

## Vile 321

### [Chapter 321 - F!](#)

"Blitz Bolt."

Eren executed his go-to lightning element spell for the first time in his battle against the wraiths. He ran towards the approaching apparition and directed the bolt generated from his finger to pass through its heart again.

Screeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee

The mana defence layer couldn't completely prevent the sound from entering Eren's ears as the apparition screeched with all that it could. It was infused with the lightning element mana as the bolt ran through it. The form started dissolving in the air as a result.

And yet, the apparition continued screaming at its opponent who by now was frozen in his steps. That was because the screech had temporarily made him lose control over his body. He had goosebumps on his body and it felt like his soul was getting affected by that screech.

The dwarf's apparition had opened its mouth unnaturally wide as it produced that soul-shaking voice. Eren's lightning-element defensive element was still intact. But it looked like the attack was not something it could block on its own.

'\*Sigh! You owe me a hundred, Eren.'

Alephee sighed and spread her soul sense to wrap Eren's body within it. The invisible and immaterial protection granted by her was what allowed Eren to finally gain control over his body. He was about to thank his companion but her urgent voice was heard in his head again:

'The sword wraith managed to break its siege. Behind you.'

Eren opened his eyes wide when he heard Alephee's voice. He rolled to the front and tried using his movement spell to get far away from his current position. But he couldn't manage to do that while remaining unscathed.

The sword warrior of the elven race swung his sword unnaturally as he spun around. The move was fast as if he was chopping a huge tree in one go with that amateur-looking stance.

The action taken by the sword wraith was so sudden that it created afterimages of the sword. This made it look like the motion he had performed just now was pathetically slow. Due to this, no matter how quickly Alephee warned Eren, his right leg was slashed in the back. The Achilles tendon of his right leg had a huge slash on it as a result.

"Aaaaargh!"

Eren yelled in pain as he managed to get away from the sword warrior. He ceased using his movement spell when he was at a sufficient distance from his attacker.

The sword did not manage to reach the butcher. But the sword's dark blue mana infused attack converted the rest of the imbued mana into a flying slash that injured the butcher. The attack's dark

blue mana was concentrated in the form of a slash. Thus, it was able to break through the butcher's defensive spell and its inherent defensive layer with ease.

The dark blue mana started pervading Eren's body as it numbed the feeling of pain after a few moments. It was as if he had no slash wound on his right leg at all. If Eren didn't know any better, he would just assume that his right leg didn't have any injury at all behind its back.

This was one of the scariest parts of the battle against the wraiths. A sense of pain was needed to gauge the danger the injury carried. If the ranker doesn't feel the pain and is not aware of the injury, the dark blue mana would progress at a faster rate. This is because the ranker wasn't aware it had entered its body.

"How did he..."

Eren wondered how the sword guy managed to break through the siege first even though he had already assigned two fire snakes to him. He finally got his answer when he looked around.

The fire snakes were no more. All of them were dispersed. The wraiths who had been subjected to the fire-element attacks were slowly walking towards him with even more of their bodies missing.

Eren realized that the dwarf's attack had paralyzed him and his mind. His stacked animated spell in the form of fire snakes which shared his consciousness was dispersed when that happened.

'Wait a minute. If all the fire snakes are disappeared, where the fuck is that old hag...'

Eren's mana sense suddenly sent him warning signals that were coming from his left side. But it was already too late. The old hag had sneakily approached her prey and touched him on his left arm, just below the shoulder.

"Screeeeeeee!"

Eren's thoughts were still a bit distraught. Therefore, he had forgotten to strengthen his natural defence layer one more time post his mind-freezing moment. So when the old hag opened her mouth to scream at him, he took the full brunt of that attack.

'Not again.'

Aleph spread her soul sense and covered Eren's head with it. By the time Eren snapped out of the mind-numbing effect, the old hag had managed to break through his unstable defensive spell and inconstant defensive layer. She touched his bare skin with the tip of her right index finger's long nail.

Eren's life force was drained at a rapid pace when the human female wraith managed to touch him. The nail had also managed to inflict a wound on Eren's body. The old hag sent her dark blue mana into Eren's system through that wound.

Ideally, Eren's lightning-element spell shouldn't have been broken so easily by the old hag. But since he had suffered an injury to his right Achilles heel and his body was invaded by the foreign mana sent through it, his defensive spell became unstable. In addition, the old hag's screech that sounded so close to him made his overall defence even weaker.

Before the butcher could do anything about the invading dark blue foreign mana wreaking havoc inside his body or get away from the old hag, the sword elf wraith's next slash was upon him.

The sword wraith had managed to cover the distance between him and Eren when the latter was busy dealing with the old hag's screech. The wraith sent his flying slash towards his opponent before he reached him.

Eren's left hand has now been grabbed by the old hag— basically pinning him to his place. His right leg was injured. Plus, he was distraught in mind and mana control.

He only had one thought running through his head as he saw the flying dark-blue slash approach him at a rapid pace:

F!

### [Chapter 322 - Mortal Danger](#)

Eren couldn't stop cursing his luck when he saw the flying slash closing the distance between them at a rapid pace. By now his arm had been tightly grasped by the old hag despite the lightning-element mana invading her body and doing damage.

'Eren, I... I can't keep my consciousness active any... more. The rest of... the fight... you... need... too...'

'Alephee? Alephee! Fuccccck!'

Alephee's feeble voice sounded in Eren's head. She had been put to sleep due to the overuse of her soul sense.

The butcher realized the most horrible day in his life since his rebirth had gotten even more unbearable after the soul sense protection offered by Alephee was retired. This was perhaps the biggest danger he had found himself to be in ever since his new lease on life had begun.

Eren's movement spell couldn't be executed properly due to the netherworld-ice element pervading his right leg. He could only do two things at this point: strengthen his defensive spell and use his right hand's palm as a defensive weapon.

It would be necessary for him to use a combination of fire and lightning elements to kill the flying slash's momentum and lethality. Then he would have to sustain the rest of the flying slash with his defensive spell. Plus, his vitality would keep on getting drained by the old hag as he tried to prioritize his safety.

