

Vile 821

[Chapter 821 Effect Mirroring](#)

Blur.

That's what Krista saw as Eren activated his time-element spell separately and disappeared from his position all of a sudden.

He needed to conserve his mana after all. And Sedating Gaze would only work most effectively when it was used for the first time. It would give diminishing returns and start taking a toll on his mana reserves the more he used on his opponents. Especially if there were more than one of them to deal with.

Repel!

Lambert could feel Eren coming because he had already tagged him with his spell and the tag was still working. He immediately broke Eren's movement spell with a spell of his own and made him appear not too far away from him.

Attraction!

Eren's body was pulled towards Krista from a different direction. The two rankers had already separated at this point. They were planning to launch a two-pronged attack on Eren from two different directions.

Krista was ready with her weapon and her spell as she watched Eren's body close in on her at breakneck speeds. The butcher appeared to have no control over his movement. His body almost floated over the ground as he was pushed toward Krista by Lambert's spell.

Krista was about to swing her weapon when she saw Eren smiling at her. Instead of fighting against the momentum, he coated his legs in water-element mana and sped up his advance.

Swoosh. Zoom. Duck.

With that, Krista swung her weapon in a threatening way. But her timing was a bit off because of Eren's movement spell that added to Lambert's attraction force.

Sedating Gaze

Eren ducked under Krista's swing to get to her other side. This time, he turned around and cast his Sedating Gaze on Lambert first to stop him from attacking the elf again.

Sedating Gaze

Eren's all-white eyes turned a bit red when he cast his Sedating Gaze on Krista as well. As a result, Lambert was unable to pull the butcher away from the elf and the elf herself was made to slow down in her actions.

'Hmm. So full of vitality. Should I kill her and take her achievements to myself?'

Eren licked his lips and had an instant gratification thought. He actually started salivating and felt like taking a bite out of the elf's flesh. Seeing the elf's ripe body, he felt like it was calling him to devour it.

'Damn it. This hunger.'

Eren finally managed to prevent himself from killing Krista right then and there. He knew that the third ranker would have tried to interrupt him in case he launched a deadly attack on the elf. Nevertheless, he was almost sure that he would have handled that interruption too while ensuring the elf died by his hand.

This was not the first time Eren had dealt with uncontrollable hunger. He had lost his fingers and half of his right toe fighting with Alephee during their serious spars. As a result, he would often get hunger pangs whenever he had to undergo organ regeneration.

Eren realized how intense Reen's hunger would be after feeling the effects of it on himself. He was amazed that the girl could keep it under control under his orders. A task he might have failed if he was in her shoes.

Krista felt helpless and enraged as her body was subjected to the slow passage of time. She could feel that the restrictions placed on her were much lighter than in the first instance. But she was in greater danger than before because of Lambert's inaction. She could see that he was facing the same challenges as her.

Krista suddenly felt that her life was in serious peril when Eren thought of devouring her whole. His emotions were manifested through his soul sense, making her aware of how vulnerable she was fighting against him.

'This... this is no half-blood. The way he acts... the way he moves... and the way he behaves...

His absurd powers and his sinister presence. There's hardly a human inside this fiend.'

A chill ran down Krista's spine as she was affected by Eren's soul sense that spoke volumes about his designs on her. She saw Lambert was unable to help him and contacted the third member of her team urgently.

'Sneak attacks can kiss my ass. Rupen! Fucking save me.'

Krista tried to contact the third member of her team who had been hiding all this time. Even she had realized that this was Eren's move to flush out the third member. Otherwise, he would have attacked her by this point. However, what other choice did she have?

Krista had forgotten the fact that since she was experiencing a slow passage of time, her voice communication with Rupen and Lambert had been affected. Thankfully, she didn't have to rely on her message. Because Rupen had already decided to show himself after seeing what Eren was up to.

Eren had enlarged his hammer's head. The hammer's head began to swell to a diameter of three meters as he lifted the weapon above his head. The water-element runes were revolving around the hammer's head, indicating that the volume of the water was much more than what its size entailed.

Swoosh. Zoom. Boom.

Eren slammed his giant hammer down onto Krista, hoping the third member would intercept it. And he did. But not in the way Eren was imagining him to be.

"Hold the fuck up."

Another shadow appeared about 10 meters away from Krista and Eren and yelled in a deep manly voice. He raised his hand towards Eren and the elf and cast his spell just as the giant face of the hammer was about to make contact with Krista's head.

Effect Mirroring.

Something weird happened when Eren tried to attack the broadaxe-wielding elf. Instead of her getting smashed under the hammer's giant head, it was his body that was subjected to tremendous force from his front.

Swoosh.

Eren's body was suddenly thrown in the air as if it was him that had gotten hit by a giant swinging hammer. His nose and most of his ribs got broken as he flew in the air at breakneck speeds. When he was hit by an impact that came out of nowhere, his flesh turned to pulp.

[Chapter 822 Undying Cockroach](#)

Boom!

Eren's body crashed on the ground after the vector force acting on his body couldn't maintain his flight. A deep depression in the ground was created as Eren's mana defense reacted in response to his fall.

The mana layer disappeared after the impact because Eren could not control it around himself. As a result, his body was completely exposed to the elements. All while the mirroring effect of Rupen was still active on his body.

Drag.

He was dragged far from his first impact because of the residual force, creating clouds of dust in its wake. He was dragged almost 100 meters away from where he had first crashed onto the ground. Krista, Lambert, and the new guy stood even farther away from him.

Nobody tried to do a follow-up attack on Eren. That's because they were paralyzed by the effects of his soul sense that he had spread forth right after he was hit by Rupen's spell.

"That's... that's a soul sense. This monster is something else indeed."

Rupen prevented his right hand from shaking by holding it with his left hand. It was clear to him that the butcher had used his soul sense on them, slowing down their thoughts by making them experience his emotions.

He was enraged to the point that he wanted to devour them whole.

Eren quickly got up on his feet after the momentum acting on his body was killed off. He had a mangled face and he was reeking of blood from various flesh wounds. He looked at his hands by raising them in front of him and found that they were missing a large portion of flesh on them. His finger and ulna bones were partially visible as well.

