

Vile 1031

[Chapter 1031 Talent Doesn't Matter Against Inexhaustible Perseverance](#)

Cedrick began searching for Eren.

Most of the rankers in the group were with him. Morty, on the other hand, chose to stay behind. He just told them that his House had signed a nonaggression contract with Eren, preventing him from ever taking action against Eren.

Morty was relieved to know that Cedrick and the rest bought his partial truth and left him alone. He was about to leave the abandoned facility when he saw that someone else had also stayed behind.

This was a normal-looking young man with average features that didn't make him stand out from the crowd. He always had an air of servitude around him throughout his academic years. However, this young man seemed mysterious to Morty at this point for some reason.

"Rob? Are you not joining His Highness Cedrick and the rest?"

Morty was puzzled to see Robert at the scene. Robert came to Royal Ren from a Baron house. He always stayed close to the royal scions any chance he could get. He was their yes-man and wouldn't shy away from doing menial jobs for them.

Robert especially liked to stay close to Cedrick because of the latter's supposed royal charisma and leadership. Robert's bootlicking had gotten to the point where Cedrick was annoyed by it. So all the royal scions felt relieved when they saw Robert was not following them in their mission to get rid of Eren.

"Hm? I... I have decided to do something else instead."

Robert replied simply. Morty was a bit weirded out by the way Robert spoke. There was no fake politeness to be found in his words— something that had become a part of his identity ever since he got into Royal Ren.

Robert was about to use his movement spell to leave when he heard Morty's next question.

"Rob... What do you think of His Highness Cedrick? Do you think he will eventually succeed in the royal race?"

Robert seemed irritated by Morty's question.

"Listen, man... Robert died and I killed him. This is the new me. Call me Bert. Bert Chu."

For a moment, Morty did not know what to say. He thought that Robert was taking some kind of self-hypnosis approach to reinventing himself from scratch.

"As for what I think of Cedrick, it doesn't matter anymore. There's no point in having opinions about someone who is going to be dead soon."

Robert said and used his lightning-element movement spell to almost disappear from his position, leaving Morty stunned by his answer.

Morty's face was filled with shock when he heard Robert or Bert speak so ominously about Cedrick. He quickly followed Robert and easily overtook him.

"Wait... Rob..."

Morty saw Robert's irritated face and changed his way of addressing him.

"Bert... Bert... just hold on for a moment. Where are you off to? Can I come with you?"

Morty didn't want to explore the Sansara World by himself. Especially on day one when all the teams would be searching for lone rankers like him. They were the easiest to target after all.

Morty knew Bert wasn't that effective when it came to confrontation. And there was something serious going on with how Bert behaved with him. However, Morty attributed it to the man trying to improve himself in his own way.

Bert and Morty could help each other since they were separated from their teams. It was still better to travel alone for both of them.

Bert looked at Morty carefully and pondered for a bit. He took his time to agree to Morty's proposal. Of course, he wasn't expecting Morty to keep firing question after question at him.

"Bert, why did you say what you said earlier? Do you think Eren can defend himself against so many talented rankers from Royal Ren?"

Bert and Morty got out of the safe zone and chose a random direction. They were hoping to find a small team of rankers they could handle by themselves. The Sansara World did not have any other means of earning Karma points after all.

Bert looked ahead of himself and sensed that there was a team not too far away, heading towards them. It was about time for them to earn some Karma points. He lowered his voice before speaking up.

"Defend? That guy didn't enter this world to play defense. And so what if they are talented? Talent doesn't matter against inexhaustible perseverance. Believe me. I had to find it the hard way.

It's smart that you play safe.

I don't know what will happen to you at the end of this event. But be glad that you did at least one thing right."

Bert said and took out his daggers, which weirded out Morty even more. As far as he remembered, Bert always wielded his spear in the ranking wars.

"What do you mean?"

Morty asked while taking out his sword. For some reason, Morty's subconscious mind started treating Bert as the leader. He started following right behind him as they approached their first target.

Bert chuckled mirthlessly before saying matter-of-factly.

"Those guys are not about to fight Eren. Not really. They are basically going to offer themselves as sacrifices for his entertainment.

Now... stop asking questions and focus. I don't want to fall behind him."

As he clad himself in green lightning, Bert accelerated himself at a faster rate. Morty was shocked to see that the docile and servant-like Bert had changed so much just by supposedly following his self-hypnosis therapy.

Morty and Bert soon clashed with a small team of rankers. Surprisingly, Morty didn't have to do much. Bert was more than capable of making quick work of his enemies. He took care of Morty's lot as well when he was done with his.

'The power of self-hypnosis is really something. He must have sought an illusion expert's professional help. I wonder if I could achieve similar results if I did that as well.'

Morty thought to himself as he watched Bert leading him to his next set of opponents. He could feel Bert enjoying his time in the Sansara World behind his serious expressions. As if graduating from this event with distinction was his long-lost dream.

Torn between astonishment and amazement, Morty failed to ask Bert an imperative question— how did he know Eren so well?

[Chapter 1032 Playing Hero](#)

Day 3: An area in the Sansara World far away from any of the safe zones.

This area was a barren desert with view-blocking sand dunes. The star-studded, moonless night was as gloomy as it could be. The midnight winds carried with them a bone-freezing chill that was unique to this region.

There was a smell of blood in the air. A group of injured people was seen running away from their pursuers. Their injuries were serious but not mortal, preventing them from activating Sansara World's defense mechanism.

The rankers within the group had ashen faces as they used their movement spells to their fullest to run away from unknown forces. It seemed that they had lost some of their members forever.

Members of the same group couldn't hurt one another. Self-injury was also prohibited within the Sansara World, preventing anyone from running away from the fights. The rule acted as a death sentence for some rankers who had died both in the event as well as in real life.

Whoever was targeting this fleeing group, they were trying to kill them in such a way that the Sansara World's defense mechanism wouldn't be enough to save them. Hence, a sense of desperation was written on everyone's faces as they ran.

"Fuck!"

Roody Jr, who was the younger brother of Roody and looked just like him, couldn't help but exclaim in fury as he felt his enemies closing in on him from every direction. He looked around him with fury in his eyes as if he was ready to give it his all in his next attack.

Ken had a grim expression on his face as well. He looked at everyone who was running with him and clenched his fists. He got close to Roody Jr before speaking in a serious tone.

