

Beast T 61

Chapter 61: Invincibility is Truly Lonely...

Is this really the work of human hands? Su Ping was puzzled.

He was looking at the latest TV series on his computer, a martial arts drama titled: "My Sword Spirit Pet Beast Girlfriend."

It certainly had a similar flavor to what he remembered from his previous life, he thought. It seemed that no matter the genre, romance was a mandatory element. However, in this world, there was an additional rule: every show, regardless of type, had to feature Pet Beasts.

Of course, since Blue Star was a world of Beast Tamers, this was somewhat justifiable. But...

Su Ping looked at the pretty-boy lead on the computer screen. He isn't even as handsome as I am, Su Ping thought, yet he still garners a barrage of 'AHHH!' screams in the bullet comments. The actor was holding a Sword Device, a blatant product placement with "Ouyezi Corporation" displayed in enlarged font. The female Sword Spirit materializing from the Sword Device made him feel completely numb.

Artefact Spirit Pet Beasts did exist, but they were known to be as difficult to train as Mechanical Type Pet Beasts. The Beast Master Association even had two corresponding subsidiary branches: the Artifact Refiners Association and the Mechanics Association. Compared to Elemental, Plant, Animal, and Undead Type Pet Beasts, these two types were much rarer.

But could Pet Beast Devices capable of producing Artefact Spirits really be made by your damn metal resource manufacturing company? If they had that capability, the chairman of the Artifact Refiners Association in the Imperial Capital would surely be their company's chairman. Su Ping simply didn't believe it.

Indeed, he had no reason to expect anything from these cringeworthy modern TV dramas. However, at least a few highly-rated films had decent performances. But as for any deeper interpretation of Beast Taming Swordsmanship or related Skills, there truly was none. The general content was similar to the Swordsman movies and novels of his previous life, just with some Pet Beast elements added.

The swords wielded by protagonists were often extremely high-quality Artefact Spirits. These types of movies were typically sponsored and produced by the Artifact Refiners Association. Compared to other Beast Tamers, those specializing in Mechanical Types were indeed rare. If not for their efforts to maintain a presence in the entertainment industry, they might easily be forgotten. And the concepts of knights-errant and the martial world, long-standing in the Dragon Nation, were undoubtedly the best vehicles for this.

Shaking his head, Su Ping mentally reviewed some lines and dialogue from the movies, along with information about the Paperman's habits shared by Undead Type Breeders on a private online forum exclusive to Breeders. Only then did he begin his meditation.

I need to work harder and faster. I can cut down on sleep a bit, but my Realm must improve rapidly. Setting aside the agreement about Qin Xiaoxue's professional Beast Tamer assessment, I have to strive hard just to break through to the Elite Level quickly. Then I can figure out how to contract this little Paperman without any lingering concerns.

「The night passed swiftly.」

The next day followed a similar routine. After finishing the daily training with the Forest Wolf and his own meditation, Su Ping went to the side room.

Almost the moment he opened the door, spatial ripples appeared, and the Paperman reappeared before him. "WOAH!"

It was a simple greeting, nothing more. But Su Ping smiled, took out a stack of something, and handed it to the Paperman.

It was a stack of stiff paper cards Su Ping had prepared some time ago when he first started scheming to get this little Paperman. Papermen needed to eat too, and their food was precisely this kind of paper.

Su Ping's stack of stiff paper cards was clearly top-grade. Made from low-grade ironwood, the taste was absolutely superb!

And it truly was. The Paperman immediately tore off a piece and tossed it into its mouth. "WOAH! (Delicious!)"

At the same time, its face switched to a cheerful expression, complete with rosy cheeks.

Truth be told, with those rosy cheeks, it was quite an adorable sight. Obviously, this little fellow wasn't that easy to fool. After munching away, it looked up at Su Ping expectantly.

Su Ping, meanwhile, began to deliver the speech he had prepared, summarizing what he had watched the previous night and the points he had thought out during the day. "For a Swordsman, the most important thing is to start with the fundamentals. And for a Swordsman, the most crucial fundamental is undoubtedly Swordsmanship! So, what is Swordsmanship?!"

"WOAH?! (What is that?!)"

A jet-black question mark clearly appeared above the round eyes of the little Paperman, who was only as tall as Su Ping's calf.

Su Ping then chuckled. "There are many techniques in Swordsmanship, but the most important are the slash and the stab! These are the two most critical basic skills of swordplay. Right now, you need to practice these two moves! Once you've mastered them, we'll move on to other basic exercises."

"WOAH?"

Seeing the question mark on the little Paperman's head not only remain but also multiply, Su Ping wasn't worried. He took out a practice sword he had also prepared earlier.

He led the little Paperman to the garden outside.

It had to be said, Su Ping, having practiced a bit himself, demonstrated with some proficiency. "This is a stab. This is a slash. This slash, when drawn directly from the sheath, is particularly effective. We can call it... the Sheath-Drawing... Sword Slash!"

The little Paperman quickly began to practice.

However, it was quite obvious the little Paperman had a real aptitude for this. Or perhaps its experiences in combat within that Secret Realm, or some other reason, meant it had already mastered such Swordsmanship to perfection long ago.

Watching the little Paperman's precise and textbook-perfect swings, which were several times faster than his own, Su Ping nodded in satisfaction. "Very good!"

"Don't think this is too simple. Let me tell you, all the Sword Technique Skills used by famous Swordsmen begin with practicing these most basic movements! Only by thoroughly mastering these fundamentals can you learn more advanced swordplay techniques later. Understand?"

"WOAH!"

After receiving the little Paperman's affirmative "WOAH!", Su Ping continued, "Of course. But there's no need to rush for now. Tonight, and every day hereafter, you can practice slowly. You need to practice these two movements until they are perfect, tens of thousands of times. Got it?"

"WOAH!"

"Good. Now, I'll show you what a true Swordsman looks like! This will help you correctly understand what it means to be a real Swordsman."

With that, Su Ping led the eager-looking little Paperman back to the living room of the guest quarters. He inserted the USB drive containing the downloaded movies into the television and set it to play on a loop.

The movie slowly began...

Then, after half an hour, the moment arrived!

Su Ping and the little Paperman watched as the white-robed protagonist on screen transformed into a streak of light and shadow.

Time seemed to freeze. The next second, the protagonist re-sheathed his outrageously flashy Spirit Saint Level Sword Device Pet Beast, the 'Snowfall Divine Sword'. Then, the scene on screen expanded, the world instantly turning incredibly bleak as an outpouring of Sword Qi energy, created by exaggerated special effects, was unleashed.

The special effects for this sword move were so dramatic they could seemingly split mountains and sunder rivers; heck, they looked powerful enough to rend the heavens and cleave the earth. Ultimately, amidst these over-the-top effects, the colossal beast antagonist—which had made the little Paperman cry out repeatedly—was instantly slain by this single strike.

The protagonist, however, didn't even glance back. He simply adjusted his perfectly undisturbed hair, looked up at the snowflakes gently falling from the sky, and murmured, "Invincibility... is truly lonely..."

Then, he gracefully departed, leaving behind only the great beast's corpse, the stunned onlookers, and the lingering, exaggerated special effects.

"WOAH! WOAH! WOAH!"

Pointing excitedly at the television, the little Paperman was practically vibrating with excitement. It even hopped onto the coffee table, its hand already gripping the paper sword at its waist, looking as if it might draw and imitate the move at any second.

Su Ping hastily stopped it. Even though I can make money now, I don't want to spend it on redecorating.

But it was clear my bamboozling tactics were both professional and effective. It really got the little Paperman fired up!

Thinking this, Su Ping breathed a sigh of relief. Then, he uttered words he would regret for the rest of his life: "Alright. To become a Swordsman like that, you need immense strength. Even Swordsmen of that caliber trained one strike at a time. Understand?!"

"WOAH!"

Instantly, without even waiting for Su Ping's command, the little Paperman dashed excitedly into the side room's garden and began practicing the stabs and slashes over and over again.

Watching the hardworking little Paperman, Su Ping smiled and nodded. Then he uttered the words he would regret forever: "Great! From now on, after you train for more than four hours, you can watch recordings of famous Swordsmen for a while to study the way of the Swordsman!"

The little Paperman waved its arms in delight. "WOAH! (Yay!)"

Chapter 62: Xiao Qing's Growth, Experience Fulfilled!

Early one clear morning, just as he stepped out of the house, he saw Xiao Qing whimpering toward Su Ping with a look of grievance.

It was apparent that for the past two days, he had been mostly preoccupied with that little Paperman, neglecting the care of his genuine Contracted Beast.

