

Beast T 591

Chapter 591: Lighting Up the Divine Dragon Codex! Special Talent!_2

Su Ping felt no reluctance.

In the future, whenever the Paperman Pet Beast was mentioned, Su Ping's name would inevitably be associated with it.

Moreover, as the Breeder who had truly cultivated the Paperman's prospects, Su Ping wanted to see the Paperman shine even brighter, becoming active across all fields and tiers.

At the same time, the potential of Paper Body Joint was immense!

So immense that even Su Ping, its developer, doubted he had tapped even one percent of it—a fact made clear by the Five Elements Sword Box the little Paperman itself had figured out. He knew that on his own, it would be difficult to unlock the Paperman's full potential, and he was eager to see what kinds of innovations other Beast Tamers, with their diverse approaches, might develop if they learned how to cultivate Papermen.

Zhu Hong looked at Su Ping and smiled faintly. "You, my boy! If that's the case, wouldn't it be fueling the enemy if countries like the Lion Nation and Eagle Country got wind of this?"

"Uh..." Su Ping scratched his head. He had genuinely forgotten about that.

"Hahaha, just teasing you. I and the Holy Dragon fully support your actions!" The anxiety that had troubled Zhu Hong for the past few days finally subsided.

"Ah? But what you just said..."

"You rascal, what on earth did they teach you at the Basic Academy! The Paperman is an indigenous Undead Pet Beast primarily found in our Dragon Nation; other countries have very few! Starting next month, the Paperman will be added to the Dragon Nation's list of prohibited Pet Beasts for export!

"All customs checkpoints, air freight, and Beast Tamers entering or leaving Dragon Country will be prohibited from taking Papermen out of the country. Although some smuggling will inevitably occur, as long as large numbers aren't dispersed, it won't have a significant impact! As for rapidly breeding a large number of Papermen without any established foundation, that is even more difficult.

"After all, before this, they were considered low-level Pet Beasts, the shame of the Necromancy System. Other countries wouldn't have paid them any mind," Zhu Hong said, smiling.

Su Ping finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Meanwhile, Da Huang, standing nearby, regarded the young man with a complicated expression.

Although, up to this point, Da Huang would have said he thoroughly detested this brat, he had to admit...

Whether it was the Fire Phoenix Su Ping had encountered early on, or the Paperman's unbelievably powerful evolution that Da Huang had witnessed develop step-by-step—it was all connected to Su Ping. These events undeniably demonstrated Su Ping's talent and potential.

Such talent and potential were enough for Da Huang to acknowledge him.

Especially since this fellow possessed a Dragon Emblem!

This signified that the young man could enter Dragon City in the future, and perhaps even become involved in some of its internal affairs.

That detestable she-dragon, besides being powerful herself, had numerous backers and allies. If possible, I should secure some allies in advance, Da Huang mused.

Consequently, the fully evolved Forest Dragon unusually lowered its head before Su Ping, swaying its massive skull slightly.

Su Ping stared, bewildered, as he watched the beast bobbing its head as if having a fit, not quite understanding what was happening.

What's this undead dragon up to now?

Zhu Hong smiled faintly. "Da Huang acknowledges you. Touch its Dragon Horn."

Hmm?

Su Ping looked at Da Huang, which was still bobbing its head, not quite comprehending.

Touch its Dragon Horn?

Come to think of it, that seemed right. When Su Ping had previously ridden Da Huang, although the dragon hadn't resisted his presence, it had consistently prevented Su Ping from touching its Dragon Horn. Su Ping had assumed it was some kind of taboo and hadn't given it much thought. Now it seemed there was some sort of ritualistic significance to it?

"The Dragon Horns are one of the sources of a Divine Dragon's power. Being allowed to touch them signifies that one's relationship with that member of the Dragon Clan has reached a certain level—at least one of considerable friendship and intimacy. Hahaha, it seems Da Huang is quite fond of you, even if he won't admit it!" Zhu Hong boomed, laughing heartily.

Su Ping, however, was suddenly struck by a realization, and his eyes lit up.

Does this mean our relationship will become extremely close? Does it imply my relationship with this Dragon Clan member has reached a certain degree? Could it be that I can now successfully illuminate the Yellow Dragon Catalog entry, something I'd previously given up on?

And so, meeting Da Huang's approving gaze—which seemed to say, 'Kid, I've got high hopes for you'—Su Ping slowly reached out and touched the Dragon Horn. It resembled a deer antler, a blend of tan-yellow and greenish-blue.

No dazzling light flared, nor did any dramatic ripple appear. There was only a subtle coolness at his fingertips and an indescribable sensation of vitality.

It felt as if he were touching the very lifeblood of a creature, like a constantly pulsing vessel.

Truly unique.

But Su Ping had no attention to spare for the sensation in his hand.

At this moment, his entire focus was on the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.

And just as he'd hoped, the moment Su Ping touched the Dragon Horn, a light flashed on the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.

Then, a Catalog entry that made Su Ping's heart pound with excitement materialized within his perception.

This was a dragon Su Ping was very familiar with. It resembled the Five-clawed Golden Dragon on the Dragon Emblem. However, what Su Ping hadn't anticipated was... this Catalog entry wasn't for the Yellow Dragon or the Earth Dragon? The one he had just illuminated was supposed to be the Yellow Dragon's Catalog entry, wasn't it?

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Could it be that this Five-clawed Golden Dragon is actually the true form of the Yellow Dragon? Is Da Huang actually the incompetent one?

A bit unscientific, huh!

Su Ping didn't ponder for long, as a prompt from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas had already appeared:

[Catalog 'Divine Dragon' illuminated, current Catalog Level: 1, received special origin reward: Dragon Might!]

Hmm?

Divine Dragon? Straight to Divine Dragon without subcategories like Fire Dragon or Earth Dragon?

Moreover, this time the origin reward from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas even included the word 'special.' Does that mean the talent obtained from illuminating the Catalog this time is different from ordinary talents?

However, one could tell from the name alone... Dragon Might?

Is this a skill of the Dragon Clan?

In an instant, the details of Su Ping's special reward appeared in the depths of his mind:

[Dragon Might (Special Talent): Only the descendants of human Beast Tamers blessed by Divine Dragons have a one in ten thousand chance of obtaining this special talent! The Divine Dragon is the chief of scaled creatures. Its might is revered by all scaled and aquatic creatures. All such Pet Beasts become significantly more affectionate towards a Beast Tamer possessing this talent, and it allows the release of Dragon Might to awe, command, or motivate such Pet Beasts of a realm not higher than one's own!]

Feeling the power of Dragon Might, even Su Ping was slightly stunned, a bit slow to react.

Has the wait finally ended?

Su Ping had illuminated quite a few Beast Tamer talents by now. However, aside from some basic talents and a few useful only in special circumstances, this was the first time he truly experienced what a talent was like—one that gave a Beast Tamer a significant lead over others immediately upon awakening.

Moreover, it seemed like a top-tier one?

Dragon Might, leader of all scaled creatures! Capable of awing such Pet Beasts!

Is it finally coming?

The first thing Su Ping thought of were the fish in the Lingxi River.

A bunch of ungrateful white-eyed fish!

Could I finally make these creatures understand the meaning of 'a carp leaps over the Dragon Gate'?

Su Ping was excited.

Aquatic Pet Beasts had always been a challenge for Su Ping.

Those Pet Beasts could hardly be considered his own.

They were merely prey attracted by the Rainbow Coral Worm.

But now, he saw a glimmer of hope for completely opening up the underwater world and becoming a master Beast Tamer of that realm.

This vast Lingxi River, and even the distant West Dragon Lake, held so many treasures waiting for him to explore.

And the effects of Dragon Might aren't that simple. Scaled and aquatic creatures, snakes, worms, and the like... will they all be influenced by Dragon Might?

Indeed worthy of being the top Pet Beast species on Blue Star, just top-notch!

"HEHEHE..."

