

## I Call it training with a twist

**Manga :** Shaman King

**Pairing:** Horohoro X Tao Ren

**Contain:** tickling

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"GYAAAAH!!!" Horo jumped away awkwardly as Bason's Kwan dao descended upon him rapidly, missing the Ainu's arm only a hair away. Horo gritted his teeth and called onto Kororo, pouring his furyoku into his trusty snowboard. Ren shouted at him. "Focus, Horo!!!" The two shamans clashed, but then Horo's knees buckled. "Ren!!! Please!!! Time-out! It's too hot!!!" Horo almost melted off the ground as Ren gritted his teeth and called off the sparring session. The Ainu was almost prostrating to him as he apologized. "I'm so sorry, it's just too damn hot today..."

Ren continued to keep his grimace as he put his weapon back in his suitcase before swinging it over his shoulder. "Fine fine, so should we go somewhere cooler for you your majesty?" he started walking off toward a shadier spot when he noticed something and what heart there was I him started to jerk. "Damn...oh it won't hurt anything."

Walking back to Horo still struggling to get of the ground Ren held out a cone of ice cream whilst he licked at his own frozen treat. "Here, I suppose you earned it then."

Horo's eyes lighted up as he grabbed the ice cream. "T-T-Thank you!!!" Ren smirked and would've actually accepted Horo's gratitude when...

"Do you have a fever or something?" Horo placed his hand onto the Chinese shaman's forehead. A split second later, the Ainu shaman was eating the ice cream from the right side of his mouth, where his cheek was red from being punched by Ren. "Humph I was just kidding..." As Horo finished the ice cream, Ren slowly realized that he actually made a huge mistake - and the hyperactive Horo was now dragging him towards the edge of a lake, longing for a dip. "C'mon Ren!!! The water seems to be fine!" Horo looked back at his sparring partner with a smile, who only pulled his hand away with a small 'No thanks.' and an audible growl.

The Ainu shrugged and started to remove his jacket. "Suit yourself..." Horo had his back on Ren, who headed up to the nearest tree he could find, and failed to see the surprised reaction of the Chinese shaman as he continued to dress down into just his shorts.

Ren's eyes were normally narrow and focused but now. Seeing Horo undressing with the light reflecting off the water...kind of made his eyes wider. He never saw it coming then once Horo jumped in and the water splashed over him, looks like he wouldn't be staying dry today anyways. As he watched his frosty friend drift in the surface he wanted to join him but his pride kept him on the shore. "Oh...I hate when he makes me do things like this." He casually walked over to the shoreline before removing his shoes and socks and pulling up his pant legs to soak his feet in the water. it was cold at first but he wiggled his toes a bit and got a feel for it. Slowly though, the relaxation of the moment got to him and he closed his eyes lying back against the grass.

Horo was observing Ren ever since he dipped his foot into the water. He was happy -excited, even - that his longtime partner in all of the shaman battles they had is now finally opening up to him. Then the sheer disappointment coursed through his body as Ren retreated after wetting his foot. "Oh that does it, I suppose I should have to drag him out here!!!" Horo swam to the shore and stomped towards where Ren was lying down. "Oi Ren! Why didn't you join me?" The disappointment was still present in his voice, and it sounded almost like a plead.

Ren looked up from his comfortable shady spot putting his hands behind his head. "Because I unlike you have no desire to put my body on display for public view." he smirked. "Now would you kindly finish your games while I sleep so we can get back to Yoh's house soon...I haven't had my milk today." he adjusted his position and crossed his legs and arms hoping to get some peace and quiet, though that didn't seem like an option for Horo...ever.

This time it was Horo who growled. "No way Ren! You deserve to douse that hot-headedness of yours..." Horo grabbed Ren's ankle, which surprised the Chinese shaman. The Ainu started to pull him towards the direction of the lake, but then something was odd. Horo stopped for a moment and looked back at Ren. Normally, the Chinese shaman would struggle and protest - heck even hit Horo if he's doing something he doesn't like. But now...for the first time in his life, Horo noticed that Ren was frozen. He's not moving, not even struggling - just staring at his ankle which Horo was pulling a few seconds ago. The blue-haired shaman was bewildered at this. "Oi...Ren...what's wrong?"

Ren looked up, his small blush disappearing quickly. "W-what would be wrong, Now will you stop pulling me like that before someone sees?" Of course nobody else was anywhere near the small lake they were at. In reality Ren was partly embarrassed by hero touching him but also he was slightly worried Horo was going to do something completely different, however he just dragged him to the shoreline and waited as Ren sighed and removed his shirt and trousers now wearing only his shorts as well. "There, now are you happy now?" He dove into the water and shivered for a second before coming back up for air...but he was confused when he couldn't see anybody. "Horo? Blast where did you go...if you even think of..." But it was too late as something came up behind him and grabbed him making him scream which was most unlike him.

