

Vile 591

Chapter 591 Elemental Fusion: Wind-Fire Wings P2

"Elemental Fusion: Wind-Fire Wings!"

Eren mumbled to himself as he cast a spell that was unique to him. First, Fire Wings were created behind his back. At first, these wings seemed a lot like what the original Tuan used to use.

But in the next moment, the wings spread some more and increased in size on their own. The Fire Wings were then coated by wind-element mana and they started to fuse with fire-element mana.

Swish!

At that time, there was a strong gust of hot haze. And despite being of the same nature, this haze fought with the burning temperature created by Burning Abode.

The unbearable temperature that was going to burn Eren's skin stopped affecting him when he flapped his wings and created a gust of wind. This gust had embers of fire mixed in it.

Fire embers were flying around Eren, creating their own space around him. A safe place in which Eren found relief. A hive of fireflies buzzed around Eren, carried around him by a gust of wind in a set pattern. It was as if someone had just kicked the biggest campfire they could find and the sparks of fire and unburnt coal were dancing rhythmically in the air.

Fire embers flying around Eren had properties of both wind and fire elements. And yet, they were not limited by their parent elements.

The butcher could feel that a wide realm of possibilities had opened in front of him when he had achieved elemental fusion. He also felt that his attainment in the fire and wind element had been strengthened because of this feat.

He could also recognize that the embers of wind fire were only in their elementary stage at this point. They were limited by his attainment in the wind element which was lackluster at this point.

Eren wouldn't have achieved elemental fusion in his current rank if it wasn't for all the experiences he had gained so far. His connection with Argo also played a big role.

Argo's inherent spell Wind Wings was gained by Eren as a demon spell when he strengthened his bond with him. Altashia had achieved her demon spell by practicing with her demon beast from a very young age. The butcher, on the other hand, had gained such a spell from Argo due to the bond that he had shared with him even before the latter's birth.

Eren also felt that the elemental fusion that he had seen in the Purgatory had also left its mark on his psyche. So when he had his epiphany, all those experiences were combined to allow him a fusion of elements.

He also found it strange that he had achieved elemental fusion in the elements he had the least amount of experience with. Compared to his lightning element attainments that he had gained from his previous timeline, his attainment in fire and wind elements only really progressed when he was in this timeline.

Altashia had dual-element wind and fire affinity as well. Having to face her in a serious duel that threatened each other's life certainly took Eren's proficiency in the same elements to the next level. And vice versa.

"My knowledge of the wind element has been strengthened due to my connection with Argo. But my fire element has shot up because of my Sins Series ability.

I have absorbed the attainments of others and made them my own. These attainments are varied in their aspects even if they belong to the same element. Maybe gaining attainments in various aspects is the key behind progressing at a rapid pace in the way of the elements."

The butcher mumbled to himself quickly as he looked around him. Unbeknownst to him, his Wind-Fire Wings were flapping on their own. It's as if they had their own subconscious. That action of his wings was keeping him safe from harm amid the sea of golden flames.

Eren couldn't help but smile when he experienced this phenomenon. A phenomenon that was created by him. He also felt that he should practice his Rootless ranking technique in this environment to stabilize his gains, which could bring him even greater rewards. Alas, he did not have much time.

'Eren, I have reached my limit maintaining Sedated Perception for you. I won't be able to assist you anymore.

These... These repeated instances of me using my powers have drained me a bit. I must take a short nap. We'll... talk some more when I wake up. Take care till...'

In Eren's head, Alephee spoke in a voice that faded until he was no longer able to hear her. In the next moment, his enhanced perception was canceled and he was pulled out of his near-stagnant world.

Only now did the butcher realize that Alephee had kept the Stacked Sedated Perception running when she sensed that he was experiencing an epiphany related to elemental fusion. She had done this so he could reap the maximum benefit out of it while not getting bothered by the healer's intervention.

This had also helped Eren stay in the game. That's because Altashia wouldn't have waited this long for Eren to come out of the Burning Abode if he was not processing time in his near-stagnant world.

Somehow, Eren's mana storage which was running on fumes was also restored to its full capacity when he was having the epiphany. As a result, the butcher was now free to use any combo of spells he wanted without having to be frugal about any of them.

'Yeah. Rest well, Alephee. I appreciate the intervention you gave me earlier. I feel that the talk has also aided me in gaining access to elemental fusion. I thank you for that. And don't worry. I'll manage somehow. For now at least.'

Eren addressed Alephee, unsure if she could hear him or not. He could feel that she had been trying to get more involved ever since he got out of Purgatory. His breakthrough into the Ace rank had given her the ability to do so.

But she was also invested in him on a deeper level. That's how she could prioritize his well-being despite knowing that the overuse of her powers in such a short time would put her into forced slumber.

'It's about time I scheduled my date with AI!'

Eren chuckled before spreading his wings to take a flight. He was about to destroy the cage that was trying to hold him down.

Chapter 592 Accepting Defeat

Moments after Eren got locked inside Burning Abode and crashed to the ground.

"Whyâ€¦ Why isn't he coming out?"

Altashia mumbled to herself before spreading her mana sense in the vicinity. She almost had no mana to intervene in the attack she had cast herself.

"Erenâ€¦ Eren!"

Altashia yelled and her heart began to beat faster as she felt that Eren was hurting inside her spell. She started regretting casting Burning Abode on the butcher and felt that she needed to do something. So she started running in Eren's direction without worrying about the injuries that she had suffered due to the duel.

The slash wounds that were on her body were threatening to open once again after her mana defense layer ran on fumes. By doing so, it simply prevented the wounds from opening, and it lost all its defensive capabilities.

As Altashia started running in Eren's direction, her wounds opened up. The bare-minimum layer of defense she had was compromised at the moment and her body was most vulnerable at this time.

Yet, Altashia didn't stop running. There were drops of tears running down her cheeks as she found herself unable to speak anymore.

"Iâ€¦ I think you should go. Get Eren out of that damn thing."

Arjun mumbled to himself as he watched the climax of battle unfold in front of his eyes. Then he realized that he hadn't said anything to the healer. So he looked at him frantically before yelling.

"Sir, I'm sorry, Sir Adept healer. But what the fuck are you waiting for? Please save our team members."

Arjun's violent voice jolted everyone out of their daze. They were so mesmerized and stunned by Eren and Altashia's battle that they had forgotten to check on either of their conditions. Only now did they realize that Eren could be in mortal danger.

For the first time, Arjun was angry at his captain for executing Burning Abode on Eren. He had witnessed her fight with the Goblin Lord as well. That demon spell almost took care of a Goblin Lord. It had scared the D-Rank monster so much that he didn't come to claim his camp even when Altashia's squad was there for the whole night.

And yet, Altashia had chosen to cast that spell on Eren, who was only in the Ace rank. If Arjun didn't know his captain so well, he would have called it an attempt to murder.

Arjun saw Altashia running in Eren's direction with tears running down her cheeks and sighed. Using his power alone, he wouldn't be able to dispel Burning Abode any time soon.

So he decided to let the healer handle that part while he held onto his guilt-stricken captain. He stood over the ledge of the audience booth's railing and was about to jump into the arena.