After patting Xiao Qing on the head, Su Ping finally smiled and said, "Xiao Qing, have you been training hard these days?"

"AWOO! (Xiao Qing... working hard!)"

Having said that, as if trying earnestly to prove itself, Xiao Qing's body slowly started to grow larger under Su Ping's astonished gaze. Su Ping was truly taken aback.

He looked at Xiao Qing before him with the Eye of Truth. Sure enough, Xiao Qing's Level was still an Ordinary Seventh Rank, but under the observation of the Eye of Truth, there was now an additional skill in Xiao Qing's Skills:

[Accelerated Growth (Beginner): Uses Wood Element power to rapidly increase one's body size, enhancing corresponding strength.]

Now, with Accelerated Growth, Xiao Qing had fully mastered all its Racial Skills. At the same time, it had acquired another Heart of the Poison Wood. Thinking of this, Su Ping became spirited.

After rubbing the slightly aggrieved Xiao Qing for being neglected, he laughed and said, "Good, just in time, let's continue with your Poison Type training today!"

"AWOO!"

Xiao Qing instantly revived in spirit, its ears perking up, looking at Su Ping with bright eyes. Its tail, which had been dragging on the ground, also began to wag quickly. In that posture, where was the image of the pitifully aggrieved creature from before?

Su Ping immediately laughed and scolded, "You rascal! Come with me."

After all, he was still going to use Poison System Resources for training. Although there hadn't been any problems with Xiao Qing's previous consumption, he still needed to be careful. Leading Xiao Qing to the medical room, he skillfully aimed the Life Detector at Xiao Qing, then took out another Poison System Resource.

Initially, Su Ping had bought four types of Poison System Resources: Heartbane Fruit, Wolfsbane, Oleander, and Devil's Willow Leaf. Among them, Devil's Willow Leaf was an Elite Level poison material resource, also a leaf from the 'Devil's Willow Tree', a Poison Type, Plant Type Pet Beast. Extremely toxic. It couldn't be used recklessly just yet.

Having already administered Wolfsbane and Heartbane Fruit to Xiao Qing, the only one remaining was the Oleander. Even Su Ping couldn't help but marvel at how the more poisonous something was, the more beautiful it seemed. This was true for Xiao Qing, and even more so for this Oleander. The crimson petals looked as if they were beautiful flowers draped in a bright red bridal dress. The dew that preserved them seemed like fresh blood dripping from above. And this thing was the most poisonous, second only to the Devil's Willow Leaf.

If Xiao Qing hadn't become completely immune to the previous Wolfsbane and Heartbane Fruit, Su Ping would not dare to let it consume the Oleander rashly. However, Xiao Qing had gained experience in this process. It opened its mouth, "AWOO!"

"Hmm? You want to consume it all at once? Are you confident?"

"AWOO!"

After receiving Xiao Qing's sure and confident response, Su Ping had no doubt. Xiao Qing was his family and partner. If they were to battle in the future, it would be his most important comrade. In such a situation, he couldn't not trust Xiao Qing.

Thus, Su Ping didn't cut it into pieces as he had done before but directly handed the Oleander, which seemed to be soaked in blood, to Xiao Qing. Swallowed by the latter in one gulp, Xiao Qing wanted to prove that it was no less capable than the Paperman that had recently stolen its master's attention!

In a few swift movements, Xiao Qing swallowed the thing whole and then lay down on the table.

Soon after, Xiao Qing began to change.

The red oleander truly deserved its reputation as the strongest Poison System Resource below the Elite Level.

In less than a few minutes, wisps of power fluctuations appeared on Xiao Qing's body.

The next moment, as if these power fluctuations had built up to a peak, they suddenly burst forth!

A surge of feedback energy transmitted through the Soul Contract.

Xiao Qing's Level broke through, just like mine, reaching the Ordinary Eighth Rank.

The speed of this increase had surpassed that of Little Ones. After all, Little Ones was only at the Ordinary Seventh Rank at this time.

Moreover, the surge of feedback energy also significantly boosted my spiritual power. The threshold of the Ordinary Eighth Rank, which I had only recently broken through, seemed to shake once more.

This situation excited me, but what I hadn't expected was that, in the next second, dazzling spots of light appeared all over Xiao Qing's body. These light spots, akin to fireflies, were very familiar to me; they were just like what I had seen when the Heart of Woods broke through. However, Xiao Qing was different from Woodhead. Woodhead's light points shone brightly and brilliantly, while the light points flickering on Xiao Qing were deeper and shrouded, as if there was a faint mist swirling around its body. It looked like the shadow of a plague wolf hidden in dark green clouds. This was...

The Eye of Truth instantly focused, and as expected, the Mutated Skill "Mutated Poison Wood Heart" on Xiao Qing's list of Skills had evolved from Beginner to Proficient Level:

[**Mutated Poison Wood Heart (Proficient)**: A special Mutated Skill that merges the powers of Poison and Wood Elements, enhancing the activation efficiency, power, and casting speed of Poison Type and Wood Element Skills. At the same time, it can absorb the essence of plant power for self-recovery and may consume Poison System Resources to accelerate its own Realm advancement.]

Reaching the Proficient Level of the Mutated Poison Wood Heart seemed unremarkable. However, from the faint green mist emerging from the breathing orifices of Xiao Qing, one could see that its mastery over Poison and the power of its toxins had been further enhanced. And this increase was likely a qualitative leap compared to before!

However, as I watched Xiao Qing slowly rise to its feet, I sensed a shift within me. Sure enough, as Xiao Qing's breakthrough and leveling up occurred, pages of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas in my mind began to turn once again.

On the Forest Wolf Catalog, new log entries appeared:

[**Poison Type Mutated Bloodline Pet Beast cultivation has improved.**]

[**Further analysis of the cause of the Poison Type mutation in Forest Wolves is available; 47,000 Experience Points may be expended from this Catalog to forcefully analyze the cause of the Poison Type bloodline mutation in Forest Wolves and obtain Mutated Cultivation methods.**]

[**Cultivation improvement of the Forest Wolf Poison Type Mutated Skill "Mutated Poison Wood Heart", with the Forest Wolf Catalog providing reference for further enhancement in the direction of Poison Type development, and an additional 200 Experience Points earned.**]

The previous points were one thing, but the effectiveness of the oleander consumed this time required significantly fewer Experience Points to reduce the analysis of the Forest Wolf's Poison Type mutation causes. However, I never expected that a Skill proficiency increase would also yield Experience Points? What's more critical was that, although not a large sum, those points were the final piece of the puzzle! Because with those 200 Experience Points, my Forest Wolf Catalog's Experience Points tally had crossed 1,700 points. In other words, the Evolution of the Wanmu Wolf could finally be completed with the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas! Was I, at last, going to master a complete Evolution pathway?

Chapter 63 Completion Success: The True Wanmu Wolf Evolution Method!

Back in the living room, Su Ping sat cross-legged on the floor for a while before immersing his consciousness into the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas. His excitement had gradually settled; he knew he had to remain steady at all times, especially since this was the moment his breeding base would take a step further. Being able to research an evolution path for the masses already fell within the scope of a Senior Breeder. How could he not have a sense of ceremony at such a time? Thus, after calming himself for a while, Su Ping turned his gaze to the Forest Wolf Catalog.

[Catalog: Forest Wolf]

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

[Current Catalog Level: 2 (1,746/2,000)]

Known Evolutionary Atlas, special Cultivation:

[Heart of Woods Magic Potion: Upon taking this potion, a Forest Wolf can awaken the Skill 'Heart of Woods' and its Level can be significantly enhanced...]

[Accelerated Spellcasting Cultivation: By utilizing specific Cultivation methods, training, and nourishing, there's a chance to comprehend the Skill 'Accelerated Spellcasting' within ten days.]

[Wanmu Wolf Evolutionary Form: It requires 1,682 Catalogue Experience Points to perfect this evolutionary path. Would you like to perfect it?]

This line of text, which Su Ping had eyed countless times with immense anticipation over the past few days—finally, faced with the question 'Would you like to perfect it?', he chose 'Yes!' without a second thought.

In an instant, the vast amount of Catalogue Experience Points that had been accumulated over this period flowed away like water. The Forest Wolf Catalog, which had originally been entirely green, immediately became much paler. However, next to the illustration of the Forest Wolf in the Catalog, a faint shadow slowly emerged. The very next moment, this shadow transformed into text that appeared in Su Ping's mind. It replaced the previous text, becoming the only recorded evolutionary method and path on the Forest Wolf Catalog!

