

The Herb King

The Herb King #Chapter 71 – 80

Read The Herb King Chapter 71

71 Henry's Disbelief

The two carriages arrived in front of the clinic without accident.

Skylar and Kathlyn alighted from their carriage and they immediately brought the twelve ladies to the clinic.

The ladies were amazed when they saw the beautiful design of the building. It looked a lot fancier than they had expected.

“Miss Samira, we’ve brought twelve ladies according to the standards set by Sir Aethelwolf.” Skylar said as she looked at the ladies who were standing behind them.

“Greetings, Sir Aethelwolf and Miss Samira!” The ladies greeted them in unison. Their voices were lovely and pleasant to the ears.

Leric stared at them with a smile. He was satisfied with them. “You don’t have to be nervous. You can put down your luggage first. I believe you guys already know why are here, but just to be sure, I will say it once again. From now on, you will be working temporarily in this clinic. The difficulty of your job will depend on the number of people that we will be serving, but since tomorrow is just our opening day, I think there won’t be a lot of customers...”

He then explained the specifics of their job and the ladies listened to him while also mentally taking notes of his words.

All of them were talented young women so they were quick to remember Leric’s words.

“Let me show you guys the products of our clinic.” Leric said as he took out a green, blue, and purple jade box. He also took out four kinds of pills.

.....

“This green jade box contains the low-grade soap and we are selling it at ten silver coins. The blue jade box has the mid-grade soap which is priced at ten gold coins and the purple jade box has the high-grade soap which we will be selling at five thousand gold coins.”

He also explained the respective benefits of the soaps as well as the differences between them.

After that, Leric pointed his finger at the pills and explained them one by one. “This one right here is a Recovery Pellet. It can heal physical wounds... We will be selling this at the price of five thousand gold coins.”

Leric didn't plan to sell the same Recovery Pellet that gave to Lord Julius. It was more expensive and more difficult to refine. Although the ones weren't as effective as the prototype that he made, it was still more highly effective than the ones sold in the market.

“This one is a Vigor Pellet. It is also a 2nd-Grade Pill, but it's more valuable than the Recovery Pellet. Upon consumption, one's Hegel would be strengthened, making it sturdier and one would be able to absorb more world essence. The price for this pill is ten thousand gold coins.”

“This is an Essence Gathering Pellet... price is 35,000 gold coins...”

“This is an Awakening Pellet... price... 100,000 gold coins...”

The eyes of the twelve ladies jumped up in shock as they heard Leric's explanation about their products. Each product is very valuable, especially the Awakening Pellet which could turn one into an Esper! They haven't heard of any pill similar to that which is existed in the market.

After telling them everything, Leric asked the ladies to give a short introduction about themselves. Since they would now be working for him, it was good to know more about them.

Meanwhile, Henry went to the headquarters of his courier company and he immediately summoned the most capable subordinate under him.

A bald man middle-aged man wearing neat clothes came running towards him with a flattering smile on his face. “Good evening, boss! Is there anything that I can help you with?”

Henry took out the box that he had gotten from Aethelwolf and put it down carefully. “I have a job for you. This was given to me by a top client so you must not make any mistakes about this. Are you willing to take this job?”

Aethelwolf was someone of high status and he didn't want to fuck up in this matter.

The bald man was surprised when he heard his boss' solemn words. "Boss, you know me. As long as the pay is right, I will make sure that the item will be delivered without even a scratch." He said in a confident tone. He was a peak Level 2 Esper and was a retired army veteran. He could still stay in the army, but his wife wasn't keen on letting him continue as a soldier so he applied to become a courier under Henry since the pay was almost the same and there wasn't that much of a threat to his safety.

Henry nodded his head at his words. This guy has been with him for more than a decade and he was also the strongest courier under his command. "I believe in your capabilities. You will get your payment after delivering the item. I promise that you won't be disappointed."

The bald man grinned after hearing his words, he then asked. "Where do I have to deliver this item, boss?"

"Barden City, Lassiter Household." Henry answered.

"Alright. Just wait for my good news." The bald man smiled as he grabbed the big box. He then put it inside his storage ring. Although his storage ring was merely of low quality and only has a small space, it has more than enough space to hold the big box inside.

"Alright. You may leave." Henry waved his hand and dismissed him.

After completing everything he had to do, Henry went back home and jumped to his bed right away, but then he remembered the pill that Aethelwolf has given him earlier. He took it from his storage ring and observe it closely. "I wonder what kind of pill this is, but since it's a gift from Sir Aethelwolf, how could it be ordinary?" He muttered to himself as he summoned his courage to eat the pill.

Gulp.

As soon as the pill entered his stomach, he felt his body vibrating intensely! His head suddenly felt heavy and he couldn't help but close his eyes.

When he regained consciousness, he found out to his disbelief that he can now interact with the world essence around him. This was a sign that he had become an Esper!

"What the hell!?"

72 Opening Day

Henry couldn't believe what was happening to him.

His talent has already been verified and he was told that he had no hopes of becoming an Esper in his life. According to the Appraisers, his Hegel is inactive and he wouldn't be able to interact with world essence.

He had already accepted the fact that he could no longer become an Esper. Who would have thought that a single pill from Aethelwolf could actually do the impossible and turn an ordinary man like him into an Esper? Perhaps if he told this to someone, they would just treat it as a joke, but as soon as Leric's pill enters the market, the world will certainly be turned upside down! Everyone would want to get their hands on such miraculous pills!

"To think that I, Henry, have now become an Esper..." He still couldn't think straight and he could hardly contain the excitement from showing on his face. He must tell this good news to his family! He also vowed in his heart that if Aethelwolf ever needs his help in the future, he wouldn't hesitate no matter how dangerous it would be.

The next day, it was the grand opening of Leric's clinic and there were already a lot of people waiting outside.

Up on the third floor, Leric was dumbstruck when he saw the huge crowd outside their doors. He even wondered if there was an event near them that he didn't know about.

To his amazement, he discovered that the second prince was also among the people downstairs. "Could it be the doing of this guy? No. It must be because of the Reynolds Household. They must have informed all the relevant people in Lion City." He muttered to himself.