The Adept rank healer had also been stunned by Eren's duel with Altashia. Never in his wildest dreams could he have imagined that he would get to witness such a high-level duel between two Ace rankers.

When Arjun yelled at him, the healer felt a bit angry at him for his rude behavior. But then he was a bit ashamed because he forgot his duties. So instead of scolding his juniors, he decided to prioritize the work that he was supposed to do.

But just when the healer was about to jump out from the second floor's audience booth and get directly into the arena, he felt a unique mana pulse from the Burning Abode.

The rest of the rankers felt that pulse too. All of them focused their eyes and mana senses on the Burning Abode. As if they all had come to realize that something was afoot. As if they were going to witness something special.

Rumble!

The Burning Abode was blasted away in an instant. The compressed form of fire-element mana spread in every direction. The flames were largely dispersed in the thin air. However, some flames managed to survive the blast and were burning brighter than ever in the vicinity.

Some of the fire-element mana was headed for Altashia. Due to her physical and mental condition, she was vulnerable to being injured because of her physical and mental condition.

But suddenly Altashia realized that the view in front of her was changing rapidly. She had focused so much on Burning Abode and the person locked inside it that she forgot to register what had happened to it.

Altashia was lifted off in the air as the vision in front of her suddenly blocked. Because of her distraught state, she didn't understand what had happened and looked sideways before looking upwards.

The warrior-ranker saw a familiar face smiling at her as she was being held in a princess carry midair. As a result, she couldn't help but smile and cry at the same time.

"Youâ€¦ youâ€¦ Erenâ€¦ are you alright? lâ€¦!"

Eren smiled mildly as he saw Altashia's condition. He responded while spreading his newborn wings.

"You thought I was dead? Tch tch tch! I thought you knew me better than that."

The butcher teased Altashia before readjusting her in the air once again. He wasn't used to his flight maneuverability yet. As a result, he was struggling to keep himself and his plus-one in the air as he controlled his elemental fusion wings.

Only now did Altashia observe Eren's wings that gave off a peculiar mana signature. She observed that the wings he had were so different from her.

Altashia's feathers were bird-like and completely black. But Eren's wings were an ethereal fire that had taken the shape of draconic wings. Plus, he didn't have to maintain the motion of flapping wings. Because half of his work would be done by tweaking the pressure he had on the surrounding air.

Altashia's mind calmed down after she saw Eren was safe. Her chaotic mana circuits caused by her heightened emotions found some respite. As a result, her natural mana defense was restored, if only barely. And her wounds stopped bleeding. She took a deep breath before replying with stoic expressions that said that she was trying to tame her emotions.

"I'm just glad that you are alive. I accept my defeat."

Altashia said and wrapped her arms around Eren's neck as the latter held her by her hips. They were both standing in front of each other in the air.

Altashia had accepted her defeat. But she did not stop it just there. She brought Eren's face close before planting a kiss on his lips. The latter accepted her advance with open wings and closed arms as he guided both of them down to the ground.

Altashia could feel Eren's elemental fusion because of the embers of the fire still surrounding him. When she came so close to him and felt the mana signature exuded by his wings, she was beginning to have ideas of her own.

A kiss seemed to complete the puzzle that had been left incomplete for a long time. Just when Eren landed on the ground with Altashia, they were surrounded by the clouds of Adept rank mana that visibly manifested around them. The butcher understood what was happening as soon as it started happening.

Altashia was breaking into the Adept rank!

Chapter 593 Altashia's Breakthrough

Altashia was breaking into the Adept rank!

She had been stuck at the solid stage of the Ace rank for a long time. But no matter what she did, she couldn't achieve a breakthrough into Adept rank. That was until now.

Eren realized what was happening so he helped her sit with her legs folded before stepping away. He watched from a distance as Altashia started using her ranking technique.

The Adept-rank mana that was condensed into a form of small clouds gathered around her as two semi-transparent rings of fire and wind element mana started spinning around her in opposite directions. This was Altashia's ranking technique that had allowed her to harness her dual elements.

Altashia started digesting all her gains from the battle along with the experiences that she deemed relevant. Eren's display of elemental fusion had also inspired her. That along with his performance had created a deep impact on her psyche.

But there was one more person who had played an instrumental role in her life. Her Gramps Altair. She had watched him fight up close. So his influence was also significant in her breakthrough.

Zoom!

A blast of wind and fire element mana was detonated in the next moment with Altashia at its center. Since the mana involved in the incident was of Adept rank, Eren didn't waste time in retreating further back while keeping his eyes focused on Altashia.

When the blast of fire and wind mana subsided, Eren saw Altashia standing up with her eyes still carrying faint traces of mana. It made her eyes shine amid the cloud of dust that was around her.

Adept rank!

Altashia had successfully broken into Adept rank. That too by achieving elemental fusion. But the effects of her elemental fusion were different from Eren even though the same parent had been involved.

Whoosh!

A tornado of wind was created around Altashia in the next moment before it caught fire. Altashia spread her hand and let the tornado expand outwards as she enjoyed playing with her elements. At the time, her limbs were also soaked in wind and fire elemental mana. But there were no flames.

Instead, her arms and legs appeared semi-transparent and were emitting light orange and yellow hues. As if her limbs were a spectral source of light.

The fire and wind-driven tornado expanded outwards and suddenly vanished into thin air. But a tornado of the same kind appeared soon after, even further away from Altashia with a larger circumference. But the eye of the tornado remained the same, which was Altashia.

Eren took a while to understand what had happened. Her fire-element mana had disappeared into wind-element mana before reappearing once again. This was as if her attacks passed through an invisible hurdle seamlessly, bypassing any roadblock in their path.

"Thisâ€¦ this is Crimson Ghost's power. Captain's Elemental Fusion is a lot like her grandfather Altair's ability."

Arjun appeared beside Eren and spoke out. He too was watching Altashia's breakthrough with keen eyes as he said it. The butcher had only heard about Altair Argas in his previous timeline. He wasn't aware of what kind of ranker he was. But something told him what Arjun was saying was based on reality.

Altashia let go of her control over the mana and the mana which was doing her bidding was scattered. Once her limbs returned to normal, she searched for Eren with eager eyes.

"Want to battle it out again, Eren?"

Altashia smirked at Eren before challenging him to a duel again. The latter could only smile mirthlessly at her jab before shrugging his shoulders.

"Even if you beat me now, it still won't count, Al. You have to honor our deal because I beat you fair and square."

Altashia chuckled before answering honestly.

"Why would you think I'd renege from that? In fact, I'm looking forward to it. Remember what you had told me just before my fight with Rodrick?"

The butcher furrowed his eyebrows and scratched his forehead for a bit. He seemed to have been in deep thought before responding.

"What did I tell you? I don't remember. Al."

Altashia folded her hands and looked at Eren with a pout on her face before adding up.

"Don't take me for a fool, Eren Idril. I know that you remember very well what you said that day.

I'll sell one of your balls on the black market if you decide to play dumb anymore. Don't forget, I'm an Adept ranker now. Hmph!"