"Brother, use the Team Jump Perk one more time."

Sansara World offered various perks for rankers who could avail of them through a special spectral screen by spending Karma points. The Team Jump perk was one such perk on the list. It allowed the team's captain to teleport his entire team of rankers far away from their existing positions.

Roody Jr looked at Ken with frustration written all over his face.

"What the fuck are you saying, Ken? They'll follow us right away using their Team Jump perk. And this is the last teleportation perk we have. We need to get close to the nearest safe zone so that we can..."

Ken shook his head before cutting Roody Jr off mid-sentence.

"That isn't possible, brother. We'll get ambushed before that happens. Time is running out."

Ken narrowed his eyes before speaking with conviction.

"Besides... they won't be following any of you when you use Team Jump this time."

Roody Jr didn't understand what Ken was saying at first. But it didn't take long for him to understand what Ken was trying to tell him.

"You mean..."

Ken nodded at Roody Jr and smiled before confirming the latter's assumption.

"Yep... I'm asking you to leave me behind. These infiltrators from Layos are after me. So obviously, they'll stop following you if they see that I haven't gone with you."

The presence of Ken at the border shared by both kingdoms had become an eyesore for the forces of Layos. They had plans to kill him before he became a serious threat to them.

It didn't look like these forces had infiltrated the Sansara World to take care of Ken specifically. However, now that they were here, they decided to dispose of him in this world where he was most vulnerable.

Everyone on Roody's team was listening to the duo's conversation. They looked at each other after hearing Ken's determination. Some of them hesitated but there were a few rankers who were very impressed with Ken. They voiced their dissatisfaction right away.

"Ken... you fucking moron, this is no time for your heroic acts. We'll face these bastards together and that'll be the end of it."

"That's right. Fist Saint my ass. Your class is nothing but a show-off, you muscle-headed buffoon. Let these fuckers from Layos come... I'll fucking show you that assassins are more equipped to kill in a frontal confrontation than you."

"Ken..."

Ken laughed cheerfully before speaking up.

"Hahahaha. Thank you for trying to support me, brothers. I know this is no time to play the hero. And I never considered myself to be one. At least not anymore.

A hero is someone who can save the day no matter how many stand against him. A hero is a miracle worker. And no matter how crazy my accomplishments might seem to you, they are certainly not miracles.

I... I now realize that an ideal hero is nothing but a fantasy."

Ken clenched his fists and made a pair of gauntlets appear covering his hands. He clashed his fists against each other before speaking in a confident tone.

"But... It's not like I consider myself to be weak.

We have already lost two members of our team forever. Their lives have been forfeited just because they belong to my team. I don't want any more deaths weighing me down on my conscience.

This is why I'm saying... Use Team Jump to get away from this ambush. Let me handle these pursuers on my own."

Roody Jr knew Ken would say something like this ever since the pursuers started attacking his team. It's been more than 14 hours since the first attack on their team took place.

Roody Jr and his team had been battered by their relentless pursuit after that. They were only allowed a small window of respite before the pursuit resumed.

What was more? The enemy had used a special perk from the Sansara World on them which prevented them from entering any of the safe zones on the way. They could see the timer of the special perk acting on them through their spectral screen. It would take another hour for the perk's effects to wear out.

It felt like the forces of Layos had not only infiltrated the Sansara World but they had also rigged the Sansara interface in some way. This allowed them to use special perks in a limited capacity. They couldn't break the rules of this world but they had a few methods to bend them to their advantage to a certain extent.

[Chapter 1033 Ken Vs Meeshah](#)

Roody Jr was about to say something to Ken. However, the latter cut him off before he could open his mouth to speak.

"Don't worry. I won't hold back this time. I'll be aiming to kill.

I won't be playing a hero either. After you guys leave, I'll engage with them for a while before making my escape. It'll be a bit difficult for me to make a run for it, but not impossible.

Now go. We don't have much time."

Ken declared before suddenly stopping in his tracks. There was a confident smile on his face when he did that. He turned around and started accelerating in the opposite direction of the team, not giving Roody Jr or any other member of his team much time to think.

"Fuck! This self-righteous asshole will be the death of me."

Roody Jr cursed Ken under his breath. He feared that his brother and sister would kill him if anything happened to Ken. However, he couldn't just follow him blindly because he had his duties as captain of the entire team.

Roody Jr knew that even if the kingdom of Edinburgh came to know about the kingdom of Layos' infiltration into the event, it wouldn't cancel it. In fact, it would encourage the rankers of Edinburgh to kill the infiltrators using their own hands as a show of the kingdom's might. It would make this event a success story for its populace at the cost of participants' lives.

There was no way to get help. And staying at the scene might mean all of them getting killed. Furthermore, Roody Jr knew about Ken's capabilities. He was capable of handling enemies for a while, if not outright defeating them. And if he kept his compassion aside, the Fist Saint was perfectly capable of manhandling his pursuers before escaping their ambush.

"Ken... you motherfucking prick, you better not die before I find you again. Otherwise, I'll kill you."

Roody Jr yelled while looking ahead of himself. He activated the Team Jump perk before any of his teammates could stop him.

"Captain... there's an update. A huge one. Ken's had separated. Our target is approaching us. The rest of his teammates used Team Jump. What... what should we do?"

A ranger elf who was leading the team of elves from the kingdom of Layos asked his captain. He was looking ahead but his eyes had turned completely white, indicating that he was using a ranger-specific spell to keep tabs on his targets.

The captain of this team was a very striking and bodacious young elf. She had white hair and light blue eyes. Her pointy ears and her rosy lips added to her eye-catching beauty. Her name was Meeshah and she was the 12th in the line of Layos' royal succession.

Meeshah was seen wearing golden armor that accentuated her prominent bust. She had paired her defensive wear with heavy shoulder and arm bracers. Holding slim and long curved swords in both her hands, she looked as intimidating as she was gorgeous.

Meeshah smiled wickedly when she heard the report from her ranger.

"Hehe. That fool thinks he can handle us all by himself. He is denser than the reports we had read about him."

Despite the arrogance in her voice, Meeshah had studied her enemy well. She knew that Ken was indeed powerful. He did a remarkable job refining the Fist Art to perfection. She had experienced it firsthand at the borders of two kingdoms.