Eren spat a mouthful of blood mixed in his saliva and grime. This was the first time he had messed up this badly.

"So much... cough... cough... cough"

A bunch of coughing noises. Right hand resting on the chest. His left hand turned into a fist. Eyes staring at the starry sky above. Lips tightly shut.

Bloodline Ability: Expedited Regeneration

A never-felt-before mana pulse. The flesh around the wounds became restless before stretching itself like it was made of liquid.

Eren's deformed face started rearranging itself. The cheekbones that had been made visible suddenly hid under the newly generated mass of red and white meat. The meat was soon covered with a youthful epidermis.

The open wounds on the rest of Eren's body healed along with the facial makeover. The butcher stood tall and proud in his position, looking prim and proper in no time.

Of course, his clothes made him appear like he had been run over by a horde of mana beasts. But overall, he was fine.

The butcher made a few bone-cracking noises as he rotated his wrists and neck. He jumped up to get a better sense of the health of his legs. He finally raised his arms above his head and stretched, indicating that he had almost recovered from his precarious condition.

While he was recovering from the pain that came along with the Expedited Regeneration, the butcher's teeth were gritted. He only relaxed when the process was done.

"So much for "easy peasy", huh!

Note to self: even while experimenting, I should be careful about who I am conducting them on. A regular sample is needed to derive all-inclusive results."

Eren lightly slapped his forehead before combing his hair by running his finger through it. He then wiped the drool that tried to escape from the corner of his lips. One could see that he was salivating— an indication that he was feeling famished. However, unlike before, he was in complete control of his senses and desires.

Eren realized that he had chosen the wrong opponents to experiment with. Mainly because they were not the traditional rankers he was used to dealing with. Experimenting with spells on these guys was akin to finding joy in self-inflicted injuries. A self-sabotaging mentality that the butcher was not too fond of.

These rankers needed to be dealt with with absolute force. There was no room for games.

'Hmm. I wonder how much elemental attainment I'll gain if I just devour these guys' limbs.'

Since he couldn't kill them and needed to do something, Eren came up with a compromise. He then geared up for his go-to spells, putting his experiments to rest.

Krista and Lambert watched with stressed expressions as their enemy started jumping and stretching in his position. Having recovered from the attack he had landed on himself, he started doing this right away.

They watched in horror as they saw Eren recovering from his serious injuries like it was no big deal. They felt like they were inside a nightmare that just didn't seem to end.

"What kind of monstrosity is he... an undying cockroach?"

Lambert said under his breath as he appeared right in the middle of Krista and Rupen. He refused to believe that these were mere half-blood powers anymore.

Rupen on the other hand was ready to counter the butcher as soon as he made his move. He wasn't as visibly agitated as Krista. He was not as afraid as Lambert was. Mostly because he forced himself to think that this was just another half-blood subjugation case.

Just like the rest of the Blood Punisher Force members, Rupen also had an affinity for the Ether subelement. He could reflect the spell's effects or impact his opponent's path in a limited way. He could amplify the mirrored effects using another spell he had in his arsenal.

Rupen's peculiar affinity and his spells allowed him to put his opponents on the receiving end of the attacks they had initiated. He could also save some portion of the effects he had mirrored with the help of his special spatial space to which only he had access. The saved portion of the effect could be used against his opponents anytime he wanted.

Rupen was also the de facto leader of the three-person team. He had told Krista and Lambert that he would only appear when Eren launches a life-threatening attack at them, mirroring it at the last moment and killing him then and there.

[Chapter 823 Breaking Free From Lambert's Control](#)

Fortunately for Eren and unfortunately for the three-person team, Eren had chosen to attack Krista with blunt force.

The blunt force effect was something Rupen was not able to completely mirror as it is. He had to use another spell in conjunction with his default mirror spell to enhance its effects.

Eren had not exerted his full force to crush Krista in his previous attack. And he was glad he didn't. He would have been in a much more dire condition if he had.

Even with his limited interaction, the butcher could decipher the limits of Rupen's spells. His soul sense had helped him know the intentions behind Rupen's attacks as well as read some of his thoughts. With that, he realized that Rupen was waiting for an opportunity that never came to him.

Rupen had a lot of limitations when he could use his spells. Especially because the guy had chosen to remain in the shadows for so long.

The butcher concluded that elemental spells couldn't be used when Rupen was in the picture. The guy would just mirror its effects onto him while altering the mana signature behind it. It would be like Eren fighting against another Eren.

The butcher took a close look at Rupen now that he had shown himself. He was wearing a long red coat under his solid silver metal armor. The hood-like headgear that he wore blended well with his armor, covering his head.

Rupen had dark red eyes and half of his face was covered in a mask. He had a slightly taller stature than Eren and a lean build. But one could tell that his covertly defined muscle definitions would allow him to tackle most regular rankers with ease in close combat battles.

Rupen was carrying a long spear in his right hand and a large shield in his left. It was clear that he paid close attention to his defense apart from cultivating offensive spells.

One could tell that Rupen was a more capable ranker among his group. The confident air around him made him stand out more.

'It seems that the mistake I made wasn't really a mistake after all. I never gave that bastard a chance to show himself. I didn't give him the opening he was looking for to strike me with my own attacks.

It would have been troublesome if I had allowed this guy to direct any serious elemental attacks at me. Or if I had attacked that elf with my regular weapons.'

Eren looked at Rupen seriously before narrowing his eyes at him. He knew what he was supposed to do at the time.

Demon Beast Transformation.

Eren used his demon beast transformation spell to boost his stats. Argo wanted to come out of his beastly space and play with the three rankers. But Eren prevented him from appearing because he wanted to incapacitate the three rankers— not kill them. Eren believed Argo's bird brain was too immature to understand the difference.

Since Eren couldn't use most of his go-to elemental spells, he decided to boost his body stats instead. He just needed to make sure that his physical attacks didn't get mirrored back to him.

Eren's pupils turned vertical and beast-like under the spell's effect. His hands changed into claws and his body became full of vitality. He developed lion-like canines that slightly peaked through his upper lips.

Thanks to his mana circuit training, Eren's demon beast transformation this time was even more prominent. He could receive a higher body stats boost from Argo while controlling the physical features he wanted to manifest. A feat Altashia had done in front of him in the past.

