

Beast T 71

Chapter 71: The Stone of Creation, Space Characteristics.

「Magic Capital.」

Here lies one of the centers of the Dragon Nation. It is also one of the most prosperous cities. Even though Linzhou is quite decent, it still falls far short when compared to the Magic Capital. Here, there is the largest Pet Beast trading market in the Dragon Nation, offering all sorts of resources and Pet Beasts. Even some unique Pet Beasts from other countries can be seen here. Even at this hour, the Magic Capital remains as bright as ever, like an eternal city that never sleeps.

And in an extremely vast area within this city, there resides the Magic Capital Advanced Beast-Taming Academy. It is also one of the top advanced Beast Tamer institutions within the Dragon Nation. It is the cradle of many battle-profession Beast Tamers. Countless top figures in the Dragon Nation have graduated from this academy.

At this moment, within an Advanced Level dormitory of the Magic Capital Academy, three people in the Meditation Room had yet to emerge from their state of meditation, even though it was normally time to rest. In the Magic Capital Academy, competition was omnipresent. Only by constantly striving forward could one hope to lead the race.

However, in this tranquil moment of meditation, a ringtone suddenly sounded. All three frowned almost simultaneously and opened their eyes. But when the other two saw the source of the ringing, they said nothing more. It was Miss Qin's phone. Even within the Magic Capital Academy, as her roommates, no one dared to comment. Moreover, they knew Qin Xiaoxue took her cultivation very seriously. Normally, anyone daring to call at this hour either had something important or was a close relative; otherwise, the caller was sure to be in for a rough time.

Sure enough, under the watchful eyes of the other two, Qin Xiaoxue's delicate brows furrowed, a hint of impatience and irritation flashing in her eyes. Don't they know that her meditation time, from seven to twelve at night, is sacrosanct?

She impatiently took out her phone. Qin Xiaoxue then paused, slightly stunned. Before the watchful eyes of her two classmates, the irritation and impatience visibly vanished, replaced by a faint smile they had never seen on her before. The speed of this transformation was astounding; the two girls, Qin Xiaoxue's classmates for two years, had never witnessed anything like it.

However, what happened next was even more incredible to them.

Holding the phone, Qin Xiaoxue neither answered it immediately nor hastily hung up. Instead, she spoke to the other two, "Xiao Xiao, Xiao Lu, I'm going to take a call. You two continue. Sorry for the disturbance, my apologies!"

With that, Qin Xiaoxue hurriedly trotted out of the Meditation Room, not even bothering to close the door, and eagerly answered the call, "Hello, Su Ping..."

In the Meditation Room, the two girls exchanged glances, both noticing the peculiar expression in each other's eyes.

What in the world?

Miss Qin didn't impatiently hang up or immediately block the caller? She even interrupted her own meditation for it?

This was truly unprecedented.

And most importantly, that name she mentioned just before leaving the room.

Su Ping?

They had never heard of him.

Miss Qin knows someone like that?!

There's definitely something fishy going on! There must be a story here!

The two girls no longer had any inclination to continue meditating. Another few dozen minutes of meditation wouldn't lead to a breakthrough anyway. After all, gossiping and showboating are

humanity's fourth basic instinct. So, the two girls exchanged a glance and, without a second thought, rose to their feet in unison, approaching the door to eavesdrop.

Unfortunately, by the time Qin Xiaoxue answered the call, she had already stepped out of the dormitory.

"You received that thing, huh? Haha, did it take you a long time to open? Did you think I was messing with you, and then, suddenly, when you got to the end, you found a little surprise?"

Qin Xiaoxue's triumphant voice on the other end of the line left Su Ping somewhat exasperated—not because of Miss Qin's trivial prank, but because of the item itself:

"Miss Qin, this item is too precious. I really can't accept it."

"Just call me Xiao Xue, or by my first name. Besides, what's so precious about it? This thing is perfectly suited for your Pet Beast Home Talent. I remembered I had it and just brought it over for you. It was just lying around gathering dust anyway." Qin Xiaoxue then continued earnestly, "The Pet Beast Home primarily concerns the cultivation of a Beast Tamer's Beast Taming Space. That item doesn't significantly enhance combat power; its main application is for Beast Tamers. If you plan to house many Pet Beasts in your Beast Taming Space in the future, its proper management is a crucial aspect of your development."

Before Su Ping could speak again, Qin Xiaoxue hurriedly continued, "Do you think your family's Secret Realm was just left behind by chance? A Beast Tamer's Beast Taming Space is their foundation and primary resource generator. The more effective the Beast Taming Space, the wealthier the Beast Tamer becomes—as they say, a rising tide lifts all boats. This is also immensely beneficial for your future development. That Stone of Creation can not only endow a Beast Tamer's Beast Taming Space with the 'ecological cycle' Trait, but it can also continuously absorb spiritual energy, thereby expanding your Beast Taming Space. It's very suitable for you."

Su Ping smiled wryly. How could he not know how suitable it was? When he saw this thing's effects, his eyes nearly popped out of their sockets. But this item was truly too valuable.

"Alright, alright, I still need to meditate, so I'm hanging up now. If there's anything else, we can talk about it during the day."

The line went dead.

Su Ping let out a helpless sigh. Although his father's teachings still seemed to echo in his ears, Su Ping had truly never considered repaying such a favor by dedicating his life to her. Indeed, is the hidden meaning of a steel wool ball really 'endurance brings wealth'?

A Beast Tamer's primary Abilities manifest mainly in two ways. Firstly, each time they advance a Level, they can contract an additional Pet Beast. Secondly, and crucially, there is the Beast Taming Space. As a core Ability of Beast Tamers, each time they advance to a new Realm, their Beast Taming Space also changes, evolving with each advancement. Besides its area expanding, certain corresponding Trait effects will also emerge. These are, in essence, enhancements to the Beast Taming Space.

For example, some common Traits include:

[Volcano: A Fire Element recovery-type Trait. The Fire Element spiritual energy within the Beast Taming Space becomes more abundant, and the recovery rate for Fire Element Pet Beasts is accelerated...]

[Mine: A Gold and Earth resource-type Trait. There is a chance for ore veins of corresponding Levels to condense within the Beast Taming Space...]

The variety of such effects is vast. Most of the time, the development of these Traits depends on the Beast Tamer's chosen Pet Beasts, combined with their Talent and an element of randomness. However, certain treasures can, through external influence, alter the Traits that emerge within a Beast Taming Space. Some can even allow Beast Tamers to awaken additional Trait effects.

And the stone before him now was precisely such a treasure.

Su Ping looked helplessly at the card describing this item. It clearly stated:

[Stone of Creation: A special Emperor Level Peak resource. Can be integrated into a Beast Tamer's Beast Taming Space. After the Beast Tamer advances a Great Realm, the Beast Taming Space will gain the 'ecological cycle' Trait. Furthermore, it will slowly expand as it Takes Root within the Beast Taming Space and, to a certain extent, increase the Beast Tamer's meditation speed.]

Chapter 72: Ordinary Ninth Rank, Evolutionary Cultivation Begins!

Su Ping knew he owed a big favor and could only think of repaying it later with some special Cultivation method.

Although he was somewhat emotional, Su Ping was not the type to be excessively sentimental or affected.

Qin Xiaoxue already mailed it over, Su Ping thought. How could I possibly be so difficult as to send it back? Send it back? With her personality, would she even accept it? Now that I've taken it, I'll just have to find ways to reciprocate in the future.

Of course, this was also because Su Ping had confidence in himself. Otherwise, if he lacked the ability, forcibly accepting such a gift might indeed require a commitment of a more... personal nature.

Currently, Su Ping was only of an Ordinary Tier.

He could not even enter his own Beast Taming Space, only able to use Psychic Perception and control.

The Creation Divine Stone, no larger than a pebble and with a three-leaf clover growing on it, slowly disappeared from sight and then merged into Su Ping's Beast Taming Space.

The dreary, silent Beast Taming Space, a mere concept of existence, slowly encompassed it.

A streak of vibrant life burst forth from it, prompting Su Ping to unconsciously let out a soft breath.

An icy sensation spread, seeming to emanate from the deepest part of his soul.

His mind felt a wave of clarity. A cool stream spread from the depths of his consciousness throughout his body, involuntarily guiding him into a state of meditation.

The Spiritual Power in the Beast Taming Space quickly gathered towards it.

