

## Vile 881

### [Chapter 881 Creating Royal Conspiracy P1](#)

Rehaal Renar was dreaming.

He was dreaming about the time when he gets all the pieces of the puzzle together and completes the royal quest. He was dreaming about the time when he gets declared as the heir apparent to the throne.

With the right royal power, even the Sages will do his bidding at the right price. There will be an unprecedented level of fame and respect that he will receive from everyone in the kingdom of Edinburgh. And lastly, the right to have a large harem of all the top-notch beauties. Even becoming the heir apparent to the throne was enough for Rehaal to experience finer things in life.

Rehaal liked the place his dreamland was taking him. He was just easing into his dream when he was woken up from his slumber. It took him a while to distinguish between dream and reality when he opened his eyes. The guy was disappointed that it was just a dream and angry at the person who had woken him up so rudely.

He had been slapped in the face and woken up. By the very person who was supposed to look after him.

"What the fuck are you up to, Meera? Is this a way to treat..."

Rehaal rubbed his right cheek with his hand as he said it. However, he stopped his speech after he saw that two people were standing behind Meera. Rehaal opened his eyes wide when he saw that one of them was Eren Idril— the target of the ambush team.

"Expert Meera! Kill him right this instant. Kill him and let the city of White Raven fall. This bastard has messed up with me far too many times."

Rehaal pointed at Eren and urged Meera to take action. For some reason, he kept thinking that Meera was simply not aware of the target's location. However, Meera just stood still and looked at him angrily. As if anger was the only emotion she could show at the time.

"Fascinating, isn't it?"

Rehaal heard Eren speak. The royal scion was about to open his mouth to speak. But he soon found out that Eren's words weren't directed at him. The girl in a black Gothic dress responded to Eren.

"Indeed. You have managed to retain a wisp of her soul that is completely in your control just by adding wrath mana to the mix before the ceremony. I told you that you needed to replace the intentions hidden in death mana with something else. To prevent the dead body from reverting to its dead state. I was only trying to create a clear picture for you.

But frankly, I wasn't expecting something like this. She is hanging between life and death now. She won't be able to break into the next rank anymore being a human doll. But she is as good as a real Expert ranker."

Alephée felt impressed by the results Eren had obtained after the ceremony. The latter chuckled before adding up.

"Goro was trying to create a living undead like her through his soul-related experiments and got his soul injured because of it. He had come up with a few changes to the ceremony by himself. I just took inspiration from the results he had obtained and used wrath mana to complete the puzzle he couldn't."

Alephee nodded at Eren. She then looked at Eren mischievously before adding a sarcastic tone.

"I'm glad you didn't inject lust mana into her body before the ceremony. Otherwise, things could have been much different. Let's just say all her battle potential would have been ruined."

Eren started laughing like a hyena when he heard Alephee's comment.

"Kekeke. Don't put ideas in my head."

He then stared at a confused Rehaal before adding up.

"\*Sigh. Too bad she can't talk coherently. Otherwise, I would have created a living undead out of this doofus as well. He would have served me well as my royal sponsor."

Eren sighed and looked at Rehaal like it was a lost opportunity to tap into the royal reserve. He couldn't get anything out of Rodrick at this point. The guy was so broke these days, Eren resisted the urge to kick him out of his city every time he thought about it. Rehaal could have been a boon for him to get more royal resources for himself and his guild. He could only lament the fact that his necromancy still had some limitations.

"What... what the fuck are you guys talking about? And Expert Meera, why the fuck are you looking at me like that? Kill the rats standing behind you. That's what we came here to..."

Rehaal froze in his speech once again when he realized that Eren was fine after the ambush was over. They had a large ambush team when they started. However, there was nobody to be seen around him except Meera Medinah.

Rehaal immediately spread his mana sense and tried to find answers to some of his questions. When he did, those questions led him to answers he wasn't willing to accept.

"You... you killed them all?"

Rehaal had a shake in his voice when he asked Eren. The butcher pursed his lips before correcting.

"No! I am not a bloodthirsty killer that kills in rage, man.

The bitch... err... Sienna Slughorn is alive. The one that is standing beside you is also kinda... sorta... alive-ish. Then there's you. So that's... two and a half rankers!"

Rehaal tried to get away from the scene when he heard Eren's answer. However, Meera's aura kept him from making any sudden moves. She drew her sword from the scabbard behind her back and pointed its tip at Rehaal, freezing him in his action.

'Bitch what is wrong with you? Let me run the fuck away in peace.'

Rehaal had this thought in his mind. He just didn't have the guts to voice them in front of an angry Meera.

"What are you planning to do with him? You told me to spare him. Surely, you have a plan."

### [Chapter 882 Creating Royal Conspiracy P2](#)

"What are you planning to do with him? You told me to spare him. Surely, you have a plan."

Alephee asked Eren in an inquisitive tone. He scratched his chin before saying matter-of-factly.

"This shit between me and these guys should stay between us. It'll only trouble me and my city more if I let it spill over. So I'm planning to paint a picture of a royal conspiracy. We already have the right colors. We just need someone to bring them here."

Eren said casually as he thought of Krista, Rupen, and Lambert. He then used an artifact to contact Agatha then and there. After a bit of flirtatious talk and some work-related stuff, he asked her if there was someone available at the guild who could bring the handicapped and rune-bound members of Edinburgh's secret force here.

Agatha asked Will Evaan to do the job. Although he was from Levine's camp, he had gotten used to handling things for the White Raven guild. The guy agreed immediately.

Eren's plan was simple. Paint the whole thing as a fight between two royal scions using the kingdom's secret forces as their goons. Naturally, the groups that created the ambush teams wouldn't believe the royal conspiracies at first, even if they had allowed Rehaal to take part. But they wouldn't come out in the open to call Eren's royal conspiracy out.

Eren wasn't sure about the plan when he started crafting it after meeting with Shalen Craft. But now that he had Meera as his live undead, it was easier to pull off. If he played his cards right, even the organizations involved in the ambush would start assuming that Eren got away because of the fight between two royal scions.

