

Vile 441

Chapter 441 Oni Dungeon

A man and a demon beast were seen traversing through the night sky at a critical velocity.

"Not even a day and you are already on your way to becoming a fat bird, Argo. It's your weight that is bringing us down. I'm as light as a feather compared to you."

Eren spoke to his demon beast amid their unstable flight. Argo was trying his best to flap his wings and maintain a stable flight. But with Eren over his back, things were just too difficult for him for the time being. In a few moments, he would lose altitude and land poorly on the ground, losing his balance.

"Kiyeeeh!"

Argo registered his complaints by releasing a sharp eagle screech. The poor beast looked like he was going to be very angry at his master for taunting him while he was struggling to survive his flight.

"What do you mean I'm being mean? Life is not all about eating pork, Argo. *sigh. It is indeed cruel. Get with the program already."

Eren said and jumped from the beast's back just as he was about to crash to the ground. As a result of his jump's recoil, Argo lost the semblance of balance he had. He crashed to the top of a huge tree that had loads of vines attached to its thick and dense branches.

Crack! Swish! Reek!

Argo broke through many of the branches and became tangled in the vines. His body was engulfed in them, making it difficult for him to move. But it was also thanks to them that his fall was cushioned. He stopped just a few meters away from landing face down on the ground.

Eren on the other hand used his movement spell to land safely beside his demon beast. He looked at Argo and sighed before retrieving Rigor Mortis— his Shamshir.

Swish! Swish! Swish!

The branches and vines were cut down in the next moment. As a result, Argo met his eventual fate and crashed face-first into the ground.

"Stay here. I'll cover the rest of the way myself."

"Kiyeeeh!"

"No. I'm not ditching you. I only said I'd take you out because I wanted to get away from the camp. And if we keep on doing what we just did, it'll be difficult for me to maintain the time limit. I guess I'll have to reach the place using the normal methods.

Eren patted the beast's head after he said that as a form of consolation. He knew that making Argo his mount was taxing on the demon beast from the beginning. But since he couldn't get Altashia and the rest of the rankers off his back using the covert methods anymore, he decided to use Argo as a means to get away from the camp, telling everybody that he was preparing to try simple flight trials with him.

"Kiyeeee!"

Eren didn't reply to the beast's objections anymore. He just retrieved two dead bodies of Earth Suidae and presented them to him as a form of consolation.

"I was just messing with you. Here, eat this snack. Um... let's say your sister also likes to eat a lot so I used to stock up on food like this. You should be glad that the habit never really faded away."

Eren said and started walking in a particular direction after looking at the star alignment. He waved his hand without looking back at his beast who was trying to call out to him.

"Stay put and don't create a fuss in the area. Remember, you are still only an Ace rank beast. And a newborn at that. Other stronger beasts will not hesitate to have sumptuous bird meat as a buffet, just the way you devour your food."

Eren gave a final piece of advice to his pet before seemingly disappearing from the place. He knew that no matter how untamed Argo might seem, he would listen to his instructions just fine.

He was rushing to a place he only knew from widely spread information from his previous timeline. This was the place he wanted to recon in peace without bringing any of his squadmates to join him in his exploration.

'There it is.'

Eren could finally see a mountain with weird twin peaks, which looked like it had grown a pair of horns. This was the landmark he was searching for. He used his movement spell to quickly approach the mountain before starting to look around.

He eventually found what he was looking for. There was a small passage that one could only access after jumping down a vertical cave located at the same mountain ridge. It was covered by dense vegetation so Eren took some time.

This cave was only 8m deep from the ground. Eren landed inside the closed space and could see the only route he could take if he wanted to proceed further.

Eren coated his hands with his fire-mana powered flames and started walking down the passage.

The passage led him to a large, closed-off cave that had a high ceiling and ample space. The cave had runic patterns drawn all over its walls, ground, and ceiling. The cave had yooperlite stones embedded at the right places and corners, giving it a macabre ambience.

There was mana fog lingering everywhere which compromised Eren's vision and mana sense. But he could see what he wanted to see from his position.

There were a bunch of steps that looked like they would lose their solid state and crumble away if anyone stepped on them. The steps led to an altar that was placed a few meters above the ground.

The altar looked simple yet gave off otherworldly vibes. A human-shaped skull was attached to its wall, except for two horns on its forehead. Placed below the skull was a runic stone construction with a small depression in the middle. This gave the depression the appearance of a stone vessel.

Eren was running behind schedule, so he didn't hesitate anymore. He walked ahead and walked towards the altar that was placed at the other end. He took out Rigor Mortis and slashed his hand over his right hand to draw a line of blood. Next, he let his blood drop right in the middle of the depression over the stone platform.

The butcher was seeking entry into the Oni dungeon.

Chapter 442 Tumko Darata's History

Eren let his blood drop right in the middle of the depression over the stone platform. Immediately afterwards, a strange mana pulse was released in the surroundings with the altar as the epicentre of it.

The skull with the two horns levitated in the air while the altar split vertically right in the middle. A thin, semi-transparent mana layer was created in the space that was open by the split altar. That mana layer looked like the surface of a lake, with ripples forming in between.

Next, the horned skull turned around on its own and radiated a blinding red light that fell on the water-surface-like mana layer. As a result of which, the ripples stopped forming on the surface and became stable.

This was a subspace that led to the Oni dungeon. A subspace was different from a separate dimension. It was still part of the same dimension. It was just that it was isolated from the rest of the world in various ways.

Eren closed his eyes after he saw that the ripples had become stable. He concentrated on the Blood Seed located near his heart and tapped into his shapeshifting ability.

Eren's muscles started growing while his mana signature started feeling less and less like that of a human. His body first transformed into that of an orc. His face followed right afterwards.

Soon, an orc-looking Eren was seen standing over the altar near the mana screen. He looked down and confirmed everything was okay. He thought of something and removed his army outfit completely. He changed into clothes made of beast skin and monster armour that the orcs used to wear. He had collected them before his assigned task of destroying orc bodies.

'Here goes nothing.'

Eren said to himself as he approached the mana screen. Soon he passed through the screen and entered a space he had been meaning to enter for quite some time.

Tumko Darata!

This was the name of an ill-famous thief in Eren's previous timeline. He had been famous for a lot of his heists and deeds. Some said that he worked for the cultists. Others said that he was working for the kingdom of Edinburg because of his military background.

The guy had always maintained his mask even during his time in the army. Since warts on his face due to mana imbalance were genuine, no one cared about seeing his face. Those who had seen his face deleted that incident from their memory because the warts were truly horrible to look at.

