

Vile 481

[Chapter 481 Water Wyvern](#)

"Miss Altashia, you'd pay dearly if you keep on underestimating me."

Altashia, who was busy dodging the attacks of the sword and the water snake, heard that and looked in the berserker's direction while narrowing her eyes on him. A moment later, she was seen standing still, facing the sword and the water snake's attacks.

"As you wish, Rodrick."

Altashia said nonchalantly and drew out her weapon. A weapon that was bigger than her stature. The blade span of the scythe she owned was around two meters— making it look deadly.

Slash!

A wind blade ring was created around Altashia the next moment and it seemed that the world had become silent. The ring expanded in all directions. First, it effortlessly cut through the water snake in its path. Then the ring clashed with the flying weapon and almost snapped it in two.

Kreeeeech!

A sharp cry was released by the sword that sounded like a human infant's cry had been altered to make it more ear-piercing. The sword chose to retreat under her master's orders when he felt her pain.

Swish! Swish! Swish! Swish!

Altashia spun her weapon around her effortlessly a few times as if she was trying to check its balance. Rodrick and the rest of the audience watched in awe as they saw her handling her scythe with artistic mastery.

Rodrick's broadsword retreated and moved towards him. He held its hilt with his mouth and imbued it with his mana directly, making the crack that had almost broken it in half mend at a rapid pace. His hands were busy finishing the series of hand signs.

"Any more moves you want to try on me?"

Altashia asked Rodrick with a light smile on her face. It seemed that she enjoyed interacting with her weapon in this way. She stood with her left foot on the sharpened chine of her weapon's blade while the snath of her weapon was tilted towards her upright posture. Her right foot rested on her left leg's knee. Her left arm was wrapped along the length of the snath. Her folded right arm was resting on her head— its palm ready to grab the weapon at a moment's notice.

'Show off.'

Eren commented and shook his head while smiling mirthlessly after he saw Altashia assume that stance. But he also had to admit that there was a certain charm Altashia was exuding at the time. Something that could not be ignored. It was like she had become one with the weapon, emitting the same threatening aura.

Eren also concluded that this wasn't intentional on Altashia's part. She was just in sync with her weapon, listening to its call as it listened to hers. Her mastery of it made her see it as part of her body's extension. That form was as natural for her as standing upright on her legs.

The spectators took a few moments to realize what had happened. And when they did, all they saw was a halt to the match. This halt was granted to Rodrick by his opponent.

Every gaze was fixated on Alashia in the next moment. They had heard the question she had asked Rodrick. But at that moment, they had all come to realize that Rodrick had gotten himself into trouble the moment Altashia's weapon was drawn.

Rodrick had dodged the wind blade ring that was coming for him by jumping at the right time. But he found out that the battle ring now had random patches of the flame dancing on the ground, including the place where he had previously stood.

Although Rodrick hadn't stopped his hand signs despite getting intimidated by his opponent, his facial expressions spoke volumes about his mental state.

The water snake's body turned into the water before evaporating because of Altashia's residual fire-mana affecting it. It seemed that a controlled haze was making its presence known on the ground.

"Rodrick, you didn't answer me."

Altashia asked her opponent. The latter was finally snapped back to reality— his expressions turned grimmer. Pa nda

Novel "Th... Thank you for waiting. I indeed have a move I want to try."

Rodrick released the sword's hilt from his jaw and finished his hand signals. His sword stood straight in front of him with no signs of the previous crack.

As a result of Rodrick's successful hand-sign casting, a giant mass of water started gathering behind his back the next moment. The animated spell he was performing was going to be bigger than the 3-meter water snakes he had manifested not too long ago.

'A transcendent-grade spell.'

Layla commented inside Eren's mind. The latter watched with keen interest what kind of spell would allow Rodrick to have such confidence against Altashia who had chopped all his plan into two with one swift move of her weapon.

Roar!

A strong and intense mana signature was released followed by a draconic roar. It came from the mass of water behind Rodrick that was slowly getting moulded into a definite shape.

A snake-like head was first to be formed. Then came the same umbrella-shaped fin around the neck that the water snakes had displayed. The neckline extended rapidly before attaching to the newly formed torso. This torso was slender and still snake-like. But it had a relatively broader chest along with the rib details that the previous water snakes didn't have.

The next to form were the large wings that came attached to the front limbs, which also had claws. The hind legs and a long forked tail were the last to form. The creature's hind legs were smaller than its body. The tail, on the other hand, was relatively large.

Roar!

The creature released another draconic roar once the spell was complete. This time, the animated spell manifested a creature that was twice as large as the water snake. It also gave off an intense mana signature. Indicative of the fact that it would be many times more difficult to deal with than both the water snakes combined.

"That's.... That's a wyvern!"

The announcer mumbled to himself. But because he was wearing a sound-element artefact on him, his mumblings were heard by everyone in the amphitheatre.

The crowd grew silent for a short while before bursting into even more madness. People started shouting like their lives were dependent on it. Forget about mortals, a wyvern was a rare sight even for the most experienced rankers who had ventured relatively deep into the Badlands.

Rodrick was almost out of his mana storage. His forehead was dripping with sweat. Plus, he was a bit out of breath. He had regained the confidence he had lost after the animated spell was cast.

He smiled to himself and took a long breath to calm himself. Then he jumped on the water wyvern's back before looking at Altashia.

"Miss Altashia, what do you think?"

Altashia was seen waiting patiently. She let her opponent finish casting his spells. Eren understood what her intention was. She wanted to defeat Rodrick at his fullest potential so that he wouldn't bother her again. Although she liked free royal gifts, she wasn't dependent on them.

"Hm. What I think doesn't matter. Let's test it out, shall we?"

Altashia said and gripped the snath of her weapon with her folded right hand. The next thing spectators saw was Altashia disappearing from her position along with her weapon.

Chapter 482 How Animated Spells Work

'Hmm. That transcendent-grade spell requires a live consciousness.'

Layla spoke up when the water wyvern was formed. Eren raised his eyebrows and decided to ask the obvious.

'What do you mean?'

Layla took a short pause before continuing.

'You know how animated spells work right? They use your elemental mana as a basic building block to create a mana body for the stray consciousness of a beast corresponding to that spell.'

They say that the world's mana has higher consciousness. It encompasses everything and anything— the living and the dead, as well as everything between the two nodes.'

Layla's words caught Eren's attention. He had come to understand that Layla dabbled in a lot of animal experiments. Those Draconic Lizards were her creations using Eliza's blood as the base.

