

Vile 1071

[Chapter 1071 War Is One Of The Eternal Truths Of Life](#)

'Hehe. It is you.

You are the villain behind the scenes.'

Alephee said something mischievous to Eren without alerting Nira Nightshade. Incidentally, she wasn't in her pendant abode. She was exploring the Sage's Abode while the latter was busy talking with Eren.

Eren couldn't deny Alephee's "accusations".

The Osan Woods' Butcher fiasco served as the spark to light the fire that already existed between the two kingdoms. He then injected massive amounts of weapons and potion bombs into the open market - supplying both sides with weapons to fill up the White Raven Guild's coffers.

The butcher appointed Kaalmahen to act as his proxy to form a supply-and-distribution chain inside the Badlands. He supplied the kingdom of Layos directly. He also used Serius Fenris' connections to supply other establishments as well— arming anyone he could find to their teeth.

Eren was involved in the Delva Gorge incident as well. It had allowed the spies and cultists of Midnight Moon to infiltrate the kingdom of Edinburgh.

For the kingdom of Edinburgh, Eren created royal conspiracies that were suspected to have foreign hands. And he literally sponsored a series of bombing incidents in the kingdom of Layos, spreading terrorism that had obvious links with the kingdom of Edinburgh. The fact that he had killed many royal scions from both sides was a separate matter altogether.

The actions he had taken inside the Sansara World were going to be the final nail in the coffin. With the history of violence already existing between the two kingdoms, the butcher was surprised that the two kingdoms were not at each other's throats.

Eren's direct and indirect involvement in many such incidents became the reason for the worsening of ties between the two kingdoms. Not that the butcher cared. In fact, he couldn't wait for the war to start. He had invested so much of his resources to benefit from the wartime economy.

Nira Nightshade only knew about Eren's achievements that were already public. Had she known what the butcher had done to cause the war-like situation between the two kingdoms, she would have seen Eren in a different light.

'Hey! Mind your language, Miss Timeless.

I don't consider myself to be a hero or a villain. I'm just doing what's right for me. As simple as that. So cut me some slack here.'

Eren replied to Alephee's comment as he was seen pondering Nira Nightshade's revelations. He sounded dramatically hurt to Alephee as if she had accused him of something he didn't do. The homunculus chuckled before responding.

'Hehe. The fact that you don't see anything wrong with what you have done makes you even more of a villain. At least that's how the definition of a villain works anyway. They think everything that they do is fine and justified.'

Alephee said before taking a short pause. She changed her tone this time before speaking up.

'Not that I'm complaining. No idle concept that gets written in books is without its flaws when it comes to reality. And war is one of the eternal truths of life.

As long as there are living beings, there will be wars somewhere.'

Eren smiled in his head when he heard Alephee's way of making it up to him for her earlier "accusations." His voice sounded serious to Alephee when he asked his next question.

'Did you find what you were looking for?'

Alephee seemed busy with something. She replied after a brief pause.

'No. I'll need some more time.'

'Alright.'

Eren said and cut off his mental connection with Alephee before looking up. He met Nira Nightshade's inquisitive eyes before asking her another question.

"Sage Nira, can you tell me why the continent-encompassing array exists? And who put something like that up and running in the first place?"

Eren decided to push his luck.

He finally asked what he had been meaning to ask someone like Nira all along. The Sage seemed to be outside the range of the continent-spanning array. Or at least she could use some loopholes in it under some special circumstances.

Eren could tell that Nira was trying to get him to her side for some reason. She obviously had something planned for him. The butcher decided to use that to his advantage.

Nira was unsure at first. But she thought of something and activated the isolation array inside the hall. Eren felt like his mental connection with Alephee had been affected ever since the runic details on the pillars and the ground lit up.

However, he felt glad that the isolation array was raised. It could only mean one thing. That Nira had decided to answer him.

"The presence of demons is not healthy for any world, Eren. Especially Demon Princes who are considered the rulers of all the demons.

Demonic powers have a certain pull. Those who have experienced that pull will always be tempted to use them at any cost."

Nira was speaking from experience, of course. Her eyes shined when she spoke of demonic powers. It looked like she was proud of the path she had chosen for herself.

The Sage narrowed her eyes on Eren before adding further.

"I'm sure you understand what I'm talking about. I can smell at least one Sin Series Mark on you."

'This damn sniffer dog...'

Eren cursed Nira in his head before jumbling up his thoughts. He sighed before nodding at her. The latter chuckled and continued.

"The land of Anfang is closed to all outsiders.

It doesn't suffer from demonic rituals anymore. Most people don't even know that demons exist. Only high-ranking entities like you get to know about their existence eventually. Even then, they cannot use the limited knowledge they have to cause chaos.

Even the altar for the Prince of Gluttony that the Sansara World hosts are subject to various restrictions. It only uses the participants' blood to stay functional."

The fact Alephee had shared with Eren was reiterated by Nira Nightshade. However, the butcher looked like he was hearing everything for the first time. He had years of experience to pull this off in front of Sage's vestige of a soul.

Nira didn't mind that Eren's curiosity was reaching its peak about everything she was saying to him. She expected reactions like these to be invoked in him from the beginning.

The Sage archer got up from her throne-like seating arrangement and spoke further.

[Chapter 1072 Cultists' Origins](#)

Nira Nightshade had decided to share a few things with Eren for reasons known only to her.

"The land of Anfang is restricted in many ways. However, with restrictions comes security. These restrictions protect the establishments' interests and make it easy for them to govern even the most powerful rankers of their respective generations.

The existence of demons is a closed-door discussion restricted to only high-ranking entities, thus preventing the spread of the demonic pull. You need to know that even knowing the demons' true names empowers them.

The Anfang Alliance would never allow demons to become powerful under its watch.

So it introduced various chokeholds over the relay of information through several means. Even the Sages of Anfang are not exempt from these chokeholds. Only someone like me can openly talk about this subject without suffering any lasting consequences."

Nira Nightshade didn't forget to highlight the fact that what she was providing Eren was precious knowledge he couldn't acquire from his connections. It also seemed that Nira was struggling a bit to keep the isolation zone active.

Eren thanked Nira nonverbally by bowing to her. He asked her his next question after thinking about something.

"What about the worlds that don't have such control over their masses?"

