

## Vile 551

### Chapter 551 Tim and Langdon

"Where are you guys?"

Tuan asked his raid partners for voice communication after coming out of the distorted dimension with Katalina. They were in the safe zone. There was still a few minutes before the dawn of the seventh day announced its arrival.

Katalina looked less worried about the competition than before. As if all her stress had been taken away from her. As if she didn't worry about winning the Titus tournament anymore.

'WHERE ARE WE, YOU SAY? Where were you guys? We couldn't reach you. Neither could we find you.'

Tuan raised his eyebrows as he heard Lily's distressed voice. Then he glanced around him and stretched his mana sense in all directions. He immediately noticed that there was some disturbance in the area that wasn't previously seen. There were a lot of residual mana signatures along with the debris of fallen buildings that were previously standing, if only barely.

'Let's say I was held up in some serious work. I have no idea what has happened here. I and Kat are inside a safe area just a few minutes away from where we were supposed to meet.'

Lily took her time before replying.

'What the hell are you still doing in the safe zone? Do you even know what has happened after you last saw us?'

'Nope. As I said, I was out of the grid for a while. Now stop beating around the bush and tell me what's going on.'

Tuan spoke to Lily without making any noise. He and Katalina moved quickly after realizing there was something wrong.

'The safe zone is no longer safe. At midnight, safety was revoked. The notification was sent directly to our wristbands.

We knew we would be targeted by Bianka's group as soon as that news was made known. So we ran into the hunting area to wait for you guys. But it's only a matter of time before Bianka finds us.

I don't know how you managed to stay off the grid while we were all in the same subspace participating in the same tournament. But you better watch your....'

'Kat, talk with Lily and meet up with her. I'll tell you what to do after this mess gets over.'

Tuan said and stopped executing his movement spell. All his plans were thrown down the drain when the safe zone stopped being a safe zone. So there was no point in discussing plans that couldn't be done now.

He also cut his communication with Lily and let Kat handle the talk. That's because there was a group of two rankers standing right in front of him.

"Tuan... let me help you..."

Katalina tried to stay with Tuan instead of following his orders blindly. This was the consequence of him retaining her personality for the most part. He sighed before cutting her off.

"Don't worry about me, Kat. You know what I can do. Let me handle them. You help out Lily. Go.!"

Tuan said in a low voice before narrowing his eyes on his new opponents. They were two guys who stood at a sufficient distance from each other. It was apparent that they were not only wary of Tuan and Kat but also each other.

This was the competition's last day after all. The temporary raid partnerships the rankers made were supposed to expire today. The betrayal could come from anyone and anytime.

"Tuan Aag. Hahahaha! It's nice to finally meet you on the battleground."

A man with long, dark-cider hair greeted Tuan with extreme haughtiness in his voice and body language. He had his hands folded as he watched Tuan with keen interest. As if he wanted to dissect him and search for something within him.

This man had a reptile-like face. He had an average build and stature. But his expensive mage-type clothes were what set him apart.

He also released a mana sense and tried to scan Tuan completely without worrying about the rankers' code of conduct. Tuan had to interfere with him using his own mana sense to make him back off.

"Tim Westmoor, right? You say it's a pleasure to meet me, but your actions are telling me a different story. I won't ask you why you want to battle with me. I just want to know why me first."

Tuan asked as he urged Katalina to retreat. The latter tried to do just that. But seeing her leave, Tim's associate showed signs of activity. He released his mana sense and did the same thing Tim had tried to do with Tuan.

The second man that was with Tim was yet another baldy in the competition named Langdon Lark. But unlike Wilder, he had a Melchett mustache that he liked to caress with his hands from time to time. He wore a gaudy dark green overcoat. All his other apparel and accessories also matched the color of his overcoat, making him look like a relic from a bygone era. That's because he did not have an eye for today's fashion sense at all.

Kat got angry at the mustached baldy's rude behavior. She was about to turn around and engage with him. But then she found out that she didn't have to. Because Tuan sent a flying slash at Tim without considering the consequences he may receive from Langdon or Tim.

Langdon pulled away from his mana sense and was forced to focus on the incoming flying slashes. He waved his hands in front of him and suddenly a wall of water was erected between him and the incoming attacks.

Sizzle!

The Invi Blaze slashes that Tuan had released from his Anduril swords were easily blocked by Langdon's water wall. All they could do was exhaust some of his water-element mana and make sizzling noises as they disappeared.

But Tuan's surprise attack had done the job it was meant to do. Katalina had taken advantage of her being left out and retreated to the back; she then activated her movement spell and her flying wearable artifact—disappearing from the scene. She was ordered by Tuan to do her task. And that was what her soul was urging her to do.

Tim didn't mind Langdon getting stopped from hunting for Katalina's Titus points. He folded his hands and spoke out with great confidence.

"Hahahahaha! Forgive my pal Langdon for being such a goofball. He doesn't like it when someone interferes with his hunt. He had come here to fight with your new girl.

As for why you first? That's an even simpler answer. Who is a better fire-element ranker between us? The Flame Feathers—Tuan Aag or King of Fire Serpents—Tim Westmoor? I just want to know the answer to that."

## **Chapter 552 A Rare Class**

"Who is a better fire-element ranker between us? The Flame Feathers—Tuan Aag or King of Fire Serpents—Tim Westmoor? I just want to know the answer to that."

Tim said with passion for duel burning in his eyes. Tuan realized that Tim must have only started looking at Tuan as his equal after the finals because he hadn't bothered him till today. The guy looked like he was just being made aware of what Tuan could do in the finals.

'Someone must have tipped him. They might have also exaggerated my feats to this dense head to keep me busy here.'

Tuan had only one possible suspect when he made this prediction.

'Bianka Bluedust. That big-titty woman must have set this guy against me after knowing about his character for wanting to compete against capable fire-element rankers.'

Tuan gritted his teeth when he found out his plans were going to get hindered yet again without him irking anybody in the process. First, the organizers decided to spice things up by eliminating the safe area in the middle of the night.

panda novel The butcher was busy doing the deed with Katalina. So he didn't maintain contact with Lily who was outside with Ketsu and Wilder. He finally realized the thought behind a famous proverb-- Sometimes a dick can land you in a lot of trouble.

Tim and Langdon came out of nowhere. They weren't included in the butcher's equation until he was done with Bianka's group.

And they both were in the solid stage of the Ace rank. So it wouldn't be easy to take care of them while he acted like someone else.