[Wanmu Wolf Evolutionary Form: This is the Forest Wolf's further Evolutionary Form based on the Wood Element. It grants preliminary control over the natural plant power bestowed by sunlight and possesses extremely high potential for growth and future development. This stands as the prime option for the first stage of the Forest Wolf evolutionary path.]

[Cultivation Requirements First Stage: The Evolutionary Body Forest Wolf must not be lower than the Elite Fifth Rank, and the Sunlight Absorption Skill must not be less than proficient.]

[Cultivation Requirements Second Stage: Thoroughly chew on the fibers of tree wood for consumption, and the process must last no less than three days. During these three days, the Sunlight Absorption Skill must be activated for over forty hours, and the wolf must Take Root in the earth. After three days, the Skill 'Photosynthesis' will be comprehended.]

(Note: This stage is a special one. The Evolutionary Body Forest Wolf needs to consume one stem of Wood Spirit Grass and ten drops of Hundred Herbs Juice daily to ensure stability and basic effectiveness in comprehending Photosynthesis. Additionally, within a twenty-meter radius of the rooting site, there must be no other forest or tree-like plants to ensure maximum sunlight exposure. If there are rainy or overcast days, the process can be postponed.)

[Cultivation Requirements Third Stage: Once the Evolutionary Body Forest Wolf comprehends Photosynthesis, its Photosynthesis Skill must reach the same Level as its own Sunlight Absorption Skill

before its Energy is sufficient to reach the evolutionary threshold. Then, with Energy reserves at their peak, the Evolution can begin!]

(Note 1: This stage is crucial. Even if the Photosynthesis Skill and Sunlight Absorption Skill are not at the same Level, the Wanmu Wolf can still evolve; however, it will completely turn into a plant and die after several days. Furthermore, the higher the base Levels of Photosynthesis and Sunlight Absorption, the greater the Wanmu Wolf's potential after completing the Evolution.)

(Note 2: During this stage, the Evolutionary Body Forest Wolf is in a rapid comprehension stage. Greater sunlight intensity speeds up Photosynthesis Skill improvement. Using more resources also accelerates the increase in the Photosynthesis Skill Level. Suggested resources for this stage include: Smiling Sunflower Seeds (consumption), Sunlight Spring Water (soaking), Lungs of Nature (breathing), and Sun Crystals (consumption).)

[Cultivation Requirement Phase Four: The final stage. After completion of Evolution, maintain physical activity for over three hours during daylight and for more than ten days; otherwise, there is a risk of mental and physical rigidity.]

"Phew..." Su Ping let out a long breath, his opened eyes filled with shock.

A top-tier potential Evolutionary Form! Even the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas rated it so highly; it went without saying that the Evolution of the Wanmu Wolf must be far from simple. However, the complex stages of Evolution, as well as the many critical points that needed careful attention, could lead to dire results if any issue arose.

Undoubtedly, among Sun Chaoju's many experiments, it was quite evident that the mistakes were in the direction of Cultivation. It could be seen that the essence of Sun Chaoju's many failures likely lay in the biggest problems that occurred in the third stage. That is, the two Special Skills, Sunlight Absorption and Photosynthesis, needed to be unified before Evolution could commence. They had to be at the same Level to start evolving. Only then would it not result in the Forest Wolf turning into wood; otherwise, no matter how many resources had been used in Cultivation and what Level had been reached, the imbalance of these two Skills would always lead to such an end.

But it must be said, such evolutionary conditions, not just for Sun Chaoju, but even for me, would have been unimaginable without the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.

During the third stage, the process of the Evolutionary Body Forest Wolf absorbing sunlight would greatly accelerate its comprehension speed of Photosynthesis, making it possible for the Photosynthesis Skill to catch up with the Sunlight Absorption Skill. However, during this stage, neither Sun Chaoju nor the entire Wolf Den had realized this aspect. The resources they used were all Wood Element and Life Series resources, which instead made the Forest Wolf's Energy accumulate faster, speeding up the Evolution process. At that time, using such resources wasn't to accelerate the Evolution of the Evolutionary Body Forest Wolf, but to hasten its Death!

Su Ping felt somewhat emotional. That original Forest Wolf must have had extremely high Talent; otherwise, it wouldn't have sensed this profound Evolution method of the Wanmu Wolf from its bloodline. It was just a pity. Even if Sun Chaoju and the Wolf Den had not intervened, if that Forest Wolf had merely absorbed sunlight for Photosynthesis learning and training, it might have had a chance to complete the Evolution perfectly. But in the end, Sun Chaoju inundated it with Wood Element resources, which accelerated the process. Ultimately, it was forced to evolve, and naturally, it could only turn into a plant and die, decaying completely. What a pity.

However, Su Ping quickly snapped back to reality. He instantly became invigorated. He certainly wouldn't repeat Sun Chaoju's mistakes. With the complete information from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, he was fully confident in the success rate, even without attempting it himself. In that case, what was there to hesitate about? Time to get started!

Chapter 64: Sun Crystal! The resources needed by Wanmu Wolf.

Clearly, Su Ping's first cultivation target was still Old Sha.

Old Sha was already very old. As he aged, the difficulty of his evolution would likely increase. Taking advantage of his previous breakthroughs, Su Ping really didn't want to delay this any longer.

Moreover, Su Ping also believed in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas. The Heart of Woods magic potion previously, and the subsequent connection-sharing ability, had both proved the absolute miraculousness of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas. This time would certainly be no exception.

The most important step in cultivating the Wanmu Wolf's evolution undoubtedly lay in the level of Photosynthesis, which had to be the same as the level of Sunlight Absorption to prevent complete plantification after evolution. The Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas's Evolutionary Atlas also provided a clear analysis. At this stage, using those resources could speed up the advancement of the Photosynthesis skill level.

Since Old Sha's Sunlight Absorption was at the Perfect Level, in order to elevate Photosynthesis to the Perfect Level during the energy absorption phase, it was not only imperative to have abundant sunlight but also to utilize these resources: Smiling Sunflower seeds, Sunlight Spring Water, Lungs of Nature, and Sun Crystals.

Su Ping took a slight breath. The seeds of the Smiling Sunflower were not a big deal, just ordinary materials. He could buy a huge pile at a moment's notice with his current wealth.

The Sunlight Spring Water was also manageable. It was only Elite Level, and as the preferred spring water for Plant Type pet beasts, it was widely circulated on the market and not difficult to obtain.

But the Lungs of Nature were not so easily acquired. A Commander Level resource that could aid in breathing and purify the impurities within both pet beasts and Beast Tamers, it was indeed a rare resource.

As for Sun Crystals? Monarch Level resources, they were even said to be materials used in the evolution of some pet beasts, extremely rare.

Although Su Ping wasn't certain if Old Sha's evolution required Sun Crystals, Old Sha was one of Su Ping's most important family members. Unlike the previous cultivation magic potions, even if the Heart of Woods magic potion was ineffective, it would pose no life-threatening danger.

However, this evolution was different. He had to be fully prepared beforehand.

Thus, whether it was the scarce Lungs of Nature or even Sun Crystals, Su Ping had to obtain them to ensure absolute security in the evolution!

With this in mind, Su Ping let out a sigh.

He took out his phone. The app on the marketplace really caught his eye.

After entering the keywords, two leaves indeed appeared before him. Yes, these were the Lungs of Nature.

However, after a glance, Su Ping's heart cooled slightly.

[Lungs of Nature: Wood Element Commander Level resource, usable by both pet beasts and Beast Tamers, a rare and precious resource, value: 8,000,000]

It wasn't about affordability. In fact, over the past couple of days, Su Ping had completed another Heart of Woods cultivation, pocketing over four million in after-tax income. Just by breeding another Forest Wolf, he could afford the price.

But the problem was, if a Commander Level treasure like the Lungs of Nature was already so expensive, how much would Monarch Level Sun Crystals cost?

Clearly, tens of millions were a given. The question was just how many tens of millions it would be.

Indeed, the higher the level of resources, the more expensive they became.

Ordinary Level resources, even those rare ones, cost only several thousand or just over ten thousand at most.

At the Elite Tier, prices could increase more than tenfold.

Commanding Rank resources were no longer something the average person could afford.

And at the Monarch Level, an ordinary Beast Tamer might struggle their entire life to gather enough for even one such item.

As for Emperor Level, those items were simply out of reach for ordinary people. They naturally couldn't be measured in money.

This is troubling indeed, Su Ping thought, rubbing his brow. What could be more frustrating than having fully developed an evolution method but being unable to proceed due to a lack of materials? Why is it that money is always so hard to come by?