The loopholes in the conspiracy would be filled by the conspiracy itself. He had seen that happen with the Osan Woods' Butcher case. He believed that the more loopholes, the more mysterious the royal conspiracy would be.

Alephee understood Eren's plans as soon as he asked Will to bring them to Krista and company. They were simply kept alive without any working limbs attached to their bodies. The crime scene Eren had created at his ambush site would serve as their final resting place.

Eren would let Meera kill the three secret force members using her weapon. Their runic marks will register her as the killer. The butcher would just muddy the waters more by killing Rehaal in the most brutal way possible.

It was already made clear by Rehaal that royal scions would use the kingdom's secret forces for their own gains. Eren would portray Krista and the company as hired help, just like Meera was for Rehaal.

Eren was planning to include Sienna in the royal conspiracy as well, creating a mess for House Slughorn. He would then kill her at a different place to finally be done with her.

"Eren Idril, listen to me. If you spare me, I'll never bother you again. I'll also grant you..."

Rehaal was slowly catching up with what Eren had in his mind. Eren was aiming to use Rehaal as a tool to create a royal conspiracy around him. He knew that it would work better than he cared to admit. Because that's how cutthroat the contest among royal scions was.

"Meera, do it."

Eren didn't pay much attention to Rehaal after he was done preparing for the conspiracy. He let his first living undead finish his job for him.

Swoosh. Zoom. Chop.

Rehaal's head was severed from his torso by Meera's sword. Coincidentally, Rehaal also had a curse mark on his body that would kill his attacker right away as long as he was C-Rank or below. The curse mark would also record the assailant's mana signature, letting the royal house know who killed him.

Meera's mana signature was recorded in the curse mark on Rehaal's chest, which was only visible in the form of a runic tattoo. It spread forth a unique mana pulse and destroyed Meera's heart right away using a mysterious spell.

Eren and Alephee both looked at each other and chuckled when they felt Meera's heart being destroyed. As Meera was now a living undead, she didn't even flinch when her heart was destroyed. Upon Eren's orders, she drank Ice Fairy's Kiss and restored it right away.

Now that the curse mark was removed, Rehaal's body was safe to approach. Eren got near it and accessed his ID stone right away. As a royal scion, Rehaal was bound to have his personal stash of riches on him. Eren wasn't disappointed by his assumption as it turned out to be true.

"Sweet. This should cover my rent for the caravan as well as the efforts I had to put in to come out of it and finish this job."

Eren took all the Extols Rehaal had on him in his storage along with his other resources. He destroyed the ones Alephee told him not to take. Just when he was about to be done with discarding the random things Rehaal had on himself, he found a few pieces of a chipped sword that looked special.

"Hm? What are these?"

Eren mumbled to himself as he levitated the pieces of the chipped sword around him. It took him a while to figure out what they were.

"Are these the pieces of the royal puzzle? The ones Rodrick was looking for?"

Alephee pondered a bit and scanned them with her soul sense before confirming Eren's suspicions.

"Yes. You don't have any use for them though. The sword is a transcendent weapon, no doubt. But you will need all of the pieces to make it whole. And I don't think you should be looking for royal scions to hunt just for the sake of this sword."

Eren shook his head in denial before making Alephee understand what he was thinking about.

"I don't intend to use the weapon myself. But I also won't leave these pieces here. I'd rather give them to Rodrick and make him owe me some more."

Hehe. That bastard would know we had a hand to play in Rehaal's death. But I don't think he would resist the urge to have these pieces for himself."

### [Chapter 883 Clean-Up Crew](#)

Will Evaan appeared at the scene of the battle using a space-element array.

He was accompanied by Renar, Viper, and Seref. Seref was a D-Rank plant monster Will, Renar, and Viper had trained. Under their guidance and with the right resources, Seref had transformed himself into a functional member of the rankers' society.

Eren had already left the place with Alephee, Argo, and Sienna. He had given Will's team all the instructions they needed to create a royal conspiracy. He had left the living undead Meera on the battlefield. Krista's team was supposed to be killed by her hand.

Meera had worn a mask to cover her face. Alephee had cast her own magic on her that wouldn't make her come across as a living undead. Will was instructed to deliver Krista, Lambert, and Ruper to her and she would take care of them using instructions imprinted on her consciousness by Eren.

Will saw Meera and nodded at her. The living undead nodded back. Will then proceeded to observe the battlefield and see what Eren had left for them to clean.

Will was a mini giant with a 12-foot stature. He could see things from an elevated point of view from Renar. He looked at Eren's battlefield with a serious look on his face before commenting.

"Your boss has left no stone unturned in making our job difficult. We ended up becoming his clean-up crew."

Renar could also see the signs of death and destruction still present in the surroundings. He nodded to Will's words and responded.

"True. He should have at least given us a heads-up a month before. We have so much work back at home and now this. I'll demand extra pay from him for all of us."

Seref nodded affirmatively before uncorking a vial of Potion of Innocence. He drank the vial and let it get processed by his system before commenting.

"Seref needs some more water and sunlight exposure. Seref doesn't want to stay in the underground facility anymore."

Seref could synthesize potions in his system and mirror their effects in his wood-element creation spells. As such, he was an ideal choice for Eren to clear his residual signature from the crime scene more thoroughly and precisely.

Seref could also communicate with Eren's woodland creatures in a limited capacity. Upon Eren's instructions, they would listen to Seref and help the team keep the three hostages alive and handicapped.

Viper's eyes twinkled when he heard about extra pay from Renar. He also made his demands clear.

"I... I need some bonus and paid vacation to spend some time with my girl."

Will looked at Renar and the company and shook his head. He sighed before getting to work. They were indeed Eren's clean-up crew, who summoned her to muddy the waters for him and create a royal conspiracy.

Behind the group were the limbless Krista, Rupen, and Lambert. They still had a woodland creature stuck to their bodies, which was siphoning their life essence at a steady pace.

Will and his team got to work while Meera approached the three rankers.

