

Vile 791

[Chapter 791 Soul-Related Potions](#)

Levine's potion lab in White Raven's headquarters.

Levine and Eren were seen sitting on either side of her work desk.

"So you brought her here, huh?"

Levine sighed when she checked the spectral screen that showed White Raven's upcoming plans and the assigned personnel. The spectral screen was displaying Marie and the tasks assigned under her name.

"Hm. Despite being a halfling that can't use any school of potioning, she is indeed a capable potioner. Because her capability lies not in her talent but in the amount of work she puts into her craft."

Eren said while tapping his fingers on the desk. He and Levine were discussing the finer details of their plans to dominate the kingdom's market with their top-of-the-line products.

Levine shook her head before killing the spectral screen. She leaned back in her chair before commenting.

"I never doubted her commitment to work. But she wasn't able to use any of the known schools of potioning. What was I supposed to do?"

That kind of handicap was bound to make her unsuccessful the further she climbed the ranks. At least that's what I had thought at the time."

"That is if she had stuck to the conventional schools despite knowing she was going to fail. But things are different now. She is on her way to creating her school of potioning."

Eren responded to Levine's remark about Marie. He didn't have to defend Marie's position in the assignments to Levine. But he thought that he should reduce the friction between the two ladies to its minimum before he left the city. That way, he wouldn't have to worry about problems on the production line arising due to personal conflict.

"Eternal Solution. It's kind of a pompous name for a raw ingredient."

Levine had read about the missing ingredient's properties in the report submitted to her. It was the so-called roadblock-lifter for Marie. Something that was supposed to pave the way for groundbreaking potioning products.

She had also been supplied with a small batch of the liquid to conduct her experiments on it. Eren had prepared a stock of vials of Eternal Solution and given them to Agatha. In turn, she would distribute the precious raw ingredient to Marie and Levine's research projects as needed.

"Hehe. I didn't come up with it, teacher. The name doesn't matter anyway. The solution is real, and we are only beginning to see what kind of effects it can have in various potioning processes.

We still need to research the product thoroughly before commercializing the products based on it. I have shared Marie's research papers with you once. I'll humbly suggest you read through them once before starting your experiments."

Eternal Solution would act as the stabilizer in most potioning experiments. But it was also capable of acting as a catalyst depending upon when it was introduced in the process.

In both cases, only a drop or two of the solution was needed. So Eren was confident that the stock he had created and saved in the potion bank would last for a very long time. This was true even when two potioners used it for experiments.

Eren had created a separate stock of Eternal Solution for the manufacturing line. It would only get used when the manufacturing setup was completed.

"A master potioner using their apprentice's research papers. Hehe. it seems I have grown old."

Levine chuckled and sighed with a different kind of exhaustion. The butcher looked like he had taken offense to her statement.

"This could not be further from the truth, teacher Levine. You are one of the prettiest potioners the continent of Anfang has ever seen. I refuse to believe that..."

Eren would have used his glib tongue for longer. And Levine would have let him. But she could see that the man was in a bit of a hurry. So she waved her hand and decided to cut to the chase.

"Alright. Alright. I hate to interrupt you when you are just firing your compliments at me. But you wouldn't stay chatting with me this long unless you want something from me apart from the tasks I have been officially assigned. What is it?"

Eren's words of compliments were stuck in his mouth when he heard Levine's statement. He pursed his lips and adjusted his posture before asking what he wanted to ask her.

"Teacher Levine, I wanted to know if there was any potion that dealt with soul-related injuries."

Eren asked and waited eagerly for Levine's response. The latter was caught off guard when she was asked about soul-related potions. Thus. She took a while to answer.

"There's a potion called Golden Soul Heal that can be used when a ranker's soul is damaged inside a soul-related array. Then there's Azure Soul Cure that can be used when soul-related artifacts have dealt damage to the ranker's soul.

You can also use..."

Levine talked briefly about various soul-related potions she was aware of and recall right off the bat. She also explained their effects and how they could be maximized.

Of course, she also told her student that these kinds of potions were too high-class for the current him. And he shouldn't experiment on them just yet.

Eren chuckled before asking Levine to obtain or concoct a certain potion for him. Money was not the issue. She was allowed to use any resources the White Raven guild had at its disposal to get that potion for him.

Levine didn't understand what Eren was planning to do with high-tier potions like these. The potions that affected the souls weren't something an Adept ranker should involve themselves with. Even Expert rankers are barely qualified to handle them in controlled environments inside the potion labs.

However, she had come to know that Eren was very serious about getting the potion. By this point, she had stopped asking him intrusive questions. It was clear to her that the guy had his secrets.

After all, he was the only one who had gotten his hands on the so-called revolutionary missing ingredient. She would be an idiot if she doubted her student's ability to plan things, given the kind of achievements he had made for himself.

After Eren received assurance from Levine that she would try her best to obtain the potion he wanted, he breathed a sigh of relief.

[Chapter 792 Messing With The Vessel](#)

Eren asked Levine to get her hands on a few more soul-related potions that were set on a low priority. If she could get them or concoct them, that'd be great. Otherwise, he'd look for their alternatives himself.

Eren's products were set to hit the market in just a few weeks. So the teacher and students had a lot to talk and discuss about. When they were done finalizing the details, an entire day had passed.

Eren politely bid Levine farewell. He also made sure to compliment her some more before disappearing from her lab. The latter was left wondering how could a young man like him be so driven about his plans.

'The brat is planning something really big. I can feel it. As if trying to mess with some monster he shouldn't mess with.'

Levine looked at the void blankly as she had a random thought. She then shook her head and smiled bitterly before summoning the spectral screen again. She was about to read about the research papers her apprentice had derived from years of experiments.

'Maybe I should meet her and apologize.'

Levine couldn't help but think along those lines as she started reading Marie's papers.

"This spell synthesis array is completely loaded, guild master Eren."

As Lady Zee finished storing her black flames inside, she spoke to Eren. She stepped outside the array with her forehead covered in beads of sweat, indicating she was almost exhausted from the task given to her.

The duo was inside Eren's potion lab.

Eren had summoned Lady Zee to his potion lab to help him with something. He was constructing various forms of spell synthesis arrays. The idea was to use various spell effects as raw ingredients to concoct varying degrees of potions.

At least that's what the butcher had told the Expert ranker.

