

Vile 371

Chapter 371 Burnin' For You P5*

"This was... delicious!"

Eren commented while looking up to Renita. He could see the ecstasy she had felt just now. He wiped his face with the torn fabric of her dress before kissing her neck again.

"You are up you know."

Eren said and then laid on his back next to her. He was still wearing his pants. Renita smiled when she saw Eren's bulge. She channelled her Novice rank mana through her body to get rid of the tiredness she was feeling and tied her hair into a bow at the back of her head.

"Eren... you... you need to guide me, okay? I haven't done this. So don't laugh at me for doing anything seemingly stupid. Your words are horrible and not helpful at all when building up morale."

The butcher smiled but didn't reply verbally. He nodded his head and let her know that he was ready.

Renita sat straight on the bed and looked at Eren's crotch. Then she placed her right hand on the bulge. The butcher laughed at her action before speaking:

"It won't bite, you know? Let's take the pants off first."

Eren raised his head using both of his hands as pillows. He now would have a clear idea of what the amateur "blower" would do to him.

Renita remembered how Eren had done it before giving her a tonguestorm and decided to follow his cue. She first got on top of him and kissed him.

Her pussy was now rubbing against his crotch which made both of them more ecstatic than they were. She kept on rubbing her mound against him which added more spice to her otherwise normal performance.

Renita placed her folded knees beside either side of Eren's waist. Slowly, she moved her kissing drive downtown. She placed her right hand in between them and tried to get her hands on Eren's manhood, which was still wrapped inside his pants. She rubbed the tip of his duck with her palms before giving it a firm squeeze while she was busy kissing him on his neck.

"You.... Hm... you are doing surprisingly well, my dear."

Eren smiled as he looked down and observed Renita doing the "job". The ranger felt pleased that whatever she was doing was being appreciated. She didn't bother to reply. She carried on and kissed his pecs before moving further down.

Renita traced Eren's abdominal muscles with her tongue before planting a few kisses on his navel. She then tucked both her hands into either side of his pants and pulled them down.

"Oh my..."

Renita could tell while operating Eren's dick with her hands that the guy was packing. But the actual image was more intimidating than she had imagined it to be. She asked her partner with fear and doubt mixed in her smile:

"Eren... will it... Fit?"

Eren smiled casually before nodding:

"Of course, Reni. Don't worry. Hehehe. Pussies can scare people off with how adaptive they can get.

Focus on the task at hand. Don't get discouraged and distracted. Everything will be alright."

Renita nodded and returned a confident smile of her own. She took care of all of Eren's clothes first. She was about to fall on him but Eren grabbed her arm and made her look at him in confusion:

"Wrong way, Reni. Get that perky ass on my face."

Eren smirked and told Renita about the position she was supposed to assume. The latter felt her cheeks reddened. She just had her second orgasm. Any more excitement down there would make her completely crazy. So she pursed her lips before responding:

"Eren... my ... puss... Er... It is a bit sensitive now. I can..."

Stunning Speed

Sedated Perception

Eren activated his time element spells and adjusted Renita's body on top of him by himself. That too effortlessly. A bit of bedroom agility was expected from an Ace ranker like him. Plus, he was dealing with a Novice that couldn't follow his movement anymore. Then he cancelled the spell and started lapping up her pussy lips.

This was the first time he had used his time element spells this way. Eren wondered how Alpee would think of using his time-element spells this way before discarding that thought.

Renita didn't know what had happened at first when her vision suddenly changed. But before she could process what had transpired, her pussy sent her another wave of sensitivity and pleasure. She looked down and saw that she was already sitting on Eren's face with the latter "going to town" with enthusiasm.

"Aaaaah... you rascal... at least... Aaaah... give me a moment ... aaaa... to prepare.... hmmmmmmmmmm."

Eren ignored Renita's futile objections and grabbed her by the neck with his left hand. He then pulled her down towards his groin— her mouth a few centimetres away from his 8incher. He had adjusted his dick's size and girth beforehand so it would be easier for Renita to accommodate it for her first time. Unlike what he did with Jules, the butcher had been surprisingly caring towards the ranger.

Renita realized that further discussion was unnecessary. She was feeling her pussy getting lapped up by Eren's abnormally active tongue. He was also stimulating her clitty, vaginal entrance, and her rear gate at the same time. She felt glad that she had taken a shower.

Renita first kissed the mushroom head of Eren's dick. Then she traced the foreskin accumulated at the crown with the tip of her tongue before welcoming the head into her mouth. All while feeling the waves of ecstasy coming from her groin and washing all over her.

Eren felt the top of his dick getting swallowed. He could feel Renita's inexperience showing so he spoke up by hitting pause on his ongoing task:

"Reni, use your tongue more. Keep your teeth a bit away. And use your hand to massage my dick from its base.... Everything else... I'm sure instincts would figure on their own. Hehe!"

Eren said started kneading Renita's butt cheeks. Renita replayed Eren's directions in her head and immediately got to work on them. She took hold of the top half of Eren's dick in her mouth. The other half of his dick was being stroked with her grip moving up and down across its length.

"Hmmm! Good. Now take the whole rod in."

Eren placed both his hands on the back of Renita's head before thrusting his cock inside. Renita opened her eyes wide as she experienced a sudden gag reflex. But before her jaw could close, Eren channelled some more lightning element mana and stunned her jawline muscles and prevented them from reacting. He prevented her from closing her jaws on his dick. Not that she could hurt him with his Ace-Rank body. This was done to make her feel more confident.

Renita's eyes had gotten a bit moist. But Eren also needed relief. He had to get a bit rough with the ranger.

Eren drove his cock inside out Renita's mouth while placing one hand against the back of her head—keeping it in place. He slapped her butt cheeks with the other hand. Renita's pussy was ravaged by his tongue storm.

Soon, Eren nudded inside Renita's mouth. Since the tip of his dick was deep inside, most of his thick white produce flowed straight down her throat. Renita could only taste and feel a bit of it as she wiped the corners of her lips.

And yet, surprisingly, Eren's dick hadn't gotten down even after he had just come. Renta sighed when she realized that. This was going to be a long night for her. That realization made her excited for more.

Chapter 372 Burnin' For You P6*

"Haaaa! Eren... I... I need a breather!"

Renita got up from her mount that was Eren's face, turned quickly, and crashed beside him while catching her breath. The butcher shook his head in denial before retrieving a vial of potion from his hand.

"Here, drink this. This night is for us, Reni.

Hehe. We are going to make use of every moment to make sure you give me a proper farewell."

Renita caught Eren's potion in her hand and puffed up her cheeks to make him register her displeasure for being so selfish. The butcher didn't mind being stared down. He just smiled shamelessly while

waiting for Renita to drink the potion. He then casually shook the vial in front of her— provoking her to drink it.