So it was natural that she would study everything related to animated spells, beast contract spells, and any spell or experiment that dabbled with the subject of mana beasts and demon beasts.

'Does it mean the animated spell works like necromancy?'

Eren asked while he was watching the duel between Altashia and Rodrick. He could ask such a question without worrying about missing crucial details of the match because he had his Sedated Perception active.

Layla was able to keep up with his enhanced perception. It seemed like this was her favourite topic. So she didn't take long to answer.

'No. Not necromancy. That's an entirely different ballgame.

This is more of a consciousness borrowing. The reason one can only start casting animated spells after they experience the epiphany related to it is due to this fact. It enables you to temporarily separate that vestige of consciousness from the higher consciousness.

And since the basic building block, which means the mana body for the beast's consciousness to reside in, is made of the mana you used, it would always contain your mana signature. Additionally, a part of your consciousness is added to allow you to remain in control of the animated beast.

The animated beasts born out of such spells follow the basic commands given to them through your mana signature. This is because your influence is integrated into their updated form of existence. Otherwise, why would a stray consciousness follow a ranker's orders?'

Eren recalled that he was able to cast Fire snake only after drinking the Potion of Serenity and coming in touch with higher consciousness through his forced epiphany. He hadn't thought of these things in the past. So it only started to make sense to him at this point. He asked his next question while pondering over many things at once.

'How does Rodrick's spell differ from the normal animated spell?'

Layla smiled as if she was expecting this question. She explained it to him quickly.

'The transcendent-grade spell Rodrick has used skips the part where he needs to borrow the beast's consciousness. The hand signs he performed required more time to cast this spell. It was because he was trying to call out to a live consciousness that wasn't mixed with the higher consciousness.

This makes the animated spell more complicated than it already is. In addition, the fact that it is a wyvern's consciousness places more burdens on Rodrick's mind than he is willing to show in public.

The fact that he can do it while still being in the Ace rank can only mean one thing. The live beast whose consciousness Rodrick has summoned here using his unique means is already tamed by him. Thus, he could afford to do something like this. Otherwise, the spell would have gone haywire by now.

Do you understand what I'm getting at?'

Eren opened his eyes wide in surprise before raising a doubt.

'Rodrick has a water wyvern as his demon beast?'

Layla chuckled before confirming his doubt.

'That's right. I guess the royals have their own perks after all. Using a spell like that is different from using regular animated spells. Although it increases the casting time, you still get to have some perks.

First of all, the consciousness won't get affected no matter what you do with the mana body. It can regenerate indefinitely as long as your mana storage keeps up.

Second, the animated spell stops being a spell. The beast summoned into existence this way can use all its spells as long as the right elemental mana is provided to it. That means, it can cast almost all the spells its main body uses.

I guess that just like you guys, Rodrick has come here with his demon beast. He must have gotten special permission to keep the beast inside the city. Or he must have used some spatial support spell to summon the beast's consciousness from afar, possibly outside the city's borders.

Either way, Rodrick wanted Altashia to not be able to use her demon beast while he faces her with his. That guy must be desperate for a win.

While not everyone will understand his trick, I'm sure that the high-ranking entities watching the fight have already realized this. What kind of honour would he gain if one of them decides to address his act to the public?'

Eren listened to Layla's explanation and focused on the battle. The latter looked at Rodrick in a new light before mumbling to himself.

'Heh! Screw the high-ranking entities. Fuck the public. What would one have to do to cheat so creatively like this? I'm not complaining. Just want to know his secrets.'

Eren wasn't worried about Altashia even when he knew that Rodrick was kind of playing dirty. Even if she didn't get the whole picture, she showed no signs of stress on her face. That meant that Rodrick was still something she could manage on her own just fine.

Plus, Rodrick had followed all the rules of the games while exploiting the loopholes. If Eren could have his way, he would invite the guy to join his guild for his talent at finding the legal way to cheat.

Alas, no matter how distant he was from the main branch, Rodrick was still royal. Why would he join the butcher's guild that had no reputation?

Chapter 483 Dragonkind

'Doesn't this make the spell close to the beast contract spell?'

Eren asked as he saw Altashia suddenly using her movement spell with his enhanced perception. She could also use her way of the elements to strengthen her movement spell, allowing the spell to achieve

greater results. It would have been tough for him to follow her movements even if it was him on the ground without his time-element spell.

'Yeah. The beast contract spell is inspired by a lot of ancient spells. You can say that it is a nerfed down version of the spell you are seeing.

The beast contract spell requires the ranker to kill the beast in order to harvest its soul instead of summoning its consciousness outside its body. As a result, the beast contract spell is easier and faster to cast.'

Eren processed all the information Layla had given him and understood it completely. Layla paused for a bit before continuing.

'The main advantage of the spell Rodrick has performed is that you would never become your beast's bottleneck. It would have its own growth as a ranking entity. Plus, unlike the beast contract spell, the beast's body and the beast itself don't rely too heavily on the caster once the spell has finished its successful execution.

So both variants of the spell produce almost the same results. But the way they go about it is different.

My master's era didn't have the beast contract spell. Personally, I feel that the feat of the ranker who came up with the beast contract spell after studying many such spells and extracting optimal parts of them is tremendous. I would have liked to meet them and exchange notes.'

Layla concluded and let the matter rest. It felt like she needed someone to discuss research matters with. So she was looking for ways to expound on these subjects with the only guy she could talk to.

Eren also focused on Altashia's fight. So far he had found no opening in Altashia's battle style that he could exploit. But that didn't mean that he should stop looking.

"Hm. What I think doesn't matter. Let's test it out, shall we?"

Altashia swung her weapon at the water wyvern from a close range. A significant amount of wind and fire mana had been imbued in the slash along with her mastery of the elements.

Roar!

The water wyvern had a huge gaping slash on its neck. It cried in pain when Altashia got below its neck without any fear and launched her weapon slash at its seemingly unprotected area.

'Strike first. Strike hard. No mercy. Good going, Al.'

Eren praised Altashia for her move. But that didn't change the fact that he was going to criticize her for not striking Rodrick when his spell wasn't finished.

Things would have ended pretty abruptly. But the beast was already preparing to take flight when Altashia approached her. Her attack couldn't stop it or Rodrick from getting airborne.

Altashia was pushed back when the wind generated by the beast's wing hit her directly as she was standing right below it. That prevented her from attacking the beast once again.

Roar!