"Thank you for all your diligent work, Expert Catherine. Please allow me to treat you to a delicious dinner as a token of my appreciation."

Eren said and smiled. Lady Zee looked at the newly appeared spatial array that had appeared behind him.

Lady Zee pursed her lips when she saw the spatial array and Eren's gesture of goodwill. She had her own things to do. And she didn't want to get too involved in White Raven's guild affairs. At least not when there was no information to be gained.

But before she could even fully consider her denial, Eren spoke up next.

"I also wanted to discuss your involvement in the guild and your upcoming role as its member. The thing is I won't always be around the guild. So I was planning to assign some of the key positions to trusted members.

I know we haven't signed exclusive binding contracts yet. So I was hoping our over-the-dinner discussions would persuade you into joining the guild in all its entirety. That will also allow me to assign you to a key role your capability deserves."

Eren said and clarified his stance. After all, he could read what the Expert ranker was thinking.

Lady Zee couldn't tell that she was being read by Eren even though she was a rank higher than him thanks to the way the soul sense worked. Since she didn't have the soul sense to defend against Eren, she could be read like an open book by the butcher.

Lady Zee was compelled to join Eren over dinner when she heard his reason. She hadn't signed the exclusive binding contract with the White Raven because she couldn't. She was an executive of the Illuminati and had already been contract-bound by them.

However, she could always listen to what Eren had to say. She could use this information and pass it on to her organization, to see if they could make use of the information. If nothing else, she could certainly indulge in a hearty meal while offering nothing promising to Eren.

Lady Zee, who was tired of loading Eren's spell synthesis array, finally gave a nod to Eren and followed him inside the array eye. The butcher couldn't help but smile as he activated the array.

The spatial fabric around the two rankers was distorted and rippled with some interference when the array was activated. Next, the pair disappeared from their position, leaving nothing but an empty potion lab behind.

Lady Zee readjusted her eyes to observe the changing scenery around her. She was standing near a man-made lake inside the forest created by Mega Mandrakes.

The White Raven city had plenty of mini-forest regions like these that served as the natural source of raw ingredients for the potion. The butcher didn't like the idea of a greenhouse because it was too dependent on array setups and balancing everything right.

He focused on growing the raw ingredients naturally, in their natural habitat. Of course, he subjected them to spells like Age Expedite from time to time to make the raw ingredients grow longer.

Eren had to say Renar had done the job assigned to him with flying colors. He left no stone unturned in making the forests of White Raven city resource heaven for Eren and all his potioning needs.

The full moonlight was making the small lake's still water turn silvery. There was a wooden shack not too far away from her on the banks of the man-made lake. The dinner table Eren was indicating was near the wooden shack.

Midnight. Moonlight. The silence of the night would get disturbed by the rustling of tree leaves all around the region. The winds carried the energy of the forest.

An ideal night for dinner outside. Lady Zee couldn't help but think that she was on a date with an Adept ranker when she saw the candles placed on the patio table, which illuminated the nearby area aplenty.

Not that she didn't like the idea. Eren was a handsome man. And Lady Zee was known to be... promiscuous.

'This... this is good.'

Lady Zee thought to herself as she was being led by Eren. The latter pulled up the chair and allowed the Expert ranker to take her seat elegantly. He then sat right in front of her before passing her what she wanted to eat from a range of cuisines placed on the patio table.

Eren and Lady Zee started talking with each other as they had a pleasant meal together. The butcher briefly explained what his guild was up to. And discussed if she wanted to be involved in the guild's core matters.

Lady Zee listened attentively and offered her insights as well as her opinions on a range of topics raised by Eren. He engaged the Expert ranker thoroughly in his discussion, taking her point of view into account.

Lady Zee started talking with Eren with even more passion than before. For some reason, she found that the mist that was only limited to the lake's surface had spread over the region.

Under the moonlight, a young female watched the duo have dinner with a stoic expression on her face. She smiled when the mist around them started to thicken and blur her normal vision.

'Don't mess with the vessel too much, Eren.'

Alephee said to herself before disappearing as silently as she had appeared. Leaving the couple to their own devices.

[Chapter 793 Gilhause Remus](#)

Eren's private chamber.

"Is this Eren Idril I'm talking to?"

A live spectral replica of a man in his early 40s asked Eren with a serious demeanor. He was a bit shorter than Eren. But his physique was well defined. He had spectacles on and was wearing an officer's army uniform.

Since it was the spectral replica of the man, it could look Eren straight in the eyes. It could mimic walking inside Eren's room even if he was not physically present.

Eren was standing in an army-standard posture while in front of this 40-something man. The army officer was walking around Eren to size him up.

"Yes, sir."

Eren replied with minimal words.

This man was a high-ranking officer in Edinburgh's army. However, Eren didn't understand why the man wanted to talk to him. Because he was not the butcher's superior by any stretch of the imagination. He let the call through because of the man's position in the army.

However, Eren had an inkling of what the call was about after learning the name of the man.

As you are probably aware, my name is Gilhause Remus. I'm just contacting you to tell you that I found some discrepancies in the report your captain filled in the records.

It says here that you were dispatched to the region near Rupert's lake. But your name doesn't get mentioned in any of the army personnel's reports assigned there. There is no record of you ever reporting to the army base there. It's almost like you were never there."

Eren nodded his head before answering.

"That's because I didn't report to the army base or meet up with any personnel. There was just one spatial distortion array that I needed to operate and handle. My task was to take action and contact the army base there in case the monsters from the Badlands decided to breach the borders Edinburgh has set up for itself. But that didn't happen.

I was the only person dispatched there. And I kept to myself. I didn't report to the army base there because I estimated that it was unnecessary."

Eren repeated the lies he had come up with long ago. Gilhause Remus was expecting answers like these from Eren. So he tried to grill Eren some more. But he found nothing that he could use against the young man.

Gilahuse started getting personal in his line of questioning. So that's when Eren decided to draw the boundary.

"I'm sorry, sir. But I don't see how my way of running my guild would affect my performance in the army?"

'Hehe. That's easy to answer. There's no performance to consider because you completely ignored the army after establishing your guild.'

Aleph's amused voice echoed in Eren's mind. She was now occupying the same pendant that Layla had used as her abode. Eren wasn't sure how the young witch would react to someone breaching her personal space. But he figured it would be okay for now since Layla wasn't going to come back anytime soon.

