

Vile 871

[Chapter 871 Using Potions & Multi-Class Spells To Level The Field](#)

'He... he is baiting House Remus to send more summoners his way. So that he can claim their powers for himself.'

Goro came to a grim realization as he found himself surrounded by Eren's summoned creatures. They looked at him with anger in their eyes. As if they were angry at him for daring to stand against their summoner.

Just crossing swords was enough for Goro to figure out what Eren was trying to do to the entire House of Remus. The more he fought with him, the more he was sure of his conjecture. That's because he had sparred with Rey Remus in the past. And the woodland creatures that Eren had summoned were very familiar to him.

At first, he thought that Eren was one of the guys who can't handle the success they receive overnight. Suddenly he realized how wrong he and his entire House had been.

Screeeee!

The last undead creature died when it was overwhelmed by Eren's summons. Goro figured it was time for him to get serious.

Eren was struck once again by Goro's flying slashes, making him fall back into the distance. In response, he began retreating in another direction while destroying Eren's summons.

Goro's death-element attacks would burn Eren's life force away. The wound did not bleed. Instead, the skin around it would turn dead before rotting. The invasion of foreign mana would cause Eren to feel sick and fatigued.

Eren drank the top-notch potions he had in his storage to counter Goro's death element. His background as a potioner was getting used so thoroughly in this fight. The range of potions he had started using on himself and his weapons was in leagues of their own. They allowed him to hold his ground against an Expert ranker.

Eren saw that Goro was trying to move away from him. He figured out that the necromancer was trying to summon a stronger undead that would be different from the mob he had resurrected.

"Heh! Do you think I'll just watch as you step up your game?"

Eren defended himself against Goro's flying slashes using his all-around sword arts. He stopped retreating and started casting spells. In the next moment, a pair of Wind-Fire Wings sprouted from his back. These wings then folded forward to embrace Eren.

Wind-Fire Wings protected the butcher from Goro's death-element attacks. When he was sure that he wouldn't be disturbed, Eren cast his space-element spell.

Goro had just managed to take a breather from Eren's attacks. He was about to summon the undead he had in his collection when he sensed something really dangerous appearing above him.

Goro looked up to see Eren had appeared in the air. The latter sent a series of lightning and fire element flying slashes at him. And since he was flying above, Goro couldn't attack Eren immediately with one of his mob summons.

"Aaaaargh!"

Goro cried in pain when his back was injured by Eren's slashes. His peculiar summoning ritual was interrupted by Eren's attacks. The butcher kept on attacking him from various angles by changing his position in the air.

Goro's main problem with Eren came from the fact that Eren was not just a summoner or a close combat expert. He was both. And he put all his expertise into his attacks, giving him zero chance to come up with anything that would work on Eren.

A summoner was usually accompanied by a second ranker for this very reason. Summoning creatures takes concentration. That's why a higher INT body stat value was a necessity for a summoner.

Stronger summons take even longer. Most summoners would be able to summon their creatures while they were engaged in hand-to-hand conflict with their enemies.

Of course, Eren was an exception to this rule. He could switch between two battle styles effortlessly. Thus, Goro was prevented from retaliating against Eren with all his might.

Goro needed reinforcements more than ever at this point. At least if one of them takes the heat off of him, he could focus on his special summons. Too bad nobody came.

The injuries on Goro's body continued to accumulate. His mob summons couldn't put up a strong front against Eren's creatures. The woodland creatures that were affected by the wrath mana had gotten more aggressive with time. They had started launching kamikaze attacks on the undead and Goro as well, injuring him further.

Goro's eyes shined with hope when he finally noticed something or someone coming towards the battlefield. Upon realizing who it was, his demeanor changed for the worse.

Alephee had arrived at the scene.

She dropped the bodies she was holding in both hands as she appeared at a distance from the battlefield. One was Rehaal while the other was Meera Medinah. Just as Eren had instructed, she had spared the royal as well as the royal's hired help. Of course, she had killed the rest of the rankers that were with them.

Eren didn't get distracted by Alephee's arrival. He kept attacking Goro while shouting at Alephee.

"I thought you'd take some time to wrap up. Never mind. See if Argo needs help. That bird will do crazy things for a chunk of red meat."

Argo chuckled at Eren's comment before nodding at him. She checked the vitals of her recent victims and made sure that they wouldn't wake up. Another set of Wind-Fire Wings sprouted from her back as she took flight. Flapping her wings, she approached Argo, who was fighting Nico Chains and his demon beast.

'That woman is a different kind of monster.'

Goro thought about Alephee as he looked at the states Rehaal and Meera Medinah were in. He wasn't too shocked by Rehaal being captured. However, Meera Medinah was part of Edinburgh's secret force. The fact that an Expert-ranked entity like her got beaten by an Adept-level ranker like Alephee spoke volumes about the latter's battle potential.

Plus, Alephee looked like she had taken a walk in the park instead of finishing Rehaal's entire team by herself. It meant that if she had joined hands with Eren, Goro would have been a done deal for the duo.

'I have no chance of winning this thing. I... I must escape.'

[Chapter 872 Tactical RDX](#)

'I have no chance of winning this thing. I... I must escape.'

Goro made up his mind to run away from the battlefield. He knew that his reputation would be sullied if he ran away from an Adept ranker while being an Expert himself. However, a sullied reputation was a preferred choice for him over a mysterious death.

Goro took out an unknown scroll from his storage and started to imbue it with his magic. This was one of the trump cards he had hidden in case of such emergencies.

Eren's space-element attainments had shot up to incredible levels after digesting the body parts of Krista, Lambert, and Rupen. He immediately understood that the spatial fabric around Goro was being altered after the use of the scroll.

"You are not going anywhere."

Sedating Gaze!

Blink!

Invi Blaze!

Eren set his mana circuits into hyperdrive before using his Ability. Goro was subjected to a slow passage of time all of a sudden and his activation of the space-element scroll was halted. The butcher appeared right in front of the necromancer before destroying the scroll in his hand. Invi Blaze remained on Anduril rather than being released through the blade. As a result, he gave his slash an extra edge and managed to chop Goro's hand off, severing it from his wrist.