Will saw the number of bodies Eren had left behind for them and had stress lines on his forehead. Whoever the butcher killed was in particularly terrible condition. And when he found Nico Chains' dead body along with his dead demon beast, he knew how critical his task was.

'Master Levine had picked up a dangerous student for herself. They say that Demonmir was like a death storm for his enemies in his early years. This guy is no different from him. I wonder what would happen if they met face to face after this mess gets known to Demonmir.'

Will sighed once again before disintegrating the bodies with his spell. Eren reminded him of Demonmir. Except, Demonmir had the protection and resources of his clan backing him.

Eren, on the other hand, was a self-made man. And after observing the carnage he had unleashed on the battlefield, one could argue that he was even more of a demon than Demonmir himself.

Keeping Will and the team on the scene crafting a royal conspiracy, Eren ensured that neither the White Raven guild nor his city would get into trouble. It didn't assure him of his safety one bit. But that was something he couldn't help with anyway.

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Sienna Slughorn opened her eyes and her vision slowly returned to her.

"Re... Regan. Where..."

Sienna remembered that she was in the midst of a battle with the ambush target before she was forcefully put into slumber. She tried to channel her mana through her body to get rid of the drowsiness and fatigue she was feeling.

A binding rune, however, had cut off her access to her mana core. A woodland creature held Sienna in her embrace, siphoning her life essence and making her too weak to do anything but remain awake.

"You! Eren Idril!"

Sienna opened her eyes wide in shock when she started to look around. That's because she found a black-haired green-eyed man staring at her with a blank face.

"Eren, release me this instant. You do know which House I belong to, right? You are already in trouble with all the wrong people. Don't dare to..."

Sienna was about to continue what she was about to say when Eren looked away from her. Only now did Sienna realize that a young girl was standing beside Eren in a black Gothic dress.

"It's funny really. I no longer hate her even after seeing her in front of me. At least not as much as I thought I did. I'll kill her just to put an end to the matter. But that's just it."

Eren opened up to Alephee. He realized that the satisfaction that he was going to have in killing Sienna was not because he was about to kill her. However, the chapter that he had opened in my past life was coming to an end.

Alephee looked at Eren and observed his expressions. She felt his steady heartbeat and his serene mind. There was a certain calmness that was getting reflected in his eyes.

The homunculus smiled before commenting casually.

"Go ahead, Eren. We often close one chapter in our lives to start another. Get rid of the calluses you have on your heart."

### [Chapter 884 Something More Profound Than Luck](#)

"Hahahaha!"

Sienna started laughing when she heard Eren talk with Alephee. After staring at them viciously, she threatened them.

"You are thinking of finishing me off just because I was part of the ambush team? So what if we tried to kill you? So what if I was part of the ambush team?"

Eren, get this thing in your fucking head that some people are meant to suppress others and some are meant to be suppressed. That's just the way the world works. You may not like the world we live in because you are destined to be subjugated. But that doesn't exempt you from following the rules of the world.

You don't need me to tell you the price you'd have to pay for disobedience. Especially when so many forces are standing against you as a united front."

Eren listened to all of Sienna's threats peacefully. He listened to them like he had all the time in the world. One could tell that he was savoring this moment. He sighed before getting close to Sienna. He walked around her with his palms facing his back before speaking to her.

"You know, Sienna. I always thought that it was my fault for getting infatuated with you in my... let's say past life. I thought it was because of me that I was head over heels for you at that time. If I had just avoided you completely and stuck to my lane, things would have been much different for me in my past life. I am not saying that I would have been a very successful person. But I am sure that things would have turned out fine for me.

More often than not, victims themselves indulge in the act of victim-blaming. They just can't avoid getting sucked down the rabbit hole of 'what ifs' and 'could haves.' I was no different back then."

Sienna was caught off guard when she heard Eren was infatuated with her. She didn't know that their rare meeting in LA would cause Eren to have feelings for her. Of course, she didn't know that Eren was talking about his past timeline. She just assumed herself to be special and decided to use Eren's 'supposed' feelings to her advantage.

"Eren... you... you should have told me this sooner. The thing is... I also.."

Eren shook his head in denial and slammed her shut by controlling the woodland creature embracing her from behind. The summoned creature used her green vines as a gag to shut Sienna's mouth.

"You don't need to say anything, Sienna. Your job is to listen. This is not for you. It's for me."

Eren took out another Sativa Stick from his storage and lit it up. He kept on walking in circles with Sienna at the center. Releasing the first drag through his nostrils, he continued.

"Heh! If I had learned nothing from my past, seeing you in front of me would have still invoked a sense of anger in me. If I was as much of a failure as I had been in my past life, those memories would have kept on scarring my consciousness day by day. And this meeting would have been a complete revenge story.

It would have been sad for me to finish you off if I was the same old Eren. Because no matter what, those memories would stay with me for as long as I was alive.

But that's not the case anymore. I managed to change the perspective of looking at those memories. I wouldn't want them to be forgotten in my mind anymore. Things from the past put a smile on my face now. Because I have achieved a semblance of success by using them as my driving force."

'This guy has lost it. If only someone from the ambush team was left alive and came to rescue me...'

Sienna thought to herself and tried to break free from the woodland creature's embrace. She also tried to cast her spell using various means but those attempts were unsuccessful as well.

She had tried contacting Regan and her team using a voice communication channel. However, the dead response informed her that they had already been killed by Eren.

Eren ignored Sienna's futile attempts to escape and continued.

"Fate is a fickle mistress, Sienna. She was never with me in my past timeline. And I don't think she extends any favors to me in this life either. But I have come to cherish something much more profound than fate. And I learned to trust it over any form of luck or destiny.

I trust the process now.

The waiting one has to undergo to reap the rewards of their efforts is worth it to me. I embrace the uncertainty of getting those rewards. And lastly, I enjoy the act of becoming.

Because when nothing is uncertain for me, that's when anything becomes possible for me. Who gives a flying fuck that I had a poor start? That I was a broken man who had a lot of baggage behind my back. That I had reached rock bottom. So much so that the only way for me to proceed forward was to climb out of the abyss from the other side."

