

## Vile 1041

### [Chapter 1041 Digesting The Hero's Gains](#)

"There it is!"

Eren was finally able to locate the Karma Points Sharing Perk. It was made available to him after he put his Karma Points into leveling up.

The multiple level-ups in one go allowed him to become an Ace ranker once again. One could say that the Karma points earned after finishing off Meeshah's entire team had been put to good use.

Eren quickly bought and activated the Perk through the Sansara interface. He then linked it up with Steve and Renita. He divided his existing Karma points into three equal portions. He retained his portion while allocating the other two portions to the captain and ranger of the team.

Eren had already told Steve and Renita to prioritize their levels over getting Perks for the first week. Unlike him, they were playing defensively. Plus, they had the support of the main team. So they didn't need many Perks.

Eren then walked up to Meeshah's corpse. He bent down and took her tattooed hand in his hand. He felt the tattoo of the Sansara Wheel with his fingers before asking Alephee.

"Alephee, can you override the access rights of this elf's storage?"

The Sansara World had sealed off rankers' storage. Instead, it offered its own storage system for the participants to use for their rations, weapons, and other stuff. The butcher knew that the seal on the personal storage was strong to prevent anyone from taking unfair advantage of their backgrounds. But he was hoping the Sansara storage could be accessed using Alephee's help.

Alephee didn't come out of her Pendant abode. She sent her soul sense outside and scanned the Sansara Wheel Tattoo before replying.

"I can. But only for the next few minutes. The storage would collapse after the dead body's temperature starts dropping down."

Eren nodded before making his wish known.

"Take everything out."

In the next moment, the Sansara Wheel tattoo started getting blurred as Alephee used her soul sense to override it for a fraction of a second. She took everything out of Meeshah's storage and asked Eren to throw the body away.

Eren quickly threw Meeshah's body in the air and raised a non-elemental mana shield around him. In the next moment, a suppressed implosion was heard.

Splat.

Meeshah's body imploded like a mini-bomb had been detonated inside a watermelon. The pieces of her flesh and bones were spread everywhere. In the end, Meeshah's body suffered the same fate as that of

her teammate. But since it was done after her death, one could say that the butcher had kept his promise to offer an easy death.

Eren canceled the shield around him before looking at Meeshah's stuff. She had two swords and some other stuff that she had bought using her Karma points. The butcher stored everything within his Sansara storage before selling it to the interface for Karma points.

However, this was not what the butcher was after in the first place.

Eren walked up to the dead body that Meeshah had stored inside her Sansara Storage. It was the headless corpse of Ken along with his chopped head beside it.

"He was a perfect hero and therefore, an imperfect ranker."

Eren sighed before narrowing his eyes on the corpse. He stretched his hands over the corpse and turned them into a slimy mass.

"Since I took revenge for you, it is only fair that I receive a payment from you."

Eren mumbled to himself before spreading the slime mass all over Ken's corpse including his chopped head. He activated his bloodline Ability and started digesting Fist Saint's gains.

Not much time had passed since Ken's death. So Eren thought that he still had a chance to get Ken's Fist Arts for himself. However, the haul he was receiving was greater than expected as he offered the hero a unique form of burial service.

Even after being under Sansara World's restrictions, Eren's ranking status was still intact. He could feel that he was progressing ahead in his ranking journey as he started digesting Ken's experience as well as his elemental attainments.

Eren received the knowledge of Ken's Fist Arts and his custom modifications to it for the most part. He was also able to strengthen his earth-element attainments to some degree.

The progress in his ranking status wasn't much. But in the C-Rank, even a bit of progress was a huge thing for the current Eren. It was as if Ken agreed with the butcher's barter and readily offered his gains for his growth.

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The next day. Near a small lake.

Eren opened his eyes when the lakewater started reflecting the fake sun rays over his face. He had finished digesting Ken's experiences by this point.

Eren found out that Ken also had a peculiar Ability. An Ability to use his life force as a means to boost his offense and defense capabilities. It was a very simple and straightforward Ability a Fist Saint could have asked for. The butcher was able to make the Ability his after relieving his life as Ken through his memories.

Eren got up on his feet and started practicing throwing pouches. He had never digested gains related to Fists Arts before. So he knew it would take a while for him to sync with Ken's mastery over the Fist Arts.

Swoosh. Swoosh. Swoosh.

Eren kept on getting better at using Ken's spells and techniques with each passing second as he started practicing near the lake. The surface water started getting agitated with various ripples as a result of his power-packed pouches.

"In the battle of existence, tact is the clever footwork and talent is the punch.

The poor fool had both of them. He just didn't understand their importance."

Eren started talking to himself as he synched his footwork with his Fist art.

"No... he understood it just fine. He just ignored what he had for the most part."

Eren's mind again crafted an analogy related to his most recent driving experience. Ken's gift and his hesitancy to use it was akin to an owner with an expensive flying vehicle that they parked at their estate—rarely using it. The butcher felt like even wrecking the flying vehicle in a grandiose manner was a much better choice than simply possessing it only to do nothing noteworthy with it.

Eren's fists started getting imbued in lightning streaks. His legs started getting coated in orange flames. His punches started straying away from Ken's signature moves bit by bit.

The butcher was adjusting Ken's Fist Arts for his own use.

"In due time, I'll show him how his gift should have been used."

#### [Chapter 1042 Eren Meets Cedrick](#)

'Someone is using a Perk on you, Eren.'

Alephee reported Eren after she sensed some interference acting on him from the Sansara World. She couldn't identify which Perk was being used. However, she was certain that it had been activated.

Eren stopped his gyro vehicle when he heard Alephee's heads-up. He felt puzzled and scratched his jaw and checked out his Sansara interface.

He did not have a debuff on him. So it could only mean that someone outside his team was trying to contact him using an unknown Perk he didn't have. Or it could be that someone was trying to locate his current position using some unknown Perk.

The gyro vehicle he was using was bought using Karma points. It was a one-person vehicle that had a very distinctive look. It had compact dimensions while allowing him to ride it comfortably. Behind the vehicle were two pixie-like wings that could be controlled to move in any direction.