Altashia replied haughtily, leaving Eren blank-faced and gulping empty air again. The butcher was glad that he had beat her. And he was glad that he had achieved elemental fusion.

But Altashia had achieved her breakthrough into the D-Rank while he seemed to be stuck in the Ace rank for a while. This had again tipped the balance of power in Altashia's favor in their relationship.

The butcher raised his eyebrows and asked suspiciously.

"Only one? What would you do with the other?"

Altashia pursed her lips before answering bluntly.

"Well, one might have some use for it in the very distant future. Cough! But that's not the point. My point is you stick to your words."

Eren was speechless at Altashia's response. He decided that he'd nut carefully in every woman he sleeps with now. He straightened his clothes and adjusted his hair, which had gotten a bit messy during the flight before adding on.

"Haah! Someday I'd wash that smugness off your face. Till then, I'd have to oblige and bide my time. Sigh!"

The butcher sighed heavily and agreed to Altashia's proposal. He had promised her that he'd pay all by himself for their date if she wins the match against Rodrick.

At that time, he had thought that beating Altashia was a distant dream. So he had said that in a joking manner. Never would he have thought that Altashia would hold him to his end of the deal.

"Hehe. Good. I have many things planned. Now come with me. We'll have to discuss a few things."

Altashia grabbed Eren's arm in a bossy manner and made him walk beside her. She didn't even pay attention to Arjun as the duo walked away from him.

The ranger chuckled when he saw his captain behave like that. Arjun had gone to congratulate Altashia. But she ignored him completely.

Arjun knew that it wasn't intentional on Altashia's part. She was just too excited to finally be an Adept ranker. That and the fact that she was going to be on a date with Eren had occupied her mind, leaving no room for any other person or thing.

Arjun was glad that at least someone was able to crack the shell of her aloof persona and get to her. He reserved his best wishes for now and decided to return to the audience booth where the rest of his teammates were discussing the battle so fervently.

Chapter 594 No Good Deed Goes Unpunished P1*

The city of New Beginnings.

Inside a premium suite of an inn. A couple could be seen lying naked and engaged in a duel of passion.

"Miss manager, you are so aggressive today!"

Eren chuckled as he lay on the bed with Agatha on top of him, kissing him frantically over his neckline. The latter looked at her and narrowed her eyes when she heard that.

"Not that I'm complaining. Bring out the animal that's inside you."

The butcher smiled mischievously and hugged Agatha, bringing her face closer to his. This was the couple's third round. And yet, Agatha wanted more. She had already used her stamina and essence replenishing spell on Eren. It had allowed her to stay in the game for hours on end.

"It's all your fault. Do you know how much work you had relegated to me? Do you have any ideas? No, you don't. And even if you do, you won't care as long as it's getting taken care of.

Now it's your responsibility to help me relax. Hmph!"

Agatha kissed her master passionately after she said that. She opened his mouth with her right hand pulling down his chin. Then she inserted her tongue into his mouth while rubbing her pussy over his now-erect cock.

"Aaaaaah!"

Agatha moaned as she felt her pussy getting excited again. The butcher was just lying down like a dead brick, allowing her to do whatever she wanted with him at the time. She didn't need his help anymore. Just his erect rod was enough for her use.

Agatha kissed Eren and reached out her hand from behind her. She raised her pelvis in the air and adjusted the tip of Eren's rod near her wet entrance before taking it all in at one go.

"Aaaah! Don't... don't just lie there like... like a dead fish. Since when Aaah Did the so-called conventional roles get reversed?"

Agatha completed her sentence with difficulty as she bounced on Eren's rod on her own. Even she was surprised by her sexual drive tonight. She didn't know she would enjoy being with her master this much after seeing him for the last time.

Eren raised his eyebrows when he heard Agatha. So he decided he'd take things into his own hands. In his mind, he thought he was only trying to help Agatha by allowing her to take control of her desires. But that was seen as being lazy apparently.

'No good deed ever goes unpunished.'

Eren muttered to himself and sighed dramatically. In the next moment, he pulled Agatha on him and adjusted his legs. He then rolled to his side with Agatha and made her lie on her back. He smirked before responding.

"Miss manager, remember. You had asked for it. Hehe!"

Eren grabbed and parted Agatha's buns from behind with both his hands and shoved his dick deep inside Agatha's wet hole. Then he started fucking her frantically and watched as her torso moved rhythmically in response to his thrusts.

Her boobs were also shaking because of those thrusts, making them look more grabbable in Eren's eyes. And grab them he did.

"Aaaaah... that's it. Eren... fuck me... deeper baby!"

Agatha ruffled her hair with her own hands and grabbed her forehead in ecstasy. Her cheeks had gotten red and her eyes were staring at the void. Her breathing was heavy and long and her pussy was dripping wet with an ample amount of love juices.

Eren had to admit that he couldn't take all the credit for turning Agatha on to this extent. The larger part of it came from her own sexual drive. But that didn't mean the guild master won't take things up a notch even further.

The butcher adjusted his dick and increased its girth in real-time, causing Agatha's pussy walls to feel pressured once again. He adjusted the size just so that it would fit Agatha's hole completely yet comfortably.

He then made Agatha lie at the edge of the bed and readjusted himself. Then he lifted her legs in the air and made them stay closed. He then applied pressure on her legs from either side with his arms which were wrapped around them.

The stretched pussy walls felt more pressure because of Eren's move and all of Agatha's pleasure points were stimulated at once. Eren could feel the pressure Agatha's pussy was exerting on his rod as well as the rise of temperature inside.

Eren then cast Hatchlings of the Flame Spell and sent a mini snake to stimulate his woman's clit. The pink button was already swollen from overstimulation. So when the snake's tongue touched Agatha on her extra sensitive part, she couldn't control it anymore. Her whole body jerked and shivered as a huge wave of ultimate bliss washed over her.

"Aaaaaaaaah!"

Agatha had orgasmed once again after a few minutes-- an ample amount of obscene orgasmic was squirted out of her pink petal box. Even after coming so much, Agatha still had the energy to spare. She pulled Eren into her embrace and kissed him as if her life depended on it. In the next moment, she pinned him down and looked into his eyes as she breathed heavily.

Eren could see that the lust in her eyes was yet to be washed over. The butcher felt like clapping and giving her a standing ovation for her performance. He couldn't do that with his hands pinned like that by his manager. So he did the next best thing.

He raised his hip and rubbed his cock against her butt crack. Then he gestured to Agatha to do the honors.

"Eren... I just came. Can you wait a few minutes?"

Agatha said and smiled at him. She then cast her stamina-replenishing spell once again, making both of their bodies get immersed in an azure pool of water that was levitating not far from them. She was readying herself for the next round.

"Heh! Who is talking about your pussy? There's always "another" way."

Eren chuckled and freed his hands from her. He watched his manager's expression change into one of concern as she replenished her essence and stamina with her spell.

Eren grabbed her buns and adjusted his dick so that the cap of his rod touched her rear canal entrance. The puckered butthole shut its door even harder when it detected an intruder trying to barge inside.

Eren looked into Agatha's eyes and smiled. Part of her was excited and part of her was against the idea. So he used his glib tongue and caring actions to calm her down.