But obviously, even with money, one might not be able to get what they need. Because on the app's marketplace, even though there was an icon, two large grey words stood tall: Out of Stock.

Where can I get this thing?

Immediately, Su Ping thought of his neighbors. Knowing the background of Yuntian Resort, and that they were in need of his help, Su Ping was somewhat puzzled why they hadn't approached him yet. But he was confident that if he proposed the condition, it wouldn't be a problem for Tianyun Group.

However, Su Ping immediately dismissed this option. Tianyun could indeed do it, but he was absolutely not going to give up on the Paperman and that secret realm. From Qin Xiaoxue's words, one could discern the value of the secret realm.

Should I ask Qin Xiaoxue for a loan then? Qin Xiaoxue would definitely lend it to him, but Su Ping did not want to ask for this favor.

He rubbed his head. Should I consider getting a loan? That also doesn't seem very reliable.

However, whether or not there was a way to make money, even if Su Ping managed to finish cultivating all the Forest Wolves for the clients as scheduled, he still needed to know where to buy the materials and how much they would cost, right? With that thought, the first person Su Ping thought of was Vice President Liu of the Breeder Association!

Over the phone, the same hearty voice came through:

"So you're calling me again so soon, Su? Could it be that you've already completed the evolution research for the Wanmu Wolf?"

"I have a lead, but it's not completed yet. I'm calling you, Old Liu, because I wanted to ask you about something."

Su Ping's voice caused Vice President Liu to pause, glancing suspiciously at the phone. Clearly, Liu had only asked casually; after all, he knew the level of his own disciple, Sun Chaoju, who had wasted a lot of time, energy, and money without success. How could it be that easy?

Now, Su Ping is telling me he already has a lead? Old Liu was momentarily at a loss for how to respond.

"I wanted to ask if you knew where in Linzhou, or in Jianghai Province, one could buy Sun Crystals?"

Su Ping's question snapped Vice President Liu back to reality, and he quickly said:

"Sun Crystals? Why go to someone's place for that? The Breeder Association has those kinds of resources!"

Upon hearing this, Su Ping was overjoyed:

"That's great, Old Liu, how much does one of those things cost?"

"Money?"

Vice President Liu was taken aback for a moment, then said in a somewhat strange tone:

"Su, have you never visited the Breeder Association before?"

Su Ping felt a bit embarrassed, "Well, I've been quite busy."

"Then this is perfect. Tomorrow is the day I give my lecture. Come to the Breeder Association, and you'll find out. The association doesn't want your money."

Tomorrow is the lecture day?

Su Ping was taken aback before it dawned on him that ever since he began the Heart of Woods cultivations, he had seldom gone out, almost forgetting the passage of time. Now that he checked, it was already the end of the month.

Su Ping perked up. After hanging up the phone, he ordered all the low-level materials needed for the Wanmu Wolf's evolution, and then, the next morning, for the first time, he locked his front door and took the bus and subway to the Linzhou City Breeder Association Center.

Chapter 65: Breeder Association, Start the Class!

"Wow, this is just too big!" Su Ping couldn't help but exclaim.

It was one thing to look from the outside. Upon entering, the first thing that greeted him was this vast breeding hall. It featured numerous windows, various functions, and even some battle arenas within. Its sheer size truly lived up to its reputation as one of Jianghai Province's landmarks.

Though the crowd was dense, it was not cramped. Some even released their Pet Beasts to walk alongside them. The only common factor was that everyone here was in a hurry, evidently with clear objectives in mind.

Su Ping glanced around casually. Vice President Liu's class started at nine-thirty, and its location was on the second floor. With less than an hour to go, he was in no rush to head up yet.

Su Ping wandered for a bit, then turned his gaze to the vast training and combat area. This place, besides the various service windows, had the most spectators. Clearly, wherever one was, Pet Beast battles were always a top draw.

Su Ping walked over, and the first battle arena that came into view made him stop in his tracks. The Beast Tamer on the platform above was handling a Forest Wolf as his Pet Beast. What's more, its Level wasn't high; it was also at the Ordinary Level.

It wasn't surprising that there would be a high number of Forest Wolves in Linzhou, one of their places of origin.

Su Ping found a spot and watched the competition above, nodding occasionally. That buzz-cut youth actually had some skill, he noted. Under the youth's augmentation and command, his Pet Beast quickly dispatched its opponent.

The battle ended, and both competitors left the arena. The buzz-cut youth glanced around and then sat down next to Su Ping, rubbing the Forest Wolf that had just performed valiantly. Then, he noticed his Forest Wolf continuously staring at a young Beast Tamer of similar age sitting nearby.

The buzz-cut youth, being an outgoing and cheerful type, saw that his Pet Beast seemed interested in the person next to him and smiled at Su Ping, saying, "Brother, you were watching so intently just now. Are you a Forest Wolf Beast Tamer too?"

Su Ping nodded and smiled, reaching out to stroke the Forest Wolf's mane.

The buzz-cut youth was taken aback. Doesn't he know his own Pet Beast's personality? Wolf Pets are pack-oriented yet proud, generally not taking kindly to Beast Tamers other than their owner. But why is it so docile with this guy? Not only allowing its mane to be stroked but also squinting its eyes in comfort?

The buzz-cut youth became more interested and asked, "What brings you to the Breeder Association, buddy? I'm Zheng Yong. If you need anything done, just say the word. I'm quite familiar with this place."

Su Ping smiled and replied, "I'm here for a class; there's one today..."

Before he could finish, the young man's eyes widened. "Forest Wolf, a class? What a coincidence! No wonder my Ba Tian likes you so much. Turns out you're no ordinary person either, brother!"

"Huh?" Now it was genuinely Su Ping's turn to be surprised. He looked at Zheng Yong with astonishment, asking, "Could it be, Brother Zheng, that you're also...?"

Zheng Yong laughed heartily. "Is it President Liu Fuhai's class?"

Only when Zheng Yong mentioned Vice President Liu's name was Su Ping certain. He looked at the other young man in surprise and nodded. Zheng Yong didn't seem much older than him, perhaps by only a year or two.

His Level as a Beast Tamer is one thing, but to think he's already a Breeder? To become a Breeder at this age is quite impressive! Otherwise, why would Jin Cheng be so arrogant? That's the basis for his pride! After all, my own Intermediate Beast Tamer certificate and assessment were obtained through a cheat. I truly admire and respect those who genuinely possess breeding Talent at such a young age.

Zheng Yong seemed quite pleased with this serendipitous meeting. His laughter drew glances from people nearby, as if he were deliberately showing off. "Hahaha, no wonder! Being able to attend President Liu's class is indeed a rare honor."

Su Ping nodded as well. My luck is indeed quite good. Meeting Qin Xiaoxue, and through her, getting to know Vice President Liu, has certainly saved me a lot of trouble and hassle. And Vice President Liu's abilities are undeniable. A High-Level Beastmaster specializing in Wolf Pets—he's the only one in Jianghai Province. Even across the entire Dragon Nation, he's a renowned figure. Being able to attend his public lecture is truly a rare opportunity.

"It is rare indeed," Su Ping said. "Although I haven't personally experienced Old Liu's breeding expertise, I've long heard of it. I hope I can learn a few things from him this time."

Zheng Yong, however, waved his hand. "It's too hard to learn anything directly from Old Liu. After all, he's lecturing those Breeders. Right now, I'm just hoping that when those Breeders in class get hands-on with our Pet Beasts, they can give us some pointers. If they can help us find suitable training methods, we can avoid many detours! I really hope to break through to the Elite Level soon. Once I reach the Elite Level and get a second Pet Beast, I'll have some confidence in passing next year's Beast Tamer assessment. Otherwise, I'll have to wait for the next round, but by then, I'll be twenty-two, which is a bit too late."

At this point, Zheng Yong's eyes lit up with anticipation and joy.

However, Su Ping was momentarily taken aback, then slightly furrowed his brows. Why does this sound so strange?

But evidently, the friendly and straightforward Zheng Yong didn't notice Su Ping's surprise and continued with a smile, "Oh, right, brother! Why don't you summon your Pet Beast too? We can go up and have a friendly match! Let my Ba Tian see the strength of a Forest Wolf Beast Tamer who was also chosen by the Breeder Association!"

Chosen? Forest Wolf Beast Tamer? Su Ping clicked his tongue. Have I misunderstood something? What Zheng Yong and I are talking about... they don't seem to be the same thing, do they? He was a bit uncertain.

However, upon hearing Zheng Yong's words, he quickly shook his head. "Better not. Class is about to start soon. It wouldn't be good if Vice President Liu caught us being late."

