basking in the sunlight for several days without moving, eating, or drinking, the Forest Wolf comprehended a Special Skill, one that a Forest Wolf would absolutely never comprehend:

Photosynthesis.

This Special Skill, which Su Ping had seen before on a Luozisong (Pine)'s offspring, was a Special Skill unique to all Plant Type Pet Beasts.

This Skill had some similarities to Sunlight Absorption, but its effect was entirely different.

In other words, at this point, the Forest Wolf, under these strange circumstances, having ingested a large amount of plant matter and mimicking plant growth, had begun to take on plant characteristics.

Su Ping pondered this, then continued reading the research report.

The changes in this peculiar Forest Wolf quickly attracted Sun Chaoju's attention.

Afterward, several more days passed as the Forest Wolf fully simulated becoming a plant. During these days, Sun Chaoju was far from idle.

Anomalies in Pet Beasts often represented huge opportunities and new research directions!

And indeed, this proved true. During those few days, Sun Chaoju adopted methods used for nurturing Plant Type Pet Beasts, purchasing considerable Water and Earth Element resources to use on the Forest Wolf, which was now in a plant-like state.

And, not unexpectedly, after the Forest Wolf consumed a massive amount of these resources, its Energy accumulation reached a peak, and evolution began!

However, as Sun Chaoju waited with eager anticipation, the final result was, predictably, tragic.

Three days. Three days later, the evolving Wanmu Wolf completely lost all remaining traces of its animal form. Its organs, viscera, and flesh all underwent plant fiberization.

Ultimately, even the plant-like husk did not remain; it completely rotted away and vanished from the world.

After that, Sun Chaoju and the Wolf Den began secretly researching this subject, pouring vast amounts of effort and resources into their attempts.

The results, in the end, were all the same, without exception.

All ended in failure!

And as Su Ping finished reading all the research logs, just as he had expected, the Catalog for the Forest Wolf within the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas in his mind slowly lit up once more.

Chapter 57: The Evolution of the Flawed Wanmu Wolf, Scale Expansion!

[Discovery of a special evolution path within the "Forest Wolf" Catalog: Wanmu Wolf.]

[The evolution path to "Wanmu Wolf" is in a fragmented state. Do you want to spend 1,682 Catalog Experience Points to complete this evolution path?]

It really is possible!

He lay on the couch in front of the computer.

Su Ping's consciousness fully merged with the Forest Wolf Catalog before his eyes.

Everything else aside, the most important thing was the line of numbers beneath the Catalog entry:

[Catalog: Forest Wolf]

[A special Wolf Tribe adept at using Wood Attribute, possessing extremely strong Life Force. Adult Forest Wolves are typically Elite Level, skilled in Skills such as Sunlight Absorption, Vine Strangling, Self-Healing, and Accelerated Growth.]

[Current Catalog Level: 2 (813/2000)]

Su Ping had accumulated these over eight hundred Experience Points bit by bit over the past few days.

In addition to the daily interactions with fewer than thirty Forest Wolves, which yielded dozens of Experience Points each day, the initial sheltering, Cultivation, and breakthroughs also granted some Experience Points. The amounts varied, but over the days, he had accumulated quite a bit.

Furthermore, discovering the effects of Wolf Tobacco on Forest Wolves had yielded an additional hundred Experience Points.

All in all, there were quite a few channels for gaining Experience Points.

However, he was still far short of the Experience Points required to complete the Wanmu Wolf evolution path; the total needed was nearly double what he currently possessed.

The roughly 1,682 Experience Points required might not seem like much on its own. However, compared to the whopping fifty thousand Experience Points needed to investigate the cause of Xiao Qing's bloodline Mutation, it was merely a drop in the bucket.

Su Ping let out a long breath.

The allure of a new evolution method was simply too great.

Firstly, if this evolution method was accessible and its Cultivation cost wasn't too high, it could be presented at the annual Breeder Competition. An evolution method like this would undoubtedly win unimaginable rewards at the Competition, and might even take first place barring any surprises.