Bianka planned to isolate Katalina from the rest of her raid partners. Yet even she did not expect that the protection of the safe area would end abruptly. Her raid team started chasing after Lily and her partners to draw Katalina out. Lily had also hoarded a significant number of Titus points herself. So the hunt was going to end up lucrative either way. If they manage to capture Katalina, Lily, Ketsu, and Wilder that is.

Tuan narrowed his eyes on his opponents when he drew his conclusions based on a few details and assumptions based on all the events that had unfolded.

'If I can't handle them using my Tuan identity, I'll just have to make sure that I can fight them by being the real me.'

Tuan came up with a makeshift plan and decided to act on it. He did not want to paint his hands red by killing opponents. Not when there was such a huge audience involved. Alas, the two opponents had made him sign their death warrants by being an obstacle in his path.

Still, he wanted to minimize the damage he would have to incur to Tuan's fame. The guy was his henchman. He didn't want bad press for him. Coz that would be detrimental to his next set of plans that revolved around the foundation of the White Raven guild.

"You want to challenge me with Langdon around so that he can backstab both of us when we are busy battling each other?"

This was Tuan's way of showing mercy. He decided he should limit the casualties by drawing a wedge between the two raid partners. He had no use for turning water-element rankers into food for his growth. At least not yet.

He also judged that a suspicious ranker like Tim was easy to influence with his words. And his prediction was spot on.

"Langdon, maybe you should get away from this battleground. No hard feelings man, but I don't trust you. I don't think you trust me either. So that kinda makes things easier for us to part ways, right?"

Tim looked at Langdon and spoke. He had his doubts about Langdon from the beginning. He just didn't say them yet. Until Tuan voiced them for him.

Langdon looked like he wanted to say something. Then he looked at Tuan hatefully as if the guy had ruined so many of his plans just by existing.

"Tim, you beware of this guy Tuan. He is not as simple as I had assumed him to be. He says all the right things. But in a way that would favor only him.

Trust me when I say this but you are easy to make a fool of. Although I do not doubt your battle skills, guys with deceptive auras like him shouldn't be taken lightly."

Langdon was warning Tim for his own good. Because he could still use the summoner as his raid partner to take down stronger opponents. But Tim seemed to be more upset by his words than to notice his confidence getting boosted. He interrupted the water-element ranker before he could finish.

"Oh yeah? Why don't you just stay behind and watch me fight with Tuan? We had been betting Titus points on so many battles now. Consider this one as "winner takes all."

If I win against Tuan fair and square, you would offer me your wristband just before quitting. And if I couldn't, we will stay as a team for as long as we can. And I'll offer you my wristband when I'm near my end of the line in the game. Of course, Tuan would be half burnt by the time we are done fighting, so you can also take his wristband as additional compensation.

What do you say? Of course, to prevent ourselves from getting attacked by each other, we'll have to sign a binding contract, if only for this match."

Tim smirked with confidence and patted his chest when he said that to Langdon. The latter was about to leave, but Tim's offer was too tempting. All he had to do was observe the battle between Tuan and act as a spectator. In return, he would either get Tim's or Tuan's Titus points.

"Hmm. deal."

Langdon pondered for a brief moment while stroking his fuller mustache before coming to a decision. He also knew what Tim was thinking. It was a way to build pressure on Tuan by telling him that no matter what he did while battling Tim or if he won or lost, the end result would be the same.

Langdon had to admit that although Tim wasn't the brightest bulb in any room, the light he produced had given him clear sight in risk assessment.

In the tournament, he earned the title Fire Serpent King for his performance in the battles. It wasn't because he was only skilled at burning things. Because he was attuned to a fraction of the higher consciousness, he could sense the dangers coming at him subconsciously. So he used that trait to select his opponents.

Tim had a rare class after all.

He was a summoner.

**Chapter 553 Trashtalk**

Tim was a summoner.

The more capable fire-element rankers Tim faced, the more his understanding of his element grew. The more his understanding grew, the more powerful he became. And the more powerful he got, the better fire-element rankers he could battle with. This was the cycle Tim had created for himself. All while taking risks that weren't too fatal.

But there was something about Tuan that he couldn't place a finger on. He didn't look to be as strong of a fire-element user as he had thought him to be. At least not as strong as Bianka had portrayed him to be.

And yet, the Fire Serpent King had an inkling that things weren't as clear as they looked to be. Langdon's words only confirmed his doubts. As he was used to tapping into the higher consciousness for his summons, Tim had a special sixth sense to analyze his opponents. He would get certain knowledge about his opponents even before he fought with them.

Through that sense, Tim could feel that he was a better fire-element user than Tuan. so he concluded that Tuan must have better artifacts or weapons he hadn't shown to the world yet. This wasn't enough to get Tim back out. He also felt that his understanding of the fire element would grow tremendously if he manages to beat him up.

So instead of pulling away from the battle or letting Langdon take his leave, Tim chose to box Tuan in.

Not knowing what kind of entity he was trying to box in.

Tuan heard what the two raid partners were talking about. They were conversing out in the open instead of using ID communication. He could only laugh mirthlessly at this point.

'Well, I did my best to limit casualties so Tuan didn't stand out too much. But if his name is going to get the limelight, I might as well add a few blemishes to make his legend believable.'

Tuan had a gentle smile on his face as he thought of killing and consuming both of the humans.

"Enough talks, you pyromaniac bastard and piss-water baldy. Why don't you show me what you got instead of sucking each other's dicks?"

Butcher cursed himself for having such a weak game in trash talk. To be honest, he had prepared a lot of verbal jabs for Bianka and her team. But the two competitors in front of him were wild entries. So this is what he could come up to. His only hope was that these two guys were straight and not in a relationship. Otherwise, his trash talk would sound more like a compliment.

Langdon was visibly furious when he heard Tuan's words. He looked at Tim before commenting.

"Tim, you better get this guy for good as soon as you can. No dilly-dallying. Otherwise, I'll be stepping in to kick and take both of you out."

Tim was also irked by Tuan's foul words. What he didn't know was that Tuan was only warming up earlier. Tim discussed with both of them some more before Tim could seriously consider hurting him for real.

"Tim Westmoor— The King of Fire Serpents? Hahahaha! Who even came up with that pretentious title? Tim, my man, are your fans as obnoxious as you?"

"I'll skewer your ass in my fire and feed that to dogs before calling you anything like that. Then again, your name is Tim. So I guess any title is fine as long as it doesn't have the word Tim in it, am I right? Hahaha!"