Watching the fellow in front of him stroking his own dragon horns and grinning foolishly, Da Huang felt he had been somewhat careless. Seeing how silly this kid looks, can he really become a supporter and ally for my future Dragon City? he thought.

Even Zhu Hong, who was standing beside him, couldn't bear it any longer. "Su Ping!"

Su Ping jolted and finally snapped back to reality, his consciousness returning from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas within his soul to the present. Only then did he notice the peculiar gazes of Da Huang and Zhu Hong.

"COUGH, COUGH," Su Ping cleared his throat. "Sorry, I was just thinking about some things."

"Alright, I'll be going now," Zhu Hong said. "When you have a chance to visit Dragon City, don't forget to look for me. And don't forget those promises made to you; they're still waiting for you to fulfill them in Dragon City! Call me if you need anything."

The promises of the Legend of the Holy Dragon?

Su Ping recalled some of the so-called Spirit Saint Level privileges that had been mentioned before.

I wonder if there are exclusive aircraft like Sang Sheng's Cloud Soarer or Leng Ye's Sky-splitter?

Su Ping didn't dwell on it. He watched Zhu Hong stand atop Da Huang's massive body, then waved as Zhu Hong's figure disappeared over the horizon of the Heart of Myriad Spirits.

Su Ping stood still, pursing his lips slightly.

The Imperial Capital... Dragon City, huh?

One day, I must make a name for myself there, leave an indelible mark as Su Ping.

But before that, there were a few things he needed to familiarize himself with, such as the Divine Dragon Manual that had just been illuminated:

[Catalog: Divine Dragon]

[Antlers like a deer, head like a camel, eyes like a rabbit, neck like a snake, belly like a clam, scales like a fish, claws like an eagle, palms like a tiger, ears like an ox! Born in the East, the Divine Dragon Clan wields power over all, one of the strongest Pet Beast Races! Possessing unimaginable potential!

Racial Skills: Immortal Dragon Soul (Super-Rank Skill), Dragon Battle in the Wild... Other skills depend on the specific branch.]

[Current Catalog Level: 1 (20/100)]

Unlocked branch types:

[Yellow Dragon: An Earth Dragon of the Divine Dragon Clan that controls earth and stone, possessing remarkable strength.]

Preferences, habits:

[Fond of shiny objects, loves to battle.]

Record log:

[The Divine Dragon Clan is a rare species. Consequently, the Experience Points required to raise its Catalog Level are significantly reduced. Furthermore, the exchange rate between Divine Dragon Clan Catalog Experience Points and Universal Experience Points is 1:1!]

[Gained recognition from a rare Earth Dragon evolutionary body, received 20 Catalog Experience Points. For each day of companionship, gain +2 Catalog Experience Points!]

Looking at this level one white Divine Dragon Manual, Su Ping was slightly astounded.

Damn, has the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas given special privileges to the Divine Dragon Manual too?

Why do the Divine Dragon Clan's Catalog Experience Points have the same exchange rate as Universal Experience Points?

For the likes of Forest Wolf and Paperman, the exchange is 1:10 or 1:5.

Isn't this blatant racial disparity!?

However, Su Ping understood that, as noted in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, the Divine Dragon Clan was a rare species. Possessing Super-Rank Skills as their basic Racial Skills, their rarity and strength were unquestionable.

It's just a pity these twenty Experience Points are all I get for now.

Da Huang, honestly.

Would recognizing me earlier have been so bad?

We've been living together here for two months—sixty days! That would have been enough to raise the Divine Dragon Manual's level.

Now, however, I can only stare at this white Divine Dragon Manual and wonder how difficult it will be to level it up in the future.

Thinking this, Su Ping glanced at the other Catalogs.

However, with just the first look, Su Ping was slightly taken aback.

What he naturally looked at first was the current Level 3 Forest Wolf Catalog.

This casual glance was significant; Su Ping's previously calm thoughts surged like tumultuous waves.

Because during this period of torment, the Forest Wolf Catalog, dormant for half a year, was finally on the verge of a historic breakthrough:

[Catalog: Forest Wolf]

[...]

[Current Catalog Level: 3 (19,997/20,000)]

The previously unattainable Catalog Experience Points, after all this time, were finally about to reach the threshold for leveling up to Level 4.

Chapter 593: Forest Wolf Catalog LV4! The Conditions for Upgrading!

The sky-blue Catalog, as transparent as the sky itself, had become a sight all too familiar to Su Ping. He had long grown tired of this color in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.

Was it finally time for an upgrade?

Su Ping took a deep breath. He could not be bothered with the arrangements and planning regarding the Heart of Phoenix at the moment, as he hurried back to the Heart of Woods, arriving once again at the edge of the forest.

"AWOOO!"

Conveniently, during this time, several customers who wanted to cultivate and evolve their Elf Wolves came to the Heart of Myriad Spirits. However, with Guan Lili and Li Shu present, such matters naturally did not require Su Ping's involvement.

Therefore, Su Ping hadn't taken the opportunity to bond properly and max out the intimacy level.

Now, he had the chance.

Old Sha's Wolf King command and the innate affinity for Forest Wolves that came with the upgrade of Su Ping's Forest Wolf Catalog allowed even unfamiliar Forest Wolves to show no resistance to him at this time.

With the tree fruit in hand, Su Ping distributed them to several Forest Wolves, and after gently petting them to improve their relationship, it took less than two hours for the intimacy level with these newly arrived Forest Wolves to meet the standard.

As expected, along with the new prompt on the Forest Wolf Catalog's log, the Catalog Experience that had been stuck before the 20,000 mark finally began to move slowly.

The leading digit, with supreme difficulty, changed from a 1 to a 2.

Twenty thousand Experience Points!

He had finally achieved it!

Su Ping breathed in deeply once again.

He then returned to his study, merging his consciousness with the Forest Wolf Catalog.

Twenty thousand Experience Points were so blindingly bright.

And so stunningly impressive.

Su Ping did not indulge in emotions; he touched upon the experience points of the Catalog:

[Forest Wolf Catalog Experience Points: 20009/20000! Upgrade requirements met, do you wish to upgrade?]

"Yes!"

Su Ping did not hesitate.

His External Incarnation had already been perfected, and for the time being, there were no other areas where large amounts of Experience Points were needed.

In such a case, what was there for Su Ping to hesitate about? He had long wanted to see what a single Catalog would look like after being upgraded to Level 4.

Almost the moment his thought occurred, the twenty thousand Experience Points accumulated over such a long time began to drain away at an inconceivable speed on the Catalog.

Meanwhile, in the soul reflection within the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, the sky-blue Forest Wolf Catalog was radiating a brilliant light.

The once-uniform blue background of the Catalog started to be tinged with a profound hue!

This tint slowly transitioned from sky-blue to purple.

That trace of purple had an indescribable sense of nobility and dignity.

Purple, the color of nobility, undoubtedly signaled that the Forest Wolf Catalog had reached a considerably high level, having advanced from its previous Level 3 to the current Level 4.

Su Ping seemed to have further mastery over the control of Forest Wolves.

This was not an illusion.

For at this moment, Su Ping could feel that unlike the previous upgrades of the Forest Wolf Catalog, this time, as the blue Catalog transformed into the noble purple, his consciousness gained a deeper understanding and subtle perception of Forest Wolves.

This perception was indescribable.

Su Ping even felt as if he had become a Forest Wolf himself at that moment, able to discern every single movement of the wolves and even the slightest changes in their scents.

Level 4! The effects of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas seemed to have undergone an ineffable metamorphosis.

The twenty thousand Experience Points flowed away like water until finally, the last bit of blue light on the original sky-blue Catalog disappeared without a trace.

The final version of the Forest Wolf Catalog had completely turned purple!

Entirely purple.

At the same time, the glow emanating from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas gradually subsided, and in the deepest part of his soul, a prompt appeared within Su Ping's heart:

[Catalog 'Forest Wolf' level increased, current Catalog Level: 4, Forest Wolf Origin greatly enhanced, Forest Wolf experience gain +50%! Unlocked Origin reward: Experience Infusion!]