Goro was simply too stunned to do anything. When Eren's Ability wore off, he had already managed to take the cut hand away from him before he could do anything in retaliation.

"Aaaaaaargh!"

Goro cried in pain as his eyes turned red all of a sudden. The necromancer's cry reverberated in the undead he had summoned all around him. They too became agitated and angry at their opponents. They started attacking their opponents at the cost of destroying themselves in the process.

Goro tried many times to get away from Eren after that. But the butcher managed to hold him off using his summons and his diverse attacks. Since the cat was out of the bag, he started using Sedating Gaze more and more frequently.

Eren and Goro both got tired eventually because of their continuous duel. The battle slowly turned into a test of endurance.

The butcher had many wounds on his body that had been inflicted on him because of Goro's versatile use of the chained sword. His skin had started to look pale and devoid of life. His wounds had started to rot and there was a formation of pus in them.

Eren had begun to look like an undead while fighting Goro. The latter had started to retaliate harder against the butcher after his exit strategy was taken away from him. Plus, he had come to realize that nobody was coming to save him. Thus, the necromancer fought for his life with his survival instincts taking over him.

As a result, Eren faced even harsher retaliation from his opponent than before. The only reason he was not overwhelmed by Goro's undead was that he stayed in the air most of the time. His woodland served as a punching bag for Goro's stronger summons so that the undead could be attacked by Eren's other summons.

Eren also kept on using potion bombs with a limited detonation range on Goro. He called these potion bombs T-RDX or tactical RDX. They allowed him to launch an aerial attack on Goro while he was in the vicinity. The dropped payloads would destroy his woodland creatures along with hurting Goro as well. But that was something he couldn't avoid.

"Aaaaargh!"

The most terrible thing about the T-RDX was the fact that they contained shrapnel. This shrapnel was obtained from scrapped Adept-ranked artifacts that couldn't survive Alephee's upgrading process.

Eren used these scrapped weapons as raw materials for his tactical bombs. They had a smaller blast radius and caused minimal damage to the surroundings. Despite this, the shrapnels built into them made sure that these T-bombs could be used to injure their targets well.

Goro was bloody and bruised all over. His skin was now studded with shrapnels that had managed to breach his defenses and hurt him.

The imperfect runes over these shrapnels started creating anomalies in the necromancer's mana circuits. The feeling was different from the foreign mana invasion. It was close to mana deviation that one had to face when they messed up casting a spell.

These anomalies made it difficult for Goro to maintain his active spells. Plus, Eren didn't give him any breathing room for him to get rid of any of his immediate problems.

"You fucking bastard... fight me fairly if you dare."

Goro spat in anger and contempt while looking hatefully at Eren. He hated Eren for using T-RDX on him the most. The latter chuckled before responding.

"That's rich coming from you, my man. Where was your fairness when you decided to attack me in groups?"

Goro was tongue-tied for a moment when Eren asked him. He tried to open his mouth to reply. However, Eren beat him to it.

"It's fine though. No need to explain. I have come to accept that most of my enemies turn hypocrites when their time is near. You are not the first and you won't be the last.

As for daring to attack you fairly. I think it's pretty obvious that I don't dare to fight with you fairly. You must have studied my profile before coming here. I'm surprised you expect something like that from me."

Eren dropped another T-RDX on Goro while flying over him as soon as he finished speaking. The latter had figured out the wretched terrorist would pull off something like this on him. He used a newly resurrected flank of the undead as a shield to protect him from shrapnel.

The flesh and bones of the mob summons, however, were no longer strong enough to stop shrapnel. As a result, the necromancer's injured body was again riddled with more of the scrapped junk.

This series of shrapnels finally broke the camel's back. Goro's summons and his active spells were severely impaired by the anomalies injected into his mana circuits. As a result, the spells were disbursed all at once while Goro suffered from mana deviation.

The butcher smirked when his diligent work finally allowed him a window of opportunity. He saw his chance and took it.

[Chapter 873 Finishing Off Goro Jaan Remus](#)

Blink!

Swoosh. Zoom. Pierce.

The butcher appeared in front of the necromancer when he couldn't use his undead anymore. He lodged his dagger inside Goro's heart while looking him in the eyes.

"Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to see me, Goro. Now get consumed by the anger born out of the unfairness of this world. Find peace in mindless rage."

Eren's voice was like a lullaby for Goro before he lost his grip on reality. His vision turned red before he closed his eyes. The butcher's icy blue eyes shone with brilliance as he activated his Abilities.

'Let me see how it feels to be a necromancer.

The sin of Wrath!

Devour!

Nico was a bald man who looked to be in his mid-40s. He wore thick leather armor and a prominent belt that also served as his defensive artifact. He also had a shield and an axe stuck to his back, indicating that the demon beast owner was quite skilled at close combat.

His demon beast was a dark brown condor. The beast had a thick hide, sharp vision, exceptional aerial maneuverability, and a metal-like beak. He was blessed with various wind spells, which allowed him to dominate the skies against his opponents.

Nico had come here to complete the task given to him by Demonmir himself. It was to kill Eren so that the tripartite alliance between the White Raven Guild, House Derringer, and Levine's faction becomes unstable.

Sebastian Slughorn had contacted Nico at the right time. He immediately agreed to Sebastian's proposal of serving as the reserve force. His main job was to prevent Eren from using his demon beast in case he decides to run away. Only when the situation warrants would he work with the existing team to get rid of Eren.

However, things didn't work out as planned. Nico and the other members of the ambush team had come to realize that they had underestimated Eren thoroughly even when they had tried not to.

Nico was quickly briefed about the ambush team's current situation by Goro before the latter started his battle with Eren. Since then, he has been slated to assist him. In the meantime, he learned that the enemy had also hatched a multi-front strategy to counter them.

And at this point, Nico Chains was angry.

He was angry at a foulmouthed griffin who kept attacking him and his condor verbally as well as physically. His verbal mockery was as piercing as his attacks. His condor beast Shal had to fight with all his strength to defend himself against the griffin's attacks.

This was a battle between a rare-tier C-Rank beast and an epic-tier D-Rank beast. Shal only had a ranking advantage working for him. Otherwise, he would have been owned by Argo a long time ago.