In an instant, Su Ping broke through the slight Spirit Barrier—one not even considered a bottleneck—and his own Realm advanced from Ordinary Eighth Rank to Ordinary Ninth Rank.

This is Emperor Level Peak material!

Moreover, it was a special material effective for human Beast Tamers, its value beyond the comparison of ordinary items.

Even if it didn't directly increase a Beast Tamer's Spiritual Realm, its contribution to Realm advancement was entirely natural and smooth.

And the Beast Taming Space was the foundation of a Beast Tamer.

Many Advanced Level resources not originating from Pet Beasts were actually discovered within the Beast Taming Spaces of High-Level Beastmasters.

Therefore, managing the Beast Taming Space is the most important task for a Beast Tamer, second only to their Pet Beasts.

Su Ping occasionally wondered what his first Space Characteristics would be once he broke through to the Elite Tier and his Beast Taming Space began to show its effects. He also pondered his future plans for the Beast Taming Space.

But he never dreamed that he would start with such an amazing stroke of luck.

He focused on the sensation for a moment. Perhaps the slight intoxication had long since faded, or perhaps it was due to the day's events, but Su Ping felt no desire to sleep.

He first went to check on the Paperman. Seeing the little fellow was still diligently practicing, Su Ping decided not to disturb it further.

Instead, he went to the edge of the forest. Sure enough, nothing in the vast woods could escape Old Sha's perception.

The moment he appeared, Old Sha left the training wolf pack and quickly approached Su Ping:

"AWOO! (You're back!)"

Su Ping rubbed Old Sha's head. The old wolf showed a contented expression, and Su Ping finally said,

"Old Sha, are you ready for Evolution?"

Evolution? Even without Mind Sensing, Old Sha understood human language quite well.

At first, it looked at Su Ping perplexedly. Then its eyes, already eerily green in the night, suddenly became incredibly bright.

As an old wolf who's lived for so many years and seen so much, how could I not know what this means? How could I not understand what Evolution represents? Stronger Abilities, a brighter future, and an extended lifespan.

This youngster in front of me... I watched him grow up from when he was tiny. Back then, he was just a child in split pants. But he's also my most important family. My new little master, whom I must continue to silently care for.

Many years ago, I also thought about Evolution and even attempted it. However, my early opportunities led to an improvement in my Sunlight Absorption Skill, even allowing me to break through the limit of my Race. Yet, this very breakthrough might have, under certain circumstances, become a shackle. After several attempts, spending a huge amount of Money and resources, all ended in failure. Eventually, even I gave up.

My greatest wish then was to see this boy grow up and restore the Heart of Woods to its former glory. Now, I've seen it. Essentially, I have no regrets. I was just waiting for the end, for my vitality to

completely fade and to pass away. But I never imagined that today, at this very moment, this little fellow I watched grow up would say such things to me.

In that instant, the aged wolf seemed to shed twenty years, returning to the prime of its youth from decades past.

It suddenly straightened its tall body. At this moment, the spirited Old Sha was even slightly taller than the upright Su Ping.

Towards the bright moonlight in the sky, Old Sha raised its head and howled.

In that howl, it was as if an old soldier on the verge of death was boldly declaring to a young general, "Though I am aged, my arrows are still sharp!"

My little master hasn't given up on me, so why should I give up on myself? That Magic Potion from the Heart of Woods... it made me completely unable to see through my little master. And now, in these final moments, I'm willing to believe in Su Ping!

Su Ping also laughed heartily and patted Old Sha's back. "Good! Starting tomorrow morning, Old Sha, prepare to undergo my Evolution Cultivation!"

"AOOUU!"

Beneath the bright moonlight, the ear-piercing Wolf Howl echoed far and wide...

「And right outside the gates of Heart of Woods.」

A small flying vehicle instantly flew over from the road above.

It passed by the gates of Heart of Woods and returned to Yuntian Resort.

This vehicle had no intention of stopping but went straight to the highest level of the central building, by the window outside.

Then, in a transformation reminiscent of Iron Man, the flying vehicle retracted into a watch, revealing the figure within.

This figure was none other than Dong MUYUN, dressed only in underwear.

This kind of personal flying vehicle wasn't as good as those combat armors developed through Mechanical Pet Beast Cultivation.

Dong MUYUN didn't mind. She casually walked into the bathroom for a shower, then put on pajamas, took a glass of red wine, and pressed a button.

It wasn't long before a figure walked in. "Chairman."

"How has that little fellow next door been while I was away from Linzhou?"

"Reporting to the Chairman, Su Ping hasn't visited again. His business seems to be thriving. The weekly Cultivation fees are bringing in four to five million."

Dong MUYUN exhaled, a hint of urgency in her eyes. "I understand. Tomorrow, you come with me to find that little fellow. Then, we'll do this..."

"This... Yes."

I must meet this kid, Dong MUYUN thought.

Chapter 73: The First Stage, the Arrival of Dong MUYUN!

Old Sha looked at Su Ping, who was being meticulous, with a sense of deep resentment.

Although it was absolutely certain in its heart and believed in Su Ping, it had to admit that such a method of evolutionary cultivation still made it feel extremely uncomfortable.

The taste in its mouth was like chewing wax... No, it's even worse than chewing wax, Old Sha wished it could simply spit it out, give up on evolving, and then go indulge in several huge buckets of meat and tree fruit every day in the last phase of its wolf life.

However, seeing the cold and serious look in Su Ping's eyes, Old Sha had no choice but to continue 'tasting.'

The earthy scent of tree bark, tree trunks, tree branches, and tree roots made it unbearably uncomfortable.

Yet, it had no option but to follow Su Ping's instructions closely, tasting the flavors within, feeling the texture and fibrous structures of these trees.

At the same time, it buried its legs into the ground, using Sunlight Absorption while listlessly eating the seemingly endless and unsatisfying tree branches, tree trunks, and tree bark.

Su Ping watched Old Sha's movements while quickly making notes on paper. He was observing the changes in Old Sha on the first day of its evolutionary cultivation, noting some of the conditions that arose. He also noticed some things in the evolutionary cultivation process that were slightly different from normal.

The most direct point was that Old Sha currently possessed the Heart of Woods skill. The Heart of Woods skill allowed a Forest Wolf to quickly absorb the power of vegetation to replenish itself. This was the first thing Su Ping needed to observe at this moment.

He found that when Old Sha consumed the trees, it didn't exhibit the vomiting reflex that Sun Chaoju's records described in Forest Wolves after excessive wood consumption—a reflex that typically prolonged this first phase. Moreover, not all Forest Wolves could successfully gain insight into Photosynthesis during this phase.

Su Ping was now genuinely worried that if the Heart of Woods skill caused any fluctuations or unexpected changes in the evolution, it would be problematic. However, this wasn't mentioned in the precautions of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, so there shouldn't be too significant an impact, right?

Thinking of this, Su Ping breathed a slight sigh of relief, and a glint of anticipation appeared in his eyes.

As stated in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, the higher the levels of Sunlight Absorption and Photosynthesis were during the evolution of the Wanmu Wolf, the higher the potential of the evolved Wanmu Wolf would be. Because of Old Sha's past experiences and serendipitous encounters, its Sunlight Absorption had reached the Perfection Level. For a Wanmu Wolf, a Perfection Level Sunlight Absorption was equivalent to Perfection Level Photosynthesis.

And as for the level beyond Perfection, the so-called Divine Transformation Level? Su Ping didn't dwell on it. That level wasn't something a Pet Beast could achieve through mere effort. In fact, due to limitations in talent and aptitude, even reaching the Perfection Level through training was incredibly difficult, let alone Divine Transformation. Divine Perfection was a skill's peak moment of brilliance, a unique understanding and blessing completely beyond the skill itself—something that could only be achieved through such a breakthrough. If one aimed for the Divine Transformation Level of Sunlight Absorption, then Su Ping would say that all Forest Wolves could just give up and go to sleep.

Therefore, the Perfection Level was already the highest evolutionary limit.

So, what would its species' upper limit be for a Perfection Level Wanmu Wolf after completing its evolution? Peak Command? Monarch Peak? Or even Emperor Level?

Su Ping shook his head. Monarch Level is possible, but reaching Emperor Level... that's thinking too much. Above Monarch Level, including Monarch Level itself, each level represented a massive threshold. Before Qin Xiaoxue's Crown Wolf Emperor, Su Ping had never heard of a Forest Wolf evolutionary body reaching Monarch Advanced. Even if the Wanmu Wolf was truly as mystical as described in the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, a top-tier evolutionary body choice for a Forest Wolf, its upper limits were still clearly defined.