After recovering from his surprise, Leric turned his gaze to Samira and the others. They still didn't have their uniforms so they were still wearing their own formal clothes. "Let's go and greet our customers. Remember what I taught you guys last night."

.....

Leric led the ladies downstairs.

When he pushed the door open, he smiled at the people outside as he gave a short introduction about himself. "Hello, everyone! My name is Aethelwolf, the owner of this clinic. I am a Level 4 Alchemist and I'm confident about my skills as a doctor. If you to have yourself checked, you can come here any time. There are also four pills to be displayed in today's opening and you can look for them on the first floor and the second floor. The third floor is meant for those who are seeking medical treatment and check-ups. I don't want to keep this introduction long anymore. Everyone can now go inside to check our clinic."

The crowd patiently listened to his words after hearing that he was a Level 4 Alchemist, but there were some people who found it hard to believe that a young-looking person like him was claiming to be one. After all, it was already common knowledge that there

is only one Level 4 Alchemist in the Leone Empire and even if he was one, he looked too young.

A man suddenly voiced out in a suspicious tone. "Did you really think that we will believe your words? Level 4 Alchemist my as-" He couldn't continue his words because he saw Leric conjuring a Golden Pill Fire!

"Golden Pill Fire! He is indeed a Level 4 Alchemist!"

"How young and talented!"

Some people in the crowd were also skeptical about his claims, but upon seeing his Golden Pill Fire, they immediately swallowed the complaints that they were about to say. Luckily, someone shot the fire first or they would have offended this young Level 4 Alchemist.

"Good morning, Lord Aethelwolf!" The people greeted him respectfully as they entered the clinic.

Meanwhile, the man who had voiced out his complaints was already nowhere to be seen.

Leric didn't care about the man and he didn't choose to escalate the matter just because of one careless bastard.

Samira and the other ladies that Leric temporarily hired enthusiastically greeted the customers. They then started telling the customers about their products.

"What?! This pill can actually recover any physical wounds?! And it's only sold for the price of five thousand gold coins?! Miss, please give me five of this pill!"

"A pill that can strengthen the Hegel! What a powerful pill! Please give me three!"

"Holy mother of god! This pill can actually turn one into an Esper regardless of age! Even an ordinary person can become one after consumption!"

As the crowd heard the effects of the pills, they were dumbfounded and found it hard to believe. If not for the owner displaying his Golden Pill Fire, they would have thought that this group of people were scammers. Other than that, the Reynolds Household's young miss was also among the ladies working in the clinic. Her presence washed away everyone's suspicions.

"Lord Aethelwolf, I apologize in advance if I might come off as blunt and rude, but are those pills really as effective as they say?" One of the customers asked Leric in a nervous tone. He was dressed rather luxuriously, a sign that he came from a huge background. Either he was a son of a noble household or a scion of a merchant family.

Leric smiled at the man and answered in a calm voice. "I guarantee with my honor that everything they said is true and if my pills don't work as we've introduced them, we will compensate you with twice the amount that you purchased them with!"

The crowd gasp when they heard his confident words.

"In that case, I want to order an Awakening Pellet." The man said as he took out ten golden cards from his storage ring. He came from a rich family and money wasn't a problem for them.

"Alright. Please grab one Awakening Pellet for this gentleman right here." Leric said to his nearest crew.

"There is no need for that. I will eat the pill here. Will there be any issues if I do that, Sir Aethelwolf?" The man asked while looking at him in anticipation.

Leric glanced at the man and replied. "If you truly can't wait, then you can go to the third floor. You can consume the pill there safely. Kathlyn, please take this gentleman upstairs."

"Yes, Sir Aethelwolf!" Kathlyn brought the man away and led him to the third floor.

73 Awakening Pellets Sold Out!

There were only ten Awakening Pellets on display and the first one was already sold. Everyone became more anxious, but they were still unsure if it is really as effective as the owner said.

One hundred thousand gold coins isn't a small amount of money and not everyone was as rich as that young man who didn't even blink when he purchased the Awakening Pellet with effectiveness that was yet to be verified.

"Hello, Sir Aethelwolf! It's good to see that your clinic already has a lot of people on its first opening day! Congratulations!" Prince Calvin smiled at Leric

Leric smiled and shook his head. "Most of our visitors this time are just curious individuals. The true customers have yet to come..." Once these people try out the effectiveness of their products, they would soon be known by everyone in the city. By then, many rich people who badly needed his items would come to purchase from him.

"It looks like you've thought far ahead, Sir Aethelwolf. I'm impressed by your vision." Prince Calvin praised him sincerely. Aethelwolf is one of the few people he admired.

Leric merely chuckled at his words.

“I won’t disturb you further, Sir Aethelwolf. You still have a lot of things to do. I’ll look around the clinic on my own.” Prince Calvin smiled as he walked away. His father told him to buy one of each item sold by Aethelwolf. With the number of people inside, his products would soon be out of stock. It wouldn’t be good if he failed the task given by his father.

Seeing the second prince buying so many things at once, everyone no longer hesitated. If even the prince was there to buy the products, what was there for them to hesitate?

“Hahaha! I’ve become an Esper! The pill worked!” A loud joyful laughter echoed within the clinic, making everyone stare in the direction of the third floor.

.....

“Isn’t this the voice of that young man who bought the Awakening Pellet?”

“Did it really work? Did he really become an Esper?”

“I know who that young man is. He is Aaron Zachary Buffet, the son of Baron Renaud Buffet. He was appraised to have an inactive Hegel and was said to have no hopes of becoming an Esper in his life.”

“That means the Awakening Pellet worked!”

After a moment, the people inside the clinic immediately grabbed the remaining Awakening Pellets.

“That’s mine! I came here first!”

Leric ignored the commotion and just sat down on a chair with a smile on his face.

It didn’t even take a long time for the Awakening Pellets to be sold, earning him a million gold coins in just a blink of an eye! He couldn’t believe that earning money was actually this easy for Alchemists, but he then thought that it made so much sense. However, Leric didn’t know that most Alchemists struggle to even refine a single pill in one refining session. Only someone like him could refine three or more pills in just one session. His success rate in refining pills was a hundred percent, something that was unheard of in the history of Alchemy!