Eren was wearing eye-protector gear to sustain the wind pressure he had to face because of riding such a vehicle. He also wore a simple leather jacket because it came paired with eye gear.

He had to admit that it was a liberating experience riding this single-person vehicle, even more than the expensive flying vehicle he had wrecked not too long ago. Not only did it make traversing this vast world easier, but it also allowed him to enjoy the ride.

The vehicle was dangerous to ride for normal rankers because it attracted a lot of attention with its peculiar mana signature and operating sound. And since it offered no additional protection, the rider could be easily targeted by long-range attacks. Or the participants could simply set a booby trap in the area using their Perks that would get triggered as soon as the vehicle passed over it.

However, Eren didn't care about attracting attention. In fact, he wanted to do exactly that. He wanted the participants to attack him so he could keep on earning more Karma points for three people including him. Therefore, the vehicle was an ideal fit for him.

Eren was still southbound. He knew the rough locations of a few places in the Sansara World. And maps of nearby places could be unlocked in the Sansara interface using Karma points. The butcher was checking them out using a rough grid search. He had no way of contacting Ivor because the guy had changed his identity and he wasn't aware of it.

Plus, normal communication methods didn't work inside the Sansara World. The participants needed to be within the same team or have the necessary Perk to contact one another. Even after having the necessary Perk, one must possess a certain Sansara communication key to establish a connection. He had to search for Ivor and Jason manually.

The butcher was sure that he would be able to find Ivor and Jason eventually as more Perks became available with the overall level-ups of the participants. However, finding Jason and eliminating him at the start of the game took priority.

Eren didn't want to let the Duke's son get too strong inside the Sansara World. He and Ivor only had maybe one shot at killing him. If Jason managed to gather some weird Perk, their plan to eliminate him would have to be scrapped. This was not the outcome Eren wanted under any circumstances. He had even compromised his own progress to prioritize finding Jason and Ivor as a result.

Eren stabilized his gyro vehicle and killed its movement. He had stopped his vehicle in an open area that had no hiding spots for miles on end. It offered him an unobstructed view of the desolate landscape.

The pixie-like translucent wings behind the vehicle stopped flapping when he did that. The vehicle had many elemental runes on it, most of which belonged to the fire and wind elements.

Eren took out his Sativa Stick and lit it up by bringing it neatly to the fire-element rune under the vehicle's seating arrangement. He took a long drag and looked around him as he waited for the "guests" to arrive.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Eren's wait was over as soon as he could finish his Sativa Stick. Guests started arriving in droves.

These participants used gyro pads. They skated on these floating devices.

Eren raised his eyebrows when he saw the number of participants who had arrived at the scene to greet him. Alehee confirmed that they were not wearing elven masks. Meaning all of them were rankers from Edinburgh and genuine students from any of the five academies.

'Alephee, when did I fuck with them? Do you remember any of them?'

The participants looked at Eren as if he was their sole target, an impression that puzzled Eren. The infiltrators from Layos at least had a reason to attack him because of how influential he was.

However, as far as he could tell, he had not messed up with any of the rankers from Edinburgh. At least not enough to warrant such a large-scale targeted attack.

'Not really. Nonetheless, I can tell most of them are from Royal Ren given their real ranking statuses which are hampered by Sansara World's restrictions.'

Eren released a dense amount of smoke through his nostrils as he tried to find anything that he did that was related to Royal Ren.

'Altashia?

No... Wait... I killed Rehaal Renar who was from Royal Ren.'

Eren smiled as he zeroed in on a possibility.

"Someone from Edinburgh's royal scions is after me."

Eren had said this in a low voice. But there was someone within the group surrounding him that heard it loud and clear.

"That's correct."

A man who looked like Rodrick Renar came forward on his gyro pad. He stopped at a safe distance away from Eren and introduced himself with a smile on his face.

"We finally met, Eren Elijah Idril. My name is Ceddick Renar. I have a proposition for..."

Eren shook his head and sighed as if he had already played this game before. He cut Cedrick off by speaking in a carefree manner.

"I am not releasing Rodrick Renar. Do what you want."

#### [Chapter 1043 "You Should See The Other Guys"](#)

'Fuck... I hate this place.'

Becky thought to herself as she was being treated by Ana for her severe injuries. The White Raven crew had just fought the Nightshade Academy squad. All her opponents were experts at casting long-range spells while maintaining a safe distance.

Ramy Richards was the only one who could handle his opponents effectively. Because there were no berserkers or close combat experts closing in on the opponents, the White Raven crew struggled a lot to defeat these participants. As a result of Ana and Jake's strong support, the White Raven's main team was able to hold its ground. Otherwise, things would have turned in another direction.

"So long mate... hope we see each other once again outside of this competition."

Ramy Richards was the one who delivered the decisive blow to the enemy captain. He let the Sansara World's defense mechanism kick in, which prevented the enemy captain from dying in real life.

Ramy Richards had made a deep impression on his opponents' minds after he fought with them. The sound-element knight was becoming very adept at using the Sansara World's Perks with his attacks. It was not something everyone could do easily after all.

"Haha. There it is. Another flag!"

In the event that the defense mechanism gets activated on fallen opponents, everything in the enemy captain's storage will be left behind. Ramy Richards stored everything from the enemy captain's storage in his storage before picking up the team flag.

Steve appeared behind Ramy all of a sudden and raised his hand. Ramy Richards laughed before handing him the flag.

"You are falling behind, Stevey. I might whoop your ass in a friendly five by the end of this week if you don't level up."

Steve snorted at Ramy's open challenge. Having overexerted himself in his fight, he was barely standing on his two feet. And he still had the tenacity to provoke the real captain of his team.

The berserker was about to say something to the knight. However, he shut his mouth when he sensed something. He quickly accessed his Sansara interface and saw the amount of Karma points he had received from Eren.

Steve was shocked by speechlessness. He looked around to find Renita who had appeared beside Ana. Steve could tell that Renita was also shocked by the amount of Karma points she had received.

"Is he... committing massacres all by himself?"

Steve mumbled to himself and got serious all of a sudden. He felt that a huge responsibility was weighing down on him every time he received Karma points from Eren.