"Don't worry. Your pussy had done an awesome job coating my rod in its lubricant. You'd be fine. Now, look me in the eye as I conquer your ass mine."

Eren drove his dick into Agatha's anal opening right after he said that, catching his manager by surprise. Agatha was so tense by the act at first that he could only insert an inch before he couldn't drive any further.

"You... you are just... aaaah... mean to the extreme, Eren Idril. This ... ooof... is not what I meant when I said you sssssstop acting like a dead fishhhhh."

At this moment, Agatha shared Eren's thoughts that he had not too long ago. That no good deed goes unpunished. Somehow it finds its way to fuck you in the ass when you are least expecting it.

Chapter 595 No Good Deed Goes Unpunished P2*

"You... you are just... aaaah... mean to the extreme, Eren Idril. This ... owieeee... is not what I meant when I said you sssssstop acting like a dead fishhhhhh. Ooooooh!"

Agatha said and clenched her fists as she felt Eren's hot rod slowly but surely drilling into her rear entrance. She pursed her lips but still couldn't help but let a few moans escape from her mouth. Eren just smiled but didn't reply with words. He let Agatha process his actions at her own pace. His patience paid off.

"Ooooooh!"

Agatha leaned completely on Eren's torso and adjusted her pelvis. She then stretched her legs more and made her anal opening more accessible.

"Ssssslow... go slow!"

Agatha whispered as she dispersed her spell. She had already been charged up once again by Eren's stamina. Nevertheless, the pain of getting her ass fucked could not be relived by replenishing her stamina.

Eren chuckled in amusement and chose to oblige. He wrapped his hands around Agatha and slowly started to thrust his cock inside the tight entrance. It felt pleasant to feel the anal walls squeeze his dick with even more pressure. The temperature inside was even more pleasurable for his little guy than Agatha's lady hole.

Agatha didn't take long to adjust to Eren's thrusts. She slowly sat straight with her legs spread apart on Eren and started to enjoy riding her master's dick with her anal opening.

"This... aaaahhh... I could get used to this. I... I could get aaaaaaaddicted to thisness."

Altashia mumbled to herself as she started enjoying the surprise anal session. It wasn't long before her anal walls got completely adjusted to the butcher's rod, allowing her to adjust her bouncing acts with liberty.

"Come... come... with me!"

Agatha placed her open palms over Eren's chest and commanded him to bounce aggressively on Eren's dick. The latter smiled and nodded before holding her ever-restless hips with both his hands from either side. He made his leg muscles take charge and started thrusting deep into Agatha's tight cavity, meeting her downwards thrusts with even more power.

Tap! Tap! Tap! Tap!

The sound of flesh meeting flesh became even more prominent as a result. The butcher accelerated his thrusts and drove Agatha into the next level of insanity induced by ecstasy.

Eren could see that Agatha was going to come again after a few more thrusts. So he matched her timing and nutted deep inside her just as she crashed onto his torso with all her stamina drained out of her body.

She was finally satisfied. More than satisfied. She was blissfully happy. It was just that her ass rim felt like it was on fire. She lifted her head and looked into Eren's eyes, ignoring the discomfort.

"That... that was really good, Eren. You'll never steer away from catching me off guard, will you? Hehe. But I adore you all the same."

Agatha smiled and planted a soft kiss on Eren's cheeks. She then rested her head on Eren's chest and lay there for quite a time.

The butcher knew that Agatha was satisfied. And he was content with their extended session too. So he didn't demand more from her manager and let her rest. Their room was filled with a soothing atmosphere as a cool breeze entered the room at midnight.

Eren remembered he had to give Agatha something. This was the set he had prepared just for her before coming to the city of New Beginnings.

"Hehe! Miss manager, do you remember what I had said to you before either of us left for Nightshade Duchy?"

Agatha was just silently enjoying being with Eren and resting when she heard him ask a question. Her expressions were puzzled as she rolled to Eren's side and propped her head on her folded arm.

"Is it about the potion distribution channels and relocating our potioner staff in the nightshade duchy? I'm just waiting for the..."

Agatha was about to continue to state out her plans when she was interrupted by the butcher.

"Not that. I had told you I'd take care of your ranking technique problem. Well... here it is."

Eren took out a runic book that was manually written along with a scroll and a bunch of vials. He then explained the items to his guild manager.

"This is what I have come up with. The book contains a ranking technique that is based on your current one in the Novice rank. But it is not anthrope-specific. Not really anyway. And yet. You'd still be able to practice it just fine.

Hehe! What's more? It covers everything till you can break through into Expert rank. You'd have no bottlenecks at least when it comes to the ranking technique till then."

Eren flashed an "I am awesome" smile at Agatha while tapping on the book with his open palm. The latter was surprised that the book contained everything that she needed till she reached the D-Rank.

What surprised her, even more, was the fact that the technique was not therianthrope-specific. That meant she would have more freedom to choose conventional spells that are related to her element. Plus, her progress would be as fast as a normal ranker without any additional difficulties.

Agatha snatched the book from under Eren's palm and started reading it as quickly as she could. She muttered a few incoherent words before saying her mumbling out loud.

"How... how did you find such a thing?"

Eren understood Agatha's question even when she had not yet constructed it. She was asking him how he managed to find a technique meant for her while not making it anthrope-specific. So he chuckled before replying.

"It's all because of this potion. You'd just have to drink it to make your body adapt to the technique before practicing it every time. The scroll contains the recipe for the potion. And these vials contain the potion itself.

So you'd be practicing a normal-like technique that would allow you to cast almost all the water-element spells we can think of. All while remaining an anthrope and taking advantage of all the perks it has to offer."

Agatha put the book away and picked up the scroll to check out its contents. By now she had picked up a few nuances of the potion recipes by seeing so many of them. She didn't understand everything.

But she could see that the potion was simple to make even if it was her who tried making it. All the shortcuts and alternatives to the original recipe had also been penned down.

Eren smirked as he saw Agatha's expressions. He pulled her cheeks before adding up.

"Hah! With this in your possession, you can't slack anymore, Miss manager. Try to keep up with me, would you?"

Chapter 596 Quasi Half-Blood Technique

"Thank you, Eren. I... I don't know what else to say."

Agatha hugged Eren while the potion vials and scroll were still between them. Those items were getting in the way. So she released her grip and stored all those items in her storage before hugging her guild master once again.

For quite some time now, Agatha had been stuck in the solid stage of the Novice rank. She wanted to remind Eren of his promise. She noticed, however, that he was extremely busy with his plans. So she had decided to hold until the guild started running its basic operation.

Eren fulfilling his promise to her without her reminding him of the same came as a shock to her. She couldn't help getting emotional over the fact that she won't have to worry about getting anthropo-specific techniques anymore. Her path to higher ranks had just been paved by her master.

"No need to thank me."

While caressing Agatha's back, Eren spoke. Then he thought of something and chuckled before slapping her exposed buns with both his hands.

"Or to be precise, no need to thank me anymore. You already paid the price with your mushy buns."

Agatha hugged Eren some more as she heard it. The butcher was again going to have another erection at the time. But he controlled his urges and tapped at Agatha's back before saying.

