

Vile 501

Chapter 501 Array Traps P1

"Who are you? And what are you doing here?"

Sid asked the shadow as he covered his boner with his hand. At first, he saw that this was a classic case of trapping men in compromising situations and drawing money from them.

But when the shadow's eyes met his, all of Sid's "excitement" was washed away and he felt a threat of death looming over his head. He wasn't sure what the situation he had gotten himself into was, but it wasn't something he could brush off his shoulders and move on.

Sid quickly wore his army-issue armour and wielded his lightning-element spear. He also cast his Beast Contract spell. The berserker got his confidence back when he took the precautions he thought would be enough to deal with the threat.

"I asked you a question, you asshole. Who are you and what are you doing here?"

Sid pressed his words and spoke in a low voice when he asked the same question. The shadow chuckled before responding.

"Stop asking silly questions like these Sid. Why would a guy in a mask tell you who he is? Use your brain for once man.

Then again, you thought someone named Jasmine could be a girl who is particularly interested in you. You can't even identify a made-up name that is usually used by hookers. So expecting you to read the mood is foolishness on my part."

Eren paused while drawing a strange dagger from his storage space. He started imbuing his mana on it as he stared at Sid. The latter had a stoic expression on his face as he replied to Eren's accusations.

"Um... I think there's some kind of confusion. Perhaps you are a pimp seeking payment from a different person? Because I've never been with hookers."

Eren heard this and his smiling face behind the mask stiffened. He had forgotten that not everyone was like the previous-timeline-him. It was he who had a lot of experience with hookers. And he was projecting that on this poor guy who was just trying to get lucky with his Altashia-look-alike.

'At least I've changed now.'

Eren thought to himself and he felt happy about the money he must have saved by not seeking professional services. He still didn't think there was anything wrong with him availing of such services. It was just that the miser in him had better and more convenient options.

Trying his luck with Altashia was liable to put pressure on his wallet though.

'I'm sure she's worth it.'

Eren continued to have random thoughts as he confronted his team's berserker. The guy didn't seem like much of a challenge to him. Plus, with the setup he had planned for Sid, it was only a matter of time before Eren got his desired results.

Eren had decided to seek professional help in luring Sid here. He needed the guy to be in the Badlands for his procedure. The butcher's team had just completed another mission. So the team members had another free weekend they could use for themselves. The butcher had chosen this time to take care of Sid forever.

Contrary to what one might think though, confronting and killing Sid was less personal and more of an experiment.

"Here. Catch this."

Eren threw a vial of potion at Sid who was already looking at him warily. He saw the guy throwing stuff at him and immediately assumed it was something dangerous. While retreading using his movement spell, Sid made the Red Lightning Bull rush toward the potion.

The bull which was the product of the Beast Contract spell charged forwards towards the vial and caught it in its mouth. The vial broke as a result and an invisible gas spread in the vicinity. The bull snorted its nose and got busy spinning around itself as if it was expecting an attack from every direction.

Sid was sure that he had already escaped the potion's area of effect. But then he saw the shadow following him using his movement spell and throwing another bunch of vials at him. Three vials were coming at Sid from three directions.

Sid wanted to confront the guy and his potions. But without knowing about the effects of the potion, doing something like this would be foolish. So he chose to run in the only direction that was free of risk for him.

Or so he thought.

As soon as Sid chose to run over a certain region, an array trap was activated with his presence acting as the trigger. It quickly sprung a mana layer, trapping Sid inside it.

This was an array trap!

The same array of traps he had seen in Purgatory's underground dungeon. He had already started his studies on the book he had received as his floor clearance reward from the Purgatory's underground dungeon. The book contained all the basic stuff about the construction, maintenance, and operation of the arrays.

Four distinct open vials were made visible at the four distinct corners of the array trap inside the mana layer. They all released a dense amount of smoke from their mouths. This time, the smoke's hue was light green.

"Poi... mana poison!"

Sid cried out in alarm as he saw the smoke's colour. Immediately, he stopped breathing and focused on getting out from under the array. Meanwhile, he controlled his contract beast and made it attack him.

Meanwhile, the butcher was looking at him as a researcher would look at the mice he had put in one of his cages for the experiment.

Eren retreated to a nearby tree's upper branch with one long jump using his movement spell. It was just a moment too late for the bull to hit him from the side.

The bull charged at the tree trunk on which Eren had climbed. But this was not a one-and-done attack it seemed. The bull pulled out his deeply pierced horns from the trunk with a sudden pull. It then retreated a few steps only to charge at the same tree with greater zeal than before while snorting air through its puffed nostrils.

It kept on charging at the trunk while releasing red bolts of lightning. But as the tree's wood was an insulator, Eren remained safe on one of its branches as he watched Sid's struggles with keen interest.

All of Sid's attempts to break free from the array trap were futile. The mana poison soon entered his system because of the constant smoke released by the four vials.

Things were only going to get worse for Sid from this point on.

Chapter 502 Array Traps P2

All of Sid's attempts to break free from the array trap were futile. The mana poison soon entered his system because of the constant smoke released by the four vials.

Sid eventually got on his knees coughing a mouthful of blood. His mana circuits had gone haywire after consuming the poison. It resulted in him suffering multiple organ failures at the same time. The poison wouldn't have acted this way this fast. But the array trap enhanced the effects of the poison by modulating the mana inside it to favour the poison.

Eren had been studying the array traps ever since he got the book from the Purgatory's underground dungeon. Since the subject of the array was completely new for him, it took him a while to get the hang of the setup.

The butcher hadn't used anything like this in his previous timeline. So Layla had helped him from time to time in her own limited capacity whenever he had doubts.

The potion-making part was relatively easy for him. He thought of testing the fruits of labour on Sid when he was convinced that he could use array traps in his battles.

Like usual, the butcher had thrown out the dud vials. They all released a unique mana pulse after their detonation. But they didn't have any adverse effects on the subject. Eren had used them only to lure the berserker into his trap.

Eventually, the array trap was burnt out. The mana layer was dispersed, revealing Sid to be lying on his back. His Beast Contract spell had been cancelled because of his condition. He lacked the mana to support his breathing. So using it to maintain a spell was a long shot.

Eren hadn't stepped foot on the ground since Sid was caged inside the array trap. He had watched from a distance as Sid was on his last dying breaths.