Eren had indeed renounced all his responsibilities in the army after establishing his guild. He used it as a springboard to launch himself to the level he was currently playing.

In his early days, Eren used his military privileges to create the guild and use it as a shield for protection. He had made arrangements with Arjun and came up with a plan to deploy him to an isolated region. He then used the deployment as a cover to finish conquering the Oni dungeon.

Upon returning to White Raven city, Eren reported to his army base that he had completed his mission. He had Arjun cover things for him in the army base. He had a legit record of his deployment there, too.

On paper, Eren had carried out his soldier duties with stellar perfection. So he knew no officer could touch him or call his bluff. At least not anymore now that he was done with everything.

However, that didn't mean Eren would admit how he had led the army's administration by its nose. And it's not his Missing-In-Action status that dealt a huge blow to the army or any of its bases. So he didn't care about whatever Gilhause had to ask him.

Thankfully, Gilhause couldn't hear what Alephee had said to Eren. he looked at Eren with his narrowed eyes before speaking up in a lowkey threatening tone.

"Boy, I know that you weren't there at the site of deployment. Do you think I'm one of those gullible women you woo with your charming words and believe any horseshit that comes out of your mouth?"

Eren had black lines on his forehead when he heard Gihause speak.

'Okay. Who the fuck is leaking my private information to these guys?'

He thought to himself. He then smirked before responding.

"Prove it if that's the case. Gullible or not, the ones I want to woo and fu...."

A small burst of laughter ensued before Eren could continue.

"Hehe! Well, let's just say that I have my ways of getting what I want."

Gilhause removed the specs he was wearing and clenched his fists. He felt helpless dealing with Eren even when he was supposed to have greater control over the guy because of his rank in the army. This is because of his higher ranking status as an Expert ranker.

"I cannot prove your insubordination anymore. But what I can do is make your life harder from now on.

According to my understanding, you have requested approval from the army stating that your LA-on-filed assignment has been completed. Hehe.

I see that you have used House Argas's influence to create a safe exit strategy for you. And you had prepared for this long ago, even before you had the White Raven guild or the city you own right now.

I hope you understand, however, that the army has the right to choose an exit mission based on your current performance. That's the only way we can give you our approval.

Now I know I don't directly control your unit. But I can pull some strings and make things happen for you that may or may not be in your best interests.

Do you see where I am going with this?"

[Chapter 794 "Do You See Where I Am Going With This?"](#)

"Do you see where I am going with this?"

Gilhouse asked in a cold voice. Eren prevented himself from snorting at the guy's question. He maintained his standard army stance before responding.

"I don't."

Gilhouse had to admit that Eren had dodged a lot of bullets by sticking to simple answers and not using any threatening language against him. This was true no matter how many times he tried to shake things up.

But Gilahuse's job was not to get impressed by Eren. His job was to threaten him.

"You have pissed off big names, a young man with the way you are doing things.

Demonmir! Do you know who he is?"

Eren didn't take long to answer.

"Ottoman de Montmorency."

Gilhouse stopped walking when he was in front of Eren. he looked him in the eyes and smirked before commenting.

"That's right. House Remus and Ottoman's faction. Let's say they have gotten into some sort of arrangement. Both our sides have some influence on Edinburgh's army.

You have met with Dianna Remus from my clan. But she is... let's say the black sheep of our lot. House Remus's major military might and influence is not something you can comprehend based on your interactions with Dianna."

Gilhouse stepped one step forward and almost whispered into Eren's ears.

"About the arrangement between the two sides. The Ottoman faction in the army supports House Remus in getting back the land you stole from us through lies and deceit. Now we don't want to make things too difficult for you.

Give up your rights to the land that was Minerva's Utopia. In essence, you'd have to give up the White Raven city. In exchange, we would offer you some other land and a premium package that you can claim as your convenience fee.

If you can do this, I'll make sure your exit from the army is as seamless and safe as possible. Otherwise, I can't assure you that your exit mission would not claim your life.

What use are money and fame if you die obtaining them?"

Eren realized that there was another butterfly effect at play in this case that worked against him. If there had not been a war-like situation surrounding Edinburgh, he would have graduated just by being the Adept ranker.

However, LA had prevented students from getting graduated until the joint event was conducted by all the top academies. That meant Eren could only sever his connections with the army this way. He could only leave the army after concluding his on-field assignment from his end and awaiting the army's approval on the same.

'Ivor becoming Osan Woods butcher has complicated things for me in the long run. I'm just beginning to see the repercussions now.'

Eren sighed internally in his head when he thought of the whole incident. He dispersed his stray thoughts before responding to the threat thrown his way with a threat of his own.

"I assure you, sir, Gilhause. I didn't establish the city solely for money and fame. They are mere byproducts of what I want to achieve. But I'd be a fool to underestimate their influence.

For example, I know I have enough money to sanction hits on only particular clan members. As a result of my fame, I can influence certain people who would make it difficult for only one House.

Whether I live or die for certain people, my money and my fame won't die with me. And those things can fuel my vengeance for years to come without me having to be on the continent of Anfang.

Of course, I'm merely stating things here. Hypothetical situations, if you want to call them that."

Eren said and looked into the army officer's eyes before throwing his question back to him like a boomerang.

"Do you see where I am going with this?"

Gilhause was stunned when he heard Eren's words. Eren's voice was neutral when he said that. If Gilhause was here in person, the man would have been intimidated just by Eren's burst of soul sense.

Gilhause couldn't come up with a convincing reply to threaten Eren with anymore. So he stuck with the old one he got.

"Pride kills more people than spells ever will, boy. I hope your exit will not be too difficult for you. Leaving a will behind is always a wise choice. You never know."

Gilahuse's spectral image started fading after he said what he had to say. In the end, he concluded his speech with a possibility. A way for Eren.

"The time is not entirely against you. You still have one last opportunity to make things right for you. It'll knock on your doors shortly. Make sure you remember what I said clearly when dealing with this last chance you have been given.

Think about your guild members. Think about their safety and well-being. I'm sure you wouldn't want anything to happen to them. What would happen to your city when you up and disappear one day?

You need to start thinking about these things. That's all I have to say. Farewell."