"Miss manager, why don't you try practicing the technique now after drinking the potion. I want to see its effects."

Eren said and looked at Agatha who was a bit surprised by his haste. But she didn't mind. She wasn't sleepy and all her stress was relieved due to receiving a thorough pounding from Eren. Plus, she was excited about her technique too.

Eren watched in silence while sitting on the edge of the bed as Agatha got ready to practice her ranking technique. Since she was practicing in front of Eren, she didn't bother wearing clothes and sat on the ground with her legs folded. She started reading the book and understood its nuances quickly. That's because the technique was based on the one she was already using.

She then closed her eyes and re-reviewed the technique in her head while calming her senses and internal organs. Then she retrieved the required potion vial from her storage and uncorked it. Smelling the potion with her nose out of force of habit, Agatha closed her eyes and drank it in one gulp.

She could feel that the potion caused a disturbance in her mana circuits. And it was a bit painful for her. But the pain wasn't something she couldn't tolerate. So she took a long breath before channeling her mana through her body as per the procedure described in the technique.

'Alephee, are you there?'

Eren asked Alephee while looking at Agatha's progress carefully. He got an answer to his question soon after.

'Yeah. I'm trying not to fall into another uncontrolled slumber. Let's just say that I have a nasty headache.'

What are you up to?'

Alephee asked in a low voice. The butcher could sense that Alephee was not in her previous condition. But he had to ask her and call out to her this time.

'Well, headaches are the most bothersome. So I won't force you. But could you keep tabs on Agatha with your soul sense and find out if anything is wrong with her technique or the potion she has just drunk?'

Alephee pondered for a bit before replying.

'You don't trust Layla?'

Eren chuckled as he heard Alephee's doubtful expressions. He narrowed her eyes on Agatha as she started channeling her technique. But one could tell that he wasn't completely focused on her.

Eren had decided to take Layla's help ever since he found out Agatha was a half-blood. The young witch had done a lot of half-blood-related experiments. So her mastery over her spells was unquestioned.

Layla referred to Agatha's existing technique that the no-aware-yet had given him a copy of. Soon, she found a workaround in the form of a potion. She first adjusted the technique her way and then created a potion to rectify a few problems.

'I'd be a fool to trust Layla blindsided. And gigantic fool at that. A few friendly interactions with her won't mean she is my ally. Neither I nor she is naive enough to think like that. No matter how childish she may act.'

What we have is a business transaction. She helped me. And I help her. But I won't expect loyalty from her when her loyalty lies with Eliza.'

Eren addressed Alephee while folding his hand. Alephee wanted to take some more rest. But she decided to heed Eren's call since she too found it reasonable that Eren doesn't trust Layla completely.

Alephee spreads her soul sense just enough so that Agatha gets covered in it and analyzes her progress silently with it. She then pays close attention to her mana circuits and her mana pits.

'Hmm. The technique Layla has come up with is not bad per se. And everything is working as it should. But there's something she hasn't told you about the potion.'

Eren narrowed his eyes when he heard Alephee's analysis. But he thought he should let her complete her speech before he made any judgment.

'Don't worry. It isn't harmful to Agatha. The potion does its job in making her mana circuits adaptable to the ranking technique Layla had come up with for Agatha. But that's not all the potion can do.

It is also purifying her bloodline and nurturing the mutagen within it. With the potion involved, Layla has turned it into a quasi-half-blood technique for Agatha.'

Eren's understanding grew as he understood what Layla had done.

'That research freak must have been treating Agatha as one of her experiment subjects. She thinks she is still in Purgatory. And that can get away with doing anything.'

Eren snorted and kept his eyes on Agatha as he added to his previous statement.

'Heh! I'll let her assume just that. I don't mind Agatha having a half-blood technique's effects anyway.'

Eren had not asked Agatha about her past because he feared he might derail her from her current mindset by doing that. She had just gotten out of her revenge drive and was focusing solely on their guild. For his benefit as well as hers, he wanted to keep things this way for both of them.

Plus, he was not yet ready to get involved with half-blood forces yet. He had so many things to do. Frankly, he was running short on time. So he didn't want to open another front for himself and get burned in the process.

'You might want to stop pondering over random things. Pay attention to what's in front of you.

Agatha is breaking into the Ace rank.'

Chapter 597 Agatha's Breakthrough

'You might want to stop pondering over random things. Pay attention. Agatha is breaking into the Ace rank.'

Alephee pulled Eren out of his sea of thoughts and made him look ahead. The latter snapped back to reality and watched as clouds of Ace rank mana surrounded Agatha and disappeared within her soon after.

Agatha was surprised that she experienced a breakthrough only after the first cycle of her technique. Nonetheless, she knew what to do when she was ready to break through and kept her technique running with closed eyes and the utmost attention.

Agatha's breakthrough was seamless and effortless. She didn't feel any trouble breaking into the Ace rank because she had been ready to step into it for quite some time now. She had also achieved more than enough in terms of her elemental was only a matter of finding the right technique.

Et voila.

Agatha felt like all the efforts that she had thought were going to go in vain had finally paid their dividend at this point. Under the butcher's orders, she had been consistently practicing her technique every night no matter how busy she was during the daytime.

She had thought that since she wasn't progressing any further in her rank, her efforts would be put to waste. Fortunately for her, she was wrong.

Frankly, Eren wasn't counting on Layla to come to Agatha's aid much. He knew that the witch would be able to help him since she knew a lot about the half-bloods. But he was always on guard against her, suspecting any foul play. For better or worse, the butcher's paranoid nature was always with him. And this time it was no different.

That was not to say that Eren was completely happy with Agatha having a potion-dependent technique for herself. A technique that was completely compatible with her was what he wanted.

But that would come after he makes contact with the half-blood forces. The technique Agatha used at the time assured a seamless path for her till she breaks into Adept rank. For now, that was enough.

'Hmm. Let me speed up her ranking journey some more.'

Alephée said and Eren felt like her existence had expanded beyond his mana core that she was occupying. In the next moment, a bunch of Ace rank mana clouds was summoned into existence around Agatha again. The half-blood manager had kept the technique running through her mana circuits when that happened.

She did not know why her mana core became even more active. The gaseous state Ace rank core had started condensing more mana as it spun at a rapid pace, only stopping when the state of the core turned liquid.

"This.... How?"

Agatha opened her eyes and asked a puzzling question. She wasn't surprised about her breakthrough. But she was shocked because she immediately stepped into the liquid stage.

Eren knew it was Alephée's doing. He didn't know how she did it. But for now, he chuckled and tried to create an explanation out of thin air.

"What do you mean, how? It's the potion's effects. How's the technique? I didn't cut any corners in trying to get the most effective technique for you, you know."

Eren rubbed his hands like he was doing a lucrative business transaction while he said that. Agatha chuckled before getting up from her position. She stood proud in front of him with her seductive curves bouncing the light blue moonlight off of the creamy skin.

Agatha spread her arms for Eren in an inviting gesture before speaking up in a low and erotic voice.

"Well... I'm all yours."