The butcher decided to see his target once the coast was clear for him to do so.

"Just... just tell me... who the fuck are you? What did I do to deserve this?"

Sid huffed as he asked. It was gradually getting difficult for him to breathe.

"No. Why should I?"

The butcher spoke in a plain tone. His response aggravated Sid to no end. He started coughing violently in response. He was trying to say something to him. But his condition forced him to suffer through bouts of coughing instead.

'He is angry. This is good.'

Eren smiled when he saw Sid's condition.

'Alphee?'

Eren called out to his time-element gem's spirit. Layla was not with him this time. She had been sent to do some more reconnaissance for their Lazarus Project.

'The coast is clear.'

Alphee responded briefly. This was all the butcher needed to hear. He looked at the dagger he had been imbuing with his mana and stared at it for a brief moment. Then he clenched his other hand before suddenly driving the dagger deep into his heart.

The dagger's tip disappeared when it was just about to make contact with Eren's chest. Soon, half of the dagger's blade disappeared as Eren seemingly drove the weapon into his heart.

"HmMMM!"

Eren grunted with his tightly shut lips as he felt a sharp pain in his heart. Even though it didn't look like it, the dagger had pierced his heart for real without causing any external injury.

This was the same dagger Eren had obtained from Claho. He was using it to activate his Sins series ability.

"Domain of Wrath!"

Eren mumbled to himself as an otherworldly mana pulse was released in the surroundings with him acting as the source and epicentre. This time, the domain was not as substantial as the first time the butcher had activated his ability against team Claho.

It was the foreign world's consciousness that gave the butcher the ability to cast a domain of that size the last time the ability was awakened in him. It was sort of its way of acknowledging him as capable of wielding the ability he was given.

This time, he didn't have that helping hand. But he didn't need a much larger domain anyway. He was not very far from his target after all.

Eren didn't waste time. He raised his hand towards Sid and tapped into his powers. In the next moment, Sid's body started to change.

"Aaaaaaargh!"

Sid released a painful cry once again as his mana circuits that had already gone haywire were burnt away by the forced entry of foreign mana. His mana core was destroyed in the next moment.

After that, Sid's body composition began to change. Eren watched with dead expressions as his nuisance turned into the creature of Wrath.

"Haaah! I can feel his fury. This purity of rage will be fun to digest. Hehehehe! This will be interesting."

Eren smiled as he stared at the creature of wrath that was a lot bigger than any of the previous creatures he had seen. Sid had turned into a 9 feet tall creature of wrath that started at Eren with unmistakable rage in its eyes. This rage wasn't necessarily directed at the butcher. This was a blindsided rage that didn't have a specific target in its eyes.

Layla had given Eren a batch of vials that contained within themselves a unique potion. The element of shadows around him could render him invisible. It blended his figure with the nearby shadows, enabling him to get close to anyone without blowing his cover.

His black clothes weren't black by default. It was shadow-element mana sticking to his visage due to the potion's effect. Eren had used the potion for the first time when he approached Tuan. This was the reason why the guy was surprised when the butcher popped out of nowhere.

Eren decided to anger Sid a bit more to get more benefits from him. The effects of the potion that were still active around him were undone when he removed his mask. His real self was revealed to Sid who had been staring at him with no intention of doing anything. Eren had only commanded him to pay attention to him after all.

"What's up, little bitch?"

The butcher extended a warm greeting to his only audience.

Chapter 503 Gaining Red Lightning

"What's up, lil' bitch?"

The butcher extended a warm greeting to his only audience.

At first, the creature of wrath didn't react. But it slowly dawned on him that it was forced to take the order from the same guy he had come to loathe so dearly. It added to his fury that he couldn't do anything to Eren even when he wanted to tear the guy to shreds. This was because of his newfound physical might that was growing at an alarming rate.

Eren flashed a mild smile at Sid before continuing his talk.

"Do you still remember me? This is your deputy vice-captain, Eren Idril. I'm here to deputize your ass for good for all your sneaky attempts to stab me in the back."

Eren chuckled and started walking around the creature with his arms behind his back. He was observing the creature like it was some sculpted statue of intricate details carved upon its surface.

"And oh yeah. One way or the other, I'm gonna nail Altashia. Imagine that. Imagine is all you can do anyway. Since you won't stay alive after tonight. Haha!"

Eren said when he circled back to his previous position, facing the creature in front of him. Sid looked like he was trying to piece things together. When it did, it released another angry roar as its size expanded some more.

Roar!

The flesh of Sid's body started stretching way past its elastic limit. It wasn't long before his overgrown muscles were ripped out of the thin layer of skin that was holding them together.

As the butcher continued to spew venom under his Domain of Wrath, Sid's anger was pushed beyond the limit. Finally, his body burst into a million pieces of flesh, blood, bones and more. The butcher was ready for the implosion from the beginning. He had cast a thin layer of non-elemental mana in front of him to save himself from getting drenched in Sid's remains.

A pure flame of wrath was seen floating where Sid's body was. The guy was always angry at Eren from the moment he showed up. The butcher adding oil to that fire was what made the flame even more refined than it was supposed to be.

Eren welcomed the flames of wrath on his open right palm. He closed his eyes and let the flame get absorbed by his flesh.

Eren felt like his entire body had been set on fire. But he didn't feel threatened by it. He welcomed the feeling because of the effects he was producing inside his body.

His mana core started spinning at a rapid rate. His mana circuits started expanding and making new mana pathways. He realized that his ranking status was improving at a remarkable pace.

A dense cloud of Ace rank mana appeared and surrounded Eren. He soon broke through into the liquid stage of the Ace rank and kept climbing. But that was not all the gains he was digesting at the time.

Way of lightning!

Sid was a lightning-element user just like him. He had attained a sufficient level of mastery for his level in a different aspect of lightning. Now the butcher was digesting Sid's gains and making them his own.

Eren's body was coated in purple lightning all this time. Now streams of red lightning bloomed amid the mana cloud. One could see that Eren's eyeballs were still moving under the closed eyelids as he processed Sid's accomplishments.

Lightning's destructive aspect!

Eren was always familiar with the speed aspect of lightning. Throughout his previous timeline, he honed and perfected that part of his element as he rose to higher ranks. However, this time, his lightning acquired a new property.