Nobody was aware of what had happened with Tumko. But after he and his squad mates retired from the army, it was said that they started robbing the wealthy. They would often target the rich families within the duchy of Nightshade and loot a lot of their ancestral ranking resources.

But one day, Tumko and his ex-soldiers serving as his thief gang ran away after a heist had turned wrong. Tumko's team tried to run away from the unknown pursuers that were hunting them. When the hunt started involving high-ranking entities, not many were able to succeed. Since half of Tumko's team was reported to be dead by high-ranking entities openly targeting them in various cities each of the members had tried to hide in, the news of this incident couldn't be kept secret from the masses.

That's why the remaining members of the Tumko's team decided to seek shelter in the Badlands. But that didn't stop their pursuers. By then, even Edinbug's army had gotten involved. The members were ex-soldiers after all. They knew a lot more about Badlands than normal rankers. So they had chosen a path that was only known to army personnel.

The members of Tumko's team had managed to breach the security array and entered the controlled area normally only available to the army. They had done this to get away from the potential guild-hired mercenaries that could have been hired by an unknown force.

The news kept on getting updated and started turning more bizarre as the days passed by. It was reported that Tumko's team had managed to disappear into the Badlands. Nobody knew where they could have wandered off to. Since the historian's spells and other tracking techniques and artefacts didn't work that well in the Badlands, Tumko's team managed to keep the details of its disappearance a secret from the rest of the world. A few years passed by without any news about Tumko and his squad.

But everything changed when one of Tumko's team members decided to supposedly betray him. He ran back to the kingdom of Edinburgh and decided to spill the beans.

The betrayer revealed that their squad had come across an unexplored dungeon with D-Rank ratings by accident during one of their clean-up missions while they were serving in the army. They all entered it to escape potential pursuers sent by the Edinburgh army and the unknown force that was after them.

The betrayer stated that they had come to realize that the dungeon was a precious as well as dangerous find. So everybody in their team decided to come to visit it after they got ready to do so.

But the route and the plan they had formed to enter the dungeon after their service in the army got over was the same one they had used to enter the controlled region.

This was not how they had planned to visit the dungeon. But desperate times call for desperate measures. Tumko's team entered the unexplored dungeon with their lives on the line.

A lot of members of Tumko's team had died during the sudden dungeon raid because it was filled with a lot of monsters. It was all thanks to the military gear, resources and supplies the team had stocked up on that half of them managed to stay alive.

But big risks were sometimes followed by bigger rewards. After clearing the dungeon of its monsters, they found unbelievable riches and ranking resources inside the subspace.

The quality and quantity of the resources the betrayer said Tumko's team had found made the masses question the authenticity of the news. But it was still within the realm of possibility.

But there was one artefact the betrayer had said they found in the dungeon that sent the kingdom of Edinburgh into an uproar.

Chapter 443 Masks and Defense Mechanism

There was one artefact the betrayer had said they found in the dungeon that sent the kingdom of Edinburgh into an uproar. That was because it was something that could jeopardize the border security of Edinburgh along with other forces who shared borders with Badlands.

A monster-controlling artefact that could help its user enslave monsters of the same rank as them. Although it was supposedly limited to D-Rank, the artefact used a different method to enslave monsters than soul-binding mana contracts.

A typical soul binding contract wouldn't work on monsters anyway. In addition, if the ranker already had a set number of slaves, they couldn't add more without burdening their souls more. After a certain limit is crossed, the soul of the ranker who signed slave contracts with an excessive number of slaves than he could handle would break. This would turn them into lunatics.

This artefact was a big deal because it transcended the limits of how many slaves a ranker could take. The betrayer of Tumko's team said that the user of the artefact could keep on taking slaves without infringing on their souls.

The news of such a magnitude was bound to create a storm in the kingdom of Edinburgh. Even the kingdom of Layos along with other forces seemed interested. Who wouldn't want to create a personal army in the Badlands even if the soldiers were bound to be limited to D-Rank?

The betrayer also disclosed information about how to find the dungeon and benefit from it. He also revealed the confirmation that the remaining members of Tumko's team along with the leader himself weren't ready to leave the dungeon yet.

One can imagine what must have happened after the news was made public. Several techniques were used to confirm the authenticity of the news, including the Seer arrays at the cost of huge resource expenses. To their utter delight, they soon found out that most of what the betrayer had said about the artefact and its location was true.

This created mass unrest in the Badlands. Countless mercenaries tried to breach the borders of the controlled region. Most of the potential intruders failed. A few people, however, managed to enter the controlled area and confirm that there was indeed a dungeon there.

But the people who ventured inside the dungeon would disappear without a trace. And there was no help to be gained from powerful rankers either. That's because an entity that had exceeded the D-Rank couldn't enter the dungeon. Plus, since the artefact along with other resources were supposed to be limited to D-Rank, the rankers above that rank weren't interested in this dungeon. The low-ranked hunters and adventurers had to get their hands on this treasure themselves.

Numerous rankers of D-Rank and below attacked the dungeon without thinking about the consequences. And yet, no team could conquer the dungeon that was taken by Tumko and his team.

It was only after a few months that people started doubting the betrayer's intentions when they couldn't conquer the dungeon no matter how well prepared the raid got. He had just released the news of the incident and disappeared. Only now did they start asking about his background and the reason for which he had decided to betray Tumko.

Then the unthinkable happened.

One day, an army of monsters of D-Rank and below launched a well-executed campaign against the kingdom of Edinburgh. This attack was different from previous monster horde attacks on the army of Edinburgh.

This campaign was launched by Tumko and his team. The monsters involved seemed to have been trained like humans. Yet they could make use of their monster-specific skills to their fullest. The frontline army of Edinburgh which consisted of mostly low-ranked soldiers was run over like it meant nothing to the monsters.

Soon after, the kingdom of Edinburgh took the necessary action. High-ranking entities were involved to stop the monster march. But the commander of the army along with his trusted confidantes was already planning something big. They had used the monster march as a diversion to execute what they had been planning for a few years.

Tumko killed some of the pursuers of his team the same way they had killed his teammates. Then he destroyed the younger generation of the family whose home they had last raided.

Tumko wasn't left unscathed. He had lost his left arm. Only three members of his team remained alive along with him by the time he was done with whatever he had set out to do.

Tumko and his three members disappeared into the Badlands once again. After that, they would come back to hunt their remaining enemies from time to time using various guerrilla tactics. They had killed some more people before the news about them along with their enemies just disappeared into thin air.