However, all of the rankers who entered Sansara World as participants were restricted. Even the most talented rankers would find it difficult to express their individuality to their fullest under such restrictions.

By equalizing all the rankers at the start, the event had taken the edge off of rankers with strong individualities. They were simply not as threatening as they should have been against average rankers. At least not in the early days of the event.

The forces of Layos had infiltrated the event under the disguise of other rankers from various academies using the same kind of artifact Shandil had on him. These rankers of Layos were also not free from the restrictions the Sansara World had placed on them.

Taking all these factors into consideration, Meeshah decided to finish her deal with Ken right then and there. Killing an earl's son from the enemy kingdom was going to be the biggest achievement she would have under her name. That achievement alone was enough to make her one of the top contenders for the royal succession.

Still, Meeshah chose to play it safe by ordering a few of the rankers on her team to approach Ken from a different direction. Meeshah wanted to create a diversion just in case Ken became too hot for her entire team in a frontal clash.

The ranger moved to the back of his team when he sensed that Ken was at an unavoidable distance from them. All the rankers ran in formation as Meeshah came forward to lead their frontal assault.

'He... There's something different about him.'

Meeshah thought to herself as she looked at the approaching Ken from a distance. She knew then and there that this version of Ken was going to be even more dangerous than what he had shown at the border.

"Alright hotshot. Let's see what you got."

Meeshah licked her lips before tightening her grip on her sword. She gestured for all the other team members to distance themselves from her. She was determined to handle Ken all by herself.

"Hahahahaha! Meeshah, is it? Our fight was interrupted the last time.

Nobody is stopping either of us here. Come."

Ken laughed maniacally as he radiated his dominating aura. He bumped his fists against each other and created vibrations in the air. The ground beneath his feet started breaking as if he had manipulated his weight with each step.

Meeshah and Ken clashed. A weaponless fighter facing up against a double-wielding swordswoman was supposed to give an undisputed advantage to the latter. However, something completely contrary to common sense occurred.

The Fist Saint proved his dominance against a swordswoman barely two seconds into the conflict.

[Chapter 1034 A Hero Flipping His Switch](#)

The Fist Saint proved his dominance against a swordswoman barely two seconds into the conflict.

"AAAAAAAH!"

Meeshah only exchanged a few moves with Ken before she was forcefully sent into the air tens of meters away from her position. A perfect connect with Ken's punch broke Meeshah's rib bones and made her split blood. It dislocated her shoulder and damaged her internal organs severely.

Meeshah quickly got up on her feet only to receive another round of beating from Ken. She was forced to stand and became a punching bag against Ken's consistent and precise attacks.

"Aaaaaaah! Don't just stare, you idiots. Attack him."

Meeshah tried to create a distance from Ken and ordered her team to finally stop being spectators. Her ego was not as important as her life. And she knew that Ken's barrage was about to take her life if she didn't get a breather from it.

Ken was attacked with Meeshah's team members all at once when the latter gave them the orders. Meeshah successfully managed to get away from Ken as a result of keeping her pride aside.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Ken's fists created vibrations in the air as they connected with their intended targets. The ground beneath his feet got depressed because of his excessive movements and drawing support from his feet while delivering heavyweight punches.

However, the Fist Saint stayed exceptionally nimble on his feet and managed to dodge most of the lethal attacks aimed at his vital organs. And this time, Ken was targeting his enemies' vital organs too. Thus, everytime his punch connected, it evoked a painful shrill from his opponents.

Meeshah watched with disbelief as Ken expressed his individuality battling against so many opponents at once. She had never seen this version of him even while he had killed many of the rankers from the kingdom of Layos in front of her.

'This bastard. He... he has flipped a switch.'

Ken laughed as he got bruised and battered by his enemies' attacks landing on his body. He wouldn't have suffered by their hands to this extent if he wasn't restricted by the Sansara World. Or if he just had his usual gear with him.

Unfortunately, whatever gear and weapons the rankers used were given to them by spending Karma points. And most of these weapons and artifacts were average at best. So he couldn't remain unscathed battling against seven rankers at the same time.

Meeshah tried to support her team by trying to attack Ken from his supposed blind spot. She also coordinated with her entire team to poke holes in his defensive stance. However, she soon found out that Ken Riverine wasn't someone who she could handle despite the number advantage she had.

"Aaaaaaah!"

"Captain, help... aaaaargh!"

"Ugggggggh!"

Three rankers battling with Eren were sent flying away from Ken in three different directions. They had various fist-shaped depressions all over their bodies which made them look weird to look at. Their flesh was still intact but their organs were beyond any normal means of recovery.

All three of them triggered Sansara World's defensive mechanism as they sustained mortal injuries on their bodies. The Sansara wheel tattoos on their bodies started shining. They were about to be teleported away from the conflict zone soon.

Ken wasn't going to let his enemies off the hook just like that. He ignored the cover attack and approached the nearest opponent from those three. He appeared behind the first opponent and punched through the guy's heart before he could be teleported away. He killed the second ranker by squashing her head.

Unfortunately for Ken and fortunately for the third ranker, Sansara World's defense mechanism kicked in and he was teleported away successfully. Still, Ken didn't get disheartened and carried on with his attacks.

What Ken's enemies didn't know was the fact that he was drawing power from his life force while battling with his enemies. This Ability allowed him to pump up his attacking or defensive capabilities at the cost of a severe burn-out.

Ken knew that he wouldn't be able to maintain his form for long. And that he was about to run out of the life force. Thus, he decided to kill one more ranker to create a deterrence before escaping from the scene.

All of this happened within a fraction of seconds. And Meeshah's team had no viable means to stop Ken from doing what he wanted. Meeshah herself was visibly shaken by the ferocity Ken had shown.

Only now did she realize why the higher-ups from the kingdom of Layos wanted Ken dead. Wars in the land of Anfang didn't start or stop on a whim. They would drag on for years on end. An entity like Ken becoming stronger in the wartime wasn't something the kingdom of Layos wanted to see. Thus, it had added killing Ken as one its agendas after the successful infiltration of the rankers into the Sansara World.

"Aaaaaaargh!"

Ken successfully killed the third weakest ranker in Meeshah's team and decided to make a run for it. He used his movement spell and disappeared from his position. Meeshah's team followed right after him for some time before seemingly giving up on chasing him.