Hearing this, Zheng Yong nodded. "That's true. Ba Tian, go get some rest. I'll call you out again in a bit!"

With that said, Zheng Yong recalled the Forest Wolf named Ba Tian into his Beast Taming Space. Then he looked towards Su Ping and asked, "By the way, brother, what's your name?"

"Su Ping."

"Eh? Your name sounds familiar, like I've heard it somewhere before?" Zheng Yong scratched his head.

"Is that so? It might be a common name," Su Ping replied, giving him a speechless sidelong glance.

Zheng Yong didn't dwell on it. After chatting for a while longer, he glanced at his watch and hurriedly said, "It's 9:20 already! Class starts in ten minutes. Let's head up to the second floor."

Chapter 66: Su Ping? Such a familiar name!

The second floor of the Breeder Association housed various meeting rooms, offices, auditoriums, and classrooms.

As for some Breeders' laboratories, they were not located in this main association building.

So, this main building actually only had two floors.

However, despite its modest number of floors, the spacious lobby on the first floor indicated that the second floor was also quite expansive.

So, if Zheng Yong hadn't been there, Su Ping might have struggled to find his way alone.

Zheng Yong had mentioned earlier that he was quite familiar with the Breeder Association, and it seemed this was no exaggeration.

He took the lead, weaving through the corridors, and brought Su Ping to a classroom door on the second floor.

It was worth noting that, unlike other areas with only a few scattered staff members, the entrance to this classroom was bustling with people.

Just as Su Ping arrived, a few older individuals smiled and entered the classroom.

The relatively younger Beast Tamers sitting outside the classroom watched those entering with a mixture of excitement and envy.

"Alright, let's wait here for a bit," Zheng Yong said, taking a seat on one of the benches outside the classroom.

Su Ping blinked. He wasn't foolish and quickly realized that the seats outside the door were for those Wolf Pet Beast Tamers waiting to be selected.

Those who had just entered the classroom were the Breeders waiting for Old Liu's lecture.

Though they had all arrived together, their distinct statuses clearly separated them as if by an invisible boundary.

Still, it made sense. Even a Junior Breeder held a much higher status than an ordinary Beast Tamer. After all, anyone over eighteen who had contracted their first Pet Beast could be considered a Beast Tamer.

But becoming a Breeder recognized by the Association was far more difficult.

Su Ping wasn't particularly concerned about these distinctions; he was fine sitting outside. After all, he didn't know anyone in the Breeder Association.

Going inside would just mean a boring wait.

He'd rather chat with Zheng Yong.

Unfortunately, just as Su Ping settled into his seat, a voice came from behind him,

"Su Ping?"

Turning his head, he saw Sun Chaoju, whom he hadn't seen for a few days. Sure enough, Sun Chaoju stood not far behind him, accompanied by a slightly younger man who also looked at Su Ping with surprise.

Since their last encounter, Su Ping's opinion of Sun Chaoju, the Intermediate Breeder from Shuhua City, had improved slightly. Hearing him speak, Su Ping nodded with a smile,

"Breeder Sun, you're here too?"

"Of course. How could I miss Instructor Liu's class?" Sun Chaoju said with a teasing tone. "Why are you sitting out here? Come on in. I'll introduce you to some friends in the Breeder Association so they can meet you, the big celebrity of the moment." He was right, too.

The ordinary Beast Tamers in the first-floor lobby might not have been aware, but most of the Breeders registered with the Breeder Association already knew of Su Ping.

The reason was simply his youth.

Besides, in Linzhou City, despite its size, secrets were hard to keep within specialized circles.

Everyone in those circles knew that Sun Chaoju, one of Vice President Liu's disciples, had lost a Forest Wolf Cultivation contest to a recently graduated student!

And it had been a thoroughly convincing defeat.

This time, Vice President Liu's Wolf Pet course was titled: 'On the Evolutionary Paths and Growth Potential of Wolf Pet Cultivation, and Subsequent Training.'

This course was relatively advanced. Even with Vice President Liu's excellent teaching skills, it wasn't something the average Breeder could easily grasp.

Pet Beast Evolution was one of the most crucial topics for Breeders.

One reason so many people had gathered this time was to see for themselves what this young Genius Breeder, currently making waves in Linzhou City, was really like.

Seeing Sun Chaoju's eager invitation, Su Ping felt somewhat helpless. He glanced at Zheng Yong, who looked surprised, and said,

"I have something to attend to. I should get going."

Zheng Yong cautiously glanced at Sun Chaoju. He didn't recognize Sun Chaoju personally, but the badge on the man's chest was clear: an Intermediate Breeder.

He hastily said,

"It's alright, you go ahead."

Su Ping nodded and followed Sun Chaoju toward the classroom. As they walked, Sun Chaoju laughed and said,

"Su Ping, this is Breeder Mu Hang. He's an Intermediate Breeder. Don't be fooled by his youth; he's younger than me but specializes in breeding Shadow Wolves, a rarity in our Jianghai Province..."

"So, you're Breeder Mu. I've heard of you."

"Haha... Old Sun, you're teasing me. Who could be as young as Little Su? In my opinion..."

Their voices faded as they entered the classroom, leaving Zheng Yong outside, looking utterly confused.

Just then, a young man—clearly another young Beast Tamer who knew Zheng Yong—walked over.

"Old Zheng, who's that kid? He seems quite familiar with those two Breeders."

Zheng Yong glanced at the speaker, equally puzzled.

How would he know who that kid was?

Who could have guessed that a random passerby he'd met during a scuffle in the lobby downstairs was someone important?

Besides, he'd never seen that unfamiliar face before.

They had gotten along, but it wasn't proper to pry into someone's background upon a first meeting, was it?

Zheng Yong hesitated. "I don't know," he said. "But I guess he might be related to that Breeder?"

He wasn't too sure himself.

However, judging by the Breeder's warm behavior just now, they seemed quite close, didn't they?

Thinking this over, Zheng Yong felt a twinge of envy. Having relatives or friends who were Breeders was an unimaginable advantage for a Beast Tamer's future development.

It could save one from so many unnecessary detours.

He did have some connections within the Breeder Association; otherwise, he wouldn't have had the chance to attend Vice President Liu's class as a 'model'.

But compared to an Intermediate Breeder, his connections were still lacking.

"What's his name?" the young man beside him asked again, curious.

Zheng Yong thought for a moment before replying,

"Su Ping. I think his name is Su Ping."

"Su Ping? That sounds familiar... like I've heard it somewhere before."

Zheng Yong gave the young man another doubtful look. This guy thought it sounded familiar too?

"What are you two still chattering about? Get ready, President Liu has arrived."

Chapter 67: Experience Enhancement, Invaluable Lessons!

"Su Ping, this is Mr. Zhao, a Breeder from Linzhou City. He specializes in breeding Snow Wolves. Old Zhao is the most experienced among us," someone introduced.

"Hello, Mr. Zhao..."

"Oh, oh, oh, a hero emerges from youth..."

"Su Ping, this is Breeder Yang He. Old Yang is not a simple man; not only does he specialize in breeding Sand Wolves, but he also has deep research on plant-type Pet Beasts like the Poplar variety," someone continued.

"..."

It was evident that Sun Chaoju was quite adept at social interactions. He knew all seven Intermediate Breeders present and, by the looks of it, had good relations with all of them.

Su Ping didn't put on any airs either. Everyone helps carry the sedan chair; unless there was a special circumstance, there was no need to be overly distant. The same went for the even more numerous Junior Breeders.

Moreover, although Su Ping didn't particularly enjoy social occasions, it was undeniable that establishing good relationships with these people was necessary.

What if he could get some benefits from them?

Sun Chaoju's Accelerated Casting, transformed through the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, had remarkable effects. Those who could stand here were obviously elites, each with their own Pet Beast Cultivation Skills.

This time, no one showed any disdain for Su Ping's young age. Those who had made it this far were no fools; Su Ping's youth wasn't a detriment but rather an incredibly positive factor.

It's better to deceive an old man than to deceive a youth in poverty.

Moreover, this particular youth wasn't 'poor' at all.

After Sun Chaoju's formidable achievements, even the coldest Breeder cracked a smile and nodded when introduced to Su Ping.

Su Ping remembered these people, exchanged contact information with them, and then started talking about recent events.

The Shadow Wolf Breeder Mu Hang, who clearly had the best relationship with Sun Chaoju, joked with a laugh, "You sly old Sun, secretly discovering a new Evolution path for the Forest Wolf and not sharing it with your brothers. Now look, Su Ping has won."

