

## **Beast Taming: the More the Better**

### **#Chapter 8: Old Sha, Resigned to Death! Taking the Magic Potion! - Read Beast Taming: the More the Better Chapter 8: Old Sha, Resigned to Death! Taking the Magic Potion!**

*Chapter 8 - 8: Old Sha, Resigned to Death! Taking the Magic Potion!*

The morning sun rose in the east, adding a few degrees of intense heat to the already high temperatures. A gentle breeze rustled through the forest, bringing a rare coolness to the summer morning.

Sitting in the wicker rocking chair where Su Anyong often lay, Xiao Qing, having grown larger, was still held in Su Ping's arms, excitedly watching everything in front of her.

In front of Su Ping was an extremely spectacular sight. Outside the forest, within the shadows cast by the canopy, before the manor's path, Forest Wolves of various sizes appeared before him. They behaved like well-trained domestic dogs, sitting on the ground, their green eyes intently fixed on Su Ping. At a rough count, there were over twenty of them.

Among them, seven adult Forest Wolves had reached Elite Level or above. One had reached Elite Ninth Order, making it the highest-level Forest Wolf in the base besides Old Sha. Fewer than twenty were still at Ordinary Level, most of them growing pups.

However, in today's Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base, the most valuable assets were actually these pups. Normally, those who came to purchase Pet Beasts would buy young ones to nurture as their first. Newly awakened Beast Tamers at the Ordinary Level could not contract with an Elite Level Forest Wolf. Furthermore, Beast Tamers who had advanced to Elite Level wouldn't usually buy an adult Forest Wolf, as its potential was limited and its development predictable. Therefore, these seven Elite Level Forest Wolves were largely kept as breeding stock.

In front of this wolf pack stood Old Sha, eyeing Su Ping with a wary and cautious look. *Clearly, from his apprehensive gaze, he was still thinking about Su Ping's threat yesterday to poison him and feed him feces.*

Sure enough, after Old Sha had gathered all the Forest Wolves, Su Ping took out a bottle of dark green liquid. Su Ping slowly turned and looked at Old Sha.

"Old Sha!"

Old Sha shuddered, then, with a look full of deep resentment, turned his gaze to Su Ping. However, in the end, Old Sha didn't run away as he did yesterday.

There were rules within the Wolf Tribe. Old Sha possessed the authority of a Wolf King. He commanded the members of the Wolf Tribe, and his attitude reflected the pack's attitude towards Su Ping. Su Anyong had entrusted the Heart of Woods base to Su Ping, so Old Sha had to take the lead and let Su Ping become the 'king' these little ones would now obey. Therefore, at this time, even if his young master intended to harm him, Old Sha would not back down.

But when Su Ping actually took the vessel filled with dark green liquid from his pouch, Old Sha's body still trembled slightly. Then, under the curious gaze of all the Forest Wolves, he walked forward with somewhat trembling limbs.

Seeing Old Sha's pleading gaze, Su Ping was somewhat speechless. *Is all this fuss necessary? If Xiao Qing weren't so young, and if I didn't need to test the potion's effects on the other Forest Wolves first, would this be so troublesome?*

Su Ping stroked the stiff fur on the temples of Old Sha, who had lowered his head, and then softly said, "Old Sha, you have to trust me! I'm doing this for your own good."

Old Sha glanced at Su Ping, then at the concoction. Although it had cooled, it still retained some of yesterday's smell after being unsealed. Old Sha looked back at Su Ping again.

Those green eyes clearly said: *I don't believe you one bit!*

But in the end, he nodded.

*After all, Old Sha was nearly two cycles older than this young master. Possessing wisdom not inferior to humans, he naturally knew what his young master was actually doing. He's making a Magic Potion. Su Anyong, when he was young, also tried a few times. I even ingested it, but the final effects... And the young master, having just graduated and suddenly taking over Heart of Woods, naturally has the ambition to try out his own ideas. So, after a night of deep thought, I know that even if I'm poisoned to death, I must protect the young master's pride. I can't let him be like that unreliable Su Anyong, just abandoning efforts and completely wasting the old man's life's work!*

"AWOO..."

Thus, Old Sha closed his eyes and let out an extremely desolate howl. It lacked only tears welling up in the corners of his eyes.

With an air of heroic self-sacrifice, as if a loyal pet resigned to death at its master's command, this display made Su Ping utterly exasperated as he poured out the Magic Potion.