This was the legend of Tumko Darata. His name struck fear in the hearts of many rankers with rich backgrounds. His strategies and his monster army created fear in the hearts of most of Edinburgh's soldiers. And his execution-style killings of his enemies made him a dreadful personality in the eyes of many ordinary rankers.

Nevertheless, the dread effect also brought Tumko into a spotlight he couldn't escape from. Rankers were strange creatures. They started worshipping the same guy who had created unrest in the kingdom and their lives by extension. He started garnering fans from both the ranker and cultist factions.

To them, Tumko was freedom of expression. His act of only targeting the rich gave him instant popularity within the non-so-rich strata of citizens.

Most of Tumko's fans wouldn't come out supporting him openly. They would show their support differently.

Soon, Tumko-exclusive merchandise hit the market. Various versions of the masks he had worn when out in the public eye were made available for purchase by the general populace. This was the origin behind the strange masks that became hugely popular in the Edinburgh kingdom during Eren's previous timeline. But this timeline had something different in-store.

Eren was also one of the buyers of the same masks. He had started wearing them because they would help him blend in with the rest of the crowd. Since they couldn't see his face, they wouldn't view him with hate, malice, pity, or indifference. At least that's what he felt and took solace in.

The butcher of the previous timeline soon grew fond of the masks because they served as a defence mechanism for him. They had provided him with a psychological relief he had sought for a long time. That's why he would always keep tabs on the news regarding Tumko Darata. The man who was the symbol of fear and panic in ordinary rankers' eyes was an inspiration for him.

That's why Eren crafted the masks himself in this timeline and would often wear them when there was a need for him to do so. Although he hadn't walked on the path to destruction in this timeline, the way he looked at these masks in this timeline didn't change.

But the sentimental value he had for the mask didn't stop Eren from having designs on the treasure that was supposed to belong to Tumko. In this life, he would be the one to control the monsters using that groundbreaking artefact.

Chapter 444 Stranger Thing

'Here goes nothing.'

Eren who was in an orc form said to himself and passed through the semi-transparent mana layer. Thus, he disappeared from his previous place only to reappear inside the subspace.

Eren didn't know when or how, but suddenly his centre of gravity changed along with his surroundings as he walked through the semi-transparent mana layer. He found himself immersed in a body of water.

Eren quickly adjusted to his surroundings and got up on his two legs. He was standing at the bottom of what seemed to be a medium-sized lake. The part of the lakebed he was standing on had an array drawn over it using dimly shining crystals arranged in an almost star-shaped format. He had never seen or come across such crystals before.

Eren had his mouth closed and he had stopped breathing for a while to focus on his surroundings. He deduced that this strange-looking array was the entrance and exit of this subspace.

'Hm. This lake and the water in it seemed to be normal and no different from those found in this region of the Badlands. No risks so far. I guess I can swim upwards now.'

Eren thought to himself before starting to swim to the surface of the water. He didn't forget to remember the position at which he had appeared just now.

"Haaaaah!"

Eren took a large breath when he reached the lakeshore. He looked around and found out that the scenery in front of him was no different than the Badlands he had come to this place from.

The same type of gigantic trees surrounded the lake that could be found in the Badlands. There was the same type of mountain ranges he had seen in the Badlands just before coming here. The moon and the stars along with the nightly ambience were the same as well.

What differed from the Badlands was the way he felt after coming here. He was using his mana sense in a limited capacity, restricting its range to his field of vision. He hadn't extended its range beyond that limit, lest some hostile force takes note of the foreign presence. But even without using the mana sense, he could feel that this subspace was dangerous.

'I'm already in monster form. Exploring this subspace should be easier for me than it was for Tumko and his team.

Altashia and others might get suspicious and start looking for me. It's already close to dawn. I don't have much time. I might as well check out a few things and see if I could get my hands on the artefact without aggravating any monsters.'

Eren thought to himself and started walking in a random direction. All while maintaining his image as an orc.

Tonight was a night like usual for the drunkard Ulag. Hunting for Novice ranked Armadelo beasts that could only be hunted at night. Because during the day, they take the shapes of normal rocks using their inherent spells, making it difficult for any hunter to catch them.

Aramdelo beasts were 2 meters long, making them relatively medium-sized beasts. Their skin was used to make armour. Their mana core could be incorporated in various earth-element artefacts. Their meat could be used as an ingredient for creating earth-element arrays.

But when he was going to wrap up the last hunt and call it a night, he found out that he was not alone in the woods. He stretched his mana sense and found out that there was an orc looking at him from a distance.

Ulag found it strange that an orc was looking at him with keen eyes. That's because he was an orc himself. And he couldn't identify the guy.

Ulag shook his head and thought that maybe he had too much rum for tonight. Then he started approaching what looked like one of his tribemates.

"Buddy, give me a hand, vile you... eh... veelaaa... of for fushk's... fuck sake..."

Ulag was trying to say "will you" but ended up twisting the words because of the booze. He slapped himself first to give himself some clarity before speaking again. The slap seemed to have worked this time.

"Haah! So where were we? Oh yes. Can you help me bud? Store these two Armadelo beast bodies in your storage area. Mine is already full. Hahaha! Maybe I had too much to drink yesterday as well. I didn't empty the stock I had stored the last time."

Ulag said while approaching the orc. He had killed the beasts using array traps that would manifest sharp water-element javelins whenever the Armadelo walked over them. Ulag's daily routine included setting traps during the day and collecting his harvest at night. He was so used to the routine that he could do this even when he was drunk.

"Why are you getting so spaced out? It's me. Ulag. Did you drink too much as well? Hahahaha!"

Ulag approached his tribesman in a friendly manner. He wasn't sure why but he was feeling that there was something different about him. But the heavy alcohol he was drinking subdued his curiosity and sense of danger. So he only processed the information he wanted to process.

Ulag found it weird that even after talking so much to the guy, he didn't reply. He just stood there with blank expressions on his face. By now, Ulag could almost confirm that he was not his tribemate.

"Hm? Buddy? Are you perhaps from a different tribe? This part of the forest is assigned to our Durbag tribe as per the last Oni Festival's rewards. Were you not aware of this?"

Utter silence!

By now, Ulag had sensed that the stranger orc he had come to meet in the forest was acting strange. He took his javelin artefact from his storage space as a precaution and shook his head once again to get rid of his light drunken stupor.

Just when it looked like things were about to get tense, Ulag saw the orc opening his mouth and showing his somewhat chopped tongue. It took him a while to process that the guy couldn't speak.