"Su Ping winning was something I wholeheartedly accepted. Besides, that Wanmu Wolf was too difficult. I experimented with materials worth hundreds of millions, but in the end, ah, I can only pin my hopes on Su Ping..." he trailed off, and his expression said it all about the outcome.

Nobody felt much sympathy for him, and someone even teased with a laugh, "This guy is putting on an act again. I'm torn right now. I hope Su Ping can work out a stable Evolution path for the Wanmu Wolf, bringing fame to Jianghai Province once more.

"Yet, I don't want it to succeed so that old Sun can boast about his discovery and earn a huge pile of Points."

At those words, everyone turned their gaze to Su Ping. Breeder Zhao, the oldest among them—who, despite being as senior as Vice President Liu, looked more ancient due to a lower Beast Taming Level—asked with a smile, "Su Ping, are you confident?"

Was I confident? I had already figured it out and was just waiting to gather the materials at the Breeder Association before heading back to start the formal Evolution and Cultivation.

Regrettably, Su Ping clearly couldn't state this outright.

An Evolution route that Sun Chaoju nearly spent two years on and couldn't develop, yet I completely figured it out in less than a week? This was no longer about being exceptionally talented; it was astonishing. Although unlikely to end up sliced for study, there was no need to attract such attention at this time.

So, in response to Mr. Zhao's question, Su Ping simply smiled. "I'm confident!"

"Confidence is a good thing. It seems that Linzhou might produce the youngest Senior Breeder in Jianghai Province!"

A smile-filled voice resonated from a distance, and everyone looked up. Sure enough, Vice President Liu had already entered the classroom unnoticed.

"Good day, President Liu."

"Mr. Liu!"

"Hello, Old Liu!"

A series of greetings ensued, and Old Liu responded to each with a nod and a smile. Then, quite swiftly, his expression turned serious. "Alright, let's save catching up for later. Everyone knows what today's topic is."

Old Liu got into the groove incredibly fast. He stepped directly onto the podium above, which gave Su Ping a sudden flashback to a few months prior. However, the material Old Liu taught was much deeper and more complex than the basics imparted at the Beast Taming Academy a few months ago.

Yet, the lesson Old Liu was teaching now actually had some relevance to Su Ping. It was about the direction of Wolf Pet Evolutionary Bodies, their growth and development potential, and their subsequent Cultivation!

The lecture began with the direction of these Evolutionary Bodies.

Wolf Pets, with their broad appeal among Beast Tamers, had many developed evolutionary pathways. For example, the Forest Wolf had evolved forms like the higher-ranking Forest Wolf and the Elf Wolf.

Of course, I now know about the Crown Wolf Emperor, the highest-level superior Evolutionary Body I've learned of so far.

And Old Liu's class was all about deciding future Evolution based on skill levels, the Pet Beast's character, and developmental trajectory. From this, they would even deduce and experiment with new evolutionary paths, noting the issues and characteristics to look out for.

The course was deep, but Old Liu explained it in a very simple way. Even a half-baked student like Su Ping could understand it.

In fact, Su Ping was so engrossed in the hour-long lecture that he didn't feel the passage of time at all. If possible, I truly wish such classes would never end.

The reason was simple: just five minutes ago, a new notification had appeared in the journal and record section under the Forest Wolf entry in his Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas:

[Your understanding of Forest Wolf evolutionary analysis has deepened, corresponding breeder knowledge increased, Forest Wolf Catalog Experience Points +250.]

Could attending classes have such benefits? Well, that made sense. For each Catalog entry in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, one needed a comprehensive understanding and recognition of the corresponding Pet Beast. My ongoing close association with those Forest Wolves was indeed for this very purpose.

Thus, Su Ping listened more attentively than anyone, prompting Old Liu, who had been quietly observing him from the podium, to nod approvingly to himself.

Finally, when Old Liu at the podium paused to take a drink of water, the class evidently moved into a new phase. "Okay, now let's do a test. A few colleagues, come up. Based on the Ability types and even the temperament of your Pet Beasts, analyze the corresponding evolutionary choices..."

"Su Ping..."

As expected, Su Ping was the first to be called. He was an Intermediate Breeder specializing in Forest Wolves. Counting him and Sun Chaoju, there were three such specialists in total, but only Su Ping himself came forward. The others who came forward were Breeders of other Wolf Pets.

And all who came up were Intermediate Breeders; after all, the topic of Pet Beast Evolution and Cultivation already fell under the purview of Senior Breeders. Junior Breeders could, at best, only grasp the basics.

Once a few people stepped forward, Old Liu turned to his assistant and said, "Alright, let those little fellows who have prepared their Pet Beasts come over."

Chapter 68: He's Glowing!

Zheng Yong, along with more than ten other Beast Tamers, waited outside the door.

These Pet Beasts, prepared to serve as 'models' for the Breeders, were offered as experimental subjects for the class at no cost.

However, this free class opportunity was fiercely contested by countless well-connected people.

This was because, at this moment, the class was being taught by Vice President Liu, a Senior Breeder, and all the attendees were also Breeders.

Using their Pet Beasts as experimental subjects naturally meant they would be analyzed based on the knowledge presented in the class.

Even if something was incorrect, Vice President Liu would point it out directly. This was equivalent to having a group of Breeders, with a Senior Breeder presiding, offer clear and precise guidance on the growth of their own Pet Beasts.

Such an opportunity, let alone being free, would see many people eager to pay for it if they could.

In fact, some present had indeed used backdoor connections through the Breeder Association staff and paid for such a chance.

It didn't much concern others, but Zheng Yong couldn't help but peek into the classroom throughout the hour.

His brows were tightly furrowed.

Why hasn't my little brother come out after such a long time?

The problem is, the class has already started!

Could there be another door to the classroom that I haven't seen? Did my little brother actually leave a long time ago?

But if he left, wouldn't he have gone straight home? That doesn't make sense either.

A class by President Liu—frankly, unless it's a life-or-death matter, what could be more important than this?

So where is he now?

Zheng Yong didn't know, and at this moment, there was clearly no time to dawdle. An assistant hurried out from the front of the classroom, urging, "Go in quickly, they're waiting for you. Keep an eye on your little creatures and don't cause any trouble!"

After this urging, the figures went inside one by one, Zheng Yong among them.

"Instructor Liu, there are a total of thirteen Beast Tamers: three Forest Wolf Tamers, two Shadow Wolf Tamers, two Sand Wolf Tamers, three Snow Wolf Tamers, two Flame Wolf Tamers, and one Hunting Wolf Tamer."

It was quite a collection, almost a complete set of Tamers specializing in several basic types of Wolf Pets.

Zheng Yong suddenly became extremely nervous.

This was the first time he was seeing the elder at the head of the room up close; previously, he had mostly seen him on television and in various official media.

However, Zheng Yong was soon stunned.

Because standing right next to that elder was a figure with a beaming smile. This person seemed to notice Zheng Yong's gaze and even blinked, apparently greeting him.

What's he doing there?

But obviously, now didn't seem to be the time to ask. A terrifying, unbidden speculation surfaced in the depths of his mind.

"Alright, after the assignments, summon your Pet Beasts, and then we can begin the analysis and explanation one by one."

The six Intermediate Level Breeders who had come forward, including Su Ping, corresponded to the specialized Breeders for the six types of Wolf Pets present.

Clearly, as a Forest Wolf Tamer, Zheng Yong was naturally assigned to the only specialized Forest Wolf Breeder present.

An assistant quickly approached Zheng Yong, leading him and two others to stand behind Su Ping. With a beaming smile, the assistant said to Su Ping, "Breeder Su, sorry to trouble you with them."

Su Ping smiled and quickly shook his head. "No trouble at all."

Then, the assistant addressed the three people behind Zheng Yong, including Zheng Yong himself, "Pay attention. This is Su Ping, an Intermediate Breeder, and also a newly specialized Intermediate Forest Wolf Breeder."

The three of them looked at Su Ping, who was younger than they were, and were completely dumbfounded. Zheng Yong, in particular, stared with his mouth agape at Su Ping, who stood just two people away from him.

While the three were dumbstruck, the assistant, clearly past the initial shock of the news, furrowed his brows and said, "What are you standing there in a daze for? Greet Breeder Su already!"

Only then did the three of them come to their senses, speaking along with the other Beast Tamers who had already been assigned, "Greetings, Breeder Su."

"Hello, hello. Zheng Yong, let's start with you. Summon your Ba Tian for me to take a look!" Su Ping said.