What did common Pet Beasts plus low-cost Cultivation and evolution represent? It represented an enhancement of the nation's overall strength! This could even be considered a major event capable of boosting the nation's destiny.

Conversely, if the evolution method required costly resources for Cultivation, it would likely mean the evolved Race possessed substantial Racial Potential, making it a powerful Evolutionary Body! In that case, he could keep the evolution path for himself, not even entering the Competition. It could serve as the foundation for his own Cultivation base, or even as an important legacy for the Su Family's future. It could even be used to name the family in the future—for instance, the Wanmu Wolf Su Family, or something similar.

This was the very foundation for establishing oneself. Such was the value of a Pet Beast evolution path.

And now, Su Ping didn't need to do anything else. He just needed to spend a few more days at his Pet Beast base, cultivating more Forest Wolves. Then, he could completely master this evolution path known as the Wanmu Wolf.

A period of ten-odd days was neither particularly long nor short. For many Breeders engrossed in tedious Cultivation experiments, such a period might pass in the blink of an eye.

But what was the greatest torment in the world? For gamers, it was knowing that GTA6 and Black Myth: Wukong would be released in ten days. For prisoners, it was knowing their sentence would end in ten days. And at this very moment, for a Breeder like Su Ping, the agony he faced was no less than such tortures—perhaps even worse! What could be more agonizing for a Breeder than a new evolution path that required a wait of about ten days before it could be unveiled?

If he had known ten days earlier, couldn't he have started targeted Cultivation and preparations sooner? If he had known ten days earlier, wouldn't his strength have improved much more rapidly? If he had known ten days earlier and could have cultivated the Wanmu Wolf sooner, wouldn't the Forest Wolf Catalog's Level have increased much faster?

Su Ping racked his brains, searching for justifications.

Qin Xiaoxue had urged him to rapidly increase his strength within this year or so, to pass the Beast Tamer assessment next year and become an official Combat Beast Tamer.

And there was one more reason of utmost importance to Su Ping! Old Sha!

Old Sha was already very old. Pet Beasts, unlike humans, were not relatively long-lived species. Pet Beasts also had lifespans. And Pet Beasts from Races with low Racial Potential and low personal Levels had correspondingly shorter lifespans. Ordinary Forest Wolves at Old Sha's age wouldn't just be experiencing a decline in vitality; most would have already reached the end of their lifespans. It was only because Old Sha had broken through his race limit and reached the Commander Level. Otherwise, his situation would be uncertain now. But this still wasn't enough. Old Sha was his family, the Su Family's best companion. Su Ping couldn't just watch Old Sha's vitality wane and let him die of old age! Therefore, for Old Sha's sake, Su Ping had to unlock the Wanmu Wolf's evolution method as soon as possible and make Old Sha the very first Wanmu Wolf! To ensure Old Sha could continue living, above all else, Su Ping would not allow Old Sha to die and leave him and his father before Old Sha could witness him becoming the most remarkable Beast Tamer and Breeder.

So, from this moment on, unlocking the Wanmu Wolf's evolution path was the absolute top priority. Even leveling up the Forest Wolf Catalog was less important!

Thinking this, Su Ping stood up.

How could he quickly gain Catalog Experience? The answer was simple: cultivate more Pet Beasts and expand his Forest Wolf Troop. That would do it.

Originally, Su Ping had considered buying some other Pet Beasts and, in his spare time, unlocking them in the Catalog to see if he could obtain other kinds of wondrous Talents.

He would definitely buy other Pet Beasts in the future, especially Plant Type Pet Beasts. As his father had said, with the Forest Wolves, they could form a perfect symbiotic relationship within the ecosystem. But that certainly wasn't urgent right now. All his energy now had to be focused on acquiring more Forest Wolves, raising their intimacy to the required level to gain Experience Points, and then beginning their

Cultivation. He aimed to gather the more than 1,600 Catalog Experience Points needed for the Forest Wolf Catalog in just a few days!

Su Ping had saved up several million over this period and had been wondering if he could get some experimental equipment. But now, that was no longer urgent. Expanding the Forest Wolf Troop and gaining Experience for the Forest Wolf Catalog had become the paramount concerns.

