

## Vile 1101

### [Chapter 1101 Ivar Ironside](#)

A man was seen lording over a battle ring.

He was sitting on a chair placed at the highest altitude from the battle ring at the audience's bay. There was no audience watching the fights taking place inside the battle ring. The man sitting on the throne was the sole viewer and judge of the competition.

This man had a kind of wild air around him.

He had a side-swept haircut with peculiar tattoos covering his sideburns. He had a thick mane-like beard that reached his belly button. He had woven his beard hair into thick locks, giving him a pro-testosterone look.

Even while he was sitting, one could tell that he was at least 8 feet tall and massive overall. He had muscular arms and huge biceps. His legs were the muscular marvel of human anatomy.

The man was carrying a huge broadaxe on his back. A simple round shield and a relatively small axe were also attached to either side by his waist. A sword was also seen strapped to his right side. To put it simply, he treated the weapons as if they were jewelry and adorned them as much as he could.

The man was only wearing a set of shoulder guards that did nothing to hide his muscular torso. He was also wearing arm bracers made of thick beast hide.

He had wrapped a thick beast hide around his waist. He wore tattered brown pants with a dragon scale pattern.

This man was none other than Ivar Ironside - the Lionheart.

He was still serving as the grand duke of the Edinburgh kingdom even after his real body had left the world of Anfang. This version of Ivar was the remnant of his soul that was granted a mana body with the help of an array to judge the participants.

Ivar Ironside was one of the exceptional rankers of his time on the land of Anfang because of his berserking potential. He later took a close combat expert class and proved his mettle once again.

What the general populace didn't know was the fact that Ivar had again shifted to being a berserker after recovering from a serious injury. He had also dabbled a bit in potioning, creating his own brand of berserking concoctions that were all the rage in his time.

This man was the reason why the Lionheart duchy specialized in producing top berserkers and close combat experts. His interest in the field of potioning influenced LA to cater to potioners' needs as well.

Ivar had proved his mettle and was currently judging the young participants who had come to claim his legacy. The man kept things straightforward by pitting the participants against each other. He just told them to fight each other without worrying about wins or losses.

The participants didn't know what to do at first when they heard Ivar's unclear instructions after they were all summoned inside the giant battle ring. But then someone launched a sudden attack on the ranker standing beside him and all hell broke loose inside the ring.

The man who had launched an attack on his fellow participants without a moment's delay had come to understand Sage's intentions just fine. Ivar wanted to see people either beating other people up or receiving a beating themselves.

Various battles started taking place in the battle ring at the same time.

The participants started fighting each other without a set pattern. They just chose their opponents and battled with them until one of them was neutralized. The winner would then move on to fight the next opponent.

Ivar didn't even say that he would pass on his legacy to the last man standing inside the battle ring. With an emotionless face, he judged the winners and losers as if there wasn't any difference between them.

Ivar was particularly interested in the ranker who had started the chaos inside the battle ring as soon as he received the instructions. The man's emerald-green eyes would strike fear into the hearts of his opponents.

When this man attacked, he aimed to kill. When he played defense, he seemed untouchable. He could seamlessly shift between various battle styles. He could act as a close combat expert when he needed to. His mid-range attacks made him come across as a berserker when he wanted to.

He beat every ranker that stood against him. As a result, the participants started grouping against him. Even then, they could not register a complete win against him.

"That's... that's a good move."

Ivar Ironside mumbled to himself as he watched the performance Eren was showcasing for him. The butcher had understood that the object of the test was not to score wins after wins against his opponents. It was to show one's aggression as a ranker, no matter which class one belonged to.

Therefore, Eren started attacking his opponents ferociously. He didn't care if they died or survived after he was done with them. He tried to grab Sage's attention by doing what he knew best- butchering people up.

So it should come as no surprise that Ivar was very impressed by Eren's performance on the test. He watched Eren's performance silently and came to understand that the guy had walked in the same shoes as him.

'He is a berserker... or was a berserker in the past. And he is an equally competent close combat expert in the present.'

Ivar could decipher Eren's apparent moves easily. The vestige of his soul was also updated with the current happenings in the kingdom. Therefore, he knew Eren was also known to be a potioneer. The guy had a legit potioneer's license to boot and was running a successful potion industry.

'He... he is just like me.'

Ivar Ironside's eyes shone as he made a decision. The butcher didn't even have to finish the group he was fighting. The Sage Berserker clapped his hand once and everyone inside the battle ring disappeared. All except Eren.

Butcher was not surprised that he had resolved the matter for Ivar Ironside's test so quickly. He smiled and bowed at the Sage, expecting his guidance in return.

### [Chapter 1102 + Berserker Class](#)

"Boy, have you been using me as an example for your ranking journey?"

Ivar asked, looking at Eren curiously. The latter didn't take much time to understand what the Sage Berserker was talking about.

Ivar assumed that Eren practiced the paths of berserker and close combat expert at the same time. Although there was no doubt in his mind that Eren was a close combat expert, the moves he had shown in the battle ring portrayed him as an excellent berserker.

Eren didn't correct Ivar by saying that he was a berserker in his past timeline. He decided to use the Sage berserker's assumption about him as the foundation to further his own agenda.

"That's... that's right, Sage Ivar."

The butcher sounded nervous. He looked at Ivar as if he was meeting his idol—his eyes exuding a peculiar shine. He gulped and cleared his throat before speaking further.

"I... I was inspired by your journey from a very young age. That's why I decided to join the Lionhearts Adventurers' Academy. It was based on your experiences as a ranker, after all.

Even if my main path is a close combat expert, I started practicing the berserker moves from my Novice rank. I also started dabbling in potioneering just like you did when you were injured and had to make some difficult choices.

You... you never wavered from your path despite the difficulties you faced along the way. That's why I decided to achieve the same form of success by copying you.

You have always been like a father figure..."

Alephee started coughing severely while she was resting when she heard Eren's bullshittery. She wondered how someone could lie so perfectly with a straight face. She would have had a red face saying something like this in Eren's shoes and her lie would have been easily caught.