Unless, beyond the Wanmu Wolf, there's an even further evolutionary body that can be developed and researched?!

However, Su Ping quickly shook his head. One shouldn't try to run before learning to walk. It was best not to dwell on such lofty and distant dreams.

The pen scribbled rapidly across the pages of his journal. Just as Su Ping was about to continue issuing orders to Old Sha, to see if there were any other issues that needed attention during the Wanmu Wolf's evolution stage, the doorbell rang.

Su Ping frowned but felt somewhat helpless. After all, the Heart of Wood Cultivation Base needed to be managed. Even though he had already shortened customer reception to the mornings, someone would come by almost every day. Ultimately, it was because Su Ping hadn't bothered to hire anyone. This is really affecting me. It seems I really need to hire some staff. Never mind other things, just handling visitors is a hassle.

Rubbing his temples, Su Ping put down his notes, said a quick word to Old Sha, and then headed to the front door.

However, upon opening the door, the two people he saw made Su Ping pause. Instinctively, he felt that these two were definitely not customers coming for Pet Beast cultivation; they didn't look the part. One was a beautiful woman with an understated appearance yet an air of superiority, and the other, a man who looked like a typical underling, was clearly a lackey.

Moreover, the most important thing was that this woman seemed familiar to him, as if he had seen her somewhere before. And indeed, that was the case, for as soon as the door opened, the man, who appeared to be in his thirties, haughtily asked, "You are Su Ping? I am the new manager of the Yuntian Resort, and this is our chairman. We would like to discuss acquiring this piece of land your family owns."

Su Ping's brow instinctively furrowed. But he finally recognized who had come—it was Dong Muyun, the Chairman of the Tianyun Group, the very person he had been preparing to meet.

"Come in."

In the reception room, the new manager hurried over, meticulously wiped the sofa with his handkerchief, and then obsequiously said to Dong Muyun, "Chairman, please, take a seat."

Su Ping's frown deepened as he looked at the man with growing disfavor. It was hard to imagine! Uncle Guan, who had worked for many years at the Yuntian Resort, had been squeezed out by such a person?

For the first time, Su Ping looked at Dong Muyun with skepticism. This legendary "Queen Dong" didn't seem all that astute, did she?

So, after taking a seat, Su Ping directly asked the question he was genuinely most concerned about, "This is the new manager of the Yuntian Resort? Then, may I ask, where has the previous manager, Manager Guan, gone?"

Dong Muyun still did not speak; it was the new manager beside her who answered, "Oh, you mean Lao Guan? He was ineffective in his work, and his implementation of the chairman's orders was extremely superficial, so his position was changed. He was dispatched to Crescent Island to be a foreman. Oh right, you probably don't know what Crescent Island is, do you? It's on West Dragon Lake, at the end of Lingxi River, not far from our Linzhou. Tsk tsk, he hardly gets to come back more than a few times a year."

He was smug, the very image of a petty man gloating in his triumph.

This made Su Ping's frown deepen even more. The disgust in his eyes was not concealed in the least.

Chapter 74: Dong Muyun's Skit Performance!

Su Ping had initially been quite curious about Dong Muyun of the Tianyun Group, a woman influential enough to be dubbed 'Queen Dong.' Now, however, he had absolutely no intention of interacting with her.

Thus, meeting their gazes, Su Ping stated coldly, "I've said it before: our family's land deed will not be sold. Not only will it not be sold, but we also won't renew the lease when it expires next year. I have other matters to attend to. If you two don't have anything else, I won't see you out."

Dong Muyun frowned. The man beside her, the resort's new manager, fixed Su Ping with an icy gaze. "Su Ping, do you know who we are? Do you know who our Chairman is? Our Chairman could crush you as easily as an ant!"

A sneer touched Su Ping's lips as anger welled within him. He was about to offer a sarcastic retort but caught himself.

He suddenly felt something was amiss.

This man before him, the new manager of the Yuntian Resort, seemed a bit too clownish.

It would be forgivable if it were someone like Zhou Shuchen, who had just graduated. Such a person would likely have a simplistic mindset and little social experience, perhaps acting a bit cocky after awakening a talent, especially given a prior family-related inferiority complex.

But what about this man?

He looked to be around thirty—not old, but certainly not young anymore—and he was part of the Tianyun Group's corporate structure.

If he truly were such a mindless, power-abusing underling, wouldn't that be a bit out of character?

Of course, some people truly were like that, overconfident in their status, but Dong MUYUN was right there!

Could he afford to be so foolish? With the true boss of Tianyun Group present, would Dong MUYUN approve of his attitude? Or was this an act, deliberately performed for her?

What was the point? It seemed illogical, especially since Su Ping had maintained a vague stance previously and hadn't offended them, right?

Faintly, a possibility bloomed in Su Ping's mind.

This meant the manager's current despicable behavior was precisely what Dong MUYUN had instructed him to do.

A glint of realization shone in Su Ping's eyes. Did this woman really think he was a child?

Did she think that by provoking his emotions, she could make him do something impulsive?

This thought flashed through his mind. As Su Ping sneered at the two before him, the man, predictably, continued his pompous speech, "I'm telling you, our Chairman is the Chairman of the Tianyun Group in Jianghai Province! Her net worth is thousands, even tens of thousands of times greater than your meager cultivation field!"

Su Ping remained silent, simply watching the two of them perform.

Dong Muyun frowned slightly and, as the presumed good cop, finally spoke, "Manager Qian..."

Predictably, the so-called Manager Qian, who had just been arrogant and domineering, instantly deflated. He adopted a servile demeanor, even more fawning than the Forest Wolves begging for tree fruit.

Seeing Su Ping's gaze slowly shift to her, Dong Muyun smiled faintly, a smile she considered—and which indeed was—irresistibly charming, as she said, "Su Ping, Tianyun Group is not a band of robbers, nor are we pirates. Besides, your talent is exceptional. I hold you in high regard and genuinely appreciate your abilities.

"Let's do this: for the land we're currently leasing, plus your family's current plot, I can offer double the price Manager Guan previously proposed. I'll also give you two options.

"First, if you wish to continue operating a cultivation base, Tianyun Group has an undeveloped plot of land on Chonghua Road, within Linzhou City's Third Ring. We can transfer this land to you directly, and we'll also cover the costs to rebuild it to your complete satisfaction.

"Second, if you no longer wish to waste your time on this small plot of land, I can authorize your immediate entry into Tianyun Group's Cultivation Department. You would start as Deputy Director. Beyond your personal commissions, never mind the monthly salary; you would also have priority access to some of Tianyun Group's internal resources!"

Dong Muyun's smiling eyes radiated absolute confidence; she believed Su Ping had no reason to refuse her offer.

Indeed, if he hadn't known about the Secret Realm beforehand, such a generous offer would have made him seriously consider it.

It was so generous that Manager Qian, standing beside her, couldn't help but interject, "Chairman, we only want to sketch out a large-scale, comprehensive Pet Beast ecological village here. There's no need to spend so much! Entrust this to me. I'm certain I'll do a far better job than that good-for-nothing Guan Qianshan. I guarantee your satisfaction!"

As he spoke, he even seemed to exude a cold, threatening intent, the unspoken implication clear.

Under such circumstances, if Su Ping had really been a seventeen or eighteen-year-old graduate, he might actually have been intimidated.

The conditions Dong Muyun proposed were indeed excellent, and the accompanying threat was certainly his Achilles' heel.

However, I am now an Intermediate Level Breeder registered with the Breeder Association. How could they manipulate me so easily?

Do they really think I'm some naive kid who doesn't know how to leverage his position?

Besides, Dong Muyun's conditions sounded good, seemingly covering all angles.

But who can't make empty promises?

What if they developed the Secret Realm and then just tossed it aside, leaving me with nothing? That's entirely possible.

I wouldn't expect to see a single cent.

Su Ping had no faith in the promises of these capitalist entrepreneurs; to him, they were the biggest joke in the world.

However, he didn't rush to expose them. Instead, he found their little performance rather amusing.

He had even figured out the true meaning behind their act.

They had reached this point: one side threatening, the other enticing, yet facing only his disdain. How could a young man his age endure such a thing? Su Ping then said, his eyes flashing with 'anger,' "Are you saying if I agree, you can make this guy get lost? Even disappear from the face of the earth?"