If he unlocked the Wanmu Wolf evolution, he could help other Forest Wolves evolve in the future. How many times more valuable would that be compared to the profits from cultivating the Heart of Woods?

You have to give some to get some! Besides, acquiring Forest Wolves wasn't a one-time expense. Continuous Cultivation was a necessary process, both now and for the future.

This is what I have to do, Su Ping resolved. At the same time, he took out his phone and started expanding the scale of his Forest Wolf Troop.

Chapter 58: The Wolf King? Goodbye Little Paper Doll!

The night was bright.

Su Ping sat atop an Elite Level towering Forest Wolf, with waves of Mental Fluctuation rippling around him.

Su Ping opened his eyes with satisfaction, a trace of joy in their depths. Ordinary Eighth Rank!

After several days, and through these days of meditation, he had finally achieved another breakthrough in his Realm.

Besides Su Ping's truly excellent spiritual Talent, there was also the effect of the Spirit-Infused Ancient Tea that Qin Xiaoxue had given him to drink before.

Each time Su Ping meditated, he could feel the terrifying effect of that Spirit-Infused Ancient Tea, as well as its benefits and blessings for his subsequent meditation.

This meant that even though Su Ping hadn't been as diligent before, his rate of improvement could still be called heaven-defying.

And now...

The past few days could be counted as the most diligent days of Su Ping's life. They were also the busiest. However, this busyness was different from serving customers; Su Ping not only willingly embraced it, but he also enjoyed it.

Firstly, regarding savings and deposits, Su Ping had set aside one million for daily expenses and emergencies. The rest was all used to purchase Forest Wolf cubs.

Now, the previously 26-member Forest Wolf pack had finally been expanded!

Su Ping rounded up the number. Not counting his own Xiao Qing, the Wolf Pack now numbered 50!

In other words, he had bought a total of 25 Forest Wolf cubs this time!

This move could also be considered a major one.

He made a direct phone purchase from the Breeder Association, each cub costing about 300,000 to 500,000. The price wasn't expensive; it was equivalent to buying at cost.

However, for Su Ping, these little fellows were worth far more than their price tag. They also represented his future foundation and companions. At the same time, they were new family members for Heart of Woods.

After all, Su Ping had given up on the business of directly reselling Forest Wolves; the profit was low, and he couldn't bear to sell the Forest Wolves he raised himself.

Of course, more importantly, there were the Experience Points provided by these little fellows. With twice as many wolf cubs, just satisfying their intimacy requirement once would yield about 10 Experience Points each; for 25 cubs, that would be more than 300 Experience Points.

Adding in the Experience Points gained from their Cultivation, growth, and daily interactions, the Evolution of Wanmu Wolf was progressing. Su Ping estimated that in about two more days, he could complete it!

Thinking of all this, Su Ping didn't even feel sleepy. As he watched the little wolves that had come into the jungle and were already learning to play with the larger Forest Wolves, he wished each one of them would grow up quickly.

However, rubbing his temples, Su Ping felt that he really needed to hire some people. Looking after and training Pet Beasts was something Su Ping couldn't entrust to others. But day by day, there were still various miscellaneous tasks that he needed to handle. However, he didn't feel quite at ease with those he might hire. Someone like Li Shu, whom he knew well and could trust, was better; for the rest, Su Ping had no trust.

At this thought, Su Ping began to miss Qin Xiaoxue. Miss Qin had been of great help to him these past few days. Apart from Qin Xiaoxue, the only other person he could trust was his own father.

The more he tried not to think about it, the angrier he became. He picked up his cell phone and made a call to Su Anyong.

Indeed, while previously he could still get through, now the voice prompt on the call had changed to "The subscriber you dialed has turned off their phone," leaving Su Ping with no way to vent his frustration.

However, just as he was thinking, his phone really did DING with a new message. Unfortunately, it wasn't a message from Su Anyong, but from the other person Su Ping was thinking about.