He decided not to waste any more words. He looked at Old Sha, who had his eyes closed and mouth wide open, as if bracing himself to be fed feces by his young master, and directly poured this dark green, jelly-like Magic Potion, which resembled herbal jelly, into Old Sha's mouth.

Then, Old Sha's long, steaming tongue lapped it up, swallowing it down his throat without even properly savoring the taste, gobbling it down as if it were a priceless treasure eaten in haste.

Old Sha opened his eyes and looked at the now-empty Magic Potion bottle, then at the young master eagerly watching him. His gaze suddenly lost its brightness, as if the world had turned gray in an instant. Afterward, he came to Su Ping's side and began to whimper softly.

Although it was wolf language, Su Ping could still roughly understand some of the meaning: *You must carry on the legacy of the Heart of Woods Pet Beast Breeding Base, and definitely grow and strengthen the breeding of the Forest Wolf! Do not let down the hard work and trust of your grandfather, and develop even more powerful evolutionary paths for the Forest Wolf! And, you must strive to become an even more incredible Beast Tamer, you stinky kid!!!!* These sentiments, and more, were conveyed, as if he was delivering his last will and testament. It was also as if an elder on his deathbed faced his kin with his final, earnest teachings.

For a moment, under the sunlight that enveloped the area outside the woods, the atmosphere became incredibly solemn and poignant. Even the rest of the wolf pack lurking nearby, clueless about what was happening, let out mournful howls in response, as if they were bidding farewell to their Wolf King, their elder.

If Su Ping himself didn't know what was really going on, he might have been moved by the atmosphere. *But what the hell is going on here? I'm feeding him a Magic Potion, not poison!*

Fortunately, Su Ping didn't have to wait long. Suddenly, the utterly serene expression on Old Sha's face, which seemed prepared for death, changed. The low whimpering stopped abruptly.

Su Ping's expression turned very serious as he observed Old Sha's reaction. In that instant, sparkling emerald specks of light appeared on Old Sha's originally bluish-gray fur, as if he were enveloped by a faint, verdant green glow.

Throughout the area outside the forest, the air seemed to become incredibly clear. Simultaneously, in the nearby woods and beneath Old Sha's feet, branches burst through the soil, growing at a visible pace. At the same time, a faint aura emanated, making Su Ping's eyes widen in shock.

The Forest Wolf pack behind him reacted even more intensely, trembling with fear and prostrating on the ground, not daring to gaze directly at their Wolf King's aura.

This process lasted only a minute.

The next moment, all the peculiar phenomena disappeared, replaced by a crisp and exceedingly jubilant Wolf Howl filled with indescribable joy!

*Chapter 9 - 9: Old Sha's Breakthrough! Poison Vine Strangulation!*

Before Su Ping could react, he was once again enjoying the sensation of being tackled onto the soft grass.

Then came the lapping of a moist tongue.

In his current state, Old Sha bore no resemblance to his earlier readiness to face death.

*Heh. Pet Beasts.*

Disgustedly wiping the sticky saliva from his cheek where Old Sha had licked him, Su Ping finally used his Eye of Truth once more to look at the uncontrollably excited Old Sha:

[Forest Wolf (Wild)]

[Current Level: Commander Second Rank]

[Racial Potential: Elite Tenth Rank]

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

[Heart of Woods (Beginner): Enhances the power, effectiveness, and casting speed of Wood Element abilities to a certain degree and allows for the absorption of Wood Element power for rapid self-recovery.]

*Just as expected!*

A thrill shot through Su Ping's eyes.

*Not only did it get Heart of Woods, but its level also increased by another rank! Did the addition of Wolf Tobacco cause such a miraculous chemical reaction with the Heart of Woods Magic Potion?*

Su Ping did not understand. The superficial knowledge of cultivation science he had learned at school clearly couldn't explain this.

But he knew one thing: the significance of what had just happened.

To put it bluntly, an ordinary Forest Wolf cub would, at most, fetch a price between 800,000 to 1,200,000 Gold.

However, a Forest Wolf that had awakened Heart of Woods could command a price at least three to five times higher!

If it had good aptitude, practiced its Skills diligently, and improved its Skill proficiency and level growth quickly, it could be worth even more.

It might even be comparable to some lower-tier Commander Level talent Pet Beast cubs.

The Heart of Woods Skill was incredibly powerful.

Such Skills that enhanced corresponding elemental power, though not so-called Super-Rank Skills, were often more practical than some Super-Rank Skills as passive abilities!