Eren's gains didn't stop there either.

The butcher also received the soul of the red lightning bull from Sid, which was his contract beast. Since Eren knew how the beast contract spell worked, he subconsciously executed the spell and let it create a tattoo over his left chest peck.

Bellow!

A bull's bellow sounded in the surroundings as the beast got a new owner. Ideally, it shouldn't have been possible to get a contract beast even if you kill the original owner. But Eren's ability from the Sins series broke that common sense.

The bull retracted into its new home. For once, it seemed happy that it was free from its previous abusive owner. It didn't care if the new owner was more evil than Sid. It just wanted to be treated better by its owner now that it had been subjected to the fate of servitude.

Eren still had his eyes closed. He was in an epiphany-like state at this moment. But he wasn't having a conversation with the world's mana. This was an epiphany given to him by Sid's life experiences as a ranker. The butcher also received some of his memories along with his experiences.

Eren subconsciously smiled as he processed Sid's memories. He came to know that the guy had the same designs on him too. He was just preparing to use some veteran blacklisted bounty hunters to pull it off.

Eren opened his eyes after a while and took a long breath. He then looked at his hands before executing his go-to spell.

Blitz Bolt!

This time, the spell's feel was different from what he was familiar with. A red flash of lightning danced on the tip of his fingers. His arm was covered in red lightning streaks too.

Blitz Steps!

Eren used his movement spell with his newly gained red lightning element. In the next moment, the ground beneath him cracked more than usual, creating a spider-web-like small crater under each of his feet.

Eren realized that the red lightning wasn't suitable for his movement spell. His purple lightning did a better job while causing less damage to the surroundings.

But he was also sure that the red lightning would enhance the damage output of all his offensive spells without him sending his mana circuits to hyperdrive or overdrawing on his mana core.

"Perfect!"

Chapter 504 Enhanced Stats

"Perfect!"

The butcher spoke out loud and flashed a cunning smile. He had an inkling that if he targets any capable lightning or fire element ranker, his attainment, as well as his ranking status, would take a huge boost. But he hadn't expected that it would be to this extent.

"Just what I was in dire need of. Wish there were more guys like this stupid fuck."

Eren looked at a broken armour when he said that. It was the same armour Sid had worn. It had been broken due to the wearer's body shape changing all of a sudden. Eren didn't want to use Sid's armour anyway since it was as risky as it was unneeded for him.

Eren then summoned his status window to take a look at his gains.

Name- Eren Elijah Idril (Verified)

Organizations- Edinburgh Army (Nightshade duchy) Lionhearts Adventurers' Academy

Academic Status- Class 2/C

Ranked Status: Not applicable due to on-field assignment

Base Stats:

HP- 13.2 / 13.2

MP- 11.5 / 11.5

STR- 11.3

AGI- 13.9

INT- 8.7

BTP~ 59

BTP Visibility- Private

Ranking Status: E-Rank (Liquid Core Stage)

Ranking Technique- Ungraded and unrecognized Ranking Technique

E-Rank Spells:

Lightning Element, Four-star (?), movement type: Blitz Steps

Lightning Element, Four-star (?), defence type: Blitz Shield

Lightning Element, Four-star (?), attack type: Blitz Bolt

Lightning Element, Four-star (?), Area of Effect: Blitz Storm

Lightning Element, Four-star (?), healing type: Blitz Heal

Lightning Element, Four-star (?), attack-type: Solid Spark

Time Element, Four-star (?)(?), miscellaneous: Sedated Perception

Time Element, Four-star, miscellaneous: Ingredient Age Expedite

Time Element, Four-star, miscellaneous: Ingredient Age Reverse

Time Element, Four-star, movement type: Stunning Speed

Fire Element, Four-star (?), attack type: Fire Snake

Fire Element, Four-star (?), attack type: Fireball

Fire Element, Four-star (?), attack type: Firebreath

Fire Element, Four-star (?), attack type: Hatchlings of the Flame 01

Fire Element, Four-star (?), attack type: Hatchlings of the Flame 02

Fire Element, Three-star, support type, Fire Wings (Unoptimized)

Wind Element, Four-Star, attack type: Wind Blades Tornado

Transcendent Spells:

Non-elemental, miscellaneous: Beast Contract Spell: Red Lightning Bull

Non-elemental, miscellaneous: ??? (?)

Non-elemental, miscellaneous: ??? (?)

Apprenticeship: Completed

'Unbelievable! This puny jackass gave me the same boost those Draconic Lizards had given me at that time when I had used Life Drain on their gigantic bodies.

How... How is this possible? This defies the logic that was already unconventional in my case.'

Eren felt happy and puzzled at the same time. His puzzlement only grew when he looked at his status window carefully.

'What is this? I now have a beast contract spell? Red Lightning Bull? When did that happen? HOW did that happen?'

Eren scratched his chin as tried to remember the state he was in. He could only conclude that he had managed to make the most out of his Sins series ability by angering his victim to no end. He had robbed Sid of all his possessions by taking the beast contract spell from him as well.

'Hmm. I can't use this beast contract spell openly even if I want to. That asshole's disappearance and my usage of the same contract beast as him would raise suspicions. On that matter, I won't be able to use red lightning openly either. At least not right away.'

Eren sighed and concluded that he would gradually make his gains known to people around him. But he needed to test a few things out. Therefore, he clenched his fists and executed multiple spells on both his arms at once.

Purple Blitz Bolt

Red Blitz Bolt

Purple Blitz Shield

Red Blitz Shield

Eren stacked his two spells. And used two different attainments of lightning on each of those, enabling him to virtually execute four spells. Yet, his mana circuits weren't as stressed as they should have been.

'This... this is great. These spells are only stressing my mana consumption. And yet, it is not something I need to be overly worried about. I can use them just fine without having to do any tests.'

Heh! This dickface gave me a huge reward!

Eren couldn't stop smiling when he saw the effects of purple and red lightning spells getting executed by him simultaneously. This was the reason why high-ranking entities focused on the elemental attainments more than fussing over progression in their ranking status. They had come to realize with personal experience that the ranking status would follow suit eventually when one keeps on progressing in the way of their elements.