However, Eren was an old sinner.

He didn't mind praising the Sage if it helped him get more from him. And Alephee suggested not to provoke any Sage anyway. The butcher considered his act to be in line with the homunculus' suggestion.

Ivar looked at Eren with a stoic face. But he couldn't help but flash a smile when he processed Eren's words in his mind. He wanted to say that the past was more complicated than the stories about him might have led today's generation to believe. He wasn't Edinburgh's savior but one of its shadow rulers.

On second thought, however, the berserker decided not to speak of such a thing.

Ivar coughed and straightened his posture. He straightened his posture and chuckled before speaking further.

"Haha. Indeed. The nuances of the Berserker and close combat classes can indeed be practiced together. Back then, I had to regress in my ranking journey to take up the close combat class.

Plus, the kingdom's foundation wasn't as solid as it is now. We were in a constant state of war when I was in Anfang. Things were tough. Really tough.

Being a close combat expert was a turning point for me. I had to struggle..."

Ivar started depicting his struggles like they were a montage of inspiring images. The butcher cursed the berserker in his head for wasting his time. He just wanted to get everything the Sage had to offer him and leave the place.

However, the butcher played the character as someone who was completely inspired by Ivar's life story impeccably. At the end of Ivar's speech, Eren had supposedly become star-struck.

"Hahaha. Boy, I see that you want to follow in my footsteps. Your weapon comprehension is also good enough. Here. Take this."

Ivar offered Eren his transcendent-grade broadaxe. He threw it at Eren from where he was along with an array disk that could allow a berserker to fine-tune their mana circuits. Eren also caught a scroll thrown by Ivar that contained a powerful Axe art.

Eren was delighted by Ivar's gifts. But he wanted more from the guy. Especially after praising the guy so much.

Eren started looking at Sage Ivar's other weapons intently without saying anything. His subtle message was clear. He wanted to inherit Ivar's other axe as well as the broadsword he had attached to his belt.

Ivar was in a dilemma seeing Eren with star-studded eyes looking at him like he was some form of god. In the end, the big guy with a relatively soft heart caved in and offered Eren his transcendent-grade axe and sword as well.

Eren stored everything Ivar gave him in his storage. But he wasn't satisfied.

'More. I want more.'

Eren thought to himself before looking at the berserker's shield. Before commenting, he looked at Ivar with hope in his eyes.

"Lord... Lord Ivar. Would you mind giving me your shield artifact as well? It will not only safeguard me but will also provide me with mental support for future battles. It would be like my idol himself is trying to protect me through that shield."

By this point, Ivar Ironside had come to realize that Eren was probably praising him to get more benefits out of him. After all, there was a limit to the big guy's gullibility. But he decided to give Eren what he wanted anyway.

Ivar felt like it had been a long time since someone had praised him. The guy just wanted to overlook the butcher's selfish nature and focus on the positive things he had said about him. One could say that the vestige of Ivar's soul craved recognition.

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Eren acquired the Berserker class at the end of the 27th day inside Sansara World.

The Berserker class was special to Eren. After all, it was a class he was forced to choose in his previous timeline. Even after various obstacles, he achieved an Adept rank in the Berserker class at that time. All by his own willpower and efforts.

Even while the class was forced on him, Eren had shaped himself into a relatively good berserker. The bitter times had taught him many nuances of being a berserker. That's why he could use that knowledge as a guiding light for Steve and the dual berserkers.

### [Chapter 1103 Targeting White Raven Crew](#)

Eren had been using his berserking knowledge and skills passively in the current timeline.

He first trained Steve. Then he took the dual berserkers under his wings to serve as his henchmen. He had told Rodrick to start things from scratch after finding out how the guy operated as a berserker.

His suggestion had helped Rodrick Renar a lot. The royal scion listened to Eren's words and changed his class midway at the cost of stepping back in his ranking journey.

The reason Eren was a capable berserker despite the odds placed against him in the last timeline was that the berserker class amplified the ranker's powers based on their aggression. The butcher had an insurmountable amount of pent-up aggression in his last timeline, serving as fuel to shape him into a worthy berserker.

However, Eren's past wasn't as motivational to him when he was living it as it was at this point when he was retrospecting it. He had exhausted his potential as a ranker when he broke into the Adept rank at that time. He couldn't make much use of the class due to a lack of resources.

This timeline was different though.

Eren could get access to all the ranking resources he could possibly need to support his newly acquired class. It was time for him to put his past experiences to effective use— and not in a passive way.

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Day 28: Two days from the graduation event's conclusion.

Things were getting tense.

It had become a showdown between all five academies' exceptional rankers of their generation. Only 18 teams remained in the Sansara World, including the White Raven crew.

The moderators inside the Sansara World had also taken care of the majority of the infiltrators. The moderators from Edinburgh's side were now trying to locate the ones among them who had defected to the enemy kingdom, finding and neutralizing them through a grid search.

The moderators also knew that it was highly probable the participants' teams might have infiltrators among them. However, they would stay as sleeper cells for the most part until they had a reason and chance to act. Thus, the moderators prioritized critical matters first.

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There was a rush to get to the last Sage legacy testing ground.

The White Raven crew was trying to get there as well. However, the team was in dire circumstances. There was a certain anxiety on most of the team members' faces as they ran through the woods using their respective movement spells.

The reason for this anxiety was that the crew was being attacked by 12 of the 17 remaining teams. The reason for the attack was simple. The White Raven crew had achieved too much success in the event as a whole.

It wasn't clear who had obtained Sage Nira's legacy. Or if it was acquired at all. But it was confirmed that Eren's team had managed to claim two Sage legacies to itself.

Having a Sage legacy was already a big deal. But claiming two legacies back-to-back made the White Raven crew stand out like a sore thumb. Plus, some of the rankers had decided to band together against Eren. He had prevented them from claiming Sage Loxley's Legacy and gave them death threats after all.

All of the participants who had survived to this point were strong rankers in their own right. They had their own egos to tend to.