Su Ping pointed at Manager Qian, who had suddenly turned 'deathly pale.' This guy's acting is truly superb. If my mental fortitude weren't beyond that of my peers, I might have actually been fooled.

"Hmph, you think our Chairman..."

"Manager Qian, you're fired."

"Chairman, no! I'd toil like an ox and horse for you and Tianyun Group! This brat..."

Manager Qian immediately began to wail. A smile touched Dong Muyun's lips. Young people, after all, she thought. So quick to anger. A few taunts and insults, and they can't take it.

But isn't this perfect?

Dong Muyun ignored Manager Qian's performance—which she found quite satisfactory—and slowly turned to Su Ping, a smile playing on her lips as she said, "Satisfied now? Send me your account number. I'll transfer half the deposit first, and then we can sign..."

Su Ping also smiled, his earlier anger and coldness vanishing completely. His smile, remarkably similar to Dong Muyun's, was accompanied by a nod and a chuckle as he said, "Indeed, I'm satisfied. A little skit

personally performed by the Chairman of Tianyun Group... ordinary people certainly don't get to see that. How could I not be satisfied?"

At these words, both Dong Muyun and Manager Qian—who was still pale with despair and begging for mercy—froze.

Su Ping ignored their changed expressions and continued in a low voice, "It's just a shame. If a mere skit like this could secure the development rights to a wild Secret Realm, Tianyun Group would have become the top corporation in Dragon Nation, perhaps even the world, long ago, wouldn't it?"

Hearing this, Dong Muyun's expression finally, truly changed.

How does this kid know?

Chapter 75: The Furious Dong Muyun, Uncle Guan's Whereabouts!

The atmosphere suddenly turned eerily silent.

Manager Qian's face instantly flushed red with embarrassment, and this time, he said no more.

As for Dong Muyun, after a brief moment of astonishment, her eyes filled with undisguised gloom.

At the same time, a storm of shock raged within her.

How is this possible? How could this kid know? He was just a recent graduate. Even if his family possessed some Advanced Level Pet Beasts and had sensed the spatial fluctuations, it wasn't something ordinary people would typically be aware of. After all, the concept of a Secret Realm wasn't something Beast Tamers would ordinarily consider.

With this in mind, Dong Muyun's eyes glinted with an even colder chill, though this chill was not directed at the youngster before her.

It's all because I wasted too much time previously; the family side took up too much of my energy, and I could only leave this matter to those incompetents.

However, Dong Muyun was no ordinary individual. She almost instantly regained her usual demeanor, her eyes showing complete indifference as she looked at Su Ping.

"What exactly do you want?"

Her voice finally revealed her usual high-and-mighty attitude, as if granting whatever was desired was within her power to bestow.

Yet she completely overlooked a key point. According to Dragon Nation's laws, unless it's in the wilderness, the owner of the land title where a Secret Realm appears holds the authority to manage it.

It was as if this unknown Secret Realm, which had appeared on *his* property, was already in the bag for her and the Tianyun Group!

Su Ping disliked this tone and the look in her eyes.

Since the conversation was already out in the open, Su Ping had nothing to hide. He crossed his legs and said carelessly, "I'm not lacking anything. However, my family could use a stepmother, and the cultivation base here needs someone to scoop poop for Forest Wolf. What do you think, Miss Dong?"

Dong Muyun's face showed no anger, but it became even colder at that moment.

Her icy eyes, which seemed capable of freezing blood, took a deep look at Su Ping—a youngster so arrogant at such a young age. She then stood up, leading Manager Qian. He was as silent as a cicada in winter, and when his eyes occasionally met Su Ping's, they flashed with admiration.

Good heavens, this kid was something else! He'd joined the Tianyun Group right after graduation and worked diligently for over a decade, but this was the first time he'd ever seen such a formidable person. Making their Chairman a stepmother? Or having her scoop poop for Forest Wolf? Truth be told, the

thought of that scenario actually stirred some anticipation in him. But obviously, right now, he could only meekly follow Dong Muyun out and hope he wouldn't end up as collateral damage.

The door closed.

Only then did Su Ping let out a long sigh of relief.

In the end, he was still nervous.

Dong Muyun's status and strength were evident; she was, at the very least, a Monarch Level Beast Tamer.

Previously, with the Tianyun Group's power and influence, crushing him would have been simple. Fortunately, he was now an Intermediate Breeder with the Breeder Association.

With such a status, and being so young, even the Tianyun Group wouldn't dare make a move against him easily.

This was one of Su Ping's safeguards. He believed Dong Muyun was undoubtedly aware of his unconcealed identity.

It could be said that if it weren't for this status, Su Ping would have directly informed the Qintian Monitor about the appearance of the Secret Realm.

After all, an official organization was more reliable than those capitalists.

Su Ping also implicitly trusted Qin Xiaoxue's earlier advice: if *he* wasn't confident about personally developing it, handing it over to the Qintian Monitor would be more reliable.

However, now that he had the Paperman, Su Ping still wanted to try himself.

After all, human desire is insatiable, like a snake trying to swallow an elephant. Faced with such a potential treasure mountain, Su Ping wouldn't be content without seeing it for himself.

Taking a deep breath, Su Ping didn't rush to continue watching Old Sha gnawing on the tree.

He trusted Old Sha's self-discipline, and besides, at this initial stage, any minor hiccups wouldn't be a big deal.

At worst, they'd be delayed by a few days in entering the third phase, which wasn't significant.

However, Su Ping now really didn't want to be affected by all this chaos again.

He definitely needed to find someone to help.

Not for training or interacting with Pet Beasts, but someone to concentrate fully on welcoming guests and dealing with various minor tasks—the role of a steward.

And soon enough, Su Ping thought of someone:

Guan Qianshan!

Previously, Su Ping had only seen Lao Guan leave; he was too busy at the time and hadn't caught up after a mere glance.

But now he knew: Lao Guan had been exiled because of Su Ping's own affairs.

Although it was highly likely that Dong Muyun had deliberately orchestrated this situation, using it as an indirect means to persuade Su Ping to agree to the sale of the deed.

Small figures often become cannon fodder in various disputes.

Many times, Su Ping was unable to reach out or help, but this time was clearly different.

To be fair, he could say with a clear conscience that Lao Guan had treated him well. Lao Guan had only attempted to purchase his family's land deed on Dong Muyun's orders because he had no other choice.

Su Ping had no reason to harbor any suspicions about Manager Guan because of this.

Moreover, his own place genuinely lacked someone to manage guest reception. Lao Guan had worked at Yun Tian for many years and had a good relationship with both Su Ping and his father.

Having someone relatively familiar like him to help look after things would indeed lighten Su Ping's load substantially.

Besides, what he'd said to Dong Muyun earlier wasn't just hot air.

Once next year's lease was up, Su Ping would no longer lease to the Tianyun Group.

By then, regardless of whether the Tianyun Group left the buildings at Yuntian Resort standing or demolished them all, Su Ping would further expand on the foundation of his own cultivation base.

He aimed to create a complete, mature cultivation base industry chain.

Currently, the Heart of Wood Cultivation Base didn't even have a place for guests to stay and try out battles, let alone the numerous high-end complementary facilities and infrastructure that many other cultivation bases boasted.

Moreover, Su Ping had considered establishing breeding areas for other types of Pet Beasts; after all, it wasn't feasible for all of them to be crammed into the same forest with the Forest Wolves.

When he had time, Su Ping even wanted to visit Shuhua City to see what Sun Chaoju's Pet Beast Breeding Base was like, and then to fleece some wool... no, to learn from their experience.

When that time came, more staff would be needed, and Su Ping couldn't possibly manage everything himself.

As for his own father, that was even less likely.

Lao Guan's many years as a manager at Yun Tian had endowed him with invaluable experience and insight.

With these thoughts in mind, Su Ping picked up his phone, searched for a while, and finally found the exiled Manager Guan in his contacts list.

He then took the initiative to make the call.

Chapter 76: Recruiting Help: The Careless Guan Qianshan!

Crescent Island is in a rather special location.

The Lingxi River is a relatively wide river that runs through the entire Jianghai Province before rushing into the sea.

However, this river doesn't just directly enter the Eastern Sea. Instead, at the edge of the Eastern Sea, in the coastal region of Jianghai Province, it forms a semicircular lake. This immense lake, like an inland sea for Jianghai Province, then flows into the Eastern Sea.

This lake is West Dragon Lake.

West Dragon Lake is vast, especially since it borders the Eastern Sea. This is one of the reasons why the aquatic Pet Beasts of Linzhou and Jianghai Province are so abundant.