Eren did exactly that and followed his makeshift plan to a T. He first executed the Blitz Bolt and maintained its form without releasing it. He then fired a fireball as well. He sent both of them towards the flying slash at the same time when it got within striking range.

Swoosh!

Fire and lightning attacks caused some damage to the flying slash. Mostly due to the Blitz Bolt, the fireball spell was spread over a large area— decreasing its potency. Lightning element spells were good enough. But they had terrible compatibility with the netherworld-ice element.

Still, every reduction of the slash's potency counted in Eren's situation.

The next couple of moments were driven by Eren's instinct to survive. That moment of danger had helped him revisit his primal sense.

Just when it was about to hit him, Eren dared to touch the old hag with his own accord and pulled her in between the attack and him. His vitality was drained at a rapid rate as a result of his bold attack.

The better half of the slash travelled through the left side of the female wraith's west while the other half was yet to make contact. Even after travelling through the old hag's body, the slash hardly lost any momentum.

"Screeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!"

The old hag became ecstatic when she received Eren's life force in abundance after he touched her directly. The butcher was about to lose consciousness as well due to too much of his vitality getting zapped from him. This was also due to the invasion of foreign mana in his system.

The slash landed on Eren's waist too because he was about the same height as the old hag. The right side of his waist had its outer layer breached. It managed to decrease the flying slash's potency even more. He suffered severe injuries to his waist as a result of the slash. But the attack didn't make it past the waist.

"Aaaaaaargh!"

Still, the flying slash managed to open Eren's waist 5 inches deep before it was dispersed. Its consequences would be equally horrible.

The pain finally snapped Eren and gave him momentary clarity. He had come to realize by now that the feeling of pain would soon be stopped by the netherworld-ice element invading his body from multiple points of origin.

He probably only had a few moments to initiate a counterattack and get through this life-threatening ordeal. Otherwise, he would have to say goodbye to the second chance life had thrown at him. There probably won't be a third.

"Screeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!"

Eren's skin tingled with one more round of soul-shaking sound as the old hag felt ecstatic despite the left part of her waist getting completely slashed open. Eren watched to his horror as the rotten flesh began to regenerate itself.

'My vitality! This bitch is using my vitality to heal herself.'

Eren's healthy cheeks had started to shrivel by now. His cheekbones were starting to become prominent as his vitality was draining at a rapid rate from him.

Eren saw the old hag flash him a hideous smile as if she was mocking him for his poor efforts to avoid his fate. The primal instincts that had been awoken due to the flying slash were rekindled when he saw the old hag's eyes start producing more tears.

The old hag stuck her abnormally long tongue out and was about to savor her nectar. But soon she felt her tongue being grabbed by a half-shrivelled hand.

Swish!

Eren drew out the katar from his storage and cut off the old hag's tongue. He knew the time was of the essence. The elf swordsman would soon reach his position. It'd be game over for him if things kept progressing the way they were progressing.

That's why the butcher stopped caring about the increment of his vitality drain and let his instincts take over him. He first got close to the hag's face and stuck his tongue out. He licked both the lines of tears that were running down the old hag's cheeks.

Eren felt energized right away when the two small drops of the hag's tears ran down his throats. The clarity of his mind returned for good— no longer dependent on the feeling of pain. Even his wounds started mending at an unnatural rate.

Eren saw with the corner of his eyes that the sword wraith was about to reach his place. The elf had already assumed a position to attack him and the hag from his swing.

Eren stopped caring about his injury and ignored the old hag's angry veils. He looked at her almost ripped-in-half waist that was getting mended at a rapid pace.

"You will love the way I make you open up! Hehe."

The butcher chuckled to himself before driving one of his katars into the old hag's still-open waist injury.

#### [Chapter 323 - Use Of The Inherent Spell](#)

"You will love the way I make you open up!"

The butcher said this to the wraith before driving one of his katars through the old hag's waist injury right above her pelvic girdle. The katars were already imbued with fire-element mana. That along with Eren's sheer force that he had mustered from his body going into survival mode enabled him to separate the wraith's waist from her torso completely.

"Let's dance."

Eren then held the human ranker wraith's torso like he was holding a girl in his arms for a formal dance. His vitality started draining and the human wraith tried to injure his back with her long nails as well. But he didn't care.

The wraith had her tongue cut out and her mouth had been already mangled. She couldn't hurt him with her mouth. So he could always drink the tears from the wraith's eyes as soon as they ran down her cheeks. Providing he kept up with the loss of his vitality and did not lose consciousness before the tears reached his system.

All these things happen in a short time. By then, the sword wraith had reached Eren's place. Thus, he kicked the human wraith's lower body toward him while he retreated in the opposite direction.

The tears were generated again. Eren drank them up while stretching his tongue just like the human wraith did. His body had been altered to do that after all.

'Blitz Bolt

Blitz Steps

Blitz Shield

Fire Snake

Breath of Fire'

Eren reconfigured his spell combo after he drank the tears again. He was now in a constant cycle of getting his body shrivelled due to the Wraith's Life Drain and getting revitalized after drinking the tears.

Just when the sword wraith was about to swing another attack directly at Eren, he had to redirect his attack towards a lower half of the human wraith's body as it flew straight at him. He cut it up in a single slash. And looked ahead to see that Eren was retreating again. Away from him and towards the other wraiths that had been slowed down due to the exposure to the fire.

"Screeeeeeee!"

The sword wraith screeched and tried to follow Eren. but soon he was met with three fire snakes who bared their fangs at him while stretching their fire tongues. They executed the spells they were empowered with by their caster as soon as their opponent came into their attacking range.

Breath of fire!

The sword wraith was subjected to three streams of fire from three different directions. He tried cutting the snakes down. But since they were ethereal, they would just reform and carry on their attacks.

The snakes would indeed get affected by the dark-blue mana invading their ethereal bodies. However, it was not enough to stop the attack they had been assigned. At least not anytime soon.

Eren retreated at a sufficient distance and stopped. The slow wraiths had also surrounded him from behind. If he retreated anymore, he would have to fight them. A fight now was something akin to suicide. He already had his hands full with the female wraith even when she had been cut from her waist down.

