

Vile 891

[Chapter 891 Meera Vs Cultists P1](#)

"Hahaha. These bastards from the Edinburgh army will never be able to catch us."

One of the cultists who was running away from the hideout couldn't help but gloat at his recent attackers. He was running with seven other Adept-ranked cultists. They were all heading to a particular node within the gorge network which they knew wasn't rigged or affected by the dynamic change of the terrain.

"Stop blabbering your mouth and keep running. We don't know what lies ahead of us."

The man who was speaking loudly in the escape was silenced by another cultist. She preferred running away from the hideout in silence. There was something about the incident that bugged her.

First, their hideout had received a valid tip from a stranger that the base would be attacked by the Edinburgh army in a few days. Two Expert-ranked entities were running the hideout. They took this information with a grain of salt at first. However, they couldn't just ignore the threat to their lives.

The kingdom of Layos was their benefactor. It supplied them with the right resources, artifacts, and alchemy items to conduct their activities. It also shared various information about the kingdom of Edinburgh which they could use against it.

The Expert-ranked entities running the guild assumed that the stranger belonged to the kingdom of Layos. Only their benefactor would give them such kind of information. Why would anybody try to save them from the reaches of Edinburgh's army otherwise?

Thus, they grilled the stranger some more and paid him a bunch of Extols to give them more information on his grim prediction. The stranger didn't know the day when they would be attacked. It could be any day of the week. They were given information about the nodes that would be rigged by the army beforehand, however. So that they could avoid these nodes when they escape.

Everything was business as usual in the hideout after the stranger was gone. But the two Expert ranked entities made these nodes common knowledge to all the rankers working for them. So that they could use this information to escape in case the hideout was raided by the army.

The stranger's tip was right on the mark. They were attacked on this day when they were in the process of shifting their hideout to somewhere else within the Delva Gorge. The Edinburgh army had left no stone unturned in launching this raid. Following the initial confrontation and failed attempts to escape the location, all the cultists involved in the incident realized the stranger's information was much more valuable than they had originally thought.

The escaping cultists started using the stranger's tip to escape and find their way within the gorge network. They avoided a lot of traps and units of rankers stationed at the nodes which were marked as dead-end nodes by the stranger in his information.

Escape was easy from the northeast direction of the hideout. It held minimal dead ends and there was almost no army unit assigned to a particular node.

According to the stranger's information, there would only be a team of three Adept-ranked soldiers present at the scene. It had been a while since the raid started. Those three rankers would have been a done deal by now.

At least that's what every team of cultists who came Eren's way thought before running towards him.

These eight Adept-ranked cultists soon found themselves running towards a small source of light that looked like someone had lit a bonfire.

Lighting a fire source like this in this situation is like giving them a flare signal to gather there.

"No. Wait. Something's wrong here."

The lady cultist who had spoken earlier became the group's de facto leader. She stopped the other members of her party from advancing any further because a strong stench of blood had hit her nose.

A bit of skirmish at the node was expected. Those who had been ahead of her must have fought with the three rankers in the army. So she wasn't worried about the possibility of dead bodies at the node's mouth.

However, there was something about the place that made her instincts scream "you better get the fuck away from this place." and she wanted to find out why before proceeding any further.

The lady cultist spread her mana sense and found out that two Adept-ranked entities were sitting cross-legged near the bonfire, having casual chats with each other. The guy was eating something whereas the Gothic-looking girl was talking to him about something she was interested in.

Others behind the lady ranker didn't understand why they were stopping there. They also used their mana sense to find out about the scene unfolding ahead of them. Rather than pondering the oddity of the event, they preferred to bulldoze over their insignificant-looking obstacles and flee as quickly as possible.

"Tista, why are we stopping here? There's no telling when the main force of Edinburgh's army will catch up with us. We should just..."

Tista had stress lines on her forehead from listening to the loudmouth's voice. She was about to reprimand him once again. The man suddenly stopped rambling all of a sudden without her intervention.

Tista looked back to see the loudmouth's chopped head dropping to the ground. It took her a moment to realize that the enemy had already made their move. Meanwhile, two other cultists had fatal sword slashes on their torsos, splitting their bodies vertically.