[Qin Xiaoxue] I've arrived at Magic Capital and just remembered I forgot to pay you the Cultivation fee. But I'm not going to pay it now. I'll mail you something from Magic Capital. Remember, from now on, I'm a permanent VIP at your place! All future Cultivations are on the house for me!

Hmm?

It's rare for Miss Qin to remember skipping out on the bill, but Su Ping didn't really plan on asking Qin Xiaoxue for the money. Obviously, it's not in her nature to skip out on a bill.

However, instead of transferring the money, Qin Xiaoxue mailed something? What kind of item could it be, for her to be so bold? Permanent VIP? All future Cultivations free of charge?

Su Ping certainly believed that Qin Xiaoxue wasn't one to make empty boasts. Since she said so, she must have the confidence and backing for it. And thinking about this wealthy lady's usual way of doing things, Su Ping couldn't help but feel eager.

Could it be that Natural Essence she mentioned before? But that's unlikely. Emperor Level materials and treasures... even with Qin Xiaoxue's prominent status, such things probably couldn't be mobilized so easily.

Su Ping didn't inquire further, simply replying in the message:

[Su Ping] No problem!

Thinking here, Su Ping once again recalled Qin Xiaoxue's previous mention of that matter concerning the Evolution of the Crown Wolf Emperor.

The future Evolution of Woodhead... is it Emperor Level? Emperor Level... ah. That's someone truly standing at the pinnacle of the Dragon Nation's hierarchy. Such a Beast Tamer could already be addressed with a title of respect. If Qin Xiaoxue's future really leads to her successfully attaining a King Level title, which Pet Beast would she be titled with? Wolf King? It seems unlikely, as there are too many powerful Beast Tamers with Wolf Tribe Pet Beasts. The title 'Wolf King'... only someone who ranks among the very best even among Emperor-level Beastmasters specializing in wolf-type Pet Beasts would be qualified to be called that, right? Regardless, such an individual would be considered top-tier in the entire Jianghai Province. After all, an Emperor Level individual could add 'Sky King' after their surname. There are probably only a few in the entire Jianghai Province.

Recalling her words again, a bright light flashed in Su Ping's eyes as he murmured, "Wolf King? The Beast Tamer examination? Suddenly, I'm feeling a rush of excitement!"

Su Ping, possessing the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, felt a confidence second to none.

In that moment, as Su Ping looked up at the sky, the light in his eyes shone brighter than the stars.

It's a shame that such a rare surge of emotion was interrupted by a Wolf Howl!

Old Sha, seeing his young master had yet to make a move, began to urge him on:

"AWOO! (Hurry... this time... catch it!)"

Determination filled Old Sha's eyes.

Su Ping came back to his senses. That's right, even with the chaos of the past two days, Su Ping almost always engaged in a fixed activity every night!

That was to cross the forest, coming to his backyard, by the bank of the Lingxi River. To this creepy riverbank that appeared by night.

Waiting for the arrival of that little Paperman.

And indeed, over these past few days, the little Paperman had shown up every day without fail. After appearing, it wouldn't waste words, directly engaging Old Sha, only to be instantly defeated and then vanish.

If not for Su Ping's order not to harm it and to try to capture it alive, preferably captured alive, Old Sha would have bitten it to death long ago.

When had it ever felt so aggrieved and frustrated by a mere Ordinary Level little Paperman?

Looking at the irritated Old Sha, Su Ping also felt that, based on his understanding of this little Paperman over the past few days, he should try a different approach!

At the very least, I should first see what the deal is with this little Paperman!

All those days of encounters, though frequent, lasted only a few seconds each before it disappeared, not even giving Su Ping a chance to activate the Eye of Truth.

Chapter 59: The True Swordsman?

The night wind was cool and pleasant, blowing away much of the day's heat.

The sound of the rippling Lingxi River was in the distance.

Su Ping and Old Sha did not have to wait too long. Sure enough, it wasn't long before another spatial ripple slowly appeared.

That small figure of the Paperman appeared before their eyes once more.

The Paperman was almost instantaneously in action, drawing the paper sword in its hand as it appeared.