"Oh, you can't speak? Why didn't you say anything sooner? Hahaha!"

Ulag laughed out loud. But then he understood the absurdity of his statement and felt awkward about it.

"*cough! I mean... um... what are you doing here? Are you looking for a place to stay? Were you renounced by your tribe?"

The stranger orc took some time before nodding at Ulag's statement. Only now did the hunter relax thinking that the stranger he had come across was only a stray that was looking for a tribe.

It wasn't like the orcs had many tribes here. They were near the bottom of the hierarchy at this place. With limited resources in hand and too many mouths to feed, orcs getting strayed from their tribes wasn't too rare of an event.

"Alright. Alright. We can't use my storage space anymore. And your storage space must have been stripped from you. So let's carry these Armadelo bodies on our shoulders. One for you and one for me.

I'll take you to Sharog after we are done with my job. Maybe she can find a job and a place to stay for you."

Ulag said and got back to tending to his harvest for the day. The stranger also followed his lead and eventually lifted one Armadelo body over his shoulder. Ulag nodded at him and started leading the way. Work was finished. They were heading back to his tribe's camp.

Ulag had no idea that the stranger orc he had invited into his tribe was way stranger than he gave him credit for at this point.

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AN: Thank you ppp999 for rewarding VEH with a magic castle. VEH's mass release in the next month will have you to thank for it.

On that note, I'm not sure I've thanked you in Author Note previously, but if I have, thank you Daoist930799 (brov, change your account name to something cooler already, lol. It's weird to address a bot-like name.) once again for gifting VEH with a castle at the start of the month. We will have a mass release tomorrow. ;)

Thanks, Venom30 for your consistent gifts. Also, thanks to Waakaranai, mehoffJackman68, FireEngine, 1706704236, _Dark_Mist_, Daxinjian, Daoist7x6p6b, Rumtwist, Darkswan, and GojoVir for your gifts.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all my top three GT donors and top 25 fans supporting VEH as well. I'll use your handle names or variants of them in naming new characters as a token of appreciation. Or you can suggest me the names that you prefer. Don't worry. Not all of the new characters will be monsters. ;)

Also, let me know if you have any objections to it. Cheers! ;)

Chapter 445 Entering the Durbag Tribe

"Ulag, are you done with your work? And who is this newbie? I haven't seen him before."

Sharog asked Ulag after he came to meet her while she was working in the community hall. She zeroed in on a stranger orc that was following Ulag like a shadow—barely visible and almost ignorable. Too bad for the stranger, Sharog paid especially close attention to tribe members like these who were usually up to no good.

Ulag greeted Sharog and explained to her the stranger's situation. Only then did she turn her inquisitive gaze away and stood in front of him.

"Our tribe doesn't take freeloaders, Mr. stranger. What can you do? Array management? Potion making? Hunting..."

Sharog received a nod from the stranger after she said hunting. She looked at the stranger one more time from top to bottom before commenting.

"Um... don't get me wrong, stranger. It's not that I don't want to give you hunting assignments. But you don't look like a hunter to me. Do you seriously want to take up hunting or would you prefer to stay in the camp and have it easy?"

'What the fuck is this lady monster saying this time?'

"The stranger orc," asked Alephee while staring blankly into space. That latter had acted as his translator ever since he had come in contact with Ulag.

'She is asking if you are sure about hunting or are you comfortable with something that wouldn't force you to venture outside this camp.'

At first, Eren didn't know how to reply to the lady orc's question while maintaining his image of being mute. Then he raised his left hand, stretched his palm open, and made a butcher-like slash action over it using his right hand to indicate that he was okay with hunting.

Sharog raised her almost invisible eyebrows and narrowed her eyes on the stranger. She then decided to test the guy using her scale as a measure.

"Alright. But let's have you fight with someone of your level before I can assign you anything. I want to know your battle skills so I can assign you proper tasks after all."

Sharog said and smirked at the stranger orc. She then patted his left shoulder with her hand before suggesting he follow her. They were going to enter the practice battlefield that was created in the heart of the camp.

Eren was lost after entering the Oni dungeon. The size of this dungeon was enormous. It looked like somebody had messed up big with space laws to create this subspace.

"Do you want me to help?"

A familiar voice sounded in Eren's head just when he was thinking about using his mana sense and letting it spread around him. The butcher smiled and replied.

"I don't mind the help. But how are you going to help me?"

Alephee chuckled before replying.

"It's simple. I'll use my soul sense to find you something or someone that can help you. And since it is soul sense, it won't get detected by monsters of this level."

"Do it."

Eren didn't waste time pondering over Alephee's help. He knew that she also sensed his urgency.

"Hmm. There are many monster races here. And some members of those races are not very far from here too."

Alephee commented as she processed the information she received from her soul sense. Then she had a hint of excitement in her eyes as she reported her latest finding to Eren.

"Oh... this is good. I found an orc nearby, 3 hours from here. It seems this is the orc's regular hunting area. Want to meet and talk to him?"

Eren was about to nod when he sensed that he had been forgetting the most critical weakness of his monster shapeshifting. He didn't know how to have a conversation in monster languages.

He had processed the memories of the orc he had ingested using his half-blood powers. But those memories were still fuzzy. Plus, knowing about the language and speaking it in a way that would not

raise suspicions in the monsters' heads were two different things. So he couldn't count on that to have a one-on-one with the next orc he meets.

I should probably eat more of the monsters I want to create Blood Seeds from next time so I can refine their blood altogether. Then process the cherry-picked memories from all of them to build a believable monster of that race.'

Eren came up with a solution for his current problem that he could apply in the future. But that solution won't help him now.

"Hey, if it's an orc, maybe I can kill him and use my half-blood powers on him. That should help me understand the orc language better."

As Eren approached the orc, he decided to kill him. But Alephee sought a more peaceful solution.

"You don't need to kill an orc to understand what he is saying. I can do that for you using my soul sense."

Eren froze in his tracks when he heard Alephee's way of doing the recon without having to kill anyone for it.

"How can soul sense help one understand monster language? I'm not doubting you. Just being curious."

It didn't take long for Alephee to reply.

"The feedback from soul sense that you'd receive would be different from mana sense. Mana sense mimics all your five senses to give you a clear picture of your surroundings. However, soul sense extends far beyond that.

Imagine it like the communication that takes place between you and your demon beasts. This would be a case where you can communicate with everything and everyone around you to some degree. You not only share senses, but you can also stay in the know of each other's feelings. That's how soul sense could help you understand what people are saying without understanding their language."