Moreover, countless small islands dot this huge lake, and with the rich aquatic Pet Beast resources, many places are ripe for development.

Without a doubt, Crescent Island is one of them.

The island, shaped like a crescent moon, floats on the vast lake. At its very center, a figure stood.

He sighed, looking at the workers busy with construction in the distance.

It was none other than Guan Qianshan, who had already been on this island for half a month.

Compared to Yun Tian, the difference here was more than just heaven and earth. On Crescent Island, food, drink, and general living conditions were all inconvenient. Although he was only separated from his family by West Dragon Lake and a small stretch of the Lingxi River, the disparity felt as vast as that between heaven and earth.

Guan Qianshan had even noticed people giving him strange looks, and he'd overheard the foremen gossiping about him behind his back:

"I heard he screwed up at headquarters and got directly exiled to this forsaken place."

"Really? No wonder he looks so bitter."

"Exactly! And I heard it was a top order from the group itself!"

"A top order? That would be from the Chairman, right?"

"Geez, looks like this Mr. Guan is going to be stuck here until retirement."

"Hehe, not necessarily. Maybe he'll find a better place to go..."

"How could it be that easy? Even though he's been exiled, he still gets his salary. Doesn't he want to get a better Pet Beast for his kid to secure a future?"

"Ah... life is tough for everyone."

Guan Qianshan sighed deeply. It would be utter nonsense to say I have no regrets, he thought. But regarding Su Ping and the Su Family, I truly did the best I could. As for resorting to underhanded tricks, like restricting the Su Family's income to force them to relinquish the land deed to survive, or other such despicable methods, I honestly couldn't bring myself to do it. After all, when that fellow Su Anyong just up and left, he didn't forget to ask me to look after the boy who was left home alone.

Thinking of this, Guan Qianshan actually began to worry about Su Ping. He didn't know why the Chairman and Tianyun Group were so desperate to acquire the Su Family's land deed, but there had to be a significant reason. I wonder if our group managed to get it, he thought.

However, just then, his phone rang, startling him slightly and breaking his train of thought.

Speak of the devil? he thought, glancing at the caller ID.

"Hello, Su Ping?" Guan Qianshan asked, somewhat surprised. He genuinely feared some accident had occurred.

However, the boy's voice on the other end of the line made the usually unflappable middle-aged company man freeze on the spot:

"Uncle Guan, I know you're not having a good time over there at Tianyun Group. How about coming to Heart of Woods and working with me?!"

The youthful voice, full of vitality, resonated through the phone with such confidence and vigor. So much so that he momentarily forgot to ask about salary or benefits, instinctively replying:

"Okay!"

「...」

Manager Guan returned to Heart of Woods. He felt somewhat dazed.

Half a month ago, he was the manager of the resort next door, representing Tianyun Group. Now, he had returned as the so-called 'manager' of Heart of Woods.

Although Tianyun Group had exiled him, they hadn't skimped on his salary or benefits. And now, with just a word from Su Ping, he had resigned and come here. Lao Guan himself felt he must have been a bit crazy.

"Uncle Guan, how much was your monthly salary over at Tianyun Group?"

"Not counting bonuses, about thirty thousand or so."

"Then your monthly salary at Heart of Woods will be sixty thousand, plus there are some other benefits. I'll go into detail when we have time," Su Ping said generously, waving his hand.

Manager Guan sighed with relief. Although he trusted Su Ping, a man still needed to eat. At his age, it wasn't just about feeding himself; he also had a family to support.

However, while relieved, Manager Guan was also curious and asked, "Su Ping, what do I need to do?"

This Pet Beast Breeding Base was different from the resort's training ground next door. There were many people at the resort; accommodation and dining were all-inclusive. Not to mention, there were also the complex affairs related to Pet Beast battles. Here, I really can't see what I'm supposed to do,

he thought.

Su Ping looked seriously at Guan Qianshan and said, "Uncle Guan, in the future, Heart of Woods will become Linzhou's largest Pet Beast Breeding Base and ecological plaza. Dad and I don't know many people here, and you are the only one we can trust! That's why we want you to be the manager!"

True friends are revealed in times of hardship, Guan Qianshan nodded. After all, Su Ping rescued me from that godforsaken place and is willing to pay me such a high salary. He's truly shown utmost benevolence. This trust now made Lao Guan incredibly moved.

But my question hasn't been answered yet, he thought. What exactly does a manager at Heart of Woods do?

Facing Lao Guan's puzzled look, Su Ping continued, "As a manager, naturally, you have to oversee everything. You have to handle our business operations down to the smallest detail and have some understanding of every position."

Listening to Su Ping, Lao Guan suddenly had a bad feeling.

"Of course, for now, Heart of Woods hasn't expanded its operations much. It's mainly that we have more customers coming to seek cultivation for their pets, and you'll need to receive them!"

A receptionist, huh? Lao Guan sighed in relief.

"No problem!" he said, thumping his chest in assurance.

"Also, I'm planning to expand the area around Heart of Woods, beyond the land already owned by my family. Uncle Guan, do you think you could figure something out for this?"

"Ah? Some of those are existing shops with owners, and some is undeveloped land. It seems we'll need to liaise with the authorities. But I'm good at this sort of thing; it's no problem. I'll go talk to each of them when the time comes."

"And then there's the architectural planning. Uncle Guan, in the future at our Heart of Woods..." Su Ping continued, outlining various aspects.

「Two hours later.」

After listening to Su Ping's entire blueprint, Lao Guan—who, in addition to manager, had seemingly also become the security guard, doorman, receptionist, PR specialist, construction supervisor, accountant, purchaser, landscape designer, and chef, all rolled into one—had only one thought:

Damn it, I was too careless!

Chapter 77: Old Sha's First Phase, Perfecting 'Accelerated Spellcasting'!

Although Lao Guan was very indignant, it must be said that professionals are certainly efficient when it comes to taking action.

And soon, he had the work schedule well planned.

After all, before this, the Heart of Woods only received customers in the morning, which gave Lao Guan the energy and time to arrange other tasks.

Indeed, the task previously assigned to Lao Guan included acquiring surrounding land deeds. Su Ping wanted to continue expanding his base's area to create more terrain types, thereby increasing the scale and variety of Pet Beasts he could nurture.

The growth of Pet Beasts could shape different terrains according to their individual needs; Forest Wolves, for example, were suited to growing in forests, but this might not be the case for others. Even with a Beast Taming Space, expanding the Pet Beast Breeding Base was necessary. Though the Beast Taming Space would grow with its owner's Realm, it hadn't quite reached a truly exaggerated level; at least, his current Realm and power were not up to that. Moreover, unlike the outside world, the Beast Taming Space was blessed with the various attributes of a Beast Tamer and, nourished by spiritual power, was a treasure trove for cultivating precious resources. Therefore, it wasn't practical to permanently house a particularly large number of Pet Beasts there, and Su Ping couldn't possibly move everything he owned into the Beast Taming Space.

Thus, Su Ping had an exceedingly clear understanding of the Heart of Wood Cultivation Base and the Beast Taming Space—two places that seemed to serve the same function but actually focused on completely different aspects.

The Beast Taming Space served as temporary quarters for combat Pet Beasts during expeditions and also as his personal treasure trove for cultivating precious resources.

The cultivation base, on the other hand, was essential for close contact and nurturing a large number of Pet Beasts.

It was also his true home base.

A satisfied and content smile appeared on Su Ping's face; he was already envisioning the next main group of Pet Beasts to focus on developing.

Naturally, his preference was the Paperman. After all, the second Pet Beast he had prepared was the little Paperman, still diligently practicing its swordplay under his continued coaxing. Enhancing the Paperman Illustrated Handbook was undoubtedly an important matter. However, the habitats required by Necromancy System Pet Beasts often conflicted with those of other Pet Beasts, making arrangements difficult most of the time. Besides, he was still a Minor Realm and a Great Realm threshold away from breaking through to Elite Level, so he wasn't in a rush.

Shaking his head, after arranging everything, Su Ping once again came out of the woods to the very center of the estate.

Within a considerable radius, not a single wall or tree stood—only the solitary figure of Old Sha, standing upright.

His four paws were buried deep in the soil.

Meanwhile, the chopped trees in the large vat before Old Sha were almost completely devoured.

Old Sha's body seemed to gather the sunlight from the sky, slowly absorbing it into his entire body.