Eren released another cloud of white smoke that was filling his lungs and found himself relaxing. For some reason, he felt like this was the most satisfying Sativa Stick he had had in months.

Eren took out Dicerus Left and Right from his storage when he was done smoking. He started handling his weapon set using both his hands. The weapons danced around the butcher like they had a mind of



their own. As Sienna stood motionless not too far away, the punching daggers cut through the air and caused ripples of mana that felt threatening to her.

While he continued to walk around Sienna, Eren enjoyed handling his weapons. If his previous mentor Marla was here, she would have been shocked by how far Eren had come in mastering the katars.

Sienna was starting to get terrified by how Eren was behaving. She had come to realize that the guy didn't fear her clan. Despite so many powerful forces against him, he did not care if he was their common enemy. As if he was waiting for them to attack him with all they got.

### [Chapter 885 Trust The Process](#)

Sienna never had to fear for her life before this day.

Her life was never in actual danger even when she was out hunting monsters for fun. Or when she was handling the clan's business. Even the mock battles she had to go through all her life never really harmed her.

So when she felt the threatening sensations from Eren's weapon, she felt goosebumps on her skin.

'I... I could die here!'

Sienna realized this as she watched Eren lose himself in his trance handling his weapons. The flying slashes he was sending around him were not lethal at first because he wasn't using his mana. But his elemental attainments were slowly starting to manifest. Soon those slashes would cause her a great deal of pain and eventually lead to her death if they land on her.

Eren started speaking up again— more for himself than for any of his listeners.

"Sometimes when things don't work out our way, there might be something better in store for us. It is very difficult to believe in this possibility, and I understand that better than anyone else. Especially when it looks like the entire world is conspiring against us.

Our only job is to trust the process and make conscious efforts to achieve what we want. There needs to be a sense of desperation in our efforts. And that very dash of desperation will work its magic one day.

Sometimes, redirection is just the thing we want in life without us knowing about it. The unintended and unforeseen lead us away from obstacles we cannot see-- towards blessings we could not count on.

Sometimes, we are gifted with lofty goals and larger-than-life dreams from the mistakes we commit.

Sometimes, we just need to have the right kind of hunger to achieve the unfathomable. And this hunger can only be cultivated when we are deprived of the things we want."

Eren's voice started reverberating in the surroundings like it had come from different sources all at once. His various elemental attainments were causing this phenomenon.

If there was a normal ranker present at the scene, they would have been shocked by the number of elemental attainments Eren was cultivating for himself. They would have branded the butcher as a madman before understanding the fact that it was simply impossible for anybody to progress this further in these many elemental comprehensions using normal methods.

Alephée could tell that Eren was in a battle trance as he let his feelings drive his actions. His monologue to himself was a way for him to know more about himself.

"After living a life across the spectrum of success and failure, I have witnessed the facets it has to offer to all living beings. I have seen talented people get their bursts of fame before running themselves into the ground. And I have seen less talented but consistent people eventually succeed.

When we see and experience things like these, they start teaching us lessons we kind of already know. The trick is to hold a lofty goal and work passionately towards achieving it. The price is not the goal but the process itself. We just need to find the right path to walk on and the rest of the stuff will figure itself out."

Eren's elemental attainments were getting more profound as he kept on speaking to himself out loud. His presence started dominating one moment, then waned the next.

Alephée kept her silence as she watched the frightened-looking Sienna. The latter's eyes were bloody and her face was red because of the efforts she was putting in to escape the bindings she was subjected to. She had managed to send her mana circuits into hyperdrive but the runic bindings prevented her from casting spells and made her receive backlashes instead.

Unbeknownst to Eren, Sienna's mana signatures were also fluctuating. As if she was turning into someone else. Alephée narrowed her eyes at Sienna before thinking to herself.

'There's a high chance for "her" to appear at the time of Sienna's death.'

Alephée started taking preventive measures when she had that thought. She didn't want to compromise Eren's safety by counting on Anfang's restrictions.

Eren wasn't aware of what was happening around him. He changed his weapons and started developing his own mana-based martial arts for Rigor Mortis and Anduril.

The swords started operating themselves around Eren as it started looking like he had become a blade storm. The spatial fabric around the butcher fluctuated as the weapons began affecting the fabric of reality with his elemental attainments.

If Will Evaan, Nico Chains, Oslo, or anyone who knew Ottoman de Montmorency personally was present at the scene at this time, they would have called Eren Demonmir Lite. Though, the butcher himself wouldn't have considered it an honor.

He just kept quiet for a while as he practiced his weapons before speaking up once again.

"There will be roadblocks in everything we do that are worthy of our time and efforts. However, most people do not attempt to destroy or circumvent them. They use them as an excuse for never starting their journey.

Agreed, success is not something that the process can promise us. But we just need to work in silence and keep moving forward. We need to believe in ourselves to the point of delusion. Because nobody would do that for us without expecting anything in return.

The universe might be impartial to all of us. It might not favor us from the beginning. But it is willing to create an exception for people who are delusional enough to think that they can escape the matrix they have become intentionally or unintentionally part of.

We can only escape the system when we become what we need to become."

Eren stopped his actions all of a sudden and stood still. He had been handling his weapons with closed eyes all this time. After opening them, he took a deep breath before storing his weapons. His eyes shone and the wind rustled his hair when he looked at Sienna.

The space around Eren bent and he appeared right in front of Sienna in a single step. He looked into her eyes calmly before placing his right hand on her chest. Her heart was touched literally as he drove his fingers through her chest without any apparent resistance.

"I thank you for teaching me some very valuable life lessons. The bad blood between us ends with your death. At least I hope it does. Rest in peace, Sienna Slughorn."

Eren said calmly before crushing Sienna's heart.

### [Chapter 886 The Shell Breaks](#)

Sienna felt like her vision had been shattered into many pieces when Eren crushed her heart.

She was too stunned to continue resisting. And she was too afraid to show signs of trepidation on her face. A series of images started appearing in her head as she started living her life in reverse.