Blitz Steps

Eren disappeared from his position and approached the three rankers. At this point, all three rankers were on their toes, fully alert to their surroundings. Lambert was the first to sense Eren's presence because his spell's effect was still present in him.

Repel

Eren was forced to stop his movement spell by Lambert's interruption. He appeared 30 meters from where they stood with Rigor Mortis in his right hand and Anduril in his left hand. Once the momentum was killed, he was pushed back from his position.

But this time, the pull wasn't strong enough to stop his charge.

Earth Spike

Igni Chains

Eren cast his earth-element spell and created a bunch of spikes all around the battlefield. He then cast Igni Chains to make fire-element chains appear out of thin air.

The fire-element spells latched themselves around the Earth Spikes. Eren used the earth spikes and the fire chains as anchors to defeat the repelling force acting on his body. He tugged at the two Igni Chains in his hand and pulled himself towards his enemies once again.

Eren could now better understand how Lambert's spell worked. It could only attract or repel things or people in a limited spatial zone. It meant that once the repel spell had been activated on Eren, the spatial zone in which he could be pushed away from his position was the three-dimensional area around himself.

Eren needed the Earth Spikes and Igni Chains to serve as his anchor and kill the force acting on his body. It would give him time to maneuver his way out of the three-dimensional spatial zone in which the repel spell was active.

Wind-Fire Wings

Eren escaped in the air, freeing himself from the restrictions of the repel spell. He smiled wickedly when his hypothesis came to be true. He also knew that Lambert couldn't quickly cast his repel spell after he had already used it. The most he could do was cast an attraction spell on him to alter his momentum.

Attract.

As expected, Lambert's spell did what he had expected. He had already prepared his spell. He tugged at the chains and used his wings to change the spatial zone he was in effortlessly. He was able to escape Lambert's spell without difficulty as a result.

Breaking Lambert's control over him was very critical for Eren. Because the other two rankers had based their moves on his battle style. The three rankers' powers complemented each other, turning them into a highly effective killing machine for the half-bloods.

However, there was one half-blood they hadn't met until today.

"Let's see how many spells you can mirror, shall we?"

Eren spoke playfully as he flew close to the ground. His vertical eyes shone brightly in emerald green as he focused on his prey.

[Chapter 824 Taking Hostages P1](#)

Wind-Fire Shards!

He used the shards made from the elemental fusion of fire and wind. A cloud of elemental shards was created on either side as he flew toward the three rankers.

After controlling his shards, he moved his position so that he could attack the three rankers from different angles, preventing Lambert from changing his trajectory. The elemental shards had gotten more potent since they were created. They surrounded the three rankers from the Blood Punisher Force like a swarm of bees before attacking them all at once.

Effect Mirroring

Rupen ordered his two members to remain close to him before casting his spell. The shards were too many and attacked in various directions, so his abilities to tackle them by mirroring them were limited.

Swoosh.

Eren and Rupen's team were bathed in the explosive elemental shards at the same time. No matter how the butcher had tried to dodge the shards he had created himself, they just appeared in front of him out of thin air before attacking him.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A series of mini explosions sounded in the surroundings as various Wid-Fire Shards were set off at the same time. The inside of the entire isolated barrier lit up and drove away the night's darkness. From a distance, one could see that the semi-transparent barrier had suddenly developed a bright source of light inside it.

Eren was the first to get out of the explosive cloud that had surrounded him in midair. And he had a smile on his face while doing that. That's because he knew that he had figured out Rupen's limitations in mirroring the effects of any spell.

Only a few elemental shards directed at Eren managed to hurt him. That's because only a small number of them had a different mana signature than his own.

Rupen couldn't effectively alter the mana signatures found in the spells that were created with elemental fusion. In fact, the only way he had managed to succeed in modifying the mana signatures of the few that he could alter was because the elemental shards were small packets of explosive mana.

What was more significant was the fact that Rupen couldn't amplify the effects of Eren's spells while mirroring them on him. The elemental shards Eren had to deal with only packed half of their usual punch, not enough to slow him down at all.

"Fuccccccck!"

"Bastard, fight me face to face if you dare."

"Shiiiiit!"

Rupen and his team on the other hand were not doing so well. The elemental shards were not that powerful individually. But when Eren used them as barrage attacks for his opponents, they stung like bees and created blisters on their skin.

Swoosh. Swoosh. Swoosh.

Rupen and his team decided to change their strategy after finding out that Eren had successfully countered Rupen's spell. There was no use hiding behind him anymore.

Eren had chosen the spell for Rupen to mirror wisely. He knew that even if he failed, the amount of damage he received would be manageable. And if he succeeds, he would manage to keep the three rankers away from tag-teaming against him. After all, staying together meant allowing Eren to concentrate his attacks while not getting the advantage of erecting an effective united defense.

Krista started destroying the Earth Spikes Eren had created in the surroundings with her broadaxe. She wanted to vent the frustration that was building inside her heart for not getting back at Eren.

Eren started hovering over the elf. He dodged Lambert's spell. Rupen also tried to aim at Eren using the spells he had previously stored inside his special spatial storage. But the butcher was able to outmaneuver them all using his exceptional flight mastery. Something that he had developed himself and not through digestion of understandings that belonged to other rankers.

"Krista, my love, look what I have in my hand. A helpful tool for my various grooming needs, I must say."

Krista looked hatefully at Eren and saw that he was brandishing her chopped hand. He then proceeded to poke and clean his nostril with one of her fingers before using the same hand to scratch his posterior.

Rupen and Lambert both were shocked by Eren's nonsensical behavior. They couldn't have imagined that someone so violent would resort to mocking their enemies in this way. But then they looked at Krista and knew he was targeting the elf mentally.

Eren was about to scratch his balls with the chopped-off elf's hand. But by then, he had heard the angry voice he was waiting to hear.

"I AM GONNA KILL THIS SON OF A BITC..."

The Earth Spikes that were near Krista, Rupen, and Lambert exploded as Eren's black hair turned white out of the blue. A bunch of Adept-ranked woodland creatures appeared on the battlefield and attacked the rankers nearby them.