Ken kept on running even though he sensed his opponents not pursuing him anymore. He thought that Meeshah had given up on settling her affairs with him. He couldn't help breathing a sigh of relief when that happened. He was bloody, wounded, and sweating all over. His heartbeats were erratic and he had to take quick breaths because of the exertion.

"Help! These elves from Layos are trying to kill me."

Ken suddenly heard a voice from the north-east direction. He looked and saw a frail-looking girl getting chased by a bunch of elves. She had expressions of fear and panic written on her face and was heading straight to him.

Ken's subconscious mind was torn between helping the girl and securing his own safety first. That indecision was enough for the girl to approach him, supposedly seeking shelter from him.

Ken knew at that time that another fight was inevitable. So he let the girl go past him and bumped his gauntlets-wearing fists against each other.

And everything started going downhill for Ken after that.

[Chapter 1035 Spoiler Title](#)

Ken was about to clash with the new bunch of elves.

But just then, he felt a presence behind him. It was the same frail presence that was trying to seek shelter in his shadows a moment before.

Because of the unusual situation the Fist Saint was in, the frail-looking girl managed to sneak behind him. And before Ken could understand the Whats and Whys of it, he felt his heart getting pierced by the girl's dagger from behind.

"Aaaaaaargh!"

Ken cried in pain when the girl's dagger came out of the other side of his chest. One had to say that the timing at which the frail-looking girl had chosen to attack Ken was just perfect. His back was the most defenseless at that time and the girl struck him where it hurt the most— where it dealt the most damage.

Swoosh!

Ken turned around and swung his fists. However, the girl was nowhere to be found. She just upped and disappeared without a trace after attacking Ken. As far as she was concerned, her job in the confrontation was done. It was now the rankers who were following her who attacked Ken in her place.

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

A bunch of multi-element spells was executed to attack Ken at the same time. The Fist Saint tried to defend himself using the defensive spells he had in his arsenal. However, he was already at his limit at this point.

"Aaaaaaargh! Cowards! I'll kill you."

Ken understood what had happened to him when he saw Meesha approaching him from a distance with a smile on her face. It seemed that she had anticipated his escape from her ambush and arranged this trap for him beforehand.

Ken's Sansara tattoo started shining when it was confirmed that he had suffered a mortal injury. However, he was attacked with many spells and weapons at once before the defense mechanism could kick in. One of the attacks even managed to cut the hand the tattoo was on, interfering with the defense mechanism further.

Ken's body crashed to the ground when Meeshah came within striking distance of him. As a result of his defense mechanism's partial activation, his body was shining. However, it couldn't send him to the safe area anymore.

The infiltrators had introduced a delay in the defense mechanism to ramp up the killings inside Sansara World. However, it worked both ways and the infiltrators were also subjected to the same delay. That's how Ken was able to kill two rankers from Meeshah's team after all.

Ken's heartbeat started dimming. Darkness started surrounding his vision.

'Emotional fools suffer more than rational dickheads.

Hehe. He was right. He was always right. About everything.

But brother... I tried.

And for that, I have no regrets.'

Ken had a fleeting thought as he closed his eyes.

Even after facing a stab in the back, he managed to put a smile on his face with his dying breaths. It seemed that he had done everything he could to live life his way. And he attempted to change as well.

Ken couldn't get far with his heart on his sleeves. The same heart was pierced by the cruelty of the world he lived in.

However, he tried his darnedest to grow and survive while trying his best to stay true to his convictions.

Nobody could stop the Fist Saint from taking pleasure in the number of efforts he had put in to better himself. Even Meeshah stopped herself from taking pleasure in his misery when she saw that smile on his face.

Swoosh. Zoom. Chop.

Meeshah chopped Ken's head clean off just to be sure. He had already given them quite a scare with his ferocious avatar earlier. She was sure that even after combining the two teams from the beginning, she would have suffered more overall casualties if it wasn't for her strategy.

"Hehehehe! How did I do, Her Highness Meeshah?"

The frail-looking girl appeared beside Meeshah and asked. Her looks were complemented by two elf ears, which she had hidden earlier before approaching Ken.

Unlike Meeshah, she took joy in looking at her target's headless body. It was as if she was looking at a piece of art she had created herself.

Meeshah took a long breath before replying.

"You did good, Maylin. Your assassination skills are really something. This mammoth would have given us a lot more trouble if it wasn't for you."

Meeshah smiled lightly as she looked at Maylin. She was relieved that she had managed to hunt and kill someone like Ken in just three days.

Meeshah wasn't sure how the other royal elves were doing. But she could bet anything that nobody from her royal family could have finished Ken off this cleanly. The two rankers her group had lost were totally worth it.

Meeshah was about to say something when the ranger from before reported another finding.

"Captain, there's another target not too far away from us. He is heading southwest, away from us. What should we do?"

Meeshah looked at Ken's body and took it into her storage space. It could serve as proof of her accomplishments after all. She then clapped her hands and stood up straight before asking the ranger.

"What is it this time? I'd like to target the Duke's son Jason next if we can intercept him."

It seemed that all of Meeshah's kills were politically motivated. She had targeted Ken not because she had some unfinished business with him from their time on the two opposing sides of the border. She had targeted him because he was from an Earl's House. Killing him would have a broader impact on Edinburgh's masses.

"Yeah... negative. It's not Jason. It's that White Raven guy. What's his name again?"

The ranger blankly stared in one direction with his completely white eyes as he tried to remember the target's name. The royal scions from the kingdom of Layos who had infiltrated the Sansara World were given a hit list by their higher-ups. Ken wasn't their only target. There were a lot of other influential rankers within this generation that needed to be dealt with swiftly. Doing that would mean eliminating future trouble as well as spreading deeper negative emotions in the hearts of Edinburgh's citizens.

"White Raven? Hm? Oh yes!

Eren Elijah Idril.

Captain... let's target him next using the same game plan. Hehe."

As an assassin, Mayli remembered everyone on the target list well. She could also recall their backgrounds, their strengths and weaknesses, and known records of their past fights.

Of course, she was excited to take down someone like Eren Idril who had an entire city to his name. Killing him was like conquering his entire city in her head.

Meeshah pondered for a bit before agreeing with Mayli's plans.

And everything started heading downhill for Meeshah and her lot after that.