They considered themselves to be equally worthy of the Sage Legacies as Eren and his team members. Why did they not get their hands on the Sage Legacies if they were so capable? All of them came to a singular conclusion— they weren't as lucky as Eren.

The White Raven crew would have fought with a team or two without having to worry about losing its assets. The trio of Eren, Steve, and Ramy alone would have soloed such teams individually without breaking a sweat. Each of the three was able to face an entire team by himself and come out on top for the most part.

In addition, Eren had given the team members items from the Sage Legacies, which had strengthened them greatly. Renita was given Nira Nightshade's transcendent-grade bow while Steve owned Ivar Ironside's transcendent-grade broadsword. Other team members had also received groundbreaking items and artifacts.

Therefore, each member of the White Raven crew was a lot stronger than before. The team's strength had also increased as a whole because of the individual growth of every ranker involved.

However, being attacked by 12 teams simultaneously was not something the White Raven crew could take lightly. Especially at this point— where everyone had leveled up and was at their full potential.

Plus, the Perks from Sansara World made things difficult to predict for anybody. It was especially disadvantageous for a team that was being targeted by so many rankers with different fighting styles and loads of Perks backing them.

Eren knew that the forces of Layos had interfered with the live feed of the event. Still, he didn't want to take the risk of using his Sin Series Abilities on the participants. They had become too potent to be used carelessly inside Sansara World.

Plus, the butcher was more aware of his powers than ever before. His bloodline was even more special than he gave it credit for. He didn't want to do anything that would make him get targeted by Demonmir, Edinburgh, or possibly... Anfang Alliance.

Eren wasn't as afraid of Demonmir as he was before. But he decided to be cautious about the Demon Prince who had possessed him.

Even with the Sin Series abilities, Eren didn't think he could beat half of the 12 enemy teams made of outstanding rankers. Especially when Sansara Perks played a major role in acting as spoilers. So he was the first one to suggest fleeing the scene when they started getting attacked and acted on it as soon as he said it.

Under the guise of targeting the flags, the other teams sought to loot the Sage Legacies from the White Raven crew. The attacking teams had agreed to a temporary truce among themselves until they got rid of Eren's team and obtained some of its loot.

#### [Chapter 1104 Victims Of Political Powerplays Fighting Among Themselves](#)

All legitimate participants and infiltrators could be considered victims of political power plays.

At this point, everyone was aware that the enemy kingdom's forces had infiltrated the event. And that they were targeting prominent rankers of the younger generation. Most of them had even fought with such infiltrators and survived.

They cursed the kingdom of Edinburgh for playing with their lives just to keep its nose high in front of the kingdom of Layos. However, each of them could be considered a veteran ranker.

They knew that things like these were part and parcel of rankers' lives. As such, they decided to prioritize their own benefits first before they thought of what was best for the entire kingdom. A tit for tat.

For the teams that were still active in the event, there were multiple benefits to targeting the White Raven crew.

First of all, it had enough flags at this point to make it up to the last day without any worries. That is if the flags in its possession were not taken by any other team. So it made perfect sense for the teams to attack Eren's team even under normal circumstances.

The 12 teams could have fought among themselves to remain in the event until the last day. However, why fight among themselves when they had a mammoth to take down in the form of the White Raven crew?

The White Raven's possession of the two Sage legacies added a cherry on top, making it more tempting to be attacked by other teams. Such temptations were difficult to resist.

Eren and his teammates had gotten injured while they were making a run for the last test site. They had been intercepted by a bunch of teams at this point who attacked with intentions to harm them for real.

The White Raven crew had collected a lot of team-based Perks due to their stellar performance throughout the event. To ensure its survival and safety, it used these Perks one after another.

Eren didn't get frustrated by the participants who were targeting him and his team. He knew that he would have done the same thing if he had been in their shoes.

However, the butcher knew a thing or two about carrying grudges. He had decided to "pay them for their hospitality" before the event ended. That too with interest. Until then, he had decided to pick his battles wisely.

Eren had digested Ken's memories.

He knew that a similar situation had happened to the protagonist. At that time, Ken had chosen to make himself the target of his enemies to keep his team safe from harm.

Eren knew that the division of his team into many groups was the right thing in this situation as well. However, he didn't want to make the same mistake Ken did by underestimating his enemies. He also didn't think that he should carry the weight of his entire team on his shoulders.

The butcher decided to trust his teammates instead of trying to safeguard them as if they were babies. He decided that everyone would fight their own battle instead of someone buying time for the rest of them.

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The 28th night inside Sansara World brought with it a peculiar chilliness. There was a certain bloodlust in the air that had unknown origins.

There were no birds or beasts inside Sansara World, so the forest regions felt completely strange and unnatural. The region the White Raven crew was traversing through at this point was no different from this rule.

An eerie silence was maintained despite the rankers' extreme movements. Eren and his teammates used their movement spells in such a way that they created no sound. It was to avoid further interception by their enemies.

They had already used a lot of Perks to mask their presence. Some of Eren's teammates had even turned invisible. However, they all knew things like this were not completely effective.

Eren and the rest couldn't stay in one place for long either. Their enemies were getting close. And it was obvious that their chances of meeting other teams targeting them were only meant to increase as they approached their destination. There was only so much they could benefit from the roundabout way to reach the place.

They ran silently through the woods while keeping a fixed distance from each other. All of them had stoic expressions on their faces. Even Ramy Richards wasn't his usual self. He kept quiet and didn't try to joke around.

Eren kept his eyes on the spectral map he was accessing through the Sansara interface. He used a special map-based Perk to scan the area near him and found out that enemy teams were waiting for them up ahead.



He guessed that they would soon be surrounded by enemy teams. A significant number of rankers would be used to create a perimeter that would trap them. The rest of the rankers would approach them once the perimeter had been secured.

The tongues of lightning dancing around Eren were dispersed and he stopped in his tracks. He stood still on top of the highest branch of a tree and looked seriously at the aurora lights spreading across the night sky.

The butcher used a voice communication channel to address his team.

'Stop. There's an enemy flank ahead.'

The White Raven team members stopped executing their movement spells when they heard Eren's words. Some of them removed their Perks and made themselves visible.