[Energy Infusion: A function unlocked at Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas Level 4, allowing the transfer of Experience Points from the Catalog into a bonded Pet Beast of matching intimacy, consuming some of the Beast Tamer's spiritual power, and boosting the Pet Beast's Realm Level!]

(Note: Each Forest Wolf can only use Experience Infusion once every ten days, and infusion can only elevate by one minor level at most. It cannot break through race limits, and the greater the Realm difference, the more Catalog Experience will be consumed.)

Su Ping blinked, looking at this ability, and for a moment, he was taken aback.

Previously, abilities like Mind's Eye and Connection Share were about increasing the speed of skill practice by numbers, but now, the Catalog at Level 4 gained an ability that solved Su Ping's most pressing issue with the Forest Wolf pack.

That was the issue of leveling up, which was relatively slow!

For example, if Su Ping were to purchase fifty more Forest Wolves to form a pack of one hundred, raising these new wolves to the same level as the initial fifty ordinary Forest Wolves would, obviously, take an exorbitant amount of time.

But now, it seemed different.

He could forcibly raise the Level Realm of the bonded Forest Wolves by consuming the corresponding Catalog Experience and his own spiritual power.

Although Su Ping had thought that given the difficulty in leveling up this time, the power gained afterward would be extraordinary.

Yet, he never imagined it would be like this!

However, if he were to consume a large amount of Experience Points, then the Level 5 upgrade for the Forest Wolf Catalog would become very difficult to achieve.

Thinking this, Su Ping refocused his consciousness on the Catalog that had turned purple:

[Catalog: Forest Wolf]

[...]

[Current Catalog Level: 4 (9/300,000) (4/10)]

(Note: After reaching Level 4, there are two upgrade methods to choose from! 'Experience Increase' and 'Evolution Advancement' are available to level up to Level 5!)

(Experience Increase: Initially, one needs to consume five hundred thousand Experience Points to advance to Level 5! Each completion of an Evolution Advancement reduces the Experience Points consumption by 50,000!)

(Evolution Advancement: Develop and personally breed ten completely different evolutionary trajectory lines for advancement!)

(Note: Evolutions of evolved forms cannot be counted in this category; they must be evolved from the Forest Wolf itself! Mutant evolutions are not included.)

Looking at the information before him, Su Ping was slightly taken aback.

Indeed, the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas at Level 4 occupied a rather special position. To advance to the next level, there were now two methods available—Evolution Advancement and Experience Increase. Moreover, each developed Evolutionary Body could reduce the Experience Points needed to advance the Catalog. Unfortunately, Mutant evolutions did not count; otherwise, once Xiao Qing finished evolving, advancing to Level 5 would be half done already!

However, the remaining evolution forms of the Forest Wolf...

Su Ping pursed his lips. Would the regressed Wood Wolf count?

He scratched his head and continued to glance at the remaining content of the Forest Wolf Catalog itself.

Unlocked Evolutionary Atlas:

[Forest Wolf: A further evolution of the Forest Wolf, enhancing its own abilities without any extra enhancements—basically, the foundational Evolutionary Body.]

[Elf Wolf: A special Pet Beast evolved from the Forest Wolf based on the Life Series, with great potential and powerful healing abilities! The downside is the lack of offensive combat power.]

[Wanmu Wolf: An early-stage Wood Element enhanced Evolutionary Body that can harness Solar Power, with immense potential and combat strength!]

[Crown Wolf Emperor: An Emperor Level Evolutionary Body that perfectly controls plant power, possessing the absolute abilities of the King of the Forest!]

Preferences, Habits:

[...]

Record Log:

[...]

Su Ping slowly opened his eyes and exhaled a breath of stale air.

The upgrade of the Catalog was naturally something to celebrate, but new challenges had also appeared. Experience Increase and Evolution Advancement. As for the hundreds of thousands of Experience Points for the former, Su Ping didn't even want to think about it. After all, after reaching

Level 4, if Experience Points could be used to improve the Forest Wolf's Realm Level, then continuing to use them to upgrade the Catalog would be a complete waste!

So, looking from the perspective of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas itself, undoubtedly, the more suitable way to advance again would be through Evolution Advancement.

So, what about the remaining evolutionary paths for the Forest Wolf?

Forest Wolf, Elf Wolf, Wanmu Wolf, Crown Wolf Emperor. These are the current four.

But if Pet Beast regression could be achieved, turning the Forest Wolf into a Wood Wolf, Su Ping wondered whether it would count as one; he thought it probably would. Even so, there would still be a shortfall of five.

Where would these five come from? Should he continue to rely on luck like with the Wanmu Wolf? Clearly, there was no need; that would be too much hassle.

As one of the most common Wood Element Pet Beasts, Su Ping also believed that the discovered evolutionary forms definitely weren't just these few.

Su Ping thought for a moment and directly logged into the Breeder Association's backend.

His access rights were sufficient to allow Su Ping to resolve ninety percent of his breeding-related problems on this platform.

And now was no different.

He searched for the keyword 'Forest Wolf'.

Immediately, a series of information appeared.

Su Ping directly ignored the hottest search results featuring his own name 'Su Ping' and 'Wanmu Wolf' and instead scanned the information below.

He disregarded entries like Forest Wolf, Crown Wolf Emperor, and Elf Wolf. Even if there were plans for further derivative evolutions and evolved forms in these areas, they held no significance for Su Ping.

What he was seeking were evolutionary forms centered around the Forest Wolf. And specifically, those rare evolutionary forms known only by a select group of Forest Wolf Beast Tamers and Breeders.

After filtering out the irrelevant information, there wasn't much useful data left in the search results.

Su Ping quickly turned his attention to the remaining few entries.

[A Commander Level Evolutionary Body of the Forest Wolf, the Dead Wood Spring Wolf, was discovered by chance by Breeder Yao Chi from Xi Jing Province; an Evolutionary Body which even Breeders cannot replicate...]

[The most 'hair-raising' mediocre Evolutionary Body at the same tier as the Forest Wolf, the Rotten Tree Wolf, created by Breeder Li Jialie from Dianzang Province...]

[The Thorn Wolf, a Commander Level Evolutionary Body of the Forest Wolf bred by Breeder Zhao Lintian from Beiyuan Province's 'Anling Tree House' breeding base. He was promoted to Senior Breeder for this and represented the Beiyuan Province Breeder Association, achieving seventh place in the breeding competition...]

A hint of joy appeared in Su Ping's gaze.

Well, it turned out that there actually were three other Forest Wolf evolutionary forms available. He didn't need to worry about the value of these evolutionary forms. As long as they were evolutionary forms that met the requirements for the Forest Wolf Level 5 advancement in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, anything would do.

With that thought, Su Ping meticulously read through the messages from the Breeder Association's backend and quickly locked onto the Thorn Wolf bred by the Anling Tree House breeding base in Beiyuan Province.

It seemed that the upcoming trip to Beiyuan Province now had an additional purpose.

Meanwhile, the time for this journey was drawing ever closer.

Chapter 594: Everything is Ready! Journey to Beiyuan!

"Hey, Commander Zhao, when exactly are we leaving for Beiyuan Province? We'll still need to prepare once we get there, right? Won't it be too late if we don't go soon?"

Su Ping rested his chin in his hand, feeling helpless as he spoke on the phone.

He glanced at the time again.

March 11th.

Half a month had passed since Master Zhu Hong left, which brought them to the agreed-upon time.

However, Su Ping had already mentioned this to Zhao Deguang five days ago. Yet for the past few days, the legion commander seemed to be very busy and kept saying there was no rush.

Finally, it was already mid-March.

Su Ping couldn't help being anxious.

Seemingly aware of Su Ping's dissatisfaction, Zhao Deguang's weary voice came reluctantly from the other end of the line:

"Su Ping, sorry, but I might not be able to go with you to Beiyuan anymore. The agreed-upon time with Beiyuan is March 16th, so we still have five days. I really can't make the time in these five days. I've already given you my recommendation letter. Could you perhaps go on your own?"