Krista was the most vulnerable of the three at this moment. She couldn't even sense that there was a woodland creature appearing behind her from the Earth Spike she didn't destroy.

This woodland creature was taller than Krista by a whole inch. It was a female treant that had thick tree-like branches for limbs and sharp wood-like fingers for claws. She also had razor-sharp teeth in her mouth and eyes that glowed with yellow light.

"Aaaaargh!"

The elf cried in pain and agony when the woodland creature bit her right shoulder using her sharp teeth. She embraced the elf from behind using her flexible limbs, latching herself.

Krista started to have her life essence sucked out of her at a rapid rate. Her skin started drying up at an alarming rate and she developed wrinkles on her pretty face in no time. She tried to get the woodland creature off her back.

But by this point, the female treant had started restricting the elf's movements. She did that by draping her ever-growing vines around the elf.

Krista's anger made her blind to Eren's insidious move. She was brought onto her knees within a few moments before closing her eyes in the embrace of the female treant.

Soon, Krista's body became invisible because of the wood-element nooses completely tightening around her from head to toe. The butcher had taken care of the elf without harming her.

[Chapter 825 Taking Hostages P2](#)

Eren could control his summoner class better after he had digested Rey's experiences. The way with which he had digested them allowed him to use them as if he had been using them for a long time like his own spells.

He was able to switch between his summoner class and his close combat class without much hassle. This was due to the training he received from Alephee regarding the control of his mana circuits.

He was sure that the more he got through with his training with Alephee, the more he would be able to tap into both classes with equal ease.

While Krista was suffering through her ordeal, Lambert and Rupen were getting attacked by a bunch of woodland creatures that had appeared all around them. Unlike Krista who was destroying the Earth Spikes in her path, the male rankers of the Blood Punisher Force were trying to find their way around them.

As a result, both of them were surrounded by them as Eren summoned them through the Earth Spikes. Lambert repelled one of the woodland creatures coming his way. He controlled his spell and pulled him towards the other woodland creature coming his way. However, he had to fight with the third creature that had gotten too close to him.

"Fuck these monsters!"

Lambert was finally overwhelmed with frustration when the woodland creatures started tag-teaming him. He tried to attack them using his staff and his weapon mastery. But the woodland creatures simply regenerated themselves before attacking the rank with newfound vigor.

Lambert raised his right arm to cast his repel spell on all three of the woodland creatures at the same time. But just then, he received a threatening sensation.

Bzzt. Swoosh. Chop.

Eren attacked Lambert while he had his hands full with his summoned creatures. He chopped Lambert's right arm from his shoulder before retreating into the air once again. It was only after Eren displayed the arm that Lambert was able to know what had happened to him.

Another round of loud screaming and cursing followed. The butcher just ignored them and carried on with his attacks. He had concentrated on the relatively weaker rankers first before taking care of Rupen.

,m Lambert was able to put up a fight for some time. However, the missing arm eventually exposed more loopholes in his defense. Soon, the butcher chopped off his other hand too before subjecting him to the same fate as Krista.

The last thought Lambert had before being forced to sleep was about Eren. He wondered and felt afraid of the versatility Eren had shown him fighting with them. It was like he had many alter egos of himself.

He had taken care of Krista using a metaphorical low-blow attack. He had effortlessly countered his spells after seeing them only for a short time. And the man could summon monsters of this level while being a deadly close combat expert.

Lambert didn't understand what kind of bloodline would grant Eren powers like the ones he had displayed so far. But he knew that if he were allowed to grow any further than what he is right now, Eren alone would be able to wipe out the Blood Punisher Force all by himself.

Boom.

Rupen released another stored fire-element spell he had kept in his special spatial mirror storage. He had spell effects of various elements stored inside his special storage. And thankfully, the fire-element spells were the most plentiful among them.

However, Eren's woodland creatures were persistent and downright immortal. They would regrow their bodies and attack him even if only a tiny amount of their bodies were left after his attacks.

The most threatening thing about the woodland creatures was the fact that they were not summoned using the mana body. Their organic bodies were pumped with wood-element mana, making them as tough as normal rankers.

Rupen couldn't mirror most of their attacks with the same intensity because of their physical nature. As a result, he was forced to use the stored spell effects. The fire-element effects gave him better results. But he knew that as long as the summoner remained unscathed, the summoned creatures would just keep on coming at him.

Rupen tried attacking Eren throughout his struggle for survival. But Eren refused to engage him in close combat anymore. He was therefore unable to use the trump cards he had stored in his storage reserved for Eren.

The white-haired flying summoner knew what Rupen was thinking thanks to his soul sense. The guy wanted him to come down and attack him personally so he could use his special artifacts on him.

The butcher just smirked and watched Rupen get exhausted by his summoned creatures. He drank another vial of mana recovery potion to keep up with the excessive consumption.

Rupen looked in Lambert's direction in shock when the latter was put to sleep by another female treant. He could sense that both of his team members were still alive and taken hostage. And that made him even more fearful of the butcher.

Rupen had a cold shiver run down his spine when he started imagining the horrors Eren could inflict on them. He had seen the Grim Pillar Eren had erected for the House Remus too. He knew nothing positive would come out of getting kidnapped by such a vile evil ranker like Eren.

Rupen decided to commit suicide as a last resort. Sadly for him, Eren read these thoughts as soon as Rupen thought of them.

Eren landed on the ground at a distance from Rupen. The latter was still battling with a bunch of his summoned creatures while keeping an eye on him.

Sin of Wrath

Eren used his Sin Series Ability without summoning the domain. He injected the existing woodland creatures with wrath mana and made them more aggressive, making their attacks even more potent.

Lambert didn't even get the chance to commit suicide. The wrath-powered woodland creatures overwhelmed him so quickly that he had his eyes closed before he could figure out the changes behind them.

The wrath-powered female treant tried to suck more life essence out of Rupen's body than she was told to. The guy would have perished if Eren hadn't forcefully dispersed her.

When Eren realized that the battle was over, he put his weapons away. He had successfully managed to take three rankers from the Blood Punisher Force hostage.

"Hmm. Now... what should I do with them?"

[Chapter 826 Blink](#)

Devour!