[Chapter 1036 Oddly Pessimistic And A Tinsy Bit Satirical](#)

'Damn. It is taking too long.

I'm still 4000 Karma points away from leveling up and entering E-Rank.'

Eren thought to himself as he checked his progress on the Sansara interface. Even after taking care of so many participants all by himself, he found it difficult to progress too quickly inside the Sansara World.

He then checked out his team's progress through the Sansara interface.

There would be a purge of rankers after a certain time. And teams that did not have the required number of flags would get kicked out of the Sansara World. It was an automated process in the Sansara World and nobody could do anything about it.

Thankfully, his team was making good progress so far. It had collected 20 flags at this point. Meaning it had engaged with many teams and won.

The butcher was relieved to learn these statistics. 20 flags ensured that his team would survive the next purge. It allowed him enough leeway to find Jason and get rid of him. At least that's what he was hoping to do.

Eren was still not able to get the Karma-point sharing perk yet. As a result, Steve and Renita were falling behind. Things were still manageable. But he needed to speed things up if he wanted to ensure his captain's safety.

From Eren's main team, Becky accumulated the most unused Karma points and level-ups. Ramy was right behind her. The rest of his group was also doing well.

Eren had also noticed something weird ever since he started dealing with his opponents from day one. There was an unusual amount of delay in the Sansara World's defense mechanism kicking in. It was enough for experienced rankers to attempt real-life killings.

Alephee had already confirmed that the delay was for everyone and not limited to the participants specifically. Meaning the infiltrators had also put their own lives on the line to mess up the kingdom of Edinburgh. If nothing else, the butcher gave them a thumbs-up for operating under such parameters.

Of course, Eren didn't go out of his way to kill the normal participants. He let them get teleported to safe locations after he was done scoring his Karma points.

He knew most of them wouldn't be able to pass the special test. Even if they did, they wouldn't bother him. In addition, they would eventually be purged by the flag requirement.

The butcher was already somewhat aware of the infiltration plan that the kingdom of Layos had crafted, thanks to the living undead he had created out of Shandil. It was just that it hadn't been finalized and delivered to Shandil when the butcher killed him. And Shandil wasn't exactly a concise speaker.

Eren had also met up with a team of elves who belonged to the kingdom of Layos. These elves were operating under false identities with the help of mask artifacts. Alephee could identify these rankers because of the masks they wore.

It seemed that these infiltrators had some kind of hit list and they were targeting all the influential rankers in the kingdom of Edinburgh. Thus, he was not surprised when they started targeting him as well as soon as they saw him.

The butcher made quick work of these infiltrators. He used Alephee's help to prolong the delay in the defense mechanism even more and killed them all for good. There was no need to show mercy to someone who was gunning for him.

Eren also found out that as the rankers' levels grew, they were able to give him more Karma points when he took care of them. It was done to balance out the increasing Karma point requirement with each level up.

The difficulty in battling with someone was directly related to the number of Karma points the winner could gain out of the conflict. The more difficult it is, the higher the rewards.

This is the reason Eren found targeting infiltrators to be more lucrative. They targeted stronger individuals who had better teams assisting them. As a result, these infiltrators had to struggle a lot. This resulted in Eren gaining relatively higher Karma points when he killed them.

'If only I could find some more elves to farm for Karma points.'

Eren licked his lips and thought to himself as he headed towards a certain location. And suddenly Alephee told him something.

'Eren, I sense more mask wearers heading your way. They'll reach you in about three minutes if you don't move from your current spot.'

Alephee's heads-up raised Eren's eyebrows. He stopped in his tracks and started checking out his Sansara interface all of a sudden.

'What are you doing?'

Alephee asked, puzzled by Eren's actions. She was inscribing more runes in her grimoire inside the pendant abode.

'Checking to see if I somehow activated some kind of Wish Granting perk by accident. In all my two lives, I have never been so lucky.'

Should I have asked for something else? Like... another transcendent-grade artifact... OR.... Another unique power-up? Because I might not get the opportunity again."

Alephee chuckled when she heard Eren's oddly pessimistic and a tinsy bit satirical view of life. She resumed her work as Eren prepared himself to farm more Karma points.

"I'm sorry to keep you waiting, Mister Eren Idril. And I also need to thank you for waiting for us. Name's Meeshah."

Meeshah greeted Eren with a radiant smile and ear-pleasing words. The latter smiled as well and opened his arms wide before speaking up.

"Eren Elijah Idril. The pleasure is all mine, Mademoiselle."

Two Shamshirs appeared in the butcher's hands as he bowed elegantly. He gripped them firmly and swung them casually, relieving his stiff muscles and prepping them for a series of repeated actions.

At this point, Eren was surrounded by Meeshah's team, supposedly blocking all his exit routes. They all had their weapons drawn and were waiting for Meeshah's orders.

Meeshah thought that Ken was an exception. However, she could still try her luck with Eren and fight solo with him. She wanted to see how he fared against the low-key hype he had created for himself.

Eren looked around him and saw his opponents as nothing but living breathing Karma points. He was about to attack the healer of the team when Alephee said something shocking to him.

'Eren... they... they killed Ken Riverine. His dead body is in Meeshah's storage.'

[Chapter 1037 Puddles Of Blood Shimmering Under The Starlight](#)

'The protagonist's luck had an expiry date, after all.'

Eren sighed as he heard about Ken's fate. He was just beginning to accept that Ken wasn't such a bad guy to be around. Out of all the shitty people he had met in his two lives, Ken was one of the few who he could say with confidence that wouldn't backstab anybody.

"Death is death. People die."

Eren said as he twisted his neck, his face emotionless, and his eyes void of sorrow. He looked left and right and rotated his wrists as well.

Ken's death did not change Eren's perspective on life. If anything, it only helped him strengthen his previous belief that strength was supreme in any society, in any era, or any world. And that showing compassion was a luxury not everybody could afford.

Eren's voice turned solemn as he spoke his next words.

"Death changes nothing for the one who is dead. And the change will eventually not matter for those who have been left behind in the grand scheme of things.

This is the reality for most people."

A few bone-popping sounds were heard by Meeshah and her teammates as Eren continued to speak to nobody in particular.

"Rest in eternity, Ken Riverine. Rest assured that I'll send your killers to meet you soon.