The aerial battle between the two demon beasts was slowing down Nico's advance. He had been trying to get to Goro, knowing well that he might get overwhelmed by Eren's forces. The mission's success was at stake and their chance to finish off Eren would diminish with each passing moment. But this wretched Griffin would not let him go.

The most terrifying thing about Argo was the fact that he would try to bite or claw away some of Shal's flesh and devour it. The hybrid demon beast grew stronger every time he did that.

All of the condor's aerial attacks worked on the Griffin just fine. It was just that they weren't strong enough to hold him down.

As a result of his wings getting injured, Argo lost altitude several times. But he always came out on top soon after devouring Shal's flesh.

It was like Argo never knew how to pay attention to his injuries. He would use his wind-element spells to support and enhance his flight before attacking Shal with newfound vigor.

At first, Nico thought of prioritizing Goro's safety over battling Argo. He thought of conserving his energy so that he could deal with Eren and his forces. However, Argo's attacks kept getting more lethal by the minute. To the point that Nico finally decided to treat D-Rank Argo as his real opponent.

'This beast is a nuisance just like his owner.'

Nico thought to himself before standing up on his demon beast. He took out a bow from his storage and imbued it with his mana. The runes on the artifact lit up as Nico Chains aimed.

In the next moment, a bunch of wind-element arrows were fired at the approaching Argo. The beast released an eagle cry as he sensed the danger coming off of them. An attack from an Expert was no joke. As brave as Argo was, he was not stupid enough to face the arrows head-on.

Another pair of wind wings sprouted on Argo's back. His hybrid form shrunk before the demon beast took a sharp turn to the left just before the arrows could hit him. He sensed another series of arrows coming toward him at the same time. Thus, he opened his bird-like mouth and activated his Devour Ability.

A vortex-like runic formation appeared in front of Argo. The vortex expanded rapidly and took the incoming arrows inside the vortex's eye.

Argo activated the ability to not consume Nico's attacks but to render them unstable. The demon beast instinctively understood that his Ability had the potential to disrupt the basic building blocks of spells, making them unstable. If he used his Ability at the right time in the right way, he could use it to destroy his enemies' spells. One could say that Argo was so much ahead of Eren when it came to making use of his Ability.

Argo's animal instincts were right on point. The wind-element arrows did get disrupted by his Ability. But since the attacks were of the C-Rank, he couldn't completely destroy Nico's spells. The arrows lost their potency, but they managed to break free from the vortex's runic boundaries. In the next moment, the arrows lodged themselves inside Argo's beast-like torso.

Argo screamed in pain and looked at Nico and Shal with narrowed eyes before speaking in a human tongue.

"Bald bitch! Somebody's balls gon pays for this."

[Chapter 874 End Of The Line For Nico Chains And Shal](#)

Alephee was flying using her Wind-Fire Wings.

Her wings were smaller than Eren's and had more runic details on them. The wind-fire shards served as feathers that left a blazing trail in the sky as she traversed at breakneck speeds.

Alephee's speed and agility using Wind-Fire Wings were also many levels higher than Eren's. It was as if she had taken his spells and made them work better for herself.

The homunculus soon reached the location she wanted to and saw a bizarre sight in front of her. She stopped midair and remained motionless as she tried to make sense of things.

Nico was furiously staring at Argo. Eren's demon beast had many wounds on his body. He was in his complete eagle form, maintaining eye contact with Nico as he hovered in front of him at a distance.

Some of Argo's feathers had been destroyed exposing the flesh underneath. His mana fluctuations were unsteady and it was clear that he had many internal injuries. Even his left eye looked like it had been pierced by Nico's arrow. The blood bled from Argo's left eye even after he kept it closed.

However, Argo looked happy. He looked at Nico with a human-like expression on his face as he tightened his grip around something he was holding with one of his claws.

'Hm? Those are...'

Alephee had suspicions in her mind as she looked at the organ Argo was gripping with his eagle claw. She then looked at Nico's beast carefully and confirmed her suspicions.

Argo had injured Shal's cloaca in their aerial fight, giving the condor a huge trauma. Argo ripped out the demon beast's cavity and spilled its intestines to yank his balls from his body.

Shal had already screamed his heart out against Argo's misadventure. But Argo looked like he was not done mocking the pair just yet.

Argo flew a bit higher and brought his claw forward. He then crushed the organ he was holding in his vice before releasing an ear-piercing eagle cry.

Shal screamed in anger and decided to attack Argo right then and there. Blood dripped from his hanging intestines when he started to move.

Nico couldn't believe that a demon beast could be so vicious and vengeful. He had literally tore off the demon beast's balls that were hiding deep in his anatomy. Argo relied on his epic-tier physique and unparalleled control of his flying skills to pull off this feat.

Shal was ready to exact revenge on Argo. However, he was stopped by Nico who knew Argo was planning a plot against him and his demon beast by baiting them. He decided that Shal was not fit to deal with Argo.

Nico was about to attack Argo with one of his precise attacks. But he suddenly saw Alephee looking at the scene from a distance and was shocked by it. He couldn't believe that someone like her could sneak up on the scene so effortlessly.

"Who the..."

Nico looked at Alephee warily. He then remembered Goro's brief report mentioning something about a girl in a black dress that was with Eren. His vigilance was raised when he made that association in his head. He decided to change the question he wanted to pose to Alephee.

"The fact that you are here... did you manage to kill Goro as well?"

Alephee's chain of thoughts was broken when Nico asked her a question. She looked at him and pondered before answering him.

"Hmm. You can say that. You are the only remaining pair from the ambush team."

Alephee said casually like it didn't mean anything to her. She then looked at Argo before speaking up.

"Argo, your job is done here. Get to Eren while I deal with them. Don't worry. Your portion of Har Jahar meat won't be deducted."

Alephee thought that Eren was being too harsh on Argo for wanting him to take care of two C-Rank entities at the same time. That too in a limited period. And the crazy bird was willing to do it.