Gilahuse's spectral image completely disappeared. The communication array Eren was standing in dimmed before disappearing from the ground, indicating that the call was completed.

'Last chance? What was that all about?'

Eren felt puzzled hearing Gilhause's words. But before he could conclude, he received another message on his voice communication from one of his subordinates.

Rey Remus had come to personally meet Eren. He was waiting for him in Agatha's office. And from the looks of things, the old man was not listening to any of Agatha's words. He treated everything in White Raven as if it was his property.

Only now did Eren understand why Gilhause had tried to call him at this point. He was trying to press him down psychologically. To create an environment for negotiation that Rey could use to strike a deal with Eren.

"Trying to suppress me by using military tactics, huh! To terrorize me using ranks and Demonmir.

Too bad I don't negotiate with these petty terrorists."

Eren said and shook his head as he started activating the spatial array that will send him straight into Agatha's office.

'Of course. Who would negotiate with their juniors when it comes to terrorism?'

Alephee's sarcastic voice sounded in Eren's mind. He chuckled before disappearing from his spot.

[Chapter 795 Weapons Drawn](#)

Bright day. High noon.

The near-stagnant winds were warm thanks to the blazing sun. Sunrays tried to find their way through the greenery of the trees on either side of the lonely road.

Tap! Tap! Tap!

Two colt riders were on their way from White Raven to New Beginnings. It was barely an hour since they had been asked to leave the city of White Raven.

One of the riders was an old man with white hair and a long white beard. He was short and had scholarly vibes around him due to him wearing a light-colored shawl covering his back and his shoulders.

The other rider was a young man who looked to be in his mid-20s. He had golden brown hair and green eyes. He was wearing light runic armor that protected his vital organs.

"That brat is infuriating."

Old man Rey couldn't help cursing Eren when he recalled the conversation he had with him just before leaving the White Raven city.

He had visited the city to meet with Eren. The old man wanted to make Eren understand that the gold mine he was sitting on was actually a landmine for him. He had even made Gilhause contact the brat to pressure him into accepting his deal.

However, it was Eren who convinced the old man that the White Raven city was even more precious than he had first estimated. Eren basically kicked the guy out in the most polite way possible. And yet, Rey thought that Eren had messed up his head with the way the whole conversation was being led by him.

"My Lord, what should we do now?"

The Expert ranker that was with Rey asked him curiously. He was only there to accompany Rey. Even though his name was Remus, he had no right to speak about family matters.

"Hmph! Youngsters these days don't understand the gravity of the serious situation they are currently in, Janos. This Eren brat won't listen to anyone. And talking with him will only make me madder and more confused than ever regarding my own capabilities as a negotiator.

That brat is a manipulative prick who won't even budge an inch from his stance. Guys like him would rather throw the whole pie away instead of sharing it with anybody."

'You are describing yourself.'

Janos thought to himself as he looked at old man Rey with a serious face. He had been with the old man for a long time now. He had seen the way Rey worked.

Janos could say with confidence that Eren was Rey's younger and more sophisticated version. Both the guys were equally devious and quick with their tongues. Their moves were highly influenced by the current politics and their economic situations.

Ability to play with the set rules legally. Corruption through money. Coercion through planting strategic risks or benefits for a particular party. And finally, create a crack in the united front of your opponents.

These were the four pillars on which a successful negotiation or manipulation was based.

Janos hadn't seen Rey ever lose in a negotiation because the old man would make sure his foundation of negotiation was based on those four pillars. He would use all sorts of tricks at his disposal to get what he wanted.

Rey was running one of the most lucrative auction houses in the kingdom. Acquisition of goods and selling them at a higher cost was basically what he had been doing all his life. As such, Rey's negotiation skills were always on point and thoroughly effective.

However, despite doing what he had been doing for so long, Rey failed to get Eren to fit in his bag. Janos had to acknowledge that Eren was equally aware of the four pillars of negotiation.

To Janos, the talk between Eren and Rey was akin to two old men trying to best each other through decades of experience they had gained by doing shady deals. As such, Janos was thoroughly impressed with Eren even when he was supposed to be his enemy.

Janos's train of thought was stopped when he heard Rey's words.

"We didn't want to move on with creating problems for this brat in the army. It seems that he has some connections with the House Argas. Altair Argas can't be reasoned with. It's better to stay away from such dangerous men.

Gilhouse was only supposed to threaten Eren into following through with the deal. But it seems that we'd have to prove that our threat was real."

Eren had reduced his army restrictions in the binding contract using Altashia and her connections. As such, the army couldn't retain him even though it wanted to.

Gilhouse discovered on his own that Eren had some relations with the House Argas. As such, most decision-makers in House Remus were totally against messing with Eren and with House Argas by proxy.

Nobody would willingly want to even slightly offend someone with the kingdom-bonafide title of Crimson Ghost.

"But my lord, the Crimson Ghost..."

"We have Demonmir by our side. Ottoman is no match for Altair in the frontal clash. But I don't believe Altair would personally intervene for this brat. Things should be alright as long as we use Ottoman's name to pull some strings into the army."

Janos slowly clapped at Rey for even screwing his allies just to get what he wanted. It was as if he didn't care about Ottoman's retaliation at all.

Rey understood what Janos was thinking and chuckled. He caressed his long white beard in amusement before commenting.

"Hehe. We haven't told Ottoman's faction about the connection we found Eren has with the House Argas. I told Gilhouse to hide the news as soon as he found the trail.

We would just watch from the sidelines if House Argas decides to do something to House Montmorency for a single brat, which is highly unlikely if you ask me. Still, that conflict could arise only when we take care of Eren anyway. By then, we will all be having different equations.

Because...."

"Because the city of White Raven would have fallen by then, right?"

A cold and callous voice completed what old Rey wanted to say. The two riders stopped their colts and looked back at the same time to find Eren had come to greet them.

With his weapons drawn.

[Chapter 796 Slaughter And Absorb](#)

"What are you doing here, brat?"

Rey Remus answered, spreading his mana sense all around him. Janos did the same. Still, they both thought that it was highly unlikely that Eren would come to meet them to take care of them.

"To kill you of course."

Eren said and smiled. He was holding two Katars named Dicerros. Alephee had paid extra attention to reforge all his weapons. Except for his transcendent-grade Labrys, she had revamped all his weapon sets for good. He didn't have to worry about them getting disintegrated in the middle of a fight anymore.