Deception. Manipulation. And dominance through family background. Sienna used these traits as her go-to tools to achieve her goals. And her position in the family allowed her to do that without facing any repercussions.

However, just as Sebastian had said to Eren in passing, she wasn't like this from the beginning.

Sienna started remembering her happy days. The days of her early childhood made her stand out from the rest of the Slughorn scions. Her talent started becoming apparent as she began training to become a ranker.

She held a lot of promise with the way she made non-ranked potions, making House Slughorn believe that she was going to become an exceptional potioner. This was what allowed her to be seen as one of the most valuable scions in her clan.

However, Sienna herself started noticing that she was changing in her mid-teen years. Something she couldn't avoid. As if her individuality as Sienna Slughorn was just an outer shell for something much more devious. And that part started affecting her as a whole.

Was she changing or was she reverting to who she really was? Sienna couldn't tell. She started thinking of an easy way out and became more cunning. She started learning what were considered to be the most detrimental traits a ranker could have. And her talent and her cunning made it easy for her to learn and master them too.

All of Sienna's life memories flashed in front of her eyes in a flash. And the outer shell that was Sienna Slughorn broke when she met Eren's eyes. Sienna had felt her heart getting crushed a moment before.

But she started feeling something much more painful and profound from within her soul. As if her very soul was reshaping itself.

Zoom!

Eren felt a strange force act on his body as he was sent flying in the air. This force was so vast and profound that he couldn't measure it. In fact, he wasn't even sure if it was a force or merely a concept that had 'push and chop' written all over it.

The hand that he had used to crush Sienna's heart had been cut by something unexplainable. A streak of blood marked Eren's path because of his sudden amputation.

Things could have been much more serious for Eren if a thin barrier hadn't protected him. It prevented serious injuries from landing on his body. Eren wasn't sure how he had received the thin layer of protective barrier. But he got his answer soon enough when he looked at Alephee.

'Damn it. I was a bit late.'

Alephee thought to herself as she raised her hand towards the now-flying Eren and changed his trajectory. The butcher was made to land beside her. He looked at Sienna strangely before looking at her chest. His chopped hand was still lodged in her chest.

Sienna was now surrounded by white smoke that started to affect the fabric of the space around her. Her eyes became devoid of iris as she looked upwards with her mouth open.

The woodland creature holding her down disintegrated all of a sudden. Eren felt like the world was changing its colors as a strange kind of mana pulse started originating from Sienna.

Sienna's body was lifted off the ground by an unknown force or lack thereof. It was as if gravity itself stopped acting on her by creating an exception. Even after Sienna closed her eyes, the illumination they radiated was visible due to the light escaping through the slits.

Sienna was then surrounded by white fog that felt like some sort of personalized mana. Being the user of the Sin Series Abilities himself, Eren identified that mana right away. It had otherworldly origins. Or to be precise, it was mana that belonged to someone that was hiding deep within Sienna.

A domain of unknown origin was created around the three people which separated Eren's surroundings from the inside of the domain. In the domain, strange mana prevailed over Anfang's natural mana.

Everything started looking monochrome black and white to Eren as he looked around. The world had not been robbed of its colors. It was just that the mana originating from Sienna was so strong that it affected his perception.

It took him a while to process the pain. He gritted his teeth and used his bloodline Ability to regenerate his chopped hand. He also coughed and spat a clot of blood that had formed in his lungs. Even with the thin barrier protecting him, his lungs had collapsed due to the force of the push.

"What... what is going on?"

Eren looked at Alephee questioningly. He could tell that she already knew what was about to happen. The homunculus kept her gaze focused on Sienna as she commented.

"Don't worry. Everything will be over soon. "She" holds no power over here."

Eren wasn't satisfied with Alephee's cryptic reply. But he kept her mouth shut when he saw how serious she had gotten looking at Sienna. He could tell that she was on edge.

Eren found Alephee's reaction alarming because she was used to treating Sages as houseflies. The fact that she was serious in this situation told him that the "she" Alephee was talking about was someone more powerful than tens of Sages combined.

"Hehehehehe!"

A fading and half-slumbering consciousness possessed Sienna's dying body and started laughing maniacally. It made Sienna open her eyes and look at Eren and Alephee with a piercing gaze.

Sienna's eyes had turned completely white. There were runic tattoos around her eyes. Her hair locks started turning into snakes. And her skin became pale. Sienna still looked like Sienna for the most part. But the same could not be said about her presence.

"Nice to meet you, the inheritor of Elder Echor."

#### [Chapter 887 Disrespecting A Goddess P1](#)

"It's a strange way of calling me. But that's okay, I guess. What's up?"

A few cracking noises were heard from Eren's wrist as he rotated his newly regenerated hand. While coming to terms with what was happening around him, he greeted the new Sienna casually. Rather than asking questions now, he decided to deal with what was in front of him.

Eren's uncaring response caught Sienna tongue-tied. Suddenly, she turned to Alephee and commented.

"It's you! I should have expected you to be with him. When did you realize it was me?"

The perception-altering domain that the half-slumbering consciousness had created around the region suddenly began shaking. The ground was beginning to crack and runes of unknown origin started appearing on the ground. From all directions, they broke down the domain's barrier and let the colors in.

Anfang's World Will was reacting to the new Sienna's presence. It was apparent that the domain was about to break in a matter of a few seconds. Alephee smiled as she looked around. She then focused her gaze on Sienna once again before commenting.

"I just guessed. He has met a lot of troubled women in his life. So I wasn't sure at first. But the way this shell reacted to Eren's undisguised presence made me remember you. Same facial expressions you see. Something deep within that shell was... let's say scared.

And here you are!"

The new Sienna stopped smiling when she heard her speak. She then looked at Eren and gritted her teeth before pointing a finger at him.

"I am not scared of this ant. What will he do? What can he do? I would have killed him right here if it wasn't for you."

Alephee chuckled before responding promptly.

"The fact that someone of your caliber wants to kill him when he has just started his journey tells me you are even more scared of him than I had thought."