At that moment, Old Sha's fur radiated a peculiarly special glow.

The radiance was so intense it was somewhat blinding to behold.

And at this moment, Su Ping couldn't help but squint as he observed Old Sha's condition.

Old Sha's perception was extremely keen. The slightest rustle of leaves or movement of grass could not escape his notice.

Yet now, even as Su Ping approached to within twenty-odd meters of him and watched him for quite some time, Old Sha showed no reaction.

Standing there, he seemed to be asleep on his feet.

Su Ping could sense, through Old Sha's breathing rate and the corresponding flickering light on his body, that Old Sha was in absolutely no mortal danger.

Changes and differences had indeed occurred!

Su Ping's heart became extremely excited in an instant, and he even unconsciously pursed his lips, afraid of waking Old Sha from this state.

He quickly pulled out his notebook, recording the changes in Old Sha's condition.

Then, he gently departed, simultaneously checking the nearby camera that was continuously aimed at Old Sha before nodding in satisfaction.

The evolution process had to be fully recorded for later analysis.

Now that Old Sha had completely entered this state, Su Ping just had to wait for him to comprehend Photosynthesis, a trait unique to Plant Type Pet Beasts. After that, he could begin pouring in resources.

Besides the Sun Crystal, he estimated that the other resources he had purchased would arrive tomorrow.

Exhaling, Su Ping glanced at the gradually westward-slanting sun and went directly to the side room where the Paperman resided.

During the day, the Paperman had returned to the Secret Realm. For the past two days, Su Ping hadn't had much energy to oversee the Paperman. However, when he checked occasionally at night, he found the Paperman was training quite diligently.

This little guy had an indescribable stubbornness.

Thinking of this, Su Ping turned on the television in the living room.

Then, he saw a notification below: several movies, each a few hours long, had been cycled through a total of three times in just a few short days.

Looking at this cycle count, Su Ping's eyelid twitched; he suddenly had a rather bad premonition.

Suppressing this unfounded sense of foreboding, Su Ping sat on the sofa. Instead of rewatching those well-worn movies, he closed his eyes for a moment, merging his consciousness into the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas.

The gains from attending classes at the Breeder Association had far exceeded Su Ping's expectations. The Sun Crystal was one benefit. What Su Ping truly hadn't expected was an additional full five hundred Experience Points. This amount of Experience Points was enough to make another fortuitous acquisition his own: Accelerated Casting. Also known as Speedy Spellcasting, it was a common, attributeless Skill. It was also a purely passive ability that accelerated skill casting times, with broad applications. Taking Xiao Qing's Poison Vine Wrap as an example, the time taken for the poison vine to condense and form, and the time for it to pursue and entangle its target, all counted as casting time. The effectiveness of this Skill was evident. Previously, Su Ping hadn't been in a hurry. However, with the Paperman now present, and wanting to further coax and motivate it, perfecting this Skill became quite urgent. Since he was going to master it sooner or later, the mere five hundred Experience Points were not something the current Su Ping even took seriously.

So, while waiting for the Paperman to arrive, Su Ping stopped hesitating. The five hundred Experience Points flowed like water into this endeavor.

At the same time, under the "Special Cultivation, Evolution Method" line in the Forest Wolf Catalog, the entry for Accelerated Casting shone even brighter.

However, the reaction wasn't as significant as when he had perfected the Wanmu Wolf evolution.

This made sense; after all, perfecting Accelerated Casting wouldn't only enhance and benefit the Forest Wolf. It transformed from being effective only on the Forest Wolf to being applicable in the cultivation of all Pet Beasts.

Thinking of this, Su Ping's interest grew even stronger as he examined this altered Accelerated Casting cultivation method.

Chapter 78: The Swordsman Face of the Little Paper Man!

The previous Accelerated Casting method was a cultivation Secret Technique and, in terms of efficiency, it was far inferior to the cultivation method of the Heart of Woods Magic Potion.

However, now, even after perfecting it for use on other Pet Beasts, this Accelerated Casting cultivation is a complete cultivation method in itself, not just the application of a secret potion. This is quite regrettable.

[Accelerated Casting Cultivation Secret Technique: On the first day, rapidly have the Pet Beast perform its own Skills over twenty times continuously, while also consuming resources according to its Race Attribute. This is used to advance its Level, with the amount of Skill usage each day increasing by twenty percent from the previous day's, and the consumption of resources must also be daily! Typically, cultivation is completed in five to seven days.]

[Pet Beast Attributes, Level, Type, etc., Resource Analysis: Use resources of the same Level as the Pet Beast and resources of the same Attribute as the Pet Beast. For Pet Beast Types: Plant Type should use water, soil, and energy-type resources; Animal Type should use consumable resources; Undead Type should use energy-type resources and other quick-acting resources. Furthermore, after the Pet Beast uses its Skills on that day, it cannot release any other Skills.]

[Note: During cultivation, prepare a large amount of Magic Potions for Energy recovery, in case the Pet Beast quickly depletes its Energy and cannot complete the expected cultivation.]

[Note: During cultivation, the shorter the interval between Skill releases, the better!]

It has to be said, this cultivation method isn't really that difficult. Even Su Ping saw it as relatively simple.

The cultivation method Sun Chaoju used previously was actually quite similar: letting the Pet Beast frequently use a single Skill while also consuming corresponding resources daily. However, Sun Chaoju only used it for the Forest Wolf, and the resources were fixed, unlike the perfected method, where resource use became more flexible.

No wonder the success rate of Sun Chaoju's cultivation varied. In fact, Pet Beasts are different from each other. Even among the same species of Forest Wolves, some absorb certain types of resources better, while for others, the effects might be unsatisfactory. All of these could potentially be the reasons why a Pet Beast might fail to fully grasp Accelerated Casting.

As a Breeder, one must adapt and apply knowledge flexibly based on the Pet Beast, not just rely on rote memorization. Otherwise, the final outcome is predictable.

Initially, it wasn't Sun Chaoju himself who attempted the awakening on Woodhead. Instead, his subordinate low-level Breeders and apprentices used rote memorization, which led to Woodhead's failure to grasp Accelerated Casting. And the same principle applies to other types of Pet Beasts.

Su Ping couldn't be bothered to think about cultivating other Pet Beasts. For now, his focus was naturally on the Forest Wolf and Paperman, and how to cultivate Accelerated Casting in them.

It must be said that the cultivation cost of Accelerated Casting is much higher than that of his own Heart of Woods. The Heart of Woods is just a Magic Potion. Accelerated Casting, however, requires more. Besides the daily consumption of specific resources, one must also prepare Energy recovery Magic Potions. This is to prevent the Pet Beast from running out of Energy and failing to complete the required Skill usage.

Thinking about it this way, when Woodhead reached Elite Peak, Sun Chaoju's people demanding three million worth of cultivation materials from Qin Xiaoxue wasn't really extortion, in a sense.

For the Forest Wolf, he could somewhat copy the methods Sun Chaoju had used. For Ordinary Level, materials like Gold Tree Fruit could be used, and for Elite Level, Crystal Grapes, Spirit Tree Berries, and the like. But what about the Necromancy Series?

For an Undead Pet Beast like Paperman, the ideal supplementary food would be paper. However, it could survive without paper, as Undead Types are not demanding about food. Moreover, since paper is made from tree bark, plants, and other such materials, it's not unsuitable for consumption.

With just a thought, Su Ping came up with several low-level Necromancy Series resources worth trying. With that in mind, Su Ping opened his eyes and nodded. However, before he could fully process this, he abruptly stood up.

The reason was that right in front of him, on the coffee table, stood something. Su Ping recognized the body—it was Paperman's—but the face instantly sent a cold shiver down his spine. For the first time in his life, he felt his 'sanity points' plummeting.

On the Paperman's face, which should have had human features, all other facial characteristics were gone. Even the previous blush had vanished, replaced by a bizarre 'A'! Yes, just a pitch-black 'A'. Even more abstractly, below this 'A' was a '◇' symbol. What the heck is this?

Fortunately, the little Paperman, seemingly not expecting Su Ping's strong reaction, was also startled. "WOAH? (What's wrong... Master?)" it uttered.

Indeed, it was the little Paperman. Su Ping looked at the little fellow's A-shaped face, his eyelids twitching rapidly. "What's up with your face?" he asked.

At this, the little Paperman appeared extremely proud, though it was quite a challenge for Su Ping to discern any proud expression on that face. "WOAH. (A true Swordsman... should never let anyone read his expressions to guess his thoughts!)" it declared.