The progression in the elemental attainment did not only have far fetched gains. They also provided the gains that could be used and implemented as soon as they are made.

For example, a high enough progression in the way of the elements not only enhanced the spell's output but could also make it produce altered output based on varying attainment. If the ranker practised multiple aspects of the same elements, they would be able to cast the same spell with different effects.

Eren ended his thought process and looked around him. There were hardly any signs of battle. He destroyed the overly visible traces with his spells. For the residual man signatures that could be tracked, he had a cure ready in his arsenal.

Eren started pouring vials after vials of potion in various places that had signs of battle. This was the potion Layla had created using team Claho's corpses. It was meant to traumatize the historians if and when they tried to get a read on what happened at the place that was affected by the potion.

The potion contained an abominable mana signature that was the fusion of all the dead bodies of team Claho Layla had put in her witchy cauldron. She had added extra ingredients so that the abominated mana signature starts affecting historians when they cast investigative spells.

Layla's potion was an insidious move on historians. The historians that were employed in investigating the team Claho's disappearance had varying degrees of mental attacks depending upon their ranking status and mastery over their historian class spells.

Even high-ranking entities weren't immune to the effect. It was just that they could shrug off the effects of using the means available to them. But the result was the same no matter which historian it was. They couldn't make heads or tails of the area affected by the potion's effects.

Eren was so impressed by the potion's effects that he named it Potion of Innocence. The moment he confirmed the potion's effects were genuine, all he could say to Layla was "shut up and take my money".

The butcher a drop of such a potion was enough to secure a circumference of hundreds of meters. This was how potent Layla had made the potion to be. Plus, the sheer number of Team Claho members that were boiled and concocted by Layla was enough for the potion to have some serious punch.

Eren was so impressed by the potion's effects that he named it Potion of Innocence. The moment he confirmed the potion's effects were genuine, all he could say to Layla was "shut up and take my money".

Eren knew this was a must-have potion he should have on his person at all times. After all, he never knew when he had to act like the butcher he was.

Chapter 505 Rootless: Half-Blood Ranking Technique

The existence of Potion of Innocence was also one of the reasons Eren had dared to make a move on Sid. otherwise, he would have had to wait patiently for a few raids. By that time, Sid would have had made some more plans to hurt him physically and mentally.

Eren had more than enough potion on him to create crime scenes after crime scenes without leaving a trace. Plus, the potion was a tried and tested product. After all, this was how he had stayed undetected even after killing an entire army squad.

'That brat has done me a solid by creating such a potion. Even if she has her interests on the line, the fact that it has benefitted me hasn't changed. No matter what happens between us in the future, I should thank her for this.'

Eren thought to himself as he finished securing his crime scene. With this, he didn't have to worry about the army's investigation of its missing personnel.

"Yeah. You can come down now."

Eren said to seemingly nobody in particular. In a few moments, an epic tier mana beast with a lion's body and eagle's head landed in front of him. Argo greeted his master by rubbing his beak at his cheeks.

It then made a few guttural noises that only his master could understand.

"Hmm. If I hadn't planned on devouring the guy's elemental attainments, I would have let you eat it. Maybe next time, alright?"

Eren said and patted Argo's head. He jumped and climbed on his back before lying flat on his back, his right leg folded over his left. He tapped his demon beast with his hand— indicating for him to fly away.

Argo didn't make a sound. He left the crime scene as silently as he had entered it. Eren had entered the region using Argo too— giving him almost no scope to leave his traces behind.

Eren knew that Sid's disappearance wouldn't just be brushed away. Plus, his teammates would be questioned first before the on-field investigation starts. This was the reason Eren chose not to confront the berserker directly. He didn't fight with him at all, even though he could overwhelm him with all his advantages.

'I should have my alibi ready. And I know just the place. Hehe!'

Eren said to himself and chuckled before telling Argo to fly in a certain direction. Then he summoned his status screen again to observe new and old changes.

Eren had gotten his hands on a ranking technique for half-bloods. This was one of the rewards he had received in Purgatory. He had managed to successfully translate its contents using references from old archives he had access to from the army database.

Eliza's clan had come up with this ranking technique, meant to be used by half-blood rankers originating from their creation. The clan had never managed to successfully make a slime half-blood out of their creation— so the technique was still in its testing phase and wasn't optimized. It had halted the project later on before the half-blood clans were faced with calamity.

This unrecognized and unnamed ranking technique was not element-bound. It meant that it focused on letting its user harness non-elemental mana. Half-bloods had their ranking techniques after all. The fact that Eren could still use human ranking techniques despite being a slime half-blood was only due to the peculiarity of his half-blood powers.

'The fact that I can use and harness any element with no conflict should also mean I can use non-elemental mana as it had never been used by the rest of the rankers. I just didn't know the ranking technique I was given would focus on that aspect of my powers.'

Eren scratched his chin as he thought about his ranking technique. Since the technique wasn't optimized, he had always found it a bit difficult to practice. But since it didn't focus on converting the non-elemental mana into the elemental mana compatible with the user, it was a bit faster for him to complete the required mana cycles.

After some time, Eren got better at using his ranking technique. He could now practise it any time he wanted. His mana storage would be filled up faster because of the non-elemental nature of the technique whenever he did practise it.

The butcher thought a bit about it and decided to name the technique Rootless Technique, for obvious reasons. He wasn't sure if he could get his hands on the later variants of the technique. Yet he decided to practice it after thinking it over.

The advantage of half-blood techniques over those that were not was the fact that they were tailored to the respective half-blood rankers. It helped them hone their half-blood spells and abilities by strengthening the mutagen that was part of them.

Eren had learned from Edgar's journal that high-ranking half-blood techniques practised by high-ranking half-bloods would allow them to have atavism. This allowed even the later generations of half-blood

clans who had diluted mutagen to keep their half-blood powers intact. The half-blood ranking techniques were what kept the half-blood clans thriving for as long as they did.

Eren's half-blood powers were unique. He was sure that even Reen didn't know what she was capable of. Meaning, that he had to discover his powers on his own. Therefore, the butcher decided to start early in his endeavour. As long as he harnessed his mutagen, he would discover the extent of benefits it could offer him.

Eren also concluded that Eliza must have given the technique to him since she wanted to see what it could do. After all, he was the sole ranker who could use it from its inception. She was keen to know what the extent of her clan's research had brought about in the world.