A shapeless and colorless slimy mass spread over a small mountain of flesh made of 12 limbs. One set of limbs belonged to a beautiful elf while the other two belonged to two male members of a certain special force of Edinburgh.

Someone was standing beside the mountain of flesh. He had his arms stretched over the limbs that had turned into a mass of slime, which was digesting the limbs and boosting his body stat values.

The butcher had already injected the limbs with wrath mana. Additionally, his bloodline ability digested the wrath flames effectively.

"Hungry for days. Starving for centuries. Famished for an eternity."

Eren mumbled to himself and smiled as he started to digest the limbs of his victims using his Devour. This was something Reen used to say to him when she was extremely hungry.

The butcher wasn't interested in mutilating his enemies if it didn't serve any purpose. But he had to do something about his hunger after all. Due to the constant regeneration of wounds he had to undergo during the fight, his hunger intensified. And from the looks of it, the chopped-off limbs were doing a fine job of helping him feel satiated.

Eren had cut off all the limbs of the three rankers after they had fallen prey to the woodland creatures. Only their torsos and heads remained intact. In addition to cauterizing their wounds, he stabilized their conditions and ensured that they remained in their slumber.

Three female treants sucked the life essence of three rankers. They extracted just enough to keep them in slumber while ensuring that they don't die from it.

The female treants were soon filled with vitality and couldn't contain the life essence in their bodies anymore. They started diffusing the excessive life essence they had extracted into the soil through their root-like feet.

The combined life essence of the three rankers couldn't be scoffed at. Soon, the battlefield started turning into a lush green forest as various trees and greenery started growing at a rapid rate.

Eren didn't have to use Potion of Innocence on the battlefield anymore. The woodland magic had altered the residual mana signatures in the surrounding area for good.

"Tch. You created so much mess."

Alephee appeared beside Eren and commented after looking around. Butcher shrugged his shoulders before recalling the slime mass that had digested all limbs.

"Hmmm! I need some time."

Eren started digesting the memories and experiences of the three rankers he had just fought with once the shapeless mass of slime completely turned into his two arms. He closed his eyes and sat down before practicing the Rootless ranking technique.

Alephee looked at the three female treants and concentrated. She used her soul sense to take over their feeble minds and forced them to extend their limbs and wrap themselves around Eren.

In the next moment, Eren felt like all the fatigue he had developed during the battle had been washed away. The effects he received were ten times better than even the most pristine all-stats recovery potions he had in his storage.

Eren realized that he was being fed the combined essence of the three rankers. He smiled as he kept his eyes closed and started digesting his gains.

It took a while before Eren opened his eyes. His body was brimming with vitality and his hunger had been completely satiated. He had also finished digesting the three rankers' experiences.

He received a minor boost to all his body stat values. But he couldn't make any major advancements in his ranking. He had just made a huge leap, thanks to digesting Rey Remus whole. As such, he knew any major improvement wasn't possible.

Thus, Eren focused on digesting the three rankers' experiences thoroughly. And it paid him well. Because it had increased his affinity with the most mysterious element out of all the great elements—ether.

Krista, Lambert, and Rupen had ether-sub element affinities. Thus, their elemental attainments in the ether element were significant. The butcher was able to make some of those attainments his own after digesting their limbs.

Blink.

Eren disappeared from his position and appeared a few meters away. However, he had not used his movement spell to accomplish this feat. He turned around and looked at Alephee before asking her.

"Hehehe. I finally did it. What do you think?"

Alephee chuckled before casting the same spell Eren had cast. A space-element support spell that one could use to teleport themselves to a different location.

"This was your first successful Blink. Even though you could have done better, I appreciate your efforts. Or rather, the efforts THEY had put into their ranking journey to ultimately benefit you."

Alephee looked at the three limbless rankers and chuckled.

Eren was practicing Blink spells for a while. He lacked a sufficient affinity for the space element that was related to Ether. As such, all the Blinks he had performed would mostly result in failures and him facing backlash from using the spell incorrectly.

The few times he managed to teleport, he was way out of his intended position. Even then he faced a huge backlash for using the spell incorrectly. He, therefore, did not even attempt to use the spell as an experiment against the three rankers.

Eren laughed at Alephee's comment. Then he did the Blink one more time and realized something.

"Damn. This spell eats mana like Reen eats mana beasts for breakfast."

Eren observed that the spell had taken a huge toll on his mana reserves after two consecutive castings. It also made him realize that it couldn't be used casually. Not like a movement spell.

"The space-element spells are more dependent on elemental attainments than any other type of spell. You have just met the minimum requirement to cast the spells after digesting someone else's comprehension. Otherwise, it would have taken you some years to pull off what you did.

I'll call that an absolute win."

Alephee commented casually to Eren. The pair then proceeded to make their way back into the city with their three hostages in tow. wt

[Chapter 827 Overwhelming Market Presence](#)

The city of New Beginnings. Early morning.

Commoner district. Rankers market.

Every corner of every street in this city is always bustling with activities. There are calls from merchants trying to bring customers to their local shops or joints using various schemes and discounts. Adventurers can be seen haggling with merchants who seem unwilling to lower their prices below what they already stipulated.

Eren was looking at these activities from the fourth floor of an open-air restaurant. His table was by the gallery that offered a seamless view of the city's market.

Eren had company at his table. Levine was sitting in front of him. Eren had ordered a sumptuous breakfast for himself. The B-Ranked potioner on the other hand was fine with sipping her tea.

Eren had worn casual clothes. White shirt and blue blazer. Cream-colored pants that boded well with his easy-on-the-eyes visual scheme. He had left two of his shirt's buttons undone, adding a bit of nonchalance to his formal appearance.

His black hair had grown a bit, hiding his forehead completely. His emerald-green eyes seemed to shine brightly from time to time as he looked at the city's hustle and bustle from his position.

Levine was wearing a beautiful floral dress. Her hair was well-groomed and her face was full of life. The dress she wore accentuated her curves just enough to create intrigue while maintaining her elegance.

A few months ago, a teacher and disciple pair did something similar like this. Recon on the live market. They were excited to see the results of their efforts pay off.

"What do you think will happen?"