The little Paperman was citing lines from the Swordsman videos it had watched over the past few days.

"So?" Su Ping looked at the little Paperman, which had its arms crossed and had given him such a shock after not seeing it for several days. He was puzzled by its meaning. So it turned its face into an A? Across

his past and present lives combined, he had only ever heard of an "A-shaped waist," never an "A-shaped face"! And with a '◇' too, what kind of ghost was that?

In response to Su Ping's question, the little Paperman suddenly perked up, seeming excited and thrilled that even its 'Master' hadn't grasped this layer of meaning. "WOAH!! (So, every Swordsman should have a poker face!)" it exclaimed.

??? It was only then that Su Ping understood. Looking at the utterly abstract 'A' on the little Paperman's face and the pitch-black '◇' below it, he realized—this was supposed to be a poker face?! It was the first time in Su Ping's entire life he'd heard that this was what a poker face looked like.

"How did you know what poker is?"

The little Paperman skillfully opened a drawer and took something out. Sure enough, it produced a deck of playing cards.

"WOAH! (I will become the strongest Swordsman, so my poker face is the biggest A!!)" the little Paperman declared, full of pride.

Su Ping buried his face in his hand.

"Then why did you choose this suit? Aren't spades or hearts bigger?" After glancing at the rule explanation card included with the deck of playing cards, Su Ping asked curiously.

This time, however, the little Paperman seemed somewhat sheepish. It opened its mouth and said with embarrassment, "WOAH... (The shape of hearts, that's too hard to draw...)"

Su Ping suddenly felt that to prevent his designated second Pet Beast from coming up with such abstract oddities, he really needed to pay close attention to the little Paperman's psychological development. Also, he should take the opportunity in the next few days to cultivate its Accelerated Casting.

Chapter 79: Busy, Prospects of Space Characteristics!

Linzhou City Center.

Atop a towering skyscraper, Dong Muyun, dressed in a sharp business suit, looked down at a person kneeling on one knee before her in the vast office on the highest floor. It was hard to imagine that the practice of kneeling still existed in this day and age. Yet, neither of them felt the slightest bit uncomfortable, and the kneeling person began to speak directly.

"Miss, the information on Su Ping that you asked me to investigate has been gathered."

"Speak."

"Su Ping, eighteen years old this year, graduated from Linzhou's Sixth Basic Beast Taming Academy. His grandfather, Su Zhongguang, was a Monarch Level Beastmaster who sacrificed himself to defend against the Beast Tide in Linzhou twenty years ago, leaving behind the Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base. His father, Su Anyong, is a layabout who has never shown any Beast Tamer abilities; his strength is unknown. Recently, he left Linzhou for Beihai City. Our family's influence doesn't extend much into the northeast region, so the purpose of his trip there remains unknown..."

Dong Muyun was getting impatient. "Don't tell me that after all these days, this is all you've found? I don't need this kind of information!"

"Yes. After Su Ping graduated, in a very short time, it seems he adjusted and improved upon the secret breeding formula left by his grandfather, Su Zhongguang. He developed the cultivation results of the Forest Wolf's Heart of Woods. Then, by a stroke of fate, he met Liu Fuhai and subsequently obtained the Intermediate Level Breeder certification from the Breeder Association..."

If Su Ping were here, he would surely realize that the speaker was now revealing all his recent activities quite clearly. Apart from the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, everything Su Ping did in contact with the outside world over the past month had been thoroughly scrutinized.

And the more she heard, the darker Dong Muyun's expression became. "Qin Erlong's granddaughter? How did she come to know this brat and form a close relationship..."

The person kneeling on one knee was also puzzled. "It seems to be precisely because of the connection through the Heart of Woods cultivation. Moreover, Miss Qin clearly values this Su Ping very highly..."

Some days ago, she even used her connections to send him an extremely precious resource through the mail."

"What resource?" Dong Muyun looked at her servant with suspicion. This family servant had served the Dong Family for decades and was naturally well-informed. If he called it extremely precious, what could it be?

"The Stone of Creation."

Dong Muyun's eyes widened in shock. "What?"

"The Stone of Creation, a resource used by Emperor Level Peak Beastmasters, can awaken additional Space Characteristics like 'ecological cycle' within the Beast Taming Space."

Of course, Dong Muyun knew what the Stone of Creation was, but what she didn't understand was, what kind of enchantment did this brat work on that young lady to make her give up such a thing? She hadn't even used such a thing herself! Even the unknown Secret Realm's highest-valued resources might not compare to the Stone of Creation—it was still uncertain.

"Dong Si, I want accurate information, not some baseless rumors! This Qin Xiaoxue, even as the granddaughter of Qin Erlong, the head of Jianghai Province's Beast Master Association, doesn't have the authority to mobilize resources of that level from the Magic Capital Academy for an outsider, does she?!" Dong Muyun immediately felt like the person before her was talking nonsense.

Dong Si gave a wry smile, then slowly stood up, moved beside Dong Muyun, and whispered something into her ear. Afterward, under the young lady's astonished and horrified gaze, he returned to his original position and continued speaking before she could react, "Miss, the fact that she didn't deliberately suppress the news from spreading indicates a certain vague attitude. Even the Dong Family wouldn't dare to take that gamble..."

Dong Muyun slowly came to her senses, her teeth biting her red lips. She said fiercely, "So you're telling me, I really can't do anything about that little bastard?"

"..."

BANG!

A piece of precious crystal porcelain shattered into fragments.

「...」

PHEW!

Lying in bed, Su Ping finally let out a long breath. So tired. During the day, training the Forest Wolves required constant attention to their movements. He had to run back and forth due to their large numbers to prevent serious injuries, leaving him physically exhausted. Then, Old Sha began its evolution. For the next three to four days, he had to watch over Old Sha, ensuring it chewed wood, consumed Wood Spirit Herbs, and Hundred Herbs Juice to facilitate moisture while also absorbing sunlight. He also had to record everything that happened during this evolution process, so his brain was tired. Now, at night, he needed to increase contact with the little Paperman, trying to further improve their relationship and begin cultivating Accelerated Casting, which made him mentally even more drained. Overall, for the past two days, apart from exhaustion, he really couldn't identify any other feeling. Of course, alongside the tiredness, there was an indescribable sense of satisfaction.

The Heart of Woods now, compared to when he took over a month ago, was completely transformed and vastly different. Beyond Old Sha and Xiao Qing, he had a total of fifty Forest Wolves. The previous twenty-five all now possessed the Heart of Woods, and their strength was growing with extreme rapidity. Originally, there were only seven at Elite Level, but in this short period, the number of Elite Level Forest Wolves had directly broken through to fifteen. Although Xiao Qing hadn't advanced her Realm like he had, she could also feel some improvement. Then there was the effect of the linked Skill Cultivation. After Su Ping's Level rose to Ordinary Ninth Rank, the linking effect could simultaneously cover nineteen of them. The speed of skill improvement was so fast that almost every day, one or two Forest Wolves completed their advancement. If nothing unexpected happened, it was probably unrealistic and impossible for all these Forest Wolves to achieve Perfection Level, but reaching at least Proficiency, with the top ones becoming Proficient, was absolutely no problem.

Such an elite Forest Wolf team, once Su Ping made his breakthrough, could be placed into the Beast Taming Space. When that time came, whoever dared to defy him would face a direct release of the hounds! Thinking of this scene made Su Ping reveal a slight smile, but then his thoughts turned to another matter. It wasn't about Old Sha's evolution. Old Sha was still absorbing sunlight, and the time had not yet come for him to comprehend Photosynthesis. What Su Ping was thinking about was

something else. These past two days, as he further interacted with the little Paperman and began to cultivate its Accelerated Casting, he could feel that its closeness to him had increased again. Therefore, Su Ping asked the little Paperman about that Secret Realm. As for whether there would be any movement from Dong Muyun's side regarding this Secret Realm, Su Ping still didn't know. Thus, he wanted to understand as much as possible, but unfortunately, although the little Paperman had no intention of hiding anything, it didn't make itself clear enough. Its expressions were not clear. After all, although the little Paperman's intelligence was stronger than many Ordinary Level Pet Beasts, it was still an Ordinary Level Pet Beast.