Even at the Beginner level, with the boost from Heart of Woods, Old Sha's strength had increased by thirty to fifty percent compared to before.

If they were to fight in places like jungles, mountain forests, or grasslands, it would be even more terrifying!

However, it was precisely because of how formidable it was that Skills like Heart of Woods were exceedingly rare and difficult to obtain.

But now, with the help of the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas, this original Heart of Woods Magic Potion had undergone such a metamorphosis simply by adding one ingredient.

Su Ping's eyes blazed with excitement. However, at that very moment, a new prompt appeared in the log records at the bottom of the solely illuminated Forest Wolf Catalog entry on the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas:

[Successfully enabled the associated Pet Beast to acquire the Skill: Heart of Woods, and its rank was improved. Catalog Experience +30 points!]

Su Ping was startled and took another look at the now-lit Forest Wolf Catalog:

[Catalog: Forest Wolf]

[A special Wolf Tribe adept in using Wood Attribute, with extremely strong life force. Typical adult Forest Wolves are Elite Level, and their proficient Skills include: Sunlight Absorption, Vine Strangling, Self-Healing, Rapid Growth, etc.]

[Current Catalog Level: 1 (152/500)]

The experience had reached 152 points.

*If it weren't for the 285 points spent previously on perfecting the Heart of Woods Magic Potion formula, I'd only be a bit more than a hundred points shy of upgrading the Catalog to Level 2! Looking at it this way, it seems increasing the Catalog Level isn't so difficult!*

*However...*

Su Ping's gaze quickly moved past Old Sha, looking at the group of Forest Wolves that had become very docile.

Clearly, to quickly increase the Catalog Level, the more Forest Wolves, the better; and the more Forest Wolves with adequate intimacy with him, the better!

Old Sha had been like family to him for so many years. There was no need to say more.

Xiao Qing had formed a Soul Contract with him, binding them directly together, so naturally, the same applied.

But as for these more than twenty Forest Wolves, although he had brought Old Sha to feed them before and they were familiar, their intimacy was clearly still insufficient according to the Myriad Spirit Beast Atlas's judgment!

Obviously, if he wanted to raise the Catalog Level quickly, the number of Forest Wolves with adequate intimacy was of paramount importance.

And how could he make their intimacy reach the standard?

Daily interactions, feeding, training.

All of these could work, but they obviously wouldn't meet the standard quickly.

Glancing at Old Sha, who was extremely excited and wagging its tail in a way Su Ping had never seen before, Su Ping instantly understood.

*If I can help these little guys increase their strength and enhance their abilities—especially if they can do it effortlessly, as if lying down—then it will undoubtedly increase their intimacy with me by a lot!*

Instantly, Su Ping solidified his decision. *I'll continue concocting Magic Potions! But before that, I need to see Old Sha's changes!*

"Old Sha, use Vine Strangling on that tree!"

Old Sha's green eyes suddenly lit up with spirit. It had never dreamed that Su Ping could achieve something that even Su Ping's own grandfather hadn't managed, something Su Anyong had completely given up on!

*It knew that its young master, whom it had watched grow up, would never harm it!*

Immediately, Old Sha's gaze fixed on one of the huge trees in the forest.

The next moment, numerous dark green branches and vines either burst from the soil or condensed out of thin air.

They instantly entwined the giant tree that was being used as a practice target.

The vines were as thick as a bowl and extremely tough, even gleaming with a metallic luster.

Moreover, as they continued to entwine and constrict, Su Ping soon discovered extremely sharp barbs appearing on the vines, elevating their lethality by another significant measure!

After only a short entanglement, deep gashes that looked as if they were made by a saw appeared on the trunk of the towering tree in his small forest.

The speed of the attack and the power of the vines were incomparable to before!

He thought that even a Commander Level opponent of the same rank, if caught in this web of vines, would have its blood drained in an instant. It would suffer wounds all over, as if subjected to death by a thousand cuts.

Even Su Ping couldn't help but draw a sharp breath.

However, Xiao Qing, who had been quiet in his arms, suddenly became animated as well.

It stared intently at the entwining vines, as if it had suddenly understood something.