Have fun with them."

Bzzt. Swoosh. Zoom.

"Aaaaargh!"

The healer of the group cried in pain as his neck was suddenly slashed. People watched with a mix of shock and horror as they saw Eren appearing behind the healer like a ghost and yanking off the healer's vocal cords.

The first healer of the team had died within a fraction of a second before Meeshah had a chance to initiate a one-on-one with Eren. And there was nothing they could do to prevent it.

It was at this moment that Meeshah realized that Eren was too fast for her or any of her teammates to successfully intercept. She immediately used a Sansara Perk to boost her team's agility and other stats and intercepted Eren before he could kill the second healer in her group.

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Clang. Clang. Clang.

Streams of lightning surrounded Eren as he clashed with Meeshah. The dual-wielders exchanged a bunch of moves in quick succession and managed to inflict a few slash wounds on each other.

However, it was clear who had the upper hand after looking at the severity of the injuries they both faced. Meeshah had sustained severe injuries to her vital spots while Eren had ignorable wounds on his limbs. It could be said that the wounds Eren had on his body were a compromise Eren was willing to make to injure Meeshah to such an extent.

Clang. Clang. Clang.

The butcher was made to fight another pair of rankers in the next moment, allowing Meeshah to take a breather. The elf beauty was more hurt mentally than she was physically. She had thought that fighting with Ken was an exception. However, someone like Eren shouldn't have been too difficult for her to handle.

Turns out she thought wrong.

Eren was even more of a handful than Ken ever could be. At least in the Sansara world where everybody's powers were restricted. Meeshah watched with extreme vigilance and regret as her teammates kept on attacking Eren and receiving blowback from him.

Eren started killing without any remorse or vengeance in his head. He started injuring and killing Meeshah's teammates in the most horrific manner possible. The dislocation of organs, flesh, bones, and everything in between from his enemies' bodies came as easily as breathing for Eren.

The forces of Layos thought that they had become numb to the sight of blood and gore. And for the most part, they did. Nonetheless, Eren's method of killing them made them realize that mental fortitude could always be challenged by the tough situations they faced.

The butcher also got injured by his opponents. However, the injuries were not enough to stop him. He kept on moving about and killing the rankers before they had a chance to be saved by Sansara World's defense mechanism.

Meeshah tried to keep Eren from using various means and perks. She stacked many of them and came close to competing with him. However, the butcher wasn't idling around in the Sansara World either. He had his own set of Sansara Perks, which he used at the right time and in the right way to tackle Meeshah's entire lot.

There was one more advantage Eren had that nobody else did among the participants.

His mana circuit training had allowed him to alleviate the Sansara World's restrictions to some extent. Meaning he could adapt his mana circuits and his constitution as per the restrictions placed on his body. This would allow him to maximize the potential of the rank he was in.

Eren's current level should theoretically allow him to exert the powers associated with someone in the liquid stage of the F-Rank. In contrast, his mana circuit training allowed him to loosen those restrictions.

He was basically fighting as a higher-level participant with powers that belonged to someone who was a quasi-Ace-Rank.

When the butcher stacked his unique traits with the unique perks he had bought from the Sansara interface, the combination was something Meeshah's team couldn't handle for long. They started dying like flies under his barrage of attacks one after another.

Unlike Ken, Eren did not hesitate in making his moves. All of his attacks were on point and nearly impossible to guard against. And this was despite the fact that he was engaged with several opponents simultaneously at any given moment.

Several organs danced in the air before decorating the ground like fallen autumn leaves. The puddles of blood and other bodily fluids started shimmering peculiarly under the starlight.

The scene was getting gory by the moment. And at the same time, the region was getting more haunting with a thick stench of fresh blood that one could almost taste in the air.

[Chapter 1038 A Cult Classic Scene](#)

"Aaaaargh! Fucccccck!"

"You monsterrrrr!"

"Helllp.... Somebody... fucking kill this vile... Aaaargh!"

Several screams could be heard when Eren's attacks landed on many rankers at the same time. Meeshah was one of the victims. She had lost 5 members of her team forever within a few minutes of the butcher's attack. She knew the team was bound to face a complete wipeout if she stayed in the same place. She needed to use the strategy that worked for Ken differently for Eren.

"Run. We need to run."

Meeshah mumbled to herself. It took her a while to realize that nobody among the survivors had heard her command because she only mumbled her words. She clenched her last sword in both hands before screaming out loud.

"Fucking run away from this maniac."

"Hey! Hey! Hey!"

Meeshah had goosebumps on her skin as she heard Eren calling out from behind her.

She and the survivors of her team were running away and the butcher was on their trail. He was just a shout's distance from them. He was able to do that despite being affected by the movement debuff Meeshah had applied.

The butcher's voice reeked of casual friendliness as he spoke his next words.

"That's not fair, you guys. I waited for you. Remember? And you are not returning the favor.

What's wrong with you? What did I do to receive such harsh treatment?"

Eren's visage was bloody as he chased after Meeshah's team. However, most of the blood splatter came from his victims. He had already healed himself enough using the Instant Reset Ability. He would have caught up with the nearest elf at this point if it wasn't for the debuff acting on him.

Eren's voice was crystal clear despite the fact that all of them were using their movement spells.

"Whatever happened to your resolve to tick my name off your hit list? Take me down and shame the kingdom of Edinburgh. Conquer my city by taking me down. And your achievements shall inspire the citizens of Layos for generations."

For some reason, the butcher's provocation started sounding tempting to Meeshah's teammates. Eren's voice suddenly turned grim and demonical as he spoke his next words.

"You know.... I might start hurting you even more if you make me chase you this much. I hate it when people make me create multiple kill sites."

A cold chill ran down Meeshah's spine as she heard Eren's simple but effective threat mixed with his soul sense. She knew that if it could affect her, it could affect the rest of the rankers escaping with her as well.

"Don't listen to him. Just ru..."

"Aaaaargh!"

Another painful cry was heard before Meeshah could finish her sentence. It seemed that someone had fallen prey to the butcher's devilish whisper.

Meeshah didn't stop. She and the remaining survivors didn't even turn around to look at which of their comrades had fallen. They just kept running. Some of them were glad that the butcher had kept his word and ended the fallen comrade's misery in a jiffy.

After a couple of minutes, another life was lost during a chase.