“Sir Aethelwolf, I’ve already gotten what I came here for so I won’t stay any longer. See you again soon!” Prince Calvin bid him farewell after his purchase.

There were also a few more acquaintances who came to buy his items and they all left after making their purchases. They were busy people and they only came to the clinic to show their support for Leric.

Leric didn't see anyone from the Reynolds Household, but he wasn't worried that they wouldn't come.

"Samira, your family came late and all our Awakening Pellets are already sold." Leric chuckled as he stared at Samira.

She pouted when she heard this, but there was nothing she could do. She had already spoken to them that they should be here to buy his products, but it looks like they were delayed by some matters.

"It's fine. Anyway, I can just buy them from you if we really need your pills." Samira stared at him cunningly. Her words made Leric speechless and he could only stare at her in silence.

Leric turned his gaze away from her and acted as if he didn't hear anything she said. 'This girl is becoming bolder the more I interact with her...'

Meanwhile, the frenzy of the customers didn't die down and Leric's temporary workers became busy throughout the whole day.

Suddenly, Aaron Zachary came downstairs. His appearance garnered everyone's attention. They had all heard his joyful laughter earlier and they wanted to see if he has truly become an Esper.

It was actually easy to know if anyone was an Esper. One option is to make the world essence around them produce light. Even newly awakened Espers wouldn't find it hard to do this.

"Sir Aaron, have you truly become an Esper?" Someone from the crowd could not help but ask.

Everyone focused their gazes on Aaron.

"That's right." The young man nodded his head with a wide smile on his face. He then interacted with the world essence around him and made them produce a blinking white light.

Seeing this, everyone's doubts about the Awakening Pellet vanished. They soon regretted not taking action earlier on.

"Holy crap! It's true! Only Espers can do that!"

"To think that I actually missed out on a miraculous pill..."

Upon hearing the crowd's words, Leric suddenly said. "Don't worry, everyone. We will display ten Awakening Pellets every day and there might be more in the future. The

refining process of this pill is very difficult so we can only produce ten every day at most.”

Hearing this, everyone’s eyes lit up with hope. As long as the pill was available, they would have a chance to purchase it!

When Samira, Skylar, and Kathlyn heard his words, they could not help but grin at Leric. The guy refined thirty pills in just a few hours and if not for the limited ingredients, he would have been able to refine more. It was obvious that he was doing this strategy to make the public think that the Awakening Pellet is precious and rare.

74 I Should Eat Pills Until I Elevate My Strength to Level At noon time, Lord Julius finally arrived together with Lord Harold and Madam Antonette. All three of them had sullen faces as they entered the clinic.

When Leric saw their dark expressions, he furrowed his eyebrows and wondered what could have happened to them.

“We apologize for coming late, Sir Aethelwolf. Something came up along the road and it took a lot of our time.” Lord Julius said as he forced out a smile.

“What happened?” Leric asked in a low voice. He suddenly thought about the bandit scouts who had been monitoring them in the last few days. Could it be them?

Samira walked towards them and also asked what was going on.

Lord Julius turned his gaze to Harold and said. “Explain it to them..”

Lord Harold nodded his head and sighed as he recounted what happened to them earlier.

“We were supposed to be here early in the morning, but we sensed a few people following our carriage. Although they didn’t reveal any malicious intentions, I decided to walk out of the carriage and interrogate them. I couldn’t allow them to spy on us. However, when I came near them, those people suddenly attacked me together!”

Hearing this, Samira frowned and looked worriedly at her family. Luckily, nothing happened to them.

.....

“It appears that they are the same people who are monitoring us in the last few days. I have noticed them since we came back to Dominion District. I believe that they should be from the Northern Viper Group...” Leric said in a stern voice.

Lord Harold nodded his head. "That's right. I interrogated some of them and after a long while, they told me that they are scouts sent by the leader of the Northern Viper Group. If what you said is right, then those guys have been eyeing our Reynolds Household for a long time!"

The Northern Viper Group is a group of bandits that suddenly appeared in the empire out of nowhere. Upon their arrival, they caused all sorts of crime and spread fear throughout the empire. The Imperial Family even sent a kill order for the whole group, but only the lowest-ranking members of the bandit group are captured until today and they still had no idea what is the goal of those brigands.

Leric also had no information about them. "I think we should inform His Majesty about this. It would be dangerous if those people are left to do anything they want."

The Northern Viper Group is a dangerous band of criminals. Leric wouldn't be able to have a good sleep each night, knowing that a malicious bandit group is hiding in the dark. The only option left for them is to inform the Imperial Family about this. Hopefully, they would send their elite soldiers to investigate the matter.

Lord Harold nodded his head in agreement. "We will go to His Majesty's temporary mansion and tell him about this."

"They must have come here because of me!" Samira muttered coldly. It was already known that the leader of the bandit group has been eyeing her for a long time. They just ignored them and thought that it was merely the wishful thinking of a lowly bandit. However, the group has shown strong power!

Leric didn't say anything, but he was worried for her safety. She was now working for him so he has a responsibility to protect her while she was in his care, but how can he protect her against a large bandit group when he is only a Level 2 Esper? From the looks of it, he has to increase his strength earlier than planned.

"Let's talk about this matter later. The three of you can take a rest on the third floor. The patient rooms there are still empty. Samira, go and stay with your family. We can handle the situation here."

"Alright." Samira nodded her head.

Lord Harold sighed when he saw the solemn expression on Leric's face. "I'm so sorry for telling you such bad news during your opening day, Sir Aethelwolf." He muttered with an apologetic look.

Leric shook his head. "It's not your fault, Lord Harold." He then went silent and thought about what type of pills he should refine to increase his strength in a short amount of time.

Seeing that he was in a bad mood, Samira immediately brought her family to the third floor and chatted with them about the matter.

When they left, Leric entered into deep thinking. "I have already consumed a pill that elevated my strength to Level 2 Esper. Even if I eat more pills that can promote my strength, I would only reach Level 4 at most. Man, why is leveling so difficult?" Leric muttered in dissatisfaction, but if someone hears him, they would surely bash his head in anger. Eat pills and reach Level 4? It was the dream of many, but Leric was still dissatisfied about it.