A gust of wind was generated around Agatha as soon as she said that. A bunch of wind blades rotated around her at a rapid pace and lifted her in the air. The manager was thrown into Eren's open arms the next moment as he jumped into bed with her.

The next morning. At the inn's lobby where Eren and Agatha had spent the night.

"Long time no see. Renar. Viper. How have you been, guys?"

Having last seen his subordinates in the Lionheart duchy, Eren greeted them. Having emerged from Purgatory, he parted ways with Laylas

He had sent them on a bunch of assignments. The first was to make contacts with merchants as they traveled from the Lionheart to Nightshade duchies in an old-fashioned way. It was to create virtual distribution channels for potions and supplies the guild would be pumping into the market all over the kingdom eventually.

Eren's first target was launching his guild's products on a mass scale in the Lionheart and Nightshade duchy. That's because he already had basic contacts in the Lionheart duchy due to Jake's father. And he had been quite active in the Nightshade duchy for quite a while now.

Eren had stayed in contact with the two guys as they visited various places and made contract-bind deals with a few merchants. He guided them from time to time. He also told them which places they should contact based on the knowledge he had from his previous life.

Renar and Viper had done their job with dedication. They knew that with all the ranking-related bridges burnt off for them because of their past, Eren was their only salvation.

"How have you been, you ask? I... I'm tired. Mentally more so than physically. Never have I thought in my wildest dreams that doing business would be so difficult."

Eren chuckled and patted Renar's shoulder. He didn't say anything and let him vent.

"You know why doing business is difficult? It's because people can be incredibly stupid. They'd keep on asking the same things over and over again. Or haggle with you for pointless profit margins.

This is it. I demand a week off after doing so much work. I'm planning to just get wasted and eat a shit ton of my comfort food during this week."

Renar said and sighed melancholically. Eren could see that the guy was tired, mentally more so than physically. And Viper was in the same state as well.

Alas, the butcher could not grant them the mini-vacation they wanted.

"Sorry, boys. No rest for the wicked.

We are about to enter the big pool of sharks now. We can't afford to slack off.

Oh, there she is!

Renar. Viper. Meet our Miss manager."

Chapter 598 No Rest for the Wicked P1

The butcher could not grant Renar and Viper the mini-vacation they wanted. But he knew just the person who could cheer them up and make them work even more.

"Sorry, boys. No rest for the wicked.

We are about to enter the pool of sharks now. We can't afford to slack off.

Oh, there she is. Renar. Viper. Meet our Miss manager."

Renar and Viper turned their gazes to where Eren was looking and saw a beautiful girl approaching them. Agatha had worn her signature adventurer outfit—hit boots, cargo pants, and a simple-looking top hidden under her sleeveless leather jacket. Even though she was the manager, she liked to stick to her roots.

Agatha looked confident in her stride. As a ranker, her presence was mild yet subtly dangerous. As if she was a sheathed sword that only looked harmless because it was sheathed.

With such responsibilities came a sense of confidence. Agatha hadn't paid attention to grooming anything about herself physically or mentally. She just kept working on the assignments given to her by the butcher steadfastly, one step at a time. And that work had changed her, making a competent ranker and an exceptional manager out of her.

Renar widened his eyes when he saw Agatha's changed look. She was the same girl he knew way back when they were in the Beast Bloods. A girl who was set on doing anything she was assigned to with utmost dedication. This was so that she could get more ranking resources and achieve the fastest breakthroughs.

At that time, Renar was her senior. It was he who led Agatha, Viper, and Belar into attacking Eren's squad at that time. Later on, when they had been caught, he had asked Eren to spare the girl because it was her first job related to assassinating people. He had told them that Agatha was the most innocent among them all.

Eren had come to clean Renar and Viper after he burned off his Ronny identity. This was when he had met them a few days ago in the same city while waiting for Agatha's arrival. At first, Renar was shocked before wanting to kill Eren on the spot, even though he knew the guy could beat him up just fine. But after receiving several backlashes because of his contract with Eren, he had to drop the idea.

The butcher then treated Renar and Viper to a hearty dinner and booze as a form of consolation. This was the least he could do for putting Renar through such a horrible torture method.

It took a lot of booze and a lot of bullshit from Eren's end to make Renar come to terms with his current condition. Viper eventually found it funny when he heard what Eren had put Renar through in the past. Eren didn't have to do much after that. Because Renar's anger was shifted to Viper instead of him.

Eren then also told the duo about Agatha, and that she would be coming to meet them in the city after she gets done with her work.

Renar couldn't believe that Eren had listened to his request of keeping Agatha out of harm's way in his own unique way by keeping her with him. Although Renar knew the butcher had a selfish motive, he didn't overlook the fact that his act had guided the naive girl in the right direction.

What surprised Renar, even more, was the fact that Agatha had broken into the Ace rank. This was despite the difficulty he knew she had faced in finding the right technique for herself.

The Beast Bloods had asked her to collect a significant amount of contribution points for a therianthrope technique that would barely work for her. This was the reason she had decided to start participating in

assassination and ambush missions given to Beast Bloods members. Alas, she met Eren on her very first mission that was about to give her a significant amount of contribution points.

But at this point, she had achieved a breakthrough without the cultist organization's support. That meant she was equipped with a technique that was suitable for her.

Acquiring the Ace rank enhanced Agatha's beauty and feminine charms. Her presence was more lively and she seemed more rooted in reality than thinking about some distant revenge. Her mana signatures also seemed more attuned to everything around her to Renar. In short, she was doing well.

Renar had to admit that Eren had treated her well.

Renar had treated the young rankers given to him to lead as his younger siblings. So he was really happy seeing Agatha's progress.

Agatha was glad to see Renar and Viper too. Especially Renar because he had shown care for her. She hugged Renar and Viper with a smile on her face and started talking to them for quite some time while Eren stood there on his own.

It was a while before Agatha chuckled and asked her ex-senior. As if she wanted to ask him that question for a long time.

"Big bro Renar, this is something I have been meaning to ask you for a long time. Your name always intrigued me. Are you perhaps..."

What Agatha intended to say wasn't completely impossible. A lot of royal members were rumored to have sired royal bastards. Renar chuckled depressingly before shaking his head in denial before speaking up.

"You still focus on the tiniest things, Agatha. Haha! No. It's not what you think.

That was just my parents getting fascinated by royal names.

This world is filled with a lot of parents who just get inspired by the weirdest of characters. And then keep their child's name to their liking. Without thinking about what impact the child would have grown up with abnormal names."

Renar said and laughed. Agatha was also relieved that she wasn't dealing with any remote royalty. She couldn't help making a jab at Eren after thinking of something.

"Hehehe! And here I was thinking Eren has managed to rope in a royal for a guild that he has just started. No matter how much money we have.

We are still as poor as poor can be when it comes to running a guild. Which legitimate royal would even pay attention to someone like us?

We are basically starting from zero here."

Eren chuckled as well when he heard Agatha's remark. But he also felt that Agatha was excited about the project as well, no matter how much work she complained she had put in.

As a result, she now views the guild as her goal. So Eren listened to Agatha's complaints about how they had nothing and just smiled. And instead started talking to Renar as they made their way outside the inn. Their next destination was a carriage hiring service.