Of course, the butcher was only trying to bring out Argo's potential by giving him difficult tasks. But the homunculus judged that Eren was being as harsh on the beast as he was on himself. Thus, she relieved him of his duty and decided to handle Nico and Shal all by herself.

When Alephee's suggestion reached Argo, his one functioning eye shone in delight. He released another eagle cry before approaching Alephee. The homunculus threw a vial of Ice Fairy's Kiss at the demon beast, which fixed his pierced eye and mended some of his injuries.

Nico had used this opportunity to attack both Alephee and Argo. But the homunculus raised her hand and cast her time-element spell.

Total Control!

This was also one of Eren's spells. He would use it as a support-type spell to expedite or delay the effects of his spells. However, Alephee used the spell differently, casting it on her opponents' spells to delay their casting.

Alephee did this so effortlessly that Nico thought it was his mistake that his spells were not giving him the intended effect. His arrows manifest slowly. His wind-element slashes also materialized at a slow rate as if they were cast inside a near-stagnant world.

By the time the effects of Total Control wore off, Nico lost control of the spells and made them disperse. Argo was also absent from the scene, leaving the ranker from Demonmir's faction alone with Alephee.

Nico gulped empty air when he thought of how Alephee was able to affect his spells simply by casting support-type spells. A cold drop of sweat ran down his neck as he looked at the stoic-looking girl in front of her.

The fact that Alephee could interfere with others' spells gave her a huge advantage. The bald man didn't know the limitations of something he had just learned about. He didn't know how to fight her even though she seemed to be a rank lower than him.

Alephee smiled when she looked at Nico and observed his thoughts. She flapped her radiant wings behind her before speaking up.

"You should be glad that it is me and not Eren. At least I don't make a mess out of my opponents."

Saying that the homunculus turned the pages of her grimoire using a wave of her hands before casting her spells. It was safe to say that Nico Chains and his demon beast weren't going to survive the ordeal.

[Chapter 875 Life & Death: As Vague As Evening Fog As Real As Morning Dew](#)

Eren started living Goro's life in a trance.

He was digesting all his memories, experiences, elemental attainments, class-specific nuances, weapon comprehensions, and spells. He was removing Goro's influence from all that was his, turning them into his own experiences.

The death element.

This was the element Eren had no prior knowledge of. He had never fought a necromancer in his previous life. Death element wielders in other classes were also very rare. Thus, the introduction of this element was a completely fresh start for the butcher.

Eren continued to live Goro's life in his mind while slowly building up his foundation in the element. Once that was done, he started absorbing class-specific nuances and spells. He discarded his day-to-day mundane memories and other experiences he had no use for, retaining only the most useful ones he could make use of.

When he opened his eyes, the butcher felt like he had lived an entire life as a necromancer. His blurred vision started getting clearer as he started looking around himself. It had been quite some time since he had killed Goro it seemed. Because he could already feel the morning sun's presence in the sky.

"How long have I been out?"

Eren asked Alephee who had been waiting for him to wake up from his trance at a distance. She was sitting on a branch of a tall redwood tree. Argo was with her, looking like an ordinary eagle. The demon beast had closed his eyes, indicating that he was taking a nap.

"Not too long, I would say. It seems you managed to refine Goro's experiences to perfection. You only took 11 hours this time, which is understandable since you didn't know anything about Goro's element."

Alephee approved of Eren taking his time to do things right. The butcher smiled before stretching his palms in front of him. He concentrated and channeled his death mana. In the next moment, an azure blue smoke spread over his palm before coating his hands.

Eren disappeared from his position and appeared near a tree. He touched its trunk with his death-element-coated hands to see how it affected the surroundings.

The tree began to die as soon as it was exposed to a faint amount of death element. It first withered and lost all its leaves before its trunk began to shrink. The tree died completely in a few moments before the wood started withering as well.

'The death element can be viewed as an Ether-subclass element. However, unlike Krista's or Rupen's elements, the death element allows more freedom in terms of its applicability.'

Eren started mumbling to himself as he watched the effects of his death element with his own eyes. Goro's comprehension of the element and his class was not enough for Eren. He needed to make them his own and draw his own conclusions to further his progress in the field. Thus, he started from the beginning.

'Death and life are two sides of the same coin. The same can be said for the death element and the life element as well. These concepts are as vague as evening fog and yet as real as morning dew.'

The five great elements and the hybrid elements that are born from them are all part of nature. The aspect and elemental fusions between these elements, therefore, are also part of nature. Thus, they are subject to the laws and restrictions of the world.'

Eren looked at the azure blue smoke covering his palms and thought to himself. He then closed his eyes and concentrated. He spread his mana sense to sense the death element around him. He was shocked to see that it was so prevalent in the surroundings.

'Every beginning has an end. And every end paves the way for a new beginning.

The one that is born has to die someday. One that is dead will come back to life someday in some other form.

Just like every other element, the death element is also part of nature. It is part of every living being and the dead. It is present in everything that is alive, dead, and everything in between.'

Eren decided to summon his own undead using Goro's spells. He spread his hands and spread the azure blue smoke that was coming from his hand into his vicinity.

In the next moment, Eren managed to locate the residual mana signatures of people that had died last night. He turned these residual signatures into ethereal shells before injecting them with his death-element mana. A distinct mana pulse spread as Eren managed to summon his first batch of the undead.

Eren was very fascinated by his first batch of the undead. They looked exactly like the undead Goro used to summon. A few of them were Adepts. And the mob undead was mostly E-Rank and below. The butcher had also inadvertently summoned some rankless beings that were no different from powerless zombies.

Eren's undead looked more responsive than Goro's though. It was as if the butcher had already made a bit of progress on his path as a necromancer. The butcher was expecting quick progress like this from his Expert rank victim. Otherwise, the extra efforts he had put into slaying a C-Ranker would have gone to waste.

The undead summoned by Eren growled at anything and everything alive, including their summoner. They waited for his order, ready to die once again so that they could enjoy the peace of eternal slumber and solitude once again.

The butcher started walking through his summons. He observed them using his normal senses, mana sense, and soul sense. He started understanding more concepts about his new element and class while doing it.

'Those who are perfectly alive will have the life and death elements in their bodies in balance. Those who have died completely will have their own equilibrium.