Nira replied promptly as if expecting something like that from Eren.

"You'll find that worlds that have absolute freedom will have to pay the price for it as well. These worlds contain the most powerful demons in any form, and they all have their cults.

Cults like these influence the common populace through various temptations, before sacrificing their souls to their respective demons.

Of course, there exist some forces that oppose demonic practices. However, they end up forming their own versions of cults, exploiting people in their own ways.

The battles between these two opposing sides end up hurting the common populace. Most members of such societies are forced to choose between the two sides because bystanders suffer even more."

Nira's voice turned serious as she started speaking about the core of the story.

"The restrictions you, as the denizen of the Anfang, live under were not always there.

The world of Anfang was free just like these worlds back then. Therefore, it was also plagued by such demonic practices long ago. The demonic practitioners and the forces opposing them both had their own cults. And the establishments suffered at the hands of rankers from both sides."

Eren was listening keenly. He suddenly had a eureka moment when he connected the past with the present.

"That's where the term "cultist" comes from!"

Nira Nightshade nodded at Eren before continuing.

"That's right.

In the past, the term "cultists" was used to refer to all the rankers who belonged to either side. The lost paths of magic that are sought by the cultists of today are all related to demonic or divine magic practiced by these cults of the past.

The cultists of today can only be regarded as a nuisance compared to the real cultists back then. They are a dry husk of their former selves thanks to the restrictions placed by the establishments of today.

Nevertheless, the fact that cultists are trying to use lost paths of magic is a concern for establishments. Every once in a while, a select group of these cultists manages to achieve a breakthrough in their search, causing a widespread disturbance.

This is the reason the Anfang Alliance doesn't tolerate the existence of cultists. Especially those who achieve some form of success by walking on the lost paths of magic. It doesn't want to revert to its previous state of absolute chaos by allowing the lost paths to proliferate after all."

Nira Nightshade took a brief pause to gather her thoughts. She summoned her bow subconsciously while she was thinking about something. She played with the weapon's bowstring and turned her back on Eren before speaking further.

"The rulers of that time were unable to control these cultists. They too were forced to choose a side. And they chose the side of the gods that looked least harmful.

They started offering their prayers to the gods."

Nira Nightshade suddenly turned around before continuing with an even grimmer tone.

"These gods had unbelievable powers.

However, just like the demons, they too were bound by certain rules of the cosmos from interfering directly. Therefore, they would empower their followers in exchange for their absolute devotion.

If demons could send their soul fragments into various worlds, the gods could send their blessings to counter them. These blessings could be used by the denizens of their respective worlds to fight demonic practitioners.

There was one god who became particularly active in the land of Anfang ever since various establishments began praying for him officially. He started gaining popularity when he started blessing various top rankers at that time and they obtained exceptional results.

He was a god named Vulcan."

Eren raised his eyebrows at the mention of the name Vulcan. He scratched the back of his head before speaking.

"I think I have heard that name before."

He said, still sounding doubtful. It took him another second to figure out where he had heard the god's name. The butcher had heard it from one of his victims when he was robbing the rankers who had participated in House Remus' auction.

Nira Nightshade nodded at Eren before speaking up.

"I'm sure you have.

History finds its way to cast a shadow over the present in any era.

Anyway, the god Vulcan came up with the idea of a continent-encompassing array to stop the proliferation of demonic influence. His followers preached his message and influenced the establishments in every way to follow the path their god had shown for all the denizens of the Anfang.

Eren, you have to know that the gods that exist for real are nothing like their supposed definitions might imply. They are not benevolent beings who care about their followers. And they don't do anything for free.

The God Vulcan's followers started demanding sacrifices. At first, sacrifices were limited to mana beasts. Then unlawful rankers serving prison sentences became the next target for such sacrifices.

The God Vulcan had various temples on the land of Anfang at that time. And these temples started pushing for more from their respective establishments. It wasn't long before normal people started getting sacrificed.

[Chapter 1073 Spirit Beasts And God Sparks](#)

The castle hall fell silent for a while.

Nira Nightshade took her time to choose her words carefully before speaking up.

"The establishments of Anfang still decided to heed God Vulcan's suggestions for the greater good. They thought that their misery would end once the continent-encompassing array was formed.

However, they eventually found out that things were not as simple as God Vulcan had them believe. It turned out that he was using sacrificial energy to create God Sparks."

Nira sighed and shook her head before continuing.

"The world of Anfang is not what you'd call a top-tier world.

The chances of it developing a God Spark naturally are close to zero. Therefore, God Vulcan used the sacrificial energy as a catalyst to create the possibilities for God Sparks to exist.

Various Spirit Beasts were born into the land of Anfang as a result of God Vulcan's way of playing god. These Spirit Beasts were the manifestations of the World Will and the various elemental laws it has.

The God Vulcan's followers were joyful about the results. They started chanting his name even louder, calling his deeds "the miracles of a god."

The Sage Archer flashed a cunning smile as she spoke her next words with a tinge of fervor.

"You know why they were joyful? That's because Spirit Beasts can turn into God Sparks."

An eerie atmosphere started to spread.

Nira Nightshade looked at Eren intently. And the latter knew at that time why the Sage was cooperating with him so much. She expected a hefty reward for her information.

She had sniffed out the existence of something special Eren had in his possession. Eren's voice turned grim as he said his next words with a tinge of suppressed anger injected into them.

"My Spirit Beast!

You want my Spirit Beast in return for the information. You want to cultivate a God Spark for yourself."

Eren deduced Nira Nightshade's intentions and asked her to confirm them openly. His voice was cold and callous and his aura started having a bit of bloodlust.

Nira Nightshade was stunned by Eren's boldness. But she smiled and ignored Eren's feeble protest. It didn't bother her that a mere C-ranker was angry at her for demanding something precious.

She knew Eren wouldn't understand what he had in his possession. Not really. Hence, she expected him to turn angry at her "request."

Nira Nightshade assumed that she needed to make Eren understand that what he had wasn't useful for him now.

She smiled brightly at Eren before speaking further.

"That's right.

The Spirit Beasts are incredibly difficult to find in any world, Eren. Only one of the thousands of worlds would have them. Can you imagine such a disparity?

Even if you know that a particular world has them, finding the Spirit Beast is extremely difficult. Making them show themselves in your presence is even more so.