Rey and Janos both glanced at each other before looking at Eren. They looked around and confirmed that there was nobody else around except for Eren. The old man started laughing when he realized Eren had come to kill them all on his own.

Old man Rey started laughing, making his colt uncomfortable in the process as it started neighing.

"Hahaha! Brat, I didn't take you for a comedian. But you are better than most clowns I've come to see all my life.

Do you even know what you're talking about?"

Jason looked at Eren and again at Rey while the latter was saying all those things. Eren's gaze caused him to feel uneasy for some reason. It was as if he was being watched by a hungry beast who hasn't eaten for a long long time.

Eren didn't like to talk much when he was out on a hunt. Lightning cracked and the ground split. In the next moment, a fountain of blood erupted.

As soon as Eren's lightning-infused Katar sent Purple Reaver point blank, one of the colts died. Lightning-element flying slashes cut the horse in half vertically.

"You are quick on your feet, Rey. I'm surprised, to say the least. That's phenomenal agility considering your age."

Eren said and swung his katars around him. He liked playing with the Dicerosses now that it had been upgraded.

The other colt freaked and ran away after realizing what had happened to its brethren beside it. If it could talk, it would have told three rankers to leave their kind out of their mess.

Rey and Janos appeared a few 20 meters away from their position just when Eren was done cutting the colt in two. The vertically chopped body parts fell to either side, enabling Eren to see the two opponents appearing at a distance.

Eren had shielded himself with his mana defense layer to prevent any blood on his body. After his lightning mana converted the colt's meat into charcoal, the bleeding stopped.

"Brat, are you crazy? This is broad daylight."

Eren tilted his head to his side and looked puzzled. "And?" he asked, looking at Janos as if expecting a better explanation from him.

Janos coughed before answering.

"Sir Eren. I think there's been some kind of misunderstanding. We had only come here to talk. And the things we were saying were all hypothetical.

You still own White Raven. I suggest you don't do anything to jeopardize your current position."

In response to Janos's explanation, Eren disappeared from his position and launched another attack. This time on Janos.

'This guy's crazy as fuck.'

Janos had the random thought before using his space artifact again to get him and Rey out of harm's way. They appear to be at a safe distance from him once again.

"Oh. That explains it."

Eren carefully observed Janos and Rey figure out how they had managed to escape him. They had run away from him without any movement spells. He had seen Janos touch the ring in his right hand's middle finger with his thumb.

"You... Do you even know what you are doing? You are only giving my House a valid excuse to come for you. We were trying to do things in the shadows. But here you are. You've thrown away your most precious chance of survival by attacking us in broad daylight.

If you attack us one more time, then don't blame my House for hunting you down out in the open."

The scholarly old man spoke while looking at Eren angrily. He couldn't believe that a brat more than a century younger than him had come to kill him all by himself while Janos was with him.

Rey Remus was in the last stage of the Adept rank himself. He had run out of potential to break into the next rank. So after he was sure that there was no way to safely get to the next rank, Rey dedicated his life to the House Remus' auctioning business.

Although he was old, Rey Remus was confident in standing against Eren because of his class. It was just that he was out of practice and Eren had caught him off guard.

Rey could also rely on clan member Janos. He was an Expert ranker in the vapor core state of the C-Rank. With Janos around, he saw no threat coming from an Adept-ranked Eren.

Eren shrugged his shoulders before answering.

"I don't know what was so wrong about killing you in broad daylight. Do you think you'd feel less pain and frustration at night? A kill is a kill. Nothing more nothing less.

Plus, since we have identified each other as enemies, let's fucking act like it, shall we? Our diplomacy and politics between us ended when you stepped your wrinkly asses out of my city."

"Hey..."

Janos objected to Eren's statement. The latter pursed his lips before correcting his mistake.

"... when you stepped your wrinkled ass out of my city, Rey."

Janos looked at Eren keenly before shaking his head in disappointment. Sighing, he said.

"I think I overestimated you a bit, Eren. I thought you could keep your cool the way you handled lord Rey. Turns out I was wrong. You are just another youngster who is high on their success.

Do you even know how powerful House Remus is compared to you?"

Eren didn't try to get close to his enemies this time. He decided to wait for the right time. Smiling, the butcher responded.

"I think you are misunderstanding something. My decision to kill you guys isn't because I've given up on diplomacy. Or that I let my emotions take over me.

You have a B-Rank summoner, two C-Ranked summoners, and five D-Ranked summoners in your fold, right? I want to enter into open hostility with your House because..."

Eren smiled graciously before continuing.

"Because I want to slaughter and absorb them all."

[Chapter 797 Dealing With Snakes That Are Bound To Bite](#)

"Because I want to slaughter and absorb them all."

Eren took a step forward. His weapons hummed when he imbued them with his lightning-element mana.

Old man Rey was half stunned and half angry at Eren's declaration. He wanted to ask him many questions that would have started with 'how dare he?' But Janos beat him to it. And he zeroed in on a very particular detail.

"What... what do you mean by absorbing?"

Amused, Eren looked at Janos before answering.

"Why don't you find out yourself?"

Only now did Jason understand why he felt uncomfortable when he met Eren here on an empty road that had turned into their battlefield. He had subconsciously processed the look in Eren's eyes.

'He... he is hungry for this kill.'

Eren stepped one step forward before his feet became covered in lightning streaks. Janos saw that Eren was about to make his move again. So he was about to activate his spatial artifact once again.

"It's useless."

Janos commented as he appeared safe and sound along with Rey at a safe distance from Eren. He had plenty of charges left in his spatial artifact to do as many as 50 short-range spatial jumps.

Of course, the spatial ring had its limits. And it had to be charged before it could be used. Plus, the number of short jumps would be reduced to less than half its usual number, depending upon the ranking status of the additional person.

Once fully charged, the jump would occur instantly at the user's command. No matter how fast Eren was, he couldn't beat Janos' speed of thought.

Bzzt. Swoosh. Jump.

The same thing happened when Eren tried to approach the pair again. So the next time, he was more focused on Janos.

Eren had slightly ignored old man Rey in his follow-up attacks. He focused on Janos even though he was a rank higher than him. He could guess that the man was a mid-range fighter. But since he needed concentration to use the spatial artifact he was wearing, he was avoiding confronting Eren head-on. At least for the time being.