The unusual happens when someone breaks the balance using external forces, such as introducing life or death elements into the equation. The cycle of life and death is affected at that point.

If the scale tips in favor of the life element, a person lives fast and dies soon. When the scale gets tipped toward the death element, they will die fast and come back to life in another form.

The undead!'

[Chapter 876 Reanimation Array And Contracted Undead](#)

"Heh! I really didn't give this guy any chance to take these out."

Eren chuckled to himself as he looked at Goro's chopped hand. He knew exactly what Goro had in his storage through his memories.

Eren had separated Goro's hand from his body before absorbing him so that he could access the dead necromancer's belongings. It took Eren some time to wipe out an Expert ranker's mana signature from his ID stone. But he managed to do so eventually.

Swoosh!

Eren took out the corpses of three rankers from Goro's storage. They were dead a long time ago but looked like they had just died, with no visible injury on their bodies. There was a C-Rank undead in the group, while the other two looked to be in the last stages of D-Rank.

Contracted Undead!

This was Goro's class-specific spell that he could use with the bodies of the dead rankers he had already pre-processed. The contracted undead would have better access to their memories and spells. They would lack souls. But they would be able to move like they were alive due to their retained memories.

The Army of the Dead was Goro's mob summoning spell. It would allow him to summon random undead related to a place or item depending on how he used the spell. The summoned undead would belong to C-Rank or lower depending upon the shells created from the residual mana signatures as well as the amount of death-element mana Goro cared to inject into them.

Goro's undead summoned by the Army of the Dead spell was akin to mindless corpses that knew how to move and pay attention to Goro's basic instructions. The undead's limited access to spells from when they were alive didn't give them the edge they needed.

However, Contract Undead addressed this problem and allowed Goro to collect the corpses of capable rankers. Under the influence of the reanimation array, the preprocessed corpses of these entities could be reanimated. The process ensured that the reanimated corpses of these rankers would serve as his loyal subordinates and not betray him after developing the pseudo-consciousness they were reanimated with.

The only downside of using the contract undead was the fact that it could not be used on the spot for random rankers at the scene. It needed a preprocessed body of the ranker along with the death-element contract array on it. The spell induces pseudo-consciousness with this reanimation array, which also serves as a master-servant contract between the reanimator and the reanimated.

This pseudo-consciousness was created based on the dead ranker's remaining intact memories. The reanimation array in conjunction with the death element powered the pseudo-consciousness of the undead as well as their spells. The preprocess ensured the reanimation didn't rebel against the necromancer.

Eren felt like he had dodged a bullet by not allowing Goro to depend on an incoming backup. He just needed a few minutes of alone time to reanimate the corpses in his storage. The butcher would have had to face a lot of trouble if the necromancer had managed to breathe fake life into his human dolls.

The butcher also realized why Goro mistook Alephee's identity. While looking at Goro's contracted undead bodies, he spoke up.

"I can now understand why Goro thought you were a necromancer. He had kinda the same spell as your Corpse Dance, achieving the same effect differently."

The homunculus was swinging her legs in the air while writing something in her grimoire. Upon hearing Eren's words, she stopped her work and disappeared from her place.

She appeared beside the butcher before commenting.

"Hmm. We would have had to fight in unison had Goro managed to summon these corpses for himself and activate the fake consciousnesses residing within them. I'll go ahead and add that he had a soul-related injury. Possibly due to conducting a necromancing experiment? Only you know better.

That's why he was hesitating to use these corpses from the start.

Goro needed Nico Chains or Rehaal's support to activate these human dolls in peace. Unfortunately for him, that backup never arrived."

Eren nodded at Alephee's prediction right away. Goro was indeed conducting a lot of experiments related to the death element as well as necromancy. That's why he had the soul-strengthening potion with him, which he had used on himself after knowing Eren had an awakened soul sense.

Goro had progressed a lot in his ranking journey and needed experiments like these to enhance his elemental attainments. Without elemental attainment, his ranking status would have been basically stagnant.

Still, Eren had come to realize that the knowledge Goro contained regarding the death element wasn't complete. It was missing something very significant.

Goro felt like he wasn't making full use of his class and his affinity for the death element. The knowledge he had access to was never enough. And he had no set guidelines. Still, he recognized that there was a piece of the puzzle he was missing.

When Goro reached the rank of C, he realized this. Yet, the necromancer couldn't really put a finger on it. Eren didn't want to have the same bottleneck as Goro after acquiring his knowledge. Therefore, he asked Alephee right away.

"Alephee, how would you describe the death element?"

Alephee was looking at the dead bodies of Goro's contracted undead. She destroyed them right away using her time-element spells, breaking the contract and letting them rot to nothingness.

She pondered a bit before answering Eren's question.

"Um... It is difficult to describe Death within the framework of Anfang, Eren. Mostly because the rankers here are not used to imbuing their will or intent into their attacks and mana.

There is an unrepressed intent in death-element mana. An intent to corrode, rot, decay, and become inertia. Unlike other regular elements, it can't be controlled with sufficient finesse by rankers. This is because they don't know how to deal with the intent infused in the mana of the death element.

Every elemental mana contains some form of intent for that matter. Fire-element mana, for example, has the basic intent of incinerating anything it comes into contact with. Take out the ranker's control of the fire-element mana and it would still behave as per its basic intent.

The same is true for other elements as well. It's just that it is more obvious for the life and death element mana. That's because any World's Will makes sure that the intent of life and death element mana remains unsuppressed for steady functioning of its lifeforms.

The wielders of the death element need to add their own will or intent to their spells to make them pack a serious punch. Otherwise, they'll be limited by the peculiarities of their own element."

[Chapter 877 Intent-Driven Magic & Its Relation With Sin Series Abilities](#)

"Adding will and intent to spells, huh?"

Eren was a bit confused by Alephee's words. It was the first time he had heard of mana with intent. Thus, he asked Alephee to elaborate further.

Alephee used the same spell she had used before and pulled Eren into a domain in which time had almost completely stopped. For some reason, she seemed to be in control of the domain she had cast this time.