Eren was impressed by the potential uses of soul sense. He wasn't even aware things like this existed in his previous timeline. Now he couldn't wait to awaken his soul sense.

The rest of the scene happened just like how Ulag experienced it. Eren still wanted to kill the orc and process any memories he might have had regarding this place. But things like that could always wait.

It was just that Eren was stunned when he first saw Ulag. That's because he acted way too human-like for a monster of his rank. This was not a normal sight for him.

Chapter 446 Sharog

Eren was stunned when he first saw Ulag. That's because he acted way too human-like for a monster of his rank. He was just an Orc Leader. And yet, he walked and spoke like a normal human would.

'This... how could monsters of this place be so non-monster-like? Alephee, do you have any idea?'

Eren was having a monologue while Ulag was trying to talk with him. Alephee pondered for a bit before responding.

'Hmm. I guess that this form of intelligence in monsters is due to some special artefact or potion of equal calibre.'

Alphee replied casually while Eren observed Ulag in front of him with keen eyes. He still looked like the orc he had seen in the Badlands.

But there was an unmaskable glint of intelligence in his eyes.

Ulag walked upright instead of having an arch back like usual. Plus, his hand gestures and facial expressions were more human than monster-like.

'This... What kind of place is this dungeon? Is this even a dungeon to begin with?'

Eren felt like the mystery about this place was intensifying even when he had come in contact with just one monster. He cancelled his plans to kill Ulag for short-term benefits and decided to use him to make contact with the rest of the monsters.

Eren just morphed his tongue and showed it to Ulag to make himself mute, the only thing that had the possibility of blowing his cover. Then he would use his monster language translator to answer Ulag's question in either a nod or denial.

Eren and Ulag kept on walking for more than an hour before they came across an orc camp. But this orc camp looked more like a mini-city than the camp he had just cleaned out in the Badlands.

The construction of the orc camp was robust and built to last. The perimeter walls were around 7 meters high and equally thick in diameter. They were made of stoneworks, like the rest of the two and three-story constructions that could be seen through the open gates of the camp.

Eren and Ulag had come just when the hunters of the tribe had decided to leave the camp for their hunt. They were riding Bison-like mana beasts. The hunters wore sturdy armour and flaunted runic weapons. Plus, one of them carried what seemed to be the flag that denoted their race and tribe. Setup like that made these monsters look like well-organized cavalry.

'What the actual fuck is going on in here. I've heard that epic grade monsters and above tend to have a proper societal structure in the Badlands. But... this... this I don't know what to call this anymore. These are just basic fucking orcs we are talking about. How can they be so different from the orcs I just fought with?'

As Eren observed the orcs inside the camp after gaining entry into it through Ulag, his puzzlement continued to grow. The guy had a simple house made of rock walls and wooden logs for the ceiling. He also had a backyard with arrays etched onto the ground using another form of shining crystals that the butcher couldn't recognize.

Next, Eren and Ulag stored the bodies of the mana beasts they had carried inside one of the arrays. The latter then operated on the array and made it cast a thin, dome-shaped mana layer over it, sealing the meat for good.

'Monsters who know such detailed array techniques! Damn. The monsters in the Badlands are just country bumpkins if we place these guys in front of them.'

The more he listened to Ulag's ramblings through Alephee's translations, the more he realized he had underestimated Tumko's achievements. This place was not as easy to conquer as he thought it would be for him. Plus, finding that artefact seemed even more of a herculean task for him after considering the kind of monsters he would have to deal with if he decided to do things upfront.

When Eren met Sharog, he was already immune to culture shock. So he didn't act surprised when he saw an orc lady that looked more like a human woman except for her pointy ears and dark-green coloured skin.

There was no wild air surrounding Sharog. She had black hair and purple eyes that created a contrast against her green skin. She had a lean build with prominent curves. Plus, the monster lady's revealing clothes did nothing to hide her other features.

Sharog's bust was barely covered by a bra-like set of straps that ran from below her chest to over her shoulders. The same straps had shoulder guards attached to them along with the leather cape. The cap was, of course, made of from the Armadelo skin with runic inscriptions carved over both of its faces using an unknown ink.

Sharog had worn a simple loincloth that did nothing to hide her thunder legs. The loincloth was secured in place by metallic chains that accentuated her round hips. Sharog was also wearing armguards, but Eren was so engrossed in her fuller feminine features that he didn't pay attention to anything else.

Even with all that, Eren had come to realize that Sharog was an Orc Lord. She seemed to be in the gaseous stage of the D-rank in human terms. That means she had been a newly promoted, young member of her orc tribe that was given the responsibility of managing the tribe's daily affairs.

In short, Sharog looked like a warrior who could tease her male opponent with her looks alone before killing them. Eren listened to her speak, understood what she was saying to him thanks to Alephee, and started following her to the inner sector of the camp.

Eren imagined Sharog's round hips would be swaying seductively with the way she walked in front of him. Too bad the monster lady was wearing a cape. Otherwise, he would have had plenty to look at.

Chapter 447 Nurbag vs Borul P1

'Damn it. An Orc Lord right off the bat. I'm confident in running away from her if I use my Domain of Wrath. That is if she cares enough about her tribesmen. But winning against her is impossible.'

Eren thought of his contingency plans even before there was a sign of conflict. Then, all of a sudden, the sinner of lust took over the paranoid Eren as he looked at Sharog's seductive walk.

'Hmm. Although monster slaves were available in some cities, I never did it with them. Heh! But that was when I was human, if only barely.'

Maybe it's about time I changed that and lost my monster V card.'

Eren thought and nodded at himself. But then he thought of the difference between their ranking status and assumed that the chances of that happening with Sharog anytime soon were almost zero.

'Never mind. My chances with Sharog are low, but they are never zero. I need more samples to test my Sins ability anyway.'

Eren thought before looking at Ulag who was also walking beside him. Since the guy had invited him into his tribe, it seemed like it was his responsibility to see things through.

'What's with this doofus Ulag? Addressing an Orc Lord casually like that with no respect? He could have at least told me. I might have lost my shit meeting that bodacious monster woman if I didn't have Domain of Wrath to rely on.'

Eren had come to realize that he didn't feel any threat coming from Sharog even when she was an Orc Lord. She looked and seemed like an Orc Soldier, the very beginning of the monster ranks.

But that made the butcher even more apprehensive. Usually, monsters were not known for masking their powers for any reason. That made him realize that Sharog was not only powerful but highly in control of her powers as well.