Eren knew that his ranking progression would slow down by a lot if he only focused on his half-blood ranking technique. But he had his abilities. The Domain of Wrath and Life Drain both allowed him to push forward in his ranks with greater speed and efficiency than any ranking technique could allow him to.

This was the reason he dared to practise the technique. He only intended to use it to better harness his half-blood powers. The ranking progression was going to rest on his abilities' shoulders.

Chapter 506 City of Ainari

"Argo drop me down there. And wait nearby."

Eren commanded his demon beast. The latter released an eagle cry before descending to the ground. Argo didn't have to land on the ground. Eren jumped from Argo's back when he maintained an altitude of approximately 10 meters.

Argo flew off in the same direction he came from. He had seen a few mana beasts he could hunt and eat in the nearby forest. He was preparing to do just that.

Eren had landed near the city of Ainari. Since it was located a bit away from the Badlands borders, it had a bustling trade of merchants and rankers alike.

He was here to meet Dianna Remus. The ranger of his team had offered him a barren plot of land, which was later converted into a guild asset.

One of the main attractions in Ainari was the Remus auction house. The other was a place called Mystic Revitalization. They both attracted a lot of rankers. The increase in rankers' numbers would spike every month as the auction event was arranged at the start of every month.

In more ways than one, the city of Ainari was a lot like the city of Nilami from the duchy of Lionheart. It had its own set of laws. But where the city of Nilami was mostly frequented by cultists, the city of Ainari was populated by neutral rankers.

Of course, Eren wasn't here to take part in any auction. He was too broke to even consider anything like that. At least for now. He was here to get his hands on the Total Control spell as well as Diana.

"You finally made it. I was beginning to think you weren't cut out for this deal. Hehe."

Dianna greeted Eren with a friendly hug and led him inside a building. The place was named Misty Revitalization. They had walked together inside the building.

Dianna had worn a cute dress in white with red stripe accents over it. It complimented her wine-red hair. It was neither too tight nor too loose, stretching till her knees. Her red lips, deep-looking eyes, and petite nose made her look pretty and playful at the same time.

Her hip-length hair was tied in a simple bun. She smelled of lavender and all kinds of floral freshness. She did not wear any accessories on her. And she didn't need those to grab attention. Her presence alone was enough for that job.

Mystic Revitalization was a one-story building located near the northern district of the city of Ainari. It had a spacious and luxurious lobby. The space was well lit and smelled of an ocean breeze, thanks to the usage of arrays.

The facility had a large welcoming counter that was manned by young and cheerful women attendants with smiles plastered on their faces. They all stood in a straight line along the length of the long counter, welcoming their patrons one at a time.

"Good morning, dear guests. How can we revitalize you today?"

The waitress asked when it was the duo's turn to make a reservation. Eren wasn't aware of anything about the place so he let Dianna take the lead.

"Hello. We would like to book a spot for two for the whole day today. Which venues are currently available?"

Dianna asked elegantly while tucking her hair behind her ears. The attendant replied promptly.

"Of course madam.

We have Abandoned Lake, Underground City, Barren Garden, Moonview Hill, Misty Spring..."

The attendant started speaking a bunch of names or terms that Eren didn't completely get. But he saw Dianna's eyes lit up when she mentioned that Misty Spa was available. She replied hastily.

"Please book Misty Spring for us for the whole day. Here's our payment."

Dianna didn't waste time. She booked Misty Spa by paying upfront in Extols. The latter received the money in the array placed near her side of the counter.

"Thank you for choosing Misty Spa, dear guests. Here is your array key. You can do it whenever you feel like it."

The attendant placed a palm-sized array disk on the counter after confirming the payment. Dianna nodded at her and took the array key before grabbing Eren's arm with her other hand. She then led him towards a giant array.

The array was being used by a lot of people at once. They would walk inside the 15-meter large array eye and use their array key by imbuing their mana over it. The rankers would disappear from their spots in the next moment.

"Hehehe, this will be fun, Eren. Imbue it with your mana. I'll do the same."

Dianna asked Eren to hold the array disk from one end while she held it from the other. The butcher smiled at her, seeing her excitement. He then did what his companions had asked him to do. Soon after, the pair was teleported away from their location.

"Hmm. This place is... interesting."

Eren said as he found himself in a seemingly different place than the city of Ainari. That's because this place wasn't buzzing with people. There were no densely placed buildings or facilities.

The spring in front of him kept on producing bubbles. The spring was like a giant pond that had been well-defined by man-made architecture.

There was an outer dining table shed nearby the spring along with a one-story wooden cottage that was carved with elemental runes.

The place looked real, as did everything inside it. But there was a touch of mysticism surrounding it. That's because a layer of dense white fog had surrounded the spring. As a result, this spa seemed both real and fictional to Eren.

Eren also found out that he and Dianna were not alone in this seemingly isolated space. The pair were greeted by two gorgeous unranked lady servants.

Dianna led him to the open dining space near the bubbling spring. The butcher smiled at what was in front of him. A variety of cuisines were placed over the dining table—awaiting the duo's consumption.

Chapter 507 Still Worthy

"Let's eat first, shall we?"

Dianna asked Eren, receiving his nod in response. He had to admit that she had chosen an excellent place for their date with benefits.

"You look beautiful today, Dianna. And your choice of place is just as awesome as you are. I'm glad we hit it off that day."

Eren raised a toast to Dianna, the ranked wine poured in his glass by one of the lady servants. She stepped aside after setting up the duo's table and waited for them in silence.

"Hmph! Did you notice that I looked beautiful just now? I'm sure you wouldn't have waited this long to compliment Altashia."

Dianna replied with a pout. Eren chuckled and drank from his glass. He taste-tested the wine by keeping it in his mouth for a bit before finally gulping it down. It started stimulating his mana core as soon as it entered his system.

'Good wine.'

Eren complimented his drink before replying casually. He felt like it's been a while since he had used one of his powers. The power of bullshittery.

"I was just waiting for the right moment, Dianna. Your beauty and company are like fine wine. It should only be indulged in when the ambience is just right."

Eren swirled his glass of wine as he spoke. He then picked a cheese cube using the toothpick and ate it.