Can you imagine the difficulty level of finding a Spirit Beast now? Multiply that level by 100 and it still wouldn't give you the exact picture of how difficult it is."

Nira's crimson eyes shone with a tinge of greed as she continued.

"I'm telling you all this to make you understand the true danger you are in by carrying something like a Spirit Beast with you. The rarity of a Spirit Beast makes it extremely sought-after by all the strong individuals in and outside of Anfang.

You are basically painting a target on your back by possessing a conscious fragment of the World's Will. Especially with your current ranking status.

The Spirit Beasts can't die as long as the worlds that birthed them continue to exist. However, they can't be captured or claimed so easily. One needs extreme luck and talent to get their hands on a Spirit Beast.

Show of force doesn't work on a Spirit Beast. It'll just vanish into thin air if the owner dies. And it can't be taken away from the owner if he doesn't hand it over willingly.

However, rankers like me just need to press the right buttons to get you to yield to our wishes. Don't you want your city to prosper so that it can support your growth? Don't you want more information about the past to make sense of the present?"

Nira Nightshade's threats were subtle and on point. She didn't try to antagonize Eren directly. But her words implied that she wanted Eren's Spirit Beast under any condition. That she was willing to go to any length to get it.

Eren wanted to say something to Nira Nightshade at that time. Her overwhelming soul sense shut him up before she addressed the issue he was about to raise.

"Yes, my soul sense powers are special. I admit that Spirit Beasts can't be detected easily by everyone. Even Sages would find it nearly impossible to detect something like that on you.

However, one thing you should never do is underestimate Sages. They all have their own ways of getting the truth out of you. If normal ways don't work, they'll just do something extreme. Which makes them even more dangerous."

Nira Nightshade walked close to Eren and grabbed his jaw with her ghostly hands. The Sage's apparition was almost as tall as Eren, allowing them to look into each other's eyes.

Nira Nightshade got extremely close to him before whispering her next set of words.

"I am doing you a favor, Eren.

You don't even have any use for the Spirit Beast at your current rank, do you? However, you'll have to face the danger of being targeted by people like me once the information gets out. What will you do at that time?

I'll give you all the information you need. Plus, I'll give you my entire legacy. I'll even put in a good word for you. It is enough for you to live like royalty within the borders of Anfang for as long as you want to stay here.

All in exchange for the Spirit Beast you have. You have to agree to hand it over willingly before we proceed any further.

Tell me, Eren Elijah Idril. Do you agree with my offer?"

[Chapter 1074 Birth Of The Anfang Alliance](#)

"Tell me, Eren Elijah Idril. Do you agree with my offer?"

Sedating Gaze!

Eren replied to Nira Nightshade's offer by casting his Ability on her. His eyes turned completely white before various runic markings started appearing in them.

With Eren's rank-up, his ocular Ability also received a huge boost. It could now affect the souls of his opponents on a deeper level.

Nira Nightshade felt like she was back in her past where she had to struggle for everything in the land of Anfang. One by one, she recalled scenes from her past where she had struggled. However, the faces of the people surrounding her had been morphed to look like flesh flowers.

Nira saw the flesh flowers that were people's heads burst into a million pieces just as they got close to her, spreading blood and organs on her body. She soon found herself living her old memories while being covered in the blood of people she knew.

Nira knew that she had been subjected to Eren's Ability. In the illusory world, it altered her perception of time and made her suffer more.

The Sage was aware that what she was seeing was nothing but an illusion. However, she had to admit that Eren had unlocked a very dangerous Ability at such a young age.

She was sure that no ordinary ranker of Eren's generation would stop themselves from falling prey to his Ability's illusions. The butcher didn't even need to kill such people. They might die on their own while being trapped inside the illusory world.

One's Abilities would tell a lot about a person and their disposition.

Nira immediately concluded that Eren was nothing like the Emil she knew from the past. The young man in front of her was not only proficient at politics but also in the business of causing death and destruction in his wake. His unyielding heart as a ranker was beating with thoughts of surpassing any restrictions placed on him.

Eren knew that his Ability wasn't enough to incapacitate Sage's vestige of soul. However, it was enough to put pressure on her. This was especially true since she was maintaining an isolation array.

Nira started hearing Eren's voice as if the sky of her illusory world was talking to her.

"Sage Nira, do you take me for a fool? If God Sparks are as significant as you tell me to be, then whatever you have offered isn't enough."

Nira narrowed her eyes before using her soul sense to break through Eren's ocular Ability. The illusory world crumbled around her like a broken mirror. She found herself back in the hall, staring at the same eyes that had sent her on a long trip.

Nira averted her eyes away from Eren and took a few steps back. For some reason, she didn't feel like looking into Eren's eyes once again just to prove her mettle as a Sage ranker was not to be underestimated. Her subconscious mind decided that some stare-downs weren't meant to be repeated.

"I underestimated you."

Nira said matter-of-factly before flashing a smile.

"Speak. What else do you want?"

Eren's ocular Ability was broken forcefully by Sage's soul sense. As a result, he felt some drawbacks to his consciousness. He ignored the feelings of vertigo and closed his eyes. When he opened his eyes, they had returned to their normal state.

"Assistance.

You'll need to help me if I hand over my Spirit Beast to you. As I told you, I plan to leave the land of Anfang. I could really use some guidance and help regarding other worlds. At least the worlds that are easier to travel to from here."

Eren took a long breath after saying what he wanted. He looked at Nia Nightshade with a serene mindset before speaking further.

"We have a deal as long as you can promise me that."

Nira raised her eyebrows at Eren's demand. She felt like what Eren had said made sense. She could also sense that he was speaking the truth.

Nira Nightshade took her time before taking Eren up on his offer.

"Alright. We have a deal."

Eren could enter into a binding contract with a Sage ranker thanks to his recent breakthrough into the Expert rank. However, Nira was just present in the land of Anfang as a vestige of her original soul.

The Sage Ranger couldn't keep someone like Eren bound to the vestige of her soul because of his awakened soul sense. This was why she wanted to establish a cooperative relationship with Eren by providing him with the information he was looking for. She felt glad that her move had worked.

"So where were we?"

Nira Nightshade said before taking her seat in the throne-like chair. She assumed a relaxing position on the chair before resuming her talk on the previous topic from where she had left off.