Alephee chuckled when Eren had this thought. She clarified a few things for him.

'Monsters don't follow rankers' code of conduct, Eren. They have their own set of rules. Most of them are skewed towards individual and group strengths. But almost all of them convey one thing— simplicity.

Way of address might be a big issue for humans and other sentient races. But for monsters, it is something they use for convenience. As long as Ulag doesn't outrightly start bashing an Orc Lord or challenges them in a formal duel, he can address them normally.'

Only now did Eren realize that he was looking at monster society from a human perspective. He nodded internally at Alephee's statement before concentrating his focus on Sharog's seductive stride.

"Beat him Nurbag! Finish him."

"Nurbag is going to win today as well. Damn it. I should have bet my money on him instead of this weak-ass Borul. I wonder how much refund I will get if I pull back from the bait now."

"Borul, you pathetic man. At least land a punch on Nurbag before you get knocked out. Aaaaargh"

"Nurbag is indeed a true orc. Someone that could give a fair challenge to other races. I'm rooting for him in the coming Oni Festival."

A battle ring was formed amid a bunch of two and three-story buildings at the heart of the orc camp Eren was in. Orcs of all genders, ages, and professions crowded the venue.

This was the time of dawn break. The sky was just beginning to light up with an orange hue. Yet, the crowd looked like they wouldn't start doing their work unless this match gets wrapped up.

Some orcs had climbed the two-story buildings and were sitting atop the wooden ceilings to have an uninterrupted view of what was happening inside the battle ring.

There was a bulky-looking orc beating a frail-looking orc with his gauntlets. The frail-looking orc's body was getting thrown about in the air or forcefully dragged across the ground as he kept on receiving mana-imbued punches.

The frail-looking orc's name was Borul while Nurbag was a gauntlet wearing monster. Whenever Nurbag threw a punch, a gust of wind would be generated along with it. It would give his punches more force. As a result, Borul's body seemed to drift along with the wind and got thrown all over the battle ring.

"Lady Sharog is here. Make way."

An orc shouted after he saw Sharog walking towards the battlefield with a stranger orc and Ulag in tow. Everybody greeted Sharog by nodding or calling out her name. Then they made way for her of their own accord.

'Well, what do you know? The low ranked orcs do respect the Orc Lord after all.'

Eren said to Alephee who then clarified the same thing using a serious tone.

'Of course, Eren. What I meant to say earlier was that the monsters don't care about titles and etiquettes. Titles such as Orc Soldier, Orc Leader, Orc Lord, Orc Overlord, Orc King, and Orc Emperor are created by you guys. Monsters don't address each other this way.

That being said, they do respect individual strength. You will not find a monster that is an exception to this statement.'

Eren nodded once again before sighing. He realized that the rankers' code of conduct was only a euphemistic take on 'might makes it right. The monsters had approached the same concept directly, ignoring anything that did not need to be included.

Sharog stopped just at the edge of the battle ring that was protected by the mana membrane and watched the fight from afar. Other spectators returned to their previous roles and started to either cheer for Nurbag who was renowned for his Fist Arts or jeer at Borul who was known to be a newbie and an unreliable performer.

The fight continued for a while. Strangely though, no matter how many times Nurbag beat Borul up, the latter kept on standing up, even if with wobbly feet. This pissed off Nurbag even more. So he decided to KO the guy once and for all.

Nurbag got close to Borul who was busy casting his earth-element defence armour and grabbed his shoulder all of a sudden with his right hand. He threw a punch in his face with his right hand the next moment.

Swish! Thomp!

Borul's face was thrown backwards after Nurbag's punch seemed to have connected with its mark. Nurbag released his grip over the guy's shoulder and lifted his hands to indicate that he had won.

Chapter 448 Nurbag vs Borul P2

Borul's face was thrown backwards after Nurbag's punch seemed to have connected with its mark. Nurbag released his grip over the guy's shoulder and lifted his hands to indicate that he had won.

People started chanting Nurbag's name even more. The guy immediately activated his movement spell and walked towards the edge of the battlefield to receive compliments from the spectators.

Borul on the other hand was seen standing just the way Nurbag had left him. His earth armour spell seemed to have crumbled away. The semi-transparent wind-element mana obscured his face, throwing it backwards. The guy looked like he was passed out while standing up and would fall at any time.

Yet suddenly someone said something to seemingly nobody.

"Enough with the drama. Wrap things up fast. I have things to do."

Eren heard Sharong speaking because he was standing close to her. He wasn't sure how many spectators around her could have overheard the statement. But apparently, the guy it was intended for heard it loud and clear.

Borul shook his head before resuming a straight posture all of a sudden. He had a gentle smile on his face that conveyed that he was totally fine.

Only now did people realise that even if Borul's simple-looking clothes made out of beast skin looked ragged and dusty because of Nurbag's thrashing, the guy himself was completely fine. He didn't have any injuries on his body whatsoever.

This sudden development quieted the cheering crowd. All eyes were suddenly fixated on Borul and Nurbag's limelight was taken away from him as easily as he had gained it.

Nurbag still had his hands raised with closed fists in victory. People came to realize that he was shouting with them the whole time because the whole crowd quieted down unnaturally.

"Yeeeeee... Hell yeah... I won fuckers! Hahahaha! That was an easy win, baby. That dirtbag Borul was nothing but a...

Hmm?"

Nurbag had a puzzled look on his face as he registered the sudden silence of the crowd. Following the spectators' gaze, he glanced back to find Borul staring at him with a smile on his face.

'Didn't I just beat the guy? Why is he...'

Nurbag couldn't complete his thoughts because Borul appeared right in front of him like a ghost. But he wouldn't be afraid of the guy just because he made a small comeback. This wasn't Nurbag's first battle after all.

Swish! Tah!

Swish! Tah!

Swish! Tah!

Swish! Tah!

Swish! Tah!

Nurbag started throwing punches at Borul at incredible speeds. The spell-powered speed was so high that it looked like he had grown an extra set of arms and attacked Borul with all of them at once.

This time, Borul didn't generate any earth armour. Nor did he get swayed by the fist-fighter's punching force. Standing there peacefully, he handled all of his punches with his open palms alone.

For the first time since the battle started, Borul had tried to defend himself actively instead of relying on his earth-element armour. His speed as he tackled those punches was unbelievable. If there wasn't a rule of spectators only using their vision to see the ongoing battles, a lot of mana senses would have been sent towards the pair fighting. The rule was designed so that the participants wouldn't get distracted.