*Xiao Qing formed a Soul Contract with me and advanced to Ordinary Second Rank in just a day. That speed isn't slow. But right now, it only has the basic Forest Wolf Skill, Sunlight Absorption. It could sunbathe to reduce its need for food and conserve energy, allowing it to grow rapidly. Yet, it has no combat abilities so far. I wasn't in a rush before, but now the situation seems a bit different, doesn't it?*



Indeed, Xiao Qing lightly leaped from his embrace, landed in front of him, and then, opening its mouth slightly, let out an extremely tender cry:

"AWOOOOOO..."

The next moment, several delicate vines, only as thick as woolen yarn, burst forth from the soil!

The difference was, aside from their thinness, these vines had a slightly different color—they were tinged with purple.

Su Ping blinked, looking incredulously at his Pet Beast.

*It learned it just like that?*

It's true that Forest Wolves typically learn their Racial Skills as they grow.

Vine Strangling was one of the Forest Wolf's primary combat techniques, so this was natural.

However, a Pet Beast's talent is judged by the speed at which it learns and masters Skills.

For example, just yesterday in the student group chat, the class monitor, Zhou Shuchen, had proudly stated that his newly contracted Crimson Fang Tiger mastered one of its primary combat Skills, Flaming Pounce, in just half a month.

This was indeed quite impressive.

*But how could my Xiao Qing learn Vine Strangling just by watching Old Sha use it once?*

Using the Eye of Truth, Su Ping looked at his Pet Beast with a touch of disbelief:

[Mutated Forest Wolf (Contracted)]

[Attribute: Wood, Poison]

[Current Level: Ordinary Second Rank]

[Racial Potential: Elite Tenth Rank]

[Skills: Sunlight Absorption (Beginner), Poison Vine Strangulation (Beginner)]

*Wait a minute?*



Su Ping was taken aback. This wasn't the regular Vine Strangling that common Forest Wolves mastered.

*It's this so-called Poison Vine Strangulation?*

Su Ping looked at Xiao Qing with a strange expression. *Could it be that Dad, who supposedly chose this Forest Wolf after meticulous selection—though it was probably just a stroke of luck—actually found a mutated Forest Wolf? Not only does it have the potential to master Poison Type abilities, but it's also exceptionally talented?*

*Chapter 10 - 10: First Battle, Rapid Promotion Plan!*

Su Ping became interested. Xiao Qing was very young, but the Talent it had already displayed was enough to surprise even Su Ping! Originally, he thought he would have to wait for Xiao Qing to grow a little older and, after its Level increased, purchase some Poison Type resources for it to consume. Xiao Qing would then be able to master this mutated Poison Type Ability, but now it seemed he had greatly underestimated Xiao Qing's Talent!

"Well done!"

He rubbed Xiao Qing's proudly raised head, and his gaze shifted to the other Forest Wolves. It quickly fixated on the youngest of them all. This Forest Wolf was also the weakest among these ordinary ones, and its Level was only one rank higher than Xiao Qing's—merely a common Third Rank.

Before, Su Ping had not really considered Xiao Qing's combat ability at this time. But now, since Xiao Qing had comprehended a Skill, he wanted to see how effective and powerful Poison Vine Strangulation was.

He glanced at Old Sha and said, "Old Sha, let that little guy battle Xiao Qing!"

Only by growing in battle would one become more adept at using Skills. And Su Ping wanted to see just how potent the Poison Vine Strangulation that Xiao Qing had just learned truly was.

"AWOO!"

The tiny Forest Wolf singled out by Old Sha stepped forward cautiously, eyeing both Su Ping and the proud little wolf beside Su Ping's trouser leg. Obviously, this Little Forest Wolf, too, had been born recently, and its Talents were relatively average. Even now, though it was one rank higher than Xiao Qing, it hadn't comprehended the Skill Vine Strangling.

In the face of its opponent, Xiao Qing did not show the affection it had for Su Ping but displayed a hint of disdain, and a somewhat childish howl sounded.

The eyes of the Little Forest Wolf flashed fiercely, and it pounced straight at Xiao Qing. However, before it could get close, vines that appeared out of nowhere had already tightly wrapped it up. The delicate purple-green vines looked non-threatening, but having entered a tier, their strength far exceeded that of an ordinary human.

"WHINE..."

The Little Forest Wolf howled, struggling to break free, but Su Ping keenly noted that the Little Forest Wolf's power at this moment had significantly weakened compared to usual! And the wounds seemed swollen. *This poison is strong!*

Through the soul connection, Su Ping signaled Xiao Qing to stop. The battered Little Forest Wolf was finally rescued from the Poison Vine Strangulation, but it seemed as though all its strength had been drained. It couldn't even stand.