Renita sighed before snatching the vial that her man was dangling in front of her. She uncorked it and drank the contents in one go. She then activated her mana core for her body to better absorb the potion's properties.

The ranger felt rejuvenated soon after.

"I might have started awkwardly because of my inexperience. But since this is what you want, I'm gonna make sure your balls run dry of their cum by the morning. Hehe! Don't underestimate me just because you broke into Ace rank."

Eren raised his eyebrows when he heard Renita's confident remark. He couldn't understand the source behind her sudden confidence. He then looked at the vial in her hand that he had received from the underground dungeon. It was supposed to be a rare all-stats-recovery potion that he had used on her.

'Hm! I need some more potion products of this kind for this particular activity. Maybe I'll find something good if I look carefully into the recipe book. Guess I'll check it out when I officially take over my assignment.'

The butcher responded to Renita's provocation with a provocation of his own:

"Oh yeah? Words are meaningless? Prove it with your words, Reni. Hehe!"

Eren pulled Renita up to him and kissed her neck. He placed both his hands on the back of her buttocks and gave them a few squeezes each. He ran his index finger through her vaginal crack.

Eren inserted two of his fingers into her wet hole with a bit of difficulty. Renita grunted while she was being penetrated by Eren's fingers. She rubbed her entire body on his again to deal with the pressure her vaginal walls were feeling at the time.

Eren started to slowly drive the fingers in and out as he rubbed the tip of his cock against her clit. To prepare her pussy for the eventual penetration, Renita kept her pelvis over Eren's groin without sitting on it. Having that additional liberty made it easy for Eren to excite her lady part even more.

Once her vaginal walls started producing ample amounts of juices again, Eren stopped fingering Renita and lifted her head to make her face him. He looked her in the eye before asking:

"Look me in the eye as I take your virginity."

Eren said and narrowed his eyes. His domineering nature had charmed Renita even more and suppressed all her fears. She needed someone to take control of the game when she was unable to.

The ranger also suddenly felt that both of them were extremely compatible with each other in this way. They would give each other the reins to control the play without any miscommunication.

"Hehehe! I'm kind of afraid. But not really since it's you.

Do it Eren Idril. Make me yours. Now and forever."

Renita responded to Eren's domineering gaze with her passionate and loving eyes. She looked at him and all of him while guiding her pussy close to Eren's dick. She felt the tip of his dick touch her.

"Go ahead. Take control, mister. Take control of all of me."

Renita laid flat on Eren and whispered in a low voice into his right ear. Her pussy near the tip of his dick. Her boobs pressed against his chest.

The latter needed no further encouragement. He used his hand to guide his rod at the tip of Renita's stretched cave. Then he pushed her waist down on him some more using his other hand and pushed his cock inside.

"Aaaaaaaaah."

Renita felt her vaginal walls getting stretched as they had never been stretched before. As she hugged him tightly, her head rested next to his with their opposite cheeks touching. She completely closed the distance between them to prevent herself from subconsciously lifting her groin away from its current position. Eren's bodily warmth also gave her the support she needed to get through being penetrated for the first time.

Renita clenched her fists and pursed her lips. She closed her eyes and tried to bear the pain. The butcher on the other hand felt something different that he had never felt before.

A mystic spell was imprinted on his psyche at the time. A few runic symbols and lines appeared on his chest that shined with a purple glow. Thanks to the imprint, Eren knew exactly what the spell was supposed to do and how to use it.

Mark of Seven Sins: Lust!

'This ability... is dangerous.'

Eren temporarily stopped moving his cock inside as he realized the ability one of his two Sins marks had granted him. He cancelled its activation and made it remain dormant, lest he hurt Renita while their first union was taking place.

The runic marks on Eren's chest disappeared. And Eren breathed a sigh of relief.

"Eren?"

Renita's voice finally snapped Eren back to his current task. He got rid of his confusing thoughts and gripped Renita's hips from both sides before slowly driving his dick in and out of Renita's pussy.

"Aaaaaaah!"

Renita released a cry that was mixed with more pain than pleasure as Eren's dick pierced deep inside her. The pleasure was still there. A pleasure that she felt after realizing that she had become one with the man she loved.

"Channel your mana and hold on for a bit, Reni. It'll soon be alright."

Eren whispered into Renita's ears as he slowly drove his cock in and out of Renita's now-bleeding cave. He also wondered how she was able to keep her hymen intact despite being an extremely agile ranker due to her class and moves.

Renita's body began to sweat heavily, forming a layer of sweat on her body. Tears ran down her cheeks. Tears that spoke more about the satisfaction she felt than her maiden pain.

Renita's groin area had become an oven. His thrusts were slowly driving her crazy. But she held onto Eren. She held onto him as if her life depended on it.

She also started to use her pussy walls to squeeze Eren's dick. She was beginning to take control of her vaginal muscles.

"Eren... my pussy... my insides... my entire being... is burnin. I'm burnin' for you."

Renita spoke more for herself than for Eren. The latter, however, graciously smiled at her words. He slowly started increasing his pace and responded:

"I've found my calm... As I'm surrounded by the warmth of your flames.

Thank... Thank you for being there for me, Reni. When I needed you and all of you the most, you believed in me. I promise... I promise that we'll be together for as long as we both breathe."

Chapter 373 Burnin' For You P7*

"I've found my calm... As I'm surrounded by the warmth of your flames.

Thanks... thank you for being there for me, Reni. when I needed you and all of you the most. I promise... I promise that we'll be together for as long as we both breathe."

Eren thrust his cock inside as he felt the vaginal walls wrapped around him. His cock felt like it had been dipped into lava. That's because Renita had started channelling the mana around her groin— making the temperature of her body around that area rise more than what the activity entailed.

There was no use in gradually increasing pace anymore. Eren gripped Renita's waist firmly. Then he started thrusting with his usual speed.

Pat...!

Pat...!

Pat...!

The sound of flesh meeting flesh filled the room. The lewd smell was getting stronger by the moment. Renita's moans and Eren's low grunts made up the rest of the atmosphere.

Renita started to feel less pain around her pussy. Slowly. That pain was replaced by waves of pleasure. And soon.. the pleasure was converted into ecstasy before ultimately metamorphosing into pure bliss.

"Aaaaaah. Eren... drive deeper. Harder..."

Renita commanded as she straightened her back and completely enjoyed riding on her man's dick. She locked her hands with Eren's and threw her head back as she was being fucked by Eren.

Pat...!

Pat...!

Pat...!

Renita's ass cheeks made a clapping noise every time Eren's front pelvis collided against them. Renita was meeting Eren's thrusts with equal enthusiasm as she kept on bringing her hips down hard on Eren's cock.