Eren raised his eyebrows when he heard the conversation between the two ladies. He cleared his throat before speaking up.

"If you two girls like to play cryptic around me, that's fine. But finish your thing fast because I got places to be."

Alephee and Sienna both looked at Eren with blank looks on their faces. The homunculus cracked first and started laughing while the new Sienna was angrier than before.

"You! I know it's not "him" that's in front of me. Still, I had thought that the inheritor of Elder Echor would be a lot like him. But you are just... just... just not him at all."

Eren pursed his lips. "Um... sorry to disappoint!?" he replied because he wasn't sure what to reply to Sienna without more information. He then looked at Alephee before speaking up.

"Can we get anything out of her? Is this conversation really relevant? Or is it something you will pretend like it never happened until the so-called right time?"

The new Sienna was taken aback by the way Eren was dealing with her presence. She could only exert a small number of her powers in her current situation. Plus, Anfang's World Will was suppressing her. She was soon slated to be kicked out.

However, she knew that her presence alone should have been a deterrent for someone of Eren's caliber. She tried to overwhelm him using her soul sense. But for some reason, Eren's soul was not something she could intimidate even with her powers.

Eren had an awakened soul sense that helped him stay unbothered in Sienna's presence. He was curious about a lot of things. But he didn't let his curiosity or other emotions dictate his behavior.

The newly raised domain was breaking apart. The monochrome world inside the domain was shrinking as the colors of the world started seeping into it. The runes on the ground had started creating trenches and the ground itself was shaking like a mini earthquake. The mana in the surroundings had become so agitated that no spell could be cast. At least not by a normal ranker.

A more profound and omnipotent consciousness was going to arrive at the scene soon.

While the half-slumbering consciousness within Sienna was shocked by Eren's behavior, Alephee had gotten used to it. She sighed before admitting to him.

"Well... we can't get anything out of her with her current powers. And yes, it's better if you ignore her for now. But we can expect to see her again."

Alephee told Eren that she would tell him about the half-slumbering consciousness within Sienna when the time was ripe. And that's what the butcher wanted to hear.

"You carry the name of Eren Idril, right? Listen to me, Eren. If you want to live, surrender your... aaaaaaargh!"

Sienna started to threaten Eren but the latter didn't wait for her to finish. He spread his soul sense and took control of the severed hand Sienna still had lodged in her chest. He raised his hand and made a yanking motion. His chopped hand copied his action and yanked off the crushed heart. It then threw it on her face before gripping her larynx.

The butcher's fingers seeped deep into her skin and took hold of her voice box. He yanked another organ from her body before placing it in her raised hand. When Sienna's body was damaged to this extent, her role as a vessel was compromised even further.

"Hmm. I didn't think it would be this easy. I was expecting some form of basic defense from her. Did she think that I'd just get intimidated by her presence to not attack her?"

Eren asked aloud to nobody in particular before calling his chopped hand towards him. He touched it with his raised hand. And the chopped hand turned into a slimy substance before dissolving into his hand. When integration was complete, his fingers were soaked in red blood. Sienna's blood. He could start seeing colors around him because Sienna's domain was effectively shrunk to only around her body.

Eren then wiped Sienna's blood over his clothes before asking the same question to Alephee in a different way.

"Do all people outside of Anfang act like these? Careless and delusional? I would have done a better job scaring my opponent if I was in her shoes with her powers."

#### [Chapter 888 Disrespecting A Goddess P2](#)

The domain was broken even before Anfang's World Will had a chance to arrive.

Sienna's body stopped levitating when Eren finished speaking. It was unclear if the half-slumbering consciousness became powerless after Eren's attack or if she was so enraged by his act that she lost control over herself.

Sienna had a shocked look on her face when she died for good this time. And one could see that there remained a hint of fear in her eyes. She was terrified of someone who had killed her without caring about her origins or her relationship with him.

'This "version" of him! He'll be an unstoppable threat to all of us if we let him grow. I'll have to do something about it. I... I'll have to wake up soon from my slumber to...'

The half-slumbering consciousness had this thought as she left the reaches of Anfang's World Will after her shell died. She seemed desperate to wake up from her supposed slumber after witnessing how steadily Eren was growing.

Everything returned to normal when the domain was broken. Sienna's dead-than-dead body lay on the ground with her heart and larynx yanked off from the inside.

Only now did Eren allow himself to have the shakes. He raised his hands in front of him and saw them shaking like he was feeling the chills. The blood in his body had been agitated and his mana circuits were affected as well. His skin turned red and his eyes turned bloodshot.

The butcher had increased heartbeats. He had started hearing white noise and seeing things in a blur. He had prevented himself from having these symptoms in his half-slumbering consciousness's presence. So they all showed up on him at once when he let loose.

When he was talking like a big shot in front of half-asleep consciousness, he was just pretending. He had come to realize that whatever was inside Sienna was many times more powerful and terrifying than Eliza.

The situation was more serious than when Eren had his mental breakdown in front of Eliza. It was just that he was in a better position to tackle the fear that was creeping into him. He kept it at bay using his absolute control, unwavering intent, and unsuppressed soul sense. He only allowed himself to feel fear when the situation was over.

Alephee looked at Eren and chuckled. She was shaken by "her" presence as well. Still, she was in better condition than Eren.

"Hehe. Eren, you just disrespected a bonafide goddess. And I couldn't have been prouder."

The look Alephee gave was usually associated with giving someone a thumbs up. She then sighed before continuing.

"Just know that you couldn't have avoided her messing up with you. She had set the cycle of cause and effect that way.

The shakes are your body's natural response. There's some part of you that's scared. But let me ask you. Are you "scared" scared?"

While trying to control the shakes, Eren looked at Alephee with a "the what now?" expression. Instead of replying to her right away, he sat crossed-legged straight away before closing his eyes. He took a long breath before channeling the Rootless ranking technique.

The butcher's blood flow returned to normal and his mana circuits were pacified as he continued practicing his technique. It took him a while to get rid of the shakes completely.