"The efficiency of these pills will become lower if I consume them all together, but I have no time to hesitate." He then called Skylar and gave her a list of herbs and other materials. All of which were ingredients to refine the pills that could enhance his strength!

Leric wasn't worried that his foundation would become unstable since he has the Status Screen.

"Be careful and you should ask Reed to go with you." Leric suggested as he solemnly stared at Skylar.

Skylar nodded her head when she saw how serious he was. She also felt warm in her heart after knowing that he was worried about his safety. "Yes, Sir Aethelwolf."

"Good! You may leave." Leric sent him off and he didn't turn his gaze away from her until seeing that she left with Reed.

Leric gave her a huge amount of gold coins. It should be enough to purchase all the herbs he needs. It was a good thing that the clinic earned an astronomical sum on its first opening day or this would have been impossible.

75 Buy More Pills From Him

Serge had a dark expression on his face as he stared at the clinic from a distant location. He just received a call from one of his subordinates telling him that some of their comrades were killed and a few others were captured by Lord Harold Reynolds.

"I told those bastards to be careful, but they didn't listen to my words! Dammit! If the Reynolds Household informs the Imperial Family about this, we won't be able to escape Lion City. We should leave now while we still have time!" Serge gritted his teeth as he hatefully glanced at the clinic. Time and time again, the Reynolds Household has always spoiled their plans. This time, they wouldn't be able to continue monitoring them since the city would surely reinforce their defense.

"Summon the others! We will retreat from Lion City and stay outside for the time being. We will return once the commotion dies down." Serge commanded in a solemn voice.

He was certain that a punishment would be waiting for him. Gustavo wasn't the kind of person who would tolerate a second failure!

"Father, were you really attacked by the Northern Viper Group?" Samira asked as she looked at her father.

Lord Harold furrowed his eyebrows as he replied. "At first, they were merely spying on us, but when I moved near them, they tried to assassinate me! Those bandits were quite skilled. They should be elite scouts of the Northern Viper Group. I managed to capture three of them and they are now being detained in our mansion. Once we inform His Majesty about this event, we will bring those bandits to the Imperial Family and let them do their own investigations. They have a much wider network than us and they should be able to gain some important information from the captured bandits."

Samira frowned as she listened to his words. "We can't delay this matter any further. We have to inform His Majesty about this right away! I'm sure Aethelwolf will understand."

Lord Harold nodded his head in agreement. "Your mother and grandfather are still tired from the journey. I will go and visit His Majesty on my own. You should stay here and help Sir Aethelwolf in managing the clinic."

"But..." Samira wanted to go with her father, but the latter rejected her immediately.

.....

"Don't worry. Your father will be fine. Have you forgotten that I am a Level 4 Esper? Although I'm not as strong as your grandfather, those low-ranking bandits wouldn't pose any danger to me." Lord Harold reassured her with a smile, but she was still a bit worried.

"Alright, but you have to be careful, father." Samira said while looking at him seriously.

"Of course!" He patted his daughter's back and stood up from his seat. "I should leave now. Some of the bandits managed to flee and if I don't hurry, they might be able to escape Lion City. Say goodbye to Sir Aethelwolf for me."

"Don't worry about him. Your father is a strong Esper and only a few people are strong enough to overpower him." Lord Julius smiled at his granddaughter.

"Your grandpa is right. I'm not even worried about your father. Just relax. Everything will be fine." Madam Antonette gently held her daughter's hand and comforted her.

After about a minute of silence, Samira suddenly recalled something. "By the way, I got something for you guys. This is from Aethelwolf." She said while taking out a bunch of items. Samira also took out the three Awakening Pellets that she had bought from him.

"Do you guys know what this is?" Samira stared at them with a mysterious look on her face. She was showing them one Awakening Pellet. It looked ordinary and had no redeeming qualities other than the extraordinary energy contained inside the pill.

"You came late so you don't know what this is." She chuckled. "This is an Awakening Pellet and it can help someone become an Esper regardless of their age!"

Hearing this, Madam Antonette and Lord Julius were stunned. It can help someone become an Esper?!

"Can you elaborate on it?" Lord Julius said as he frowned in contemplation.

Samira returned the pill to the glass container and kept it inside her storage ring.

"According to Aethelwolf, any person regardless of their age or talent would turn into an Esper after consuming this pill!"

This time, Lord Julius was dumbfounded. "You mean, even someone with an inactive Hegel will become an Esper?!" It was absurd! How could there be such a pill? However, since it came from Aethelwolf, the two thought that it might be possible.

"That's right. He is only selling the pill for a hundred thousand gold coins each! Grandpa, if we can have more of this pill, we can create an army of Espers for our Reynolds Household!" Samira's eyes shone with excitement at the thought of it.

Lord Julius nodded his head in excitement. His old subordinates have already returned, making the Reynolds Household's power increase dramatically. "How many do you have?" The old man asked while looking at his granddaughter.

Samira handed the three pills to his grandfather and replied. "I only managed to buy three pills from him. Apparently, this pill is very difficult to make and even Aethelwolf could hardly make a few dozen every day. The ingredients of this pill are also very hard to come by..."

"Is he selling more in his clinic?" Lord Julius asked.

Samira shook her head and smiled sadly. "You guys arrived late. The Awakening Pellets have already been sold out. He only sells ten every day, but I think I can buy a few more from him if I try."

With her friendship with Aethelwolf, the guy might be willing to sell a few pills for them.

“I’ll give full jurisdiction to you about this matter and if he agrees, make sure that you will buy as many as you can!” Lord Julius grabbed a treasure chest from his storage ring and handed it to Samira. Inside the chest was a huge amount of gold coins. It should be enough to purchase fifty Awakening Pellets!

“Alright, I’ll try, but I can’t guarantee that I can buy many from him.” Samira smiled helplessly.

76 Getting the Imperial Family’s Support

Lord Harold went to Emperor Ragnar’s residence in Dominion District. It was just near the clinic so his carriage arrived in less than thirty minutes.