With a flash of the blade, the Wolf Tobacco in front was cleanly split apart.

But this time, the Paperman's movements hesitated slightly.

This was because the figure it had been battling just a few days ago was now standing far away, showing no apparent intention of engaging with it.

The paper sword returned to its sheath, and the Paperman yelled out to the distant figure, "WAH! (To fight... to strike, a true... Swordsman will never give up on defeating an opponent!)"

Looking at this earnest little fellow in front of him, Su Ping was slightly taken aback. He had never encountered such a Paperman before. A Swordsman? In the Beastmaster Society, this term is both familiar and strange, isn't it? Why would a Paperman consider itself a Swordsman? Su Ping did not understand, but he seemed to have found some key points. Does this little guy keep jumping out from that so-called Secret Realm just to beat Old Sha? The persistence of a so-called Swordsman? That's too ridiculous. I'd probably be waiting until the cows come home for an Ordinary Level Paperman to defeat Old Sha. However, without a doubt, this Paperman must hold the secrets of the Secret Realm!

And now, having realized the value of the Secret Realm, Su Ping could not simply ignore it. There could indeed be other Pet Beasts within the Secret Realm, but only this little creature seems to be able to move in and out freely. That's enough for me to study carefully. Obviously, the current situation is how to lower the high-spirited combativeness of this little Paperman before me, get it to calm down completely, and get along well with me, so that I can study the secrets it carries.

And it must be said, Su Ping was also moved after seeing this peculiar little Paperman! Although the evolution of a mutated Pet Beast is more difficult compared to the evolution and training of regular Pet Beasts, its potential is also much higher. I truly don't believe that I won't be able to figure out the evolution of my own Pet Beasts in the future.

Clearly, before this, Su Ping had also collected some knowledge about the Paperman species of Pet Beasts, but it didn't seem to apply much to this particular Paperman Swordsman before him.

However, the effect of Telepathic Communication came into play at this moment.

Looking at the Paperman full of fighting spirit, he spoke using the power of Telepathic Communication, "Is someone like you already a true Swordsman?"

Pet Beast training and companionship, quite clearly, also emphasized adaptability. From a single phrase spoken by the Paperman, Su Ping had found an entry point. And the first rule of the Breeder's code is to make your Pet Beast respect and admire you as a Breeder.

In fact, as if on cue, the Paperman paused slightly, "WAH?"

Su Ping clearly understood this phrase, even without Telepathic Communication.

He put on an inscrutable look and continued, "A true Swordsman is solitary, carefree, and so lofty it's chilling. The most important condition to achieve this is sheer strength! You are still far from it!"

"WAH?!"

The little Paperman looked at Su Ping in confusion, then glanced at the paper longsword in its hand. Afterward, the little Paperman looked at Old Sha, who was eying it tigerishly yet disdainfully, and then at the Forest Wolves, whose auras all seemed stronger than its own. It nodded, seemingly in considerable approval. This human in front of me, who can command so many powerful wolves to fight, is indeed a formidable expert, it thought.

However, the little Paperman then spoke again, "WAH? (Solitary, carefree, so lofty it's chilling... What does that mean?)"

What does that mean? How would I know? I'm not a Swordsman. Although there are many Swordsmen in martial arts TV dramas, movies, and anime, come to think of it, those words put together only have one meaning: just showing off. Could it be that I need to answer like that? Clearly, that's not reliable.

But Su Ping didn't need to explain! He simply looked at the little Paperman before him, "Little guy, want to understand what a true Swordsman is? Then stay with me. I'll make you into a truly strong Swordsman! You should be able to tell that I am stronger than you, so naturally, I won't deceive you."

Although Su Ping still maintained a calm appearance, his heart couldn't help but race. If he couldn't sweet-talk this little Paperman into staying, then the next time this little guy showed up, he would have to find something to restrain the Space Element, seal the space, and then forcibly capture it. However, if it came to that, trying to enact a Soul Contract later and uncover the secrets within this Secret Realm would be much more difficult.

Su Ping watched the little Paperman nervously.