Tuan spewed some more verbal venom through his mouth before getting the reaction he wanted from Tim. Both rankers were stunned by Tuan's handling of the whole scene. But slowly, they couldn't help but develop animosity towards Tuan.

Of course, the trash talk alone wasn't enough to make the two sane rankers angry. But unbeknownst to all three of them, Tuan's soul sense was still manifesting passively, carrying the residual effect of his Sins series ability— Sin of Wrath. That had started to affect Tim and Langdon subconsciously as well.

They both signed the binding contracts immediately— ensuring they won't backstab each other in their fight against the butcher. Tim would attempt to remove Tuan all by himself depending on their condition. But Langdon would step in if and when he sees the summoner losing.

"That's it you piece of cucked shit. Now I understand why your wife left you. it's because of your foul mouth."

panda novel Tuan shook his head and smiled with a wicked grin after hearing Tim's rebuttal. He responded just as quickly.

"No, Tim. You don't know the whole story. She left me because she caught me cheating behind her back— with your mom."

'Eren, just because your mother is what she is, it doesn't mean everybody would be okay with their mother getting dragged into their problems. They'll get...'

Aleph spoke suddenly when she heard the butcher's vicious words. Then she realized that was his plan all along. To make the guys angry. She realized that Tuan had made up his mind to use his Sins series abilities on them.

Tim didn't offer any verbal response this time. The guy was fuming with rage. There were literally flames

surrounding his body at the time. He closed his eyes briefly before casting his spell using silent chanting.

A series of flame pillars were created all around Tim. A unique mana pulse was released all at once by the flame pillars, making Tuan unable to reach Tim while he was mid-casting the stacked animated spell.

Langdon had also decided that he was only planning to wait for a few minutes before stepping into the battle. The guy wanted to rip Tuan to shreds before making him whole again only to rip him to shreds once more. If Tim was angry about his mother getting dragged into the mess, then Langdon was angry at Tuan for questioning his orientation. He stroked his thick mustache again to console himself.

Eight lifelike fire serpents made their appearance on the battlefield at the time and they all stared at one guy-- Tuan Aag.

'So this is how a real summoner fights.'

Tuan commented in his mind as he stopped in his tracks.

## **Chapter 554 Deceived**

'So this is how a real summoner fights.'

This was the butcher's first time seeing a summoner in action. He wanted to approach Tim and interrupt his casting, but he knew Langdon had the right to interfere if Tim was about to get harmed by him mid-casting. It was as if they both had the contracts ready and were waiting for each other to bring that up.

There all the butcher could do at this point was to wait and watch as the bright orange-colored pillars of flame took the shapes of giant python-sized serpents.

panda novel Hiss!

Eight serpent-like hissing sounds were released in the surroundings at the same time. The eight flame pillars changed into serpent bodies before starting sporting lustrous red-black scales.

Each of the serpents was 15 meters long. These serpents had mana bodies. Yet they felt very real as their mana bodies started having features of real-life serpents-- like patterns and dots.

If one could see what was happening outside the subspace inside the colosseum, they would find out that Tuan's fight with Tim and Langdon had obtained a prime slot in the aerial space that projected what was happening inside the subspace spectrally in real-time.

This was one of the showdowns a lot of people wanted to see. A capable fire-element ranker against an



equally dedicated fire-element ranker. This was the battle they sought after— to see who was better in their use of the elements.

Tuan looked solemnly at the eight giant fire serpents that had come to life and were slithering around Tim as if he was their one true master. He realized that he was heavily outnumbered.

Hatchlings of the Flame!

Tuan cast his own animated spells and made six fire snakes around him. They had semi-transparent bodies made of fire-element mana. Tuan, in theory, should have been able to even outnumber his opponents on the playfield by using his animated spell. But he soon realized his mistake when he realized that there was no outnumbering a summoner.

'These animated spells are the real deal.'

Tuan thought as he stroked the head of one of the fire snakes that was slithering around him in defense. He then looked at his animated spell and realized how large the gap was in comparison.

While Tuan's spells indeed looked like snakes, they were far from being directly related to reality. His animated spells didn't have any prominent scales. His animated snakes also seemed less active than Tim's. As if they lacked something to make them as lively as the real deals.

The butcher couldn't help but praise the superiority of Tim's animated spells. He knew what the results were going to be if he sent his snakes to fight against those fully-matured-looking serpents that had draconic features on their faces.

Yet, he sent them to attack anyway.

Tim kept four serpents to himself for protection against any sneak attacks from Tuan. Then he sent two of his serpents to fight while the other two waited on standby.

Tuan didn't need any protection from his summons like Tim. He let all of his animated fire snakes approach one of the serpents before encircling it.

Hissss!

The serpent that had draconic features for its face looked at Tuan's fire snakes as if it was looking at something hideous and repelling. It executed a spell of its own and white flames came out of its mouth.

Bzzzzt!

Tuan watched in shock as white flames started affecting the bodies of his fire snakes. Those white flames looked more like the inherent spells of mana beasts than something Tim had bestowed upon them.

Screee!

The fire snakes screeched and hissed as their mana body kept on getting disintegrated and regenerated. Even though they could recover their mana bodies after being supplied with the mana they needed, the rate of destruction was much higher than what Tuan could enable them to keep up.

'Hmm. White flames. And there are eight serpents like these. I... I kinda understand why he was called the King of Fire Serpents.

Anyway, time to act on my crude yet simple plan. I can only hope it works.'

Tuan thought to himself as he stopped executing the flame spell and let the snakes disperse. He then looked at Tim who was also looking at him with amusement written all over his face.

"Not so bold on the battlefield, huh? I thought with the way you talked big, there would be at least some competition between us. But alas..."

Tim said with fake sympathy that nobody had asked him before continuing.

"Just say that you let go of your Flame Feathers title and surrender your wristband. As far as I am concerned, I will forgive you for all your misconduct. You'd have to ask Langdon for forgiveness separately."

Tim thought Tuan would retreat with his display of superiority. And usually, the real Tuan wouldn't have been able to defend himself against such a talented fire-element ranker.

But unfortunately for Tim and Langdon, he wasn't the real Tuan.

"Don't act cocky just because your class-specific spells are better than my ordinary spells. Saying something like that..."

The butcher was addressing Tim and Langdon when he suddenly halted before opening his eyes wide in shock and terror. He pointed his finger at the area behind Tim and Langdon before speaking up with an absolutely terrifying voice.

"The... the other rankers are here. We are surrounded."