The amount made it clear to the berserker that Eren had put all his efforts into supporting his team even though he was away from it. It also made him realize that Eren was serious when he said that he wanted to claim every Sage legacy the event had to offer. He could not earn this many Karma points with half-assery.

And this was no ordinary crowd inside Sansara World. So the fact that Eren was delivering on his word despite the obstacles placed against him elevated his image in Steve's mind.

Anyone can make bold statements. But it takes courage and dedication to take steps in the right direction to make those bold statements become a reality.

Steve clenched his fists before deciding to use the Karma points that were sent to him. He spent all of his Karma points leveling up in one go. Renita also did the same.

Ramy stopped laughing at Steve when he saw that the latter was quickly raising his levels. Before long, Steve reached Ramy's level before surpassing him by a single level.

"What were you saying, punk?"

Steve raised his eyebrows after he was done with his level-ups. Ramy laughed awkwardly before slapping the berserker's back.

"I... I was just messing with you, Stevey.

Why? Haha. Why so serious?

Anyway... I betta get myself healed. These injuwies awe serious, you know."

Saying that Ramy started walking towards Ana. However, he had to stop in his tracks when he felt a rock-like hand press down on his shoulders.

"I'm sure a few more injuries wouldn't make Ana's job too difficult. You wanted to spar with me for a long time. Today's your lucky day, my boy. What say we exchange a few moves?"

Ramy regretted acting like a loudmouth in front of Steve. He knew that the latter wouldn't take no for an answer.

Becky was also shocked by Steve and Renita's multiple level-ups. She felt like she had been slapped in the face by Eren. That's because the butcher had made a supposedly disastrous strategy work for him. This was the same strategy she had raised strong objections to.

"Steve! Ramy! This is not the time for sparring. Let's go.

Bel, start tracking our next set of targets. We need to target one more team by the end of the day. The more flags we collect at the beginning, the better it will be for all of us."

Due to Steve's disengagement from the actual battle, Becky was leading the team by proxy. She felt that she also needed to prove herself by ensuring the team's survival to the very last day."

Becky dished out her commands like a pro. She had dreamed of having this much authority over the entire team for so long. She was getting drunk on the feeling it brought her.

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"Don't you dare! Don't dare take a step. You know who I am, right?"

Renar! My name's Cedrick Re... Aaaaaaargh!"

Cedrick's throat was pierced before he could finish his sentence. The next thing his body was subjected to was the butcher's Unlimited Knife Works. The dagger he was using broke into multiple pieces before he could make mincemeat out of Cedrick's upstanding dead body.

Cedrick's mangled corpse fell to the ground lifeless when Eren's perk came to an unnatural halt. The butcher's hands were only left with the hilts of the daggers. He threw them away when he figured out there was no point using Karma points to fix them. It was time to buy a new set of daggers.

'They really did a number on you.'

Alephee spoke to Eren in a voice coated with concern after the last member of Cedrick's team had been dealt with. The latter was bleeding from multiple severe injuries. He had many daggers, arrows, and other weapons lodged in his body from various angles.

'Kekeke. You should see the other guys.'

The butcher started walking away from the kill site he had just created. Behind him were the butchered corpses of his fallen enemies. It looked like someone had openly sacrificed people in some demonic ritual.

The butcher only had one thought running through his mind at this point. That he needed a warm shower and some delicious food to eat. All the "Karma Points farming" he had to do made him hungry.

### [Chapter 1044 Jason Vs Bert Chu](#)

Day 6. A green valley surrounded by a distant mountain range. Around 5 PM.

A small patch of land in this region had been destabilized by the rankers' fight. There were many residual mana signatures in the surroundings. The spread of new mana signatures just kept on going.

Meaning the fight between two groups of rankers was still ongoing.

"Aaaaargh!"

Veronica cried in pain when she sustained a fatal sword wound below her ribs. She looked more emotionally hurt than physically hurt. A tinge of sadness could be seen in her eyes.

Veronica was the same ranker who was with Ivor and Jason, forming a team with them. She had traveled from the city of Osan to the city of Lionhearts with the group. After Ivor was branded the Butcher of Osan Woods, she stuck with Jason and began attending Royal Ren from her second academic year on.

Veronica was devastated because the one who had attacked her was none other than Jason— the person whom she had come to trust the most in recent years.

"I am sorry, Veronica. I didn't have a choice."

Jason spoke solemnly as he slashed his sword to clear the blood from Veronica's body. He then looked at Bert who had been a pain in the ass to deal with up until this point.

Veronica and Bert both fell to their knees at the same time. It looked like Bert had also sustained similar injuries to his torso despite the golden armor he was wearing.

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Jason had used a special Ability of his to hurt Bert even after he was seen wearing the Armor of Pride. With his Ability, he could link two of his opponents together so that they could share each other's injuries. Whatever damage he inflicted on one opponent, it would get mirrored onto the body of his second opponent.

This was Jason's Ability as a demonic ranker.

Arthur was always fond of lost paths that led further into the ranking journey. And he didn't shy away from using his capable son as a test subject for such paths. After all, the test subject needed to be capable and closely related to him to derive tangible and usable deductions from the experiments.



Arthur gave up on making himself or his son turn into a half-blood after the Osan Woods' Butcher fiasco. He started studying Demonmir's case in the kingdom's protected archives and found a way to perform a demon-summoning ritual for his son Jason.

Jason also willingly took part in the ritual. He considered it a necessity to survive against the threat of his step-siblings and their mother who was the Duke's official wife. He could see his father's selfishness just fine. Most of the time he chose to ignore it to rise above his circumstances.

Jason could always deal with Arthur if he becomes capable enough to exact his revenge on him in the future. This was why he was even more desperate for power than his father. He had suffered enough at the hands of his own close family. His real mother was no longer alive. So he took solace in the pursuit of power.

The demon-summoning ritual was successful. And Jason received a demon soul fragment from a very capable demon. As a result, he possessed such a demonic ability.

Jason knew that there would be negative repercussions if anyone found out that he was a demonic ranker. So he seldom used his Ability after receiving it.

However, things were a bit different at this point. And he was forced to use his Ability to take care of Bert.