Levine asked with a bit of playfulness in her voice. She fixed her eyes on a particular shopkeeper who was soon going to attract all the attention to himself. He was currently prepping his array disk setup on a temporary platform that had been erected at the side of the street.

"Dominance. Complete dominance."

Eren had a subtle smile of his own when he said that. His voice was laced with unquestionable confidence. Something that he didn't really have last time when his product had first entered the market.

Eren and Levine had been to this place before. Before Levine knew what Eren was really up to with Minerva's Utopia, he had called her here to witness his first line of products getting sold in the market.

Levine knew that Eren had received a relatively large success for his potions a few days after they made their appearance. At that time, he referred to his success as a mere beginning. Only now did she truly understand that he meant what he said back then.

Eren ate a spoonful of the Cassoulet he had ordered and drank the White Raven ale he had concocted for himself. Looking back at the street from his seated position, he smiled and continued.

"White Raven will eat everyone's market share from today onwards. Not just in the Nightshade duchy. But all the duchies of Edinburgh. And soon, the entire Anfang.

All we need to do now is just sit back and watch the show as it unfolds."

Just as Eren finished speaking, a known shopkeeper from the commoner district took to the stage. He was a seller of potions and artifacts. Alto was his name and he looked to be in his 60s. He was an Ace ranker. But everyone knew him as one of the most successful businessmen in the city of New Beginnings.

Alto had multiple shops under his portfolio. He would generate a large revenue every day and pay the city a hefty amount of tax for his earnings annually.

Alto would sell common products for rankers with various needs and preferences. He catered to commoners and niche rankers alike, having something in store for every class and every job.

Alto was well-known in the district for the quality of his products. As such, he garnered loyal customers throughout the years.

Alto had a neutral alignment policy when it came to selling potions and other stuff from various houses and manufacturing hubs. He would not promote or speak ill of any particular potion he was selling, allowing the customers to make their own interpretations and judgments.

The non-alignment policy had paid off very well for Alto. He would earn profits from selling every kind of potion obtained from various manufacturing chains.

Eren had tried to hire the guy for his products when he had first entered the market. And the merchant quickly rejected it. The butcher then resorted to using rumors about himself and his guild as a weapon to hype his products and achieve exceptional results.

However, that was back then. Alto was about to kiss his non-alignment policy goodbye from this day forward. That's because he was utterly convinced by Eren's brand-new line of products.

"Dear adventurers and heroes of the kingdom, please listen to this old man before you buy any potion any further."

Alto's mana-imbued deep voice resounded in the market and it came to a standstill. All the buyers and even the shopkeepers started looking at Alto who had stood alone on the levitating platform. Of course, he had some of his staff help him with the setup. They were standing just below the platform.

Alto adjusted his shirt's collar and placed his right hand over his chest before speaking up.

"Most of you know me as your uncle Alto. And there's a high possibility that every one of you has bought something from me or any one of my shops at least once.

Today, I have come to present to you a new line of products by a certain guild that is going to blow you away. And if you use some of these products on your enemies, they'll be blown away as well. Hahaha!"

Alto laughed at his own joke. He looked visibly happy while trying to sell these products, which shocked everyone. The audience knew that Alto had a non-alignment policy. So the fact that he had resorted to promoting a particular guild's products made them curious about what they were about to see.

Three distinct-looking vials started levitating in front of Alto out of the blue. Alto smirked before addressing his audience once again.

"These are the products that will soon take all the markets in Edinburgh by storm. And you'd only be able to get your hands on them in my shops.

Brace your hearts as I say their names.

Pleasure Paradise, Ice Fairy's Kiss, and RDX.

Haha. I'm sure that soon these names will imprint their presence in your memories forever."

[Chapter 828 Marketing Campaign](#)

Boom!

A potion-bomb-induced detonation resounded in the commoner's district. And the entire audience fell silent.

A detonation had occurred over Alto's head on the 3D spectral rendering. He had projected the results of someone using the RDX on a bunch of monsters in a random region inside Badlands.

Alto's presentation of the RDX's impact was impeccable. He had used special array disk recordings to record the impact of the potion bomb. Due to the integration of the sound-element runes in the array disk he used, even the booming acoustics heard by his audience had a surround-sound effect.

The sound was not the only reason the audience became silent. The adventurers and hunters saw the effects of the potion bomb with their own eyes and were too stunned to speak about it.

RDX was a total banger. It took care of all the monsters in one go, not sparing a single one. The test was designed for Novice rankers. As such, the potion bomb used to belong to the F-Rank and the monsters from the test sample belonged to the Monster Solider tier. It meant that the examination was as fair as it could be. The effects of the potion bomb would increase with rank.

Alto enjoyed the stunning looks his viewers had on their faces. He chuckled before commenting further.

"My friends, RDX delivers a class-defying explosive performance. It is up to four times more powerful than the potion bombs of similar price tags you'd find using... cough... various means. Plus, it is safer to use because the volatile compound inside it won't react unless you channel your mana into it."

People started talking to each other in murmurs when they processed the visuals and the information regarding RDX provided by Alto. A random shout hit the merchant's ears.

"How can you sell such a product openly, uncle Alto?"

There was another ranker in the audience who seemed to have figured something out. He asked the same question differently.

"Is Edinburgh changing its policies in the light of the recent tussle with the kingdom of Layos, uncle Alto?"

Eren already received a green light to sell these products under strict control in limited quantities. The clearance for RDX was the hardest to get. But Dan Karren handled this task very well.

The B-Rank elf used his bureaucratic connections as well as the current war-like situation to his advantage and allowed Eren to make things official for all three of his revolutionary products.

Eren, Levine, and Alto were expecting questions like these to arise in their presentations. They had standardized their responses in advance.

Alt rubbed his hands together before speaking up in a confident tone.

"Buyers don't have to worry about a thing. Unlike the explosives you used to... let's say... inadvertently find randomly, you can get this potion bomb legally from any of my shops. A legal way to acquire such a potent alchemy product is nothing short of a miracle.

Of course, the kingdom of Edinburgh has still imposed a few restrictions on its use. But we'd act as mediators and sort those legal matters for you as long as you are ready to ensure the products can only be used in the Badlands.

We only have limited quantities we can sell each month. Thus, only the first few in line can get their hands on these potion bombs."