Janos' job was to cover up for Rey. After all, Rey's class made him a glass cannon for close combat experts. Thus, it was the Expert's responsibility to provide cover for his Lord. He'd only engage in fights when he has no way out.

Old man Rey found it amusing that Eren was struggling so much to even come close to him. He preferred to watch the show instead of taking part in the battle. And he chose to laugh at Eren's taunt while he was doing that.

"Hahaha! Target my clan's summoners, you say. Little brat, the summoner class is not as simple to beat as you might think because of the misconceptions regarding its usage.

Our House promotes summoners in our midst because of the extensive knowledge we have regarding the summoner class. We know how to make the best use of it as well as how to cover its disadvantages.

I don't know what kind of weird fantasy or fascination you have regarding our summoners. But remember that things won't end well for you today. Because I'm a summoner too."

The old man folded his hands in triumph and said, uncaring if and when Eren approaches him. He knew that Janos had things covered for him.

Janos wasn't feeling as confident as old man Rey was even though he knew he could handle him even if his spatial ring ran out of charge. He looked at Eren grimly and wondered why the man didn't look worried at all when all his attacks had been rendered null by him.

"You know, Eren. There's still time. You can have the city to yourself.

Just let us enter the previously established tri-party deal. Offer to use the same level of partnership you have offered to House Derringer and Lady Levine's faction of House Montmorency."

Janos finally decided to speak up regarding the topic even though he didn't have any right to offer this kind of deal to anybody. Targeting a House just because it specializes in summoner class. Something told Janos that Eren wasn't bluffing

"Janos lad, what the fuck are you..."

Janos ignored what Rey had to say about his impudence and focused on Eren. The latter shook his head before responding.

"There are many reasons why I shouldn't be attacking you. And I acknowledge them all.

I like to think of myself as a rational person. So believe me when I say that I don't get a kick out of targeting you guys."

Eren said and scratched his chin. He pondered a bit before correcting himself.

"Okay, maybe a little bit. But that's not the point. You see, diplomacy or no diplomacy, I don't like to deal cordially with the snakes who are bound to bite me sooner or later. I'd rather they bite me now before chopping their heads off than wait for the bite first to respond in kind.

What I said just now, however, is just an incentive for me to kill you. The main reason I want to kill you both is because of you, Rey. And your summoner class. I wouldn't have let you leave the city had I known about your class sooner."

Eren started walking towards the duo. He played and juggled with his Katars before speaking up once again.

"You see, every day I fight this urge to kill a pain-in-the-ass summoner friend I have so close to me. When I see him standing so close to me and taking advantage of me like it's no big deal, I wonder how much confidence the guy has in me.

When we are out drinking, I fantasize about what it would be like if I attacked him and maybe devoured just his hand. But luckily for him and sadly for me, I always control myself. I don't want any royal complications that would arise."

'On my mark, dear.'

As Eren looked at the Remus clan members, he spoke to someone through voice communication. Using one of his Katars, he pointed at Rey and continued.

[Chapter 798 Battlefield And Romance](#)

Eren pointed at Rey using one of his Katars as he continued.

"But you... you are not getting away from me. Summoner class is already rare, giving me a very narrow window for my hunt. So it's good that your House decided to prioritize raising summoners.

You have developed an enmity with me yourself. So that gives me the perfect smokescreen to devour you guys without raising suspicions.

Now it's about time you stop running away from this fight and take me seriously."

Eren said and almost disappeared from his position. Janos was about to activate his spatial artifact once again. But just then he felt Eren's soul sense overwhelm him. Before he could snap out the soul sense attack, Janos saw two eyes in the distance that were devoid of any iris.

Sedating Gaze.

'The fu..'

Janos couldn't think straight when Eren attacked him using the combination of his soul sense and Ability. His movements slowed down considerably, not allowing him to activate the space artifact as fast as he wanted it to.

Zinn. Swoosh. Pierce.

Everything changed at a moment's notice, catching both Janos and Rey off guard.

Janos found out that his heart had been pierced by a spatial dagger. He looked down at his chest with wide-open eyes. But before he could know what had happened and scream in pain, he received another injury.

Zoom. Swoosh. Chop.

Janos' fingers were chopped off when he was suffering from Eren's debuff. A shadow picked up his middle finger that was still wearing the spatial artifact ring and disappeared from its position near Janos. It had completed its job.

"Lord Husband. Here."

Eren appeared not too far away from a silent and horrified-looking Janos. Kirin tossed the finger aside and appeared near Eren before giving him the ring. The latter took the ring and held it with his thumb and index finger. He looked at the angry-looking Janos through the ring's circle.

"Bastard.... Aaaaagh!"

Janos looked at Eren with anger and injustice when the debuff stopped working on him. The guy had chosen to sneak attack him using the elf that had appeared out of nowhere. He realized that Eren was not only way too strong for his rank but also cunning enough to deal with his opponents using any means at his disposal.

Janos hated guys like Eren the most. He liked dealing with arrogant pricks because they would make his job so much easier.

"Lord Rey, pardon my language but snap the fuck out of your daze. I'm dying and we can't run away anymore. Now would be a great time for you to make your move."

Janos diverted his anger to the old man standing close to him. He cursed the man's foggy brain that made him freeze in the most crucial situation of his life.

"Aaaaaah... Lad! Hang on."

Only now did Rey decide to act. He took out his wooden staff from his storge and activated the runic details on it. He then summoned the creatures using his class-specific summoning spells.

Giant flowers of yellow and green petals bloomed all around Rey and Janos. They bloomed and revealed a treant present within them.

"Krehaaaa!"

The summoned bunch of treants screamed in unison when they opened their brilliant eyes. They quickly created a circle around the two rankers from the House Remus, securing them frontal Eren's frontal attack.

These treants were around 8 feet in stature. Their bodies were made of wood, green vines, and a lot of other tree-like stuff. There were distinct differences in the summoned treants based on their rankers.

Old man Rey had called forth 40 treants at the same time. Five of them were of the D-Rank while the rest were of E-Rank.

The E-Rank treants had somewhat humanoid features. They had a face with two eyes but without the nose and a tiny mouth that didn't look like it could be used for eating because of how small it was

The E-Rank treants had antlers over their heads like that on wild bucks. They had elongated necks and wooden torsos. They didn't seem to have distinct legs. Instead, they were using their roots like their legs to stay mobilized.