Another draconic roar was released by the water wyvern as it attempted to fix its half-chopped neck with the mana from its surroundings. Since it was airborne and had gained a sufficient altitude, Altashia's threat had been greatly reduced.

Since it was a mana body, the beast didn't take long to fix itself. Plus, some of its body parts started to show draconic scales on them— indicating that the beast was stabilizing in its new vessel.

The beast flapped its wings repeatedly as he stared at the human who had hurt it. Although this was its mana body, it could still feel pain when it was injured.

Roar!

The beast released a deafening roar at the human who had attacked it. It made a grabbing motion towards her with its front limbs that had clawed at the end where its wings had joined.

Altashia felt a dangerous sensation around her. But before she could act on it, the shape of a giant claw made of water-element mana appeared around her with her in the middle. The manifestation of the claw was so instantaneous that Eren couldn't believe it wasn't preplanned.

'Heh! Why do you think dragonkind is respected and feared no matter which era or race it is. Its ability to cast magic far surpasses your imagination. And this is just a wyvern we are talking about.

Hehehe! No use telling you right now I guess. Just know this. The dragons aren't a mythical class for nothing.'

Layla spoke up as if she understood Eren's state of mind. He also realized that the little witch had another intention. She wanted him to forgo the thoughts of playing smart with Eliza.

"Riptide!"

A giant wave of water was formed in front of Rodrick before it picked up speed. As it travelled forward, it transformed into a blade slash. The shape of the blade slash resembled a crescent moon.

Rodrick wasn't sitting ducks either. He knew Altashia wasn't someone who could be defeated solely by cheating. Her existence alone was enough of a cheat. So he sent one of his weapon-based spells her way to prevent her from escaping from above.

The claw had five fingers that looked like five giant pillars that stood around Altashia. The ground beneath her had been converted into an icy surface that soon looked like it too was made from the water wyvern's dragon scale skin. No human or ordinary demon beast could achieve this level of detail in such a short time.

Yet, Altashia flashed a light grin as she looked up and saw Riptide coming from her. Eren had a feeling she had been through a lot worse for her to act this way. When you face someone much stronger than you, your sense of danger is altered.

Eren concluded that Altashia had met up with her version of Eliza.

Chapter 484 The Scythe Queen

Altashia saw that she was targeted from many fronts. In response, she first created a series of blade slashes around her using her weapon. The way she handled her weapon was mesmerizing as it was precise to a T.

She did not do anything unnecessary. No movement wasted. It looked like the weapon she held had a life of its own as it moved around her at the touch of her fingers.

Slash! Slash! Slash! Slash!

The warrior ranker destroyed Water Prison Claw effortlessly at the cost of tapping into a huge amount of mana from her mana storage. Her forehead was soaked in sweat after she was done spinning around herself. Her weapon was still being spun by both of her arms above her head.

Altashia looked at Rodrick, who was looking at her with serious expressions. He knew what he was doing was inappropriate. But he needed this win. He was just that desperate.

Even though Altashia had managed to destroy the Water Prison Claw, she had consumed more than half of her mana to pull it off. A few more attacks by Rodrick's water wyvern would be able to make Altashia run out of her juices, making him win by default. This was all he wanted.

Rodrick tightened his grip on his weapon again. In addition, he had enough mana to cast a few more rounds of Riptide. He decided to press Altashia with them as much as he could by timing it with his beast's attacks.

But all his strategy was based on the fact that Altashia would just stay where she was and take his beating.

"If you think getting airborne would save you from my attacks, let me prove you wrong."

Altashia said and raised one of her hands. A hive of fire and earth elemental chains was formed once again. These chains climbed over her weapon's snath and gripped it hard.

The next thing Rodrick saw was that Altashia had sent her weapon flying at him. But unlike his weapon which had consciousness, this weapon was controlled by Altashia's chains. And that was all she needed to attack with.

The beast roared at the incoming weapon and started casting the spell. But the weapon changed direction suddenly and accelerated at the same time.

Slash! Slash! Slash! Slash! Slash! Slash!

A barrage of blade slashes was launched by Altashia in mid-air and they all flew toward Rodrick and his beast's direction.

Roar!

"Aargh!"

It wasn't long before a human's and a wyvern's cries of pain could be heard at the same time. But alas for both of them, this wasn't the end. The slashes that had affected their bodies caught fire. Altashia's

fire-element mana invaded Rodrick's system at the same time as it corroded the beast's mana body. Putting both of them in a vulnerable position. PANDA-NOVEL

Altashia raised her hand towards the flying duo and focused her thoughts. She could feel her mana invading her enemies' bodies. She opened her eyes a moment later and brought them down hard as if she was pulling something down.

The fire-element mana that had invaded Rodrick's body changed shape. The fire and wind element chains began sprouting from the wounds. It wasn't long before the chains were wrapped around both bodies within a few moments.

Altashia was pulling on her chains when she made the yanking down motion. The airborne duo both pulled a few meters nearer to the ground from their previous position.

Rodrick was giving commands to Wyvern to fly at high altitude, even though it had lost its balance due to all the chains restricting its wings.

Altashia appeared right in front of the now-brought-down water wyvern like an apparition. When she had yanked those chains, she had connected those chains with the chains she had sent the duo's way. She then used the linked chains as a pulley to bring herself to their height. She then used her weapon unhesitatingly, aiming for the mana beast's entire body.

This was the final nail in the coffin for both the beast and its owner.

Swish!

A giant fire-element slash bloomed in the air that overshadowed everything with its mana signature alone.

The beast's head was cut down. Its spell caster also had various slashes all over his body. They both fell to the ground when Altashia swung her weapon once again.

The duel was over when Rodrick got so critically injured that he lost his control over the spell and the water wyvern's mana body was dispersed.

Altashia used the wind as a cushion once again to land safely on the ground. Her scythe's blade had been coated with Rodrick's blood as it had come in contact with his body. The guy would have been chopped down into minced meat if Altashia hadn't controlled her attacks.

Altashia spun her weapon around her once again to get rid of Rodrick's blood. Although she was breathing a bit heavily with beads of sweat running down her cheeks, she was fine. One could tell that she still hadn't gone all out against her duel with the royal.

"The winner of this epic... no... super epic duel is Altashia Argas!"

The announcer was the first to get snapped back to reality after witnessing such an intense battle. He announced the battle's result with a voice coated in excitement he had long forgotten to feel while acting as the witness to such duels.

The audience took a while to register the entire set of events. Some looked at the spectral screens above the battle ring to see what had happened in slow motion as the screen was playing the highlights of the duel.