Eren drank from the newly created tears and laid the female wraith on the ground. She started crawling and trying to injure his legs as soon as Eren released her. The butcher had to use his movement speed to dodge her attacks. Nevertheless, cutting the lower body of the old hag had made his job easier.

"We should get those pretty eyes tested, beautiful!"

Eren sarcastically said to the screeching wraith as he deposited his weapons in his ID storage. He ran his fire-element mana through his arms and executed the fire snake's spell by tweaking it a bit.

Eren's arms were coated in orange fire. The fire changed its hue as it approached his finger and appeared more incandescent. It meant that the fire coating his finger had more concentration of fire-element mana.

Eren ran the same spell through his legs as well. The legs also had a coating of fire and lightning element mana as a result.

"Sreeeeee!"

The human wraith screeched at her oppressor as her remaining two limbs were pinned down by the butcher's legs from either side. Her screech was mixed with the collective wraith noises of all the monsters that had encircled the butcher from every possible angle.

Eren was in trouble. He couldn't be sure he would be able to survive this night even if he managed to take the eyes out of the monster. He could only use them to his advantage.

In hindsight, he had made a lot of mistakes fighting with the wraiths. But since he didn't know about the existence of these monsters, it was only natural that he would struggle.

As a result of the pressure he was feeling from all around him, Eren's survival mode that ran on his instincts remained active all this time. By squatting down, he sat on the chest of the human wraith.

"Screeeeee!"

Sizzle Sizzle!

Eren's fingers touched the area around the wraith's eyes and they started burning the rotten flesh they came in contact with. The butcher didn't wait long enough and inserted his fingers into the eye sockets.

He used all his force to dig both of the eyes out from the eye sockets and yanked them out. His skin tingled when it was bombarded with the wraith's heightened screech as a response to the atrocity he had committed on her.

The eyes started dripping with the mixture of black blood, dark blue mana residue, and vitality-enhancing tears when they were gouged out. The butcher did not think twice and drank the mixture by holding his eyes right above his open mouth. He had used his right hand to hold both the dripping eyes by the muscles and veins attached to their ends.

Eren's left hand subconsciously reached for the female wraith's face as he was busy drinking the weird mixture. His left hand was morphed into a slimy form on its own. The slimy mass was spread all over the human wraith's face.

Eren was subconsciously using his inherent spell on the human wraith.

### [Chapter 324 - Taboo](#)

Eren was subconsciously using his inherent spell on the human wraith.

Slimy, dark blue smoke made contact with the rotten skin of a wraith. It started melting at a rapid pace and soon turned into a liquid. The wraith's entire skin and muscle on her face and then some more were missing when Eren's left hand in slimy form was done with it.

The wraith couldn't even produce noise anymore because of the liquefaction of the vocal cords along with her face. But that didn't prevent her from struggling with her hands. She tried to scratch Eren with her nails, which she had somehow managed to extend till they reached Eren's body.

Eren was still drinking the weird mixture. But his skin soon turned dark green with crocodile-like scuts over it. This was his body's self-defence mechanism that had kicked in.

The crocodile-like green scuts were the same one Renar was used to having when he entered his anthrope transformation. Eren had assimilated with Renar's blood and flesh and derived this power from him when he was sparring with the guy.

That anthrope-like power had finally made its appearance in the real battle. Eren didn't want to use it because of the side effects he had felt at the time. But not being critically injured was criticalqqqqqq to him.

The scuts and the hardened skin prevented the female wraith from damaging Eren's skin in any way. The rate at which she could suck Eren's vitality also dropped.

But Eren wasn't paying attention to what the female wraith was doing to him. The mixture of what he was drinking was wreaking havoc inside his body and healing him at the same time.

Eren felt like his throat and his windpipe were on fire after drinking the mixture. The dark blue mana residue also conflicted with the existing mana in his body. The two of them were repelling one another- as if to deny each other's existence.

But the tears worked wonders for him. They soothed the burning sensation, aided him in healing all the injuries he had faced, and energized him while clearing his head.

The female wraith tried to retaliate by trying to freeze Eren. But Eren was done with his energy shake by that time. He threw the wraith's eyes inside his storage and saw what was happening around and below him.

The wraiths were slowly but surely closing in on him. The fire snakes he had employed now could only do so much. The sword wraith was also about to wrap up his battle with the fire snakes.

Then he looked at the female wraith and realized what he had done with her. Her entire skeletal face was visible since there was no flesh to cover it. Eren then looked at his scuts-riddled hands and understood what had happened.

'I used my inherent spell. Again. On this old hag.'

Eren concluded quickly. But he felt something was missing. The inherent spell hadn't finished its job. So this time, he decided to use it on his half-finished victim and complete the assimilation.

Eren got up from his squatted position while still keeping the female wraith's abnormal hands pinned to the ground. He didn't think twice and used his inherent spell on the old hag with both his hands turning into slime form and covering her entire body with it.

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Unbeknownst to Eren, an earthquake shook the area around the Purgatory's entrance. This earthquake was felt at various places outside the separate dimension. Even black clouds had gathered in the sky above the entrance.

"Fufufufufu! I like this boy already. Trying to walk on a taboo path without any hesitation.

Layla, let's change the previous plan a bit.



No matter the first floor's results, you have my permission to save the boy if and when he is about to die. Intervene if you have to.

I'm not sure the boy will survive the process of assimilating with something like that. So you are allowed to use the recovery potions from my collection as well."

A known ancient voice contacted Layla and told her to assure Eren's safety in a commanding voice. The voice seemed old and fragile. But it also contained a certain dignity that comes from wielding so much power.

Layla heard the voice and nodded her head to nobody in particular. Then she focused her attention on the spectral screen in front of her that had Eren's live feed on display.

She felt that the task of keeping Eren alive was too difficult to perform when he was trying to mess with the natural order of the world.

'What is that idiot trying to do? His mana core is going to burst at this rate.'

With her newly acquired rights, Layla activated Purgatory's mechanism. A teleportation array was lit a few meters away from her in a seemingly endless place. She was planning to teleport straight to Eren and bring him back with her before things got out of control.

But just when she was about to use the teleportation array, she opened her eyes wide in surprise and stayed frozen in her place. A look of disbelief painted on her face. That's because she saw what was happening with Eren.