The others looked at Zheng Yong with surprise. Some clearly recognized that this Breeder Su was the same young man who had arrived with Zheng Yong.

But no one would have thought that this Breeder (Su Ping) was acquainted with such a person—the 'Long Aotian of the common battle arena' (Zheng Yong)!

Feeling the envious looks from his companions, Zheng Yong quickly summoned his Ba Tian.

Su Ping wasn't there to show off; he had listened very carefully to the previous lecture.

Although his abilities were genuine, not just inflated claims, many pairs of eyes were now fixed on him.

Everyone was curious how such a young graduate could become an Intermediate Breeder.

Su Ping really didn't want his success to be attributed to mere luck or anything similar.

So, he had no interest at that moment in figuring out what the three before him were thinking.

Instead, he meticulously observed the three Forest Wolves. Fortunately, the Eye of Truth could ascertain some things, though using Telepathic Communication was relatively more subtle.

After some examination, it didn't take long for Su Ping to have a clear understanding in his mind.

Vice President Liu, who had just returned from attending to the Tamer with the lone Hunting Wolf, saw that Su Ping had already begun to write his opinions on the evolution of the three Forest Wolves. He smiled and walked over.

"Su Ping, just say it directly, no need to write it down. Let the others hear your perspective as well."

Actually, this wasn't difficult.

The evolutionary pathways of a Forest Wolf are closely tied to its own abilities. The real difficulty lies in deducing other evolutionary directions based on the differing strengths of the cultivated Forest Wolf, and then to extrapolate from there. This involved discerning the possibility of new evolutionary pathways by analyzing existing ones.

Su Ping didn't act coy and directly voiced his analysis.

It included the content of Old Liu's lecture, his observations of Sun Chaoju's cultivation of the Wanmu Wolf, the public analysis and retroactive inference based on the evolution results of the Wanmu Wolf displayed through the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, and his own understanding.

Facing so many Breeders, Su Ping didn't feel any stage fright.

Even Vice President Liu stepped aside, yielding the stage to Su Ping.

Zheng Yong stood to the side, watching Su Ping speak eloquently on the podium. Vice President Liu nodded beside him from time to time, and the few remaining Intermediate Breeders below concentrated intently. Other Intermediate Breeders couldn't help but turn from their own analyses to observe. Even the larger number of Junior Breeders looked up with admiration. Seeing all this, Zheng Yong finally seemed to come to his senses.

At that moment, he didn't know if it was an illusion.

Zheng Yong suddenly felt as if he saw a figure, someone his own age or perhaps even younger, seemingly glowing.

Moreover, it glowed so brightly that he could hardly look directly at it.

It was as if only then did he belatedly realize.

I've just made the acquaintance of a truly remarkable person!

Chapter 69 Credit Reward System, Sun Crystal Acquired!

The course neared its end, having stretched from morning into the afternoon. Finally, it reached the last topic Old Liu had mentioned:

"The Cultivation of Evolutionary Body Pet Beasts, in essence, is the same as that of other Pet Beasts. However, I believe all of you are extraordinary individuals and naturally understand that Pet Beast Skills are divided by levels, and Skills are also categorized into Common Skills and Super-Rank Skills!"

Even Su Ping felt a jolt of excitement upon hearing this.

Super-Rank Skills.

This is a domain I've never heard of or encountered before, Su Ping thought. It was only previously, in passing, that he had caught a glimpse of this subject.

It was rumored that every Super-Rank Skill was exceptionally powerful, with a significant gap existing between Common Skills and Super-Rank Skills. But as to what exactly Super-Rank Skills were or how they came into being, Su Ping honestly didn't know.

However, when Old Liu reached this point, instead of continuing on this topic, he shifted back to discussing the usual Cultivation conditions.

This left Su Ping feeling as if a cat were scratching at his heart, yet there was nothing he could do about it.

It was not until the class was about to end that Old Liu seemed to summarize with a smile, saying, "The primary goal in Cultivating an Evolutionary Body Pet Beast is to develop a Super-Rank Skill, but not all Pet Beasts possess the potential and qualifications for it. Now, back to the question at hand: how do Super-Rank Skills come about?"

"Certainly, some Pet Beasts born with extraordinary Racial Potential, once they naturally grow to maturity, have a certain chance of mastering Super-Rank Skills on their own. However, such Pet Beast species are too rare and are not something ordinary people can acquire. Therefore, the acquisition of Super-Rank Skills is mainly accomplished by Breeders."

Hmm? Su Ping stared at Old Liu in astonishment.

Regrettably, Old Liu seemed to have timed his cliffhanger perfectly, knowing no one would dare to strike him, and he broke off there. "Alright, the content regarding Super-Rank Skills is not something you can access at this point. In summary, just focus on doing well in Cultivation. Class dismissed!"

Although everyone was inwardly frustrated, it was clear that nothing could be said at this time, especially since this was a free course offered by the Breeder Association, and the day's gains had already been quite substantial.

As for Super-Rank Skills, aside from Su Ping, not many people were overly curious. It couldn't be helped; the topic was just too far-fetched for an average Breeder. Even among those Advanced Level Evolutionary Body Pet Beasts, how many had mastered Super-Rank Skills? Never mind Commander Level and Monarch Level; what about Emperor Level?

Super-Rank Skills—that was the domain of Breeding Masters. For these individuals, becoming a Breeding Master was out of the question; they would be perfectly content and bring honor to their families if they could one day reach the level of an ordinary Advanced Level single-specialty Senior Breeder.

However, Su Ping was quite satisfied for a simple reason: this class had awarded him 500 Experience Points.

That was already quite a pleasant surprise.

Su Ping was even considering asking if the Breeder Association would offer more classes, so he could attend and audit them.

While others departed promptly, Su Ping noticed Vice President Liu's gaze and quickly followed him. After all, besides attending the class, he had another, even more important matter to address on this visit.

Vice President Liu's office was also on the second floor, not too far from the classroom.

Upon entering, an assistant immediately presented two cups of tea.

"Snow Peak Jade Dew. It's a rare tea leaf produced from snowy mountain terrains. How do you find the taste?" Vice President Liu offered.

Su Ping didn't stand on ceremony. He sampled it directly and then nodded. "The taste is good, but it doesn't compare to Spirit-Nurturing Ancient Tea."

Vice President Liu's smile stiffened, and he stared at the young man who clearly didn't appreciate the gesture.

Oops, I accidentally said what I really thought, Su Ping mused, giving an awkward smile as he met Vice President Liu's gaze.

"Haha, the Spirit-Nurturing Ancient Tree is a Monarch Level Plant-based Pet Beast and is extremely scarce. Its tea leaves naturally aren't comparable to ordinary items," Vice President Liu chuckled.

Huh? It was Su Ping's turn to be dumbfounded. That thing is produced by a Monarch Level Pet Beast?

Unfortunately, I drank it too quickly last time, he thought. I was so focused on the effects of the Spirit-Nurturing Ancient Tea that I completely forgot what it actually tasted like.

Of course, Su Ping's visit this time was not for drinking tea. He hurriedly said, "Old Liu, the Sun Crystal I mentioned to you over the phone..."

Vice President Liu didn't even bother with pleasantries. Without any visible action, a drawer in his coffee table opened, and a glass case appeared in his hands. Through the glass case, one could see a warm glow radiating from within, like a tiny light bulb. But if one looked carefully, they would see that it was a luminous stone the size of a baby's fist.

"Old Liu, how much is this? You said over the phone that it's free, what do you mean by that? I don't understand, how can I obtain it?" Su Ping asked.

Vice President Liu took a sip of tea and simply waved his hand. "Just take it. Your Points are enough for the exchange."

"Points?" Although Su Ping was astonished by Vice President Liu's straightforwardness, he promptly sensed something was amiss.

Vice President Liu smiled. "You kid, you really have no common sense about the Breeder Association. But that's to be expected. Only by being so dedicated that you forget to eat and sleep can you achieve what others cannot at such a young age."

With that, he took out a remote and pressed a button. The next moment, a huge virtual blue light screen appeared in his office nearby.

"The Breeder Association isn't running a charity. The main products sold by the Breeder Association are Pet Beasts and high-precision scientific instruments. However, some material resources aren't circulated on the market via currency but through academic credits—that is, the Points I just mentioned."

Academic credits, Points... Su Ping mused. Although it sounds a bit like school, it's actually a reliable system. If these resources could be bought with money, the Breeder Association probably wouldn't have enough to sell. Su Ping now understood a fundamental truth about this world: there was never a shortage of wealthy people.

"So, how do you earn these Points?" Su Ping asked.