Jason was on a hunt with his small group of the team when he fell into a booby trap set by Bert and Morty. It seemed like the two had spent a lot of Karma points to get a powerful Perk.

The booby trap worked well for Bert and Morty. They managed to severely injure Jason's team as a whole. Jason and Veronica somehow managed to escape. However, the rest of their teammates were killed by Ivor and Morty.

It was clear to Jason and Veronica both that Bert wanted to actually kill Jason without triggering Sansara World's defense mechanism. Rather than killing Veronica for good, Bert specifically targeted Jason.

Jason retaliated hard against Bert's team. Additionally, he attacked with the intention of killing. The battle mage would have killed Morty for good if Bert hadn't disturbed him. As a result of that interference, Morty was taken away by the world's defense mechanism. Meaning, Morty had to leave the battle zone, leaving Bert all alone with Jason and Veronica. But at least Morty prevented himself from getting killed.

After the cannon fodder was taken away, Bert, Veronica, and Jason were the only three rankers left in the surroundings. No matter how hard Jason tried, he just couldn't eliminate Bert after the latter donned his golden armor. He recognized it to be an otherworldly Ability. So he used his own Ability to counter Bert's unfair advantage and finally managed to hurt him by bypassing the armor protection altogether.

There was only one problem with Ivor's plan. Bert did not come with many rankers to attack him. And Morty had been basically kicked out of the event. Thus, Jason was not able to use his Ability on him.

Jason's life was in danger because of Bert's life-threatening attacks. And all of their attacks failed to injure Bert in any way. At this point, it could be assumed that Bert had taken all the preventive measures possible to make Jason fight with him and stay in the region.

Jason started getting desperate until he finally decided to link up Veronica with Bert using his Ability. His Ability had a demonic nature. After showing it, he had to kill Veronica anyway. So he bid his time and used her as much as he could before finally finding the right time to employ the girl as a way to hurt Bert.

Veronica looked at Jason with injustice written on her face. The latter sighed before commenting.

"Don't look at me like that, my dear. You know who we battled just now, right? That appearance isn't enough to fool me."

#### [Chapter 1045 \[Bonus \] Jason Vs The Real Deal](#)

Jason looked at Veronica and Ivor with an emotionless face before speaking up.

"Bert Chu, my ass. Those moves and that stare. I can clearly feel that it is Ivor. The guy is set on killing me for his personal grudge. I guess he didn't take it very well when I abandoned him inside Purgatory."

Jason clenched his fists and forcefully dispelled Ivor's mana trying to invade his body through the injuries. After all, he had been wounded by Ivor's attacks. Ivor would have managed to mortally harm him with his next move if he hadn't used his Ability in such a crafty manner.

The Duke's son had come to realize that harming Ivor while he was wearing the Armor of Pride was nearly impossible. Plus, he was also a bit intimidated by Ivor's identity as the butcher.

So he walked closer to the fallen Veronica and spoke up.

"I don't want to test my luck any more than I have to against the fabled Osan Woods' butcher. Plus, my father would offer me more benefits if he finds out that I took care of him inside the Sansara World.

I don't know how he managed to get inside the event or who gave him the courage to do so. But that can be found out after he is dead."

Veronica wanted to register the injustice she felt. But it was cut short even before it began by Jason's next words.

"I know it is unfair to you. I really do. But you'd have to forgive me for being cautious. I'm only doing this for my own survival. I hope you can understand."

Ivor started laughing when he heard Jason speak to Veronica. He had to say that the Duke's son wasn't as gullible as he had thought.

Ivor looked at Veronica and felt some pity for her. The girl was unjustly tangled in their mess just by being with Jason. And she was going to die because of her mistake in trusting Jason. The Duke's son had not only betrayed Ivor but also managed to backstab Veronica in the end, no matter how valid his reasons for doing so might be.

Ivor removed his Elven mask. There was no point in using the mask or trying to hide his identity at this point. He dispelled his Sin Series Ability before speaking in a grim voice.

"Veronica had nothing to do with this conflict, Jason. Spare her. If you want to kill me, that's fine. Come and get it. But let the girl go."

Veronica and Jason both were shocked by Ivor's move. The Duke's son made an "I'm impressed" face before commenting.

"I'm sorry, guys. I don't want to let the fact out that I'm a demonic ranker. At least not yet. My step-siblings would try to use that against me.

But I didn't take Osan Woods' Butcher to be such a kind-hearted soul. It's a bit shocking if you ask me."

Saying this, Jason stabbed Veronica once again with the tip of his sword—this time near right above her belly button. The girl screamed some more and tried to get away from her attacker. But too bad, Jason had already used a Perk on her.

Ivor spat a mouthful of blood as he felt his internal organs being damaged by Jason's attack on Veronica. He didn't know Jason was such a sadistic person. He could only conclude that turning into a demonic ranker had changed his psyche a bit.

Ivor was about to don his Armor of Pride and battle Jason till his last breath. He wanted to die an honorable death while fighting. But suddenly he felt something. He looked around him as if to confirm something. The fake Bert Chu started laughing when he found something out. He flashed a wicked smile with his bloody teeth before commenting.

"You are shocked, huh? Well... don't be. Because I'm not the Osan Woods' Butcher."

Jason was about to stab Veronica with his sword. But he stood still when he heard something strange from Ivor. The guy had removed his mask in front of Jason. He didn't think Ivor would lie at this point.

"What do you mean? Who is...."

Blink. Swoosh. Stab.

"I am."

A casual voice was heard from Jason's behind. The Duke's son was startled by that presence. But by the time he could respond, he found out that his throat had been slit by someone.

The newly appeared figure spun around Jason and stabbed his vital spots in one go. The reverse spin also took place and Jason felt his body being stabbed once again.

The attacks were too fast for Jason to follow with his pain receptors. He was yet to see the face of the person who had metaphorically slapped a "you are already dead" sticky note over his forehead.

The attacks took place one after another. And nobody could see who was attacking the Duke's son. Jason was so psyched by these attacks that he lost control of his mental faculties and the debuff acting on Veronica vanished.

By the time the attacks stopped, the Sansara World's defense mechanism against Veronica had kicked in. With her eyes clenched, the girl was safely teleported away from the scene. As a result, Jason's Ability on Ivor stopped working.