The butcher started huffing and puffing. He spat in annoyance after chopping the head of the ranker he just caught up to.

'Makes me remember Marla's daily routine. I... I hated cardio. Haash!'

Eren continued his chase begrudgingly. The effects of the debuff were beginning to wear down. But he had overexerted himself to kill so many rankers from Meeshah's team. The long chase had made his job even more difficult.

He regretted the fact that he had made them run away from him. Maybe he should have given them false hope by letting them slip past his defenses once or twice. That way, he wouldn't come across as someone undefeatable to them.

The butcher could have made his job a bit easier with his summons. But even his normal summoning spells started having peculiar mana signatures on them. And he didn't want to expose the fact that he had a summoner class.

The Wind-Fire Wings didn't let him take a sustainable flight either because he was technically a Novice ranker at this point. The low ranks didn't allow such fancy moves. Thus, he was forced to chase after his potential victims on foot.

"Helpppp! These bastards from Layos are trying to kill me."

The butcher was getting close to one of Meeshah's members from behind when he heard a scream from the northeast direction. He saw a frail-looking girl approaching him with expressions of fear and panic written all over her face.

The girl looked childish as if she had stopped growing physically after turning 16. It added to her pitiful looks and made her look even more helpless against a rowdy bunch of bloodthirsty elves following right after her.

Even one of the most stonehearted men would find it difficult to ignore a girl's pleas for help in such situations.

It was as if this mysterious girl and the bunch of elves chasing her had appeared out of thin air. The girl looked like she was hurt and would get caught by her pursuers any second.

Eren stopped following Meeshah's team and headed straight toward the frail-looking girl. He made his Shamsirs disappear from his hands. A pair of daggers appeared to take their place. His completely black daggers were almost invisible in his hands due to their matte finish.

The girl's face was painted with expressions of hope as she saw her potential rescuer coming to save her. It was as if she found the last vestiges of strength within her to speed up and get close to Eren. As if all her prayers were answered the moment she laid eyes on Eren.

A damsel in distress. A bunch of goons pursued her with ill intentions. And all of a sudden, her prince charming came to save her.

A cult classic scene.

If Layla was here, she would have recorded the moment on an array disk for her entertainment. She practically lived her near-immortal life in anticipation of watching scenes like these unfold in front of her.

However...

Bzzt. Swoosh. Chop.

[Chapter 1039 \[Bonus \] In A Position To Exploit Restrictions Placed On Others](#)

Bzzt. Swoosh. Chop.

Mayli found her liver being pierced by one of the butcher's daggers as he appeared to her left. Eren spun around and lodged his remaining dagger in the girl's heart before twisting it. He sent his fire and lightning mana inside her to fry her mana circuits as well.

The elves chasing after her stopped in their tracks and looked at each other blankly as they saw Mayli's condition. Even Meeshah who was pretending to run away from the scene stopped in her tracks and looked at the scene with a horrified expression.

Mayli was unable to cast a spell or get away from the butcher. She spit blood when she tried to open her mouth. She looked at her killer with injustice written in her eyes and spoke with difficulty.

"How... How did you know?"

The butcher looked at her with puzzled expressions of his own before speaking up.

"Hm? Know what?"

Mayli wanted to find out if she had a flaw in her acting or not. But it turns out the butcher killed her because it was convenient to do so. Or she was just too suspicious to be running at him. However, it could be assumed that he did not see Mayli as an ally to Meeshah's team.

Mayli couldn't help nodding at her killer before closing her eyes forever. She took solace in the fact that at least she hadn't failed as an assassin. That her acting was as impeccable as it could get. She managed to smile with her blood-soaked lips before the butcher chopped her head clean off.

In more ways than one, Mayli was put in the same boat as her most recent victim in her last moments. Poetic justice by Layla's standards.

However, the homunculus would have frowned at Eren after realizing the cult classic scene had been ruined in Eren's hands. Two of her favorite fantasy scenarios getting spoiled by his allegedly ruthless actions would not have sat well with her.

"Here. Catch this."

Eren threw Mayli's chopped head at her supposed pursuers before getting away from them. The group was too shocked to react rationally. One of them raised his hands to catch the butcher's throw unwittingly.

It was a well-placed throw. And it was an equally straightforward catch.

Swoosh. Catch. Boom.

It seemed that the Sasara World took the participants' wishes into account to some extent when offering them Perks to spend their Karma points on. The butcher was offered a pair of daggers and Shamshirs through the Sansara interface because of his expertise with them.

Similarly, there was a Perk that allowed him to turn inanimate objects into explosives. He had to spend 3000 Karma Points to get this Perk. The bomb lover in him happily spent that much money on a supposedly useless Perk instead of investing the same Karma points into leveling up.

The butcher cursed the Sansara World for making him addicted to such a convenient way of fighting. He had practically adopted his battle style as per this world's rules. He felt that it would be very difficult for him to adjust to real life if he spent a month inside Sansara World.

He felt like home. The restrictions that weigh others down did not exist for him for the most part.

Eren did not have any fancy moves. He did not have his Expert-ranked powers with him. However, his multi-elemental and multi-weapon skills started paying him dividends inside this special world.

He was in a position to exploit the world's restrictions placed on others because of the gruesome training he underwent under Alephee. Plus, he had a basic knowledge of the Perks from Sansara World. That's why he had already come prepared with many strategies to use inside the Sansara World. As a result, the butcher became even more of a killing machine inside the Sansara World than he was outside it.

This was the reason he managed to take care of Meeshah's entire group with such ease. The butcher made use of his advantages and started getting more Perks for him instead of just focusing on leveling up. He knew that spending Karma points on Perks would serve him well in the long run.

After all, Perks were like Abilities inside the Sansara World. They would be better at using them if they had them in the game earlier. The Abilities would also grow along with their users, allowing them to maximize their offensive, defensive, or other capabilities.

Eren had almost wiped out Meeshah's entire team that was previously divided between her and Mayli. His blast, using Mayli's head, was only able to injure the rankers.

The butcher cursed the Sansara World as well as the Sansara Sage once more—" this time for a different reason. He cursed them for making him spend 3000 Karma points only to offer a sorry excuse for an explosive that wasn't even worth a fart in his eyes.