Upon his arrival, the guards immediately identified him and brought him inside the residence.

Lord Harold noticed that Emperor Ragnar and Prince Calvin were talking, so he waited for them to finish before he greeted the two. “Greetings, Your Majesty and Your Highness!”

“Oh? It’s Sir Harold. How are you?” Prince Calvin smiled at him.

“To be honest, I don’t feel quite good, Your Highness. The Reynolds Household has encountered a problem that needs the Imperial Family’s help...” Lord Harold said in a grave tone.

Seeing that he had become serious, Prince Calvin remained silent as he turned his gaze to his father, Emperor Ragnar.

The emperor furrowed his eyebrows upon hearing this. “Speak. What is this all about, Harold?”

Lord Harold recounted the same story he told to Aethelwolf and when the emperor and the second prince heard that it was a matter related to the Northern Viper Group, their faces became solemn.

“So it’s actually them. You said that you managed to apprehend a few of those bandit scouts. Bring them here for interrogation!” Emperor Ragnar could sense that there was something deeper about the actions of the bandit group. It was as if they were working on a clear goal, but he just couldn’t put a finger on it.

.....

The emperor then stared at the second prince and said. “You will be in charge of this matter. Give me a detailed report in less than a week.”

Prince Calvin drew a gasp of surprise at the one-week deadline given by his father. It was a very short time and he might not get a lot of information. However, he knew that this matter shouldn't be delayed since the safety of Lion City was at risk. He nodded his head firmly. "Yes, Your Majesty!"

"Harold, take your leave first and secure the imprisoned bandits. You have to make sure that they won't be able to escape. We might get some leads from them." Emperor Ragnar dismissed Lord Harold with a wave of his sleeves.

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Lord Harold left the mansion and immediately headed to the Reynolds Household to secure the prisoners. With the Imperial Family's help, their chances of apprehending the high-level members of the Northern Viper Group would increase.

As soon as he left, the father and son duo glanced at each other.

"Father, you told me that the Northern Viper Group isn't a local of our Leone Empire. Do you have any information about them that can help me in this matter?" Prince Calvin asked.

Emperor Ragnar leaned on his chair and signaled with his hand.

Swoosh!

Dimitri appeared out of thin air, shocking the second prince.

"Tell him what we know about the Northern Viper Group." Emperor Ragnar said.

Dimitri nodded his head and then turned his gaze to the second prince. "I managed to capture one of their middle-ranking members and he told me the location of one of their temporary hideouts. When I went to that place, I was able to overhear their high-ranking members talking about their plans. I wasn't able to hear everything, but I learned about a piece of crucial information..."

"Those people are from the Ford Empire!" Dimitri's eyes turned cold as he told this to the second prince.

Prince Calvin's eyes widened as he looked at Dimitri and his father. The high-ranking members of the Northern Viper Group are actually from the Ford Empire? However, when he thought deeply about it, the whole thing started making sense. The bandit group was so collective and systematic with their plans that it was making everyone question if they were truly a group of criminals.

"I thought that the Ford Empire wouldn't attack us anytime soon, but it seems like they have already started. If I'm not wrong, they must have sent the Northern Viper Group to create a commotion in our Leone Empire, making our citizens panic. Their presence

would also make some noble families feel unsafe which would cause a domino effect that could lead to the disruption in the foundation of our empire. I must say that there is a wise strategist in the Ford Empire. This is just the first part of their plan and they haven't even attacked yet, but the internal structure of our empire is already showing signs of breaking." Prince Calvin muttered with a grave look on his face.

When the emperor and Dimitri heard his words, they could not help but look at him in surprise. He could actually come up with such a detailed conclusion after only hearing a small information about the Northern Viper Group.

"Your Highness is right. When I overheard their high-ranking members' conversation, I immediately went to Ford Empire to verify this matter and I came to know that they have been planning this for a long time. Dustin Empire also has a hand in this matter. I believe that the rumors about these two empires having an alliance aren't unfounded." Dimitri added.

"Father, the time you gave me wouldn't be enough if I investigate alone, but if you allow me to have the help of Sir Dimitri, I'm confident that I can pull this off." Prince Calvin said as he looked at the emperor.

Emperor Ragnar gave him a smile before he turned his head to Dimitri. "He wants to borrow your services. Are you willing?"

Dimitri lowered his head upon meeting the emperor's gaze. "I'm willing." He answered.

"Good! Then that's settled. You will help Calvin in getting more information about the Northern Viper Group. The two of you should work together with the Reynolds Household. They would be a great help to you guys." Emperor Ragnar suggested.

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Prince Calvin and Dimitri answered in unison.

"Alright. Since Harold isn't here yet, let's talk about Aethelwolf's products first. Come on! Show me what you bought from him and tell me more about them." Emperor Ragnar changed the topic. He was very curious about Leric's products.

77 Aethelwolf's Significance

Hearing his father asking about Aethelwolf's products, Prince Calvin stared at him and chuckled internally. It looks like his father wasn't that worried about the two empires at all since he still has the mood to talk about other things.

The second prince took out a bunch of items from his storage ring. Four pill bottles containing four kinds of pills as well as three differently colored small jade boxes.

"I'll explain the pills later since they are more complicated. Let me tell you about this thing first." Prince Calvin grabbed a green jade box and opened it, revealing a

rectangular item that was also green in color. It exuded a unique fragrance that was similar to a newly bloomed flower.

“This is a soap. Using this makes your skin look smooth and healthy. You just have to wet it a bit with water and then scrub it all over your skin. This soap right here is a low-grade soap and this blue one is the mid-grade and the high grade is the purple one. Their efficiency also increases with respect to their grades. Overall, this item works like those beauty pills sold in the market. The one thing that makes it better than those pills is that each soap can be used for two weeks or even more, depending on how you use them.” Prince Calvin recited the information he got from the clinic.

Hearing this, Dimitri didn't reveal that much of an interest, but the emperor let out a mysterious smile. It was a great product with a high profit potential. ‘That guy Aethelwolf is indeed clever...’