It's a pity that he couldn't enter now; the little Paperman also expressed that it couldn't bring other people back "home." Of course, even if he could enter, Su Ping was not foolish enough to just enter indiscriminately at this time. Who knew what might be inside? Regardless, he would have to wait until he had a certain level of strength. The little Paperman was safe there, but he was not so naive. Its Sword Soul Mark had a significant connection to this Secret Realm, but he was a genuine outsider. At the very least, he had to wait until Old Sha completed its evolution and truly became the Wanmu Wolf, and with the help of the wolf pack, only then would Su Ping have some confidence. It would be even better if he could find a bodyguard!

He shook his head. Who knew when the Secret Realm would truly appear. Moreover, its emergence would definitely be preceded by signs. The sudden appearance of the little Paperman was probably a special case. Unfortunately, on one hand, Su Ping's understanding of some of the advanced knowledge and experiences in the world of Beast Tamers was really not extensive, making him actually want to go back to school. And now, he couldn't casually talk or ask about the little Paperman's situation to avoid arousing others' covetousness. It was better to wait until he reached the Elite Level himself and completely formed a contract with the little guy, making it a Contracted Beast, before feeling a bit of confidence.

With this thought, Su Ping slowly closed his eyes and once again immersed his spiritual power into the Beast Taming Space. That narrow and cramped, dim space now had a special feeling of emerging from darkness into the light. It was as if a single lamp instantly illuminated a thousand-year-old dark chamber, dispelling all gloom and darkness with a trace of light. At the same time, he even felt wisps of wind in his own Beast Taming Space! That's right, for the first time, there was airflow in his Beast Taming Space! This was the divine effect of the Stone of Creation. These past few days, Su Ping had been so busy that he hardly touched the ground, yet his Meditation Realm still improved to a certain extent. All thanks to the Stone of Creation. And now that there was the first change in airflow inside the Beast Taming Space, its significance was extraordinary. The ecological cycle, a Space Characteristic, makes the ecological environment basically similar to the rules of the outside world and is suitable for almost all Beast Taming Spaces. It also enhances the effects of many other Space Characteristics.

Satisfied, he nodded. He was really looking forward to seeing what Space Characteristics, in addition to this ecological cycle, would appear after his breakthrough to the Elite Level. He hoped to get some that had high potential and strong effects. As for whether they would be combat-oriented, healing, cultivation, or Resource Type Space Characteristics, Su Ping didn't mind any particular type. All four had their benefits. However, if he had to choose, Resource Type characteristics were certainly more flexible, allowing for the production of resources that could be sold or exchanged if not needed, right? True, Resource Type characteristics were very average in effect when a Beast Tamer's Realm was low. However, combat and cultivation Space Characteristics demanded higher requirements from Pet Beasts; if they didn't share the same category or Attribute, the effects would diminish.

With this curiosity and anticipation for the future, Su Ping could no longer hold on. Without even washing up, he simply fell into a deep sleep.

Chapter 80: Photosynthesis, Old Sha's Transformation!

The sun rose in the east.

The dazzling, fiery orb eternally burst forth with everlasting light and heat. Beyond being a star of flame, it was also the source of Life for countless beings.

All things revived, everything awakening with new vitality as the sun arose. The morning dew quickly dried, and the people living in the city began their busy day.

Su Ping was no exception, although he had risen comparatively late, well past sunrise.

Still with sleep in his eyes, Su Ping yawned. Without hurrying to wash his face, he had already reached Old Sha's training ground on the outskirts of the forest, a place he checked first every day. Only after looking there would he feel reassured enough to check on the Forest Wolf's training situation.

However, this morning, the moment Su Ping took a look, any lingering sleepiness instantly vanished. His eyes widened in astonishment; disregarding his pajamas and slippers, he ran straight into the reinforced glass enclosure to Old Sha's side.

This was because Old Sha was exhibiting new changes, differences never seen before. These changes had never been recorded in Sun Chaoju's notes on the Wanmu Wolves.

Old Sha himself appeared unchanged. He even shifted his gaze when he noticed Su Ping's arrival, a glint of excitement in his eyes. However, he seemed to be maintaining that unique breathing rhythm and made no sound. Clearly, Old Sha faced no risk of mental rigidity or petrification.

Indeed, Su Ping could tell that with Old Sha's unique breathing rhythm, every hair on his body seemed to respire, engaging in an exceptionally distinct form of 'breathing'. Each strand of fur was continuously unfurling.

This phenomenon shouldn't occur in an animal-type Pet Beast; it was mostly associated with plants. This was because the ability was known as Photosynthesis. Through sunlight, it absorbed light Energy, synthesized organic compounds from carbon dioxide and water, and converted them into oxygen... This was one of nature's most fundamental Energy conversion processes.

Su Ping could accept all this. In this wondrous Controlling Beasts world, while he didn't understand how animal-type Pet Beasts could master such an Ability, he could accept the premise.

However, while Old Sha himself seemed fine, the surroundings were a major issue. On the lawn, everything around Old Sha had withered and yellowed.

Was it the Heart of Woods forcibly absorbing the Life Energy of the surrounding plants? Had Old Sha forcibly activated the effects of the Heart of Woods?! Impossible! Su Ping had absolute trust in Old Sha's obedience to his commands! This was a trust forged over many years of companionship, akin to that between family members. So what was the real reason? Could the Heart of Woods truly cause the Wanmu Wolf's Evolution to undergo such changes?

Su Ping's brows furrowed deeply; he didn't know if this change was good or bad. Ultimately, it was because his knowledge base in Cultivation was too shallow.

Nevertheless, Su Ping hastily used the Eye of Truth to examine Old Sha:

[Forest Wolf (wild)]

[Current Level: Leader Second Rank]

[Racial Potential: Elite Tenth Stage]

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

As expected, Old Sha had mastered Photosynthesis, a Skill typically found only in plant-based organisms.

However, Su Ping's attention wasn't solely on Photosynthesis. He looked at another Skill that, as he anticipated, had also changed:

Heart of Woods (Proficient)!

Yes, Old Sha's Heart of Woods had leveled up again? It had reached the Proficient Level.

Perhaps this breakthrough wasn't a huge deal in itself. The reason was simple: Old Sha was the first to acquire the Heart of Woods Skill. Moreover, if they possessed the Connection and Sharing ability, a rapid increase in Skill Level was to be expected—that was its inherent effect!

After all, it wasn't just Old Sha. Even Woodhead, after only half a month here, had its Heart of Woods level up. Xiao Qing's Heart of the Poison Wood had also reached the Proficient Level. In fact, within the past few days, a few other Pet Beasts with good aptitude had also achieved a similar advancement in their Heart of Woods.

But that wasn't the crucial part! The reason was simple: Old Sha hadn't been part of any Connection and Sharing for a long time. In other words, his Heart of Woods had advanced purely on its own! How could that be possible?!

Su Ping knew all too well how difficult it was to advance the Heart of Woods. If such a passive Ability, especially one acquired later through Cultivation, could level up so easily, Old Sha wouldn't have struggled for over forty years just to barely break his race limit, failing even to achieve Evolution.

Then, this advancement must have occurred during the current evolutionary stage.

Without a second thought, Su Ping didn't even greet Old Sha. He rushed to the video recorder and played back the night's footage at eight times speed to see what had transpired.

The recording began from when he left the previous evening.

During the night, Old Sha seemed to have acclimated to this lifestyle. The discomfort from the first two days was gone. Instead, he had thoroughly immersed himself in what could be described as a plant-like state, resembling a lethargic, cold-blooded animal that moved only when necessary. Therefore, there were no unusual changes that night.

And just as expected, when the sun gradually rose on the horizon and sunlight poured down, Old Sha began performing Sunlight Absorption as usual. However, over the past few days, Old Sha had reached a critical threshold in the Wanmu Wolf's second stage.

As he continuously absorbed sunlight, Old Sha's luminescence intensified. Under the radiant light, a distinctive breathing rhythm emerged from him. With each inhale and exhale, the sunlight bathing his body seemed to fuse completely with Old Sha.

Then, Su Ping's eyes suddenly narrowed.

He focused on the high-definition video footage. Under the concentrated sunlight, as that unique breathing rhythm began, the grass and flowers in the surrounding meadow also seemed to be affected. Wisps of faint green light, like motes following the dazzling sunlight, slowly merged into Old Sha's body as Su Ping watched intently.

Subsequently, a touch of vibrant green essence emanated outwards, and Old Sha's body appeared as if suddenly draped in a green blanket. Together with the sunlight, he entered an extremely peculiar state.

This state persisted for about three minutes before gradually fading, resulting in the scene Su Ping had just witnessed.