"Yes... God Vulcan.

He used the sacrificial energy he had collected on the land of Anfang to promote and expedite the Spirit Beasts' growth. His goal was to cultivate as many God Sparks among them as possible.

However... things didn't go according to God Vulcan's plans either."

Nira Nightshade looked at Eren who was staring blankly at her. She could tell that he was not happy with the deal that was forced on him. She chuckled before deciding to wrap up her end of the deal.

"Denizens of otherworlds learned about God Vulcan's plans to harvest a batch of God Sparks. And all hell broke loose on the land of Anfang after that.

The people of this land were subjected to even greater suffering than before because of the God Vulcan. That's because the ones who attacked them didn't care about the rankers' affiliations.

The attackers were otherworlders. They were stronger than anyone the world of Anfang had ever seen. They were brutal and vicious.

These intruders did everything they could to plunder Anfang's resources. They also started looking for fragments of the world's consciousness while they were busy plundering.

As a result of this dreadful threat, the original residents of the Anfang had to forget their differences. They all forgot about their affiliations and came together to form a united front.

This united front was named the Anfang Alliance.

[Chapter 1075 Land Of The Faithless- Forsaken By The Gods](#)

Eren was stunned after hearing about the origins of the Anfang Alliance.

He had assumed that the Anfang Alliance was formed to restrict half-bloods throughout Anfang. But it seemed that things were much more complicated than that.

Nira Nightshade allowed Eren to process what she had said up to this point. She only spoke when he looked at her, intending to learn more.

"The Anfang Alliance was formed to prevent otherworlders from harming the land of Anfang. Its sole objective was to eliminate any foreign threat too big to be tackled by any single establishment from the land of Anfang.

The Anfang Alliance consisted of almost all the Anfang organizations active at that time. The cultists of that time also joined hands by participating in the Anfang Alliance.

Various opposing forces were forced to work together under one umbrella. The alliance became the single dominant organization among the denizens of Anfang as a result.

The establishments cooperated wholeheartedly with the Anfang Alliance. They all did all they could to strengthen the alliance financially and otherwise. After all, they needed to get rid of the common enemy first before they settled their disputes with each other.

Such was the threat of the intruders that roamed these lands. The foundation of the Anfang Alliance was set so perfectly that it still stands today despite its checkered past."

Eren started remembering Eliza's words as he listened to Nira Nightshade's speech. It seemed that the Witch of the Enderflames hated the Anfang Alliance to her core. He pondered a bit before asking her the next question in a careful manner.

"The cultists that joined the Anfang Alliance... did it consist of half-bloods as well?"

Nira Nightshade looked at Eren carefully when he asked her the question. She narrowed her eyes at him as she spoke.

"So you are not that uninitiated after all. I wonder what kind of half-blood you are. Your bloodline energy feels... different."

Nira watched Eren's expressions as she spoke. The latter's face was devoid of any expressions, indicating that he did not know about his own origins. Things like these were common among half-blood children raised outside their supposed safe haven. So she dropped the matter before speaking further.

"That's right.

The half-blood clans that were present in the land of Anfang joined the Anfang Alliance as well. In fact, they were the most prominent fighting force in the alliance.

At first, their presence was not welcomed by the other establishments. However, the half-bloods proved with their might that the alliance would not be able to achieve what it was supposed to do if it excluded them."

Eren nodded at Nira before asking her another question.

"Was the conflict between the half-bloods and establishments a common thing at that time?"

Nira shook her head in denial before answering his question in an in-depth manner.

"Not really.

Even before the invasion, the half-blood clans were not completely opposed to the establishments. They just weren't used to bending to the establishments' will.

The half-blood clans just wanted autonomy so they could live their lives without the establishments' influence over them. They only clashed with the establishments when provoked and did not try to escalate the matter any further than they needed to.

Various half-blood clans had their own estates that were isolated. As a result, the half-bloods remained a mystery for the common populace and the establishments of Anfang even after living with them for so long.

All of this was before Vulcan's major fuck-up.

However, the half-bloods decided to come out of the shroud of mystery after recognizing the threat of the intruders. The rankers learned the true might of the half-bloods when they did that.

It was sufficient to say that the common populace of Anfang was assured and afraid of the half-bloods' presence at the same time. It was assured that half-bloods could hold their own against foreign invaders. And it was afraid because of their overwhelming battle potential."

Eren started understanding what might have happened in the past after the otherworlders' intrusion began taking place. His talks with Sirius Fenris also started making sense in his head. Eliza's hatred for the Anfang Alliance also seemed to make sense.

Still, the butcher wanted to learn more about the past before he could draw a final conclusion in his head. He remained silent and let Nira Nightshade speak further.

"The God Vulcan lost interest in the land of Anfang when it failed to produce the quality and quantity of the fragments of World Will's consciousness he needed. Plus, the turmoil caused by the invaders made it difficult to spread the faith and influence of the gods.

Then there were adverse effects of using sacrificial energy to give birth to Spirit Beasts. This world suffered and that suffering resulted in natural calamities.

Hehe. You know what the God Vulcan did when he faced such a nuisance in Anfang?"

Nira chuckled mirthlessly before speaking further.

"That damn god just abandoned his followers on the land of Anfang after causing such terrible turmoil. As his followers prayed, he remained silent.

The other gods also lost interest in the land of Anfang at the same time. It seemed that Anfang was not the first world that the gods had ruined with their experiments. The blessings that they had provided to their followers stopped working, rendering them less powerful than even the most ordinary rankers of their generation.

However, the demonic forces that were supposed to oppose the followers of the gods were busy battling foreign invaders. As a result, the absence of the gods' blessings did not make matters particularly worse.

The common populace also lost interest in worshipping gods when it felt abandoned. Establishments that had accepted particular faiths also stopped worshipping gods.

When they were forsaken by the gods, the entities of Anfang chose to stand on their own two feet. They chose to deal with the mess they were in their own way, not expecting any divine help in their endeavors anymore.

Looking back, we can say that it was the wisest decision the denizens of Anfang had made together."

Eren flashed a grin at Nira Nightshade as he understood something.

"So this is the story behind why the continent of Anfang is called the land of the faithless."