Xiao Qing's Poison Vine Strangulation was mainly based on a toxin that paralyzed through the blood. If it were to face a life-and-death enemy in reality, the enemy might not even feel pain from the poison vines but would lose all Ability to resist and die.

Happy for Xiao Qing, Su Ping quickly scooped up the powerless Little Forest Wolf. He followed Old Sha to the medical room, administered an antidote, and only relaxed a little when he saw it starting to recover. The Little Forest Wolf's eyes opened. It gazed at Xiao Qing, who was perched triumphantly on Su Ping's shoulder, a hint of loss in its own eyes.

Su Ping stopped in his tracks, thought for a moment, and slowly squatted down, rubbing the similarly thirty-centimeter-tall Little Forest Wolf's head, smiling and said, "It's okay, you'll grow stronger too. As long as you're in Heart of Woods, I won't give up on any little guy! Keep it up!"

"AWOO!"

Before the Little Forest Wolf could speak, Xiao Qing, who was on Su Ping's shoulder, let out a jealous cry. It leaped lightly beside Su Ping and nipped at his trouser leg with its nascent sharp teeth.

Then, Xiao Qing looked at its defeated rival with a somewhat unfriendly gaze. *This guy actually thought of such a method to vie for our master's affection! How despicable!*

Just as it bared its teeth, Su Ping gently tapped it on the head. When dealing with wolves and any other Pet Beast, besides fostering closeness, one must also make them aware of who the true master is. Xiao Qing felt a little aggrieved.

"Heart of Woods is one big family. From now on, you must not bully your companions; you should help and support each other! Understand?"

Xiao Qing hugged its head with its two immature paws but still let out an "AWOO," clearly responding.

Surprisingly, the frail Little Forest Wolf looked at Su Ping with some astonishment, then glanced at the slightly different Little Forest Wolf beside him, and a determined look appeared in its eyes. Afterward, it forced itself to stand up on its still-shaky legs and let out an equally immature howl.

"AWOO!" it howled, as if to prove that it wasn't as bad as it seemed.

"Good! Very spirited!"

Su Ping smiled with satisfaction, set it down on the ground, and then brought over some ointment to help soothe the wounds that were rapidly healing.

Old Sha, who was standing outside the medical room, watched Su Ping's silhouette in the morning sunlight as he crouched on the ground. Beside that silhouette were two equally small ones. One weak but resolute, the other proud but discontent, yet they showed no resistance toward Su Ping.

Seeing this, a smile also flitted across Old Sha's eyes. It didn't understand how the medicine that the young master made could awaken the Skills and power of the Heart of Woods after it was consumed. It also didn't understand how the young master had the courage to make such claims. But at this moment, Su Ping's figure standing in the dawn's light truly made Old Sha believe that this young master, who had just become a Beast Tamer, might indeed make this little Pet Beast Breeding Base fundamentally different. Perhaps in the future, he might even become a greater Beast Tamer than his grandfather.

At that moment, Su Ping was also suddenly taken aback.

A new prompt appeared on the record log of the Forest Wolf Catalog in his mind:

[Encountered and interacted with a common Forest Wolf, intimacy met the requirement, Catalog Level experience +10!]

[This Forest Wolf has a common bloodline; subsequent daily interactions will yield Catalog Experience +1!]

The experience wasn't much; whether it was the experience gained for meeting the intimacy requirement or the Catalog Experience from daily interactions, both were modest. But this was enough to surprise and delight Su Ping.

Indeed, dealing with Pet Beasts was actually much simpler than interacting with people. Pet Beasts had sharper senses than humans; they could feel who had good intentions. Therefore, when dealing with Pet Beasts, only two words were needed: 'sincerity'!

Realizing this, Su Ping stood up and waved his hand, declaring, "Little guys, don't worry, starting now, our Heart of Woods initiates the Rapid Advancement Plan! Let every Forest Wolf awaken the Heart of Woods Skills! Starting with you and Xiao Qing!"

"AWOO..."

"AWOO..."

The two immature wolf howls sounded almost in celebration of their master's bold ambitions.

Only Old Sha, who had been smiling at the doorway, felt its expression slump. *Does this mean the young master is going to start making that... thing again?* it thought. Although Old Sha had now experienced the benefits of that concoction, its odor was just too memorable for a wolf. *What a daunting determination indeed.*