Unlike the last time, Renita took her time reaching the point of her orgasm. This time, she was more in control of her body. The seconds turned into minutes. And minutes into hours.

Renita was down on her third vial of all-stat recovery potion now. The ranger had gone through multiple rounds of orgasms by now. And yet, she had been going stronger till now, thanks to her drive to be with Eren for the entire night.

Renita's body had accumulated fatigue. Her skin had turned light pink all over. The entire bed was ruined because it had been drenched by both of their love juices.

She had reached the point of another orgasm. Even rankers' bodies had their limits. Since the first light of the dawn was going to break soon, Eren had decided this will be their last session.

"Oh, Eren... Aaaaaah!

Deeper!

Harder!

Give it to me.

Yess!

Yess!

Ram that dick inside. Fill me up."

Eren and Renita both stood on their knees. He was entering her from behind this time while squeezing her boobs with one hand while stimulating her clit with the other. He didn't slow down even after he felt the ranger was about to come again.

Eren kneaded Renita's left tit with his right hand and squeezed it hard. His handprints had appeared on various parts of her body. They were most prominent on her ass cheeks and her tits.

With his right hand, he reached out for Renita's clit and played with it like it was some kind of musical instrument. His dick was ramming as hard as it could into her pussy hole.

By now, Renita understood that Eren was not overplaying her pussy's strength to accommodate his dick. She found pleasure in welcoming his big and rock hard little member inside her. She wanted it to stay inside her.

"Aaaaaaah... Eren... I'm coming! I'm coming, Eren!"

Renita's entire body shuddered as she cummed hard on Eren's dick. She felt like she had lost all her strength to even stay on her knees anymore. She had maintained her position thanks to Eren's grip. Otherwise, she would have crashed on the bed flat on her face.

Eren rammed his dick inside a few times then cummed inside her once again. This was the sixth time he had nutted on her. Each time lasted longer than the last. He would have still signed up for one more session but he could see that Renita wouldn't be able to handle him anymore.

"Kekekeke! What happened to fucking me till my balls run dry? They can still produce plenty of milk for you, girl. Tired already? Tch tch tch!"

Eren sarcastically laughed before teasing Renita. The latter turned her head while lying down and looked at her boyfriend with tired and angry expressions.

"Hmph! Just wait till I break into the Ace rank. I'll zap all that pride away and maybe fracture your hips when we meet at the time."

"Hahahahahaha!"

Eren laughed and laid over Renita. He rubbed his limp little guy between her butt cheeks before lying beside her. He plopped his head on his raised hand and ran his index finger over Renita's back— as if writing something abstract with invisible ink. His touch induced goosebumps to rise on her sensitive body, which then soon subsided when she got used to his after-plays.

"When will you meet me next, Eren?"

Renita asked while lying down on her tummy. She had also folded her hands— stacking them on each other before resting her head over them. She looked at Eren with her keen eyes. She felt content and happy.

Renita wanted this bliss to continue. But she knew that Eren wouldn't slow down his plans for her. It was her job to catch up to him. But she at least wanted a time frame from him so she could have something to look forward to. She wanted to have a happy thought in her head as she was striving to move forward on her ranking journey.

Eren pondered for a bit before answering:

"I honestly can't tell, Renita. The assignment only specifies a rough time frame within which I need to be on my assignment. But it can be extended beyond its normal duration, allowing LA to expand the time frame automatically.

So I won't be visiting LA when I'm there. You won't be able to meet there either.

Additionally, there are some personal matters I need to attend to. With my advancement to Novice rank, my time at LA grounds will be virtually nonexistent.

I could have taken lectures from Adept rankers and spent time as a normal LA student. And I had planned to do just that. But this unexpected Ace rank advancement was also too sudden for me. I'll need to make a few changes to my previous plan now.

The personal matters that I need to do right now won't allow me to stay laid back even when it is the beginning for me as a ranker. Then again, I don't think I would have chosen to restrict my growth even if I did not have these matters to deal with.

*Sigh. So it'll be a while before I see you. You and all the White Ravens."

Eren looked at Renita's eyes. He caressed her cheeks affectionately before replying:

"But I have faith in you as my woman.

I also like to believe other members of White Raven would break into Ace rank sooner and choose to take up on-field assignments like me. It would be beneficial to all of us in the long run if we did that.

I have a few ambitious plans for all of us. Hehe!"

Chapter 374 Farewell

"I have a few ambitious plans for all of us. Hehe!"

Renita kept on looking at Eren as she listened to him— as if trying to burn his image in her mind. She was indeed a bit upset about the fact that Eren won't be with her anymore. But she thought about her prospects with him and cheered herself.

She flashed a bright smile at him before pulling his cheeks and speaking up:

"Eren, make sure that you stay ahead in your game. Otherwise, I might catch up to you and leave you behind. Hehe!"

Renita said before coming closer to his face and planting a gentle kiss on his cheeks. She continued speaking up without any hesitation:

"I might sound a bit selfish for saying this. But I'm kind of glad that you had a life-changing experience on your mission. It hurt you. It also took the halo of being a stellar ranker from you. But it has made you more... you.

The rewards won't mean anything if you lose yourself in obtaining them. What happened to you on that day might not have been that terrible.

You feel more anchored to reality now. Instead of looking at the future and trying to live in it. Sure, you'd feel distraught for a few days. But it won't stay that way for long. I know Eren Idril will come out of this experience even stronger than he was before."

Renita said and smiled elegantly at Eren. The latter didn't know what he should reply with. He just smiled mirthlessly and nodded his head.

Eren then got up and channelled his fire mana throughout his body to instantly clean himself. Renita had already done the same with her wind-element mana.

Eren took out some fresh clothes from his storage and started wearing them.

Renita observed her state— almost zero stamina and her mana core fresh out of mana. Despite her difficulty, she was about to get up. But she heard Eren laugh before she could do that:

"No need to get up, Reni. Rest. Heh! I've received your warm wishes just fine. Kekeke.

Focus on your ranking advancement from now on. Take up Besanc missions instead of participating in ranking wars now. Earning Merps won't mean anything if you don't have the real-life experience of a ranker's life."

Eren looked at Renita seriously before smirking at her

"We will stay in touch. If I see that you are slowing down, your perky ass is going to have to face a slap fest when we meet up. Hehe!"

Eren got ready with his clothes, came near Renita and kissed her forehead. She also grabbed his neck and smooched him on his lips. Only when she felt ready did she release him before finally bidding him goodbye.

"Eren, I didn't know our apprenticeship would last so short, you know. But I'm glad I had an apprentice like you. Hehe! The missions were never boring with you around.

Here, take this."

Eren had been asked by Marla to meet her before he left the grounds. The latter returned to his dorm house where all the White Raven Crew members had gathered to bid him adieu.