[Chapter 1076 The Invaders Of Anfang](#)

"So this is the story behind why the continent of Anfang is called the land of the faithless."

Nira nodded before adding further.

"That's right.

The Anfang Alliance started hating the divine faiths of that time because of their complete lack of interest. This was despite the fact that divine faiths were responsible for Anfang's precarious condition in the first place.

The Anfang Alliance had decided that it would get rid of all the divine faiths once it settled matters with the foreign invaders. And eventually, it did.

Later down the line, a major culling took place and various faiths disappeared from this world. Anfang became known as the land of the faithless because of the alliance's hardline stand against the gods."

The more Eren learned about Anfang's history, the more intrigued he got. He felt like picking Nira's brain for all the information it contained regarding the world's lost history.

"What about the invaders? What were they? How powerful were they? Did the denizens of this world take care of them easily after the alliance was formed?"

Eren was reminded of the skeletons of the giants he had seen at Eliza's place. They had given him goosebumps at that time just by standing near them. Eliza had also confirmed that some of them were entities beyond S-Rank. So he wanted to know how the alliance handled such existences at that time.

Nira Nightshade felt a bit irritated by Eren's questions. At this point, she just wanted to get Eren's Spirit Beast for herself and kick him out of her abode. However, she thought of the prize that she was about to receive for wasting her time on a mere C-ranker. The Sage archer decided to put up with Eren's request after giving it a thought.

"Those invaders... they were too powerful to be taken care of that easily. At least one type among them.

The invaders did not have a single origin. You need to first understand the worlds the invaders belong to before you make any assumptions about them.

As I said, the world of Anfang was not as isolated as it is now. It had teleportation channels open to other worlds that were nearer to it."

Nira ignored Eren's surprised face and carried on.

"It's not like the denizens of otherworlds hadn't appeared on the land of Anfang before the God Vulcan's intervention. We call them invaders because they forced their way here and plundered for resources while searching for God Sparks.

The very first bunch of invaders that appeared on the land of Anfang intending to rob the potential God Sparks were called the children of Echidna. They came here from their own continent known as the continent of Echidna.

These invaders are commonly referred to today as monsters. You know... goblins, Kobolds, and the like. These children of Echidna were individually on the same level as the denizens of Anfang. However, they were huge in numbers and they knew how to battle in groups.

The children of Echidna were a huge headache for the denizens of Anfang. Still, things were manageable until the invaders were confined to the children of Echidna."

Eren was reminded of his time spent inside the Oni dungeon when Nira started speaking about the continent of Echidna. He knew a lot about them because of his time spent with monsters.

"Who were the other bunch of invaders?"

Eren asked impatiently, wanting to know about the giants. Their skeletons served as trophies for the old hag. He reckoned they were a strong force among all the invaders.

Nira scrunched her nose in annoyance before answering Eren's questions step by step.

"The second group of invaders belonged to the world known as Labh Salem or simply Salem. The denizens of this world were demons and witches. This world also had various half-blood clans prospering within it.

In fact, most of the prominent half-blood clans that were present in the land of Anfang came from this world before settling here.

There were various covens of witches also active on the land of Anfang which had their origins based in Labh Salem. In short, this world was built on the foundation of demonic practices. And it tried to spread its influence on other worlds besides it by sending its denizens outside.

Due to the crisis caused by the God Vulcan, relations between the original inhabitants of the Anfang and these settlers deteriorated. That's why the settlers from Salem who had come to Anfang before Vulcan's fuck-up had to prove their allegiance to the world of Anfang by joining the Anfang Alliance."

'Wait a minute... Labh Salem... Coven of witches... Witch of the Enderflame... was Eliza's clan originally from Labh Salem?'

Eren felt like a lot of puzzles were falling into place as Nira Nightshade was providing him with crucial information. Still, this wasn't the world where the giants would have come from. Eren's eyes pestered Nira for more information.

"Tch. You are persistent."

Nira looked at Eren and sighed before speaking further.

"The third world was Tel Quasser— better known as the land of the fey. The elves, dwarfs, mini giants, and other sentient races we see on the land of Anfang have their roots in this world.

Out of all the invaders that Anfang faced, the denizens of Tel Quasser caused the least amount of harm. They didn't indulge in plundering. And they walked away as soon as they found out that the fragments of the World Will's consciousness were not up to the mark.

They even helped the Anfang Alliance in the shadows so that we could fight their battle and cause major damage to a common enemy.

This is the reason why the Anfang Alliance accommodated the presence of settlers from Tel Quasser post-war. The elves, dwarfs, and the rest stayed here and made Anfang their home. They joined the Anfang Alliance and fought along with the original denizens of this world.

The denizens of Tel Quasser found it easy to support the original denizens of Anfang in their cause. This was because they hated a particular batch of invaders the most. Which brings us to the fourth world.

These invaders appeared on the continent of Anfang for the first time and caused major incidents. They hadn't visited Anfang prior to Vulcan's intervention.

Each member from this group of invaders killed thousands of rankers in a single move. Referred to as the walking calamities, their very first appearance became a major reason for the Anfang Alliance's formation.

These invaders came from Allansia— the world of giants.

The world of titans."

[Chapter 1077 The Most Feared Titan Slayer P1](#)

"Titans..."

Eren murmured the word under his breath as he thought of the giant skeletons he had seen in the past back at Eliza's palace. He felt like he had been summoned back into the same place as a weak Ace ranker— surrounded by titan skeletons looking at him with their hollowed eyes.

Nira Nightshade was intrigued by Eren's reaction, thinking he was struggling to comprehend the titans' existence. So she explained further.

"Imagine a mana-wielding entity that's 100s of meters tall. They looked like humans for the most part but had gigantic bodies.

Can you imagine the scope of their physical attacks? Can you imagine their elemental spells and the damage they can cause?

Titans' attacks changed the shape of the land permanently. They affected the regions of Anfang in such a way that some of the geographical phenomena we see today originated from that period."

Eren remembered the residual mana signatures coming off the titans' skeletons. They had invoked a sense of dread in him when he was a mere Ace ranker. It had been a long time since their deaths.

Eren realized that the dread he felt at the time was not only because of his low rank. His subconscious mind had recognized the danger they posed when they were alive. This realization gave him goosebumps.

He stopped dwelling on the memories of Eliza's palace and focused on Nira Nightshade's explanation.