Some of these treants had even gotten their legs to penetrate the earth beneath them. They grew a bit larger than the rest.

These treants had two limbs that could be seen as their arms except for the fact that they were too long and flexible. These treants had huge hands and long fingers. They didn't need any weapons. Their talon-like fingers were enough to take care of most of their opponents.

The D-Rank monsters that Rey had summoned could be considered the more refined versions of their E-Rank brethren. They had humanoid bodies and green skin. They had distinct arms and legs made of green vines and wood.

The D-Rank treants had cruel-looking faces. They had two yellow eyes and growth on their faces that served as their noses. They had long ears and buck-like antlers as well. However, they also had dry-vine-like hair over their heads.

The D-Rank treants had well-defined legs. However, they had talons for feet. They were the ones with greater mobility and agility than their E-Rank counterparts.

Old man Rey didn't stop there. He used a different spell to convert the trees surrounding the road into giant tree monsters Turlang. The giant trees suddenly started having odd-looking faces on their trunks. They tried to scream but no voice came out of their monstrous mouths.

Eren was watching the real summoner at work and was trying to learn. He was fascinated with how Rey had used his summoning spells.

'He can summon the consciousness of monsters and make them possess a compatible vessel. Instead of depending on mana bodies, this old fart used his wood-element mana to grow organic vessels for his summoned monsters. And then allowed them to embody those organic shells.

And he can use the surrounding trees as the container of his summoned monster consciousness. This level of summoning... I want this.'

Old man Rey suddenly felt a cold shiver run down his spine when he observed Eren looking at him with eager eyes. But before he could voice his anger, he saw the butcher do something unthinkable for him in this situation.

"Hmm. Seems like I found something interesting for my wife. Kirin darling, give me your hand."

Eren cleaned the ring off of blood by rubbing it against his clothes. He even blew on it to make it shine. The butcher held Kirin's hand in his and made her wear the C-Rank ring that was a perfect match for her rank and her element.

Old Rey and Janos watched with stunned expressions as their opponent put a ring on the elf's finger. Using the artifact THEY used to own a few moments ago.

They had never seen someone using a life-and-death battlefield as their platform to profess their affection for someone. Blatantly using their opponents' wealth to do so.

One could say that the butcher was romantic at heart.

"See? Romance is not dead. But someone else will be."

[Chapter 799 Sending A Message](#)

"You fucking psychopath..."

Old Rey mumbled to himself as he watched the scene unfolding in front of him. He was flabbergasted by Eren's behavior. However, the pain in Janos' voice made him focus on their current situation.

"Hang on..."

Old Rey said and made one of the treants approach Janos. The treant screamed at Janos before placing its talon-like set of twigs that were its hand on his chest where he had been pierced by Kirin.

The treant's body started drying up as the wound on Janos' body started healing. In a few moments, a D-Rank-summoned creature had to sacrifice itself to fix the damage on Rey's assistant.

Janos could still feel the pain of having his heart pierced by Kirin's dagger in his head. He felt like the dagger was still inside of him even when his injuries were all healed.

Eren had given his space-element dagger to Kirin, who was perfectly matched with it. It was the same dagger that he had received from team Chalo. He had upgraded it to D-Rank with Alephee's help.

Since Alephee's homunculus body was D-Ranked, she couldn't upgrade the space element dagger to Kirin's rank. However, Kirin's compatibility with the dagger reduced its shortcomings.

"He... he has an Ability."

Janos commented and spat a wad of saliva mixed with blood. He knew he didn't have to worry about getting injured in the battle because he was with Rey.

The old man's summoning spells could be used as an offense and defense. And they also allowed him to treat himself and his companions mid-battle.

House Remus had been focusing on the summoner class ever since it started its auctioning business. The summoner class rankers would allow them to conduct completely secure auction events by deploying summoned creatures around the auction sites. This was how the House started making a name for itself.

These summoned creatures were easy to replace and disposable. They could be used to establish an all-around communication grid. Plus, they didn't have to be paid. Thus, these summoned creatures started getting deployed as part of official security at the clan's auction events.

House Remus started collecting spells of the summoner class belonging to various elements and schools. They experimented with these spells and researched the class to derive a comprehensive set of spells for their prominent summoner clan members.

The number Eren had declared earlier was only for the House's most prominent summoner class clan members. A sizable percentage of clan members in House Remus were summoners.

Dianna was with the old man Rey and Janos when they arrived to meet Eren. and she had stayed behind to talk with him after the duo left to go to the city of New Beginnings.

It was Dianna who told Eren about Rey's class as well as the fact that her house specialized in raising summoner class members. Since she was from the side branch of the clan, she wouldn't have been offered the same resources to become a summoner. So she chose to be a ranger instead. Of course, she used her clan's connections to get into Edinburgh's army.

Dianna had come to visit Eren to tell him how much of a danger her clan posed to him and his city. However, when Eren learned that Rey Remus was a summoner, he couldn't help having designs on him.

Eren quickly contacted Kirin and vanished from Agatha's office. He told Kirin to bid her time until he created an optimal opening for her to intervene.

"Hm. Kirin darling, next time attack the opponent's other vital organs as well. Piercing the heart or puncturing the anal opening is easy to target and effective in incapacitating opponents. But it will not give them quick deaths. There's always a chance of them possessing exceptional healing spells, potions, artifacts, or other healers in their vicinity.

Puncture the neck through or drive your weapon through the person's eyes back to the back of their cranium. They are more effective methods of assassination than simply piercing the heart."

Eren casually lectured Kirin on assassination methods while Rey and Janos were working on their team play. Eren only wanted to prevent his opponent from running away from him. He had achieved that by taking the space-element ring away from them.

The butcher knew targeting a summoner class from the House Remus wouldn't be easy. According to Dianna, the most prominent summoner class members of her clan always had a capable close to a mid-range fighter with them who would protect them at all times. They also had various artifacts to assure the summoner's safety, preventing them from turning into glass cannons.

Thus, Eren focused on taking Janos' ring away as soon as he found out about it. He used his Ability at a crucial time to achieve this feat. Otherwise, obtaining this artifact from Janos wouldn't have been easy for Kirin even with her special powers.