The crowd became wild when they saw Altashia in action. Her onscreen appearance made her feel like she was dancing through her whole duel instead of battling. When she drew her weapon in the highlights, her visual grace only increased.

"Altashia I'll give you 10,000 Extols for shaking hands with me!"

"Altashia, I'll... I'll give you all my wealth. Just wave at me."

"Altashia!"

"Miss Argas!"

"The Scythe Queen!"

"The Wyvern Slayer!"

The spectators shouted their hearts out to call out to Altashia. Their emotions were all over the place as they witnessed her feats. Their individual appreciation soon turned into crowd hysteria as they kept on shouting her name. Some had started giving her unofficial titles too.

Altashia didn't pay attention to any of those cheers. She looked in Eren's direction and smiled after she put her weapon back in her storage. The latter made a gulping sound when he felt her piercing gaze on him.

'She's a dangerous woman.'

Chapter 485 Acquainting A Royal P1

"Hehe! Was I wild enough?"

Al asked Eren when they met after her battle. The crowd had become berserk trying to meet her. So the organizers had decided to keep her from prying eyes for some time till they vacated the premises. Therefore, she had been made to wait in a spacious lounge hall inside the amphitheater. Eren was escorted to where she was after her request.

Altashia had thought that this was the temporary glory she was basking in. But she didn't know that a lot of rankers had recorded her duel on their image recording artefacts and array disks. Her fame was bound to increase with time.

Eren smiled when he heard Al greet him with that question. He nodded affirmatively before commenting.

"More than I had asked you to be. Are you fine?"

Eren asked while observing Al closely. Then they both took their seats by a plush couch that was part of the hall's interior.

"I'm fine. You should see the other guy. Anyway, Did you find any?"

Al said while drinking the fruit juice that she had been served. Of course, she was also waiting here for her rewards from her opponent. Rodrick had been taken for first aid treatment right after the battle was over. She guessed that it wouldn't be long before the healers patched him up.

"What are you talking about?"

Eren asked with puzzled expressions. Al smirked at his response before adding further.

"Don't try to play dumb with me. You were looking for my weaknesses so you can exploit them when we do fight each other. Tell me, did you find any?"

Eren had a blank face when he heard Altashia's statement. He couldn't help chuckling before adding further.

"Hahahaha! Oh yes. I was looking for your weaknesses. I might have a faint idea. But I won't tell you. Unlike someone who likes to give their opponent some time casting their spells, I'd like to keep my opponents on their toes."

Altashia pursed her lips when she heard Eren's jab pointed at her. She sighed before commenting.

"Sigh! You don't know Rodrick as well as I do. The guy has his share of troubles. Plus, I had to put on a show to make him feel that the rewards he had wagered on this duel were worth this duel. Otherwise, he'd just keep coming back."

Altashia said, receiving Eren's nod in return. Then she put down her half-finished glass of fruit juice and listened to Eren speaking some more.

"By the way, Al. How did you know that I was looking for your weakness?"

Altashia looked Eren in the eye before commenting with playfulness added to her tone.

"Hehe. Those keen eyes are always looking for something. And don't think I don't notice when you glance at me. I can feel that on my skin from miles away. Hmph!"

'Introverts are blessed with some peculiar powers.'

Eren thought to himself before flashing a wicked grin to Al. They were about to chat some more when a rankless staff member announced the arrival of Rodrick.

"Miss Altashia, thank you for entertaining my selfish request. You will find what we had agreed upon in this storage artefact."

Rodrick still had some wounds on his body. But they had been turned into barely noticeable scratches that didn't bleed anymore. His expression was serious as if he had lost more than just this battle.

Altashia took the storage ring from Rodrick and sent her mana sense inside. She nodded her head at the royal before stowing the ring away. With this, their deal was over.

Rodrick sighed after giving Altashia her due reward. He was about to leave when he saw Eren sitting not far away from Altashia. He couldn't recognize the guy. And someone who kept Altashia company had to be special. So he thought of making friends.

"Hello, pleased to meet you. Name's Rodrick Renar. Are you a friend of Altashia?"

Eren, who had just taken his smoke out, was caught off guard by the guy's question just when he was about to light it up. He looked at Rodrick while holding his smoke in his mouth. He took out the Stellar Sativa he had just placed in his mouth before replying.

"Yo. Name's Eren Idril. I am simply the deputy vice-captain of Al's squad in the army. Nice to meet you too, Rodrick. You fought well out there."

'Al? Is he that close to this monster?'

Rodrick thought to himself and smiled mirthlessly before replying.

"You don't need to utter flowery words, Eren. I have come in contact with plenty of such people all my life. Now, I'd rather have someone criticize me for my weaknesses so that I can improve upon them.

Oh!

On that note, Miss Altashia, can you tell me where I got it wrong? I thought I had everything about you figured out. But you still surprised me.

You hadn't shown this level of explosiveness in Royal Ren's Ranking Wars. Not even against that assho... Err... I mean not even against Rehaal Renar."

Rodrick cancelled his plans to leave when he asked. Now that the topic had been raised, he had to gain something out of this wretched deal he had made for himself. But Altashia's answer was only going to disappoint him.

"Hehehe! I want to drain someone of their money if the opportunity arises. As a result, I had to make sure I wing big.

Hmm. As for the post-battle analysis, I'm sorry Rodrick, but I'm only used to receiving guidance, not imparting it.

Plus, I may not be the right person to do it in our case anyway. You'd be better off asking a third person who saw both of us duelling closely."

PANDA-NOVEL Altashia's answer worsened Rodrick's already downcast face. He nodded at her half-heartedly before starting to leave. Altashia felt a bit of pity for the guy. Then she looked at Eren and thought of something before adding on.

"Rodrick, maybe you can ask Eren about his opinion? He has watched our battle from start to finish. Maybe he could shed some light on your flaws."

Eren looked at Altashia as if he didn't want to criticize some random dude, especially if it was instigated without giving him a fair warning.

But, alas. It was too late. Rodrick stopped his retreat and turned around once again before commenting.

"Miss Altashia, Eren, no offense but..."

Altashia shook her head before interrupting Rodrick with her words.

"Don't underestimate him. He is also a demon beast tamer like us."

Chapter 486 Acquainting a Royal P2

"Don't underestimate him. He is also a demon beast tamer like us."

Altashia's statement froze Rodrick's speech. He looked at Eren once more intently. The two had a small staring contest which Eren won in the end. So the royal shrugged his shoulders as if to say there's no hurt in trying before addressing Eren.