Alto skipped the fact that Edinburgh received a huge cut from these sales. The merchant had been asked by Eren not to paint the kingdom in a bad light even if the truth would be obvious to most buyers. The butcher liked to play by the unwritten rules of the game when it suited him.

More whispers ensued. However, Alto didn't let that fester for longer.

"Look. I heard that the diplomatic channels between the two kingdoms are still open. So I don't like to comment on the so-called war-like situation. But I'll say this. With or without the war, buying a bunch of RDX is going to serve you well in the long run.

You will find a way out during your missions in the Monster Canyon. The monster ambushes in the Badlands won't have to turn into a party wipeout just because you were overwhelmed by a horde.

In the unlikely event that war does happen, prices of everything will shoot through the roof. The cost you'd have to bear for products like these will break even more records. So hoarding these potion bombs is also not a terrible idea. Especially if you are about to actively participate in the war."

The audience witnessed the scenes of RDX blasts at various sites while Alto spoke. He knew that he had most of the audience convinced by his speech after seeing their faces.

Levine looked at Eren and smiled before pointing a finger at him playfully.

"This speech reeks of your blend of fear-mongering, Eren. That merchant is just your proxy."

Eren smiled subtly but didn't say anything at first. He didn't have to.

RDX and Ice Fairy's Kiss were going to be his cash cows shortly. But he didn't want to wait for the war to break out between the two kingdoms. Instead, he chose to create a psychological need for these products.

Eren took out his Sativa Stick and watched the crowd below him. The number of viewers had increased as Alto kept on answering the audience's questions regarding RDX. He released the smoke through his nostrils and narrowed his eyes at the adventurers before speaking up.

"Fear is temporary. A person learns to get over it sooner or later if they really put their heart into doing exactly that. But regret... There's no cure for regret for most of them.

The regret of missing out on something so revolutionary will eventually be a deciding factor for people to buy my products. My marketing campaigns will make sure of that. After all, no matter what kind of product you make, it would not sell well if the marketing done for it was lousy.

The so-called famous houses, who are used to doing things using mundane means, had taken things for granted all this time. They had taken their customers for granted.

The White Raven guild will not repeat that error. One of the things I'm doing differently from them is the fact that I didn't wait for the opportunities to come my way.

I just got up and made them."

[Chapter 829 Money Has No Moral Opinions](#)

"My friends, RDX is not the only performer we have in store for you."

Eren and Levine watched in silence as Alto continued his presentation.

"We could only show you the recordings for RDX's real-life use for obvious reasons.

But for Ice Fairy's Kiss, we have prepared a live demo for you. It would speak volumes about the effectiveness of our products."

Alto said excitedly while addressing his audience. He gestured at two of his staff to board the levitating platform.

The two male rankers in the Novice rank suddenly appeared on the platform. They both stood opposite each other. One of them drew a sword in his hand and the other clenched his fists and nodded at him.

Swoosh.

A sword slash flew at the first ranker and hit him across his torso. A line of blood immediately appeared over the ranker's white clothes.

Although the fling attack seemed casual, the ranker who had to face it had lowered his mana defense layer. As a result, he immediately sustained a critical injury.

A few newbie rankers in the crowd gasped at the cruelty unfolding in front of their eyes. They averted their eyes and cursed Alto and his team for such a naked display of blood and gore.

However, the veteran rankers didn't flinch. They watched as the ranker who had been seriously injured summoned a vial of Ice Fairy's Kiss.

Several mana senses were locked onto the ranker's injury as it froze as soon as he drank the healing potion. A thin layer of ice was created over the injury before dispersing into thin air. When it did, the serious injury the ranker had sustained to his torso was no more.

"Unimaginable recovery speed!

Thorough healing properties!

And no side effects!

These are the three main USPs of Ice Fairy's Kiss."

Alto spoke loudly as the two Novice rankers bowed in front of the audience before climbing down from the stage. The merchant turned his neck and glanced at all the rankers before continuing.

"Unlike RDX, Ice Fairy's Kiss doesn't need any clearance for purchase. We can also sell these potions in a much larger quantity. And they are only slightly more costly than the most trusted but inferior healing potions you are used to using these days.

My friends, believe me when I say that Ice Fairy's Kiss is a must-have healing potion you'd need on you at all times if you value your life. What use are missions and their rewards if you can't ensure your safety while completing them?

And the higher price is worth it if you see results that are up to ten times better than the potions you have in your arsenal right now. Even the little details matter a lot when it comes to life-and-death situations. You don't need me to tell you that no amount of Extols you'd save is worth risking your life over."

Alto started talking about the White Raven's revolutionary healing potion in depth. Eren had taken exclusive manufacturing and marketing rights for RDX. But Ice Fairy's Kiss was supposed to be seen as a joint venture between his guild and the House Karren. As such, the answers Alto was giving were prepared by House Carren's representative.

"Why are you not selling the healing potion at the same price as the regular ones? Especially because your manufacturing cost for them is not even half of theirs?"

Levine asked Eren curiously. He had set RDX at an attractive price. But for a healing potion that he could sell en masse and earn a huge profit, he had chosen to set premium prices for them.

No matter how worthwhile the extols-to-healing ratio was in a potion, some rankers just didn't have that many Extols on them. Plus, things like healing potions would be used a lot more than any other kind of potions during any job.

As such, every manufacturing hub tried to keep its healing potions' prices relatively low. So that their buyers would buy the potions in bulk, earning them substantial profits in return.

Levine was kept away from the decision-making process for the products' prices by Eren. Even though her involvement in the manufacturing unit was over after the arrays were built, she chose to criticize him by sounding disappointed with his move.

Eren kept smoking his Sativa Stick and smiled before answering.

"Hehe. That's because I've chosen to become exclusive with my products, teacher Levine. You'll find out what I'm talking about soon."

Levine scrunched her nose in response to Eren's mysterious and dry answer. But she followed his gaze nonetheless and watched as Alto started speaking to his audience.

"As for the Pleasure Paradise! Cough."

Alto cleared his throat and wiped his forehead with his hand for no reason before speaking up.