As Tuan used his movement spell, he expressed panic with frantic expressions before running in a particular direction. Tim and Langdon both looked warily behind their backs. They subconsciously believed that they had a chance of being targeted by the other competitors. So when Tuan said something that triggered their belief, they had to look back.

Both Tim and Langdon were dumbfounded when they saw what was behind their back. Both of them were fuming with anger as they realized what had happened to them.

They had been deceived by Tuan into believing that other competitors were targeting them. This was a crude trap the butcher had set to get away from the battlefield. It still worked because his opponents were expecting an ambush from other rankers.

Tuan wasn't interested in being part of a losing fight. He knew Tim was a better fire-element ranker than him.

Tuan duped the two rankers and ran from them as if his life depended on it. Of course, Tim and Langdon followed him soon after. With a lot of curses and abuses in their mouths.

The duo of rankers thought that Tuan was trying to delay the inevitable. When in fact the butcher was leading them to where he had come from with Katalina in tow.

## Chapter 555 The Unchangeable Outcome

"Wh.... what just happened?"

Tim asked Langdon with bewildered expressions. This was a strange turn of events in which they found themselves in a completely different place. They both saw that there were countless reflections of them with the same bewildered expressions all around them.

They felt as if the images were near them one moment and very far the next. It was as if they were in a maze of broken mirrors adjusted at various angles that reflected their reflections multiple times. These confusing images could even be seen in the shattered mirror-like sky.

Both rankers decided to walk a few more steps ahead of them and the space around them became clearer. The self-reflections they saw all around them were only present in the shattered sky above their heads. But it was now looking like a real sky in terms of altitude instead of just a fake ceiling previously seen.

There was no air. No other sign of life. It was the eerie silence that made Tim and Langdon more nervous.

There was only one building located at a distance from where they stood. If Langdon had to guess, he would call it a library. But the building was too well preserved to be considered part of the ghost city's construction.

"This... this is spatial distortion."

Langdon spoke more to himself than to his pal Tim. His mana sense spread in every direction as he raised his vigilance. Then he carefully walked towards the library building while adding up.

Tim, I once read about this space anomaly. I think we accidentally entered a..."

Langdon was going to label the incident as an accident. But then he remembered the guy they were pursuing was nowhere to be found. Plus, he started to realize that Tuan was way too comfortable while being pursued like this by them.

'Something's wrong.'

Just when Tim had the premonition, Langdon spoke up.

"Tim... we need to..."

Boom!

Just when Langdon thought to retreat into the spatial tear they had come from, an explosion sounded behind them. To their shock, they saw that the spatial tear was closing up.

A figure shot through the now-closing spatial tear like an arrow coated in purple lightning and landed at a distance from them. When the two rankers adjusted their vision, they saw a familiar face staring back at them with a smile on his face.

"Tuan?"

Tim recognized that it was Tuan who was last to enter the place even when it was him they were chasing. The situation indicated that the guy was already prepared for spatial distortion to take place even when it was invisible to the naked eye and mana sense.

'He... he brought us here.'

An alarm bell rang in both Tim and Langdon's heads.

Tim cast his animated spells once again without any delay. This time, since his mana circuits were already active by the same spell, it didn't take long for him to conjure eight serpents. He continued with the usual setup he had come to familiarize himself with. Four serpents for his defense and the remaining four for the offense.

Langdon also thought that an anomaly like this made their mana binding contract null and void. He didn't have to keep himself away from the fight anymore.

Langdon also cast his spells and created a tornado of water around him. He also pulled out a bladeless sword hilt from his storage space. When he poured his mana into it, the runes etched onto the hilt lit up and a blade made of water element mana was formed that reflected the sunlight in multi-color.

"You... you planned this, didn't you? What are your motives? And how do we get out of here?"

Langdon asked while raising his sword in front of him in a defensive stance. He looked at Tim who also understood his gesture. They both needed to stick together to handle this cunning guy and whatever he had set up for them.

Both Langdon and Tim thought that Tuan was after their Titus points, not realizing the graveness of the situation they were in. They also assumed that this was yet another safe drop location that could be found using the clues spread around in the subspace dedicated to the competition.

Tuan smiled mirthlessly at them before responding.

"Maybe there's a treasure to be found in the debris of my shipwreck. I hadn't set this up, boys. No matter how two-faced I might be, I'm telling the truth this time. But life happens when you are busy making plans.

Now all I can do is get on board with whatever my circumstances throw at me. I hope you don't blame me. And I'd understand even if you did."

Tuan drew his two swords and spoke. However, he held an Andruil sword in one hand and a different sword in the other. His face and stature also started changing all of a sudden while his facial skin stretched and created a different face.

Within a few moments, Tuan changed into a completely different person. Even his mana signature changed into something Tim and Langdon both weren't familiar with.

The butcher soon resumed his normal appearance and looked at them with the same mild smile Tuan had given them. The right half of his body was covered in lightning-element mana as he was holding Rigor Mortis with his right hand. His left hand was holding Anduril, making his left side covered in fire-element mana.

This was the first time Eren could wield two of the elements he had been familiar with, with such ease and proficiency. He concluded that focusing on fire-element spells and not using the lightning element at all had somehow fixed the misbalance he never knew he had. Assuming Tuan's role was paying dividends in a manner the butcher couldn't have imagined.

"What in the world...."

Tim couldn't help but mumble at the phenomenon he was seeing. The warning bells in his head kept on ringing. But he was as prepared to face Tuan as he could be. So there was nothing that could be done about it.

Langdon saw Tuan turn into Eren and for some reason, his forehead glittered in sweat all of a sudden. He steeled his heart, clenched his fists, and spoke with all the bravado he could muster from within him.

"You are not Tuan, are you? If you don't back off now, we will press the emergency switches we have on our wristbands..."

Eren shook his head in denial before cutting Langdon off.

"The wristbands don't work here. I was here the whole time last night. So I know and can confirm."

Eren said and smirked before adding up.

"My point is, you are all stuck here together until I kill you both off. We can debate over the hows and whys of the whole thing if you want to.

But that's not going to change the outcome for you. You had your chance to pull back from being the obstacle in my plan before. But not anymore."

Chapter 556 Ertaur

Eren said while gripping his sword hard. He stopped smiling when he narrowed his eyes on his two prey.

He released his mana signature in the surroundings, letting both the rankers feel his intentions. This wasn't part of the competition anymore. Even when they knew participating in competition may lead to accidental death, whatever that was about to unfold couldn't be called an accident.