"*Sigh. Eren, what did you think about my battle style?"

Eren lit up his smoke when the stare-down ended. He took a much-needed drag and relaxed on the bed before looking at the royal and opening his mouth.

"Hm. You offered Altashia two transcendent-grade rewards, right? What do I get in return?"

Rodrick saw that it was only fair that a simple-looking guy like Eren would ask for rewards from him, a royal, under these circumstances. So he didn't hesitate to reply.

"Sure. What do you want? I'll offer you something good if the advice is worth it."

Rodrick flashed a royal smile at Eren. he didn't know what was in it for him in the future. So he might as well behave like a royal when he still had the chance.

Eren also flashed a broad smile that said "jackpot" before responding.

"A transcendent-grade spell of course."

Rodrick suppressed the urge to cough like a rankless mortal who had been sick and bedridden for months on end when he heard Eren's statement. Before he could say anything, however, the butcher continued with his words.

"Just hear me out, Rodrick. If you can distribute it as a reward for one friendly spar, I'm sure you won't have any problem giving it to someone who could help improve your battle style.

The way I see it, you were going to give the spell to Altashia anyway if you won or lost. For whatever reason you may have, you wanted her to be your ally like she owed you one.

The battle was just a ruse to make that happen. That way, Altashia and her family would see you in a positive light. I don't want to get into royal politics. But if the royal administration can enable you to grant someone a transcendent-grade spell, I'm sure they can make another exception.

I'm not saying I'll be a worthy ally for you to invest your resources on. But from the looks of it, you don't have many options anyway. Why not use the resources you already have to place your bets on a gamble?"

Altashia opened her eyes and looked at Rodrick when Eren made her see Rodrick in a completely different light. The royal, upon seeing Altashia looking at him with shocked expressions, sighed and nodded at her. He admitted that whatever Eren had said was the truth.

Of course, one of the reasons Rodrick fought Altashia was that he saw her as one of the toughest opponents in their generation. But it wasn't that his pride was hurt because of one loss. He just had to act like a royal nonetheless, because it was expected from him to act in such away.

The backing behind Altashia was no joke. Rodrick had just used his loss as a way to make connections with Al, and her family by proxy. He thought that his act of hurting a royal was pretty believable. He could have never guessed that a random stranger would be able to see through him.

"Eren, you sure surprised me. Alright. Since you have put it this way, let's gamble.

What the heck! Haha. I'll offer you the same transcendent-grade spell I offered to Altashia. Since it is related to the demon beast, you can benefit from it as well.

Now tell me. What are my weaknesses?"

Eren didn't even flinch when he said his next words.

"Stop fighting with your brain. And start using your brawn in a fight once in a while."

Rodrick listened to Eren and took some offence in that statement. He wanted to retort. But Eren didn't give him a chance.

"You are a berserker right?"

Rodrick paused for a moment before nodding his head in affirmation. The butcher pressed on.

"This would be the second berserker I'm gilding. I have to charge extra money for berserkers from now on."

Eren remembered Steve Austin as he took another drag from his smoke before marching forward.

"Before I say anything, can we put your royal status aside for a few minutes?"

Eren looked Rodrick in the eye and let the question stay in the air for a while. Rodrick had another brief staring contest with the butcher before relenting once again. Before addressing the seemingly nobody, he looked in the direction of the door.

"Alright. Give me some time with my friends here. Please lock the door and let nobody in. Please do not act on what my friends say about me in this room. At least until I say so."

"Understood!"

A hoarse male voice resounded in the lounge hall. It had an unknown origin. But before Altashia could locate the source of that voice, the lounge's big door suddenly closed.

Rodrick sat on the couch that was in front of the one Eren and Altashia had sat on. The butcher thought of something and threw a new smoke at him out of the blue. The berserker caught it between his index and ring finger just as quickly before looking at Eren with puzzled expressions.

Hatchlings of the Flame!

A thread snake of only five centimetres appeared on the tip of Eren's finger. It crawled its way to the smoke Rodrick was holding in no time and opened its mouth to light it up before dispersing into thin air.

Eren waited for Rodrick.

The royal understood Eren's gesture. For some reason, he felt compelled to do what Eren was asking him to do. He sighed and took a drag from the smoke the butcher had offered to him.

Cough! Cough! Cough! Cough!

The royal started coughing violently as soon as he took the drag. This time, he couldn't help coughing like a rankless mortal on his deathbed. His eyes got red and watery. His face was the colour of a tomato.

"Hahahaha! Take another hit. Don't worry. It'll grow on you. You'll need its effects to understand what I'm about to say to you on a deeper level."

Eren said amusingly as he looked at the coughing royal.

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"Hahahaha! Take another hit. Don't worry. It'll grow on you. You'll need its effects to understand what I'm about to say to you on a deeper level."

Eren said amusingly as he looked at the coughing royal. The latter looked angrily at the butcher. This time, the staring contest didn't last long because Rodrick couldn't keep his watery eyes open for long.

"I'm not saying anything until you take a few proper hits."

Eren said as he took a long drag from his own smoke. Rodrick felt angry that he was being looked down on. So he steeled his heart and his lungs before taking another drag.

Cough! Cough! Cough!

Altashia saw that Rodrick wasn't feeling too good after the second hit as well. She felt another bout of pity towards him. So she tapped Eren's hand before commenting.

"Eren, he is not a drug addict like you. Why can't you say whatever you have to say to him without trying to make a smoker buddy out of him?"

Eren still had his eyes fixated on Rodrick who was trying to bring his breathing to normal while holding his chest. He replied to Altashia after taking another drag.

"Al, this is a talk between men. Why don't you go outside if it bothers you? Or maybe stay quiet and don't disturb us if you want to stay here. What will it be? You tell me."

Eren looked at Al after he finished his statement. He saw her pouting with her hands folded under her bosom. She looked like she was going to say something to him. But Eren's unflinching gaze and his stoic expressions shut her up. She merely hmped to register her dissatisfaction with him before looking in front of her.

Rodrick was listening to everything unfolding between the couple. It looked like Eren was trying to criticize Altashia. But he felt like the subtle dissing was meant for him.

Rodrick took another hit out of his smoke after exhaling a long breath. Then he took another. Then another. His expressions relaxed after a while as the effects of the Stellar Sativa kicked in.

"How are you feeling now?"

Eren asked Rodrick. The latter nodded his head slowly before responding.

"As... as light as a feather. How... How do you stay functional after smoking this?"