Horo quickly surfaced, thinking that something was wrong. "W-What? I was just gonna ride onto your shoulders!!! D-Do you have a wound somewhere? Let me check..." Before Ren could react, Horo was poking and prodding his back and shoulders. "Hey, you're fidgeting! Where does it hurt Ren?"

Ren continuously held back his real intention and tried swimming away but Horo kept pulling him back into torture. "H-Horo stop that this instant i'm not hurt!" Eventually he managed to get away enough to turn around and glare. "Don't prod me like that."

Horo raised both of his hands. "Okay, okay I'm sorry...hey, aww c'mon Ren, don't swim off!" Horo grabbed Ren's ankle yet again, and this time Ren jerked it wildly. It was Horo's turn to stare, not at the other shaman's face, but at the bare foot in front of him, which had its toes clenched. He slowly looked at the other foot farther away from him, which seemed so relaxed, and Ren could only watch in horror as realization dawned on Horo's face and he slowly raised his head with a devious smile on his face. "Ah..." Ren's eyes somehow grew much wider and his efforts to retrieve his leg started dwindling as Horo had a firm grip. "What do you mean Ah?" Hopefully it was some sort of dream but something in his legs told him otherwise as his breathing started getting a tad faster.

Horo smirked as he pulled Ren's foot a bit closer and secured it in place with an arm lock. Ren was protesting loudly, and more nervously since Horo now had his back on him and he did not have a clue on what the Ainu was doing - that is until he felt five fingernails scratching up and down his right sole gently. "Could the almighty and ever the focused shaman Tao Ren be possibly...ticklish?"

Ren continued pushing on Horo's back trying to get his foot back but his speech was somewhat of giveaway. "H-horo..sta...tch..hehe..n-no." Clearly he didn't want to give the satisfaction of proving Horo was right but his foot couldn't get anywhere in the water and he had to let it out sometime, so he did. "H-h-horoh ahahaaha stop hhahaha AH AHahaha!" He splashed around in the water trying to distract him at least but no victory.

Horo's grin was from ear to ear now as Ren tried to kick him with his other foot but it was futile for the water prevented him to do so. "I can't believe this! You're ticklish!!!" The Ainu just knew what to do as he grasped the captive foot's toes and held them back, giving access to the now-stretched arches of the bewildered Ren. Horo just did one scrape of his fingernails onto the said arches and Ren was already rewarding him with a shriek.

Screaming like a girl was something Ren only ever did when Jun had him in this similar situation. So apparently Horo was now in control of situation completely. "Ah I gihivehahahaha please

stahaphahaha!" Ren was barely managing to stay afloat now, the electrical sensations rising through his leg was distracting from his escape attempts. eventually he had no other option, moving forward he had to grab a hold of Horo to stay above water, this just gave the ainu more freeway to tickle him and it made him blush terribly but at least he wasn't drowning.

Horo was surprised for a moment as the Chinese shaman grabbed onto him, and as he felt Ren's arms wrapped around his chest for support, his face flushed bright red instantly. He shook his head and decided to distract himself - after all, the perfect thing to distract him is literally in his hands right now. Horo smiled as he started scratching the arches once again, occasionally tickling the underside of Ren's toes as well. This made the other shaman buck wildly on top of him, laughing loudly and in an incredibly higher pitch than before.

Horo had some pretty good upper body support to be holding him up as well as tickling him unhindered. however this impressive act was not enough to really distract the young shaman, "AH ha aha ahahahahaha no not the toshahehehehehaha oh for the love of GAAH!" A stray finger had gone in-between his toes causing him to shriek and try to get off now in a new way...fighting fire with fire. Desperately he tried anywhere he could think of, armpits, chest, neck and stomach were in his reach so he started wiggling his nimble fingers there.

Horo yelped in surprise as Ren immediately found some of his ticklish spots, causing the Ainu shaman to giggle and squirm in return. "No hahahaha R-Rehehehen s-stop thahahat!!!" Horo had no choice but to release the captive foot and swat Ren's hands. He quickly returned to tickling Ren's foot but now only with one hand, giving the black-haired shaman the chance to clench his toes tightly again and somehow lessen the ticklish assault.