When a legion commander made such a request, Su Ping's helplessness and frustration had to dissipate. Besides, he knew that Zhao wasn't one to flake out. Su Ping slightly furrowed his brows and said, "Commander Zhao, is the Legion especially busy lately?"

He was genuinely unaware, as he himself had been very busy as well.

From the other end of the line, Zhao Deguang's voice came again, laden with fatigue: "Yeah, something has come up recently. Damn it, we're not sure what's going on yet. A significant number of Ferocious Beasts have appeared at the outlet of West Dragon Lake towards the Eastern Sea, even forming a partial Beast Tide in the sea. Though it's primarily the marine legion's responsibility, we still need to coordinate patrols around West Dragon Lake to hunt and destroy any Ferocious Beasts that come ashore. There's just no time. Sorry."

Before this, even with Su Ping's extraordinary talent, it would not have occurred to Old Zhao to apologize to a junior for bailing on him. But in the period around the New Year, the junior in question had surprised Zhao Deguang time and again. Zhao felt he owed Su Ping the proper respect.

A Beast Tide in the sea? Approaching from the direction of West Dragon Lake?

Su Ping slightly raised his eyebrows but chose not to dwell on it.

West Dragon Lake was vast, practically an inland sea of Jianghai Province, even dotted with many islands.

Why would Ferocious Beasts from the Eastern Sea enter West Dragon Lake?

He had to take this seriously. If any beasts escaped the Legion's hunt and moved from West Dragon Lake to the west, entering Lingxi River and reaching the territory of his home, what then?

He couldn't afford to let his precious coral creatures be killed.

But the likelihood of that happening was slim.

With the Legion's defenses, the mighty sea beasts should pose no problem.

Having thought this, Su Ping felt somewhat assured and said, "Alright, please take care of yourself!"

The call ended.

Su Ping rubbed his temples.

If he had known Old Zhao would be like this, why had he delayed? He should have bought a ticket to Beiyuan long ago.

However, his preparations over the past days had certainly been thorough.

With this in mind, Su Ping checked his Beast Taming Space again, just to be sure.

There was a high-purity golden box, as well as Golden Gloves and similar items. These were meant for capturing the Biyao Chunshen. Besides that, there was a huge safe. Within the safe lay treasures and resources that Su Ping had collected by various means over these days.

Among them, the most precious ones weren't in the safe but in another Space Ring Su Ping had.

It was none other than that Spiritual Level Resource!

Yes, the Spirit Saint Level Soul Guiding Wick!

A Spiritual Level Resource required for cultivating the ancient Super-Rank skill "External Incarnation." It was also the prize Su Ping finally claimed as the first-place winner of the cultivation competition.

Additionally, the other resources needed to cultivate External Incarnation were all in his possession. These included Emperor Level Ethereal Spirit Water, Monarch Level Monarch Slime's Nucleus, Fast Reproduction Spores, Advanced Soul Fragments, and the like.

As for why he kept the Soul Guiding Wick separate, it wasn't because these resources caused any reaction together. It was purely because Su Ping was worried about attracting the attention of Little Flame if placed in the Beast Taming Space.

During this period, Su Ping had focused a lot of his attention on Little Flame, even neglecting some of Feifei's enhancements. He had come to understand a bit more about Little Flame. It could merge with any flame and seemed to enjoy the company of bird-like Pet Beasts, appearing very pleased when burning alongside them. Moreover, it had a penchant for consuming Flame Fruits. The occasional Flame Fruits Su Ping created had mostly been devoured by this little creature, noticeably reducing Little Crow's meals.

But that was about the extent of it; beyond this aspect, there was very little understanding of Little Flame. It couldn't be helped; occasionally, like a creature possessed, it would utter Serpentine Script. But its words were nothing more than the tired old claims about human traitors, which made Su Ping utterly speechless.

So, to unravel this mystery, he planned to raise Little Flame a bit more to understand why it harbored such animosity towards human Beast Tamers.

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Little Flame was just one aspect. During this period, what was undoubtedly most important was the preparation for the External Incarnation.

However, while the abundance of resources was one aspect, Su Ping also had one final condition and preparatory work to complete.

Thinking of this... After hanging up the phone, Su Ping, still not at ease, made another call to Dong Muyun:

"Hello, how is the matter we discussed last time progressing?"

Dong Muyun's voice came through the phone:

"The Dong Family has agreed, and the Mirror Ancestor has also consented. Whenever you say the word, the old man will bring the Mirror Ancestor to you."

"That's good. If I'm out of town, I'll try to notify your family in advance. If I'm around the Heart of Woods area, it should be easier to arrange."

Su Ping took a slight breath of relief, then added, "I appreciate this, and for having you speak to the Dong Family on my behalf once more."

Yes, to cultivate an External Incarnation, the last condition needed was indeed one conjectured by breeders on the worldwide Breeder's forum regarding the cultivation of Clone Skill Technique: it required illumination by the projection of the Mirror of Reflecting Heavens, a Spirit Saint Level Pet Beast.

But from the Breeder Association, Su Ping had not heard of anyone possessing such a high-level Pet Beast.

Even if there were some unconfirmed rumors, Su Ping did not have the influence to casually solicit such a favor from others.

Unexpectedly, what seemed an insurmountable difficulty for Su Ping was easily resolved by Dong Muyun.

Indeed, the Dong Family, renowned as the lineage of the Mirror Saint, possessed a Spirit Saint Level Mirror of Reflecting Heavens. It was considered their ultimate reserve, one of the major supports that had allowed the family to preserve their status amid such turbulent times.

Regarding Su Ping's gratitude, Dong Muyun was clearly dismissive:

"I'm just conveying a message. The old man is keen to get to know you, and now that you've made the request, they are eager to agree. Otherwise, would they agree without any conditions? Although it's merely asking the Mirror Ancestor for a simple favor, it's in that old fellow's nature to try and gain extra benefits from any opportunity. How could he not have any demands?"

From Dong MUYUN's tone, it was evident that she was dissatisfied with some of the Dong Family's practices.

Su Ping, however, was indifferent; the legacy and operations of a vast family were naturally different. Of course, understanding did not equate to approval. Besides, given his previous dealings concerning Dong MUYUN, Su Ping did not hold much fondness for the Dong Family.

Therefore, it was better to attribute this favor to Dong MUYUN:

"Regardless, I still need to thank you! Otherwise, things might not have gone so smoothly."

"TSK TSK, only verbal thanks? How about offering yourself in return?" Dong MUYUN's mocking voice came from the other end of the phone.

Su Ping pondered briefly. "Are you sure?"

Dong MUYUN was taken aback. Did this kid actually take me seriously?

"Of course I'm sure, I'm just afraid someone would disagree!"

After pausing, Su Ping continued, "I should tell you, Su ANYONG once consulted a Time Series Beast Tamer to tell our family's fortune. He said we are of the 'Nine Yang Fate,' which is quite overpowering toward spouses. Look at our family..."

"Get lost!"

The more Dong Muyun listened to this guy ramble on, the more irritated she became. She cursed outright, having assumed he might have changed, only to find he was still the same.

"By the way, what skill are you asking the Mirror Ancestor to help cultivate? What kind of skill requires the Mirror Ancestor's assistance?" Dong Muyun somewhat brusquely changed the topic.

"You'll know when the time comes. It's a secret for now, and I'm not even slightly sure whether the cultivation will be successful."

Naturally, Su Ping did not wish to divulge too much about the External Incarnation—it was quite sensational.

The Heart of the Sun was considered an accumulation of many years by the Heart of Woods. His Five Elements Body was a fortunate happenstance, resulting from encountering the Five Elements diagrams left by Xue Hongluan, along with assistance from Zhu Hong and Liu Fuhai. However, perfecting an External Incarnation in such a short period without any prior indication would undoubtedly draw excessive attention.

If word got out, this would be a significant event, attracting the attention of the worldwide community of Breeders. For an unknown individual from Dragon Nation to complete such a cultivation would instantly thrust Su Ping into a tumultuous spotlight.