Eren headed to meet Marla after he wrapped up his meeting with everybody. The latter handed him an exquisite-looking bottle of elven ale as a goodbye present after they had an in-depth talk. Eren bowed a bit before accepting her gift and then stored it in his ID storage before asking:

"Thank you, Adept Marla. Will you keep on teaching here in LA?"

Marla raised her eyebrows after she heard Eren's sudden question out of the blue. But she answered him anyway:

"Working here was part of my responsibility, Eren. To act as a mediator for minor issues. Anfang alliance they call it. Things between the alliance sides can get pretty complicated.

*Sigh. Frankly, I'm tired. I don't see myself as a capable mediator, to be honest. So if and when they find a suitable replacement for me, I'll drop this job and explore the continent a bit."

Eren had long since realized that high rankers would never be able to enjoy peaceful lives for long even when they had the freedom to do so. It seemed counterproductive to have high ranks when one looked at things this way. The drive to pursue their next rank up would keep the rankers on their toes forever. But in contradiction lies life's true meaning.

Eren saw Marla as one of the most distinguished rankers of her generation who was shackled from being something much greater because of her current role. That's why he asked to confirm. He nodded before proposing:

"There will be some intriguing news I will share with you in the future. It should be interesting enough for you to leave the job and join me. Hehe. Please look forward to it."

Eren smiled mildly which made Marla look at him with a questioning gaze. She was about to ask him what he meant. But it seemed Eren wasn't done asking questions:

"Adept Marla, about the unique event that was supposed to happen between Edinburgh's top academies. Was it postponed?"

Marla was shocked when she heard Eren's question. But then she sighed thinking that the event was too big to keep secret for long anyway. Especially from people who were actively looking for it.

"That's right, Eren. The announcement regarding the event was supposed to be done by now. But it seems something troubling has happened.

The Edinburgh kingdom is prioritizing that matter first before they could allow the academies involved to hold the event."

Eren nodded after hearing Marla's news. He had thought as much. He also knew the reason behind the event getting postponed. He took his leave from Marla's place and headed for the exit.

This was the same event he wanted to attend with his White Raven Crew. the same event he had them train so eagerly for.

Eren thought to himself as he made his way out of LA grounds:

'Edinburgh would prioritize the Osan Woods Butcher and try to hunt Isen Osan down. It's only a matter of days before the news of Ivor Osan being the OWB is released to the masses.

Of course, they won't let academies carry through with their plans with a societal turmoil and increased cultist activities that are about to follow the news release.'

The real butcher sighed internally after he understood his interference had caused a butterfly effect. He feared the effect would only increase as he ranks up to and makes too many changes in the current timeline.

'Be that as it may, it'll be a cold day in hell before I allow anyone else to take the rewards I'm eyeing for in this timeline.'

Eren decided internally and narrowed down his eyes as he sat on the colt he had hired. He was going home.

Chapter 375 Army Deployment

"Brat, where are you heading? This is a restricted zone now."

An Ace ranker in solid stage wearing full plate armour asked a young man who was casually making his way on a mildly active road. Only a few colt-drawn wagons and carriages were allowed to pass through the curfew initiated by Edinburgh's army.

Ace ranker was assigned to the guards' platoon around the city of Osan. The young man in front of him looked like he was loaded. So the guard decided to extort him for some extra money in exchange for granting him entry.

"Hello, Ace...?"

The young man asked for the guard's name.

"Ace Claho. You can call me Claho, the squad leader. I'm in charge of the city of Ocean's perimeter detail. You see, brat, we are only allowing the entry of essential supplies into the city. So it'd be difficult for me to allow you entry.

That is unless... hehehe... you can make me believe that your entry to the city is indeed essential."

The young man nodded in understanding before retrieving four Extols from his storage. He got down from his colt. He calmed the beast by stroking its back. Then he caught the leash by its mouth and walked with it towards Sergeant Claho.

"Nice to meet you Ace Claho. My name is Eren Idril. You can check my ID storage which can prove that I'm a resident of the city of Osan. Here are some reasons for you to consider my entry into the city as essential."

Eren offered Claho four Extols that he thought should be enough to gain entry. He could have done many things to avoid paying the bribe. But he thought it was better that he chooses the easy way out instead of trying to fight with the system or evade it.

Claho was indeed pleased to see that the young man had casually taken the four Extols out. But if the guy can pay four Extols without any fuss, he can surely pay more, right? At least that's what Claho thought and addressed Eren in a suppressed anger:

"Brat, you think I'm some kind of beggar trying to ask you for charity? I'm a squad leader in the army. I'm in my 30s, yet I am already a solid-stage Ace ranker.

Do you know what that means brat? That means the "reasons" you gave me just now are not enough. I need more of them."

Eren had creases on his forehead when he heard Claho's greedy demand. He also released his Ace rank mana and spoke up:

"Ace Claho, please be kind towards a fellow Ace. This is all I have. I'm a student from LA here to spend a few days in the city before leaving for my on-field assignment."

Eren used his Ace rank mana and his identity as a student of LA to create pressure. But this in turn irked the guy even more.

"You academy students think that this whole kingdom is your oyster, don't you? What does it matter if you are an LA student? I've seen your pompous kind. I'm not letting you go until you hand over double the "reasons" you are offering me. You get it?"

'Heh! This guy is just like you with his greed for money. How do you like meeting a half-brain-dead version of yourself, Eren? Hehehe!'

Layla commented in Eren's mind. The latter just ignored her in response.

Eren narrowed down his eyes on Claho when he heard the guy's blatant disregard for his identity. His voice got in response as he spoke up:

"Look Claho. I'm not in the mood for a quarrel over a few Extols. We are both Ace rankers and we should both act with a bit of modicum, don't you think?"

Here... I'm offering you six Extols. I suggest you take it, lest you regret it later."

Stunning Speed

Sedated Perception

He took the guy's right hand before placing the extols in his palms. He had activated his time element combo before he did so.

Claho didn't know what had happened after he blinked but his right palm felt like something was placed over it he looked down and found out that he was holding six Extols at the palm of his hand.

'What... what just happened?'

Claho had a difficult time believing a young ranker like Eren who was in the early stage of the Ace rank could intimidate him so much. He was about to lose his cool when he heard a voice from behind him:

"Claho... resume your position already. What are you doing dilly-dallying with random strangers?"

Another soldier shouted at Claho from behind him. He was with the whole squad when he approached Claho's position.

Claho turned back and regained some of the courage he was beginning to lose by sensing his squad behind him. He mustered his courage and tried to act cool. The guy stored the Extols away, lest the soldiers coming from behind snatch it for themselves. Then he looked at Eren and said in a threatening voice:

"Brat, don't think this will be enough to ensure your safety. I'd watch my back from now on if I were you. Get the fuck out now. Your empty threats aren't scaring anybody here."