"How are things between Beast Bloods and Illuminati? Last I heard, there was some talk about two cultist organizations at war with each other. Was it them?"

Eren asked as he took out the Stellar Sativa stick from his storage and lit it up. He listened to Renar's response while feeling the relaxing effects of his smoke.

"You bet it was them. Hahaha! We fuc..."

Renar was about to cuss. But then he decided he shouldn't say offensive words in front of Agatha. In his mind, he was still treating her like a kid.

"Cough! We screwed them pretty badly, haven't we? They are still at each other's throats over the loss of their Adept rankers. Their skirmishes are common in the Lionheart duchy these days. Things are just looking to escalate between them at this point."

Renar said while getting excited.

Chapter 599 No Rest for the Wicked P2

When Renar first heard about the butcher's plan about taking down two Adept rankers by himself while he was barely in the Ace rank at the time, suffice to say that he was rather skeptical.

Yet the mad lad pressed ahead and killed two entities from two powerful organizations. All so he could make them fight with each other and forget about his Ronny identity that he had burned long ago.

Renar had also realized that he and Viper had indirectly benefited from Eren pulling off such a feat. Since the two organizations were busy with each other, they couldn't care less about the rankers who were with Ronny that day too. This allowed them to travel through the two duchies without any problem.

The butcher smirked when he heard the news about the two cultist organizations. He couldn't help thinking about Jules and Lady Zee when he thought about the Illuminati.

'I have to meet them.'

Eren narrowed his eyes when he thought about this. He then sent his mana sense into his storage space to check on a unique potion.

'Soon.'

Eren thought to himself and flashed a cunning smile. He then let go of his thoughts and retrieved another vial of potion from his storage.

"Renar, this is for you."

With a puzzled expression on his face, Renar caught what Eren casually tossed his way. It was a green-colored potion that looked like it would have fizzled once he uncorked the vial.

"What is..."

Renar was going to ask him about the content in the vial. But then something struck him and he felt like a jolt had passed through his body. He asked with a shaky voice to confirm.

"Is this the potion to fix my mana core?"

Eren nodded at Renar's question while he smoked his Sativa. This was something he had concocted for Renar himself after referring to the potion book he had received from Purgatory.

With the solid Ace rank, Eren found it a bit easier to concoct potions like these. Now he had better control over his Ace rank mana and enough to imbue materials with. They had made the concoction of Ace rank potions relatively easy.

The butcher didn't stop there.

"Viper. Renar. Here are your ranking techniques till the Adept rank."

Eren provided Renar and Viper with their respective ranking techniques that were also tweaked by Layla. Unlike Agatha, Renar and Viper weren't half-bloods but therianthropes. So they didn't need the potion's assistance.

The technique that they had been given also supported their progression to the Adept rank. Plus, now they didn't need therianthrope-specific spells. Because their current techniques allowed them to cast normal spells according to their elements without worrying about compatibility issues. As such, both of them didn't need to worry about any hurdles placed in their ranking journeys anytime soon.

Eren knew he and his newfound guild were only allowed to metaphorically stand at the start line at this point. They needed a strong start from the get-go to even think about surviving in the big boys' game.

That's why Eren was doing everything in his power to strengthen his teammates however he can. The efforts he had invested in the academy and his methods of training his classmates also stemmed from this plan. All so that he could have the start he wanted.

"Eren, what happened between us in the past. Due to that, I still have a scar on my psyche. And maybe I'll never really get it out of my head. But as a ranker, I understand the reason behind your actions.

The help and the opportunities you have offered us are too many to count. I have watched you when you were no more than a brat when I first met you. And now I see you as a young man with overwhelmingly grand ambitions. The difference between the two is huge.

Whatever happens in the future, I believe you deserve to rise to the top. Even if I am nobody right now and my words don't hold much sway, I believe my statement to be true.

As such, I will say this with the utmost honesty. That I completely accept you as my leader. I don't know how else to thank you for the things you have done for us."

Eren smiled after hearing Renar's emotional speech. He coughed and responded.

"Well, you can always pay me in Extols if you want to repay me."

Renar and Viper were stunned when they heard that. This was the first time in their life that they witnessed a leader asking money from his subordinates for something he had done for them. Only Agatha was seen laughing as if she expected Eren to say that.

"You thrifty-ass broke guild master, we didn't get paid for all the work we had put in while coming to the Nightshade duchy.

Not only do we not get any reward for that but we also have to pay for something you supposedly do for your own gains? Where's the logic in that?

Don't expect any dime from me, you hear me?

I'm goddamn broke."

Renar pulled his hair in frustration as he said that. Instead of pacifying his guild member or sympathizing with him, the butcher did the only thing we wanted to do at the time. Roast Renar some more.

"Look at that, Agatha. A broke Renar! Also found in the kingdom of Edinburgh!

It's like seeing a virgin hooker."

Agatha and Viper couldn't help but laugh at Eren's pun. They laughed and cackled at each other while teasing Renar some more.

Renar was pissed, to say the least when he heard Eren's comment. It was as if all his childhood traumas had come back to bite him. So he charged at Eren intending to punch in his gut, only to be hit by the consequences of his binding contract.

The group's talk and antics continued as they continued walking through the bustling city. Eren and the rest made their way through a very active crowd of rankers and mortals alike and found themselves in front of a carriage rental service's outlet.

They were traveling outside the city of New Beginnings. It was a four-day ride from their current place.

They were going to visit their guild's land.

Chapter 600 [Bonus] Foundation of White Raven Guild

Early morning. Around 8 AM. The morning rays were starting to get warm. Yet last night's cold was still making its presence known.

An endless expanse of barren land in all directions. With no sight of any natural or manmade place of shade in sight. The dry winds blew freely over the land, humming an abstract sound in the ears of those watching the scene.

There was only one giant plateau in the middle of the near-endless barrenness that seemed to stand out. It stood at a height of 2600 meters above the ground. This almost square-shaped plateau was around three kilometers in length. It featured a giant flat-mountain top that also had nothing growing on it.

They had come to this desert land for a reason only they knew. These winds, the lack of presence of any living being, as well as the natural elements of the landscape told the story of the land better than the visual nothingness.

The visitors, who appeared to be passing travelers, headed toward the plateau. Just a bunch of rankers seemingly moving from nowhere to nowhere.

But was this the story of an infertile land staying infertile for the rest of its foreseeable existence? Or could the current view be part of the "before" and "after" comparisons that would get drawn and discussed at length in the future?

Only time could tell.

"Don't tell me this god-forsaken, desolate land is our guild's asset."

Renar said with a voice coated in disbelief. He, Eren, Viper, and Agatha had reached the guild land from their carriage a few moments ago. Renar was taken aback by the contrast he saw between reality and the supposed fairytale land Eren had painted for him.

'This entire continent is godforsaken. It is called the land of the faithless for a reason.'

Alphee heard Renar's statement and commented in Eren's head. The latter narrowed his eyes when he heard that. But he didn't say anything. He then focused on observing Renar's exaggerated despair with fun. He had come to realize that the anthrope was used to wearing his heart on sleeves.