Su Ping felt he could hardly withstand it. Although concealing such matters was not entirely feasible, he hoped to delay it for as long as possible.

Fortunately, Dong Muyun did not press further. After some more idle conversation, Su Ping mentioned he would be traveling to Beiyuan the next day, then he hung up the phone.

After purchasing a ticket to Beiyuan for the next day, Su Ping finally breathed a sigh of relief.

He did not bring anyone else with him. Instead, he rode out of the Heart of Woods on a bicycle he used for regular training and circled within the territory of the Heart of Myriad Spirits.

Just two days prior, after absorbing some of the Secret Realms that had appeared in Jianghai and engaging in 'meditation' in the Heart of Dreams, Su Ping's Realm had advanced to the Third Rank of Commander.

Still, physical training for a Beast Tamer was also important.

Even more significantly, over these past days, Su Ping had come to understand some aspects of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas after reaching LV4.

He had also attempted to use the 'experience infusion' effect.

There had been no significant change in Xiao Qing's Level, mainly because it had reached the Commander Level. Moreover, perhaps due to some mutation, Su Ping's previous attempt had resulted in no Level increase. This was evidently due to insufficient experience, which also caused a cooldown, making it impossible to judge how much experience was needed to enhance Xiao Qing's Level.

Chapter 596: Everything is Ready! Journey to Beiyuan!_3

However, the rest of the Ordinary Level Forest Wolves only needed about one hundred Experience Points to level up. Yet, once they reached the Elite Level, the required Experience Points for advancement would surge dramatically.

Su Ping was currently short on time; otherwise, he could have made a list detailing the Experience Points and Realms needed for each upgrade. This would provide a better plan for later.

However, the power gained from such enhancements had a drawback: the Forest Wolves couldn't be controlled with the desired proficiency. They lacked some of the flexibility seen in wolves that advanced through their own growth and breakthroughs.

There wasn't much that could be done about it. The ability to infuse energy was already incredibly heaven-defying and impressive. Naturally, nothing was perfect.

Composing himself, Su Ping rode his bicycle through the Heart of Myriad Spirits.

In the Forest Heart, the other two Rouge Powder Peach Blossom Smile saplings had been delivered and planted on either side of the original peach tree. The original tree, now appearing like a matriarch, seemed to be getting along harmoniously with the newcomers.

Passing through the Forest Heart, he arrived atop Buddha's Hand Cliff.

The Hundred Birds Parasol tree was no longer there; it had moved directly to the highest tree city within the Heart of Phoenix.

The narrow forest corridor connecting Buddha's Hand Cliff to the Heart of Phoenix was no longer a bare, suspended mountain path resembling a tree branch. Figures now stood along it, using their spiritual power to solidify the branches growing on either side. This formed a natural railing, transforming the path into a true aerial tree corridor.

Su Ping smiled and continued riding his bicycle up above the Forest Heart.

The Life Ancient Tree still stood there. Old Sha's Language of Nature could keep it barely alive, but this was merely a stopgap measure, not a true cure. Once he had some spare time, he would have to properly address the Life Ancient Tree's condition.

After greeting it, Su Ping then descended from the Forest Heart.

He cycled around the Heart of Water.

The preparations for the evolution of the Mist Pine had begun. Apart from Su Ping, Li Shu was assisting. That guy had some talent with Plant-based Pet Beasts and could be developed somewhat. As for the Mist Pine, its evolution definitely couldn't be completed at the moment.

A basin-sized Sea Core Spirit Turtle now lazed on the fishing deck of the Heart of Water, having become something of a mascot. Since the little fellow was still too low-level, Su Ping couldn't let it into the water without supervision.

However, with the development of its special Talents like 'Dragon's Might' and 'Underwater Breathing,' Su Ping estimated that once he had time, the Heart of Myriad Spirits' development would primarily expand underwater. By then, the little turtle would be needed. For now, he'd just continue raising it.

After cycling around, Su Ping took another look at the Inspection Magnetic Field area. After so many days without any leads, he wasn't in a rush.

Having left the Heart of Myriad Spirits, Su Ping, the real boss of this extensive area, arrived on the street that now belonged to him.

Across the street from the Heart of Myriad Spirits, many residential houses had been demolished. Foundations for numerous new buildings were already being excavated. Care was being taken to ensure they wouldn't obstruct the view while maintaining the proper scale and size. This place was slated to become the future commercial hub for the Heart of Myriad Spirits. Su Ping hadn't come up with a name for it yet and wasn't in a hurry.

After a brief look, Su Ping proceeded along the path to the primary focus of his inspection: the Heart of Soul.

Upon entering the domain of the Heart of Soul, the air itself seemed to grow chillier, the temperature dropping by several degrees.

Beyond the entrance area, the first place he encountered was the Death Wheatfield Farm. It covered an enormous area, encompassing all the unused wasteland behind it. A vast expanse of two-meter-tall wheat stalks, a mixture of golden and greenish hues, rippled like a golden ocean. It was an exceedingly beautiful sight. However, with the restrictions in place that sealed a Beast Tamer's spiritual power and their ability to summon Pet Beasts, this wheat field transformed into a place of utmost terror and despair.

Hidden within, Strawmen would hunt down any intruders. Over time, the wheat would turn blood-red, and the 'Soul Confusing Formation,' created by the resources arranged within this area, would become a horrifying natural labyrinth. Clearly, this area was completely constructed, though Su Ping hadn't rushed to test it personally yet. He could try everything out together when the time came.

After a glance, Su Ping continued to the other areas.

The Zombie Settlement, a scene based on Jumping Zombies and their other Evolutionary Bodies, had also been completed. This area, comprising the Yizhuang and several surrounding buildings, was almost as large as a small to medium-sized village. Large coffins, either pitch-black or vermilion, were placed throughout. White paper money fluttered through the air, yet not a single living soul was present. This supremely eerie atmosphere, even more chilling than the hidden horrors of the Death Wheatfield, was enough to send shivers down the spine of any Beast Tamer who despised Undead Pet Beasts.

However, aside from these, the other designated scenes were still incomplete. Bai Cang was working diligently; while the architects were busy with construction, he tirelessly trained the Undead Pet Beasts day and night. His dedication was commendable.

Nodding with satisfaction, Su Ping then returned to the section of the Heart of Myriad Spirits designated as the development area for the Heart of Earth. Old Liu had suggested he find some Breeders from the Breeder Association to take on as apprentices, but he hadn't gone yet, truly lacking the time.

There wasn't much to see in the Heart of Earth. After a quick look, and noting that it was already dark, Su Ping returned to the Heart of Woods.

Lao Guan and Li Shu already knew Su Ping would soon be heading to Beiyuan Province, and they took the news calmly.

After a good night's rest, Su Ping arrived at Linzhou Airport and boarded the plane for Beiyuan.

Chapter 597: Super-Rank Skills Aren't Just Cultivated Casually, Right?

Beihai City.

A colossal city built amid chilling winds and snow. It defended against the severe cold of the Northern Border and the occasional violent outbreaks of cold-wave beast tides.

Two figures stood in a room at the very top of this city.

The heating in the room had been switched off. The high windows were open, allowing the howling northwestern wind to sweep through and dispel the existing warmth.

Yet, these two figures seemed unaffected by the cold.

They stood by the window, chatting idly—or, more accurately, engaged in an awkward conversation.

"Have all the Breeders recommended by the various provinces arrived by now?" Leng Ye, a young man with silver hair who looked to be in his early twenties, asked the person beside him.

The person beside him was his complete opposite: an elder with black hair.

The elder perpetually wore a faint smile, giving the first impression of a rosy-cheeked, well-preserved, and prosperous old man. However, those who truly knew him were aware that a Breeding Master of the Necromancy Series was never a normal person.

Clearly, the one before him was no exception.

"Who knows? If you ask me, it's all superfluous. What worthy Pet Beasts could these provincial trash cultivate that would qualify for the Special Beast Taming Forces, especially for the Heavenly Tomb Army!"