"Stop generating wind-elemental force with your punches, Nurbag. It makes me aware of the direction of the punch it is coming from."

Nurbag's punches were easily handled by Bulur while he lectured him with a laid-back look.

"You can use your wind-element mana to create spectral punches and attack me from my blind spot while using your real punches as a distraction. That way I'll have fewer openings in your offence to take advantage of."

Borul said all the right things. But for some reason, it pissed off Nurbag even more. He would rather the guy taunt him the way he did during their previous round. He didn't care about anything anymore and increased the force behind his attacks to a new level.

Yet Nurbag could feel that not even a single punch from him was making a difference. Borul looked the same as he did before starting their current round.

Borul wasn't done lecturing Nurbag yet.

"Your Fist Art is immature. As far as the progress of your element is concerned, it is inadequate. And the way you use your spells is also not optimized.

And yet, you have won against many of your opponents because of your ferocity. It makes up for almost all the drawbacks you have in your fighting style.

Your passion as a fist warrior orc is unmatched in your generation."

This time, instead of just criticizing, Borul also highlighted Nurbag's plus point. His speech was steady when he had spoken all this. His voice was mild. And the things he said made sense to everyone, including Nurbag.

Borul decided to end his speech and the duel with his last piece of advice.

"That being said, Nurbag. You need to work on a lot of issues at once. We can revisit the things I mentioned after some time. But you need to prioritize one issue that needs immediate attention."

This time, it looked like Borul had grown multiple limbs as he kept up with Nurbag's insanely fast punches. Then all of a sudden, Borul decided to launch an offence for the first time.

One simple punch landed on Nurbag's right chest, just below the shoulder. Eren had observed with his Sedated Perception that the punch hadn't even connected with Nurbag's body. Yet he could see the shoulder region forming a depression all of a sudden.

The spectators watched in awe as Nurbag disappeared from his position only to clash with the dome-shaped mana membrane located at the edge of the battle ring.

Slip!

Badum!

Nurbag's body stayed on the mana membrane so long as the vector force was still acting on it. Then it fell on the ground with a distinct thud produced by his weight and all the heavy defence gear he had worn.

Nurbag was in a world of pain at this time. His shoulder felt like it would just crumble away. Yet he pressed his right shoulder with his left hand and managed to lift his face while lying down. He was looking at Borul who was returning his gaze with a smile on his face. The guy was waiting for Borul to finish his advice.

"You have a weak defence. Work on that first before everything else."

Borul said and started walking towards Sharog. Despite his injuries, Nurbag listened carefully and nodded at no one in particular as he closed his eyes. One had to say that Nurbag was prideful but wasn't a complete fool. He only listened to his opponent when Borul beat him fair and square.

Now anybody could tell that the fist-fighter was done for the day. Wtt

Chapter 449 Varhan P1

The audience, now quieted down, hadn't recovered from the shock it had received a while back. And the results of the match baffled it even more.

"This... My guy won? I don't believe this. Did I win my fucking bet with such odds?"

Hahahahahahahaha!

Oh! Aaaaaah!

I'm a rich orc now.

Hahaha! Where are the bitches and the booze? I'm throwing a party at my place. Only hot orcina are invited. Come one, come all! Hahaha!"

The silence observed by everyone was suddenly broken by a random orc who looked like he was about to break into a tribal dance. He was the same guy who had placed his bets in favour of Borul on a whim before the start of the match. Since the guy's chances of winning the match were extremely low, he was bound to receive serious returns on the amount he had invested in.

'Bitches and booze? Hot orcinas? Um... Alephee... are you sure that the betting guy said all the things?'

Eren asked Alephee with doubtful expressions as she translated the betting guy's speech for him. He soon received a response from her.

'Well... I may have twisted some words to fit the context you understand.'

Eren had a blank look on his face as he asked Alephee a question that he didn't need an answer for.

'Um... What kind of image do you have of me and my contexts anyway?'

The butcher sighed and dropped the subject quickly as he noticed the changes in his surroundings.

That cry of happiness and excitement was enough of a spark for the spectators to start getting crazy once again. Now everybody chanted Borul's name while ignoring Nurbag. Most of them had conveniently forgotten the fact they had thrashed him not too long ago.

But Borul wasn't paying attention to any of the compliments and invitations from the Orcinas. He walked with his leisured stride and stood in front of Sharog who was standing on the other side of the safety membrane.

"What can I do for you, Lady Sharog?"

Borul asked and looked behind Sharog to see the two orcs that had accompanied her. He narrowed his eyes on Eren for a moment before looking at Sharog with his signature subtle smile. Subtle for an orc at least.

"Didn't you say you don't have enough people for the trial? Want to test this guy?"

Sharog pointed behind her back with her right thumb while looking at Borul. The latter looked like some understanding had dawned on him before responding.

"We indeed lack able hands. But that doesn't mean we can take up anybody. We are limited by numbers in the trial after all."

Sharon nodded before proceeding further.

"That's why I brought him here. Test his battle strength. If he performs well, I'll assign him a hunting task based on his performance. We'll see how he completes the task. If he can perform well in the hunt, you can consider taking him in the team for the trial. How does that sound?"

Borul pondered for a bit then looked at Eren. He then snapped his fingers as if giving a sign to somebody and the mana membrane covering the battle ring disappeared. Then he scanned the stranger orc with his mana sense before responding.

"Difficult to tell about this guy. Where did you get him? Exiled from other tribes?"

Borul looked at Sharog and Ulga before dismissing his question.

"Never mind. New guy. What's your name?"

Eren maintained a stoic face at the guy's question before looking at Ulga. The latter understood his intentions and came forward to speak.

"Um... Borul... the thing is... the guy's tongue had been cut out so he can't speak. But he confirms that he comes from a different tribe. I guess they stripped him of his name as well."

Borul didn't like to listen to sob stories. So he just nodded before scratching his head and responding in the same laid-back manner he had addressed his opponent just now.

"Um... welcome to our tribe. It is better if you are assigned a name. So I'll do the honours. Hm... how about Varhan?"

Borul received a nod from Eren to let him know that he was okay with the name. Neither the one who was named nor the one who named cared about it. So the matter was settled quickly.

"Okay. That settles it then. You will be known as Varhan in the tribe. Now get in. Let's see how much of a hunter you are."

Just when the people had decided to leave their spots and go about doing their duties, they saw two participants entering the field again. Nurbag was also taken away by two orcs. Immediately, the mana barrier was raised over the battle ring, indicating that a fight was about to happen.