After explaining the soap, Prince Calvin grabbed a bottle of pill and said. “This is a Recovery Pellet...” He explained everything in detail with an excited look on his face.

“This one is a Vigor Pellet... It can...”

“This one right here is an Essence Gathering Pellet. It can increase the absorption of world essence by three folds upon consumption!” When Dimitri heard this, he finally revealed a look of interest. With his level, he would need a huge amount of world essence in order to increase his power. However, his rate of absorption is only similar to everyone and the pills on the market could only enhance his absorption rate by fifty percent! This Essence Gathering Pellet would be useful to high-level Espers like him!

Emperor Ragnar's face turned serious. The soap was already enough to shock him, and both the Vigor Pellet and Recovery Pellet also managed to make him feel surprised by their effectiveness. Now, this Essence Gathering Pellet could no longer make him calm. “This... Why did you only buy one?” He could not help but stare at his son with an ugly smile on his face. However, he remembered that he was the one who told him to only buy one of each item. He could only curse himself for being incredibly stupid.

.....

Looking at his father's expression, Prince Calvin chuckled. “Father, I know you'd say this so I used my own savings to purchase more of this pill, but the clinic only has a few dozen of them so I was only able to purchase twenty.” He took out more pill bottles while saying this.

As soon as he heard the effects of drinking this pill, he immediately went out of his way to procure more. Luckily, he also brought his own pocket money when he visited the clinic.

Seeing this, Emperor Ragnar raised his thumb at him and said. "Good! Good! What about the Vigor Pellet and Recovery Pellet, did you also buy more of them?"

Prince Calvin nodded his head, a wide grin can be seen on his face. "Of course! However, the last pill..." He moved his gaze to the Awakening Pellet. It was the most valuable pill sold in the clinic, but there were only ten and Aethelwolf didn't allow anyone to purchase more than one.

"Among the four kinds of pills in the clinic, this one is the most valuable. Father, can you guess what effect this pill has? I'm sure you won't be able to guess it..." He muttered in a mysterious tone.

Looking at the pill in his hand, Emperor Ragnar could already sense the vigorous energy contained inside. "Is it a pill that can increase your level?"

Prince Calvin shook his head. "No. This pill is called the Awakening Pellet. Upon consumption, one would immediately become an Esper!"

Hearing this, the eyes of Dimitri and Emperor Ragnar widened.

"What did you say?!"

"You heard me right. This pill can turn one into an Esper regardless of talent or age. Awesome, right?" Prince Calvin laughed in his heart when he saw their dumbfounded expression. In truth, he also had the same look when he heard the effects of this pill.

"Marvelous! This pill is unheard of! But I must say that Aethelwolf is truly brave. He actually dares to sell this pill in his clinic. Isn't he afraid that some people might covet his recipe? Even if he is a Level 4 Esper, there might be some fearless people who would try to steal this from him." Emperor Ragnar narrowed his eyes as he took the pill bottle from Calvin's hand. This thing was incredibly valuable and if used well, they could form an army of Espers!

Prince Calvin pondered upon his words and nodded his head in agreement. "Father is right, but since Aethelwolf isn't afraid of trouble, there should be nothing to worry about. Besides, he already has the Reynolds Household's support. Lord Julius and Lord Harold wouldn't allow anyone to harm him."

"Indeed, but we still have to be careful. You have to talk with Aethelwolf about this matter after you're done with your mission. That guy will become the headmaster of the academy so nothing must happen to him." Aethelwolf's significance to the empire was rising at a steady pace. With his unique pills, the emperor placed an even greater importance on him.

Aethelwolf must be protected!

78 A Beast In Him

“Sir Aethelwolf, here are the herbs that you asked me to purchase.” Skylar said as she took out more than a dozen of herbs from her storage ring.

“Thanks.” Leric kept them inside his storage space. With these herbs, he should be able to make enough pills that would make his strength jump to Level 4!

Skylar glanced at him curiously. She had spectated his refining sessions on more than one occasion and the herbs that Aethelwolf asked him to buy were definitely not the ingredients of the pills they sell in the clinic. She wanted to ask what kind of pills he was making, but she chose to swallow back the questions that were about to come out of her mouth.

“I’ll leave the clinic in your care. You can close the clinic when the sun sets.” Leric said to her before he went to the third floor. It was the only space where he could refine pills in peace since they still don’t have a patient.

When he arrived on the third floor, he saw Samira, Lord Julius, and Madam Antonette. Their eyebrows were knitted closely together as they chatted between themselves, but when they heard someone’s footsteps, they immediately turned their heads.

“Sir Aethelwolf, we apologize for spoiling your mood.” Lord Julius said as he looked at Leric worriedly.

Leric smiled at the old man and shook his head. “You don’t have to worry about it, Sir Julius. I’m happy that you guys are safe and I really want those bandits to be dealt with. If there is anything I can do to help you guys, just tell me.”

Hearing this, the eyes of the three people flashed.

Lord Julius gave a signal to his granddaughter with his eye.

.....

Samira saw this and she immediately cleared her throat as she said. “Ehem! There is actually something that we need your help with, Aethelwolf. You already know that our Reynolds Household is most likely being targeted by the Northern Viper Group. Although our family is strong, we still lack capable soldiers if we want to fight against them. It would be ideal if we can nurture a few more Espers into our army...”

Leric smiled widely after he heard her words. They wanted more of his Awakening Pellet. “You want more Awakening Pellets, right? If you can procure the ingredients for me, I can sell the pills to the Reynolds Household at half the price. However...” His eyes suddenly turned sharp as he looked at the three of them.

When they met his hawk-like gaze, their hearts unconsciously tightened. Even Lord Julius who was a Level 4 Esper was surprised when he sensed the ominous aura that Aethelwolf was emitting.

In truth, Leric merely activated his skill [Intimidating Aura]. It has no offensive or defensive uses. Its only effect is to radiate an oppressive aura that would instill fear in the people around him. It was a great skill for increasing the intimidation factor.

After seeing the changes in their expressions, Leric was satisfied with his skill. "My Awakening Pellet can turn a normal person into an Esper. I can make a thousand pills if I want, but I can only sell a hundred pills to the Reynolds Household."