This was a precaution she had taken against Anfang's continent-spanning array. She knew that this was the right time for Eren to know about these things. Thus, she decided to explain to him with examples.

"The rankers of Anfang know that there are grades of mana. They defined these grades as F to S ranks. The mana grades were harnessed by rankers of that grade. Thus, the ranking statuses of Novice to Sage ranks were defined.

However, ranks are not the only scale on which mana can be distinguished. There exists a different type of mana that comes with intent at its core.

The life and death elements can be considered non-elemental mana with one's will and intent as the main focus. The intent is integrated into such a type of mana by the World's Will itself."

Eren started to understand what Alephee was saying when she started describing things in layman's terms. He was immediately reminded of his Sin Series Abilities. Alephee smiled and confirmed his doubts.

"That's right. Your Sin Series Abilities. You know they use otherworldly mana, right? Why can't you use those Abilities using this world's mana? Have you ever had this question?"

The Sin Series Abilities are bizarre and grant you extraordinary powers the likes of which the regular ranker of Anfang has never seen. That's because they are fueled by a different type of mana. A tier higher than regular mana.

The mana that you summon and use for your Sin Series Abilities contains intent of their own. The emotions of wrath and lust are intentions. Thus, those who are affected by mana get affected by anger or lust."

Eren was allowed to move inside the time-element domain by Alephee. He scratched his light stubble with his right hand before nodding. He took out a Sativa Stick from his storage and lit it up. Processing various thoughts in his mind, he asked his next question.

"Let's put aside the topic of the life and death element mana for a while. What is the difference between a will and an intent? And if one's intent can get imbued into a spell, can it also get integrated into the mana itself?"

Asking this, he took a long drag from his Sativa Stick. The smoke he released soon afterward stayed around his nose and didn't disappear because of the time-element domain. He had to step back from his previous position to clear his vision of the smoke while waiting for the homunculus' answer.

Alephee kept track of the continent-spanning array's reaction to the talk they had.

"Intent is simply an unwavering will, devoid of doubts. For example, a ranker might want to get a certain resource for themselves. That would be their will. When they decide that nothing can stop them from having that resource, we call it intent.

A will is merely an expression of what you desire. The intent is the amount of effort you are ready to put into achieving that goal. A person's intent gets stronger or weaker depending on how they cultivate it within themselves.

A stronger intent is born when you develop self-confidence in yourself. When you defend, your intent has to be 'I won't let them harm me.' That's a stronger intent than the mere 'I am angry at them for hurting me' or the will that says 'I don't want to get hurt.'

When you attack, your self-confidence needs to scream 'I will kill them'. When you are protecting someone, your intent has to be 'I won't let them die.'

At the pinnacle of having unwavering intent, you don't need things like a mana core, mana circuits, mana sense, artifacts, potions, or even a mortal vessel to cast intent-based magic. When you learn to cultivate unwavering intent within you, magic happens just the way you want it without ever needing to control it.

That's what lies beyond acquiring an Ability. An Ability is when a spell stops being a spell. An unwavering intent is when the magic really starts looking like magic— logic-defying and beyond belief."

Eren was fascinated by the fact that he still had so many things to learn about the foundation of being a ranker even after technically living two lifetimes. He felt that he would need to live another life to cultivate a stronger intent.

"I never heard of this way of casting magic. Can I cast it - intent-based magic? How beneficial would it be for me if I invested my time in this field as well?"

Eren asked while taking a drag out of his Sativa Stick. He felt the effects of the smoke filling his lungs and calming him. Thus, he managed to keep an open mind about the newly discovered field. He was indeed shocked by this new perspective on casting magic. However, he didn't let it overwhelm him.

"This concept is not as novel as you think it is, Eren. It's more like you haven't fully realized how familiar you are with it ever since you started your ranking journey as a Novice.

A ranker's will is involved in their spell when they cast their normal spells. It's just that most rankers do it subconsciously. Or the spell's mnemonics take care of that part for them by integrating their mana sense into them. Your mana sense is also a representative of your will or your intent after all.

Casting a spell with intent-based magic occurs when a ranker consciously integrates their will into the spell. The difference between an intentional and an unintentional action can be tremendous.

They say that there would be at least 100 ways to achieve something you want if there were not 10000. A person who is willing to rise above normalcy will eventually succeed in their endeavors.

A stronger intent can bring out the same benefits as you can get with the precise mana control that you are currently training for. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

[Chapter 878 Hex Magic](#)

Eren started thinking about Alephee's question and came up with something that was based on what he had learned so far about intent-based magic.

"It means a spell cast regularly will pale in comparison when it is cast with stronger intent. It will allow rankers to get more out of any spell than their rudimentary capabilities."

Alephee nodded at Eren's explanation before adding up.

"That's right. If the rankers know how to integrate their spells with their intent and the intent is strong enough, a Novice ranker would be able to defeat an Adept ranker or higher. Things might not be as easy as I'm making them out to be. It is not easy to cultivate a strong intent in the first place. But I guess you get the gist of what I'm saying."

Eren nodded at Alephee after some time. He felt that she shouldn't have told him about this. That's because his desire to learn intent-based magic was getting to him. However, he already had his hands full gaining absolute control over his mana circuits. As such, he didn't have time to chase another mythical unicorn.

Alephee chuckled when she sensed what Eren was thinking about. She shook her head in denial before adding up.

"Don't get so downhearted, Eren. Mana sense is not the only representation of one's intent. There's a better way to cast intent-based magic. You must learn to integrate your soul sense into spells.

The mana sense and soul sense both serve as carriers for the ranker's intent. It comes down to which one is a better carrier. Strong intent would not be useful by itself if you didn't have a reliable carrier

available for it. If you choose to consciously integrate your mana sense into your spells, you will need the aid of special artifacts.

You can compare a mana sense to a surface of almost stagnant water that partially reflects your intention. On the other hand, a soul sense is like a clear mirror that reflects your intent as it is. Since you have already awakened your soul sense, things will become really easy for you."

Eren's eyes lit up when he heard he could use his soul sense for something other than frightening and intimidating his opponents. But Alephee's next words dampened his excitement.