Eren smirked before answering.

"Because I used to do a lot worse. But we are not here to talk about any of that. We are here to talk about your battle style. I need you to pay me your undivided attention. Do you understand?"

Rodrick processed Eren's words slowly before nodding his head. He was glad that he was sitting in front of his new counsellor. Otherwise, he might have tripped. Not that he wasn't tripping mentally at the time.

"You need to quit being a berserker. Start from scratch. That path is not meant for you."

Eren said and let his comment sink in. Altashia was the first to open her eyes wide in shock. But before she could say anything, Eren raised his index finger and pressed it against his lips, telling her to keep quiet.

"I... I now understand... the reason behind why you made me smoke this shit before giving me advice.

I would have... hehe... I would have left you guys by now after listening to something absurd like this."

Eren shook his head before commenting.

"Nope. That's still the trippy-you talking. You would have had me beat up by your goons' hands if I had said this before that "shit" as you called it calms your nerves. If it was not in front of AI, it would have been done when I was alone."

Rodrick flashed a cunning smile at Eren when he heard that. He wondered how this seemingly unnoticeable youth could be so perceptive about him.

"Hehe. Cough! Cough! Cough!"

Alright. Give it to me straight. What are you trying to say to me?"

Rodrick said after taking another drag. He kept on observing the trails of smoke that he had released for no reason. He found this job to be more intriguing and relaxing than dealing with royal politics.

Eren saw that Rodrick was finally at a place where he could listen to his advice with an open mindset. So he continued after taking the last drag out of his smoke.

"Rodrick, I'm sure you might have gone through an aptitude test and found out you were suitable for being a berserker. Maybe you still are. But that path can not bring out the best in you.

I mean look at what you did in your duel against AI. Did you even fight like a berserker? All you did was execute plans you had already come up with in your head. Does a berserker fight like this? Hell no."

Eren said and watched Rodrick clenching his fist. He was angry. Not on anyone else, though. On himself. The butcher could see that every word of his stung him like a hive of bees. He didn't feel pity for him and carried on.

"Even if you win by employing strategies like this, what's the point?"

Don't get me wrong. I'm not against someone using their brains in battle. But your plans should be adjusted as per your battle style. Not the other way around.

Going against the path you have set for yourself to fit the plan is counterproductive. I'm sure you are smart enough to see that yourself. You are asking about someone else's opinion on the way you fought. That makes it pretty obvious to me that you are starting to have doubts."

In a flick of his fingers, Eren kicked the remains of his smoke into the ashtray. A sigh escaped his lips as he rested one hand on the couch's arm support and verbally marched on.

"Still, you chose to not fight like the berserker that you are in the fight. No matter how dense a ranker might turn out to be, they wouldn't do something like this under normal circumstances. I'm guessing you had strong reasons to do this."

Eren said and looked at the closed door after saying this. When he was sure that there was no movement, the butcher pressed on.

"Here we are now, with you left wondering. Was it worth it? Let me clear that doubt for you if you still haven't found the answer by yourself— It's not."

Chapter 488 Path of a Summoner P2

"Here we are now, with you left wondering. Was it worth it? Let me clear that doubt for you if you still haven't found the answer by yourself— It's not."

Rodrick had closed his eyes by the time Eren finished his talking. For a while, nobody uttered a word. Eren wasn't in a hurry. He gave his royal acquaintance enough time to come around.

Rodrick opened his eyes after a while and sighed before commenting.

"Hehe. When I had finished my aptitude test, the very first option generated by the aptitude array was becoming a tank. But I thought staying so passive wouldn't be in my best interest. So I rejected that.

The second option that it had given me was that of a Samurai. But I wasn't willing to inflict pain on myself to enhance my spell output. So I rejected that too.

The path of a berserker, which was the third choice the aptitude test array had given me, then became an easier choice for me. The array probably gave me those two options because I had been trying to do everything for who knows how long.

My desperation to see me as a better ranker than all of those royal mother..."

Rodrick had lost all his breaks by this point. Eren knew he wouldn't stop by himself. So he had to intervene.

"Rodrick! Bud. If you want to get into trouble, do it when you are alone. Not when you are with us."

Rodrick snapped out of his trip when Eren called his name abruptly like that. The butcher had used a mana-imbued voice projecting it straight into his ear canal to enhance the sound's intensity while keeping the volume normal for Altashia.

Rodrick shook his head when he was brought into reality by Eren's ear-piercing voice. He nodded at the butcher and took a drag from his smoke again before continuing further.

"I... I'm sorry. Where was I?"

Yes!

My choice for being a berserker. You are right, Eren.

Physically, I may have a talent for being a berserker. Despite this, I find it difficult to enter the berserk state even when I drink the berserker potion. I wasn't like this, mind you. However, my circumstances have made me too paranoid.

I guess some rankers are born that way. Not everyone can walk on the path they choose for themselves with absolute confidence.

That's why I envy Miss Altashia. She is indeed a warrior. The way she acts, the way she moves, the way she thinks that it isn't her job to start advising someone. And the way she shows kindness only after the fight is over. These seemingly insignificant things count. They make up a whole picture.

Compared to her, I'm completely lost. What am I?

Tell me Eren, what am I? What should I do?"

Rodrick asked and finished his smoke as well. He had to admit that these thoughts were getting better processed under the Stellar Sativa's influence like the butcher had told him they would. Otherwise, he would have shut these thoughts the moment they sprang into his head.

That's right. Rodrick was having doubts about his path even before Eren had raised them for him today. But every time he had them, he would suppress or ignore them because of the implications they had.

Changing the path now would mean wasting his progress in the Ace rank. Like Altashia, he too was close to breaking into the Adept rank. Just a step or two more, and he'd be an Adept.

Changing Rodrick's path now would result in his ranking status regressing. That meant starting from the initial stage of the Ace rank from scratch. Plus, his existing mana circuits would be fried. He'd spend a few months recovering. If everything about changing classes worked smoothly for him, this was the best-case scenario.

Rodrick sighed and addressed the biggest concern he had for Eren.

"Eren, my problems wouldn't end with me left with wasted time and resources should I choose to follow through with the change of class. I'm in a shark tank, you see. If I show weakness at this point, I might get eaten raw. Hehehe!"

Rodrick said and smiled mirthlessly. Eren didn't ask for any explanation from the guy. He just shrugged his shoulders and responded.

"Just change the damn tank for a while. Don't swim in it unless you know you are qualified enough to enter it."