'What should we do then?'

Steve asked while looking around. He was the least tired of the group. He had also made a complete recovery from his serious injury in a relatively short time. The said injury was inflicted on him during the last enemy interception. Steve had taken care of the female ranker who had targeted him before running away from the scene.

Eren pondered for a moment and thought of various possibilities at once. He thought of all the possible scenarios and came to a very obvious conclusion.

The butcher sighed before answering Steve's question.

### [Chapter 1105 Gondel The Geek](#)

The butcher sighed before answering Steve's question.

'We can't run in a single group anymore. It would make all of us an easier target for their AoEs and team-based Perks. And we can't stay here for long either. That leaves us with only one option— scatter and run.'

He looked at his teammates and pursed his lips before adding further.

'The more individual trails we create with our escape, the better off we all will be. So those who can afford to run away by themselves, do so. And those who think their survival depends upon a co-op, find your partner quickly.

We don't have much time.'

The White Raven team understood the severity of the situation quite well. They looked at each other, trying to come up with an exit strategy.

Becky looked at her teammates and clenched her fists before suggesting something radical to Eren.

'Eren... the alliance of these many teams is not something most of us would be able to handle. I... I suggest we give up some of the items we obtained from the three Sage Legacies and...'

'Fuck no.'

Eren shut Becky up right away. He looked at her in such a way that she had a cold shiver running down her spine. The butcher looked at his other teammates to see if anybody else agreed with Becky's self-sabotaging suggestion to get out of the mess.

'It is impossible for you to comprehend how much I have invested in obtaining these Sage Legacies. It has taken everything from me to get my hands on them. And you want me to give some of them up just because they carry some heat?

Death is part and parcel of a ranker's life. If you like giving up so easily, you shouldn't be here in the first place.'

Eren had run out of patience with Becky. But he also understood that now was not the time to take his anger on her. He told his other teammates to get started with the plan he had come up with.

Eren's teammates had also come to realize that Becky was letting her survival instincts get the better of her. They knew they had been nurtured by Eren to serve as his support at the graduation event all this time.

Nobody tried to escalate the matter any further. There were much more serious matters that needed their attention at the time.

Bel and Ana didn't want to separate from the group. They excelled at team play and needed their teammates' support for them to bring out their true potential. As a result, they wanted to barge out of the incoming siege together.

The dual berserkers Ron and Dino had also chosen to fight together. Their coordination with each other was brilliant. So it also made sense for them to break the perimeter together.

Eren, Jake, Renita, Steve, Ramy, and Becky had decided to break the siege individually. Meaning eight trails were supposed to be created by Eren's team after breaching the siege. That is if all of them succeed in breaking it and escaping the enemy teams surrounding them.

Eren's teammates had decided to disperse in multiple directions to escape the perimeter-in-making. Since the perimeter breach would happen at the same time in multiple directions, the enemy teams wouldn't be able to back each other up.

Eren's teammates would be in a pinch trying to escape multiple opponents. But it was still better than facing the combined force of multiple teams banding together. Plus, they would have an element of surprise on their side when they did this, raising their chances of getting away from their enemies.

Eren took out the transcendent-grade dagger he had received from Sage Loxley and felt its contours with his fingers. Blade reflected the image of his own emerald-green gaze.

'Make no mistake. With or without the infiltrators involved, these bastards would approach us with the intention to kill.

So my suggestion to you is simple. Prioritize your safety by focusing on fleeing. But when you do get a chance to kill your enemy, make sure you kill them for good.

All those who have survived inside the Sasara World are capable of surviving the Life and Death Altar, including us. So they will not make the mistake of letting the defense mechanism kick in only for you to

resurrect in a few minutes and target them. We also need to make sure we don't commit that mistake ourselves.'

Eren's teammates understood what he was talking about. And why he was telling them to kill the participants for real.

All those who had survived the Sansara World till this point had the capability of returning to the Life and Death Altar at least once or twice. So it didn't matter what the background of the participants was- whether they were legit participants or infiltrators. These opponents would keep coming back for Eren and his team if they let them go.

Incidentally, the other participants had a similar mindset. They didn't want to add to their trouble by allowing the defense mechanism to kick in for their opponents. They didn't want to hamper their chances of obtaining the last Sage Legacy in any form by allowing their opponents to live, offering them another chance to raise opposition.

The victims of the political power plays were now dead set on killing each other if it could allow them to get better rewards out of the Sansara World. Therefore, the butcher advised his team to have the same intentions as their opponents.

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Gondel and his teammates were excited to catch Eren's teammates in their wide-spread net.

Gondel was an outstanding Expert ranker from Sansara Academy, which was located in the eastern duchy of the Edinburgh kingdom- the Lehan duchy. He was often referred to as Gondel the Geek by his friends and foes alike.

Gondel was an average-looking man with a rather stout build. He was practicing the Array Master class.

There were many advantages an array master could get inside the Sansara World. These advantages were what allowed Gondel and his team to enter the Sansara World despite various groups of infiltrators targeting him.

### [Chapter 1106 Modded Perks](#)

Gondel the geek was an excellent captain and team player.

He had made effective use of the Perks that were given to him by Sansara World, ensuring survivability for himself and his entire team.

Gondel didn't have his usual array scrolls or array disks to count on inside the Sansara World. But he could use the Perks to create various spectral array inscriptions on the fly.

Gondel the geek could use them as array disks for potion traps, landmines, diversions, or spectral weapon launchers. Or he could make full-fledged arrays to serve as domain attacks.

Gondel's knowledge of arrays and inscriptions was in-depth and cutting-edge. He could use array domains to buff his teammates and debuff his opponents at the same time. When his expertise was paired up with the Perks from Sansara World, it allowed him to maximize his potential as an array master.

There was a reason why other rankers saw the students from Sansara Academy as nothing more than a bunch of geeks. Most of them spent their academic years studying the concepts of arrays and runic inscriptions. As a result, they didn't have that battle-oriented presence.

However, being geeks didn't mean these rankers should be seen as toothless tigers.