"You.... Ere..."

The butcher drove his dagger through Jason's right cheek and poked it out of his left cheek before he could utter his name. He kept the pierced dagger in place to make Jason stop speaking.

He had attacked all of Jason's vital spots. But they weren't enough to kill him. That was because he wasn't supposed to kill Jason in the first place.

"Sigh\*. You couldn't even take out this easy kill. I'm disappointed in you, Ivor."

Jason's face and Eren's back were visible to Ivor. He heard Eren's insults at him, which infuriated him. He coughed something and spat it out before replying with a voice coated in suppressed anger.

"You... you were supposed to be here yesterday. Without you, I had to improvise. I had to do everything by myself. I spent most of my Karma points on this job. And you still have the gall to complain."

Eren scratched the back of his head and shrugged his shoulders before responding.

"Yeah. About that. I got held up due to some work."

[Chapter 1046 Self-Deprecating Sense Of Humor](#)

"Yeah. About that. I got held up by some work."

Eren said as he looked Jason in the eyes. The latter was staring daggers at him. So the butcher chuckled before throwing his words back at him.

"Don't look at me like that. I know it is unfair to you. I really do.

But you'd have to forgive me for being cautious. I'm only doing this for my own survival. I hope you can understand."

Lightning struck and Eren got behind Jason. His kick caused Jason to fly straight toward Ivor. The Duke's son ended up lying with his face flat on the ground in front of a kneeling Ivor.

"Here. Finish him."

Eren knew that Arthur would try to investigate his son's death when the word got out. Therefore, Jason needed to be killed at Ivor's hands.

Ivor took out his dagger from storage and looked at the stunned-looking Jason who was suffering from Eren's mana invasion as well as the debuff placed on him through fatal injuries.

"You know Eren, truth has a weird way of revealing itself. Someday... they are bound to know."

Ivor sighed as he understood his role in Jason's killing. He drove his dagger into Jason's brain by puncturing the epiglottis and severing the carotid artery. By doing so, he guaranteed him a quick death.

Jason's demon soul fragment was forced to slumber from the get-go. So it couldn't react to his perilous condition at all. It was released from Jason's body after his death before disappearing from the land of Anfang.

Eren had thought of digesting Jason for his demon soul fragment. But he decided to put his selfishness aside. After all, the goal behind killing Jason was to distract Arthur from the existence of Osan Woods' Butcher. Therefore, he needed to leave Jason's body intact.

The dead bodies of the participants, if they hadn't been destroyed, would eventually disappear and be sent to a special morgue. They would be well preserved there and could be claimed by the participants' families or friends after the event's completion.

Eren took a sigh of relief when Ivor killed Jason for good. He knew what Ivor was talking about. After taking a deep breath, he replied.

"You don't understand it yet, Ivor. People, in general, are more complex than you think. They don't necessarily go out of their way to find something that's against their beliefs based on previous versions of the truth.

Some surface-level truths become so uncomfortable to hear after some time that the supposed truth-seekers just stop digging. They want to create a bubble of comfort around themselves after establishing a certain mindset for themselves.

These people ignore the truth that comes to light later on.

They end up living with the surface-level truth they found for themselves because the truth that's hiding deep beneath it doesn't match their current agenda anymore. The rigidity of a mindset" to put it simply.

This rigidity of a mindset is no joke. People that are suffering from it would go out there and start defending the truth they had found long ago. This is when they know it's not the whole truth anymore. And then they start targeting people who have an open mindset about any form of truth. This may or may not be in line with the truth they have come to possess.

Therefore, no matter what happens from now on, you will always be labeled as the Osan Woods' Butcher by the masses. Even if I come out and declare myself the real butcher, they'll only label me as a lunatic before moving on.

The moral of the story is... that tag will forever stay with you. There's nothing any of us can do to change it. So we might as well strengthen the lies even further."

Eren looked up and stared blankly at the evening sky for a bit. Before adding more, he looked at the orange clouds passing over the region.

"Who I'm concerned about are the people in the shadows and those in power. They would fight to protect the lie I had crafted just to save their faces. But their wrath will know no bounds if they ever come to know about what I have done."

Eren smirked as he thought of how he had played with the establishment so far. He felt that there were no cultist or rogue rankers alive in recent years that were as successful as him in alluding to the authorities.

"Then again... I shouldn't worry too much either. Playing safe is crucial but gaining strength is even more so."

Ivor sighed after hearing Eren's point of view. He ended up agreeing with him.

The close combat expert decided to close the kill site. He had received a lot of Karma points after killing Jason. Jason had leveled up exceptionally well. So slaying him was bound to bring Ivor good fortune.

Ivor immediately brought a few healing Perks with his recent earnings and fixed himself up before getting up. He stretched his arms a bit before asking Eren.

"Did you meet Cedrick?"

Eren nodded casually before responding.

"I did. Let's just say that they won't be able to participate in any more events after this one."

Ivor sighed when he heard Eren speak. Ivor's team was with Cedrick's group. Since Eren had killed them all, he was bound to get kicked out of the competition in the next purge.

Eren knew what he was thinking about. He chuckled before continuing.

"You are technically graduated with distinction even if you get kicked out at this point. Isn't that what you wanted all along?"

More importantly, what's with that weird name?"

Eren had bought a simple Perk that would allow him to read the names of the participants above their heads when he was within a few feet of them. He could see the name Bert Chu floating above Ivor's head in spectral form, which Ivor entered into the Sansara interface.

Eren then narrowed his eyes at the spectral name as if he was trying to connect the dots.

"Wait a damn minute..."

Bert Chu? Bert.... Chu...

The butcher!"

Eren started laughing when he decoded Ivor's name.

"Keke. I never knew you had such a self-deprecating, dark sense of humor."

#### [Chapter 1047 Ekulu Rainforest](#)

"Kekeke. I never knew you had such a self-deprecating, dark sense of humor."

Eren was convinced that Ivor had made peace with his forced identity as the Osan Woods' Butcher by seeing himself as the deformed version of "the butcher". It was a form of self-deprecation that bordered on self-awareness.

Ivor snorted at Eren's remark before looking at Jason's corpse.