Mayhem and madness ensued on the battlefield when three out of eight cultists died as effortlessly as someone cutting up leafy vegetables. Screams of pain and shouts of intimidation were heard as the remaining cultists prepared themselves to fight their enemy.

Tista controlled her emotions and kept her mouth shut. She used her movement spell to create distance from her previous position. Then she took out her set of daggers and assumed a defensive stance. The other rankers did the same as they encircled their sword-user enemy.

The cultists lost all colors on their faces when they realized that they were about to fight an Expert-ranked entity.

Meera Medinah had been employed to take care of the cultists while her summoner enjoyed his dinner by the bonfire in peace.

[Chapter 892 Meera Vs Cultists P2](#)

"This should be enough. We will now divide the raid team into two."

Gilhouse announced as he looked at the destruction of the cultist hideout caused by him and his team. The two Expert-level cultists had already managed to run away. Gilahuse wasn't focused on killing or capturing them anyway.

He also had a newly promoted Expert rank army officer with him. However, equal numbers didn't mean anything when it came to C-rank and above.

Gilhouse knew that battling with two Expert-ranked cultists was detrimental to his mission, which only required him to destroy the hideout. And the cultists knew that battling with two Expert-ranked army officers from Edinburgh was detrimental to their escape.

This was a mutual act of disengagement. Thus, the C-rankers on both sides decided to play safe. They didn't aggravate each other and allowed the other side to carry on with what they were doing.

Things were easy to do once the Expert-ranked cultists left the hideout to their devices. The Adept-ranked cultists and below tried to put up a strong front against Gilahuse's raid team using various means available to them. But Gilahuse's tried and tested battle strategies along with military-grade equipment assigned to the rankers ensured that the raid team stayed casualty-free in its endeavor.

Furthermore, Gilahuse's golem summons played a huge role in serving as a flank for his raid team. Each of his summonses was like a near-indestructible tank. The rankers used summonses in their strategies effectively to achieve victory over their opponents.

When the situation came under Gilahuse's control, he decided to split the team into two. The first team was assigned the task of finishing off the rest of the cultists and looting the hideout for its resources. The second team was supposed to chase the escaped cultists.

The first team would be led by the Expert-ranked officer that was with Gilahuse. The Remus clan member would lead the second team. The purpose of this split was to check in on Eren and his team.

The split would ensure that the mission would be completed flawlessly and according to plan. It would also allow Gilahuse to cover up his plan to sabotage Eren.

Gilhouse was the one who had tipped the two Expert rankers about the raid in advance. He had assigned Eren, Arjun, and Lyon the post intentionally so they could get targeted by the cultists on their way to escape.

This was a surefire way to get rid of Eren for good. The cultists didn't need to cover his death either. This way, even if Eren had the backing of House Argas for his exit mission, it wouldn't be able to prosecute anyone for his death.

Additionally, Gilhouse had chosen his trusted aid for the second team which was supposed to chase the escaping cultists. The rankers in Gilhouse's faction knew that their real job was not to target the cultists but to ensure that Eren dies for good.

Gilhouse and his team assumed that Eren would have died long ago from the constant barrage of cultists attacking him. This was regardless of how many Trump cards he could have used. Thus, this part of the mission was supposed to be like the cherry on top.

Tista had her body chopped into various pieces before she died.

She was missing her glutes and breasts because of Meera's wild attacks. She had her hamstrings pulled out of both her legs because of the way Meera used her sword.

Tista was not the only victim of the living undead. Meera kept on killing cultist after cultist without showing any signs of fatigue. Since she was a living undead, the mana she used from her mana core would get replenished in no time, allowing her to keep on casting spell after spell.

Meera had almost negligent heartbeats. She did not know of any muscle fatigue. She wasn't afraid of getting injured. Not that she could be injured by the Adept-ranked cultists using normal methods. Most of them became terrified of her as soon as she started fighting them.

By this point, the node Eren was supposed to man along with his two team members was riddled with the cultists' dead bodies. The stench of blood and gore had gotten so strong that the nightcrawler mana beasts had come out of the woodwork. They were growling at each other trying to claim the pieces of meat Meera had carved out for them like a buffet.