"I can't show you the live demo or recordings of the potion's effects for reasons you know. But the potion's been getting sold in limited quantities even before its official launch. It shows promising results even for people with some kind of "difficulties" in... let's say... getting things "up" and running.

There is a potion for both sexes, catering to their specific needs. The experiences people have shared so far are already positive. This official launch of the product will make those results known to a wider audience.

Before leaving the stage, we will distribute a bunch of sample vials for Pleasure Paradise to people who haven't tried it yet. I'm sure those who get to experience these effects will come back for more in no time."

Alto said before facing another line of questioning from both male and female rankers. He answered the questions professionally and objectively while maintaining a straight face.

Pleasure Paradise was Eren's exclusive creation. He had partnered with Levine's faction to manufacture it. But upon her order, the house's name was kept from being mentioned in any marketing campaigns.

The butcher did not mind that his guild became famous for an aphrodisiac that was usually frowned upon by members of the rankers' society. That's because such products tend to sell like hot cross buns on the market.

'Money has no moral opinions. The poor can't afford morality and the rich are blind to its existence.

Me? I'm just a survivor who acknowledges its presence but refuses its hold over me.'

Eren released a lungful of smoke through his mouth as he watched Alto do the job he had hired him to do.

[Chapter 830 In The Business Of Selling Magic](#)

Cough!

Kirin started coughing a bit in a low voice when she was exposed to Eren's passive smoke. Levine looked at Eren as if he had done something terrible.

"Why are you keeping this girl hidden all the time? Kirin, is it? Please join us at the table, dear."

Eren pursed his lips and looked behind him. He extinguished his smoke and put it back in his storage. The scrooge in him wasn't willing to throw the half-finished smoke away.

Smiling mildly, he spoke. "Kirin darling, you can come out."

A gorgeous elf appeared on the chair beside Eren and bowed in front of Levine. She smiled at Kirin and poured her a cup of tea that she had brewed for herself.

The two ladies started talking with each other while Eren focused on Alto's speech.

"My friends, these three potions are not the only things that are getting launched today. Hehe. I humbly request attention from my ale connoisseurs for this special product."

Alto spoke in a jolly tone. He suddenly found himself trapped inside a circle of hovering, runic bottles of ale. Spreading his hands, he spoke further.

"Imagine an ale that has a flavor so sharp and crisp that it contributes to elevating your mood for the better. The smell of robust minerals, the balanced acidity of ranked fruits, the fullness of the concoction,

and lastly a finishing taste. Something that leaves a delectable and spicy finish on the tongue. These sought-after attributes come together to make this ale come into existence.

White Raven ale is just like the mascot it comes branded with. The mythical bird in legends is the only representative the revolutionary concoction could ask for."

The ale bottles around Alto started spinning around themselves. An aroma of fresh and zesty ale filled the air. Audience members stopped murmuring and inhaled the alcoholic fragrance to understand the complexities within it.

Alto chuckled before continuing further.

"However, the taste is not the only thing this ale packs. And why should it?

The White Raven guild has successfully managed to achieve a huge leap in ale concoction, thanks to its leading team of potioners. Say goodbye to bottlenecks in the way of the elements. This ale is designed to help you overcome your obstacles and reach new heights in your elemental attainments.

The White Raven guild officially claims that this brew is as good as any elven ale. And you know what's the coolest thing? It will be available to you at half the price of a regular elven concoction. Plus, we don't have to deal with the side effects that the elven ales come with.

This ale is going to be a game-changer leisure activity for all of us. And it is officially available today. The guild plans to open ale houses in various parts of the kingdom in the future. For now, the shops under my name will sell a limited quantity of these bottles each month."

When the rankers heard that the ale that stimulated one's elemental attainments could be purchased so cheaply, they were shocked. After hearing the price, they refused to believe that it could perform as well as it was advertised.

Levine looked him in the eye when Alto brought forth White Raven ale. She had played a significant role in the concoction of the ale. However, her early assessments had suggested that the ale would just be another counterfeit.

There were a lot of counterfeits of Elven ales available on the market. But they were all just thatâ€”counterfeits. That's why people weren't as thrilled about the ale as they were about the three concoctions Alto had presented to them beforehand.

But she had tasted the sample Eren had provided her after he miraculously perfected the blend one day. And she knew the ale he had come up with was the real deal. She didn't know which component Eren had used to make this ale a reality. But she was impressed with her student nonetheless.

"You took Marie's help, didn't you?"

Levine asked finally. The question was akin to her admitting that another one of her students was better than her. Particularly the one she rejected further tutoring for.

Eren smiled at Levine before answering.

"You can say that. Her research helped me a lot in expediting the process. But I would have found a way around eventually anyway. I can always count on myself to achieve my goals."

Eren tapped his fingers over the dining table as he said it. Levine took another dramatic sigh and seemingly said to herself.

"I hope we don't ruin an entire generation of rankers with our products. Not because these concoctions would be seen as a questionable lifestyle choice. But because the upcoming generation of rankers will come to depend on them. So much so that half of them won't try to find their way in life without your products."

Eren chuckled when he found a compliment hidden in Levine's worry. She told him that the products would eventually become a part of life for most rankers because of the price-to-effects ratio they offered.

He smiled and said casually.

"Sex and alcohol can be seen as pervasive facts of life. But they are also extraordinary in their own right. They are as real as they are addictive.

Destructive and pleasurable, with or without overindulgence. Adulated and anathematized, they can replace mana and create the magic of their own.

Magic that stays inside the head. Forever. Everlasting magic.

I am in the business of selling magic. If they get addicted, they can only blame the magic's hold on them. Not the magician himself."

Kirin looked at Eren thoughtfully when Eren spoke of his philosophical bullshittery to shirk away the potential responsibilities coming his way. Eren noticed her gaze on him and nodded and smiled, letting her know that they would consummate their marriage soon.

'Heh! Who knows the hold alcohol has on its most loyal patrons better than me? I'm hoping my ale will help some rankers progress in their ranking journeys. At least for the word-of-mouth publicity, I'd receive. I don't care if they become dependent on it for that later on.

From being addicted to alcohol to selling it myself, I have indeed come a long way. My only regret is that it took this long to get here.'

Eren sighed in his mind as he watched Alto take charge of his audience once again.