"The Reynolds Household is already a very strong family among the noble households. I guess that you have a thousand Espers under your command. This strength is only beneath the Imperial Family and the major noble households. What would happen if you guys suddenly have another thousand Espers at your beck and call? How do you think the nobles would react to it?" Leric threw two questions that made them ponder deeply in silence.

After a moment, Samira furrowed her eyebrows as she replied in an uncertain tone. "The nobles of the Noble Faction would feel suspicious of our sudden growth and they might band together to oppress us. They might also send a few experts to force you into selling Awakening Pellets to them."

Leric nodded his head. "That's right. They will be wary of your rise in power and knowing how greedy they are, those people would certainly send people to get the recipe of my pill. If I don't hand it to them, they might even try to assassinate me." Leric already knew that the Awakening Pellet would make everyone go crazy, but he was confident that he could escape the tide if something unexpected happens. With his skills [Perfect Disguise] and [Conceal], he could retreat without being noticed in any situation.

The atmosphere became solemn when they heard Leric's words. He had thought already thought far ahead. In fact, he might have already expected that they would ask him about the Awakening Pellets. This guy's wisdom was frightening. Normally, he always has a carefree and smiley face, but the Aethelwolf in front of them was giving off a vibe that was similar to that of an ancient predator! They realized that this must be what he is hiding beneath his usual approachable exterior.

"Sir Aethelwolf is right. In that case, we won't ask for more than a hundred Awakening Pellets. Our Reynolds Household will also procure the ingredients for you and we will buy them at the original price of one hundred thousand gold coins per piece. We will pay you a total of ten million gold coins for everything!" Lord Julius was decisive and he also realized the complications of being too greedy. Besides, their Reynolds Household wouldn't be able to pay a thousand Awakening Pellets. Their total assets are roughly a hundred million gold coins and the amount that they can liquidate is only around twenty

million gold coins. They can get more money, but doing so would shake the financial situation of their family.

Leric was laughing in his heart. Ten million gold coins! That was equivalent to ten million US dollars in his past life! That is a huge amount of money!

He maintained a composed look as he stared at Lord Julius. After a moment of silence, he retracted the intimidating aura and let out a smile. "It's a pleasure working with you, Lord Julius." He said as he extended his hand to the old man.

Lord Julius shook hands with him with complicated thoughts in his head. He thought that this young man was a carefree soul, but he was actually hiding a beast in him! Luckily, he was a good friend of their family and his granddaughter seemed to have a close friendship with him.

79 Saint Revolution Pellet

"I will send the ingredients and the payment to you the moment we gather everything." Lord Julius turned his gaze to Madam Antonette and said. "Antonette, liquidate ten million worth of our assets and you will also be responsible for gathering the herbs that Sir Aethelwolf will need to refine the Awakening Pellets."

Madam Antonette nodded her head gently. She was handling most of the businesses of the Reynolds Household so it was only right for her to do this task. "I'll get it done, father."

Leric took out a pen and paper from his storage ring and listed down the ingredients of the Awakening Pellet, but he also added a few herbs. He could trust the Reynolds Household, but there might be some spies among their people and he didn't want to risk it. Although he was the only person who knew the refinement process of the Awakening Pellet, it would make him feel uncomfortable if someone else knew the ingredients to refine it.

After listing down the names of herbs on the paper, he handed it to Madam Antonette. "I'll leave it in your hands, Madam Antonette, but I hope that you will only let this paper go into the hands of someone that you can trust." He said with a smile.

"You can count on me, Sir Aethelwolf. I won't make a minor mistake like that. Don't worry." Madam Antonette reassured him with confidence.

Leric retracted his gaze at her. "I will be refining some pills. Please excuse me." He said as he went inside one of the patient rooms.

The three looked at his figure silently and when he entered the room, they glanced at each other with excitement. They were able to secure a hundred Awakening Pellets!

“Antonette, prioritize this matter first. We have to strengthen our Reynolds Household. The Leone Empire is in a precarious situation and we need all the power we can get.” Lord Julius muttered, his aged face revealing a solemn expression.

Madam Antonette nodded her head.

.....

“Grandpa, is the situation really becoming worse?” Samira asked, feeling a bit worried.

Lord Julius furrowed his eyebrows as he nodded his head. “The Northern Viper Group seems to be working for another empire. No bandit group would be able to work as seamlessly as them. If Harold can get the Imperial Family’s support, we can cooperate with them to gather more details about those brigands.”

Meanwhile, inside the patient room, Leric sat down on the floor cross-legged. He then took out his cauldron and the ingredients he had. For his plan to work, he has to refine five types of pills. All of which can enhance his level!

Normally, a person can only eat one or two pills that can enhance their levels before they lose their efficiency. However, Leric wasn’t planning to refine the pills sold in the market, but self-created pills with much greater efficiency!

Without wasting any time, Leric started refining the herbs. His hands moved elegantly as he extracted the liquid and world essence inside the herbs.

Most Alchemists would struggle in doing this process since they have to do this step manually, but with Leric’s knowledge of his past life, he knew some tools that can help him expedite this tiresome process.

The first pill he was going to refine is something he casually named ‘Saint Revolution Pellet’. This time, the name is a lot better than all the other pills he made, but it was because he took it quite seriously. The Saint Revolution Pellet was the most valuable among the five pills he was going to refine. It can make a newly ascended Level 1 Esper jump straight to Level 2 with some excess energies left! The only issue about this pill was its volatile nature because of its ingredients. Leric intentionally used herbs with opposing properties to bring out their berserk nature. This way, he could make a pill with more energy contained within.

Leric didn’t plan to sell this pill in public for three reasons. First, this pill is very dangerous when consumed without the help of an Alchemist. Because of its volatile nature, one’s Hegel might explode upon consumption of this pill! Secondly, refining this pill takes a much longer time than refining other pills. Lastly, he didn’t want other people to become too strong since they might bite him in the ass after knowing how valuable the Saint Revolution Pellet is.