The guy who had just won a fortune through the bet was tempted to gamble it again. Double or nothing - that was his way of life. This time he focused his eyes on a newbie orc who now seemed less impressive in front of Borul because of the latter's recent performance.

'I know the trend now. The less impressive the guy is, the more chances he has to secure a win.

I'll invest my newfound wealth in this newbie. Let's gamble one more time. Hehehehe!'

The betting guy thought of a master plan and immediately acted on it. Then he watched and waited for the battle to start.

"I'll tell you the rules of the duel in case you aren't aware. Only blunt weapons are allowed. Hand combat is preferred. You can use any spells and target any spot of your opponent's body. The winner will be decided if either of us forfeits or gets incapacitated.

Should we start?"

Borul received another nod from Eren as a way to show his affirmation. The latter nodded as well before opening his arms wide.

"You can attack me all you want."

Borul proclaimed only to learn that Varhan had disappeared. He appeared right in front of the defensive specialist and threw a punch at him.

But before the punch could be thrown, Borul felt that something was behind his back targeting him. Thus, he decided to bolster his back this time with a defensive spell while concentrating on his front. He wanted to block Varhan's punches just the way he had done for Nurbag.

Too bad, Varhan had taken the advice Borul had given to Nurbag seriously. He had opened multiple fronts at the same time and was attacking the defence-specialist orc with it.

The hatchlings of the flame had made their appearance in the arena.

Chapter 450 Varhan P2

The hatchlings of the flame had made their appearance in the arena. Four fire snakes had surrounded the two orcs fighting each other. But they only targeted one of them.

Despite this, neither the beasts nor Varhan's fists could connect with their target. There would always be some distance maintained whenever they tried to close in on the guy.

'Gravitational force that is focused on repelling!'

Eren quickly figured out Borul's inherent nature. Being an earth-element ranker, he had access to all the earth-element spells. His inherent nature had given him a unique battle style. A style in which he could ignore the opponent's offence and wait for an opportunity to strike back.

In addition, the guy was able to move rapidly by generating reverse gravity force with his movement spell. He could also jump crazy high using the same spell— making him unable to be disadvantaged when it came to moving about and dodging the attacks he didn't want.

But that wasn't all. Borul could generate a magnetic field around him. With it, he could sense the incoming attacks even from his blind spots. Targeting him while his attention is divided was difficult, but not impossible. But making those blows count was the true test for Varhan.

Sedated Perception!

Stunning Speed!

Erin AKA Varhan activated his time-element spells and observed the guy. To his surprise, the guy could keep up with his enhanced perception thanks to his magnetic field paired up with his mana sense.

Plus, Borul could perform quick movements by using the magnetic field and their attraction and repelling force to its fullest. His only drawback against Eren was his normal vision which could not process the visual information as fast as his other extra senses.

Eren observed the guy closely while he traded blows with him. The punching dagger arts that he had learned from Marla had their uses when it came to throwing punches too. It was just that Eren had to adjust his position and keep himself closer to his opponent than he had to had he been using katars.

"Ulag, where did you say you found Varhan?"

Sharog was stunned by Varhan's performance. Although Borul was not at a disadvantage against the guy in any way, the way Varhan fought with him was quite shocking. These were no amateur moves.

Ulag repeated the events of a few hours ago before returning to his position. He too was amazed by Varhan's performance. He wondered if he could benefit in some way from giving the tribe another worthy hunter.

Sharog saw as Borul dodged, blocked, and redirected all the attacks Varhan threw at him. And yet, Borul also didn't seem to have a real advantage over Varhan either. The high-speed battle and lack of ability to use mana sense made it difficult for the audience to keep the condition of the participants in check.

Everybody had come to realise that Borul was just playing with Nurbag from the beginning. Nurbag would have been beaten to a pulp if he was in Varhan's place.

The crowd started cheering for both. It was divided into two groups. One that supported Varhan whose name had to be announced to the public as they had kept on asking Ulag about it. The other group had become his ardent followers.

'One.'

Swish! Swish!

Block! Block!

'Two!'

Bock! Block!

Swish!

'Three!'

Eren was keeping track of how many times within a span of a few seconds Borul had to dodge his attacks instead of blocking them using his repelling force. Of course, the guy was also doing his darndest to throw Varhan's maths off by constantly changing the number of dodges or blocks he would be doing.

Every once in a while, Borul would throw a punch at Varhan that was coated with an earth element mana that generated a strong repelling force. By now Varhan was out with all the go-to cards he had in his sleeves. Thus, he defended himself with his defensive spell.

Yet the cloak of lightning couldn't block the invisible force. This forced Eren to get thrown about like he had been hit by a huge bison all of a sudden. Eren would get back in the game quickly afterwards. But his attacks couldn't touch the guy.

After fighting with Borul for a while and observing his every move with his enhanced perception, Varhan finally figured out what he needed to do to make his attacks count on the guy.

Varhan needed to be a bit faster than he was at the time of attacking. Plus, he needed two more fire snakes for Borul to feel overwhelmed.

Eren had observed that Borul would choose to dodge the attacks using his exceptional movement spell instead of blocking them using his equally exceptional blocking spell. All his efforts in keeping track of the guy's habits had helped Varhan come up with his plan.

Now it was time for execution.

Sharog saw as Varhan summoned two new fire snakes. He also increased his speed by sending his mana circuits into hyperdrive. Only Eren's afterimages could be seen across the battle ring.

Yet, this didn't discourage Borul from entering the teaching mode with Varhan once again. When they both got away from each other and created a safe distance, the original orc started talking.

"Varhan, you are a great addition to our tribe. So I'll say a few things which you might or might not be aware of. Your triple element spell casting complements your battle style. But you are focusing on speed. There's no timing or accuracy in your attacks."

'This cocky bastard just won't shut up.'

Eren thought and attacked. With even more ferocity than before.

He successfully blocked and dodged all of Eren's attacks on multiple fronts while directing some of them on Eren himself before saying something once again.

"With exceptional accuracy and timing that can be honed, even an ordinary ranker would be able to counter your moves. I'll show you."

Borul stopped using his offensive and defensive spells and dodged the fire snakes' attacks. He let the butcher get into his striking range and displayed extreme mastery over his hand movements. He let Eren's punch travel towards his face before flashing a smile.

Just when Eren thought the punch was going to hit Borul, the latter used the combination of his spells to redirect the attack on him. The speed, timing, and accuracy with which Borul did that were flawless.

That's why even if Eren could see the attack with his enhanced vision, he couldn't do anything about it.