The elder replied, still wearing that same smile, but his gaze was ice-cold as he looked down at the pedestrians on the road below the building, as if they were the most insignificant, worthless ants.

He had an utter disregard for life.

This disregard was not limited to humans but extended to all living beings, possibly even himself.

However, Leng Ye showed no change in expression at the elder's blunt words, evidently agreeing with him:

"The situation in the Heavenly Tomb is unique. Master Yin, you must be aware of the enormous price Eagle Country paid to explore it, right? But the results have also been significant! To say nothing of other

things, the fact that someone like Charles could develop a Hall-level Skill like 'Undead Death Domain' makes it highly probable he discovered some astonishing secrets within the Heavenly Tomb!

"And that might just be an incidental discovery. As for what else lies deeper within, no one knows.

"Holy Dragon and those in power place great importance on this Heavenly Tomb exploration. Although our methods of personnel cultivation are certainly different from Eagle Country's—they merely use lives to fill the ranks—the higher-ups are skeptical that the Heavenly Tomb can be fully explored in a single attempt!

"Therefore, these arriving Breeders will have the details of the Pet Beasts they cultivate recorded. If anything happens to this current batch, the next group will be cultivated and sent in as quickly as possible. Within five to ten years, the secrets of the Sword Imprint Heavenly Tomb must be completely under our control."

Master Yin, however, seemed unconcerned about the Heavenly Tomb.

"Ancient Secret Realms... so what if they hold secrets? Compared to ancient times, the development of modern Beast Taming civilization has been far more rapid."

Leng Ye said nothing more.

In some respects, the status of a Saint Spirit-level Beast Tamer and that of a Breeding Master were indeed comparable.

However, Leng Ye, who truly commanded high-end combat power, still had a deeper understanding of certain matters.

He also knew a great deal about potential ancient lore.

While it was true that in many situations, ancient Beast Tamers were undoubtedly less powerful than their modern counterparts, there were some secrets—he wasn't sure if they were mere rumors or

actual truths—that he only partially comprehended. This Heavenly Tomb, he suspected, very likely concealed an unimaginably vast secret.

Otherwise, Dragon Nation wouldn't be mobilizing its covert networks everywhere, sparing no effort to compete with Eagle Country in searching the Western Continent for the keys to the two remaining Heavenly Tombs: the one marked with a symbol of bones and the one engraved with a crown. These are located in Mummy Nation and the so-called Sun Never Sets Empire of Lion Nation, respectively.

The very attitudes of these contending nations made it clear that the Heavenly Tombs were no simple matter.

The cold wind gusted. After a pause, the elder finally spoke, "Elder Zhu's Yellow Dragon successfully evolved. It broke through directly to the Spirit Saint Level, and it was a dual Wood-Earth type evolution. It returned to Dragon City a few days ago and had a fierce battle with that Ice Dragon."

Leng Ye nodded, a rare smile touching his lips. "It seems Master Zhu will be advancing soon as well. Tsk, tsk, truly remarkable."

After a moment's thought, the elder suddenly said, "Speaking of which, Elder Zhu completed his evolution in Linzhou. It seems he was staying at some young fellow's home the whole time, right? I believe it's the youngster who won first place in this year's Breeder Competition. Truly a prodigious youth! I heard the young man's surname is Su. Do you happen to know anything about him?"

"Master Yin, you're with the Breeder Association, aren't you? Why ask me?" Leng Ye replied coolly.

"Hehe, it's just that I'd heard a few things. I heard you visited Linzhou not long ago, Leng Ye... I was wondering..."

"Master Yin, this involves confidential matters..." Leng Ye interrupted curtly.

Master Yin paused, momentarily taken aback. He glanced at the Ghost Saint, who was calmly looking out at the fiercely howling wind, and chose not to press further.

As a Breeding Master of the Necromancy Series, he was naturally well aware of this Ghost Saint's temperament.

Chapter 598: Aren't Super-Rank Skills Cultivated Casually?_2

Moreover, Breeders and Beast Tamers of the Necromancy Series tend to have more eccentric personalities; he himself was undoubtedly no exception.

The atmosphere fell silent before Leng Ye stretched languidly.

"Alright, Master Yin, I won't disturb your rest any longer. There's some business to take care of back at the Legion. I will go handle that first. I'll come find you again at the selection conference in four days!"

"No problem, you go ahead and get busy."

The elder waved goodbye to Leng Ye with a smile. After Leng Ye had left, a flicker of doubt crossed his eyes.

Leng Ye's figure exited this Beihai City's rare Advanced Level hotel reception.

The stoic man who had been waiting at the door followed, opened the car door, and sat back in the driver's seat. After a glance at Leng Ye in the rearview mirror, he asked, "Commander, are we heading back to the Legion?"

"No rush. Let's make a trip to the Rong Family estate in the southern suburbs first, pick up that damned Su Anyong, and then head to the airport together."

"The airport?" The driver, named Xing Chen, blinked in mild surprise.

Leng Ye was in a good mood and rarely explained. "Our breeding contest's top winner, the youngest Genius Breeder, has arrived in Beiyuan. We should at least play host. Since he has come, it is only right to bring the youngster along to extend the hospitality of a local host."

Xing Chen's eyelids twitched. "Commander, Breeder Su is only nineteen this year; isn't that place a bit inappropriate for him to go..."

Leng Ye glared at his man, becoming instantly furious. "Are you fucking trying to quit? I'm just talking about extending some courtesy. Where is your mind wandering? Am I that kind of person?"

Xing Chen shrank his neck.

He really wanted to say that he hadn't even mentioned what places, and it was Leng Ye who was being oversensitive.

But he didn't say anything. Having followed Ghost Saint for many years, he was an absolute confidant and privy to his personality. Such a reaction, paradoxically, indicated the Ghost Saint wasn't actually angry.

They arrived at the southern suburbs without a long wait. Su Anyong hustled out of a vast estate and got into the car.

"Second Master, you just got to Northern Cold, and you're in such a hurry to leave?"

Leng Ye glanced at him but didn't answer the question. Instead, he commented with interest, "Su Anyong, you've done well for yourself. After the older sister, you're planning to take down the younger one as well?"

If it were anyone else, Su Anyong would have slapped them. But facing Leng Ye, he quickly said helplessly, "Second Master, there's really nothing going on between Xiaoqiu and me. We're just like siblings."

"TSK."

Leng Ye didn't reply but nodded significantly.

This response only increased Su Anyong's helplessness. "Really, I came to the Rong Family to discuss with the old man about helping Su Ping evolve that mutated Poison Type Forest Wolf."

"TSK."

"..."

Seeing his silence, Leng Ye finally spoke up. "Still helping your son with Evolution? What bullshit are you spouting to me? Tell me, what day is it today? Do you even know?"

Su Anyong frowned in thought. "Uh... Insects Awaken? The Spring Equinox?"

"Insects Awaken, my ass! Su Ping is arriving in Northern Cold today. He's waiting for you and the Rong Family to finalize the Pet Beast's Evolution. If the lad hadn't taken the initiative to come, you'd probably have almost forgotten about your own son, huh?"

Leng Ye sneered.

Su Anyong, before he could even register surprise, exclaimed in disbelief, "Su Ping's arriving in Northern Cold today?"

Leng Ye shot him a disdainful look and decided to ignore him outright.

Meanwhile, the car slowly rose into the air and swiftly flew through Beihai City towards the Beihai Airport.

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The cold air hit Su Ping as he stepped off the plane; the first breath he took went straight to his lungs.

It made his spirits lift. A chill ran from head to toe, refreshing and invigorating.

It was March. Back in Linzhou, some plants had already begun to sprout.

But in Beihai City, a vast expanse of white still enveloped the land. The howling cold wind made Su Ping shiver before he quickly entered the lobby.

In an era where airplanes were considered an extreme luxury form of travel, the lobby was not crowded. This allowed Su Ping to immediately spot the few figures who stood out like cranes among chickens.

"Leng Ye, Brother Xing, why have you come personally?"