Tim and Langdon realized that the stakes for this battle were much higher than they thought they were. They couldn't help but look at each other at the same time when that happened.

"This guy wants to kill us. Tim, we better stick together. I don't sense anyone beside this fake Tuan. so I believe we can take him on just fine and still be in the competition."

Langdon spoke first. He spoke about retaliation and counterattack. He wasn't one who would go down without a fight just because he had been boxed in by a single guy of their rank. That too someone who was still in the liquid stage of the Ace rank.

Only now Tim realized why he was not sensing any threatening aura from Eren's fire-element spells alone. The guy was basically fighting with half his powers. But that wasn't enough to make the summoner feel down about himself or about his prospects of winning against Eren.

"No matter who you are, no matter what your intentions are, if you think you'd take care of both of us just by isolating us, you are in for a surprise."

Tim said and waved his hands forward, sending two of his flame serpents in Eren's direction. He sent other two snakes to go long and attack him from his sides while he was busy handling the first set of animated beasts he had sent his way.

Langdon also cast his spells. He made ice shards of some of his blob of water and sent it in Eren's direction. He didn't overdo his attack for the fear of him affecting Tim's fire-element attacks.

The verbal exchange was over from Eren's end at this point. So he decided to focus on his actions rather than his words.

'I'm going to enjoy this hunt.'

The butcher had a wicked smile to himself as he saw the attacks approaching him. He was already prepared for the incoming force.

Sedated Perception

Stunning Speed

Purple Blitz Steps

Red Blitz Bolt

The butcher's perception was enhanced when he executed his time-element spells. As he watched the attacks closing in on him, he thought of going all out.

He looked at his left chest peck before mumbling something in his head.

'It's time for you to show me what you can do buddy.'

Go wild... Ertaur!'

The butcher causally named his contract beast before releasing him out in the open for the first time since he had received it.

Beast Contract Spell: Red Lightning Bull.

Tim and Langdon saw Eren just disappear into thin air before the attacks they had sent him his way could affect him. The speed and agility that he had shown by being Tuan couldn't compare to his original speed when he was using his lightning element movement spell.

Before the two snakes could decipher what happened to their target, they detected a danger coming for them from in front of them as a distinct mana pulse was released where Eren was previously standing.

A bull's bellow was heard and a cloud of red lightning appeared on the battlefield. That cloud slowly took the shape of a giant red lightning bull which charged at the two snakes even before his mana body could form completely.

"This damn imposter... how many trump cards he is hiding..."

Langdon said out aloud in frustration when he saw the red bull charging at Tim's animated beasts. Even though he knew Tim's beasts were superior in comparison to the beast contract spell, the beast contract spell was more optimized for the mana consumption.

That meant Tim's number advantage over Eren was going to be impacted by the single introduction of the red lightning bull. Langdon was just processing these details in his head when he felt a danger incoming from his left side.

"Where are you looking?"

Eren said while approaching Langdon from his front. Only now Langdon realized that it was Eren's afterimage he was staring at.

The butcher gripped his two swords before releasing their inscribed spells on the guy at once.

Purple Reaver!

Invi Blaze!

Two distinct flying sword slashes zeroed in on Langdon at breakneck speeds. The latter used his blob of water-element mana and turned into a wall before summoning a mini tornado in front of Eren. a bunch of shards were formed within the tornado before they were swung across in every direction near Eren by the tornado's rotational momentum.

Red Blitz Shield

Eren didn't run this time. He used the destruction aspect of lightning to cast his defensive spell and proceeded to approach Langdon. A cloak of red lightning was formed on him that covered almost every part of his body.

When the ice shards hit the layer of red lightning cloak, they broke down instantly. But since the quantity of the ice shards was dense, some of them managed to penetrate through the cloak by overlapping the point of impact.

Eren smiled viciously as he was getting injured by the ice shards. He suddenly turned back and attacked at the flame serpent that had managed to approach him by decreasing its mana body.

Tim had tweaked his animated spell a bit because he understood the need of the hour. His usual animated beasts couldn't keep up with the butcher's speed anymore. So he reduced their body size and made them more agile before sending them towards him at the right time.

Purple Reaver!

The butcher knew the lightning-element attacks weren't going to do much harm to the animated beasts. So he decided to fight the fire with fire— his fire. Even if he knew the clash was going to make it so that Tim won every time, all he wanted to do was not win but buy time. Buy time to finish Langdon.

The slashes hit the moving snake and it hissed in pain. As a result, it slowed down and looked at its master for support. It started traveling in his direction as if it wanted an immediate treatment.

This was a disadvantage of animated beasts gaining sentience beyond a certain level. They acted as if they were alive and feared the dangers of death if their summoner couldn't control them properly.

Sensing that the animated beast was hurt and seeking shelter in Tim, the butcher knew now was the time to strike Langdon with all that he got. And he wouldn't miss a chance like this.

'Here I come, Langdon!'

===

AN: While pondering over the red lightning bull's name, I came to know that the name Minotaur is derived from two words— Minos and Taurus. The word basically means Minos's Bull. So now you know how we landed on the name Ertaur. ;)

## Chapter 557 Red Bull Rush

Tim's intelligence stat had allowed him to summon eight animated beasts at the same time, which had access to their unique spells as if they were their inherent spells. But he was yet to control them completely the way he wanted to.

Frankly, Tim couldn't be blamed for his beasts not being in complete control of himself. The class he had chosen for himself after considering a lot about his potential ensured that he wouldn't have any guidance he would have easy access to.

It was only through his sheer perseverance and battle with talented fire-element rankers that he had reached this point. He had learned a lot from his enemies. So he carried on with that trend until he could achieve visible success as a summoner.

"Don't come after me, you idiot. Attack him. Attack that imposter."

Tim shouted while releasing a strong mana signature. That action finally rebooted the animated beast that was sent to attack Eren. It was joined by another serpent of its kind.

But Eren had achieved what he wanted to achieve by this point. He got his solo time with Langdon by keeping all of Tim's animated beasts and him away from the water-element ranker.

Langdon had created defensive water shields and sent shards of ice in Eren's way. But he managed to dodge them all without breaking a sweat. Some of the sword slashes that were sent his way were



indeed blocked by his defensive spell. And he managed to dodge some others using his movement spells.

He also nullified a few slashes by colliding them with his own slashes that he had sent in the air using his water-element sword. One could tell Langdon had only recently adopted weapon-style fighting. He couldn't employ his weapon the way it was capable.