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Eren felt like his body was about to explode after he retracted his slime form and willed his hands to resume their previous shape. He was immediately brought to his knees as he felt like his body was going to implode from the fluctuation of mana running through every fibre of his flesh.

"Aaaaargh!"

He yelled in agony as his body started heating up. His clear skin had turned red. And his eyes were bloodshot. His skin was all overlooked like there were loads of bugs running around everywhere beneath it.

The fluctuation of mana finally reached Eren's mana core. This was due to the severity of the fluctuation as well as the involvement of foreign mana.

But then, the runic symbols that were imprinted on the core as well over the region just under Eren's navel lit up. That phenomenon stabilized the fluctuation before eventually killing it.

The unbearable pain and unclear thoughts stopped giving Eren a splitting headache. The unknown and incoherent whispering in Eren's ears finally stopped when the fluctuation stabilized.

Eren got up and looked around. He saw the wraiths of the horde had almost closed in on him. And the sword wraith seemed to have gotten rid of his animated spells. But most of his attention was on his right hand as he raised it.

Eren willed it and his right hand turned semi shrivelled before the nails on his fingers started growing. The hand didn't look like the one the old hag had. But it also didn't look like something a human should have.

Eren's psyche was also branded with an unknown spell in the end. It was the old hag's wretched ability that she had used against him so many times by now.

Life Drain!

### [Chapter 325 - Turn The Tables](#)

Eren's psyche was also branded with an unknown spell in the end. It was the old hag's wretched ability that she had used against him so many times by now.

Life Drain!

Even though Eren referred to the newest addition to his repertoire— Life Drain as a spell, he knew that technically it wasn't one. It was similar to his inherent spell in more ways than one. But he also felt that there was something different about it.

Eren's skin colour returned to normal. But there were still a lot of changes taking place inside his body.

His core that was about to burst had now been stabilized. It also had even stranger runic patterns etched over it now. Compared to the previous runes, the new runes had a different language. Plus, the same runes were visible briefly down his naval region before they sunk into his skin.

The dark blue mana that the wraiths were used to employing stopped creating a conflict with Eren's existing mana. It couldn't mix with the normal mana or get channelled by the mana core. It just lay dormant in Eren's mana circuits— not causing any harm anymore.

Eren looked at his abnormally long and thin fingers as well as sharp grey nails. The skin of his hand had retained its original hue. But it had turned scaly and chapped. The hand also had blue veins visible over its skin. It meant that the dark blue mana present within his mana circuits could now be channelled through his right hand.

'Erni, are you alright? Should I come out?'

Reen asked with a lot of care in her voice. She had tried her best to help him by trying to fix his injuries from within. But she could only do so much with her sealed mana core. Eren reassured her with his words and made her calm down.

'I'm fine, Reen. You don't have to come out. How can you help with your lack of ranking anyway?'

I can handle this battle now that I've turned to normal.

It's just that I feel.... Different!'

Eren finished talking with Reen as he observed and felt the changes within himself. The time seemed to slow down for him even though he knew he hadn't used any time element spell. His senses could now differentiate between living and dead beings more vividly. Plus, the stench of rotten bodies didn't bother him anymore.

Eren looked at the female wraith's position. Nobody was there since he had digested it using his inherent magic. But Eren wondered why there was no spectral form of the wraith attacking him anymore. It was as if she was digested along with the rest of her body.

'Did I also digest her soul? Is that even possible?'

Eren wondered to himself and then dropped the subject. Now was not the time to think about these questions. He had only dealt with one deviant wraith. There were a few others who needed to be taken down.

Drinking that mixture earlier had fixed Eren and returned him to his prime condition. His mana storage and his stamina also seemed to have been recovered. Now was the time to make use of all of them to unleash a fearsome counter.

'Blitz Steps

Fire snake

Fireball

Breath of Fire'

Eren executed his combo and zipped towards the sword wraith. The latter had eradicated another fire snake by now. The last fire snake's body had been infected with dark blue mana due to the consistent sword slashes it faced from the sword wraith.

The sword wraith was just about to deal the final blow to the fire snake when he sensed something or someone coming towards him at an accelerated pace. The sword wraith was confused because the opponent he had tried targeting a few minutes before was now giving him a different feeling. His mana signature had remained the same for the most part. But the few minor changes he observed within it indicated that he was like them— an abominated wraith.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The sword wraith ignored the fire snake and directed his attack at the incoming Eren. He unleashed his move to its fullest potential and sent three sword slashes flying towards the latter.

Eren was ready and in prime form at this moment. He also didn't feel much threat coming from the wraith's invading mana anymore. He dodged the first slash coming at him easily. He barely got away from the second.

The third flying slash was unavoidable. Therefore, Eren took out his katars and assumed a defensive stance while maintaining his movement spell.

Pitaang!

The sparks flew and a distinct clank was heard as the flying slash clashed with the fire imbued katars. The wraith's mana attempted to invade Eren's hands as it battled with the fire. It tried to freeze both his weapon and his hands. But the mana became harmless as soon as it made contact with Eren's skin.

Eren flashed a cunning smile towards the sword wraith. He had gained a huge advantage in the battle with the horde of wraith after inadvertently using his inherent spell on the female wraith.

"You have been a pain in the ass for me all this time. I'll fuck you up for good, my dead elf friend."

Eren said and appeared right in front of the sword wraith. He cut his stomach as soon as he found the opening to do so. But the wraith didn't care. The wound on his body had already started to ice up and was about to close.

The sword wraith made a direct slash at his opponent. His sword's edges were now shining with dark blue mana— giving it a threatening vibe. But before he could deliver that slash, the sword wraith's attack was abnormally interrupted by the redirection of mana.

The sword wraith felt that his mana was getting drained out of him by some foreign force— the cause of redirection. The dark blue mana sheen on his sword got dimmer before completely vanishing.

He looked down at Eren's hands and saw that they were bathed in a dark blue colour. Eren had dipped his hands into the sword's wraith's stomach through the wound he had created and executed his newly gained ability.

The tables had been turned on the sword wraith.

#### [Chapter 326 - Timber!](#)

Eren had dipped his hands into the sword's wraith's stomach through the wound he had created and executed his newly gained ability. Since the wraith didn't have any vitality, all he could extract was the wraith's mana.