"When I say titans were walking calamities, I mean it in a literal sense. They were unstoppable forces of nature that did not give a damn about the ants trying to cope with them. The Anfang Alliance would deploy armies of rankers and cultists to take care of one titan. And the latter simply killed them like swatting a fly.

The period when the titans walked on the land of Anfang was truly the darkest time of this world's known existence. Almost nobody could deal with these titans on their own."

Eren realized why Eliza kept the giants' skeletons as her kill trophies to keep her company. They reminded her of her prime when she was injured and alone inside Purgatory and gave her the strength to carry on in her desire to seek revenge.

Eren couldn't directly ask about Eliza to Nira Nightshade without raising suspicions about his uninitiated half-blood status. So he asked about the Witch of Enderflame in a roundabout way.

"Sage Nira, were Sages of that time also incapable of taking care of Giants? Was there no one who could cope with these natural calamities by themselves?"

Nira shook her head in denial and sighed before answering Eren's question.

"You think titans at that time didn't have Sage-level entities in their midst? This was an all-out war among the denizens of different worlds, Eren. There were practically no stops.

The Master and Grandmaster fought enemies of their level. The Sages had to fight someone of their stature as well. The rest of the rankers could only be considered cannon fodder who battled with their equivalents. During that era, everyone was forced to participate in the war in some way.

Injuring one of these Titan invaders would be a huge moment of victory for the Anfang Alliance. If the rankers' army managed to kill one of these titans, they would be celebrated as heroes in the Anfang Alliance.

Most of these heroes never saw the celebrations that were held for their victories over the Titans. That's because most heroes would die in confrontations with such calamities."

Nira looked at the hall's ceiling and thought of something before continuing.

"As for someone who could contend with titans from the Anfang Alliance... There were indeed some entities who could pull off such a task. Only a handful of them.

But since most of them either belonged to half-blood clans or had cultist origins, their names are shrouded in mystery even among the rankers who know about the world's true past.

It seems like deliberate attempts have been made to hide these heroes' names. Just so that select strata of people wouldn't get credit for their huge contribution— especially the half-bloods. This was also a form of whitewashing history, Eren. One that was done on a much larger scale than what we did with the kingdom of Edinburgh.

People who are the cream of the crop in Anfang, however, can't remain oblivious to these names. The contribution of these few rankers is greater than what the Anfang Alliance achieved as a whole."

Nira Nightshade paused for a moment and realized Eren was looking for more answers from her with the way he was looking at her. She felt like an old woman telling fantasy stories to a kid. Thinking of the Spirit Beast he had in his possession, she decided to indulge Eren in his request some more.

"The entities who could kill Sage-level Titans on their own could be counted on one's fingers. They were called Titan Slayers.

Titan Slayers were highly respected in the Anfang Alliance in wartime. The alliance would use them as a deterrent against Titans and another bunch of powerful invaders.

The Titan Slayers would be deployed at critical times when the alliance's armies were failing to keep their front. They were so strong and charismatic that their mere presence on the battlefield was enough to cheer up the failing armies.

If Titans were walking calamities, then Titan Slayers who could kill them were also walking calamities in their own regard. As such, the Anfang Alliance also started fearing the Titan Slayers along with the titans they were battling."

Eren nodded at Nira Nightshade before asking her his next question.

"Any particular name that comes to your mind when talking about these Titan Slayers?"

The Sage archer didn't even take a second to answer.

"Witch of Enderflame— Eliza Samael.

The most feared, respected, and revered Titan Slayer of her time. She has the most solo Titan kills. Not just that. Her actual contribution to the war against the invaders is much larger than that."

[Chapter 1078 The Most Feared Titan Slayer P2](#)

Even Nira Nightshade straightened herself in her seat before taking Eliza's name. This was the respect that would be shown from one Sage to another.

"Sage Eliza's name is too big to be erased from Anfang's lost history forever. No matter how much the Anfang Alliance tries to doctor history, it can't get rid of that name.

Sage Eliza was an exception among exceptions. They said that even the Titans had acknowledged her powers. Even they found no shame in attacking Eiiza in groups when she was on the battlefield.

I don't know how true this is. But it was said that she had started killing Sage-level Titans while she was half-step Sage rank. And when she eventually became a Sage, even a group of Titans was not enough to overpower her.

Some records even mention that the Witch of the Enderflame once fought with seven Titans at the same time. And one of them was said to be a pseudo-Saint rank existence."

Eren raised his eyebrows when he heard the term Saint rank. He had heard it for the first time. The butcher figured it was a rank beyond the Sage rank.

It seemed that Nira Nightshade liked talking about the past that was related to Eliza. That's because Eren didn't have to pester her to talk about past events anymore.

The Sage archer might have seen the Witch of the Enderflame as the source of her inspiration. There was a certain shine in her eyes and a tinge of excitement in her voice as she spoke her next words.

"It was an ambush. A Sage-level battle formation."

Eren was shocked yet again. He failed to comprehend the magnitude of the output a Sage-level battle formation would generate. Nira wasn't interested in giving Eren a rough description of such things. She seemed to be enjoying her own narration as she depicted the events of the past.

"The Titans were willing to resort to any lengths to kill her despite respecting her as their enemy. The fact that they had acknowledged Eliza as someone worthy of killing by ganging up on her was the greatest testament to her strength.

I guess the titans' disposition to trick and kill their enemies, when they knew brute force wouldn't work, was one of the reasons that made them the most dreadful invaders among all the others.

The ambush had been perfectly planned. Eliza's retreat from the battlefield meant an entire army that was deployed beyond her would face the titans' wrath. So Eliza's retreat was also sealed.

And this was when Sage Eliza had just entered the Sage rank.

You might have heard that a ranker's individuality starts to matter more and more as they climb further up their ranking ladder. Meaning a high-ranking entity with potent individuality might be equal to several rankers in terms of raw battle potential.

But the potency of individuality a Sage ranker needs to have to battle with seven Sage rankers is completely insane. Mind boggling even. This is why some rankers refuse to believe this piece of history about Sage Eliza."

'Oh, you better believe it. She has kept those kills as a part of her home decor. That is enough proof for me.'