Facing Su Ping's question, Vice President Liu laughed and said, "As long as you achieve relevant research breakthroughs and can fully prove they are your own creations, you can earn Points. Of course, if you share the research in its entirety with the Breeder Association, you get more Points. And if its value is sufficient, the main Association will also provide unimaginable rewards and compensation.

"For example, just by verifying that your Forest Wolf's Heart of Woods Cultivation method is indeed your achievement, you would immediately earn 1,000 Points. But if you share the entire Cultivation method for the Heart of Woods, you would directly receive over 10,000, or even tens of thousands, of Points, along with other requested rewards distributed by the main Association. These could be corresponding Advanced Level resources, rare Pet Beast cubs, or even some more special Skills, Pet Beast Cultivation methods, or Magic Potion formulas—all are possible.

"I won't hide it from you: every quarter, the main Association of the Breeder Association distributes resources to the provincial Breeder branches. The quantity distributed is based on the Points generated by the local Breeder Association. So, for such research, even if it's not shared with the Association, you'll still earn Points as long as it's created!"

"I see."

"Alright, when you have time, browse our Breeder Association's internal network to avoid such gaffes. But you, kid, you bought so many Forest Wolf cub Pet Beasts the other day, and now you're asking for

this Sun Crystal... it seems you really have some ideas about the Wanmu Wolf, hahaha, I'm waiting for your good news!"

Old Liu was extremely happy. As he had just said, if the Evolution solution for the Wanmu Wolf was developed, the Jianghai Province branch would also receive rewards from headquarters.

Su Ping nodded. So this is Dragon Nation's talent reward system! Indeed, it's precisely because of this talent reward system—spanning from the Beast Master Association to the Breeder Association and even various other associations—that Dragon Nation has been able to develop to its current state. Local officials definitely provide strong support for emerging talents, rather than suppressing them. Essentially, the success of these talents is also closely tied to their own interests.

And Su Ping hadn't expected that the Monarch Level resource, the Sun Crystal—which he originally thought would be the most difficult to acquire—would end up being the first and easiest to obtain. The first step in the Evolutionary Cultivation of the Wanmu Wolf proceeded smoothly, far beyond his imagination.

Chapter 70 Qin Xiaoxue's Gift!

Leaving the Breeder Association, Su Ping regretted declining Old Liu's polite offer to have his assistant send him home. This old fellow was too chatty.

Class had ended at four. After grabbing a bite to eat and indulging in a few drinks with Old Liu, it was already late into the night by the time Su Ping left. The subway and buses had all stopped running.

However, Su Ping had enjoyed himself with Old Liu; after all, he had indeed gained a huge advantage from him. Although he was entitled to it according to the Breeder Association's reward system, it wouldn't have been so smooth and easy without Old Liu.

Thinking this, perhaps for some future research, he could involve Old Liu. It would be just like adding a supervisor's name to papers in his previous life; unless the supervisor had a poor reputation, it would generally make processes much easier. And it would attract less attention.

But clearly, now wasn't the time to think about these things. After carefully observing the Sun Crystal he had placed in the Beast Taming Space, Su Ping hailed a cab and headed home.

No sooner had he gotten into the car than his phone began to ring.

"Su Ping, are you done with Old Liu? Want to join us for another round?"

The caller was none other than Sun Chaoju. This guy hadn't returned to Shuhua City but had stayed on in Linzhou City. Judging by the noise on the other end of the phone, there were quite a few people with him.

True to form, as soon as Sun Chaoju finished speaking, a chorus of voices came through the phone.

"Su Ping, come on over! The bros will show you a good time! Let's find some fun. And while we're at it, let's get a bit wild!"

A few dark lines appeared on Su Ping's forehead. He recognized the voice as Breeder Mu Hang's, though at this moment, it sounded somewhat slurred against the backdrop of the music. And with such a sleazy tone, there was no need to guess what kind of place they were in! Way too degenerate!

Su Ping shook his head. "No thanks, Sun Pei. You know Old Liu's capacity for alcohol. I honestly can't drink anymore. Some other day, I'll treat you and the other senior Breeders."

"It's a shame. We've got some young ladies here who've heard all about your reputation, Su Ping, and want to meet you."

Sun Chaoju's voice was much clearer than Mu Hang's; he was obviously not as intoxicated.

"Maybe in a few days. I actually have something I need your help with. I'd like you to introduce me to a powerful Paperman specialist, an Intermediate Undead Breeder in Linzhou City."

"Sure, just give me a call whenever you're free!"

The call ended. Only then did the piercing music and the loud yelling of those guys into the receiver finally stop.

Way too degenerate! Way too extravagant!

As Intermediate Breeders of Dragon Nation, how could they sink into such low-level indulgence?

In his heart, Su Ping severely chastised such behavior. He couldn't let himself learn bad habits from these unambitious slicksters! He was going to become a Breeding Master, a man at the pinnacle of Beast Tamers.

With that thought, just as Su Ping was about to close his eyes, he paused slightly. There was an unread message on his phone. It was a notification sent in the afternoon. He had been in class at the time and had his phone on silent, so naturally, he hadn't seen it. He opened it now:

[Your package has been delivered. As there was no response at your home, we have placed the package in the mailbox at your door. Please retrieve it as soon as possible. If you have any questions, you can call courier number: 5151154, phone: 152...]

A package?

Although he'd been constantly ordering things, this courier company and notification source weren't the same as before. So, it wasn't something he had purchased. Then there was only one possibility: was it the item Qin Xiaoxue said she'd mailed him a few days ago?

Su Ping raised his eyebrows, a smile forming on his face. He then turned off his phone and closed his eyes.

The taxi fell silent. The taxi driver up front glanced strangely at the young man in the backseat through the rearview mirror. He wasn't very old, but there was a faint scent of alcohol on him. What was all that nonsense he was rambling about? And those drunks on the phone... what senior Breeders? Were those drunks the respected Breeders he mentioned? Give me a break! If they were Breeders, wouldn't that make me the president of the Linzhou Beast Master Association? And him talking about introducing an Intermediate Breeder?

The taxi driver shook his head. Young people these days, have a few drinks and they think they own all of Linzhou City. At that thought, the driver glanced at the young man behind him, who seemed to have fallen asleep, and breathed a quiet sigh of relief. He had been afraid the kid would vomit in his car.

Before long, the taxi arrived at the Lingxi River stop in the suburbs of Linzhou City. Su Ping paid the fare and got out of the car, his eyes clear again. Meditation helped him focus his attention and spirit. In fact, he hadn't drunk much at all; he had spent most of the time discussing Pet Beast cultivation with Old Liu.

Watching the taxi drive away, Su Ping suddenly thought of Qin Xiaoxue's supercar. It was enhanced with a hovering effect, allowing it to fly at a certain speed—truly a top-tier vehicle. And it was damn cool!

Considering he might have to make more trips into Linzhou City in the future, should he also get a vehicle for commuting? Unfortunately, summoning large Pet Beasts wasn't allowed on the streets of Linzhou City. Otherwise, Su Ping could have just ridden Old Sha, which would have been better than anything. For now, he could only abide by such rules.

However, the best vehicles were those made with Mechanical Cores, like that experimental instrument. The Mechanical Core is the most important component for awakening mechanical-type Pet Beasts and is extremely valuable; a large part of that instrument's cost was probably for its Mechanical Core. Such vehicles have many advantages, primarily convenient range and autonomous operation. Of course, while there are many benefits, there is one major drawback: they're damn expensive.

Shaking his head, Su Ping dismissed these distracting thoughts. Although he was making a good amount of money now, it still had to be spent wisely. Wasting it on such extravagances wasn't in his nature.

The late-night breeze revitalized Su Ping's spirits considerably. He quickly ran to the somewhat retro-looking mailbox. Sure enough, inside was a small, sealed box. The return address was from the Magic Capital. It was indeed Qin Xiaoxue's package. Taking out the box, he noted it had some weight to it. It was actually quite heavy.

Su Ping didn't act rashly. He hurried back into his house with the box and solemnly placed it on the table. Then, taking a deep breath, he finally opened it. Inside, he found another, smaller box. Upon opening that one, he found yet an even smaller box.

Su Ping was speechless. Was Miss Qin this bored? Was she just playing a prank on him?

Shaking his head, Su Ping continued to open the boxes. Finally, in the last box, which was only about the size of a fist, he saw something different. It was a small, pebble-like object, and strangely, a three-leaf clover was growing on top of it. What is this?

Su Ping raised an eyebrow. Fortunately, there was an explanatory card beside it. He picked it up and read it, his pupils suddenly contracting.