Since he couldn't channel the dark blue mana through his mana core even though it had become compatible with his mana circuits, Eren couldn't use it the way he wanted.

The most he could do was release all the deposited dark blue mana in his mana circuits through his hands in one go— as if expelling it. That's what he did right afterwards.

Kachaaaaa!

The elf wraith's rib bones broke and produced a sound when the dark blue ice suddenly flooded his insides. The origin of that deposition was Eren's hands of course.

Eren didn't try to control the mysterious mana in any way. As a result, the deposition of ice that had suddenly taken place inside the wraith's stomach didn't have any fixed shape. It just started expanding inside the wraith's body— expelling everything that stood in its way after freezing them solid.

The formation of ice started spreading on the wraith's body from the outside as well. Eren had released all the previously accumulated dark blue mana as well as the mana he had just absorbed from the sword wraith all in one go. That too without worrying about casting any spells. So the rate of ice formation was rapid.

The attack turned the sword wraith into an ice statue. The swing of his sword remained incomplete just a few inches away from Eren's neck. His sword didn't have any dark blue mana radiance.

"Timber!"

After pushing the frozen statue of the wraith by his shoulder, Eren spoke aloud. It fell on its back and broke into multiple pieces shortly afterwards. The sword wraith had been successfully taken care of.

"Screeeeee!"

An apparition of the sword wraith emerged from its corpse, which had been broken into several pieces. It screeched and ran straight towards its opponent.

The butcher had learned his lesson from last time. He was already departed from his previous place before the sword wraith laid eyes on him. With his movement speed in full effect, he approached the sword wraith's apparition from its left side and used his lightning spell on it:

"Blitz Bolt!"

Eren used his lightning element offensive spell to attack the apparition. It was busy screeching at his previous place, so it was caught unaware.

"I wonder..."

Eren had a wild thought and used his newly gained spell on the apparition's spectral form by touching it:

"Life Drain!"

The apparition started fading down as soon as Life Drain was used on it. The butcher smiled joyously after seeing the spell's effects on the apparitions.

'So that's what happened to the old hag. I do not know what this spell will do to the apparitions or how it will affect me. But for now, this will be useful to take care of these damn wraiths.'

Eren then took his time and used his spells in moderation to take care of all the wraiths. The fire snakes prevented the wraiths from ganging upon him. Plus, by now, he had found a pattern to take care of the monsters in an efficient way.

First, he cast fire spells on the wraiths. Then he would follow it up by using Life Drain on them. He would then use the dark blue mana he had gained to freeze and destroy the wraiths' bodies.

Eren would then plan his lightning element attacks on the wraiths' spectral forms just enough to slow them down. Lastly, he would use Life Drain on their spectral bodies and make them disappear.

Eren had also started using Renar's crocodile skin spell to protect himself against the wraiths' attacks. His skin would get sore and his headache would return every once in a while as a side effect of shifting between so many irregular spells. But he suppressed the feeling of frustration mixed with annoyance and marched on.

The plan he had concocted to farm-kill the wraith was easy on Eren's mana consumption as well. He would only have to expend it on his lightning element spells. The rest of his attacks were based on his use of Life Drain and stealing Dark Blue mana from the wraiths to use against them.

The battle continued for hours on end. There were only a few wraiths left by now. And they had already slowed down. Eren checked on his condition while taking a breather as he watched his remaining opponents with vigilance.

He was about to run towards the nearest wraith and begin killing the remaining wraiths as well. But just then, he heard the wraith's screech in unison. Their bodies started exuding smoke while they started running in the opposite direction from rain— as if they were looking for something.

Only then did Eren realize that the sky was not pitch black anymore. Even though he couldn't see the sun, the first rays of dawn had hit the wraiths. Contact with the sunlight caused the wraiths' bodies to exude that smoke. Their bodies were disintegrating.

The wraiths couldn't run long enough. And it was not like the barren place had any shade they could use to hide under. Soon, their corpses were disintegrated and their apparitions were forced to come out. Those forms too couldn't last much in the daylight— fading away.

"Haah!"

Eren took a long breath after his fight with the wraith was officially over. He was almost going to die in the battle if he hadn't gained the Life Drain from his fight with the old hag.

But now with the newfound strategy, Eren could finish the wraiths off if he was made to fight them again. His survival in the solo tower for seven days was going to be relatively easy at this point.

Or so he thought.

"Hahaha! Would you look at that relaxing face? I'll enjoy bursting your bubble, Eren Idril.

I suggest you take plenty of rest before things get hectic again for you. The daylight battle is going to start soon in three hours."

'This fucking \*\*\*\*\*. I'm gonna fuck \*\*\*\*\* '

Eren heard Layla's voice and he couldn't help cursing back in extreme irritation.

### [Chapter 327 - Draconic Lizards P1](#)

"You surprised me yesterday. I thought you were going to die of a mana core explosion. How did you survive?"

Layla appeared in front of Eren when he was done practising his ranking technique. He had already gotten fresh, ate enough food for his storage and used a bunch of recovery potions on himself.

"Well, I don't know myself."

Eren said plainly, which was the truth. But he found it odd that Layla didn't ask or care about the other feats that he had pulled off. As if she was expecting a series of miracles from him. He didn't press the matter. The less he talked about it the better it would be for him.

"Hm. Maybe my master is just that talented. Anyway, I hope you are ready. The wraiths aren't going to be the only opponents you'd be fighting on the first floor.

With each passing day, the number of opponents in the daylight and at night would increase. So you won't have it easy even if you find an efficient strategy to cull the numbers."

'Hm? What does she mean by her master being great?'

Eren felt puzzled at first. He became irritated by the fact that the number of monsters he had to fight would keep on increasing - making his battle strategies useless. He sighed and let the caretaker finish her job in silence.

Layla looked at Eren from head to toe as if she wanted to ask him something more. But then she shook her head as if thinking about something and summoned an array some meters away from where they stood.

"What is it this time?"

The array began to light up, signalling that whoever would battle Eren would soon appear from the same. While being vigilant about it, he asked Layla.