The little Paperman also seemed to sink into thought. Its expressions are so easy to read.

At this moment, on the little Paperman's cheeks, the features drawn with an oil-based pen also seemed to reflect deep thought. Are its facial expressions this two-dimensional and abstract? Especially that big, bold question mark beside its forehead.

Su Ping blinked, and then the next second, he saw that the big '?' on the Paperman's head abruptly turned into a red '!'.

Before Su Ping could thoroughly appreciate this comic-style facial transformation of the Paperman, the next moment, the ripples of space appeared again.

The little Paperman's figure had already vanished without a trace.

Looking at the spot where nothing remained except his own wolf pack, Su Ping frowned and sighed somewhat helplessly.

As expected. Although this little Paperman looked somewhat dazed, it wasn't so easily fooled. It seems I'll have to resort to extraordinary measures next time.

However, just as this thought had arisen in Su Ping's mind and he was somewhat dispirited about leaving, the space ripples that had vanished a moment ago reappeared.

The next second, the little Paperman that had left and returned reappeared in front of him. But this time, the little Paperman was no longer in the previous ready-to-draw-sword stance. Instead, it was carrying a paper package, which looked very much like a large wad of waste paper rolled into a ball.

The little Paperman put down the package and, under Old Sha's watchful gaze, approached Su Ping. It even performed an ancient human-style bow, "WAH! (I want... to become a true... Swordsman!)"

Looking at the little Paperman in front of him, Su Ping revealed a smile. At last, he could finally use the Eye of Truth on this strange Paperman that seemed to be 'requesting apprenticeship'.

Chapter 60: Perfection Level Jinge Technique, The Swordsman's Panache!

Clearly, the Paperman was extremely sensitive to being perceived by spiritual power. Otherwise, it would not have lashed out the first time it sensed Su Ping's attention. Pet Beasts that grew up in the wild or within a Secret Realm were the same; after all, one small oversight in the wild could lead to death. Being as cautious as possible wasn't an exaggeration.

However, it also sensed that its human master, Su, indeed seemed to have no ill intentions. After a slight, slightly uncomfortable shake of its body, the Paperman made no other movements.

At this moment, Su Ping's sight was greeted with the detailed attribute abilities of this little Paperman:

[Mutated Paperman (Wild)]

[Attributes: Gold, Undead]

[Current Level: Ordinary Eighth Rank]

[Racial Potential: Elite First Rank]

[Skills: Paper Body Folding (Beginner), Jinge Technique (Perfection), Sword Soul Mark (Special)]

Originally, Su Ping was slightly taken aback when he saw the little Paperman's level. Given its terrifying attack power, he had thought the Paperman's Realm must have reached the race's theorized maximum potential: Common Tenth Level.

Yet, Su Ping had not expected that this little Paperman was only at Ordinary Eighth Rank. Moreover, it had even broken through its race limit!

Upon seeing the last skill, Su Ping understood. Then he became even more dumbfounded and astonished.

I won't comment on that Sword Soul Mark, he thought, as it's beyond my cognition.

But what is this Jinge Technique? A Perfection Level Jinge Technique?

Keep in mind that even Old Sha, who had broken through his race limit, only had one skill, Sunlight Absorption, at this level. After all, Old Sha had lived for over forty years and been through numerous battles, both large and small. Yet, he still only had one skill that reached Perfection. One can imagine just how difficult it is to upgrade a skill to the Perfection Level.

But how could a mere little Paperman possess a Perfection Level skill? And what's more, it's the freaking Jinge Technique? Is this skill even compatible with a Paperman?

As Su Ping pondered, the Eye of Truth presented the skill before him:

[Jinge Technique (Perfection): Allows the user to make any touched object extremely sharp while also igniting the Qi of Jinge, significantly enhancing sharpness! Highly powerful!]

Indeed, this was why the little Paperman had such formidable and terrifying attacking power.

Su Ping pondered for a moment, then with a mental command, he examined the Paperman's other skill. Sure enough:

[Sword Soul Mark (Special): A special skill that cannot be upgraded, with unknown effects.]