Claho said as he wiped the sweat off his forehead under Eren's gaze. He felt like the temperature of the surroundings had suddenly dropped and yet he was being subjected to a sea of flames.

Eren did not react after he heard Claho's false bravado. He didn't want to create any scene so he left the squad leader alone as his squad was catching up to him from behind him.

Eren climbed onto his horse and rode into the distance, towards the city of Osan. As Claho watched Eren depart, one of the guys in the squad asked him a question.

"What happened, Claho. Why do you look so spaced out? The boy gave you trouble?"

Claho snapped back to reality when he heard his squad member's question. He snorted aloud before responding:

Kelmar, those young guns from the childish academies, you know about their pompous attitude, don't you? Because of their connections to institutions, they believe they can boss us around.

He was one of them, that boy. Well, I agree that I demanded a bit more entry fee from him than our usual rate. But he used his identity to threaten me. I'm kinda pissed about that."

The guy who asked Renar that question also looked at Eren's figure and registered his image in his mind. He then laughed menacingly before soothing his squad leader with his words:

"Hahahaha! That's it, right? Don't worry, Claho. We can't let our leader's reputation get sullied like that. We'll find an opportunity to get back to the young kid.

The brat won't know what hit him! Kekekeke!"

Claho felt a friendly tap on his back after he heard that. Then another. Then some more. He laughed cunningly after he was assured of most of his squad members' involvement in his petty revenge.

Chapter 376 Reunion with Nina

Eren was standing in front of a known apothecary. An apothecary that could be seen to be closed for business. But he knew it would welcome him. This was the home he had come to call his own after his parents abandoned him after all.

'You are here!'

Eren thought to himself as he felt a familiar, non-hostile mana sense wash over him. He flashed his signature grin that was borderline evil to look at. He then took a deep breath before heading towards the entrance. His slanty grin was still plastered on his face.

Eren didn't knock on the door. The resident of the home knew he was there. So he just stood in front of the door— waiting for it to get opened.

"Tch. You are no fun, Erni. You should have broken the door in your eagerness to meet me. Your patience tells me you are not passionate."

A soft female voice spoke with dramatic irritation. The irritation also contained a lot of warmth, which he was unable to ignore.

The door was gently opened and the source of that gentle yet firm voice came into Eren's view. This was a pretty lady that looked to be in the prime of her life.

She looked much younger than the last time Eren saw her. Her smooth and supple skin now appeared to be more attractive because of its light tanned hue. Her figure was even more seductive. Her features were even more beautiful than Eren remembered.

"You... you didn't tell me you broke through into B-Rank?"

Eren said and stepped forward to embrace the most caring woman he had known since his childhood without worrying about her ranking status. The latter also did the same— opening her arms wide to hug him with equal eagerness.

"Hehe. Just like you didn't tell me you broke through. Guess we both wanted to surprise each other."

Nina placed her head on Eren's chest as she hugged him gently at first. Her hug became tighter the moment she inhaled his scent.

"You... you have changed so much too, Eren. I saw your changed look on the spectral call and was surprised by it. But this? Meeting you in person makes me wonder if that breakthrough was something normal.

You downplayed the risks while telling me about them, didn't you?"

Nina pinched the skin of his left chest as she asked him in a part worry and part caring voice. The latter caressed her back and closed the door behind him by using his left leg.

Eren smiled mirthlessly when he heard Nina's observation which was right on spot. He sighed before responding:

"I changed... but I also didn't. I'm still that Eren that you have taken care of and raised for so many years now.

You are even more of a home to me than this brick-and-mortar place. So in that sense, I'm still me."

Nina rubbed her head against Eren's chest when she heard him endearingly speaking about her. She responded quickly after:

"Your glib tongue would not save you this time, little rat. I want the details.

How did you breakthrough? Did you gain any insights? I want them answered in full detail along with the questions I'll be asking you regarding your first-year experience."

Eren smirked and gave Nina a big hug once again— his hands on her buns. He gave them a firm squeeze out of the blue before responding:

"Of course. We also need to "catch up" on this, don't we?"

Nina felt a wave of excitement wash over her. But she controlled it and allowed Eren's hands to rest on her buns for a while before lifting them. She gave a cunning smile of her own and commented:

"You need to work hard from scratch if you want us to "catch up". Take me on another date, Eren. it should be different from the one we had last time, understood?"

Nina nodded before pinching Eren's cheeks with both her hands:

"Alright, little rat, we have so much to talk about and do. I know you must have been thinking we don't need to go on a date to be intimate anymore. I also yearned for you all these months. But I want you to take some effort.

I don't ask much, Eren. I just want us to be more than our physical relationship.

Hehe. But I understand you must have been, should I say, pent up thinking about me. I am too, I won't lie. Let's just consider this as a consolation prize for both of us for now."

The pinching of cheeks turned into the hold as Nina drew Eren's face close to her. After looking him in the eye, she planted a kiss on his lips.

Eren closed his eyes and embraced her once more. He let his hands roam all over her back. The butcher caressed her buns and squeezed them once again while inserting his tongue inside Nina's mouth.

"Hmmmmmm!"

Nina moaned in a suppressed voice and hugged Eren's torso tighter. She also rubbed her groin against Eren's freshly formed bulge.

The pair stayed in that position for a few minutes. Eren was getting bolder by the moment. Grabbing Nina's tits and buns with his hands, he began to excite her on two fronts.

Nina was enjoying this. But she didn't let her need to be with Eren take the best of her.

She forced herself and Eren to break their smooch and got a step away from him while puffing her cheeks in false anger:

"This was supposed to be a teaser. No getting ahead of our schedule, little rat. I want a memorable date like last time. You better give me one. Otherwise..hmph!"

Eren pursed his lips when he heard Nina wanted him to woo her all over again. He thought that with Nina, it would be a straightforward fuck that he could indulge in. But that didn't discourage him from recovering from his surprise and flashing a smile and commenting:

"Of course, we both have our rank ups. We need to celebrate. Let me plan a few things. We'll schedule a date in a few days. You also need to tell me how you broke into the Master rank and how your experience in Ranker's utopia was."

Nina nodded at Eren with a charming smile. She replied as if they were on a schedule:

"Alright! Chop chop, Erni. Go get fresh first. I cleaned your room for you. I hope you are hungry because I made pancakes. I'll be waiting downstairs."

Chapter 377 Nightshade Duchy

"So you came here a week ago, huh? I thought your Utopia exploration was over a few weeks back. Something must have taken your time. What was it?"

Eren asked while devouring another pancake covered in maple syrup. He had been talking with Nina ever since he had gotten fresh and came back downstairs. He was done narrating his side of the story. His version of what really happened anyway.