It was working, this was the best news he had received all day and he wasn't going to let it go to waste. "Hahaha you fihirst!" Grabbing his arm he used his free hand to start going at Horo's smooth stomach and dipping his fingers into the teen's navel. They seemed to be on even grounds now but Ren wanted more...he wanted to be back in control like he was during practice.

Horo let out his own shriek as he fumbled for Ren's hands and pried them off of his navel. He completely lost hold of Ren's foot and the Chinese shaman retracted it immediately. Horo looked back at Ren who was now wearing the smirk of vengeance and Horo had no option left. "Oh crap!!!" He swam like mad away from Ren, who gave chase from behind. "R-Ren!!! I'm going to tell Yoh and everyone else about this!!!" Ren finally managed to tackle him onto the shoreline as he pinned him down. "You won't be able to tell anyone once I've tickled you into oblivion Horo!" Ignoring all pleas for mercy or attempts to stop him Ren went all over Horo's upper body going to his chest and when that was blocked he went up the neck and then the armpits and more. Eventually though he grew annoyed at Horo's arm's getting in the way, so he pinned each down and used his tongue as a torture device, clearly his train of thought was out the window as he didn't notice the other's blush as he licked his stomach.

Horo squirmed; he wasn't giggling as much but the notion of Ren's tongue all over his stomach was just too much. "R-Ren, thahahat's gross!!!" However, eventually Horo found it...nice. His blush did not leave his face at all, and instinctively, he grabbed a handful of Ren's hair. "T-That feels nice actually..." Horo blushed even more, but his thoughts of pleasure were interrupted when the black-haired shaman started licking his navel. Horo shrieked again and pushed Ren off of him, kicking him away. "G-Get off!!!"

Ren backed up a bit with a smirk on his face, one that spoke of his own chance of revelation as he looked at the red-ness of Horo's face. "What exactly is the problem Horo, don't tell me your too ticklish, or is it something else?" He swam a bit closer but made sure to keep out of physical range as he got up on the shore and sat there still wearing that smug grin and staring at Horo's multitude of expressions he was giving right now.

Horo swam to the shore glaring at Ren. "I'll get you, you wait and see Ren..." Horo gave him another devious grin that Ren certainly can't ignore. "I now know your weakness...and if Yoh finds out...hehehe" Ren returned the glare and focused on Horo's grin so much that he failed to notice he

was already sitting upon his bare feet. Horo smiled again, this time a genuine smile. "Just kidding, of course I won't tell..." He tickled Ren's soles by surprise while stating his words slowly and quietly. "It will be our secret though..."

Ren started giggling again even though eh still wanted to glare but soon he just gave up and laughed out loud. "hehehahahaha alright alrihihihighthaha just give me a chance Horohoho!" Bucking around and trying not to hurt himself or Horo he was pondering in the back of his head as to the reasons why Horo wouldn't tell the others...was it cause Ren knew his weakness too...no they all knew Horo was ticklish. (Cont.)

The answer was still eluding him as his feet jerked around and his forehead dripped with a mix of the lake water and sweat, you could say that even after Horo got him in the cool water he was feeling hot.

Horo was taken aback by the question. "A chance to...what?" He asked cautiously, and his attention shifted to the twitching feet in front of him. Horo raised both eyebrows in surprise - Ren wasn't pulling his feet away. D-Does Ren actually like to be tickled? Horo went red at the thought; never in his mind did it occur this stunning possibility. It was certainly a step closer to his plans.

Ren took a couple of breaths and quickly assessed his situation before making his move. "A chance to do this!" With that he turned the tables and began tickling Horo's hips to throw him off balance so he could then get on top and continue un-disturbed. "Ha..now then let's do some more exploring shall we?" Scooting back to sit on Horo's legs the same way he did before his drew a single finger up his slick sole hoping for a good reaction, he got one.

Horo's scream rang into Ren's ear. "GYAAHAHAAA!!!" Joco wasn't certainly joking when he told everyone that Horo was the most ticklish person on earth - right before he was hit on the side of his head by a frozen kettle (Anna made him pay for that too). Horo kicked Ren's hand away with his other foot and sat up quickly to stop him. "R-Ren, don't you dare!!!"

Pushing Horo back so he was completely on top of him Ren stared into his eyes. "Ah ah ah...this is only Fair Horo you got my feet twice so I at least deserve some fun now don't I? Don't make me break out Bason now. Flipping him over He managed to pull one leg up enough to begin his tickling anew starting along his sole and up the arches.