But some of the sword slashes that the butcher had sent towards Langdon managed to hit their mark.

Rip

Rip

Rip

"Aaaaaaargh!"

Langdon cried in pain and agony when one of Eren's flying lightning-element slashes managed to inflict a deep cut on his left toe. Just when he thought the tow was saved from being completely cut off, a fire-element slash landed on the same spot, wreaking havoc on the already injured leg.

'A chance!'

The butcher's eyes shone with wicked light as he approached Langdon and got him in his striking zone. He released his AoE after reaching a few meters away from Langdon. That's because he knew the two serpents were coming to attack him.

Red Blitz Storm. FREEWEBNOVEL.COM

The ground on which the butcher stood cracked when he released his AoE spell powered by his destruction aspect of lightning. The two snakes as well as Langdon were within the range of the spell.

Hissss!

"Aaaaargh!"

Langdon was electrocuted once again despite him putting the barrier of water-element mana against Eren's attack. Since his water-element spells didn't work well against Eren's lightning element attacks, he got most of the spell's burnt despite bracing himself for it.

The red lightning did more damage to the enemies than Eren had anticipated. The destruction aspect of the lightning was wild and untamed. Additionally, it caused damage to the surrounding area as well as to the rankers nearby.

Eren regretted that he still couldn't handle red lightning the way he wanted to. This was his newly gained power. And he hadn't had a chance to use it after gaining it until today. So he couldn't really make the attack focus more on the rankers and less on the surroundings with his spell output.

Meanwhile, the red lightning bull was more efficient with his red lightning usage than his master. He couldn't fatally damage the two flame servants that were keeping him busy. But the opposite was also true. He barely felt any damage from the draconic serpents' fire breaths and fireballs. The non-polarized

nature of the two elements along with the fact that all three of them had mana bodies made their battle stretch out.

But Ertaur wanted to shine some more in his first battle since gaining a new master. It bellowed and flames his nostrils before stomping on the ground with his solid hooves. Before he disappeared, the ground beneath his feet cracked.

Red Bull Rush!

A linear path was created on the ground. A path that was made by splitting the ground on either side. The next thing Tim knew, one of his flame serpents had been thrown some 10 meters high in the air like it had been given wings.

The animated beast's body was coated in a dense cloud of red lightning as it flew across the landscape. The red lightning penetrated deep through the serpent's mana body and hurt its consciousness. The mana body started dispersing on its own before it could land on the ground.

Ertaur had used one of his inherent spells to take care of a flame serpent. He had used a considerable amount of mana to pull it off. But he hoped his master wouldn't be angry.

Ertaur's timing to use Red Bull Rush was spot on.

While Tim was busy calculating risk assessment coming from Ertaur, Eren focused on finishing Langdon off for good after inflicting a serious injury on him. He supplied his contract bull with even more mana while approaching his target once again.

"Stay the fuck away, you impos..."

Swish!

Eren chopped off the guy's wrist with which he held the sword. His Blitz Bolt had gained extra penetrative power after using it with his red lightning. The next to get cut off was the other wrist which Langdon had subconsciously raised in defense.

Eren threw his weapons in the air and caught Langdon by his throat before executing Blitz Bolt once again with both his hands. The water-element ranker's body was overburdened with foreign mana as the red lightning-caused havoc inside it.

Langdon barely hung onto his consciousness when he was subjected to such an intense case of electrocution. He had lost control over his limbs because of the lightning's stun effect. He wouldn't recover from his condition until he expelled Eren's mana from his system. But the butcher's choke-inducing grip over his throat was acting as a source of red lightning, keeping Langdon stunned and unable to take any action for the time being.

Eren could kill the guy if he wanted to. But now was not the time. He sensed something coming from 5 O'clock to get him and threw Langdon in that direction.

Just when Tim prevented Ertaur from attacking him, he saw Langdon was picked up from the ground by Eren. he knew that his survival was also dependent on Langdon staying alive. In response, he dispatched one of his animated creatures that were meant to defend him. The target was Eren while he was busy handling Langdon.

Unfortunately for him, Eren's mid-battle presence of mind was exceptional.

## Chapter 558 Digesting Gains

Eren had been prioritizing dealing with Langdon while not forgetting to keep tabs on Tim. Plus, his contract bull also shared updates with him in real-time.

"Aaaaaaargh!"

The white flames that the animated beast had cast from its mouth had found a target that was not meant for its attack. After being electrocuted, Langdon was now roasted by his teammate.

'Now's the time.'

The butcher thought to himself before drawing the space-element dagger from his storage space. He gripped its hilt hard and pursed his lips. Then he looked at his targets cruelly before driving the dagger through his heart.

Argh!

The butcher grunted in pain when the tip of the dagger pierced his heart without leaving a mark on his body. When he opened his eyes, they had changed their color. His hair started turning white and tribal tattoos appeared all over his torso.

Mark of the Seven Sins: Domain of Wrath

The butcher activated his sins series ability and targeted Langdon who had suffered the most in his attacks. And since he was also attacked by Tim who had gotten a bit distracted dealing with Ertaur, the butcher guessed that it wouldn't take long for him to convert Langdon into a creature of wrath. For all his miseries, the guy had to be angry about someone or something.

"Aaaaaaah"

In the next moment, Langdon's anger peaked and he started turning. The butcher thought that Langdon would be angry with him for subjecting him to such hardships. Tim for not retracting his attack. But he was angriest at himself for sticking with Tim despite his initial plan of withdrawing from the scene. Only now did he understand the warning given to both of them by the butcher at the very beginning.

Just like that, a creature of wrath was created at the scene, leaving Tim dumbfounded and scared when he looked at the process. Even with the animated beasts surrounding him, he didn't feel safe anymore.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tim Westmoor was getting tortured to no end.

"Aaaaaargh!"

A mournful cry sounded from Tim's mouth as his right hand's fingers were first bitten clean off by his raid partner. He then chewed them up while looking like he was enjoying them.

The next to be served as food for the creature of wrath was his left hand's fingers. This time, the creature of wrath didn't have to do the grunt work. The butcher had chopped them off from him using his sword.

Tim was lying down in his pool of blood. There were a lot of sword cuts he had suffered all over his body. The creature of wrath was sitting over his chest, drooling with his hideous mouth open wide.

Ertaur the red lightning bull was standing not too far away from Eren. He was prepared to use his Red Bull Rush once again in case Tim tries to pull something off despite his depleted and damaged mana core.

"Aaaaaargh... You monster... just... just kill... kill me."