Eren thought deep in his mind as he listened to Nira Nightshade. The Sage archer also seemed to trust her gut feeling that said that Eliza was the real deal. She subconsciously started pitting herself against Eliza and drew a comparison.

"I was once curious like you, Eren. So I can relate to your curiosity.

Believe me when I say that I have done everything in my power to read about the enshrouded history of Anfang. I did everything I could to confirm whatever was said in it.

I have visited places that were mentioned in history. I have used every form of magic at my disposal to confirm various things. And I have broadened my vision ever since I left Anfang.

Therefore, I can say with confidence that the history regarding Sage Eliza contains many errors. But what they do is undermine her real strength and not exaggerate it.

I find no shame in admitting that I did not have the same level of individuality as Sage Eliza when I became a Sage. As such, I would have run away and left the alliance's forces to fend for themselves if I was in her shoes.

You know what the records say happened next?"

'I do.'

Eren was reminded of the six giant skeletons yet again. He also remembered the skull of the pseudo-Saint-level titan.

Eren could clearly remember his first meeting with Eliza because it had left a deep scar on his psyche. That scar was healed but he couldn't forget about its existence anymore, no matter how strong he got.

Eren remembered the six Titan skeletons that had their skulls looking down. He remembered the way Eliza had used the pseudo-Saint-level titan's skull as the elevation floor for her throne.

The witch of Enderflame still liked to mock her enemies after their deaths by arranging their skeletal remains in a submissive manner.

Eren was learning to understand what he had seen in the past. Her vengeful persona was on full display for Eren to see. That's where she found her tenacity to live despite all the odds placed against her.

The butcher believed that there was Eliza's fangirl hiding somewhere in Nira Nightshade. This was even though Nira Nightshade's current rank exceeded that of Eliza's. He knew that Nira would be smitten by Eliza's trophies if she saw them for real.

Eren had multiple thoughts running through his head. But that didn't prevent him from paying close attention to what Nira Nightshade was saying.

"They say that Eliza managed to kill six ambushers despite their strength in numbers. She almost died while killing the seventh titan.

It was said that these ambushers had used a lot of dirty tricks to get to Sage Eliza. So she vowed to shame them even after their deaths when she killed the seventh member.

At that time, an entire army of rankers was protected by a single half-blood.

The battlefield on which this particular battle was fought was so badly damaged that the fabric of space-time had been affected. It remained that way even after the continent-spanning isolation array was activated.

That place is now known as Monster Canyon."

[Chapter 1079 How Project Clean Slate Came To Be P1](#)

Piece by piece, everything started making sense for Eren the more he listened to Nira's retelling of Anfang's true history.

Monster Canyon was a mysterious place even by the Badlands' standards. It contained many sights that could only be described as anomalies. Even monsters staying inside Monster Canyon were wary of their habitat. The monster tribes established a few unique rules to aid them in navigating the place.

Monster Canyon was a burial ground for a lot of rankers. And the few that survived rose to fame and became successful. The city of New Beginnings thrived on Monster Canyon's allure in rankers' hearts.

Eren wondered how Eliza would feel looking at the way the kingdom of Edinburgh had capitalized on her battlefield. He kept those thoughts like these to himself as he listened to Nira's speech.

"You must be aware of a few things as a half-blood that set you apart from regular rankers. They are generally stronger than their regular counterparts. This boost in strength is determined by the bloodline they have.

I find your bloodline's genesis unimpressive, even if it is a bit mysterious. However, your ranking status appears to have improved thanks to refining your bloodline.

Sage Eliza was a dragon half-blood. House Samael was a power to be reckoned with because of that bloodline. It was said that the Witch of Enderflame had refined her bloodline to its genesis, allowing her to shapeshift into a dragon."

'Hmm. I need to show some surprises here.'

Eren thought to himself before giving Nira Nightshade the look she was expecting from him. The latter looked at the butcher intently for a fraction of a second before adding further.

"The House Samael on the continent of Anfang originally hailed from Labh Salem. It was a well-established clan in both worlds.

Thanks to Sage Eliza's persuasion, her clan provided the Anfang Alliance with a lot of unique perks— from powerful battle formations to advanced potioning recipes. The advancement in potioning that we see in the land of Anfang is because of this.

Even now, a lot of the potent potion recipes that potioners use today have their roots in Labh Salem. They say that the witches of Labh Salem had honed their craft to perfection, allowing them to do unimaginable things with their potions alone.

The alliance imported some of that expertise and knowledge here with the help of House Samael. It used that knowledge and expertise to strengthen the allied forces."

Eren could now understand why Layla was so skilled at potioning. All of her potions were potent and had exceptional effects. The Format History potion she had made for him had helped him keep his pursuers in the dark so many times.

As a part-time potioner himself, Eren could understand the importance of the knowledge House Samael must have imparted to the alliance. The potions allowed rankers to increase their offense and defense on an individual level. Those potion-based effects play a crucial role in life-and-death situations like being part of a large-scale war.

'Hmm. I need to visit Labh Salem if I want to step up my potioning.'

Eren thought to himself. He felt that his potioning skills were commendable for his rank. But they were always lacking when compared to his progress in other fields.

The butcher felt like he had hit a bottleneck in terms of the knowledge he could get access to on the land of Anfang about cutting-edge potioning. A world like Labh Salem might provide him with a way to improve his concoction skills.

Of course, this was not something he could do right away. The chronic planner in him was merely making a few plans for the future.

Nira Nightshade continued to describe the events, unaware of where Eren's deep thoughts were leading him.

"Participation of the half-bloods in the alliance was very crucial. The presence of Titan Slayers on the battlefield also played a vital role in boosting the morale of the rankers.

However, the Titans were not something the Titan Slayers or half-blood clans could stop on their own. They attacked various cities, killed millions of people, and plundered everything they could find to be useful for them.

In the war against the invaders, the participants soon found that they were not adequately equipped to deal with the titans. The Titan Slayers also had their limits. And the half-blood clans were already doing their part to minimize the damage. Still, things were pretty dire in the alliance's camp.

The alliance recognized that the reason half-bloods were so effective against Titans was because of their shape-shifting. Some could transform partially. And some could transform into their true beastly form, giving them enhanced body stats.

The power of shapeshifting also allowed most half-bloods to change their size dramatically. They tried to match the titans' size as much as they could, which allowed them to land serious attacks on the giants.