Su Anyong looked suspiciously at Su Ping and then even more suspiciously at the two men beside him.

It's one thing for the lad to know Leng Ye, but how would he also be familiar with Xing Chen?

With suspicion in his heart, what Su Anyong hadn't expected was for Leng Ye to burst into laughter. Seemingly even more cordial than Su Anyong himself would have been, Leng Ye stepped forward and warmly put his arm around his son's shoulder. "You lad, you're finally here! Come on, I'll show you a good time..."

Su Anyong quickly interjected, "Second Master, you're very busy. Su Ping must be tired from nearly a whole day on the plane. How about I take him to the Rong Family to settle in first?"

Leng Ye pondered for a moment and nodded. "True. How long do you plan to stay here, lad? It's not a big deal to wait another day."

Su Ping also smiled. "I expect to be staying for a while. I have some things to handle now that I'm in Beiyuan."

"Alright, get in the car first. Speaking of which, the Rong Family is like another home for you, kid. You probably haven't visited it since you were little, have you?"

Leng Ye wasn't an inconsiderate person. After getting into the car, he said to either Xing Chen or Su Anyong:

Chapter 599: Aren't Super-Rank Skills Cultivated Casually?_3

"Tell Old Ghost Rong to prepare well tonight. I'm bringing my grandson to their place for dinner. If the hospitality isn't good, I'll grab that big worm of theirs and fry it up."

Su Anyong and Xing Chen looked helpless. This fellow really was unabashedly straightforward. However, in the Northern Border, there indeed wasn't a place he couldn't go.

After making the arrangements, Leng Ye finally asked curiously, "What brings you to Beiyuan this time? And that Super-Rank Skill you pulled off in the cultivation competition, what's the deal with it?"

Upon hearing this query, Su Anyong also pricked up his ears. Ever since his last fiasco, he hadn't inquired about it. But to say he wasn't curious about Old Sha's Heart of the Sun would be complete nonsense.

However, this time Su Ping couldn't just tease and joke about it, so he replied seriously, "I'm here for some matters concerning the Breeder Association and Xiao Qing's evolution. As for the Super-Rank Skill, Heart of the Sun, that's purely a result of the Wanmu Wolf's innate talent and the cultivation work Grandpa carried out with the Heart of Woods. It was a fortunate accident, just luck on my part. I truly didn't expect the Heart of Woods to elicit such a skill response from the Wanmu Wolf."

With these words, Su Anyong finally breathed a sigh of relief. "I knew it, you little brat! There's no way you could have such a heaven-defying talent for cultivation."

Leng Ye nodded and added, "So that's how it is. But good luck is also a part of one's strength."

It was inevitable; such achievements were somewhat frightening. At such a young age, he had cultivated a new Evolutionary Body, which was already remarkable. Creating a Super-Rank Skill on top of that made people recall the Legend of the Holy Dragon. That legendary figure also rose to fame from a similar situation, cultivating a Super-Rank Skill that set them on their legendary path.

It's heartening for elders to see the younger generation do well. However, when they do **too** well, it can also be a bit stressful.

Watching Su Anyong and Leng Ye's expressions, Su Ping's eyes darted. "What do you mean by 'good luck'? It's just an ordinary Super-Rank Skill. Isn't that easy and casual?"

At this statement, Su Anyong shot him a sideways glance. "You impudent kid, getting cocky after a bit of success? Easy and casual? If it's so casual, then go on and cultivate another one! How did I teach you? To be modest!"

Su Ping couldn't recall when this old ghost had ever taught him modesty. He paid no heed to the old fellow. There's nothing more to be gained from him. His only Super-Shadow is guarded like a priceless treasure.

Clearly, his main target was Leng Ye.

So, he snorted. "What if I cultivate another Super-Rank Skill? Would you bet your Super-Shadow on it? And Grandpa Leng, what about you? What if I manage to cultivate *another* Super-Rank Skill?"

Why does this brat always have his eye on my prized possession? Su Anyong thought.

Although this time Su Anyong was confident about the difficulty of creating a Super-Rank Skill—he understood it all too well. The kid had only just finished cultivating the Heart of the Sun before the New Year. How long had it really been? Yet, based on his understanding of his own son, Su Anyong genuinely wasn't sure if he was being bluffed this time.

It was Leng Ye who chuckled. "If you can cultivate another one, let's not even talk about the distant future. Just within this year, whatever conditions you set, I'll agree to them! How about that?"

Su Ping's eyes lit up. "It's a deal."

Listening to Su Ping's words, Su Anyong's eyelids twitched, and his gaze turned doubtful as he looked at his son. This scene... why does it seem so familiar? Wasn't it the same situation last time I came home, in the car?

"Su Anyong, what about you? Are you betting that Super-Shadow?"

Su Anyong cleared his throat and said bluntly, "What's a Super-Shadow worth? If you succeed, I'll keep calling you 'Dad,' how about that? But what if you can't do it? What if you're just spouting hot air and can't cultivate one?"

Su Ping glanced at the old ghost dismissively. Sure enough, this old fellow is harder to fool. He then replied, annoyed, "Fine, I'll call you 'Dad' too, alright?"

Amidst the father-son banter, the vehicle slowly came to a stop once again. This time, it was outside the Rong Family residence, a place Su Ping had never been before. Strictly speaking, this was the home of his maternal grandfather.

Chapter 600: Five Poisons Family! Grandpa's Gift!

This is the entrance to an estate that at first glance seems rather ordinary.

However, this so-called ordinariness is judged from the perspective of Dragon Nation's modern and even ancient standards.

This estate lacked tall buildings, somewhat resembling traditional ancient residences. However, it wasn't quite like the gardens south of the Yangtze River with their red walls and green tiles; instead, it was more akin to the deep courtyards of the north.

Of course, Beihai City, where it was located, is indeed in the far north.

The most striking difference, leaving a lasting impression at first sight, was the pair of objects flanking the estate's entrance. These were not the typical stone lion sculptures.

Instead, there were two extremely bizarre things.

Two giant Toads sitting on stone pedestals.

That's right, two large Toad sculptures were positioned on either side of the gate.

They lent this majestic and solemn estate an indescribable atmosphere.

However, that wasn't all.

Above the towering black gate, two things were carved as colorful painted patterns.

They were two vividly colored centipedes.

Their myriad splayed legs formed symmetrical patterns above the gate, connecting with the seams of the doors to create a strange, matching design.

Geez, just the entrance already features two of the Five Poisons. Indeed, as Su Ping had learned beforehand, the Rong Family truly is a standout in the legacy of Poison Type Breeder heritage. Although in the past several decades, the suppression of family-inherited Beast Tamer lineages has meant the Rong Family is far less illustrious than before, their foundation remains intact.

While Su Ping was carefully observing the Toad carvings on the large stone pedestals at the entrance, trying to determine what kind of Pet Beasts they depicted, the gate was pushed open.

A man who didn't look old but had a weathered appearance emerged from the gate with a smile.

Following him were Rong Qiu, whom Su Ping had met once, and a man who strongly resembled Rong Qiu. He's probably Rong Qiu's brother, which would make him my uncle, Su Ping thought.

The man in the lead saw Su Anyong, who had returned, and Leng Ye beside him, and quickly said, "Ghost Saint has come personally, and I failed to greet you from afar immediately. Please forgive me, Ghost Saint."

Leng Ye waved off the pretentious formalities and patted Su Ping's shoulder. "Xiao Ping, this is your cheap grandfather Rong Bao. Call him grandpa!"

"Grandpa!" Su Ping called out cheerfully.

As Su Ping spoke, the man named Rong Bao finally turned his gaze to him. His smile, which had remained steady even before Leng Ye, trembled slightly upon meeting Su Ping's eyes. He remarked, "He really does resemble him, even more so than in photographs and on television."

The man mused, not minding the term 'cheap grandfather' that Leng Ye had used.

Leng Ye spoke again, "Old Rong, now that your own maternal grandson is visiting for the first time, have you prepared a gift?"