The terrorist felt that even his earlier potion bomb iterations that he did for practice would have shown better results than the sorry excuse for Bomb Perk he had spent so many Karma Points on. To make his expenses count, he had to personally kill the injured rankers post-blast.

"Let's... let's ask Hagduin for help. My pendant tells me he should be nearby."

There was only one ranker remaining with Meeshah when Eren was done with his recent victim. While the butcher was killing the third-last member of their team, they started running.

All of them had tried to get away from the butcher in separate directions. But it turns out, the butcher had used a simple Perk on them that physically prevented them from moving a certain distance away from him.

Meeshah didn't want to ask another royal scion for help because doing so would hurt her credibility. However, she decided to listen to her last teammate's advice after considering the kind of situation they both were in.

The butcher quickly caught up with his last two potential victims using the Speed Perk. He had bought a bunch of perishable Perks for himself after his recent Karma Points farming.

Eren had managed to hear their conversation. He sent his mana circuits into hyperdrive and got in front of them. The butcher chuckled and burst their metaphorical bubble by throwing something at them—" this time without lacing it with his peculiar Perk. It was the head of an elf named Hagduin.

"Is this the one you are looking for?"

[Chapter 1040 Unlimited Knife Works](#)

Hagduin was a tall sun elf with a ponytail.

Hagduin's body was missing. But the chopped head was easy to identify because of the ponytail. Meeshah had color drained from her face as she looked at Hagduin's head lying on the ground a few steps away from her.

"How... How did you kill him?"

Meeshah asked Eren while thinking of ways to get away from the scene. She also found it unbelievable that Hagduin was killed. Because he was more skilled than her. He also had a better crew than her to assist him.

Eren had clashed with Hagduin's team on day 2. The elf with the ponytail had used Spatial Domain Lock on him that locked his entire team with the butcher.

Eren was more than happy to get locked in one place with his potential victims. He used the Condition Continuum Perk and prevented Hagduin from canceling the Perk that he had activated himself.

The fight with Hagduin and his entire allied team lasted for a few hours. In the end, Hagduin's own Perk bit him in the ass as all of the rankers that were with him got killed inside the Spatial Domain Lock. The butcher had raked in loads of Karma points on day 2 as a result of wiping out the entire elf group. It had allowed him to buy many Perks, both permanent ones as well as those with one-time use. He had used some of them to tackle Meeshah's team.

The Sansara World's automated system had a synthetic consciousness of its own. It took out Hagduin's Perk and allowed Eren to use it as a limited-time Perk. Meaning he could use the Spatial Domain Lock Perk three times.

Hagduin's Perk was very useful for Eren when it came to slaying an entire group. And its limited use made it even more precious. Thus, he didn't want to use it on Meeshah's team at first.

However, he did not know how many Karma points Meeshah had. And he could see on her face that she was getting desperate. So when it was only the butcher and Meeshah left at the scene and the earlier Perk restrictions were lifted, the butcher used Spatial Domain Lock on Meeshah just to play it safe.

This Perk also prevented Eren's opponents from using any of the teleportation Perks. This was something Meeshah had completely forgotten to do because of the stress she was forced to be in.

Eren's Perk kept draining his Karma points while it was active. But the butcher's rate of earning Karma points exceeded the drain rate by a huge margin. So it was still an affordable Perk for him to use.

Eren didn't want to spend more Karma points on Meeshah's team than he had to. Each point was critical, and he needed to make use of his Perks wisely.

Thus, he decided to finish his job instead of answering Meesha's question. His image was blurred from Meeshah's perspective. He appeared in front of the teammate she was with before launching a close combat Perk on her. Its name was Unlimited Knife Works and it was supposed to be used in conjunction with dagger-like weapons.

Unlimited Knife Works allowed its users to accelerate their weapons to an absurd amount within dimensional confinement. The vector force acting on the weapon would be regulated by the Perk and its direction would be decided by the user's slight movements.

Therefore, the slashes and stabs made with the Perk would be so fast that they would defy rankers' physical limitations. One could also see it as a Stunning Speed spell specifically made for the weapon arts.

Of course, one needed to be quite skilled with the dagger arts, to begin with, to use the Perk effectively. The Perk was akin to a superfast flying vehicle. For one to use the vehicle, one must know how to drive it in the first place.

The butcher had selected this Perk right after killing Hagduin's team. And he was yet to try it on anybody. Now that there were only two potential targets, he had room to experiment.

"Aaaaaaar...!"

The scream was cut short because of how quickly the victim's body almost disintegrated. Unlike his Bombing Perk, the butcher was very happy with the results of this Perk.

The Perk came with its own set of disadvantages for the current Eren.

First was the fact that he made a few mistakes but they couldn't be exploited by his enemy. Second, he came close to dropping his weapon as a result of a strong vector force acting on it. Despite this, he was able to maintain his grip on the weapons before executing his dagger arts with them.

Eren also felt a bit of strain on his wrists when he activated Unlimited Knife Works. The strain came from subconsciously trying to control the speed of the self-accelerating knives manually. This needed some getting used to before he could make use of the Perk to its full potential.

Lastly, the Perk had a negative impact on the weapons he had gotten from the Sansara World. He knew that they would get dulled if he kept on using the Perk for his every attack. The weapons would have been worn down at this point if he had used them to attack Meeshah's team from the beginning.

Weapons were relatively costly to buy in terms of Karma points. Hence, the butcher decided to limit the use of Unlimited Knife Works if and when he was in a pinch.

Meeshah felt numb to the cries of her last teammate getting killed by Eren. Perk and the butcher's Dagger Arts worked well together. The ranker's body was chopped into minced meat within a second after the butcher used the combination.

"You... everything about you... The information is lacking. You are many times more dangerous than those phony reports paint you to be.

You should have been first on our hit list."

Meeshah didn't try to run away from Eren this time after seeing her teammates' posthumous condition. The butcher juggled his daggers around him and wiped away the blood marks. He smiled mildly before responding.

"Hmm... I'll take that as a compliment."

Meeshah gulped empty air before deciding to voice the only request she knew the butcher would be willing to fulfill.

"Grant me an easy death. I don't want to suffer."

Eren wasn't surprised by Meeshah's request. He nodded before agreeing to it.

"Alright. Sleep well... Mademoiselle."

In the next moment, Meeshah's vision started to dim. She didn't know what hit her and she was glad about it.