"Hmm. Does that mean Altashia is not fine wine?"

Dianna's ego was soothed when the butcher elegantly complimented her. But since she had received such praises, she wanted to fish for more.

Eren chuckled when he understood Dianna's subtle undertone. She wanted him to say that she was more stunning than Altashia. Which they both knew was untrue. But vanity often doesn't like to see reality with its eyes open.

"Comparing yourself against someone is something I wouldn't ever do. Aren't you a unique individual yourself? If I do that, wouldn't I be neglecting your uniqueness?"

Eren spoke and his expressions turned stoic. The butcher just wanted to bring more depth into his bullshittery by sounding serious after all.

"Dianna Remus, I wouldn't treat you the way your family treats auctionable items. You are you. Additionally, I wouldn't compare you to anyone because there is no need for a comparison. It's not an auction, is it?"

Eren said before adding further.

"Does... does that make sense?"

Eren asked earnestly. But if anyone paid any attention, they'd find a hint of uncertainty in his voice. But when the butcher looked at Dianna, her expression looked serious too.

'Did... did I overdo it?'

Eren started to doubt the power of his bullshittery. He thought that he needed to use it more often so that he wouldn't lose his touch like this time.

"Sigh! You are right, Eren. I'm sorry for asking silly questions like these. I was just trying to poke fun at you. But I didn't know I was demeaning myself in the process.

I guess one can't really see these things clearly unless they are staring at the big picture from a distance."

Dianna sighed and touched the edge of her wine glass with her lips before taking a sip. She then smiled mirthlessly before continuing.

"Thank you for making me realize that I was walking on the same road my family has walked on for so long. Comparing one thing or person to another and putting a price tag on them."

'It... it worked. I'm still worthy!'

Eren thought to himself and raised his wine glass once again towards Dianna. The latter responded to his gesture with a light smile.

As they ate their breakfast, they talked about random things. The topic of routine military missions also came up. The topic of discussion slowly turned to each other's lives before they joined the army.

Eren didn't mind the wait. He handled all questions with the skill he had shown earlier. He had a habit of enjoying his puns more than his listeners did.

"Eren, this is the Total Control spell that you were looking for. I know our deal. I only pitched it as a joke at first. But now I'm glad that I did."

Dianna said after taking out a rune-sealed scroll from her storage and placing it on the dining table. She then pushed it to Eren's side before continuing.

"I'm giving you this because I don't want our experience together to feel transactional anymore. Here, you can have this.

You can have this and leave the place without anything happening between us. And that's fine with me. Or you can have this and still choose to be with me. No matter what you choose, I'd be completely fine with it.

This way, it won't be a transaction. I like our bonding here. And I want it to grow."

While tucking her red hair behind her ears from both sides, Dianna said. The butcher smiled and kept the scroll in his storage without any fancy theatrics. He had come for this spell mainly. There was no way he would leave without it.

But that didn't mean he would leave without reciprocating Dianna's approach.

"See? I'm still here."

Eren said as he folded his arms while looking at Dianna mischievously. Dianna smiled and nodded at him. She then told the two ladies who were waiting for them to clear the dining table.

Eren and Dianna were then led to two different chambers inside the wooden cottage by the two ladies. They were then helped by the two ladies to wash their bodies before they entered the spring.

Eren stripped out of his clothes as soon as the bathtub was filled with water-element mana through the usage of arrays. Although the mortal servant couldn't employ mana, she had an array disk in her possession she could operate on. It was made so that even unranked entities would be able to operate on it through their touch alone.

It wasn't long before Eren was washed and offered a simple robe to wear. He got outside and waited by the spring's edge. He had lit up his smoke as he observed everything around him.

He was tempted to use his mana sense in the area. But Dianna had insisted that he shouldn't do that and ruin the fun. So Eren decided to honour her request.

'All things come to those who wait.'

Eren said to himself and smiled before taking a long drag of Stellar Sativa stick.

Chapter 508 Spontaneous Desires*

"Let's go in!"

As soon as she reached the spring, Dianna spoke to Eren. She had also worn a simple robe that clung loosely to her body. Her hair was still wet from the bath she had received. Her after-shower perfume of lavender and jasmine was making its presence known.

"Of course, dear."

Eren replied to Dianna endearingly before loosening the knot by his waist that made his robe adhere to his body. He got out of his only piece of clothing, standing naked in front of his team's ranger.

Dianna looked at him and his body keenly before giving an "I am impressed" smile. She chose not to follow in his footsteps and kept the robe on.

"Let me free you from these shackles of decorum too."

Eren said, taking the hint. He unfastened the ribbon-like article that encircled Dianna's shapely waist. The robe split into two, offering Eren the view he was starting to crave for.

Eren also flashed an "I am impressed too" grin at Dianna before gently tugging the robe away from her shoulder blades that were keeping it adhered to her body. The ranger's seductive body was now being feasted upon by Eren's ever-roaming eyes.

Dianna had ample breasts. Her erect pink nipples made them look even more tempting to be grouped on. Her curvy waist and her thick thighs were in leagues of their own though.

Dianna had kept her body well-groomed. She had only kept a patch of pubic growth in the shape of a reverse red triangle just above her lady part, the tip of the triangle pointing straight towards her wet valley.

Eren wanted to explore Dianna's body with all his senses. But they both knew that this wasn't the time to get handsy. Eren looked at Dianna and offered her his open palm to grab on to.

Dianna smiled and placed her hand on his, making him lead the way. The butcher kicked the butt of his smoke and stepped into the spring water.

As soon as he did, Eren felt his mana core spinning at an accelerated rate. Every drop of water on his skin opened up its pores. And he felt like his accumulated mana impurities were getting dispersed in the water before vanishing on their own.

"I wasn't paying attention earlier. But how... how much did you pay for all this, Dianna?"

Eren asked with a voice that was part surprised and part amazed. He then helped Dianna step into the water while holding her hand. It was easy for the duo to enter the spring thanks to the gradual steps.

Dianna chuckled after hearing Eren's answer before continuing.

"Remember our estate deal? Well, my family allowed me to take a substantial cut from it, thinking I... well. Hehe! I'll be honest, Eren. They thought I had sold a barren piece of land at a high price.

So it is kind of our money."