"Don't become too greedy. I recommend that you focus on your current training. Your mana control is only beginning to show some real progress.

Could you have imagined taking down an Expert ranker so easily without such precise mana control to back you up? The Blink spell that you use alone would have created a lot of problems for you had you used it like regular people. It was thanks to that precise control that you were able to kill these opponents so effortlessly. So it would be foolish for you to halt the process now."

Eren wanted to argue that Goro's soul injury as well as the fact that he had two classes were also contributing factors to his victory against a C-ranker. The necromancer wasn't prepared for someone who could do summoning and close combat battles both. It did not allow Goro to show off his strengths against Eren. Eren, on the other hand, managed to bring all of his talents to the table with the combat style he had adopted against Goro.

However, he had to admit that his excellent mana control allowed him to cast spells quickly and effortlessly while keeping his mana consumption in check. His usage of the Blink Spell alone had been refined to perfection for him by his mana control. That's why he didn't disturb Alephee and let her speak without interruption.

"It is not the right time for you to start training in this field. You'd need a strong soul sense for you to see tangible benefits in using intent-based magic. I'd say break into the B-Rank first before you start investing your time and efforts in intent-based magic.

What you can do instead to get started in the field is imbue your weapon attacks with your intent. Weapon-based attacks are easier to integrate one's intent into. This will provide an additional edge to your weapon-based attacks while not derailing you from your current progress toward having complete mana control."

Eren raised his eyebrows once again when he listened to Alephee's suggestion. He took out his Rigour Mortis and traced over the runic inscriptions it had with his fingers before asking another question.

"Hmm. That's a reasonable way to start. But what did you mean by unique artifacts earlier? Will I need those unique artifacts for me to integrate my intent into them?"

Alephee answered his query right away.

"There's indeed a separate category of artifacts that are based on intent-based magic. Such weapons are called Hex artifacts in some worlds. The ones who use them are called Hexers. And the magic that gets cast using such artifacts is known as Hex magic.

Of course, Hex magic and Hexers don't exist in Anfang. That's because nobody takes an effort to learn how to integrate their intent into their spells here."

Eren found it strange that such a vast field of magic was left unexplored by the rankers of Anfang. He didn't think that even the cultists practiced intent-based magic. Or at least not the ones he had come across.

'I think there's something wrong with intent-based magic!'

Eren quickly deduced a possibility for why the rankers of Anfang could be so disinterested in the field of intent-based magic. Alephee confirmed his suspicions right away.

"There are indeed some adverse effects of using Hex magic, Eren. But you don't need to worry about them for now. Especially when you limit intent-based magic to weapon-based attacks.

So these things shouldn't stop you from getting acquainted with intent-driven magic. You don't need any Hex artifacts either. Your soul sense alone is enough for you to dabble with this type of magic through your regular weapons.

Imbue your soul sense with absolute certainty and strong intent. And coat your weapons with it before casting a weapon-based spell. This simple practice is enough for you to get started.

Later on, you can train your soul sense to develop stronger intent. By the time you break into B-Rank, you'll be proficient at using intent-based magic through your weapons."

[Chapter 879 First Contract Undead P1](#)

Alephee was basically setting a timeline for Eren to achieve certain things. This way, he won't go astray in his quest for unprecedented power.

She elaborated on the topic further.

"You had asked me about soul spells and I had told you it was too early for you to learn them. But I guess now's the time for you to at least know these details.

Soul spells can be seen as the evolution of Hex spells. Cultivating an intent into soul space and then using it to power your spells will make them turn into soul spells. They will not use your mana, only your intent. The stronger the intent, the more powerful your spells will turn out to be.

Since you have an awakened soul sense, you don't need to worry about casting normal Hex spells. The advantages of having a soul sense will gradually become apparent the further you climb up the ranking ladder. So my suggestion would be to start small and start early."

Eren decided to test Alephee's theory immediately. He started following her intentions as his grip around the Rigor Mortis' hilt tightened.

'I am no longer the ghost of my past. I am finally starting to mean something to myself. Let my sword cut down anything and anyone who tries to take this meaning away from me.'

A thought rippled in Eren's mind as he coated Rigor Mortis with his soul sense. The blade started humming when that happened. Eren felt like he had become one with the weapon itself for the time being. The runes on the sword lit up brighter than ever as their potential was called forth.

The butcher swung the sword in front of him abruptly and sent a flying slash forward, observing its effects closely. Following that, the sword slashes sliced through the air. This sword slash was denser with mana than ever, as evidenced by the darker shade of red-lightning mana it packed. It seemed sharper and more threatening. Also, it hummed with a faint intent to cut down anything it encountered.

Had there been a ranker in its path, they would have felt the intent first. It would have resonated with their consciousness before the attack hit them. Any lower-ranked entity than Eren would have been stunned by Eren's intent first before they could do anything about the incoming flash.

Even Eren was impressed with the improvement his simple slash received just by adding his intent to the mix. Thanks to his soul sense, he didn't have to spend time getting things right. Plus, he could only improve on his first try.

Eren raised his eyebrows when he saw the result of his own attack getting enhanced to this extent. He finished his smoke quickly and decided to conduct another experiment. The sword in his hand disappeared and was replaced with a katar. Lightning struck and the butcher appeared on a stone platform located not too far away.

This time, Eren imbued his weapon with the intent to pierce it and simply dropped it on the ground. One had to note that he neither activated the runes on the weapons nor tried to increase their lethality with his mana. This was pure intent imbued into Katar.

The tip of the katar made contact with the stone platform and slid in without apparent obstruction. In the next moment, a crack ran over the stone platform, splitting it in two. The butcher could feel that even the stone platform was affected by his intent. It was vibrating lightly as if trying to shake off the fraction of consciousness it was subjected to and come to a state of inertia as before.

"This intent-driven magic is really something. Hex magic, you say? Is there a developed structure for Hex magic in other worlds? I don't want to pioneer into the field and waste my time researching if I can help it."

Alephee appeared beside Eren's updated position and replied promptly.

"Yes. But there is nothing really profound you can learn about Hex magic or soul magic from others. Such magic begins with your intent and what you feel in your heart.