"The participants are dying in a battle between two kingdoms. The infiltrators and the ones running this shitshow are both full of themselves.

You are the only one benefiting from all the chaos happening all around you. And I guess you are the reason for the chaos in the first place.

My question is... how much of it was planned? And what will you do after you get out of this place?"

Eren understood what Ivor was trying to ask him in a roundabout way. The guy wanted to know about his plans for Eliza after he left Sansara World.

Ivor was supposed to head to the city of Lancelot after he got kicked out of the event. He needed to know if the butcher was willing to take him aboard his plans. It was clear to Eren that Ivor didn't want to choose sides between Eren and Eliza for the most part. But he didn't want to suffer at the hands of both sides by sitting on the fence either.

So he was looking for a way out. He was looking to get assured by either side that his interests and survivability wouldn't be harmed.

Eren and Ivor started talking. The butcher decided to use Ivor actively instead of just treating him as a convenient pawn. Of course, he couldn't trust him fully. However, he knew that he needed to take a leap of faith with Ivor in some matters for his own benefit.

Ivor's body started shining after a few hours. The purge of participants was taking place at this point. He was getting kicked out of Sansara World because his team failed to possess the necessary number of flags. The guy wore a mask to conceal his identity before commenting.

"I will try to help you as much as I can, Eren. Provided I get something out of it as well. But I can only do so much against a Sage. I hope you'll consider my limits in the Lazarus project."

Ivor had changed into Bert. He laughed mirthlessly and sighed before adding further.

"My name is going to come into the limelight once again when this thing blows up. I don't know if I should take joy in it or plunge myself into depression once again."

Eren chuckled and waved goodbye to Ivor as he said.

"Neither. It might sound rich coming from me considering I'm the reason for your infamy. But treat it as part of your journey— nothing less, nothing more.

Anyway... You better get the fuck away from the capital city before they know about the elven masks. I'll see you in the city of Lancelot."

Ivor nodded before disappearing from Eren's sight all of a sudden.

Eren agreed with Ivor's mindset. It was better if Ivor helped him willingly, rather than being forced to work. Eren would also be able to keep his plans flexible. That way, he wouldn't have to depend on Ivor too much.

Eren felt that he had made the right use of Ivor at the event. The guy had achieved his goal of confronting Jason and ticking the graduation event off his to-do list. They both knew staying in the Sasara World any longer would be detrimental for him as well as Eren.

Ivor couldn't wait for the competition to end. Rather than choosing a reputable position, he would prefer tangible benefits from completing his graduation.

Ivor knew that his identity as Robert or Bert Chu was as good as burned. The kingdom of Edinburgh would implement countermeasures against elven masks soon when the news regarding what took place inside the Sansara World started spreading.

Ivor would opt for monetary benefits from the event's organizers, which was considered the least preferred choice for the participants. He would leave the city of Edin safely, avoiding arrest.

Shortly, the name Bert Chu would get as much traction as Osan Woods' Butcher. That's because the masses would treat Ivor's event name as a tight slap on the kingdom's face. They would assume that Ivor had entered the event to make fun of the kingdom.

Ivor would see the bounty on his head rise to unprecedented levels. His participation in the graduation event was one reason behind this. The other was the fact that he had killed Jason.

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Day 14: Ekulu rain forest. Morning 4.30 AM.

It was raining in this region of Sansara World. The downpour hadn't stopped for the last few days. The rainwater had created various puddles and streams of water on the ground.

The trees in the Ekulu forest were unusually dry and lifeless despite the abundance of water and nutrients from the black soil. The sunlight was unable to penetrate the region due to gray clouds that didn't look like they were heading anywhere anytime soon.

These settings created a gloomy atmosphere in the region. There was a stench of blood permeating the air as well. However, the smell of blood eventually gets mixed with petrichor, providing the surroundings with a unique note.

Due to the showdown between the two teams, a patch of deforested land has formed in this region. One team consisted of the elf infiltrators while the other was rankers from LA.

The showdown had lasted for more than a half hour at this point. It would have taken another half an hour before the winners of the conflicts were decided.

The conflict came to an abrupt end when a young man with emerald green eyes intervened.

"Oh! Mr. Rouge and Mr. Quake-element tank! Long time no see, guys. Time really flies, doesn't it?"

#### [Chapter 1048 Timely Intervention](#)

"Oh! Mr. Rouge and Mr. Quake-element tank! Long time no see, guys. Time really flies, doesn't it?"

Eren ignored the evil stares of the elves and greeted his fellow batchmates with a smile on his face. He looked at them with a peculiar look before continuing.

"Anyway... would you mind giving me these kills? Rest assured that I'll give them just punishment for their transgressions against your teams."

The rogue and the tank had fought with Eren in the past. They both looked at each other to see what each other was thinking.

The tank pondered for a bit before speaking up.

"Eren. I'm glad to see you, man. My name is Jaman in case you don't remember.



As for these kills, are you sure you don't want to join us? I'm all for sharing Karma points if it's with you after..."

The rainy atmosphere made Tank's voice sound a bit muffled. Eren shook his head in denial, his wet hair sticking to his face. He wiped his face with his hand and interrupted his batchmate's speech.

"I wouldn't be traveling solo if I was a team player, Jaman. I would like all of you to leave the area for good and never come back no matter what happens here."

Eren looked at the masked elves and flashed a grin before adding up.

"They are not who you think they are. And I don't want to stress you out by divulging their identities just yet. You'll find out about them eventually. But till that time... you just gotta trust me."

Eren didn't think he should spread the truth about the Elven masks just yet. Things would be a bit difficult for him to hunt them down if the moderators present inside the Sansara World came to know about them. They might not eliminate them by hand. But they would start keeping an eye on the infiltrators all the same.

Therefore, Eren decided to keep the identities of the infiltrators mysterious. He took out his Sativa Stick, coated it with his fire-element mana, and lit it up amid the rain. Taking a long drag of smoke, he continued.

"I'm not asking for any handouts or anything in return, am I? In fact, one might say I'm doing you a favor. All your opponents' struggles are fake. These participants would have killed you all for real had I waited a few more minutes.