Rodrick chuckled at first when he heard Eren's statement. Then he opened his mouth to speak while raising his hand. But his hand and his speech froze in their tracks as he pondered over Eren's reply. He lowered his head and started mumbling to himself while looking at the ground aimlessly.

"Change the damn tank for a while...

Change the tank...

Change the tank!

Can I do it?"

Rodrick pressed his forehead with both his hands trying to think about something. It took a while for him to come to a decision. His eyes sparkled with determination when he raised his head and looked at Eren again.

"Eren, according to you, which class should I take? Tank or Samurai?"

Eren saw the change in Rodrick's behaviour all of a sudden. He didn't know what had happened to him. But he thought of wrapping this up as soon as he could. So he decided to shoot straight.

"Neither."

Eren observed Rodrick's reaction when he said that. The guy stopped getting shocked at the butcher's answers anymore. By now the royal was completely committed to taking Eren's advice to heart.

The butcher wanted this effect from the get-go when he offered Rodrick the smoke. In so doing, the royal was able to let loose all the doubts he had been suppressing in his mind since only he knew when.

Despite seeing that Rodrick knew about it subconsciously, the butcher explained. This was a way for him to highlight the realization that had already dawned on Rodrick.

"The tank would have worked for you seeing that you prefer to keep a distance from your opponents. Plus, the water element is a suitable choice for a tank.

But tanks don't engage with their opponents the way you do. Plus, they are defence specialists. Something I don't see you becoming anymore.

I'll not pretend to know about the path of the Samurai. But I guess you rejected that path yourself for some reason. No point circling back to it."

Rodrick nodded his head in agreement. He couldn't wait for Eren to finish showing him the path he didn't see for himself.

"Then... What do you want me to do?"

Eren smiled before responding.

"Something the aptitude test didn't tell you. Stop caring about the path being mainstream or not. Forget about the perks or drawbacks it offers. Fuck the aptitude test. Fuck everything else.

Become an animated spell specialist, Rodrick.

Become a Summoner."

Chapter 489 Pros and Cons

"Become a Summoner."

Eren said and looked at Rodrick thoughtfully. The latter took a while to understand what it would mean for him.

"Do you mean I should only concentrate on increasing my mental strength? Pump up my Intelligence stat while ignoring the rest? Eren, there's a reason why this class isn't opted for by most rankers these days. The aptitude test will never show..."

Eren shook his head before replying.

"As I said, Rodrick. Forget about what the aptitude test says. It can only test your aptitude based on the data that has been fed into its array. Agreed, it gives the most efficient result for most rankers. But you, as an individual, are not "most rankers", are you?."

Eren said and got up from his seat. He started pacing around the room while playing with a thread sized fire snake he had summoned on the tip of his index finger.

"I guess intelligence stat is always looked down upon because it barely affects a ranker's spellcasting ability. A ranker is more likely to overburden their mana circuits than stress their mental faculties while stacking or casting multiple spells at once.

But things change when you look at spells that use your mental powers by default. Animated spells are one such type."

As he spoke, Eren made the fire snake he had summoned change shape in front of him. The snake got progressively larger by the moment until it had an erect head the same height as Eren's. It opened its mouth in front of its master under his command.

The butcher touched the fangs of the snake's open mouth with his bare hands and carried on.

"The summoner class has its drawbacks, yes. You would stop enhancing your other body stats. This means they would only increase at a slower rate when you advance to the next stage or the next rank.

But..."

Eren said and made another fire snake of the same size come into life besides the first one. He started playing with both of them. After a while, he continued.

"But if you take up the summoner class and increase your mental stat values, you would get to summon more of such beasts than any other ranker could imagine doing.

Think about the idea of getting surrounded by an army of undying soldiers that would stay forever loyal to you. I don't know about you. But I find that pretty cool. You can solo clear any raid inside the dungeon or out in the field when you reach high enough rank with that class."

Eren said and looked at Rodrick. He was still pondering over many things. Then he looked at Altashia who wanted to say something. But since he had placed a gag order on her, she was instead staring at him with the same pout on her face.

Eren raised his eyebrows before commenting.

"Al, you want to say something?"

Al nodded before opening her mouth to speak. Functional introvert as she may be, she could only keep quiet for so long.

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"Eren, summoners have a huge weakness. They are the same as mages in that sense. Take them out first and their summons disperses in thin air.

And since their other body attributes are weak, they are easier to target. Even more so than mages who could at least cast defence spells on themselves.

Why do you think the class doesn't have many rankers practising it anymore? Rodrick would be at a disadvantage the moment someone..."

Eren smirked at Altashia before interrupting her.

"Heh! You don't think I know that summoners are even more of a glass cannon than mages? But so what?

Every class has its pros and cons. Which class is immune to this simple rule?

Rodrick would indeed be more vulnerable than he ever was if he takes up the summoner class. But that is only until he masters his path as a summoner.

Don't forget. The animated spells cast by regular rankers and animated spells cast by summoners are two different things. Furthermore, the summoners can breathe more life into each of their summons, making them more powerful individually.

When Rodrick reaches a high enough rank, he can also cast Monster Summon spells. Why would he be afraid of anyone attacking him if he has a huge monster army protecting him?

Umm... I'm biased towards having a monster army. But you guys get my drift, right?"

Eren said, expecting another rebuttal from Al. It arrived shortly afterwards.

"But that is only when he progresses sufficiently in his summoner path, Eren. What would he do until then? Not fight? Is he willing to risk his life every time he enters battle? Will he always rely on his teammates?

I mean it's not entirely impossible if you think about it. But I don't think Rodrick would like to count on others. The reason his paranoia gripped him was that he couldn't count on anyone after all."

Altashia said with a worried expression on her face. She was looking at Rodrick as if it was her fault he had started doubting himself. She then snapped out of her silly thought process all by herself before Eren could do that for her.

The butcher kept on playing with his fire snakes. He had summoned another snake of the same size by now. He was trying to punch them on their noses while telling them to dodge it. The dual feedback he was receiving while performing those punches was causing disharmony to his movements.

Eren knew that his intelligence stat was increasing ever since he had started smoking Stellar Sativa. And if the rumoured effects of Stellar Sativa were to be believed, it was also going to help him awaken his soul sense faster.

Therefore, he hypothesized that there was a correlation between intelligence and soul sense awakening. He didn't voice his hypothesis though. Because it was too early to say anything on that matter.

"Rodrick won't like to be dependent on others you say? But he already depends on someone to have his back."