The Sansara World was created by Sage-ranked array master Lin Lehan anyway. The Sansara Sage had obviously incorporated a lot of the Perks used by the rankers who had the same class as him. This was the reason Gondel and his team could survive inside the Sansara World till this point.

Gondel and his team thanked their lucky stars for having studied the books written by Sansara Sage. Being a bunch of geeks, they didn't perform as well as the participants from other Academies when it came to no-nonsense frontal confrontations.

Nevertheless, they understood how to use array-based Perks better than anyone else. It was only natural that they would thrive inside the Sansara World.

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Gondel the geek felt like he had struck a goldmine inside the Sansara World.

He found out that he could use the array-based Perks as tools to tweak and unlock other Perks offered by the Sansara World. The array master could modify the existing Perks of the Sansara World and make them more potent to suit a specific need or function.

Of course, the modifications themselves wouldn't be too logic-defying if only one person or even a team used them. However, Gondel had found a way to stack the effects of the modifications to get enhanced output.

Usually, it would be impossible for any team to cast a debuff zone over such a wide zone inside the Sansara World. But with the other 11 teams' help, Gondel and his team managed to stack the effects of the modded Perks 11 times in a row.

They all needed to activate the mod Perks at the same time which were already in sync through the Sansara interface. The teams would stay immune to the debuff effects inside the special zone they would create with their mod Perks. And it would become easier for all of them to not only take care of Eren's team but also extract all their items from them.

Gondel the geek was angry at Eren for giving him death threats inside Sage Loxley's testing grounds. That's why he had come up with a strategy to trap him and his entire team using the modded Perks.

Gondel and his team had already disabled some of the Perks Eren's team had at its disposal using the interface-intrusive Perks, which prevented them from breaking the siege effortlessly. Meaning Eren and his team could see all the Perks they had on their Sansara interface. They just couldn't use them for some reason.

Eren didn't even know about Gondel's existence until this point. He had issued an all-inclusive death threat to all the rankers who were present at the scene before he met with Sage Loxley. He hadn't zeroed in on a particular individual.

However, he also knew that most rankers had a habit of trying to come up with reasons for their selfish actions. The reasons didn't have to make sense to everyone around them. As long as the end result was meant to give them some form of benefit, the rankers were content with whatever reasons justified their actions.

Eren had learned a lot of subtle things about rankers from his clash with Team Claho. It allowed him to understand the consequences of his actions retrospectively.

He didn't know about Gondel and his plan. But he knew something like this was going to happen if and when he started collecting Sage Legacies one after another.

That's why he spent a lot of Karma points to buy map-based Perks. He couldn't mod the Perks given to him as Gondel could. But he could make up for it by spending more Karma points to use Premium Perks.

The map-based Perks gave Eren a strategic advantage other teams didn't care to have. They thought that the trade-off wasn't worth it if one considered the Karma point expenditure.

Eren used his map-based Perks in the right way during the upcoming siege. It allowed him to plan potential routes for each of his teammates. They could use the derived routes to attack the siege at its weakest spot.

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"Hehehe."

A hyena-like laughter was heard in the silent night. A group of rankers was seen traversing the same forest Eren was in.

"I can't wait to see the look on that pompous dickhead Eren's face when he realizes his entire team has been caught inside a net. A net that I created to teach the bastard a lesson of his lifetime."

Gondel felt exhilaration as he led his team to their destined spot. His team was going to serve as part of the perimeter detail at first. It would then move on to confronting Eren after the modded Perks got activated.

Swoosh. Zoom. Pichuk.

Gondel felt like he had heard some kind of noise behind him. However, he sensed nothing out-of-the-ordinary with his mana sense. Plus, the guy was too busy thinking about targeting Eren to care about a random bump in the night.

### [Chapter 1107 Top Tier Assassination P1](#)

"You know Gondel..."

A pensive feminine voice sounded from behind Gondel the geek.

"Eren is an oddball from what I have learned about him. I think we should focus more on acquiring Sasara Sage's legacy than targeting someone like him.

It would be a real shame for all of us if Sage Lehan's legacy got claimed by someone other than the students of Sansara Academy."

A female ranker on Gondel's team decided to voice her opinion at last. She wasn't happy that her team wasn't prioritizing getting to the test grounds for the last Sage Legacy.

Gondel's team needed a bunch of flags without which it wouldn't be able to contend for the Sansara Sage's Legacy. However, targeting Eren's team was not the most effective way to get those minimum number of flags.

The female ranker thought that it was easier to target existing teams than to band together with them to attack Eren's team. However, Gondel was adamant about targeting Eren. He smirked after hearing the female ranker's advice before explaining his point of view.

"I'm not an idiot, Oshawa.

It makes sense to prioritize getting to the last test grounds and targeting other less risky teams. However, you don't know something that those present at Sage Loxley's Legacy understood.

Eren Elijah Idril is not just an oddball. I have felt his presence up close. He... He operates on a different wavelength.

The man is on a mission to claim all the Sage Legacies for himself. It is unclear what kind of test the Sansara Sage has prepared for us. If we allow that sneaky rat to enter the testing grounds, he's likely to claim the last Sage Legacy as well.

Trust me, I want to claim Sansara Sage's Legacy more than any of you. I have spent countless hours researching-- preparing myself for a big break like this, damn it. That's why it would serve us well to eliminate Eren now.

Even though my personal grudge has influenced my actions, I'm not blinded by it. We might not be able to face that bastard inside the testing grounds. But an alliance of 11 teams with all hands on deck is enough to get rid of his entire team. Once and for all. Hehehe."

Gondel the geek said confidently. With the number advantage plus the modded Sansara Perks, he was certain of his plan.

However, Gondel felt weird that Oshawa, the female ranker who had given him the suggestion earlier, stopped speaking to him all of a sudden. Curious, he stopped in his tracks and turned around only to see Oshawa's larynx being punctured by an invisible object.

"What the..."

It took a while for Gondel the geek to understand what he was seeing. He saw Oshawa's larynx not only punctured but also yanked out of its place before being handed to her in a series of actions that looked seamless.