Su Ping figured it was probably this skill that enabled the little Paperman to freely enter and exit that so-called Secret Realm.

From this, it's clear that I really can't just wash my hands of the matter, he mused. The little Paperman could probably leave whenever it wants to. What method can I use to thoroughly fool it?

On the way back, Su Ping continued pondering this question.

Then, he led Old Sha and Xiao Qing, along with the little Paperman that had been following them looking somewhat dazed, into the side chamber. He turned on the large light in the sitting room of the side chamber.

And unexpectedly, under the light, the little Paperman, without the eerie feel of the night, had a kind of indescribably naive charm with its tiny paper body. Though it was peculiar to describe an Undead Pet Beast as 'naively charming,' it truly felt apt at this moment.

"Little fellow, first get familiar with the environment here. From now on, this will be your dwelling. Of course, you can also return to your original place. However, if you want to become a true swordsman, you must wait for me here every evening at this time. Got it?"

"WOOOA! (Yes!)"

Looking at the Paperman's serious demeanor, Su Ping nodded contentedly. However, once he stepped out of the room, he felt a bit helpless.

How should I train it after this? Could it truly be with the nonsensical swordsmanship found in TV dramas?

Clearly, Su Ping believed that there must be skills similar to swordsmanship in this world, but learning from TV shows definitely wouldn't be reliable. And the significance and importance of this Paperman were beyond imagination. From Qin Xiaoxue's words, he knew the value of a Secret Realm. If he wanted to firmly grasp that yet-to-appear Secret Realm through the Paperman, he had to convince it completely!

Apart from some deceptive training methods, Su Ping sighed. There's only one option left, he thought. Accelerated Casting!

Accelerated Casting was Sun Chaoju's exclusive Forest Wolf training method. However, with the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, Su Ping could definitely adapt it into a universal ability for all Pet Beasts. The Paperman was obviously no exception.

Previously, Su Ping hadn't scheduled the perfection of Accelerated Casting. This was simply because he wasn't eager to use this training method on his own Forest Wolves yet; their current training progress was sufficient. Of course, the most important factor was the shortage of Experience Points. While the evolution method for the Wanmu Wolf was nearing completion, Su Ping was also contemplating upgrading his Forest Wolves to Level 3 in addition to focusing on the Wanmu Wolf.

Accelerated Casting required a total of five hundred Experience Points—a significant amount. Clearly, the Paperman's appearance had caused some changes to Su Ping's plans.

However, there was no need to worry in the short term. The evolution and perfection of the Wanmu Wolf remained the top priority. After all, even if he were to teach the Paperman the Accelerated Casting skill, it wouldn't happen overnight. If the Paperman didn't appreciate it and its intimacy level wasn't high enough, it wouldn't be able to illuminate its page in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas. Worse, it might even run away. That would mean Su Ping's exploration of the Secret Realm would fail, resulting in a huge loss.

Training and taming a Pet Beast is like courting a girl, Su Ping mused. It isn't about constant appeasement; one also has to learn the art of creating some distance, a bit of push and pull. My Experience Points should first be used to complete the evolution method for the Wanmu Wolf.

With that in mind, Su Ping went through his routine, checking the training and combat of his Forest Wolves. No matter what, the Forest Wolves were his foundation, and their combat power was most crucial. Through linked and shared training, constant practice and battles were the quickest way to improve skill levels. And raising skill levels was the fastest way to enhance strength.

Su Ping saw Xiao Qing also go off to train with the wolf pack. Only Old Sha remained close by, clearly worried the Paperman might harbor some cunning scheme and thus stayed to protect his young master.

Su Ping smiled and patted Old Sha's large head, telling him to stay put. He then returned to his room, turned on his computer, and started searching for:

'Sword Artifact Pet Beast'

'gold-based skills'

'Weakest Undead Pet Beast: Paperman Analysis'

And finally, he began to watch some martial arts TV dramas he had never seen before. He needed to see what the elegance of swordsmen was like. Or to put it more directly, he wanted to see how swordsmen "showed off."