Eren rubbed his palms over each other before placing them over his face. He could still smell Sienna's blood on his right hand. But he ignored it and used his hands as face warmers for a few moments. After getting up, he stretched his hands and rotated his torso from his waist from right to left and then from left to right. He spoke up only after he made sure that things were in his complete control once again.

"Goddess, huh? There's no point denying the fact that I felt fear. But it can't overwhelm me to the point of no return any more. I can now function normally while feeling fear."

Eren said as he placed his right hand over his chest and felt his heartbeats. They were a bit rapid but returned to normal after some time. He smiled at himself before continuing.

"I don't know what her deal is or where I fit into her affairs. But if it's not in my hands to deal with her, I frankly don't care. I already have too many things to do to care about her in advance.

I think we both were scared of each other. It's just as you made her realize. That goddess fears me. Or the potential I carry and the possibility of a threat I might pose to her in the future."



Eren said as he looked up. The small encounter with the so-called goddess had skewed the passage of time for him. He felt that only a few minutes had passed since he had killed Sienna for all time when it was in fact hours. The sun was about to set. And it was time for him to move.

Eren walked towards Sienna's dead body and looked at her face keenly before speaking up.

"I could tell that she was scared of me by looking her in the eyes. And she could do the same by looking into mine. But we were scared for different reasons.

I was scared that I would be prevented from becoming what I intended to be. And she was scared of what I could become.

I could sense her intentions just as she could sense mine. She wants to nip the bud from its roots. Or she wants to make it so that I don't grow at all.

Too bad for her, I am in the land of Anfang.

I won't let myself finish where I began. I won't let myself end where I started. I know what is within me, even if I can't see it yet.

Fear? Who cares about fear or the courage it takes to face it? I have something more significant than courage. I have persistence. I will become what I need to be under any circumstances."

Eren stated his feelings before snapping his fingers. A spark of fire landed on Sienna's dead body when he did that. It caught fire right away and started burning at an accelerated rate. That too without generating any smell or smoke.

The butcher stood motionless at his place as his emerald green eyes reflected the dancing orange flames Sienna's body was burning in.

### [Chapter 889 Reuniting With Arjun And Lyon](#)

Edinburgh's Army Base.

Inside a large hall was made for gathering army personnel and discussing mission details. There were various spectral maps and details projected on various big and small screens.

This hall was booked by Gilhause Remus to discuss his upcoming mission details with his team. However, unlike standard army protocol, he had only summoned one soldier to the scene. Someone who he wasn't expecting to come at all.

"You.... How did you get here?"

Gilhause Remus asked Eren. He looked at Eren as if he was seeing a ghost. That's because he knew about the line-up the ambush team had against Eren. The fact that Eren was here could only mean that he managed to dodge or get away from the team, which was highly unlikely because of Nico Chains. Or...

"What do you mean, Expert Gilhause? I came as soon as I found out that my exit mission had been assigned to me."

Eren replied to Gilhouse naturally. He started grilling him with a new line of questioning that subtly focused on the ambush team. Yet, he couldn't get anything out of Eren, which made him consider a grim possibility.

Eren was standing in a standard military posture while Gilhouse Remus was walking around him to size him up. The man was 6 inches shorter than Eren. He was bulkier than Eren, who looked lean.

"You took care of all your "problems" before coming here, didn't you? Do you understand what you have done?"

Gilhouse asked in a grim voice. Eren kept his neutral stance before responding with a subtle smile on his face.

"Problems? There were no problems. I see myself as an early bird that got all the worms."

Gilhouse was about to say something to Eren with suppressed rage in his voice. However, he saw that other team members listed for the mission had entered the hall. So he controlled himself before speaking in a very hushed tone.

"I don't know what or how you did this. But you won't get away with this."

Eren could hear the footsteps of other army personnel behind him. Gilhouse was about to greet them. The smile on his face disappeared as he asked Gilhouse another question.

"Expert Gilhouse, are you a summoner too?"

Gilhouse had walked behind Eren at this point. So he couldn't see the smile Eren had plastered on his face. He raised his eyebrows before replying.

"So you are afraid of summoners? Too late to regret it, boy. House Remus is famous for its summoners. I am a golem summoner. And none of the golems will come to help you when we are out on a mission. In fact, hehe..."

Gilhouse tried to threaten Eren some more with his voice before meeting up with the army personnel reporting for duty. He wasn't Eren's superior by default. So he had to pull up this facade and generate a joint team operation. He had a few trusted subordinates. And the rest of the army personnel were picked from various teams under the garb of a joint mission. This was how he could assign Eren his exit mission.

'A golem summoner, huh? I am not sure if I would be able to make effective use of them. Still, a bit of variation wouldn't hurt. Plus, earth-elemental attainments would be the cherry on top.

I'll have to thank House Remus once again for providing me with... let's say the right nutrition.'

While Gilhouse was planning sabotage for Eren's exit mission, the latter was excited about the prospect of assimilating Gilhouse's gains for himself. It was safe to say that the butcher had stopped seeing summoners from House Remus as rankers or people. He only saw them as his superfood.

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Near Edinburgh's kingdom's northern borders. Badlands.

A layer of snow had started to accumulate in the surroundings. The chilly winds and the lack of sunlight had made the atmosphere even harsher.

A team of army personnel was traversing the winter terrain. It consisted of around 50 rankers. The colts used by these rankers were different from the usual mana beasts. These colts had thick fur, as well as a fire-element affinity to keep them and their riders warm in this bone-chilling weather.

The joint task force had only one mission. Get rid of the cultist base that was reported to be working for the Kingdom of Layos. The kingdoms had started sponsoring cultist activities within and around their enemy kingdoms. Edinburgh and Layos tried to sabotage each other by increasing cultist activities. And they both had to deal with the consequences.

Edinburgh's army was busier than ever with missions like these. It was no wonder that the organization was doing everything it could to retain soldiers. Things would have been much more difficult for Eren if he had joined the army normally and not through LA.

Three colt riders were closely following the joint force. However, anybody could tell that they treated themselves differently than the rest of the force. One of them was Eren. The other two were his comrades in the army that were unfortunate enough to be assigned to this project with him. Lyon Muff Dyke and Arjun.