Targeting the Remus pair at this particular location served Eren well. It allowed him to claim plausible deniability in case the kingdom tries to or is made to intervene. And yet, this location was close enough to his city to make it obvious to the general population of the kingdom who had targeted Rey and Janos.

Choosing the site would be an open conspiracy. Everyone would be aware that Eren and his allies had initiated an attack on the Remus clan members. But nobody would be able to point fingers at Eren openly.

The kingdom of Edinburgh was receiving sizable revenue from the city of White Raven. As long as Eren didn't give it a reason to intervene, the kingdom's forces were bound to look the other way once the conflict between him and House Remus grew.

At best, the kingdom would try to help Eren in some way. At worst, it would remain on the sidelines while House Remus and Eren fought their battles. Ambushes and assassinations were about to ensue. And they won't be as low-key as those conducted by the Escalon guild.

However, Eren had decided to target House Remus openly for his own gains. As much as he preferred his guild's and city's growth, he didn't want to sacrifice his personal growth for it.

Plus, the butcher had already decided to make an example of House Remus. He would destroy a powerhouse within the kingdom in its entirety.

It wasn't just about protecting what he had fought so hard for in this timeline. It was about sending a message.

[Chapter 800 Summoner Vs. Summoner](#)

"Brat, you don't know what you have done. You don't understand the gravity of this thing. We didn't want to scare the traffic generated by the city we were about to take over from you.

But now that it has come to this, I hope you, your city, and your guild members are ready to face the consequences of your impudent actions."

While controlling his summoned creatures, Roy asked them to stay alert. By this time, the giant tree monsters known as Turlang had uprooted themselves from their rooted position by the side of the roads. They were surrounding the two Remus clan members as well.

This was the true prowess of a summoner who knew what he was doing. Unlike Rodrick who had the potential to become a stellar summoner but no experience to back him, old Rey was the seasoned summoner who had really honed his class and spells related to it.

Approaching Roy wasn't easy with all these wood-element creatures surrounding him. They were completely loyal to him and would do everything in their power to keep the old man out of harm's way.

Furthermore, Roy had Janos who was a mid-range fighter and dedicated to protecting Roy in case Eren tries to get close to him.

It was easy for Eren to take care of Roy if and when he gets within striking distance of him. The old man had the lowest body stats even when he was ahead of him in terms of ranking status.

However, getting Rey close enough to land a blow on him was the real challenge. He was surrounded by his mini army of creatures. Being protected by an Expert ranker on top of it.

Eren shook his head and chuckled. He stepped away from Kirin who was half embracing him and started walking ahead. His looks started changing as he walked.

Eren's hair turned white and his eyes turned blue. Tribal tattoos appeared on his skin. His mana signature changed and his aura changed drastically.

Since he received this class, Eren had been enriching his summoning spell arsenal in the background. He would often practice his class and spells related to it whenever he got time.

Alephee's spell integration inspired Eren a lot. Her demonstration of how summoning spells can be used enabled him to see the benefits of having a summoner class.

Eren hadn't used his summoning class in real combat since he received it. He would practice the spells related to it while he was alone or when he was sparring with Alephee. But that was it.

Alephee's guidance in the Oni dungeon had spurred Eren's growth as a summoner. He had made much progress during his long stay in the Oni dungeon.

And now was the time to test the effects of his labors.

p Eren's otherworldly blue eyes fixed on his opponents as he spoke up.

"Old man, you don't understand the future of your clan members, do you? I'm planning to gulp down House Remus as a whole without a burp. I'll not even leave the bones behind for the vultures to pick on when I'm done with it."

Eren said in a casual tone that made it seem sinister somehow. His two Oni horns appeared on his forehead when he finished saying it.

Kirin liked her husband's revised appearance, of course. It was apparent she had started missing her own horns because she was trying to feel their now-phantom shape with her hands.

Eren commanded Kirin to guard him while he performed his summoner class. Although he wasn't a glass cannon like the old man, he didn't want to underestimate Janos who was a rank higher than him. An Expert to counter an Expert.

A completely different Eren stood in front of his opponents when he stopped in his tracks. Both Rey and Janos had decided not to be surprised by Eren's actions. But they failed at their task when the butcher changed his entire existence for them.

"Who... who the fuck are you? Are you one of those cultist lowlifes?"

Rey pointed at Eren and spoke up in a shaky voice. He could tell that the vibes he was getting from Eren were not normal. He could tell this was not a spell-generated visual transformation. Eren's entire existence had been altered for him to look this way.

"I am what I need to be."

Eren said and spread his hands apart. He started casting his integrated spells while speaking up.

"I hope you serve as a reliable dummy for me, old man. I hope to learn a lot from you before claiming your class-related gains and attainments for myself.

You'd have to forgive me if I make any silly mistakes as a summoner. This would be my first fight as a summoner, you see."

Eren said nonchalantly before casting his integrated spells. Something he had learned to cast ever since he achieved minor success in manually controlling his mana circuits.

A bunch of three-meter-long fire snakes started appearing all around Eren. The mana bodies started solidifying before developing runic patterns of their own.

Intelligence can be seen in the eyes of these snakes. Plus, it looked like they were many times more dangerous than their normal counterparts Eren used to cast when he was just being a close combat expert.

However, the snakes' manifestations didn't end there. Another wave of mana fluctuations occurred and the snakes started growing wings behind their backs.

Wind-Fire Wings + Fire Snakes

The first spell combo Eren integrated was derived from the spell he had created while inside Altashia's burning abode. This particular spell integration came easily to him because he was already familiar with Wind-Fire Wings.

He had taken a page from Alephee's book and decided to do something different with the idea. Thus, he came up with his own spell integration.

Eren summoned fifty flying snakes in total. Ten belonged to the D-Rank while the rest belonged to the E-Rank. This was his counter to Rey's summoned creatures.

Rey and Janos watched in horror and part stressed expressions as Eren's summoned creatures took flight in front of them. These snakes stared at the woodland creatures on the ground like hunters would look at their prey. Their forked tongues came out of their mouths and rattling sounds could be heard in the surroundings.

Only now did Rey realize what Dianna was trying to say to him a few months back when he had started having designs on White Raven city. She had warned him that messing with this psychopath would be an error of catastrophic proportions for the entire clan.

'That... that wasn't a warning. That was a premonition.'