Oshawa couldn't do anything against such a sudden attack. She looked at Gondel with a horrified expression and an open mouth, which ejected streams of blood. The streams of blood rolled down her clothes before making the ground wet.

The ground started sizzling because an Expert ranker's fresh blood and part of her butchered flesh started reacting with the earth, producing a bubbling sound and releasing petrichor in the air. A

phenomenon not too uncommon when it comes to rankers with special elemental affinities and aspects. Oshawa didn't even get to show how unique she was. She was forced to embrace death all too sudden.

Oshawa's hands were subconsciously raised in front of her in a defensive stance. Sadly for the female ranker, they couldn't defend her. Instead, they were being used as a hanger for her abruptly pulled larynx and windpipe.

Only now did Gondel realize that two more rankers from his team had been slaughtered without him knowing. Their bodies had become almost unrecognizable from their previous states. It was as if a butcher who was sent on an assassination assignment had gone too far by relying on his previous craft-- instead of killing the targets with the grace of a hitman.

The two rankers' bodies were found just a few meters away from each other. And the closest dead body was around 100 meters away from where Gondel was standing, which wasn't much of a distance for an Expert ranker like him.

The kill site subconsciously made it clear to Gondel that the assailant had attacked the first two rankers who were trailing behind the team in quick succession. He killed them to break the team's defensive formation and gain access to the female ranker on the team.

The assailant didn't wait long for attacking Oshawa after he killed the two rankers. Meaning even after overpowering the two rankers and killing them, he did not have his cover blown. That too while they were all using their movement spells.

The other rankers from Gondel's team were also catching up with these silent atrocities inflicted on them. The ones who had been tagged by the assailant couldn't even make a sound to express how shocked they were. It was clear that they would have been the next to die if the assailant's cover hadn't been blown.

This assailant had obviously used a combo of Perks to keep his kills as silent as they could be. But Gondel refused to believe that someone would be able to pull off such a feat with Perks alone.

This was a top-tier assassination. A predatory menace, who had access to cutting-edge assassination gear, had entered the fray.

For a moment, Gondel thought that Sage Loxley had come to kill his team.

The geek was too stunned to speak or do anything. His subconscious mind was trying to make sense of what he was seeing. As a result, he started searching through his memories to see if he had offended Sage Loxley in any way.

Gondel was forced to believe that there was no way someone from the participants would be able to perform such a flawless kill. Otherwise, he would have heard about him by now. His kill streaks, styles, and patterns would have been well documented.

Rankers like these were too few and too precious for any establishment. That is, if establishments could employ such rankers in the first place. Otherwise, such rankers would be hunted down under various reasons for the most part because they were threats to the rankers' societal fabric.

In the age of unavoidable exposure, who could manage to remain under a veil of mystery with skills like these making them stand out so much?

### [Chapter 1108 Top Tier Assassination P2](#)

The eyewitnesses to the gory scene felt like time had been slowed down for them.

It looked like someone had kept their invisible hand pressed against Oshawa's mouth. Her open mouth, which was spewing blood, looked like it had been pressed against a glass surface. The assassin had also held her body by her waist, using her as a shield to protect themselves from Gondel's potential attacks.

At this point, Gondel's entire team had come to realize it was too late to save the three rankers. The first two had already died. And Oshawa's heart stopped a second ago.

The assailant didn't even allow Sansara World's defense mechanism to get triggered. The rankers were killed before the defensive mechanism had a chance to activate. Meaning he didn't need to exploit the delay in the defense mechanism for these kills.

The only reason the invisible assailant had maintained his hold on the surprised-looking and deader-than-dead Oshawa was that he was waiting for other rankers to have a chink in their defense.

The assassin was analyzing the rankers surrounding him with the eyes of an apex predator.

Neither the predator nor his eyes could be seen at first. But the rankers instinctively noticed the predator's gaze on their flesh. They had goosebumps on their skin as a result.

Slap!

Gondel slapped himself to snap out of the shock he was feeling. He had already lost three of his teammates out of the blue. He didn't want to lose any more of them.

"Dis... fucking disperse!"

Gondel's hatred for Oshawa's killer was evident in his words. Shades of panic and anguish could also be seen on his face. Using each Perk after another, he isolated the assailant and the dead Oshawa.

Gondel's Perks worked their magic. A blurred image of a person was seen standing behind Oshawa, holding her still by her waist and neck. It took another second for the blur to get unblurred, revealing the image of Oshawa's assassin to her still-breathing teammates.

The assassin was wearing a beaked mask. He was completely invisible because of this mask, which was a transcendent-grade artifact that could be used for a limited time every day for carrying out silent assassinations.

He was also holding a transcendent-grade anelace with which he punctured Oshawa's throat with surgical precision. It was imbued with the fusion of lightning and fire manas. And yet, it didn't give off any mana signature, as if it was a rankless dagger meant to be used by mortals.

The man had black hair and a lean body. For a brief moment, Gondel felt like this man had blue eyes. But when he blinked, they had turned emerald green. His presence also felt... otherworldly... for a fraction of a second before it returned to normalcy.



He was wearing a hooded long black jacket along with dark pants. His black shoes had runic engravings which would exude faint, light blue breathing light. His body was surrounded by tiny streaks of lightning and a thin layer of fire mana.

Gondel could guess where the transcendent-grade artifact had come from judging by the look of the mask. The beaked nose mask and anelace were associated with only one man as far as Gondel knew, which was the Grand Duke of Edinburgh. And Gondel knew that there was now someone who had inherited his legacy.

"EREN MOTHERFUCKIN IDRIL!"

Gondel screamed at the assassin with a voice coated in anger and injustice. With his mere thought, Sage Loxley's mask was removed from his face and converted into a small tattoo before disappearing completely. The dagger in his hand also disappeared into thin air.

Eren smiled slightly at Gondel. His presence and body language were as calm as still water despite the violence he had unleashed on three rankers not too long ago.

"Hi, there... Stranger. One-sided introductions are no good. What's your name, might I ask?"