Unbeknownst to the fact that he was turning into the group's entertainment, Renar was busy seeing a grim future ahead. So he couldn't help cursing some more.

"Damn it. We are going to stay broke for a long long time if this is our guild land. Look at it. Who will come here to interact with us? How can we open trade here? Which merchant union will start markets here?

Even if we get an automated mission assigning system from the kingdom, how are we able to get regular clients? Those clients were supposed to be the ones where we have the biggest chance of committing tax fraud, damn it.

Broke. I only see broke days for all of us."

Renar cursed after seeing a barren, rocky land without a single tree to serve as an excuse for the local populace. There was no water source nearby either.

Although creating constructions and artificial sources of water wasn't too difficult for rankers, they would have to bear the cost of running a setup like this. With their already tight financial budget, Renar wasn't the only one who thought things were going to get a lot worse before they could get any better.

Renar just kept on listing all the disadvantages of the land to Eren and the rest. He did not worry about whether his plea would be heard by any of them or not. He also started kicking or smashing with his feet the random pebbles and rocks that were unlucky enough to get in his way.

Renar believed that this land was one of the worst places to buy for their guild asset. Contrary to what he might be thinking, the butcher couldn't agree more with Renar on all of his statements.

"Hahaha! Renar, you don't know how funny you are."

The butcher laughed heartily for the first time in a long while before adding up.

"You are right. We are fucked six ways to Sunday if we only depend on this piece of land for anything other than to serve as our base. But we are not planning to do that.

Renar, one day you will reminisce about these days of our struggle. It would happen when this place transforms into something huge.

When that day comes, I hope you will climb the biggest building of that time and say out loud "Eren Elijah Idril is my daddy" for every mortal and ranker present to hear."

Eren said jokingly to Renar while taking a long drag out of his smoke. The butcher knew this place was bound to see its rise. He just couldn't estimate how high and prominent that rise would be.

Renar looked at Eren with suspicion written all over his face. "I'll only believe it if it happens when it happens," he snorted.

The butcher shrugged his shoulders before mumbling in a low voice "I just don't get why people don't trust me when I say something to them."

The butcher followed Renar who just kept on wandering. As if forced to walk without any energy left in his body, the anthrope ranker made his way without picking up his feet. Viper was with his big brother Renar, consoling him by patting on his back. Agatha walked beside him while thinking a lot of things at once.

Frankly, she was a bit skeptical too. She had already seen the land. The butcher had sent her here to do recon. Then he had asked to buy nearby properties, which were owned by various rankers of various backgrounds.

Agatha had done her part just as the butcher asked. She had targeted the weaker owners first. She offered them reasonable rates. However, if things escalated beyond her financial capabilities, she would use Tuan as a deterrence.

Thankfully, Tuan and his powers were enough to deal with the few skirmishes she faced. That was because Agatha only chose to deal with the owners who could be manhandled by Tuan if push came to shove. 'Only put pressure on those who we could afford to put pressure on.' The butcher had said to her.

Agatha handed Eren the mana binding contracts of ex-owners of the nearby land for him to inspect as they walked side by side. Each of the mana-binding contracts marked the space on the map it had.

The contract would light up and flash the owner's name over the folded contract scroll. The piece of land nearby would also react to the contract if it were nearby. The earth array setup in each mapped piece of land would project the owner's name on a big spectral screen.

Seeing that he was in the vicinity, Eren imbued the contract scrolls he held in his hand before activating the display of ownership function. Within seconds, the ground on which he was standing along with distant grounds flashed his or Agatha's name.

"This... looks more stunning than what I had imagined it to be."

The butcher smiled to himself after he saw the sight of his name being displayed over a large expanse of land. Barren and in the shabby state it might be in, this was the place he could call his own. This was his achievement.

Compared to his previous life where he didn't know if he'd be able to eat a hearty meal or not, this was a huge step-up. The scenes of his past hardships started playing in front of him as he handed those contract scrolls back to Agatha and quietly waited for someone to come.

It wasn't long before another series of rental carriages pulled at a steady pace by strong F-Rank colts was seen coming in Eren's and his group's direction. The butcher was still busy enjoying his smoke and lost in his thoughts when Agatha prompted him.

"Eren, Tuan is back with our potioner staff and some earth-element rankers from the construction guild."

It took a while for Eren to turn around and look in the direction of the carriage fleet that was heading its way. He smiled when he used Argo's vision to zoom in on a masked person who was looking at them from the window of a leading carriage.

"Took you a while. What were you doing all this time?"

Eren greeted Tuan while tucking one of his hands in his pants' sleeves. The latter had worn a mask to cover himself. But the fire in his eyes and the surge of fire-element mana around him made Tuan easy to spot even with the mask on.

"It's all your fault, Eren."

Before Eren could ask Tuan what he meant by that, his conversation was interrupted by Agatha who seemed to be on schedule today.

"Where do you want the construction to take place? The place we had decided last night while fu... Cough... I mean the updated place or the place that you had previously thought was a smart idea."

Eren scratched his chin when he heard Agatha's answer. He pondered for a bit before replying.

"The place we came up with last night. Start constructing our guild's building on the Kukenan Plateau. Heh! If nothing else, that place will at least provide us with a better view."

"BETTER VIEW OF WHAT? FUCKING DIRT AND STONES?"

Renar yelled from a distance. Apparently, he was indeed paying attention to what the butcher was saying even from afar. Eren ignored Renar's plight and Tuan's pending conversation. Because he suddenly had more significant things to do.

Eren started discussing things with Agatha and the leader of the earth-element Adept ranker who had visited the place at Eren's request. The butcher had hired his guild's services. When the plan was finalized, the Adept ranker nodded and led his team to the plateau.

The day did not stop for anybody. Before Eren could keep track of time, the sun was already going to call it quits. The gray clouds gathering in the backdrop of the orange-lit sky reduced the daylight even more. But thankfully, the construction of the very first building on the barren land was complete.

It was a basic, three-story building that stretched for about 100 meters in length. It had a bunch of large halls for various purposes along with a lot of rooms meant to be used for a range of purposes.

This building had no perimeter walls. There was not a single piece of furniture or a runic enhancement inside it. There was nothing in it that could tell the onlookers that the building belonged to a wealthy man who had it all figured out.

But this was Eren's start. And he could swear that, at this moment, it looked many times more lavish than even the wealthiest of facilities he had seen in his past.

The earth-element rankers had done their job well. Eren had only paid for their basic services. And that's what he got for his money's worth.

A premade array had also been engraved by the Adept ranker at the grand entrance to the building, serving as its welcoming platform. As if it were missing something, the array eye was blinking dimly.

Eren walked up the array eye with smoke in his one hand—his calm eyes looking at everything they could see. His group was behind him led by Agatha. She too had a face with a lot of emotions painted on it.

Eren took a long breath and tried to capture the moment in his head. He then retrieved a scroll from his storage and imbued it with his mana before dropping it right over the array eye.

The scroll disappeared into the array eye, and a distinct mana pulse was released. In the next moment, a series of spectral lights shot into the air that displayed a name that was not known to many.

White Raven Guild!