The power of shapeshifting is fundamentally different from forming a mana body with a spell. It couldn't be destroyed as easily as the spell-induced gigantification performed by normal rankers. Plus, the half-bloods were more in control of their beastly bodies than regular rankers with their spell-induced body alterations.

The half-bloods could do more while consuming less mana. Shapeshifting also allowed them to bolster their defense and chances of survival against the titans.

The alliance figured out that they needed to strengthen every ranker with a power similar to shapeshifting if they really wanted to gain momentum against the titans. Relying on the half-bloods and Titan Slayers was liable to make matters worse in the long run."

Eren was genuinely intrigued this time as he heard the Sage archer's words. He could already guess that a war of such a level couldn't be won by a small bunch of Titan Slayers or even half-blood clans alone. The alliance as a whole needed to up its game if it wanted to defend its home world from invaders.

"What did the alliance do then?"

Nira took a deep breath before answering.

[Chapter 1080 How Project Clean Slate Came To Be P2](#)

"Only giants could put up a fight with the giants.

The alliance started asking the right questions of itself after it realized that the power of shapeshifting was the key to scoring a defined win against the Titans. And House Samael, who was the leader of the half-blood forces at the time, came up with the right set of answers.

House Samael declared that it would create an all-inclusive primer matter, which will help both regular rankers as well as half-bloods in their shapeshifting."

Eren clenched his fists as he heard Nira speak. He knew what the Sage archer was talking about. However, he kept calm and let her finish what she was saying.

"This primer matter was supposed to be made from an ever-evolving mutagen that can attune to pre-existing mutagens or regular genetic codes before strengthening them. It would allow the half-bloods to shapeshift while strengthening their bodies and bloodlines.

Regular rankers could use the same primer matter as a base to launch their body-altering spells from. In this case, it would allow their mana bodies to level up by providing them with a materialistic foundation. It would be difficult for the titans to dispel the mana bodies with their spells and attacks once the regular rankers began using the primer matter as their base for transformation.

House Samael invested almost all the resources it had in this research. It had the expertise and knowledge from its original home Labh Salem to start this research. The witches were well versed in bloodline-related projects after all. The Anfang Alliance also supported the research by providing it with the ranking resources it needed.

Shapeshifting was only one aspect of the primer matter.

It was supposed to revolutionize the field of magic with its introduction. It could be used in various ways in various fields to achieve groundbreaking results."

Eren looked down and narrowed his eyes as he confirmed his doubt.

'Yep. This is how Eliza came up with the Clean Slate project. She modified House Samael's plan for the Anfang Alliance and used it to create Reen by Arthur's hands.'

Primer matter possessed a lot of Reen's inherent qualities. One could say that the artificial demon beast's bloodline and her synthesized body were both two sides of the same coin.

Eren also started remembering what Eliza had said to him when she talked about Reen. The Witch of the Enderflame had told him that the research she had used to create Reen was supposed to help humans, demi-humans, and half-bloods in fighting the calamity of that time.

The primer matter was supposed to be used by the alliance in combat against the Titans. Eliza modified that research to create another vessel for herself. A no-conflict vessel that can host her soul and allow her to resurrect without any defects.

Eliza had also told Eren that her clan had never declared that it was successful in obtaining tangible results from the research. Meaning her clan had started suspecting Anfang Alliance's intentions after it got its hands on the derived results.

Nira Nightshade's next words proved something Eren already knew from his talk with Eliza.

"The battle with the invaders never stopped while research was going on. The alliance kept losing ground to the giants. It was also forced to deal with an ever-increasing number of casualties each day.

Years passed by and no tangible results were in sight. The alliance kept getting impatient while House Samael carried on with its research. In these desperate times, somebody else came up with a different solution that wasn't expected by the alliance."

Eren had no idea what Nira was talking about this time. So he paid extra attention to her words.

"A goddess approached the Anfang Alliance in secret via a follower. She only wanted to meet the people who were the original denizens of Anfang."

'Hmm? A goddess... don't tell me...'

Eren was reminded of the moment when he had killed Sienna Slughorn. Sienna's body had become a temporary host to some goddess before the butcher was finally able to kill her for good. He wondered if it was the same goddess both times.

Nira didn't know that she was helping Eren connect so many loose ends in one go with her information. She just wanted to be done with her end of the deal in exchange for the Spirit Beast.

"Through the blessed follower, this goddess told the upper echelons of the alliance that she could finish what God Vulcan had started and secure the continent of Anfang from invaders for good.

Meaning she could activate the continent-spanning isolation array that God Vulcan had promised the denizens of Anfang. However, there was one condition."

Nira took a brief pause and looked at Eren with pity. As if he was a victim of generational torture. She sighed before continuing.

"The goddess wanted the Anfang Alliance to betray the half-blood clans. She wanted to use all the half-bloods as a sacrifice to create the continent-encompassing isolation array.

The Anfang Alliance remained in quiet desperation even after receiving the goddess' offer. Because it had lost its trust in gods and their believers. Still, the alliance was in a desperate situation. It didn't agree with the goddess' plans right away but it didn't take the half-blood clans into confidence either.

As the alliance fought the titans, it inadvertently changed its dynamics with the half-bloods step by step. Because the goddess gave plenty of assurances to make the alliance see the feasibility of the plan.

I guess House Samael had also started doubting the alliance's intentions because of its changed behavior. They say that it never released its research to the alliance even after achieving positive results.

The goddess's plan created a rift between half-blood clans and the Anfang Alliance. And the goddess's follower widened that divide further by reaching the upper echelons of the alliance time and again.

The alliance finally took the goddess up on her offer when it realized that the titans' attacks were only going to become more dreadful with time. It started employing the goddess' strategy step by step while the half-blood clans fought for the world's survival.

The alliance initiated an all-out battle against the Titans in the end. It then deployed most half-blood forces to one location. The Titan Slayers that belonged to the half-blood clans were also part of the same deployment, which included Sage Eliza.

Do you want to know what took place at the site of the deployment?"

Eren had a solemn face when he heard Nira's question. The latter didn't wait for his reply and provided the answer herself.

"Mass annihilation of the half-blood clans from the land of Anfang. The half-bloods were tricked into becoming sacrifices to get the continent-spanning array up and running." wtt