Dianna chuckled and observed Eren's expressions. To her relief, she found him smiling. Eren didn't say anything about the deal. He just led Dianna deeper into the spring water. The rejuvenating water around the duo kept on working its magic, enabling them to experience a pleasant sensation throughout their bodies.

Eren could feel that the mana-exfoliation effect he was feeling was natural. This was a natural spring that had such properties. It was just that the effects were enhanced with the help of suitable arrays.

Eren and Dianna walked till their bodies were about half-immersed in the spring. The warm water was creating light clouds of steam around them.

"How do you feel?"

Dianna asked after a while. By this time, they had both closed their eyes. They both were concentrating on observing the mana circulation in their bodies.

"Just great. I suppose it would have its limits. But this thing can help us in our ranking progression if we keep on using it every once in a while."

Eren said with his eyes closed. Dianna was still holding both of his hands in hers. The latter nodded before responding.

"That's right. But that's not the only thing this subspace can do. Hehe!"

Dianna said and pulled Eren closer to hers. The latter opened his eyes with a smirk on his face. He knew it was about time.

The deputy vice-captain held his team member's cute face with both his hands and tilted her head upwards. Then he got closer to her before planting a passionate kiss.

"Ummmmm!"

Dianna wrapped her arms around Eren's neck as the suppressed moans somehow slipped from her mouth. Those moans only increased when with one hand, Eren grabbed her left titty, and with his other, he grabbed her tush.

Dianna liked the fact that Eren took full advantage of the score when he was given the opportunity to. All she had to do was make the first move. She could see that the rest would be handled well by her partner just fine. It also made her subconsciously realize that Eren was in complete control of himself.

Dianna could feel that Eren's erection was not poking her below the water. She grabbed the back of his hair with one hand and made him direct his wet kisses on her neck. She grabbed Eren's shaft with her other hand and started stroking it along its length.

Eren grouped Dianna's left titty with even more pressure than before while sending the middle finger of his other hand into an expedition. An expedition of a valley that was now underwater.

Eren stimulated Dianna's rear entrance with his middle finger before moving further. Dianna stood on one leg and lifted her other leg a bit to allow Eren to explore her pussy from behind.

After a while, Eren grabbed Dianna's buns and lifted her to see him face to face. The ranger seemed drunk on ecstasy. She kissed him and inserted her tongue into his mouth while wrapping her legs around his waist.

As if sensing the spring users' activities, the rejuvenating water whirled around the duo. It generated multi-coloured breathing lights under the base of the spring to further engage the pair's senses.

No talk was necessary. No words need to be said. Eren and Dianna were both being led by their spontaneous desires.

Chapter 509 Zero Gravity Session P1*

No talk was necessary. No words need to be said. Eren and Dianna were both being led by their spontaneous desires.

"Hmmm. Er... Eren. Let me show you something. Hehe. I'll bet you'd love it."

Dianna said and took out the array disk given to her by the receptionist. She then imbued her mana inside it while sending her mana sense into it.

The next thing Eren knew, his legs were getting lifted off the ground. His body had started levitating. He looked in front of him to find out that he was not the only one being affected by the phenomenon. Dianna was also slowly lifted into the air with him.

"Space element!

This spring has a space element array inscribed on its bed!"

Eren concluded with a surprised voice. Dianna chuckled before nodding her head. To remain stable in their situation, they each locked hands with the other.

The duo's bodies emerged from the water before they became airborne. Eren felt like his body was weightless and could be swayed by even the most gentle of winds. Yet, he didn't feel like his centre of gravity or his balance had changed.

Soon, the duo was about seven meters in the air. The water followed them in streams and started swirling around Eren and Dianna. They would sometimes be submerged in a huge glob of water. Afterwards, the water would be drawn away from them in batches of streams that would take the form of serpentine-like creatures, leaving them alone with their devices.

Those creatures soon started having distinct shapes and revealed themselves to be draconic pythons with bodies made of water. Every once in a while, they hissed at Eren and Dianna while grazing their bodies.

A gravity zone had been established above the spring water. The draconic pythons and the duo stay floating in the air. The sunlight that was peeking through the clouds met with the steam and waterplay, creating rainbow-coloured luminance around the couple.

Eren continued kissing Dianna and exploring her body with his hands. The latter responded to his touch with carefree moans.

Eren found it easy for him to lift Dianna as the zero-gravity region aided in his play. He had to admit that this was the most unique ploughing experience he was about to have in both his timelines. He decided to cherish it to its fullest.

Eren lifted Dianna's hips near his head and parted her legs. As he let go, he noticed that she was still at the spot where he had stopped holding her. Eren smirked and looked down and around. He then looked at the array disk Dianna was clenching in her hands. He took that away from her and imbued it with his mana.

'So that's how it works.'

Eren smiled and started controlling the array. In the next moment, the draconic pythons reduced their shape and turned into rope-like beings. Upon Eren's commands, four of them came towards Dianna. Each of them wrapped their tails around one of the ranger's limbs. Then they stretched in four different directions, making Dianna spread her legs even further.

Dianna saw what was happening around her with her ecstatic haze. She cooperated with Eren's way of handling matters. She liked a man who knew what he was doing.

Eren decided to explore Dianna's wet cave with his tongue. He used one of his hands to spread her pussy lips before touching her pink button with the tip of his finger.

"Aaaaah... Eren!"

Dianna moaned and started to close her legs. Too bad, the draconic pythons turned rope prevented her from doing the same.

She opened her eyes wide in surprise and delight as she experienced an amazing oral. She wanted to clench Eren's head with her hands to control the invasion of his tongue her way. But since even her hands were tied, all she could do was moan and speak Eren's name repeatedly.

"Aaaaah!"

I'm coming... Eren... com.... Aaaaah!"

Diann released an ample amount of love juices while clenching her fists. She then dropped her head backwards and started breathing a bit harder as a way to cope with the orgasm she just had had.

"You are delicious, Dianna. Let me clean you up now, Hehe!"

The game had just begun for Eren. He operated the array and created two more draconic pythons out of the spring water below him. The newly formed pythons flew towards the duo before being used as the streams to clean Eren and Dianna separately. The snakes were dispersed in the air after they were done.