"Oh don't worry. This time, there's only a bunch of mana beasts you are about to fight. They are in the same rank as you. It's just the number you'd have to worry about. A new batch would appear as soon as you are done with the first batch.

Don't try to underperform here, Eren. The more you kill, the better your rewards will be after the completion of each full day. So you might want to consider putting all out in every battle."

Eren furrowed his brows after hearing Layla's reply. He asked to confirm:

"You mean to say I'd get rewards every day for seven days based on the number of opponents I kill? How would you calculate my skills and what would be the rewards?"

Layla smiled cunningly after hearing Eren's reply. She waved her hands replied casually like it was her stuff that she was giving out to him for free:

"Oh, nothing fancy really. Just some higher-ranked artefacts and potions. How did you like that miasma potion I created? You used that on those preys of yours, didn't you? The potions that will be offered as rewards will be at least of that calibre.

More, if you can perform better. Like I said, nothing much! Nothing much. Hahaha!"

Eren had creases on his forehead from the bratty behaviour of Layla. But he didn't let it get to him and asked patiently:

"And how would I know about my progress?"

Layla opened her eyes wide as if she had forgotten something very significant. Then she scratched her right cheek and flashed an awkward smile before speaking up:

"Aaah! I might have forgotten to give you a tracking array. It was... you see... supposed to let you know about your progress in terms of the battle points. So the progress you made yesterday... you know... Hehehe!"

The creases on Eren's forehead increased as he heard Layla talking again. He felt like strangling the incompetent brat for her negligence. What kind of caretaker of a separate dimension of this scale forgets about such a crucial thing?

"Are you perhaps gone senile because of all the years you had to spend in here?"

Eren asked with a psycho smile on his face. He nearly died last night. And all that had turned into a fruitless endeavour. It would have been better if she hadn't told him about the rewards. Now all he could think about was how his efforts had gone into the drain.

Layla puffed her cheeks after hearing Eren's diss:

"How rude! You shouldn't ask a lady's age. You are a mannerless man, Eren Idril. You are most likely to get in trouble with high-ranked ladies if you pull the same stunt on them. Hmph!"

'Meh! I already have and survived.'

Eren thought to himself before letting things be. There was no point in arguing with someone who looked and behaved like a teenager.

"Alright. Just forget it. Give me the tracker now. I don't want to miss out on earning my battle points anymore."

Eren asked slowly, laced with frustration. This dungeon was more pain in the ass than he thought. It was lucrative, no doubt. But a pain in the ass indeed.

Layla pointed her index finger at Eren as if she was about to accuse him of something. But then she also let the matter go because it was her mistake in the first place. She tried to make amends though:

"Hmph! I'm not as petty as you, Eren Idril. By the powers vested in me by the master, I will grant you 100 battle points for yesterday's kill.

Usually, a battle point is counted after every monster kill. If their levels are lower than yours, it may take two or more monsters to give you one battle point.

You didn't kill wraiths worth 100 battle points yesterday. So aren't you happy now that you profited from bullying a young, innocent girl?"

Layla explained to Eren how the first floor's reward system worked. Then she generated a small array a few centimetres levitating from the palm of her right hand before sending it towards Eren.

The butcher didn't have to do anything. The tracker array was absorbed by Eren's right-hand palm as soon as it came in contact with it. It showed the number 100 written over the palm when he opened it up in front of him.

By now the teleportation array had come into action. It lit up brightly in a blinding light before allowing a bunch of mana beasts to enter the place.

Eren felt the chill run down his back first when he sensed the beasts' presence with his mana sense. Then he saw the creatures' appearance after the array's blinding lights faded out.

"What the fuck are those?"



Eren asked Layla angrily— as if he had been tricked by the little girl into doing something he wasn't supposed to do. The latter smiled and waved her hands at him and started to fade away. Her voice was heard in his ears before she completely disappeared:

"These are the special mana beasts I created and raised using my master's help. You won't find any official name given to them yet because they don't exist outside.

I just call them... Draconic Lizards. They are pretty, aren't they? Hehe! Best of luck and bye-bye!"

### [Chapter 328 - Draconic Lizards P2](#)

"These are the special mana beasts I created and raised using my master's help. You won't find any official name given to them yet because they don't exist outside.

I just call them... Draconic Lizards. They are pretty, aren't they? Hehe! Best of luck and bye-bye!"

Layla exited the scene and left Eren to his devices. The latter was too stunned to say anything after hearing what the irresponsible caretaker of the Purgatory had said. But the first thing he did after snapping out of his surprise was shout at the brat:

"Pretty? Pretty? Pretty my ass. Why don't you just fucking kill me and be done with it? It'd be easier that way for both of us.

What kind of mana beasts are these? They almost made me pee my pants with their presence alone. I'm not too optimistic about keeping them dryer for longer.

Where did you end up, brat? Screw your rewards. Fuck this place. Just get me outta here. I'm no daredevil you think I am.

Wait. Where are you? Are you even listening? Oi. Oi. Layla! Layla!

Lay the fuck la!"

Eren started shouting at the spot where Layla was standing previously. But unfortunately, the caretaker had already left. Leaving him to battle with the mana beasts that looked like a novice ranker's nightmare.

But Eren's questions weren't answered by Layla. He could imagine the brat laughing her ass off somewhere at his misery.

Saying that Eren was afraid of fighting with the beasts that had appeared was an understatement. His mana sense had given him enough warning to indicate that the beasts weren't normal.

The Draconic Lizards were indeed mana beasts. But their dreadful mana signature put them in the uppermost tier of the mana beast ranking hierarchy.

The Draconic Lizards looked like normal F-Rank mana beast lizards that had been put on steroids. They were at least two times bigger than the normal mana beasts.

The Draconic Lizards were at least 8m in length and 1.5m wide. They had four legs and had black scales that exuded a lustrous sheen under the sunlight. Plus, their tails were as long as their torsos.

The most distinct features of the mana beasts were their fangs. They boasted a fang each on either side of their mouth's corners.

As if this wasn't enough, there were three of them summoned to the place at the same time. Eren didn't even have the confidence to take one of them down without losing an arm or two in exchange. And he only had four limbs to sacrifice.