This type of magic is very personal. It does not have anything to do with what others have experienced. That's why you won't be able to devour someone's intent even with your Abilities.

You can learn about Hex gear that is better equipped to handle the intent you imbue into your weapons, though. There are also things called soul artifacts that are way better than Hex gear. You can check them out and draw inspiration from them.

Exploring other worlds is one way to have a stronger intent as well. Exploration creates desires that allow you to harness stronger intent. So it's worth a shot."

Eren nodded at Alephee's suggestion and started planning his long game. He had already learned about demon possession. According to Alephee, these wretched beings liked to take over the original denizens' bodies from other worlds and explore them for God Sparks. The butcher was planning something similar for himself by combining these two streams of knowledge.

Storing his weapon in storage, Eren stretched his arms and ran his fingers through his hair. Suddenly, he realized that his white-haired transformation was still active.

The butcher could understand why Alephee was prioritizing mana control for him. Due to his newfound control over his mana pathways and mana points, he could cast close combat spells with relative ease even while being turned into a summoner. By the time he achieves absolute control, his summoning spells and close combat spells will be cast with the same intensity by him in any transformation.

Plus, he could see himself taking more classes in the future. Thus, mana control was more necessary for Eren today than intent-driven magic. His multi-class specialty will see tremendous growth if he keeps on training his mana points and mana pathways.

[Chapter 880 First Contract Undead P2](#)

"So Sin Series Abilities work on intent-driven magic.

Wrath mana and lust mana are just mana with pure intent. I wonder if I can also create something like that with my soul sense.

If integrating intentions into spells and Abilities is possible, what would it take to integrate the intent into the very core of the mana itself?"

Eren posed another question to Alephee, which she answered right away.

"Only after reaching a certain milestone in their ranking journey can rankers birth mana with their own intent seeped into them. It is not something one can do just by having an awakened soul sense.

The spells or Abilities that are powered by such personalized mana would be so much different than the rudimentary concepts of using magic. But doing something like this is like rebelling against the world you are currently living in. Plus, when mana contains pure intent, it can't be used by anyone.

The Sin Series mana that you summon for your Abilities requires a form of a binding contract for the same reason. It's like you are using someone's personal property without their consent."

Eren placed his right hand on his heart and felt his heartbeat all of a sudden. He was reminded of the runic chains his heart was bound with when he first started using the Sin Series Abilities. He didn't understand the procedure at that time. So it could be said that another of his long-pending questions was answered by Alephee.

The homunculus carried on with her speech as the butcher was seemingly lost in his thoughts.

"Creating mana with individual intent is not something you can do with your current powers at this point. However, the things I said just now will help you get the full potential out of your necromancer powers.

Goro didn't know anything about intent-driven magic or its nuances. He lacked a huge piece of the puzzle because he was a typical ranker from Anfang. Hence he couldn't make full use of his affinity and spells.

But you are different from Goro even in this aspect. The death mana is pure intent. If you wish to harness it to the best of your abilities, you need to control it using another intent."

After Alephee finished talking about other worlds, she released the time-element barrier she had kept for so long. Eren was glad that a lot of his queries were answered by her, bringing him more clarity on how to make use of his newly acquired necromancer powers.

"Heh! This death mana is infused with pure intent, right? What will happen if I pair it with similar non-elemental mana?"

Eren knew by instinct that wrath mana wouldn't get injected into mob summons because they did not have completely organic vessels. However, he wanted to try out his wrath mana on contracted undead that had their bodies intact.

Lightning struck and Eren approached where Meera Medinah and Rehaal were kept. He wanted to create a contracted undead out of a member of Edinburgh's special forces.

Meera Medinah opened her eyes after what seemed like a long time. She was lying on what seemed to be a small stone platform that looked like a single bed. All her military-issue gear was taken from her. She didn't even have clothes on her.

This single bed had necromancy-related runic inscriptions that would illuminate from time to time. Meera's hands were tied above her head as she was made to sleep on this platform. Her legs were also tied using runic bindings cast by Alephee.

This was the preprocess required to create a contract undead. Since Eren couldn't make use of Goro's human dolls, he decided to make his own using the "resources" he had lying around.

Meera had blurred vision and groggy memories of recent events. She barely remembered that she had fought with a young girl in a black dress. This young girl absolutely rolled over anything Meera threw her way. Even though she appeared to be in the D-Rank, she easily defeated Expert-ranked Meera.

Meera was just beginning to process her recent memories of that horrible battle as she opened her eyes.

"Where... where am I? And why the fuck..."

Meera's line of questioning was halted when she felt something sharp pierce her heart. She looked down at her chest and saw that someone had pierced her heart using a space-element dagger without creating an open wound.

"Aaaaaaaaah!"

Meera was jolted back into reality when she felt the dagger getting twisted while lodged inside her heart. She screamed and tried to get up. However, the runic bindings on her limbs lit up and prevented her from making any sudden commotion.

Meera's blurred vision was cleared soon enough as teardrops started rolling down the edges of her eyes. She found that she had been stabbed by a young man with white hair and blue eyes.

"Who... who... wait. Eren Idril!"

Meera identified Eren by his facial features. She had a lot of blank spaces in her head. But at this point, she realized that Eren had defeated the entire ambush team. And she was forced to participate in a macabre ceremony.

Eren didn't feel like replying to Meera's questions. The whats, whys, and whos would soon become irrelevant to her. Meanwhile, he injected his wrath mana into her body before continuing with the undead ceremony.

One had to say that Meera managed to keep a straight head despite the grim situation she had found herself in. She was robbed of access to casting spells. And her exceptional body stats were basically useless because of the runic bindings.

Therefore, Meera tried to tempt Eren into releasing her. She then started to threaten him. But all that fell on deaf ears as the butcher continued with the ceremony.

It took Eren a while to complete the process because Meera was a rank above him. Alephee's assistance also helped him in the process. The butcher took a long breath before pulling out the space-element dagger when he successfully created a reanimation array on Meera's body. It made its presence known on Meera's chest in a red tattoo, before disappearing.

"Wakey wakey, sleepy head!"

Eren clapped his hands in joy and made his first undead contract arise from her slumber.