By now, Eren had gotten the hang of how the zero-gravity region worked. So he flew above Dianna who had closed her eyes suspended in mid-air. The snakes-turned-ropes had freed her limbs, enabling her to soothe her pussy with her hands. Her clit had gotten too excited by the wretched devil's constant attention. She soothed it by gently massaging it and the area around it.

Diann opened her eyes to see Eren's face in front of her. He was smiling while pulling her into his embrace. She smiled back and returned the gesture.

"It's your turn now."

Eren said in Dianna's ears and handed her the array disk control. He then rolled around, causing her to fall on top of him. His back was now facing the surface of the water beneath him.

Dianna smirked before summoning another draconic python with the array's help. It flew above the pair before locking his eyes on Eren. It reduced in size and crashed into Eren's face at an incredible speed.

Cough! Cough! Cough!

Eren's face was hit hard by the mass of water that had a considerable amount of momentum. Some of the water got into his nostrils, making him cough.

"Hehe! This was for being so harsh on me when I told you to take it slow. You rascal, you even tied me up. Consider it as a payback for that. Hehehehe!"

Dianna giggled as she watched Eren's expressions turn grim. He maintained his stoic face for some time before looking at the ranger with an evil glint in his eyes and a crooked smile on his face.

Dianna didn't know that Eren had decided that he would breach her rear entrance for her transgression against him. After all, he did not have the qualities of being forgiving.

Chapter 510 Zero Gravity Session P2*

Dianna tied her loose hair in a bun while sitting in the air without any support. She then bent her back towards Eren's erect dick which was craving her attention.

She summoned another miniature python from the spring water and made it lose its form and turn into a blob of water. Eren looked down to see that the blob of water had immersed his dick inside it.

Dianna inserted her hand in the bulb of water and gripped his cock. She started stroking it while looking at Eren's expressions.

Eren smirked at Dianna before relaxing his body. He laid straight on his back and took out another Stellar Sativa stick before lighting it up.

Dianna didn't like that Eren was not prioritizing their time together. So she pinched the tip of his dick's foreskin with her other hand. The butcher chuckled at Dianna's small acts of rebellion and took a few long drags from his smoke.

Dianna sighed as she watched Eren paying her no heed. She decided it was about time to turn things up a notch. With determined expressions on her face, she bent down and took Eren's cock in her mouth.

Eren chuckled as he felt Dianna trying her best to give him an attention-seeking oral. She also fondled his balls, making him a bit tense no matter how impervious he was to blunt damage as a slime half-blood. But in being tense lies half the fun.

He would feel her taking his dick out of her mouth. She would then use her tongue to lick the mushroom head before running it across the shaft's length. She would often trace the dick's most prominent vein with the tip of her tongue before taking his dick back in her mouth again. From time to time, she would summon the spring water to make the blowjob more interesting for Eren.

“That’s terrific, Dianna! I’ll award you with this.”

Eren grabbed Dianna’s head with both hands before saying that. Before she could understand what was happening, he deep-throated him and released all the load he had in his balls at once with a low grunt.

Dianna was overwhelmed at first. But she handled it nicely and allowed the load to enter her system without any opposition. When Eren removed his cock from her mouth, his cum had already been swallowed whole.

‘Hmm. I never thought about this before. But I hope my load as a slime half-blood doesn’t cause any effects on these girls in the long run.’

Eren had his random moment of post-nut-clarity, something that made him chuckle internally. He then looked at Dianna to see that she was using another water summon to clean herself.

“You are a very mean man, Eren Idril.”

Dianna said and pouted, highlighting his second instance of not keeping her in the loop. He just chuckled and pulled her on himself with his hand. He planted a kiss on her forehead before responding.

“Indeed. But that doesn’t mean I don’t appreciate you being a sport. Allow me to show you my appreciation, my lady. Hehe!”

Eren said and pressed onto Dianna’s perky tits. He then shifted her a bit and took her right nipple in her mouth which had turned to its normal state. With the other hand, he started fondling her other breast. It didn’t take long for her to feel in the groove again. The now-erect nipple in his mouth was a testament to it.

Eren’s little guy woke up from its self-induced slumber when he wanted it and started rubbing against Dianna’s butt crack. The ranger understood her partner’s intention while her boobs were being raved about by him. She reached out for his dick with her right hand and stroked it a bit. Then she rubbed her pussy crack with its tip to make it ready for insertion.

“Ummmmm!”

Dianna released an ecstatic moan when she slowly drove Eren’s dick with her hand into her pussy. She also seemed prepared for the moment as she operated on the array disk and created a large mass of water floating over their heads in the distance. When Eren’s dick was all the way inside Dianna, an artificial downpour was initiated.

Pitter-patter. Pitter-patter. Pitter-patter. Pitter-patter. Pitter-patter.

Tap! Tap! Tap! Tap!

The acoustics of rain overshadowed the subtle sound created by flesh meeting flesh. Dianna rode on Eren’s dick slowly at first while allowing him to suck on her other boob— one of her hands guiding his head. Her other hand reached between them and stimulated her clit.

Mark of the Seven Sins: Mist of Lust!

Unbeknownst to Dianna, Eren had activated his Sins series ability. This time, he wanted to tweak its effects a bit. So he tried to consciously repeat his intentions in his head as he activated his ability.

Dianna started feeling high after the sins series ability got activated. She was met with a slowly increasing desire that she needed to have more of Eren. Eren received a passionate kiss from Dianna as a result of her answering her inner feelings.

“Aaaah.... Ooooooh... what... what is this? How... aaaah... am I feeling this good?”

Dianna broke her kiss and asked nobody in particular. Her voice told Eren how turned on she was, thanks to the enhanced effects of his ability. He kept his ability active and decided to take things into his own hands while they were in this peculiar zero-gravity sex session.

Eren grabbed onto Dianna’s waist with his hands and started ramming his little guy inside her with greater force and speed than before. Her butt started getting slapped by Eren’s thighs as he thrust balls deep after each pull-out.

Dianna clenched Eren’s dick with her pussy walls shortly afterwards. She then threw her head back as she came for the second time in a row. Eren welcomed her with open arms when she crashed onto him the next moment.

“That... that was...”

Dianna tried to catch her breath by resting her head on Eren’s chest. The rain had stopped just when Dianna came on Eren’s dick. She took a long breath before completing her sentence.

“That was great... Master!”