"Twice?! That was just one foot and you w-AAAAHAHAHAHAHA No Ren stahahahahahahap!!!!" Horo's arms pounded the ground as they flailed wildly, his entire body writhing and shaking. "Rehehehehen please stop aaaaaahahahahahaha!!!" The blue-haired shaman kicked and bucked so much that Ren soon found it hard to sit still onto the other shaman's struggling legs. "T-This is unfair hahahahaha LET ME GO!!!!:

Ren giggled, which is another thing he didn't do often before taking a quick lick of Horo's toes and setting him free. Now standing up to offer a hand to his ally he snickered. "Just a bit of fun, so Horo we aren't expected at Yoh's for a while yet, what would you like to do next?"

Horo's jaw was wide open. "W-What did you say?" Ren rolled his eyes and started to repeat what he had said - then Horo stopped him at the word - "Fun?!?! Tao Ren wants to have FUN?!?!!" Horo crashed down onto the ground laughing really hard and holding his stomach because of it. "R-R-Rehehehen if only I had a tape recorder with me hahaha - w-wait don't hit me! OW!!! Jeez, you don't have to get worked up by it..." Horo sat up as Ren growled and turned his back at him again. Horo sat beside him and smiled. "Hey Ren...thanks..." Ren looked at him, confused. Horo's smile didn't disappear. "For showing who you really are to me - a friend. And a partner....." Horo had to stop and look away. He was blushing again and just didn't have the heart to reveal his feelings to the other shaman.

Ren too was blushing but he didn't want to let Horo know that, slowly he peeked over his shoulder and saw Horo too, he looked so...right. By the time Horo turned around Ren was sitting cross-legged in front of him staring him in the face a mere 4 inches away with large eyes. "Horo..." After getting a nod he leaned in another inch with his hands on his thighs. 'Kiss me...right now.'

Now Horo was the one frozen by the command. He was used to Ren ordering him to get focused, stop being an idiot, and take things seriously. This particular command though stopped everything within him that it even took him 2 minutes before it finally registered in his mind. "R-Ren..." He gazed at the Chinese shaman's golden-amber eyes, took a deep breath, and sighed. "I...I love you...Tao Ren..." This floored Ren this time, and Horo didn't wait for any reply whatsoever, as he gently wrapped his arms around him and locked his lips together with Ren's. The gentle kiss turned passionate, as the newly revealed lovers intertwined each other's tongues and savored the sweetness of the moment.

Ren taken back at first let Horo dominate him, however once he got used to it he pressed back, his tongue doing a tango as he closed his eyes to block out the world swirling around him. He seemed to lose all focus and thoughts other than the boy kissing him right now. Eventually though he had to breathe so he ended the moment and looked into his friend's eyes. "I-I love you too HoroHoro." then he realized he was underneath his lover and gawked. "Uh..how am I the one on the bottom!?"

Horo laughed. "Beats me!!! Wait I know why!" Before Ren could do anything, Horo flipped him onto his stomach and sat on his legs, much like what Ren did to him a while ago. But instead of tickling his lover's feet immediately, he started rubbing and massaging them instead. Ren, who immediately turned rigid as soon as Horo grabbed his feet, slowly started to relax. "How do you like that Ren?" Horo looked back at the black-haired shaman, whose shoulders sank down gently as he breathed out a sigh of relief.

"Well to be honest I thought you were going to torment me again, ahhh but this is far from it." He flexed his toes now moaning into the feeling. 'You know Horo I'll have to return this favor when your done. He squeaked a few times but all in all his blue haired lover boy was very careful.

"I would definitely look forward to that..." Horo smiled...then his smile turned into a smirk as Ren felt the edge of Horo's snowboard flatten his toes a bit, thus he won't be able to clench them at all. "Now...I would return the favor first!" The ice shaman ran down all of his fingernails from the flesh between Ren's toes down to the upper boundaries of the heels.

Ren tried to hold it in but he couldn't help but scream and dissolve into helpless giggles. "Hahahahaha Ohoho your lucky your cuuhuhutehehahahahaha!" Pounding his fists into the ground Ren was finding it actually slightly pleasurable to be at his love's mercy as he was.

Horo increased the pace of his tickling as he blushed at Ren's comments. "W-Well you're cute too - very much so...and who knows, I might let you get all cute with me later...that...doesn't sound right..." Horo's face turned tomato red at this and decided to just focus on his lover's feet for now, scrapping the flesh between his vulnerable toes. "So Ren...now that we're lovers, I suppose you won't yell at me anymore?" Ren's scream of 'No way!' made the ice shaman roll his eyes, but then he chuckled - he loved his Ren the way he is right now anyways.