Tim spoke with a fit of pent-up anger in his eyes. But the butcher wasn't satisfied with this level of anger. He had been keeping his domain of wrath active for quite some time now. He had fought with Tim and Langdon quite a bit since his battle with Tim and Langdon began.

The butcher also had a lot of burnt marks because of Tim's spells. His clothes had become ragged too. His White Haired Transformation had lost its edge as he looked tired and worn out battling with two rankers. Plus, he was reaching his limit before he lost control over himself and indulged in his wrath.

Eren controlled himself and looked at Tim with his red iris, which were surrounded by the red veins in his eyes. He controlled the creature of wrath and asked him to attack Tim's solar plexus next.

A wave of immeasurable pain ran through Tim's body as he felt his solar plexus being hit by the creature of wrath's brutal punch. He couldn't help but yell in agony once again. He started cursing Eren while his eyes were filled with tears. His anger at this time in the domain of wrath was unprecedented. The peak of his anger made Tim bitter about his circumstances, making him lament over his actions.

'Haaah! Finally.'

The butcher thought to himself and exhaled loudly before walking closer to Tim. He squatted near his head and kept his hand on his head before using his ability. Meanwhile, Langdon's body had reached its limit. It exploded into multiple pieces of meat before leaving a calm white flame behind.

When the butcher stood up again, both of his opponents were dead. They left their ID stones and wristbands behind them-- souvenirs for him to collect. Furthermore, two white flames were levitating around him calmly, waiting for him to get assimilated.

Eren had made sure that he angered Tim till he couldn't feel anger before using his ability on him. Therefore the flame he had left behind was the purest and calmest of the two.

He decided to consume the gains left behind by Langdon first. He raised his hand and commanded the smaller, less pure flame between the two to come to him. When it landed on his palm, it was absorbed and instantly disappeared.

Way of water!

When the butcher closed his eyes, he gained attainment in a new element he hadn't gained in either of his timelines before. As his mana core spun around rapidly, it tried to break the small barrier between it and the solid stage core of the Ace rank.

Langdon's experiences as a water-element ranker were substantial. As a ranker who had stayed till the finals in the Titus competition, Langdon's achievements in his element weren't to be scoffed at.

A cloud of Ace rank mana was created around the butcher once again. He also kept on processing the water-element attainment with his eyes closed as he tried to progress further in his ranking journey.

Eren's burn marks were healed first. His now shoulder-length white hair was moving in the wind as a gentle gale was caressing it. Then his internal organs were nourished and his fatigue was taken care of. His almost empty mana storage was also replenished as if he had practiced his ranking technique with 100x speed.

And yet...

Sigh!

Eren opened his eyes after a while when he digested the gains coming from Langdon. Having failed to break into the solid stage, he sighed in disappointment.

'Never mind. I still have this.'

The disappointment on Eren's face was washed away when he looked at the flame that Tim had left behind. He couldn't help but smile mildly as a result.

Chapter 559 Solid Stage of Ace Rank

Eren got rid of his ragged clothes and walked toward the flame himself before touching it with his bare hand.

'Don't disappoint me.'

Before closing his eyes, the butcher addressed the flame. He could immediately feel that the flame left behind by Tim was on a whole new level than what he had digested so far. The torture techniques he acquired during his last timeline paid off at this point.

"Hmmmmmm!"

The butcher felt like he had the most soothing orgasm he had in a while after he started processing the wrath flame. His mind became blank as he lost himself in the process. Something pulled his consciousness into an unknown blackhole that skewed the concepts of space and time.

State of epiphany!

Eren was dragged into a wondrous state where his connection with the higher consciousness was established all of a sudden. At first, it remained static, as if the higher consciousness wanted to remain as a mute spectator.

But the butcher's willpower, his accumulated experiences, and his immature soul sense made it possible for him to have a forced conversation. It suddenly occurred to Eren that his use of fire-element spells up to this point had been too mediocre. His questions about the way of the fire were answered by the higher consciousness even before he asked them.

'Fire.

Something that has the power to purify. To baptize. Applied correctly, it has the power to affect the tangible and the intangible.

The way of fire is not only about burning everything to cinders. But to demolish something that had become fragile over time and make room for something new.

Sometimes what's dead and useless must be burned away to make room for new beginnings. Sometimes death is the salvation a few things need before they are re-sprouted anew.'

The butcher found himself to be in complete bliss as he experienced Tim's attainment in fire and made it his own. With each passing second, he was gaining an unprecedented level of knowledge in the way of fire.

It was as if he was re-living Tim's life experiences from his childhood till the moment he died. With each passing second, the butcher's state of epiphany resembled weeks and months of diligent work that he would normally have to invest in making such progress. He was channeling the Rootless ranking technique unconsciously throughout this process, making the clouds of Ace rank mana appear once more before him.

His gains weren't done yet.

'Way of fire.

Let the brittle bits of the past ignite and burn in my fire. Let my path ahead get lit up as those flames begin to dance in front of me.

No. I will not turn my back on the blazing light. No matter how much destruction or regeneration they cause, they are born out of me and thus are a part of me. I accept this element as part of my existence.'

Tim's attainment in his element and class was only the beginning. It served as a foundation for Eren to gain a firm grasp on those attainments. Something that he could call his own.

It meant that the butcher didn't stop at making Tim's achievements his. He started adding his own experiences and his own understanding of fire to those attainments. He started to progress further in the way of fire than what was previously dictated by the wrath flame left behind by Tim's previous self.

'O flames of the past and fires of tomorrow,

I'll witness with open eyes, your smoke, soot, and haze.

It'll be a cold day in hell before I forget the reasons

That required such a blaze.'

During Eren's ascension to the solid stage of the Ace rank, a distinct pulse of mana was released in the surrounding area. His core used the Ace rank mana present in its surroundings to stabilize its condition.

Eren had a feeling he would advance faster and further than he did in his previous timeline. When he unlocked Life-Drain enhancement mode, that belief was strengthened further.

The Rootless ranking technique that he was currently practicing focused on bloodline purification and atavism. Using only the experimental ranking technique, he wouldn't have been able to progress in such a short time.

But then, Eren gained the Domain of Wrath to counterbalance the odds that had been placed in his way. The Domain of Wrath gave him the confidence he needed to finally accept the ranking technique meant for his bloodline.

But even with all his advantages, Eren could have never imagined in his wildest dreams that he would be able to break into the solid stage of the Ace rank anytime soon. He subconsciously thanked Tim and Langdon for such a valuable contribution in making him grow at such speed.