Nina could tell Eren wasn't completely fine. Sometimes his fluctuating mana signature would leak, showing his agitation. So she had asked him about it.

Eren came clean in saying that he had been suffering from a few nightmares. Of course, he couldn't tell her everything. Therefore, he blamed his condition on post-battle mental stress and trauma, which Nina believed.

She told him it was very normal for every ranker. She knew it was part of their growth process. She also felt satisfied that Eren had shared his fears and his vulnerability with her.

"Yeah. Well, I had to sign a non-disclosure contract with the party I explored Utopia with for the duration of a few years. So I won't be able to tell you much about the trip right now. But it was beneficial for me.

Your tips helped me and by extension, my whole party a lot. Isn't it funny though, that the party that benefitted from your tips is now refusing to share information with anyone, you included. Hehe. But since you had asked me to be discreet, I didn't object.

Currently, the party leader is busy selling that information to some of his contacts. Just like you had suggested, which I suggested to him in turn. The good thing about the deal was that I got extra resources than what was previously agreed upon after we got out.

I got my hands on a bunch of healing spells that worked for me. I will also have to resume my studies on healing arrays because of the resources I got from the trip there.

Let's just say I'll be a bit busy from now on. I took my time coming here because I had to meet with a contact person from the Escalon guild. I'm thinking of joining them for a while. At least until the end of your academic years.

So when they approached me under the suggestion of my party leader, I had to check them out. Then I did some information gathering regarding the same.

I need resources, Erni, now that I've stepped into Master rank. Resources of my rank. I won't be able to get them until I leave this city.

Escalon guild is planning to offer me a good deal in terms of"

Eren's eyes narrowed down when he heard the name Escalon guild from Reen's mouth. He paused eating, wiped his mouth off of the syrup stains using the napkin placed beside him. And spoke in a patient voice:

"Yeah... aunt Nina, I don't think you should join the Escalon guild. I'll recommend another guild if you are looking for a healer-centric guild. Esca fucking Lon guild sucks hairy rat's balls..."

Nina flared her nose when she heard Eren's foul words:

"Language, little rat. Plus, you are eating. Have some table manners."

Eren's irritation turned into laughter when he heard Nina object to his use of foul words. He decided to tease her a bit:

"Hmm? I remember you calling my penis as dick and your lady part as pussy when we were doing it. Where was language then?"

Nina's cheeks immediately had a red tint painted over them. She hmped before responding:

"That was during our us-time. I obviously won't stop you or myself from having our "liberties" when we are doing it. But this is different. You need to maintain a proper, gentlemanly bearing when you are with me.

I'll only give you a free pass when it's our... *cough* as I said, us-time."

Nina found the courage she needed to keep her face straight while she was speaking it. Eren sighed. This was not the first time he had seen the contradiction incarnate make her point using her sense of logic. This logic had many practical flaws. But he didn't elaborate any further on this topic.

He used a more serious tone to address Nina this time:

"My point, aunt Nina, is that the Escalon guild is no good. How about you go to Healers' Nirvana? With your latest rank promotion, it won't be difficult for you to get it."

Aunt Nina observed Eren's aversion to her joining the Escalon guild. She wanted to ask him why that was the case. But Eren cleared it for her even without her asking:

"Remember the backer I told you about? He has some dirt on that guild. And it isn't pretty. That guild is liable to face some problems soon even though it looks like it is growing at a rapid pace.

Healing Nirvana is still a worthwhile place to be even if the Escalon guild doesn't face problems soon. Plus, it focuses on healing arrays, the area of study you have decided to continue studying. There's also one more plus point to joining Healing Nirvana. Hehe!"

Nina was awed at how much information Eren had collected on various guilds that were currently active all across the kingdom. She had only heard about Healers' Nirvana because she was a healer so there were a couple of instances she'd hear the guild's name from her co-healer rankers. Otherwise, Healers' Nirvana was a very low-key guild.

What's more? The guild was placed very far from where the city of Osan was. It stayed operational in the Nightshade Dukedom, the northernmost region of the kingdom. While the city of Osan was located at the bottom of the Ironside duchy. So there would be barely any news regarding Healer's Nirvana Nina could hear while staying in the city of Osan.

She wasn't even aware the guild focused on making healing arrays. This alone had piqued her interest. But she wanted to hear another reason from Eren, which seemed more interesting for both of them.

"What is it, little rat? Tell me."

Nina asked after having the last bite of her pancake. Eren smirked before responding:

"You know I've taken an on-field assignment right? But I haven't told you where it is. Can you guess? Hehe!"

Nina was pleasantly taken aback by Eren's words. She replied quickly, with excitement and puzzlement laced in her voice:

"Nightshade duchy? But LA doesn't send its students there for on-field assignments, right? Why were you given such an odd assignment?"

Chapter 378 Ivor's Past

Eren poured himself a glass of orange juice and took a sip before replying:

"It's not that LA doesn't offer any student assignments there. It's that nobody wants to go there. That duchy is not the focus of Edinburgh and has been low-key neglected by rankers and merchants alike.

I can understand the reason behind it. It's not easy to get there. Plus, the rankers living near the borders need to be on their toes for monster invasions because of the region's peculiarity."

Eren finished his glass of juice in a big gulp. Then he traced the rim of the empty glass with his index finger before continuing further.

"Which LA student would like to go there, put extra effort when they had just advanced into Ace rank, only to face more risks and relatively fewer rewards? Nobody, as far as I can tell. That's why there's hardly anyone from LA going there for assignments.

I chose that place because I have my plans there. Hehe! I'll tell you about it after some time when I start working on it."

Nina had a query after hearing Eren's explanation. She didn't know much about the northern duchy. So she had to ask.

"Erni, will we be able to meet each other occasionally if I decide to join Healers Nirvana?"

Eren shook his head after hearing Nina's question. He replied after taking a light sigh:

"Sadly no, aunt Nina. I'll be near the city of Arangar while you would be active near the city of Curar. Two different places in the same duchy. So it'd be hard to physically meet.

But it'd still be better than you staying here. Because if you stay in the Lionheart duchy, we'd only be able to meet after my assignment gets over.

So what do you think? I have a second suggestion in my mind if you think it'd be too uncomfortable for you to live in the Nightshade duchy."

Eren asked while fixing his eyes on Marla. He didn't want her to get involved in his plans. But he couldn't really think of someone else who could help him if and when he needed it. Eren wanted to have Marla as a last resort to any of his problems, should they get too much out of control from his hands.

That being said, Healers Nirvana was really a good place for a healer like her. So Eren knew that he wasn't doing anything wrong with her. In addition, it might be a bit better that she stays away from the Escalon guild. He knew how shady the guild was better than anyone. He was once under its shadow after all.