Eren didn't mind Gondel's rude way of addressing him. He asked Gondel the geek casually while making Loxley's anelace appear in his hand once again. He played with it for a fraction of a second using Unlimited Knife Works before making it disappear once again.

The butcher was experimenting with his assassin class.

He had used his bloodline powers to keep his looks the same despite the use of the assassin class. As a result, he felt uncomfortable using it in the presence of his usual body. So fidgeting with the anelace was his way of coping with the discomfort.

'Damn it. Damn it. God fucking damn it. This... Why did it happen to us? Eren... No... It's those artifacts... The Sage Legacies are indeed amazing. It allows a close combat expert to move like an assassin.'

Gondel attributed Eren's assassination skills to his acquisition of Sage Loxley's Legacy. He had also come to understand that what Oshawa was saying to him just before her death was right all along.

He clenched his hands into fists and took a few deep breaths as if to quell his anger and other emotions. He shook his head and relaxed before answering Eren's question.

"Name's Gondel.

Listen here, Eren. Your team has already won two of the four Sage Legacies the graduation event had to offer. I don't want to create a conflict with you. But you know how significant Sage Lehan's Legacy is to us Sansara Academy's students.

As long as you give me an assurance that you won't raise a claim for the last Sage Legacy and compensate me for killing my teammates, we won't..."

Gondel was trying to distract Eren with his fake peace talks while one of his teammates initiated an attack on him. The geek thought that he was doing a convincing job pulling off acting as a peacemaker. Unfortunately for him and his teammates, it couldn't be further from the truth.

Swoosh. Zoom. Clang.

Eren intercepted the attacker's attack effortlessly. He used his anelace to defend himself from the assassin's karambits— a pair of curved short knives meant for silent killings.

The compressed curvature of the blades allows the user to generate concentrated slash waves in a restricted area, making them suitable for close combat confrontations.

The assassin made these karambits with his wind element mana. These spectral weapons were further strengthened by the modded Perks.

However, even with such advantages, the assassin from Gondel's team was not able to even slightly injure the butcher. A showdown ensued between the two assassins then and there as they exchanged dozens of moves with each other in a matter of seconds.

### [Chapter 1109 Quitting While Ahead](#)

The Sansara Academy had its own ways of nurturing rankers of different backgrounds.

It allowed its students to pursue other classes while empowering them with the study of arrays. The concept of arrays itself did not have any restrictions so to speak. So it was possible to use it any way one wanted it to be as long as the array was well designed for the purpose.

This ranker from Sansara Academy was not a typical assassin. He was less dependent on his gear and his assassination skills and more on the array imprints he had all over his body. He could even store the neurological signals of various muscles inside his array imprints. This allowed him to automatically perform various types of actions suited to a range of scenarios.

The stored neurological signals were based on the movements of exceptional assassins. It was a geek's way of imitating assassination skills without having to work for them.

As opposed to learning skills from various classes and professions manually, the rankers at Sansara Academy studied arrays instead. The result of all this was a ranker who could move and perform like a veteran assassin within set parameters.

Lightning struck and Eren moved. He and the assassin from Gondel's team fought at their full strength while Gondel's team tried to launch a sneak attack on Eren. Gondel and the team didn't try to approach Eren carelessly while he and the deviant assassin were fighting. They knew that doing so might jeopardize their own teammates' lives.

The landscape started changing as the Expert-ranked entities fought. Greenery was destroyed and the ground was covered with craters of various shapes, sizes, and depths. Various mana fluctuations started spreading in the surroundings, creating a variety of elemental manifestations in the process.

Eren and Gondel's side came to understand one thing after fighting with each other for a few minutes. Both sides underestimated each other.

Eren and the deviant assassin used multiple Sansara Perks to empower their offense and defense while they fought. The butcher didn't have a problem handling his opponent. But he had to remain wary of the attacks initiated by Gondel's teammates, which were distracting.

The butcher had to say that he had underestimated the geeks. He had thought that they would be easy to deal with since how easily he could kill the three rankers. But it turns out they had Trump cards of their own they could use against him after being made aware of his presence.

The class of assassin wasn't really meant for frontal combat anyway. So the butcher decided to pull back.

Blitz Sheild

Blitz Storm.

Beast Contract Spell.

Blink.

Eren coated himself in a lightning cloak. Bitz Storm served as a diversion and a second line of defense for Eren. He summoned Ertaur and made him attack the assassin before finding a breather to use Blink.

Ertaur bellowed as soon as he arrived at the scene before using Red Bull Rush on the assassin. The latter was caught off guard by Eren's sudden diversion and retreat. He couldn't avoid Ertaur's charge at him. The next thing he knew he was thrown 100s of meters away from his position— with streaks of red lightning trying to invade his mana defense.

Eren was still besieged by Gondel's team at this point even if he had managed to create distance between himself and the assassin. Still, nobody else approached him carelessly. A couple of them were busy securing the assassin from Eren's potential follow-up attacks, while others were wary of Ertaur.

Eren was no longer interested in continuing his endeavor, contrary to what they thought. He wanted to quit while he was ahead.

"It was a pleasure meeting you guys. But... I'm short on time.

I think I'll take my leave from here. Unless... you want to know me better and want me to stay. What will it be?"

Eren said and smiled at Gondel while maintaining a safe distance. His message to the geek was simple— he didn't want to engage with Gondel's team. But he would go all out if forced.

"You fucking creep... you think you can just kill three of our teammates and we will let you go..."

One of the rankers from Gondel's team was pissed at Eren for even thinking of retreating at this point when the conflict had registered casualties from their side. But Eren didn't have to say anything to the angry ranker. He was forced to stop talking by his captain-Gondel the geek before Eren could say something.

"Let... let him go."

Gondel spoke with some difficulty. He had clenched his hands so hard that his nails had dug deep into his skin— his fists dripping blood on the ground. It was clear that the geek didn't want Eren to escape scot-free either. And yet, he had decided to make a compromise for greater interest.

'But Captain Gondel....