'These assholes have something nasty planned for us. I can feel it.'

Lyon made his opinion known to Eren and Arjun as they followed the team. The dwarf was especially unhappy with the way their team leader Gilhause had treated them. He could clearly see a bias against the three of them in his behavior.

'Something's definitely not adding up. Why did Expert Gilhause assign us such an easy task when it could be completed by a bunch of Ace rankers? Additionally, he kept our dispatched positions separate from the rest of the rankers.

We won't be contributing anything to the mission because this place is so far from ground zero. Does he know how fishy his deployment has to be for me to question his intentions?'

Arjun said and sighed. The guy always liked to play by the rules while he served in the army. He almost never questioned his superior's decisions. But this time, even he couldn't help himself. He then looked at Eren before asking him.

'Eren, did you like... fuck his daughter or something?'

### [Chapter 890 Delva Gorge](#)

'Eren, did you like... fuck his daughter or something?'

Arjun's question caught Eren by surprise. The latter coughed a bit before using voice communication to reply.

'Well... I think it's safe for me to tell you guys now. I have slept with Dianna but I don't think Gilhaus cares about that. He has a different grudge against me.'

Eren said and chuckled. Dianna also belonged to the same team Eren, Lyon, and Arjun was part of. However, she wasn't picked for the mission for obvious reasons. As distant as she was from the main clan, Dianna was still a Remus clan member. As such, Gilhause didn't want her to become part of this mission at all.

Eren then narrowed his eyes at the team that was ahead of him before speaking to his team members.

'Lyon. Arjun. Listen to me very carefully. I don't want you to follow me to our location. There's no doubt in my mind that it is a trap. I have my plans regarding how to break through it. But I won't be able to do it with you guys around.

So when...'

Eren started crafting his plan and prevented Lyon and Arjun from following him. He made it look like he didn't want both of them involved in the mess he had found himself in. However, Eren didn't want Lyon and Arjun at the site with him for a very simple reason. He'd have to kill them if they came with him.

Arjun and Lyon wanted to argue against Eren's idea that he was supposed to carry everything on his shoulder. Eren, therefore, portrayed their presence as a hindrance to him.

The elf and the dwarf could only keep their mouths shut after that. They had seen Eren fight with Altashia and knew his battle potential. Thus, it became easier for them to accept that claim.

Arjun wanted to show the effectiveness of the Spirit Beast spell he acquired by completing the army program. Therefore, Eren promised him that he would fight him using his demon beast after the dust had settled around this mission.

Two members of Eren's original unit understood how serious the matter was when Eren started explaining things a bit. The fate of a prosperous city was at stake. No wonder Eren was being targeted by Gilhause and his clan.

Eren told Arjun and Lyon to abandon the mission as soon as it started. And he would handle the rest. Arjun could tell that Eren wasn't putting up a brave act in front of them. The guy seemed to have a talent for handling the unfortunate that came his way.

Furthermore, Arjun also realized that Eren wanted him and Lyon to stay out of the mess for his benefit. Each ranker had secrets to keep— some more than others.

On the other hand, Gilhause had tried to find out more about the ambush team's status after confirming Eren's well-being. He soon found out that the entire ambush team had lost all contact with any of the involved organizations. House Slughorn had dispatched people from its end and other groups were about to follow their lead.

Gilhause drew his grim conclusions based on the unconfirmed status of the ambush team. He was shocked beyond belief that rankers like Meera Medinah, Nico Chains, and Goro could be killed in the ambush they had set for their common enemy.

Thus, Gilhause had to make sure that Eren died on the exit mission. Otherwise, he won't be able to officially touch him if he manages to complete the mission and gets out of Edinburgh's army.

The Expert ranker selected a mission that he thought was just right for getting rid of Eren for good.

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Delva Gorge.

This was the region in the Badlands that had a network of deep and shallow gorges. This network of narrow valleys was created between hills and mountains because of river streams running through them in the summertime. The source river of these streams had changed directions and remained frozen in the winter, making this network of gorges an ideal place for a cultist hideout.

The area in Delva Gorge where the mission was supposed to be held featured deep gorges with steep rocky walls. Furthermore, mana at the place was chaotic, forcing rankers to pass through the gorges and not climb over the walls. It was difficult for even flying-type mana beasts to fly over the gorge due to its strange terrain properties.

The network of gorges could change overnight depending upon the natural runic symbols inscribed on the ground. Since these runic symbols were a natural phenomenon, nobody could control them or predict their change.

There were only a few nodes present within the region which were unchangeable. These nodes were now being used by the cultists to establish their hideouts. The network of gorges was like a tangle of spiderwebs. And the cultists knew which node to step on to avoid getting trapped in the net.

Eren, Arjun, and Lyon were supposed to guard a distant node within the network of gorges. It was way further than the cultists' supposed hideout. And it didn't look like the node would be used by the cultists to get in and out of their hideout. This rubbed Arjun and Lyon the wrong way.

Upon Eren's instructions, Lyon and Arjun left Eren alone and chose to abandon their mission. Eren would contact them once he was done with the things he wanted to do at this place.

With a blank look on his face, the butcher surveyed his surroundings. The steep rocky walls were about 100 meters left and right of him. The gorge spread north and south of him with sparse vegetation and patches of water. The terrain was rough and rocky. And the winter winds were howling inside the gorge, making strange noises as they passed through.

By the time Eren reached his intended position, it was already nighttime. The half-moon was shining in the starry sky, exuding its nightly brilliance. Ignoring army protocols, he lit up a bonfire in front of him.

The butcher sat near the bonfire and roasted his meat over it as he thought of various things at once. He was enjoying the peace the almost lifeless valley was offering him.

All of a sudden, Alephee appeared out of thin air and sat beside him. She looked at Eren's face which was painted in an orange shade because of the dancing flames of the bonfire. She smiled looking at the fire before speaking up.

"Enjoying the calm before the storm, huh? Someone dies every time you are in this state of mind."