Nina heard Eren's questions and pondered a bit. Of course, she wanted to be with Eren. but she also needed to think about her ranking journey. Especially now since she had just broken through the Master rank. It was only when she found sense in Eren's suggestion did she finally accept it:

"Alright. Let's stay in the same duchy. I'm sure we can find some time for ourselves if we coordinate with each other. I don't want to live in the city of Osan.

Nobody knows about my rank breakthrough here yet. And I want to keep it that way before living. Otherwise, they'd approach me to temporarily take charge of the city now that Isen Osan is gone."

Nina said after looking outside the window from her position. Eren chuckled before responding:

"Heh! You like a simple life, don't you? I won't blame you.

But there's this one question. What do you know about the city's increased army presence?

And how did you get inside the city without revealing your rank? They didn't tell you to go through the inspection array?"

Eren asked while scratching his chin in contemplation. The latter chuckled before answering:

"Hehehe. Don't underestimate a Master ranker just because she is someone you know, Erni. I have my ways. I only know what the general populous in the city of Osan knows so far.

That Isen Osan suddenly disappeared with his whole family. His grandson that had gone to LA with you is also missing. But I'll tell you what I think. As far as I know Isen, he is not someone who would make abrupt decisions. Nor is he a person who could be made to disappear without leaving a trace behind.

That means Isen had left on his own knowing full well the city is going to face some turmoil because of it. I'm not worried about his disappearance. I'm worried about the reason that made him disappear."

Eren nodded before asking another question:

"Aunt Nina, what can you tell me about Isen's family in general. Isaac and Ivor for example. You have interacted with Isen so many times by now. You must be aware of something ordinary people or rankers might not know."

Nina raised her eyebrows after listening to Eren's question. She got up from her seat and walked towards the window and started responding after she was standing near it.

"I guess it's natural for you to have curiosity since Ivor was with you in the academy. I indeed know a bit about Isen's family and Isen himself. Contrary to popular belief, Isen is not only politically motivated but also exceptionally ambitious as a ranker.

He only cares about family because it suits his political image. And he only cares about the political image because it gives him the right to obtain the ranking resources generally not obtainable for ordinary citizens of the kingdom.

So it was natural that he'd ignore what was happening inside his family. Isaac Osan, for example, had always been a troubled kid. I had heard from the Healer's association that he'd often torture animals when he was mere 5 years old."

Nina looked at Eren from her position and sighed before continuing:

"Raising children is difficult. Especially if you are a ranker and want to focus on your journey. But neglecting them to this extent also shouldn't be taken lightly.

I tell this from my personal experience as well as from those healers who used to interact with Isen's family because of their relationship with the city administration. Isen and his son messed up raising those two boys."

Eren nodded in understanding after hearing Nina's explanation. He got up and went near her. He stood beside her and asked again:

"I hear Ivor was an exceptional ranker even from a young age. What can you tell me more about him?"

Nina didn't understand why Eren was trying to pry into Isen's family matters. She wasn't all-knowing about the topic either. Just the bits and pieces she had come to gather because of her contacts in the city administration, her status as a prominent healer in the city of Osan, and her links with the Healers association active in the city.

Eren on the other hand wanted to know more about the pawn he was raising. He wanted to see if he could use the guy's background to influence him in a certain way. After all, he was trying to use a guy whose brother he had killed. If Ivor wasn't so talented, Eren would have preferred straight up killing him.

Chapter 379 News Breaks Out

Nina sighed when she saw Eren wanted to continue speaking on the topic she was least interested in. So she told him everything she had learned about the topic at hand:

"Isaac's strange behaviours only increased as he grew up. Isen got the wind of this thing. The guy was worried about his image more than his grandson's well-being. So he restricted the news about his eldest grandson from spreading.

But ever since Isaac's younger brother Ivor grew up a bit, his troubled self seemed to have vanished. He started behaving like a normal human being."

Nina looked at Eren after she finished speaking. He seemed particularly curious about Ivor's background. So she told the butcher what she had learned about him:

"Ivor on the other hand started becoming more reclusive. He started his ranking practices way early and was seen to be deeply dedicated to them. His natural talent as a ranker also aided in his growth.

I don't know what must have happened between the two brothers. Eventually, Isaac would always talk about his brother endearingly while Ivor would always resent him for it.

Ivor has never spoken positively about his brother. At least that's what I heard from other people who were in touch with the family.

Then there was that incident which people in the healer association often talk about in a hushed manner..."

Eren's interest was piqued when he heard Nina giving him the prelude to the information he might use. He didn't have to say anything because she continued right after:

"One day, a panel of healers was dispatched from the healers association to Isen's residence. There was an emergency involving Ivor. His mana circuits had gone into haywire. Plus, he had some injuries.

Neither Isen, his son, nor any capable ranker from the Osan household was around at that time. So the maids had called the healers association after finding Ivor in the state he was.

The healers visited the Osan residence after treating Ivor and commented that Ivor had peculiar injuries. Of course, when Isen came back, he summoned the same healers and told them to sign a non-disclosure contract.

We don't know what happened to Ivor or the part Isen played in his injuries. But one thing is certain. Ivor wouldn't have been upset about his brother's demise."

Nina concluded and looked at Eren with a questioning gaze. The latter just shrugged his shoulder before responding:

"I was asking because Ivor's behaviour in LA was pretty erratic. He fought with a lot of people. But he also had a huge fanbase because of the way he fought in ranking wars. The guy's an enigma, aunt Nina. I just wanted to make sense of his overall personality."

Nina nodded after she heard Eren's reasoning. The latter thought of changing the subject after he learned what he needed. It didn't give him anything useful. But he knew that sometimes information just needs to be collected in fragments. It'd only make sense when all the fragments come together and make a complete picture.

Eren smiled and kept his right hand on Nina's shoulder. He gave her a side hug, got close to her ears, and asked her teasingly:

"Miss Nina, tell me today's colour, will you?"

Nina chuckled after she heard Eren's question. She pondered a bit as if recalling a bit and told him when she seemed to have remembered it:

"Shamrock!"

Eren raised his eyebrows and acted exaggeratedly surprised. He asked Nina as if he was in disbelief:

"This was the same colour you had told me about last time. Don't tell me, dirty undies?"

Nina had a blank face after hearing Eren's reply. Soon that blank face was painted with shades of anger.

Nina disappeared from her position only to reappear before Eren could understand what had happened. Out of nowhere, Eren had one of the remaining pancakes thrown on his face, which then proceeded to fall off of his smirking face.

"Little rat, I like that colour. I have multiple pairs of them of the same colour. And it's rich coming from you who didn't wear them until a few months ago."

Eren and Nina both laughed to their heart's content as they talked and took jabs at each other. The day was spent in them talking about random stuff and planning their date along with some dry action.

Two days later!

The shocking news spread quickly throughout Edinburgh.