'Shut the fuck up. We will talk about all of this later. Let him go first. Don't fucking attack him.'

Gondel spoke over voice communication with conviction and shushed his teammates' objections to his decision. The butcher, on the other hand, smiled at Gondel before calling Ertaur back. He dispersed the Beast Contract Spell and waved at the geek before putting on the beaked mask.

In the next moment, Eren vanished from the scene. Not only was the combination of the beaked mask and Blink extremely effective in the assassination, but it also enabled one to get rid of one's pursuers effectively. Gondel's team couldn't follow Eren's trail at all after he made his exit.

Gondel used a few Perks and made sure that Eren was not in the vicinity before breathing a sigh of relief. The assassin who had been thrown away from the battlefield returned to Gondel in a less-than-ideal condition.

The red lightning bull's sudden attack had really done a number on the assassin. Plus, the defense wasn't his strong suit because of his agility-focused class. Still, even he did not like that Gondel had given up fighting Eren this early.

"Gondel, I think we should follow him. Let's forget about the siege. I am sure I can follow him if I try. That Beast summon surprised me. But I won't let that happen to me next time."

Gondel shook his head in denial and sighed before revealing his thoughts.

#### [Chapter 1110 The Bane Of Scorching Flames](#)

Gondel shook his head in denial and sighed before revealing his thoughts.

"You all are thinking in the wrong direction.

It seems obvious to me that the net we thought we could use to target Eren's team is not useful anymore. At least not as useful as we wanted it to be. I am sure others from that cunt's team had also made a run from multiple directions to divide the 12 teams that were pursuing them.

So I have scrapped the plan of cornering Eren's team entirely. I'll let others carry on with this plan to see what they can achieve with it. But that's a different matter altogether.

The thought of revenge has blindsided you guys— all of you. We don't have the luxury to pursue Eren. That's because we don't have a healer on our team.

Oshawa is no more."

Gondel looked at Oshawa's corpse in the distance. Since the battlefield had changed, it had been left at its original location. The geek then looked at his teammates with grim expressions before continuing.

"Do you understand?

Oshawa's death means we won't be able to heal anyone on time if they get critically injured. You guys saw how that bastard fought. Do you want to tell me that none of you would need healing aid if he started fighting us seriously?

Jaaka and Rey are dead as well. A lot of our battle formations and tactics have gone out the window because of these three deaths. We can't take any more risks if we want to claim Sage Lehan's Legacy.

Any other serious injury or even death would mean that we wouldn't be able to defend the flags we have collected so far."

Gondel spoke calmly and collectively. He remained focused despite three teammates' deaths as if he had forcefully switched to his pragmatic side. His teammates looked at each other before metaphorically dropping their shoulders. They didn't object to his decision anymore.

One had to say that Eren's way of targeting the healer had paid off this time. That's because Oshawa's special healing spells acted as the foundation for Team Gondel's battle tactics. Their battle formations also made use of her spells. Without her, it could be said that Team Gondel had basically lost one of its limbs.

Gondel and his team eventually disappeared from the battlefield. They did not continue the siege they had planned with the rest of the teams. Instead, they chose to target other teams that were not part of the siege plan.

Under Gondel's command, his teammates were prioritizing Sage Lehan's Legacy instead of getting a share from previous Sage Legacies. They also didn't inform the other teams what had happened to them, wanting them to continue with the plan.

The battlefield became devoid of any presence. The corpses of two rankers, who were killed by Eren, were also made to disappear by the Sansara World.

Unknown to anyone, the killer of the scene had returned to his kill site. Not to admire his work and indulge in vainglory but to do something radical using the hands of his enemies.

What Gondel had assumed as Eren's retreat was only meant to make them give up on him. The butcher dispersed the beaked mask and observed his surroundings for a while. The artifact could only be used for a limited time per day and he wanted to save the remaining time for his next job.

'Have you thought this through?'

Aleph's voice was heard by Eren in his mind. He nodded before replying to her.

'I have. It depends on her, to be honest. Let's see how she performs.'

Eren confirmed that nobody from Gondel's team was following him. He then turned in the opposite direction from Gondel, entering the siege perimeter other teams were busy creating.

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Blue Fire Domain.

As siege initiators fought their sole target, a hemisphere of blue fire was created. One side contained only one female mage that had created the Blue Fire Domain. The other side contained a team of rankers focused on killing her at all costs.

The female mage's domain spell was very potent.

The blue fire she manifested all around her would absorb the heat from things instead of scorching them. The blue flames would freeze their targets after bringing down their regular temperatures to zero as they burned.

A flame that would freeze one to death instead of burning its targets.

With the help of her element's unique inherent nature, the female mage managed to kill two of her opponents. The dead bodies were shattered after they were turned into ice sculptures. The pieces of their flesh were still covered in an icy membrane, preventing them from leaking blood. It was as if the female mage subconsciously wanted to avoid seeing blood and gore on the battlefield even when she killed for a living.

However, at the end of the day, this trapped female in a siege was a mage.

Most mages were referred to as glass cannons because of their inability to handle close combat duels. And unfortunately for the female mage, she wasn't an exception to the stereotype.

There were still six rankers present inside the blue fire domain. They protected themselves from being affected by the blue flames using their respective defensive spells.

These rankers were caught off guard by the female mage's sudden appearance. She had used her long-range spells coupled with a few unique Perks she collected to eliminate the two rankers from the team. She then tried to flee from the scene, hoping she had caused them enough threats for them not to follow her.

She had obviously underestimated the rankers that were still remaining in the Sansara World. They were obviously intimidated by the appearance of such a capable mage. But that wasn't enough for them to give her a hit-and-run pass.

"Bitch... You are not getting out of this alive."

Angry and frustrated, one of the six rankers spoke to the female ranker. She was a knight—standing closest to the female mage with a layer of orange flames protecting her from the effects of the blue flames.

The blue flames would siphon the heat out of the knight-class female ranker's orange flames, turning them somber in nature. But the orange flames kept the knight from being affected by the blue flames.

It seemed that the blue flames were the bane of the scorching flames and vice versa.