After a few hours, Leric began forming the pills. There were only two pills that took form inside the cauldron. It wasn't because Leric made a mistake in the refining process, it's just that one Saint Revolution Pellet requires a lot of energy so he was only able to produce two in every refining session. Of course, this will also depend on the quality of the ingredients that he has. If he was using ingredients with better qualities, he might be able to form three pills in one session!

Two red pills which are emitting fiery heat lay inside the cauldron.

Leric observed the energy inside the pills and he noticed the violent world essence contained inside. It was like a world filled with burning flames!

"Since when could I refine 4th-Grade Pills?" Leric muttered to himself in surprise when he identified the level of the Saint Revolution Pellet. He was certain that it could be classified as a top 4th-Grade Pill!

Leric opened his palm. A wisp of Black Pill Fire started flickering. It was a dark flame that was unheard of in history. "Perhaps my Black Pill Fire can bypass the levels and I can make higher-level pills when I'm using it..." He muttered as he admired the black flame.

Leric retracted his Black Pill Fire and grabbed the two Saint Revolution Pellets inside his cauldron. The two pills are very hot and Leric even had to shield his hand with world essence to lower their heat. He kept one pill inside his storage space and popped the other one into his mouth.

When the pill entered his mouth, he felt as if his head was burning.

"Bloody hell!"

80 Level Up!

The immense unstable energy contained inside the Saint Revolution Pellet was now wreaking havoc inside his body.

Leric willed his thoughts and guided the volatile world essence to his Hegel was also slowly refining the energy in a bid to make it less aggressive. However, even after expending a lot of effort, the energy was still extremely violent and if not for Leric's superb control of the world essence, he would have already succumbed to the intense pain. His Hegel which was strengthened by the Vigor Pellet also proved to be useful since it was able to absorb the monstrous energy contained inside the Saint Revolution Pellet.

Leric slowly opened his eyes and he sprawled on the floor with beads of sweat on his face. He had underestimated the Saint Revolution Pellet's aggressive nature. If someone else would consume the pill, their Hegel might not be able to absorb the

energy and explode! This would make them unable to become an Esper again. There might be some chance if they have a strengthened Hegel or an in-born stronger fortitude that many don't have.

"What a strong pill!" Leric slowly lifted his body upwards. He then wiped off the sweat on his face with a clean towel. After calming his restless nerves, he checked the increase in his level by looking at his Status Screen.

Talent [Esper] Level

Talent [Alchemist] Level 3

Talent [Doctor] Level 3

Talent [Blacksmith] Level 3

Talent...

.....

The moment he became a Level 3 Esper, all his other talents which were stuck at Level 2 also leveled up. This was a huge increase in his abilities and this was the result of consuming just one pill!

Looking at the massive changes, Leric's lips curved upwards to form a grin.

"Impressive! Now, I only need to make four more pills to increase my level to Level 4."

In case you might be wondering why he didn't drink the other Saint Revolution pill in his possession, it was because one person could not consume a second pill with enhancing effects of a similar kind. Consuming a second one will not increase your level, wasting a precious pill. Of course, there are also pills with enhancing effects that can be used multiple times, but their efficiency wasn't that great compared to the Saint Revolution Pellet. Furthermore, their efficiency will also decrease depending on how many times you've consumed them.

After resting for five minutes, Leric cleaned up his cauldron and removed the residues of the Saint Revolution Pellet. This process didn't take him much time since he was using his Black Pill Fire to hasten the procedure.

When his cauldron was cleaned up, Leric sorted his ingredients and grabbed the ones he would need for the next pill. The second pill that he was planning to refine is something he casually called 'Energy Augmentation Pellet'. The materials for this pill were not expensive as the Saint Revolution Pellet and it was also easier to refine. This pill can enhance an Esper's level, but the increase would depend on who would consume it. The lower the level of the consumer, the greater the increase in power. This

pill would have a lower efficiency to Leric since he was now a Level 3 Esper. Other than that, this pill can only be consumed once.

“This Energy Augmentation Pellet can be sold, but I also have to maintain its production to make it more expensive.” Leric muttered as he started the refining process.

Lord Harold returned to the emperor’s mansion with the captured bandits tied up in chains. The bandits were all staring at him with eyes filled with hostility and a tinge of fear. This man looked amiable, but they had seen his prowess as he decimated their entire team! He was a wolf in sheep’s clothing!

When he arrived at the room where the emperor was resting, he noticed that the prince and the assistant were still there. The three of them appeared to be in high spirits as they chatted about something, but as soon as the three of them heard him entering the room, their expressions turned solemn as they moved their gazes to the bandits being pulled in chains.

“Are these people the bandits that attacked you, Harold?” Emperor Ragnar asked while observing the bandits closely. Upon inspecting them one by one, he realized that each bandit was an Esper and two of them were even Level 2 Espers. Such experts could become elites in a noble household, but they were actually working as scouts for a bandit group! It was unthinkable!

When the bandits saw the emperor, they knew that their fates were sealed. Their eyes revealed a sense of despair and their bodies soon collapsed under the pressure of their impending death.

“Your Majesty, it’s indeed them. Now, I’ll leave them in your hands. Our Reynolds Household will also do its best to assist you in this matter. We will also send our elites if need be.” Lord Harold came prepared this time. He had also talked about this with his father, Julius Reynolds.

Emperor Ragnar nodded his head at his words. He was satisfied with his approach. He was still thinking of ways how to tell the Reynolds Household to assist his son, but it seems like they already knew that this would happen and Harold was now offering their assistance without the need for him, the emperor, to tell them. ‘This must be Julius’ plan. That old man is wise. I thought that he was just a hot-tempered warrior. He has hidden himself well...’ Emperor Ragnar mumbled in his heart. The image of the Reynolds Household also became bigger in his mind.

“In that case, I want you to lend your support to Prince Calvin. I gave the task of gathering information about the Northern Viper Group to him. I also gave him the approval to summon the army of our imperial family if needed.” Emperor Ragnar said as he looked at Harold.

Harold was a bit surprised by the authority given to the second prince. He even thought that the emperor was planning to return the 'Crown Prince' title to him. Thinking about this, Harold immediately saluted the emperor before nodding his head at the second prince. "I'll be in your care, Your Highness."