"Uh..."

At these words, Rong Bao was briefly stunned, then cast a displeased glance at Su Anyong.

Clearly, Su Anyong hadn't breathed a word about this visit; they had just shown up. How could he have thought to prepare a gift?

Thinking this, Rong Bao smiled and said, "My grandson's first visit surely won't lack a gift. Ghost Saint, rest assured, I will give Xiao Ping his gift during dinner tonight!"

The man behind Rong Bao, who Su Ping guessed was his uncle, smoothed things over with a smile, saying, "Please, Ghost Saint, and Father, come inside and talk. Xiao Ping must be tired from his journey. He should go rest first. It's not too late to come for dinner; we'll have plenty of time for a good chat then." This man wore gold-rimmed glasses, and behind them, his face was exceptionally handsome, his smile refined.

"Tsk tsk, Old Rong, look how much more polite your Rong Xia is compared to you."

Leng Ye chuckled and then confidently strode into the estate.

Rong Bao, unbothered by the sarcasm, turned to Rong Qiu and said, "Xiao Qiu, take my grandson to his room to rest first. Xiao Ping, rest up from your journey. It's not too late to join us for dinner later; we'll have plenty of time to chat properly then, grandfather to grandson."

Meeting for the first time, Su Ping found this cheap maternal grandfather of his to be quite alright. It didn't feel as estranged as he had imagined. After all, Su Ping hadn't seen this man at all over the last twenty years, and this man hadn't made any attempt to visit his grandson in Linzhou. To say there was any emotional connection was simply nonsense. In Su Ping's view, his true family, aside from his soul Pet Beast and a few other Pet Beasts, consisted only of Su Anyong and Old Sha. As for these members of the Rong Family, he felt no particular estrangement, but certainly no warmth either. Grandfather, uncle, and even Rong Qiu, the young aunt now leading him to his room, were just so-so in his eyes. Of course, Su Ping remembered and appreciated kindness shown to him by others and was willing to be grateful and repay it. But still, Su Ping, though good-tempered and seemingly approachable, was very clear-headed about many relationships. Having not seen each other for over twenty years, what talk could there be of blood being thicker than water? That was pure nonsense, especially for these large, influential families. Their current warmth might stem from such ties, but that definitely wasn't the whole story. Their cordiality was likely due to a few factors: Su Anyong's successful return to Beihai City, Leng Ye's backing in terms of connections and power, and the status Su Ping himself had achieved through his own efforts. Even so-called blood kinship, unless it's immediate family, often requires one's own strength for others to even acknowledge it.

Upon entering the mansion, Su Ping wasn't surprised. It met his expectations: sculptures and markings of typical Poison Type Pet Beasts—toads, spiders, centipedes, scorpions, and pythons—were everywhere.

It was a distinctive feature of the Rong Family.

Previously, Su Ping had heard that the Rong Family was also known as one of the Five Saints Families, or the Five Poisons Family.

"Su Ping, this is your first time home. This room originally belonged to my older sister—your mother. You'll stay here during your days in Beihai City. If there's nothing urgent at home, consider staying a bit longer," Rong Qiu said, smiling warmly.

This woman had put on quite an act when she first visited the Heart of Woods, Su Ping recalled.

"How is your research on the Cold Water Wolf going?" she continued.

"It's going well. Your method of cultivating poison within the body, using special resources to stimulate the Cold Water Wolf's poison glands during Evolution, is a truly unique Cultivation insight!"

"Giggle, to receive praise from the cultivation genius who won first place in our Breeder competition, I, your young aunt, am truly blessed! How is the Evolution of your Forest Wolf progressing?" Rong Qiu asked as she led Su Ping into a separate courtyard.

"I've decided to advance its Evolution by focusing on Wood and Poison dual-types for in-depth Cultivation. I also have some ideas for its specific Abilities and form."

"That's right. With your Cultivation Talent, the Rong Family doesn't need to worry much about Pet Beast Cultivation. But since your father has already promised, we won't skimp on necessary aid! So, if you need anything for the Evolution, just let us know," Rong Qiu said.

Su Ping nodded and, not holding back, said, "I do need some help. Poison System resources are hard to come by on the market, and the Breeder Association has strict restrictions. Since the Rong Family is a major name in Poison Type Pet Beasts, I would like an Emperor Level Poison System Resource."

Rong Qiu was slightly taken aback but then nodded thoughtfully. "No problem, I'll talk to Father about it."

Su Ping chatted with his young aunt Rong Qiu for a good while.

Only then did he begin to understand the Rong Family better.

Such a vast estate obviously wasn't inhabited by just his grandfather Rong Bao, his uncle Rong Xia, and Rong Qiu.

Within the Rong Family estate, besides Rong Xia's family, there were several other branches.

In total, counting all the various branches, the direct relatives and their immediate families numbered over a hundred.

This fit Su Ping's image of a huge family.

In the past, members of the Rong Family had held important positions throughout Dragon Nation. Now, however, they could only manage minor roles in business or other sectors to get by.

This was Dragon Nation's way of suppressing the great families.

Of course, for the younger generation like Su Ping's, restrictions were somewhat looser; within the Rong Family, some served in the military or studied in academies.

Apart from Rong Family affairs, Su Ping's conversation with Rong Qiu mostly revolved around his inquiries about Heavenly Mountain.

Xiao Qing was a Pet Beast the Rong Family had discovered in the large wildlife park at Heavenly Mountain.

Of course, whether a Rong Family member had personally discovered it was unknown.

In any case, if Xiao Qing was found there, then it was highly likely that the Legendary Level resource, Biyao Chunshen, was also there.

Heavenly Mountain is located less than a hundred kilometers south of Beihai City but covers a vast area.

A continuous expanse of mountain forests connects several cities.

Finding Biyao Chunshen in this area, even if Xiao Qing could sense it somewhat, would certainly not be easy.

But difficult or not, the task had to be undertaken.

Su Ping had made up his mind. If nothing unexpected happened, he would spend most of his time in Beiyuan Province at Heavenly Mountain. As for when he would find Biyao Chunshen, or even if he could find it at all, that remained unknown. Even Su Ping wasn't confident, but he wouldn't pass up even the slightest chance.

However, an unexpected event occurred that very night, catching Su Ping by surprise. He didn't have to wait long. After all, it was already afternoon when he arrived in Beihai City, and the Rong Family's evening banquet soon commenced.

With Leng Ye's attendance, and Su Ping—who could just about be considered a direct maternal grandson of the Rong Family—arriving for the first time, Su Ping saw at the feast the large gathering of the Rong Family's extended relatives that Rong Qiu had mentioned.

Not to mention, there were quite a few young people of the Rong Family from his own generation. Compared to the Dong Family, which Dong Muyun said had dwindled significantly, did the Rong Family, one of the Five Saints Families, still seem so thriving?

As the guest of honor at the banquet, Su Ping was immediately warmly welcomed by Rong Bao. He was seated between his grandfather and Leng Ye, in the most honored positions at the table. This cheap grandfather of his then vigorously introduced him to everyone.

At the enormous family dining table, everyone wore smiles, offering the warmest welcome to this maternal grandson from the direct line of the Rong Family.

At least, that was how it appeared on the surface.

However, when Rong Bao, his cheap grandfather, spoke the next words in front of everyone, many faces in the room could no longer hide their discontent:

"Chun'er's early passing is one of the few great regrets of my life. Xiao Ping hasn't been back to the Rong Family for so many years, and now that he has arrived, I, as his grandfather, must show my support! Therefore, I, in my capacity as the Family Head of this generation of the Rong Family, have decided: one of the Eggs of the Five Saints produced by our family in the Five Saints Secret Realm this generation will be given to Xiao Ping to incubate and nurture."

At these words, Su Ping looked puzzled, Su Anyong frowned slightly, and a knowing, meaningful smile touched Leng Ye's lips.

As for the rest of the Rong Family members, apart from Rong Qiu, even the man Su Ping knew as his uncle, Rong Xia, looked none too pleased.