Eren said and smiled at Altashia. He then looked at Rodrick who also looked at him with the light of understanding flashing in his eyes.

"Aqua. My demon beast!"

Chapter 490 The Lazarus Project

"Aqua. My demon beast!"

Eren nodded in agreement with Rodrick's realization before continuing forward.

"That's right. Summoners are glass cannons. But demon beast owners would find it convenient to have such a class. They would always have their beasts to count on, no matter if they are battling solo or in a team. Their companion can support them until they get high enough in their class."

Eren said and remembered the animated spell Rodrick had executed in his battle against Altashhia. He started pacing in the room with his snakes in tow before speaking further.

"What's more? Rodrick's demon beast can take flight. That means he'd always have an option to retreat.

With the Summoner class, he can just keep a safe distance from his enemies and overwhelm them using his summons without facing any consequences. His demon beast also has a few long-range attacks.

The wyvern basically nullifies all the drawbacks of being a summoner. It'd be a shame not to take advantage of it.

Don't worry too much about regressing in rank. It will only get complicated when you break through to Adept rank. Ace rank is still nothing. You still have time.

Plus, I'm sure that you would take enough precautions while changing your class to minimize the recovery period. You'd have royal means at your disposal. Use them. Who would if you didn't?"

Eren said casually. Rodrick pondered with his head down for a bit before coming to a decision.

"You are right, Eren. I'll... I'll fucking do it. To hell with everything else.

Thanks, man. It's not like I didn't consult my problem with high ranking entities. But for some reason, I couldn't make a decision. Because their suggestions didn't click with me. Yours did. It's like you know what it takes to be a berserker and also know what it takes to abandon that all of a sudden.

Just wait for a few days. Your copy of the transcendent-grade spell will be delivered to you after I clear it up with my people. You have my word."

Rodrick stood abruptly from his seat and started talking while walking in Eren's direction. The latter nodded before shaking the soon-to-be-ex berserker's hand.

"So this is Aqua. Rodrick, she gives off an extremely intense aura."

Eren said after looking at Rodrick's demon beast. He saw that the wyvern was a full-grown demon beast that looked intimidating. Aqua was the same size and had the same features as the animated spell Rodrick had displayed during the battle. But the real deal was leagues apart from the fake.

Eren, Altashia, and Rodrick had come outside of the city to fetch their demon beast. The city walls could still faintly be seen in the distance. Rodrick's demon beast was the closest in the area. The butcher had also had a suspicion that Rodrick had found a way to sneak his demon beast inside the city's protective layer. But he didn't ask.

"Of course, she looks intimidating. She's an epic tier after all. Where's yours?"

Rodrick asked while stroking his demon beast's long neck that was wrapped around his body like a snake's embrace. The wyvern was making guttural sounds to indicate that she liked it.

Screeeeeeeech! THIS CHAPTER IS UPDATE BY FREEWEBNOVEL.COM.

Before Eren could answer his beast's whereabouts, a sharp eagle cry resounded in the surroundings. Aqua raised her head at the sky and growled when she heard the screech.

A black shadow that was far up in the sky soon started taking shape before Argo's features were revealed. The beast landed right in front of Eren in the next moment while generating a gush of wind.

"A gryphon? That's... rare. Even rarer than a wyvern I'd say. How did you tame him?"

Rodrick asked while trying to calm Aqua down. Eren explained to him the answer he had already prepared while petting his demon beast. Altashia on the other hand was waiting with her demon beast for Eren to wrap up his conversation with the royal.

Argo wanted to challenge Aqua for a duel. But the butcher forced him to drop the idea since he was barely half the size of the wyvern. Eren and Altashia had decided that they would ride their beasts for some time. Then find a colt service in a nearby city when their beasts get tired.

Rodrick was also going to part ways with them here. Before experiencing a life-altering change, he had so much to do.

The three demon beast tamers got onto their respective mounds soon after discussing some more. Rodrick smiled at Eren before saying his parting words.

"I'll come to meet you someday after I change my class. Crash at your place for a few days, wherever that is. Will that be alright?"

Eren didn't understand what Rodrick meant by hosting him for a few days. But he needed the guy to give him his copy of the transcendent-grade spell. So he nodded at him nonetheless.

"Excellent. Good luck with your newly-founded guild, my friend. We'll fight again after my class changes, Miss Altashia. Hopefully, I'll make it interesting for you at that time. Hahaha!"

Rodrick patted his demon beast as he spoke. Aqua released a draconic roar at Argo before flapping her wings. The royal paranoid soon disappeared from the duo's eyes. Eren could see a few shadows in the distance following him in his direction from the ground.

Eren and Altashia soon left the place too. The butcher never stopped flirting with the scythe queen the whole way.

Amid those flirtatious talks, Eren also kept on thinking about summoning, animated spells, necromancy, and their links with the revival techniques. Rodrick's dilemma about his path had made the butcher see his problems in a different light.

Eren had been studying some of the half-destroyed research papers of his own on the sidelines. But since they were incoherent due to the poor state they were in, he couldn't make sense of them for the most part.

By sheer coincidence, the same research papers had suddenly started to make sense to him when he got busy solving someone else's problems.

What about the source of those half-destroyed research papers? They were obtained by the butcher from a place that had its geo-coordinates encrypted into the array disk. It was given to him by Lin Karr.

Eren decided that he needed to do some experiments of his own on this subject. After all, he was tasked with reviving a Sage. He wouldn't want to be in the dark when the time comes.

"Haah! We finally have time to talk."

Layla appeared in front of Eren when he was back in his room inside the army base. Her features were still the same. She had worn a simple grey dress adorned with white floral details. The young witch had gotten rid of her witch hat for a change. She had worn spectacles this time, giving her a nerdy look.

"Indeed. I'm so busy these days, you see."

Eren said casually while checking the mission his team was assigned for the week on his spectral screen. The young witch twitched her nose before commenting in a sarcastic tone.

"Busy getting in girls' pants, you mean. Hmph! But it's not like you are willing to change your ways. So I might as well accept the leecher that you are and carry on with our plan."

Layla sighed. She then adjusted her specs and took out a few scrolls from her storage. She laid them open on the only work desk the room had before verbally marched on.

"I have done everything Master Eliza had asked me. All these days, I have been gathering information about the things she needs to revive herself. Master is also okay with it after I consulted with her. Now it's our job to get those things as soon as we can."

Layla said and slammed her open palms on the table to grab Eren's attention.

"I call this... the Lazarus Project!"