Things were yet to get wrapped up.

"Aaaaaargh!"

Eren suddenly cried in pain and went to his knees when something painful started happening to his body. It was as if his blood was boiling and trying to escape from the orifices of his skin.

Ertaur tried to help his master by getting near him. But his mana body was dispersed before he could reach Eren. The bull's soul was dragged into the tattoo placed on Eren's chest before he could reach his master.

Since Eren had lost control over his body and mana circuits, the beast contract spell couldn't remain active. This wasn't something Eren had imagined would happen when he had said 'don't disappoint me' to the flame.

His mana circuits and mana points were changing as per a brand-new layout. That's why the butcher was experiencing an unbearable amount of pain. It was as if someone was trying to remove all the veins in his body at once.

Eren spat out a mouthful of blood as he yelled in agony. It happened because his internal organs were getting hurt in the process. Still, the butcher was doing a lot better than any normal ranker, thanks to his unique half-blood constitution that reduced the effects of most side-effects of such a cruel process. Otherwise, he would have been in a life-threatening situation by now.

Eren's aura started fluctuating when that happened. His mana signature changed once again into something completely different. Despite all that, his Rootless ranking technique was still active. Since it wasn't related to any class or element, it didn't create any conflict for him.

That's right.

Eren was transitioning through a class change.

He was becoming a summoner.

Chapter 560 +Summoner Class

Eren was becoming a summoner.

This was not what he had signed up for when he had decided to join the Titus competition. He never would have imagined changing his class at this point in his life. If he had any control over the process, he would have aborted it long ago.

But for better or worse, he didn't have any control while he was in that state. He felt like he was being played by his bad luck again.

Eren could understand everything that was happening to him. But he was a prisoner inside his own body with no control over its functions anymore.

Things only got more difficult for Eren from that point. He was then gifted with a killer headache.

It was as if someone was drilling through his crown to take his brain out. Eren was in so much pain that he couldn't shout or yell anymore. All he could do was bear the uncalled-for pain and wait for it to end.

And yet... things weren't as terrible as he made them out to be.

It was Eren's good luck that the class change was happening inside the spatial distortion and not out in the subspace for everyone to see. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been allowed to leave by the authorities. That's because he was undergoing a class change without using any supporting tools or techniques, which were familiar to them.

What was even more logic-defying was that Eren was undergoing a class change when he was in the solid stage of the Ace rank. And yet, his ranking progression was not regressing. That meant he didn't need a new rank, an updated technique, tools, or any form of support to get through the class change.

The entire Edinburgh kingdom and rankers' communities all over the world would have hunted Eren down in trying to gauge his secrets had he been through his class change in front of the live audience watching the Titus competition.

When the process was finally done, Eren felt like his body had been through a severe form of torture. This torture was something he hadn't even performed on any of his enemies or other rankers.

If Tim's soul was still present at the scene, he would have celebrated seeing the butcher in his current condition. Dom and all his other victims would have joined him in celebrating this moment.

'You want my help?'

Just when Eren thought he would fall unconscious against his will, he heard Alephee's voice. That voice sounded sweeter than honey to him in his current situation. He nodded his head in his mind and tried hard not to give in to the forced slumber his body was demanding from him.

Eren's solid stage mana core that had been depleted in the process of him changing his class started spinning in reverse under Alephee's influence. She was merged with him through his mana core so she had certain control over it.

The mana core only stopped spinning when it was back to its full potential. As a result, Eren could channel his mana throughout his body to somehow gain control over his limbs.



The first thing he did after gaining control over his arms was take out a vial of all-states recovery potion from his storage before drinking it up. The potion's effects kicked in immediately, and the fatigue and soreness that he felt all over his body were greatly reduced.

"Fuck... what... aaargh... shit... shit... shit... this throws away all the plans I had for winning the Titus tournament. How will I fight now? That fucking wrath flame..."

The first thing Eren did after feeling somewhat better was curse his heart out. He slowly got up and looked around himself. He then looked at his hands and torso to see if there were any other visible changes he wasn't aware of.

For some reason, he was in his Life-Drain Transformation mode. His white hair and almost blue eyes attested to that. Visually, nothing seemed to have been different from what was usual for Eren. But his class had been changed to that of a summoner. He felt like he was operating a foreign body when he channeled his mana through his newly reformed mana circuits.

For some reason, he also felt that his thought process was more enhanced now. He was troubled by his situation. But that didn't make him regret the choice he had made anymore. He felt like something like this was bound to happen one way or the other as he explored his Sins abilities. He regretted only the timing of its arrival.

Feeling frustrated, he took out his Sativa stick and lit it up quickly using his fire-element mana. He took a deep breath out of his stick and filled his lungs with its smoke. While releasing the smoke through his nose and walking aimlessly in front of him, the butcher cursed some more in his head. He thought about how he could escape from the Titus tournament without drawing attention.

'How are you feeling right now?'

Alephee asked Eren while sounding feeble again. The butcher heard her voice and responded quickly.

'Don't tell me you are drifting off into slumber now? Alephee now is not the time...'

Alephee cut him short by adding up.

'Don't worry. I'm not sinking into slumber. Let's just say that I'm just trying to conserve my consciousness. Things would have been a bit different had you not broken into the solid stage of the Ace rank before your class change.'

Alephee assured Eren that she was not planning to sleep on him. The butcher realized that he was starting to depend on Alephee which he shouldn't be doing after he processed his own words and hers.

But by now, he had stopped treating Alephee as an alien after her selfless involvement in his affairs. She had aided him when he needed it the most, and for all the character flaws the butcher had within him, he was grateful.

So he didn't feel completely repulsed by his dependency on her. He just needed to make sure that he kept it to a minimum for his own sake. Her existence was special after all, he didn't want her getting discovered by some high-ranking entity.

After being assured by Alephee, the butcher took a sigh of relief before answering her first question.

I don't know what's going on with me. This class change smacked me in the face and pulled the rugs out of my legs. I was only beginning to dig deep into becoming a close combat expert. But this...

Let's not talk about the efforts that I made in the past for my close combat class and the impact this class change would have on my future. My immediate present has also been damaged beyond repair. I need to say goodbye to those 100 thousand Extols I could have won from...'

Eren felt like he needed to vent his frustrations to get them out of his head. But Alephee cut him short once again.

'I think there's a bit of misunderstanding. The class change has been bound to your Life-Drain mode.

You can have your previous class back when you revert to your normal self.'