"Grrrrrrrrrrr!"

The Draconic Lizards started growling at Eren from afar when they first laid eyes on him. But they didn't approach him. As if he wasn't significant enough for them to come to him.

But then they observed him shouting at thin air in a high voice and took it as a challenge to them. The draconic part in them was ignited and they made their presence known at the same time:

"ROARRRRRRRRR!"

They let loose their roars and created innumerable vibrations in the air. The target of those vibrations was a puny demi-human who was trying to quit the game but wasn't allowed to.

Eren heard the roar of the dragon and felt like jumping off the high cliff and finding a way to escape from there. He didn't know how he could battle with three mana beasts of such a frightening aura at the same time.

The most strange thing about them was the fact that despite the overwhelmingly powerful mana signature they gave off, they were still in the F-Rank. Technically, Eren should have been able to handle them.

But his senses told him there was something off about them. Like, they had been modified and weren't part of the natural order any more.

Eren saw the draconic lizards slowly making their way towards him without running. They kept growling at him while trying to find any other opponent or prey they could in the vicinity. This small human nugget wasn't going to be enough for the three of them.

"Fuck my life! The rigged fight is inevitable. I... I miss my mana bombs. Fuck. The least you could do was give the bombs to MC, damn it."

Eren said without addressing anyone in particular as he watched his three fearsome opponents approach him. He took a long breath to get some clarity.

"You want to test the limits of my power and resolve, right? So be it."

After he said that, the butcher's eyes turned cold. He was fearful about his safety, yes. But this was also the time he was the most dangerous. His concentration turned to its peak level as he started running various calculations in his mind while eyeing the approaching beasts.

'Blitz Bolt

Blitz Steps

Fire snakes

Fireball

Breath of fire'

Eren's body started turning red as he stressed his mana circuits and sent them into hyperdrive mode right off the bat. He drank a few vials of mana recovery potions from his storage that was left behind by the dungeon.

But Eren didn't drink the concoctions right away. He held the collective liquid in his mouth by expanding his cheeks and keeping his mouth closed. In short, he had drunk the potions as a precautionary measure against the genetically modified mana beasts.

Eren bent forward and touched the ground with his right hand while keeping his right leg forward. His feet started getting coated in lightning. Nine fire snakes appeared around him, hissing at their opponent.

And then... Eren disappeared from his position and appeared right in front of one of the lizards. His fire snakes were following him and would soon catch up to him. But he didn't have the luxury to wait for them.

"You first, Little Lizzy!"

Eren said to the lizard in front of him. He then used one of his spells in his repertoire. A spell that he would later realize that he shouldn't have used.

"Fireball!"

[Chapter 329 - Enderflame P1](#)

"Fireball!"

After getting close to one of the lizards from its left side, Eren cast his fire-element spell using both of his hands separately. He then jumped high using his movement spell and released both of the fireballs onto the beast's torso.

Eren then executed his movement spell again and tried to create a safe distance from the beast he had just attacked. And to his surprise, he found that he could easily be able to do so.

'What the fuck? These huge-ass lizards are slowpokes as fuck!'

Eren turned back and saw the lizards still maintaining the speed they had approached him with. The beast he had attacked also seemed fine. He even looked a bit faster than the rest as he had started to lead the other two.

The scaly, shiny black skin of the beast that had been bombarded with two fireballs at once exuded orange light before returning to normal. Eren felt puzzled by the phenomenon and tried to perform the same attack on the same beast again— this time right over its back by jumping over it.

Then Eren attacked the other two lizards with fire-element spells with the help of his snakes as well. He had only generated four fire snakes this time. But they were half as big as the lizards. The butcher had opted for quality over quantity with his fire snakes after considering the kind of opponents he needed to battle with.

Eren preferred fire-element spells over his lightning element spells because they could be executed by him while maintaining his distance from his opponents. The lightning-element spells he had in his repertoire were ideal for close combat battles. In addition, they weren't meant to be executed efficiently when the beasts were so large.

Eren made efficient use of the fire spells and his fire snakes to target the three lizards. He had already landed plenty of attacks on all three mana beasts.

But Eren soon found out that his fire-element attacks were giving him no results. The lizards would not get affected by the fire element spells at all— as if they were immune to all the fire-element damage they received.

Their skin turned light orange in response to the fire-element attacks they would receive. Once the smoke cleared after the fire attack, not a single burnt area or bruise would remain.

'Something is wrong. I can sense their threat level is increasing.'

Eren had his mana sense locked on the three mana beasts as they had done on him. He had no trouble getting away from the beasts. But he also couldn't hurt them at all using the fire-element spells. Plus, his mana sense told him the beasts were getting more dangerous with each passing moment as he kept on attacking the beasts.

'What should I do? If I don't attack and just keep on running, I won't gain anything. But if I attacked, these fucking tanks would just tire me out before eating me whole.'

Eren thought as he maintained his safe distance from the lizards and let his fire-snakes do the attack in sync. But the more he took part in the battle and the more he watched the behaviour of the beasts, the more puzzling it felt for him.

That's because the beasts would only focus on Eren. They won't try to attack the fire snakes that were spewing fire on them. This was the total opposite of how the beasts usually behaved.

Eren initially believed the lizards were focused on him and didn't care about the attacks that didn't bother them. But he changed his mind when he saw that the lizards' bodies soon started to have faint traces of runic patterns on them.

'Don't tell me. Are these giant crawlers getting powered up by my fire-element attacks?'

Eren waved his hand and made his fire-snakes stop attacking the lizards after he realized his mistake. But by then the runic patterns were becoming distinct. As if they didn't need external help anymore.

Eren had maintained a sufficient distance from the battle between the lizards and fire snakes all this time after he realized his attacks weren't working. But at this time, his mana sense sent him warnings of ultimate danger even when he was quite far from his opponent.

"Rawr!"

One of the beasts roared at Eren after his runic patterns became prominent. But this time the roar contained a breath attack that the butcher had never seen before.

Green flames!

The mana beast attacked Eren with a stream of green flame breath aimed at him. The temperature of the green flame was so intense that Eren felt like his body would melt away even if he was standing far from it.