Not that I'm questioning your skills. The fact that these "participants" have come for you is evidence enough that they consider you to be a future threat.

However, in life, not all those who have talent become successful. Not all those who are physically large and strong survive. Survival comes to those who are adaptive to life's changes. Simple as that.

So, what will it be?"

Eren asked while releasing a lungful of smoke into the air. The downpour changed the smoke's path a bit. But it was largely unaffected.

The Tank and Rogue came to a unanimous decision to take Eren up on his offer. Most of them had already come to realize that their participants were acting a bit weirdly while fighting with them. It was as if they were creating an array layout with their moves using some unknown mechanism. They were waiting for the array layout to complete so that they could get rid of all their opponents in one go.

That's right. The infiltrators were working on activating a battle formation while the Rogue and Tank's squads were unaware of it. Eren intervened at the right time before the battle formation was completed, preventing the infiltrators from clearing many names off their hit list.

Eren had already seen the might of a battle formation when he had clashed with Oliver's team. Argo had to awaken his demon soul fragment at that moment to break the battle formation.

The butcher didn't want to overexert himself by allowing his targets to get stronger through the activation of battle formations. His motto was always simple— get rid of enemies when they were at their weakest.

The Rogue and the Tank had only studied the theories of battle formations in LA. However, that handicap didn't stop them from confirming Eren's analysis.

Eren's batchmates agreed to Eren's request. They even thanked him for his intervention before deciding to leave the battlefield.

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The Rogue and Tank had come to understand how capable Eren was after their fights with him. The on-field assignments allowed them to evaluate their battle styles as a whole. It also enabled them to understand that the struggles Eren had displayed in the ranking wars were the same kind of struggles they had to go through in real-life battles.

Eren was several steps ahead of the common students in LA right from his first year. Plus, he had a way of getting things he wanted from everybody by persuasion or force. Eren had also established a city of his own, elevating him from the status of a commoner. If someone like him requests something so simple, it would be in their best interest to grant their wish.

The Rogue had grown back his chopped nose by this point. Still, he felt like the wound was still fresh when he looked at the conniving son of a bitch that was Eren. It was Eren who cut his nose to provoke him after all.

The Rogue agreed with the Tank's decision as well. Rather, he felt that they needed to maintain a safe distance from Eren. The guy looked more dangerous to him than the whole team of elven infiltrators combined.

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All the participants from LA retreated. In the end, Eren became the sole opponent for all of the elven infiltrators.

The infiltrators didn't want the Rogue and Tank's combined team to leave. But they couldn't just follow them or make sudden moves because of the half-done battle formation. If they tried to move in the wrong direction, the formation would hurt them instead.

#### [Chapter 1049 Ultimate Hidden Reward](#)

Knowledge-based action, when performed the right way at the right time, has the power to change the flow of any event.

Eren had started studying battle formations ever since he encountered one in real life. He was afraid to admit that Oliver's battle formation had intimidated him.

The butcher had started seeing any lack of knowledge as an obstacle that needed to be overcome. He was like blank paper when he first saw the battle formation's real-time deployment. Combating with a battle formation was like fighting a wild bull with brute strength. Even if he could win the fight, he wouldn't come out of the clash unharmed.

Therefore, Eren decided to dig deeper into this field that he had practically no knowledge of. Being a student of a kingdom-certified academy as well as being influential with money, he had access to various studies done on battle formations and the study of arrays. He started grasping the knowledge hidden in them one step at a time.

However, he couldn't become an expert in battle formation overnight. In particular, he was weak in the field of arrays. This was the reason he wanted to claim Sansara Sage's legacy the most among all the others. In other words, it was a shortcut to save years of laborious work.

Lin Lehan was a one-of-a-kind array expert of his time. Eren would be able to progress far more in the field of arrays if he acquired Sansara Sage's legacy. And since the field was connected to various other branches of magic, it would allow the butcher to get rid of many of his weaknesses.

He will also be able to use the Sage legacy for the upcoming Lazarus project. They were the must-have cards the butcher wanted to have in his hand before doing anything against the sleeping monster that was House Lancelot.

This time, Eren was helped by Alephee in determining the battle formation's weakness and that the infiltrators were in the process of deployment. He appeared right at the formation's operating point. He then interfered with its network by injecting his soul sense into it under Alephee's guidance.

The homunculus was also helping Eren gain knowledge of battle formations and arrays in general. She knew these subjects were his most highlighted weak points. So she was explaining a bunch of things to him as she guided him into disrupting the infiltrators' surefire move.

Eren knew that the war was drawing closer. The way he was targeting the elven scions from Layos was only serving to expedite its arrival.

Therefore, he didn't want to harm Edinburgh's forces if he could avoid it. Most of the surviving participants inside the Sansara World intend to choose positions of power within the kingdom's fold after the event's completion. Killing them or letting them get killed here would mean weakening Edinburgh in the long run.

Eren cared about the kingdom's well-being because most of his assets were based inside it. That's why he let the original participants survive the clash with him. Rogue and Tank benefit greatly from Eren's pragmatism. They managed to stay safe despite encountering a powerful group of elven infiltrators.

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The deployment of battle formations became the infiltrators' shackles.

It forced them to watch Eren's batchmates leave the area with their clenched fists. They came to realize that the green-eyed man in front of them was aware of their battle formation because of the moment he chose to intervene in their matter.

The infiltrators couldn't complete the battle formation anymore because they needed many rankers acting as relay points for the ethereal array layout to work. Without many of the opponents serving their roles within the formation, the battle formation would actually fry the operators instead of the relay points.

With some chants and hand signs, the infiltrators halted the battle formation. Eren also allowed them to do just that. The task was akin to diffusing a time bomb. The butcher did not want to disturb them while they dispersed the formation because he could be hurt.

"Hahaha. This small mosquito thinks he can take care of all of us."

A buff man who looked to be in his early 20s came forward and decided to challenge Eren. The latter had nothing to fear because the possibility of the enemy deploying a battle formation was eliminated. He just stretched his limbs and used the Spatial Domain Lock Perk before making a move.

Bzzt. Swoosh. Chop.

Eren moved like a ghost and started his killing spree. After all, he preferred to respond to his enemies' intimidation through action.