Ivor Osan was the Osan Woods Butcher!

He had killed his brother and his friends in the woods before heading to LA. He had been missing since the charges against him were confirmed.

Ivor Osan now had a cult bounty on his head. The price was enough for high ranking mercenaries to start drooling in anticipation of catching him.

Isen Osan had successfully escaped to the kingdom of Leyos, which was an adjacent yet enemy nation of the Edinburgh kingdom. He had acted fast and didn't let anybody know about his next move once he knew what the higher-ups of the kingdom were planning to do with him.

Since he held an influential position in Edinburgh and was part of the inner circle of the kingdom, he had been gladly welcomed by the elites of the Leyos. He was provided shelter. The higher-ups of the Edinburgh kingdom were extremely pissed. They had charged Isen Osan with mutiny and also placed a bounty on his family's heads.

But Isen Osan has crossed to the other side now. Edinburgh's bounty only applied to its territory. Unless some high-ranking assassin willing to upset the higher-ups of the Leyos didn't take it upon themselves to take up Edinburgh's bounty and finish Isen off in the Leyos' territory, the Osan Sr. was safe and sound.

Everybody in the Edinburgh kingdom, from mortals to rankers, had come to realize that the cultist activities in various regions would spike because of these pieces of news getting circulated. Moreover, as the cult activities increase, so would the activities of local thugs who would use the cultists' names to execute their nefarious plans.

The security of various significant cities within the kingdom, including Osan, was tightened. The army had been dispatched to various places. Additionally, soldiers have been given enhanced rights to apprehend anyone they find suspicious. As a result, some wicked element in the army had become an even bigger menace to local authorities than the law-and-order problems they were currently having.

Things were going to be tense in various regions of the kingdom for a while. The peace between Edinburgh and Leyos also started looking fragile after a long period of stagnation.

Chapter 380 [Bonus] Stellar Sativa Smokes

"Do you have E-Rank Stellar Sativa in your storage?"

Eren was at a herbal shop in the city of Osan. He was shopping for various things today. He asked about the herb to a young herbalist who was running a herbal store for potioners.

This was Jake's subsidiary shop that was connected to the city of Laurel. So the chances of the shop had what he needed now were quite high. Plus, he didn't have to pay anything here. Jake had told the manager who was working under him to politely take care of Eren's needs without asking him a penny.

"We do, Ace Eren. But what do you need it for? Potioneering or consumption for meditational use?"

Eren pondered for a while and decided to learn about the difference.

"Can you tell me the effects of the herb when we use it for potioning or direct consumption? Also, I would like to see the products first."

The Novice herbalist nodded and fetched a staff member from his shop to bring the goods. Eren saw a stalk of the dark-green herb before him that had been dried a bit. He also saw a simple-looking, palm-sized, wooden box that had an array inscribed on its surface.

The herbalist started describing the herb's effects:

"Ace Eren, the stalk of herbs you see in front of you are what we call Stellar Sativa. They are relatively common among potioners who are heavily dependent on the usage of stabilizers in their concoctions.

If it is used in its raw form, it acts as a stabilizer. And in its processed and concentrated form, it can elevate the quality of potions that aid in enhancing Intelligence stat.

But the stalks of Stellar Sativa are not ideal for direct consumption. Of course, you could consume them if your rank allows it, but they won't give you the most satisfactory results if your aim better results in ranking practice or..."

The Novice herbalist looked at Eren and had an inkling. Having lowered his voice:

"Ace Eren, are you suffering from any battle-related stress or anxiety? Or do you want to treat your nightmares that mess with your mana circuits?"

Eren internally applauded the herbalist for his knowledge related to herbs and their usage despite his young age. He nodded to let the guy know that he was indeed looking to buy the herb to treat his nightmares.

"Very well then. As I said, Ace Eren, these herbs are not ideal for direct consumption. You'd waste much of their potency if you do that. That's why we have these."

He placed the wooden box in his palm. He imbued his mana in the box and immediately a simple smoke appeared over the array. Turned out that the box was a storage unit for Stellar Sativa sticks.

"This is a Stellar Sativa stick you can smoke as per your needs every day. It would calm your mental state while keeping your mana circuits in control. They say that it also nourishes your soul.

There are no side effects of using these sticks. However, you might need to avoid them in some serious situations as the effect they produce might interfere with your decision-making.

The stick is often used by time-element rankers to deal with the side effects of using their spells. It helps them have fewer time-dilution episodes."

The shopkeeper handed Eren another box of Stellar Sativa Sticks that was yet to be mana bound. Eren grabbed the box and bound it with mana.

Then he sent his mana sense and found a sizable number of sticks stored inside using the spatial magic. The internal storage of the box also sported arrays meant to keep the sticks in an ideal condition.

Eren took a hold of the Sativa stick that had appeared over the wooden box's array in between his index and middle finger. He first inhaled the stick by bringing it close to his nose and felt his mind calming down just by its aroma alone.

The stick also seemed to react with the surrounding mana—diffusing the mind-calming aroma in the air. But it would also degrade the smoke's quality the longer it was out in the open without being smoked.

Eren put the smoke in his mouth, held it with his lips, and lit it by using fire element mana on his index finger. The butcher inhaled the smoke it generated as soon as the stick was met with the flame dancing over the tip of his index finger.

The effects kicked right in!

Eren's shakes that he kept suppressed and under control seemed to have decreased considerably. The agitated mana circuits he had been having for days on end now seemed to have calmed down a bit. Plus, his mind was free of his memories of the nightmares he had yesterday.

Eren realized that, unlike the booze that hindered his mental capacity and his hand-eye coordination, the Sativa stick sped up his thought process.

'Hm? Used by time-element rankers to lessen the side effects of casting their spells, huh? I used the spells of that element so many times yet never experienced any side effects. I can only conclude that it is related to Alephee.

I wonder what would happen if a time-element user who doesn't have the side effects of using their spells starts to smoke one of these babies while the execution of their spells is still ongoing? Heh! No point in wondering. Let's give it a try.

Sedated Perception!

Eren activated Sedated Perception right after he took a puff from Stellar Sativa. He felt that although the time delusion didn't increase with the effects of the puff, he was in more control of himself in the stagnant world than he was before.

Sedated Perception he was using till now would overload his mind with a lot of useless information. But the puff from Stellar Sativa had given him a way to focus on what was important.

'This... this is great. If it could work on my nightmares and make them disappear, it would be worth it to keep loads of these in my storage. Hehe. Plus, it'd also serve as something I could use to lower my booze cravings.'

Eren felt like he had found a suitable substance to take care of many of his issues in one go. He immediately asked the shopkeeper for the price. Turned out that the Sativa sticks were a bit expensive.

But no cost was too steep for his sanity and relief.