The breath attack covered the distance between the beast and Eren quickly. Thankfully, Eren was quicker. He managed to get away from the green flames just in time. However, passive heat from the flames still affected his body, causing his newly worn outer clothes to dry-burn a bit. His hair would have gotten burnt too if hadn't strengthened his mana layer right afterwards.

As soon as the breath attack landed, a cloud of green fire appeared where he stood before. It turned the ground into lava and created a crater of around 5 meters in diameter.

The path by which the green-flame breath attack travelled from was traced on the ground. It created a small canal from the place where the mana beast stood and connected to the crater that was created in Eren's former place.

This was the most intense fire attack Eren had seen in both his lives coming from an F-Rank beast. It was so overwhelming that the butcher didn't think the attack should be classified as F-Rank.

Only after witnessing the attack did Eren realize the reason behind why his mana sense was picking danger signs from the slowpoke lizards even if all they could do was chase him slowly.

The breath attacks the mana beasts used were comparatively faster than their overall battle style. He would have been turned into a skewerless kebab before melting away if his danger-sensing psyche, developed by his fight in his previous life, had been wrong by even a single second.

The appearance of green flames now served as a deterrent to Eren's fight against the mana beast. He couldn't run from the beast. Nor could he approach them using his fire spells.

### [Chapter 330 - Enderflame P2](#)

The appearance of green flames now served as a deterrent to Eren's fight against the mana beast. He couldn't run from the beast. Nor could he approach them using his fire spells.

'Heheheh! You seem surprised, Eren. Weren't you acting all haughty in front of me? Why don't you show your swag to these babies of mine?'

'This idiot, shallow-minded, amateurish fucking brat. I'll whoop her ass one day for playing with me like this.'

Eren heard Layla's voice in his head and started cursing her. But right now he needed information from her. Anything that can aid him in his battle with the three is near impossible to deal with. He gulped the potion he was holding in his mouth to recharge himself and asked aloud:

"Layla, what can you tell me about the beasts? What are their weaknesses?"

Eren asked directly while he changed positions from one place to another. The latter didn't like that it seemed. She replied immediately in a pouty tone:

'I didn't hear any "please" in that request, Eren.'

Eren gripped his fists and controlled his anger after he heard Layla's response.

'I'll remember this, you snotty brat.'

Eren thought to himself before forcing the next set of words out of his mouth:

Please tell me about the beasts, Layla. And do it soon... you know... before I get... DRY ROASTED TO DEATH."

Eren forced himself to respond with absolute focus. But in the end, his frustration did leak out of his words. Layla furrowed her eyebrows after she heard Eren's response laced with anger directed at her. But she found it more amusing when she thought about it and replied casually:

"Alright alright. I'm not supposed to help you. But since I messed up your previous battle tracking and this is just handing out information, I shall entertain you.

You must have realized by now that the beasts have almost full immunity against fire element attacks. And they can use those attacks and absorb fire-element mana from them to unleash the green flames.

About weaknesses? Hm! Well, they are slow. So you can easily dodge them. Plus, they are... well they are kinda dummy beasts. Their intelligence is not at par with the mana beasts of their calibres.

So you might want to avoid showering them with fire. And maybe use their low intelligence to your advantage.

I have already told you enough. Now show me a fierce fight. Hehehe! And yes. Remember. Those three are not the only ones. I expect you to take care of plenty of beasts if you wish to get high rewards."

Eren heard Layla's explanation and his eyes shone with cunning when he heard about the beasts' low intelligence. He had the doubt himself as well, but Layla's explanation confirmed it for him.

She had given him a clue while being vague about it. But his mind soon derived an optimal strategy based on that hint.

"By the way, Layla. What the fuck are those green flames? And what have you done with those beasts that all have runic patterns on them? They all can't be deviant beasts, can they? You have done something to them."

Layla was about to drop her conversation with Eren when she heard Eren's deductions laced with worry. She felt proud and elevated that the flames managed to invoke a sense of fear in a guy like him.

'You will soon learn all about it, Eren. If you survive the first floor that is. Have some patience. And those green flames are only a copy of the original.

You will have nightmares if and when you get to see the real deal.

The real green flame has a name, you know. It was once feared by many as Enderflame. Hehehe!

Survive, Eren. We are counting on you.'

'We!'

Eren heard Layla's response and focused on a particular detail. He momentarily forgot about making his battle strategy and thought about something more serious:

'Something's definitely up. The brat is not alone in this.

Another caretaker? Most likely...

Unless...'

Eren paused his thinking and dodged the swing of the front limb one of the mana beasts had thrown its way. By now he had stopped using fire-element spells altogether and was using lightning-element spells to wear the mana beast out one at a time by kiting them.

He again created a safe distance from the beast and shook his head after resuming his thought process:

'Naaah! No way.

Purgatory has been around for more than a few centuries. Even before the formation of the Edinburgh Kingdom. And according to Zee, there are signs in Purgatory that tell the Illuminati that it is as old as the period of Lost History, if not older.

Nobody. Not even an S-Ranker can survive that long no matter what they do.'

Eren replayed Layla's earlier responses along with the recent one he had received and came up with a scary conclusion. He discarded that conclusion after he derived it because it didn't make sense.

Or maybe he scratched it for his convenience— to soothe his mind.

'I'll deal with this later. I'll need to think about...

Wait...

Life Drain!'

Eren had almost forgotten about his newest addition when he was overwhelmed by the presence of the mana beasts created and raised in captivity. His lightning-element spells were doing little damage to the beasts because of their sheer size. But they were at least not as detrimental to him as using fire-element spells.

The beasts had also stopped releasing the green flames because Eren got closer to them. It seemed that the beasts were collectively scared by each other's flames and wanted to avoid a literal friendly fire. As low as their intelligence may have been, they were right on point with their survival instinct.

Eren changed the direction of his steps and executed Blitz Bolt to its fullest potential. He headed straight to the beast he had inflicted the most damage on using his lightning-element spell.

As soon as he got close, Eren jumped high and appeared on the beast's back. He quickly got to his knees and touched the beast's skin that was now trying to generate a mana field to prevent him from doing any damage.

Eren used his spell on the beast without allowing the beast to take countermeasures against him:

"Life Drain!"