The butcher switched between various weapons, elemental spells, perks, and overall battle styles to handle multiple enemies of all kinds. The enemies this time were too many to count. Thus, having secured the location through various perks and Alephee's powers, he also began to use his summoning class.

The summoned creatures made Eren's job easy. They allowed him to focus on a particular group and deal with them one by one.

The butcher also wanted to use his monster forms in his fights after securing the place. After all, he could keep multiple Blood Seeds in his body and activate them at any point since his promotion to Expert rank.

However, Alephee told Eren not to use his Blood Seeds in the Sansara World. The moderators could sense the peculiar mana signatures generated by the usage of such magic, thanks to the array of mechanisms they were in control of.

Puddles of blood started forming on the ground with each passing second as Eren started operating on the infiltrators. The organs danced in the air as Elven screams became the default music for such a gory scene.

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The butcher had outdone himself in terms of raking up Karma points with his recent battle. He was left with loads of Karma points even after dividing them into three equal portions and sending two of them to his teammates.

"Found it. I found their plan.

Damn... this could be called the ultimate hidden reward of the Sansara World."

[Chapter 1050 \[Bonus \] Another Sin Series Mark?](#)

"Damn... this could be called the ultimate hidden reward of the Sansara World."

Eren mumbled to himself as he flipped through the memories of the leader of all the elven scions who had infiltrated the event. This was why he was targeting these infiltrators in the first place.

The Elven royal scions and their lackeys were not the only ones infiltrating this event. The senior rankers of the kingdom of Layos had also entered the Sansara World so that they could extract something from it.

Through the memories of his recent kill, Eren realized that the Sansara World was hiding a special place inside it. The kingdom of Layos had been trying to get to this place and steal something valuable ever since it got into conflict with the kingdom of Layos.

This place offered access to the lost path of magic. This path of magic was something Eren was very familiar with at this point.

The butcher licked his lips and smiled wickedly as he thought of using the infiltrators' plan for his own gains. He couldn't help feeling excited at the mere thought of getting his hands on this reward.

Eren thought perhaps he should kill these elven bastards as gently as possible from now on to thank them.

After all... he had a chance to get another Sin Series mark because of them.

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Eren learned why the kingdom of Layos had hired Midnight Moon as a distraction. And why it had sneaked in so many prominent rankers within the kingdom of Edinburgh in the first place.

The Delva Gorge incident.

Attack on Healers' Nirvana.

Also, in Eren's past timeline, cultists attacked Silvermoon and killed Arizihana Agnoth.

Everything revolves around this special place hidden within the Sansara World.

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The Delva Gorge incident saw the cultists from Midnight Moon escape the kingdom of Edinburgh's clutches. These cultists were guided by the royal scions of Layos. They had been using the Midnight Moon as their arms and legs to facilitate the infiltration of prominent rankers from Layos.

The rankers who escaped from Delva Gorge attacked Healers' Nirvana. This was because the guild was led by Jiana Jihang.

Jiana Jihang was the daughter of the two prominent rankers who had settled into the kingdom of Edinburgh after their exit from the kingdom of Layos. Jiana's father was part of the royal family of Layos. So he had a lot of followers when he traveled to the kingdom of Edinburgh.

Jiana's father moved to Edinburgh because the city was prepared to shield him from the royal feud between his cousins at the time. The kingdom kept its promise and allowed Jiana's parents to prosper. In addition, they played a huge role in Edinburgh's affairs.

Jiana's parents helped the kingdom of Edinburgh in exchange for sheltering them and completing all the tasks they had been assigned. They then left everything to Jiana before trying to break into the Sage ranks.

Jiana was hated by the royal family of Layos because she was the daughter of Layos' supposed traitors. The hate was passed down to the current generation's royal scions. Most of them didn't even know why they were told to target Jiana's guild in the first place. They just followed up on their orders and attacked Healers' Nirvana with all their might.

Layos' royal family did not only target Jiana out of hate. Jiana's parents were very respected among the elf community in the kingdom of Edinburgh. According to the kingdom of Layos, Jiana's parents were shown how to get to the special place hidden within the Sansara World through an entrance in Silvermoon.

The royalty of Layos wanted Jiana's help in finding the hidden entrance. Even if she didn't know about such an entrance, she could always look for clues in the stuff her parents left behind for her.

Almost everyone in the upper echelon of both kingdoms knew how Jiana was as a ranker. She was a tough nut to crack. But she had her weaknesses when it came to her guild members. So her guild could be targeted to force her into doing what they wanted from her.

Sadly for the kingdom of Layos, Jiana just dissolved her guild and assimilated into the White Raven guild. And Eren just fucked everybody who showed even remotely ill intentions towards his city and his guild. Jiana didn't have a weakness the Layos royalty could exploit anymore.

Layos' rankers and royal scions who had infiltrated the kingdom of Edinburgh attended the graduation instead. They thanked their stars for arranging such an event for them to enter the Sansara World.

The infiltrators gave up on targeting Jiana and focused on killing the real participants in the event. All so that they could take their place using the elven masks and enter in their stead. The alternate plan was a huge success.

Even cultist organizations like the Beast Bloods had a vague knowledge of the hidden entrance, which opened inside the city of Silvermoon. It just didn't know for sure where it led or what the place had to offer.

But Beast Bloods was certain that the place had something to do with unlocking a lost path of magic that had been banned from Anfang for a very long time. Because of that, it gave a spiked potion recipe to the city protector at the time, Arizihana Agnoth. It then attacked the city of Silvermoon in Eren's past timeline.

The Beast Bloods were determined to find the entrance to this special place in the city of Silvermoon. That's why it had set up a secret base there. The same secret base that Eren had purged and got JJ Edgar's diary from.

Even JJ Edgar was looking for a way to get to the special place as well. That's why he used the Beast Bloods' hideout to perform surveillance. The Beast Bloods didn't know what had happened to Edgar. However, they were unable to locate him after some time. And he never came back to retrieve his belongings. Therefore, they remodeled his office inside the cultist base and scrapped most of his stuff, including his journal.

A lot of time would pass before Eren came to possess his journal at the cultist base near the city of Silvermoon in his current timeline.