Tista and a lot like her did not even get to know about the summoner behind Meera who had sanctioned their hits. They died while trying their best to either get away from the living undead or engage in futile attempts to take down Meera.

Eren watched Meera's battle frenzy from a distance. She fought like she was angry at all the cultists for daring to fight against her or her summoner. The rage mana coursing through her veins and mana circuits influenced her actions and made her even more brutal than she already was.

The butcher had to acknowledge the fact that Meera's previous status as a special forces member wasn't for show. He could clearly see that she was a force to be reckoned with even without any living undead advantages she was now blessed with.

He didn't try to participate in the battle because he didn't feel the need to. He was already used to most of his newly learned spells. He didn't need to use the cultists as dummies anymore.

Meera finished her last cultist and put her sword in the scabbard behind her back. She then waited quietly for her next opponent.

Eren thought that it would be a while before the next batch of cultists appeared to battle Meera. He was about to say something to Alephee beside him. He stopped his actions when he noticed several figures approaching at a rapid pace.

Gilhouse's team had arrived at the scene. It stopped right before Meera, maintaining a safe distance.

When Gilhause found numerous dead bodies of escaped cultists, he had goosebumps on his skin. They had all died horrible deaths.

"What... what the fuck happened here?"

[Chapter 893 Abandoned Soldiers](#)

The winds howled as they created a storm around Meera.

These winds were summoned by her using her spells. She raised her left hand and started creating wind-element shurikens out of them. A cyclone of water appeared out of thin air the next moment. These water molecules with dense wind-element mana gave the manifested weapons a sharp and shining edge.

This was Meera's elemental fusion. She used her attacks to battle multiple opponents at once. Within a fraction of a second, the Expert-ranked living dead created another set of weapons with her elemental fusion as the base.

She had chopped off her opponents using these weapons. The weapon storm would create a perimeter around her, protecting her from any sneak attack and attacking her opponents at the same time.

The surroundings of the battlefield started getting affected by Meera's spell. The moisture in the air began congregating around the living undead when she invoked her elemental fusion.

The blade storm started appearing in random places even without Meera's conscious efforts. It was as if nature itself wanted to copy her spells, making it a natural phenomenon.

The power of an Expert-ranked battle-oriented ranker couldn't be taken lightly. It affected a large area and altered the natural rules of that area.

Meera's elemental fusion and the control she had over it were enough to justify her status as an ex-member of Edinburgh's special force. She was a cut above the rest when it came to battling.

This was the reason why most cultists had their bodies torn into pieces. Blade storms would appear randomly, launching point-blank attacks on the rankers. It was as if nature itself wanted to kill them.

Meera maintained a blade storm around her and glanced at her opponents with a look of suppressed rage on her face. Gilhause and his team on the other hand watched Meera's work with goosebumps on their skin.

They hadn't fought someone like her before. And from the looks of things, they wanted to keep it that way. Alas, not everything in life can be ignored just because one wants.

'Go.'

Eren gave Meera a simple order to charge ahead and the living undead ran toward her opponents like the wind. She charged her sword with her water and wind element mana before releasing a series of flying slashes. These flying slashes gained even more power as more wind and water elemental weapons were added to the storm.

"Aaaaaargh!"

"Sir Gilhouse, savaaaaaaaaaaaaah!"

"Bitch, do you think.... Aaaaah!"

Meera attacked her opponents' flanks head-on using her spells and weapons. She started killing and injuring army personnel without any fear for her safety.

Some people were able to put up a front until they could scream. Some died without making any noise. And some managed to get away by using the rankers ahead of them as their meat shield.

Gilhouse was one of the escapees. Even if he was an Expert ranker, his body stats didn't allow him to get anywhere near Meera and put up a defense. He knew that it would be game over for him if he came into her striking range.

Gilhouse had a perimeter of six guards of his own. Being a summoner, he was very particular about the rankers he had selected as his aids. All six rankers were in the solid stages of the D-Rank. As a group, they knew how to cast some strange spells in cooperation. These group-cast spells allowed them to generate spell output that rivaled Expert rank.

Only a few units within the army received group training. They sacrificed their individuality to acquire skills like these. As a result, they were nothing much when they fought individually. However, everything changed when rankers like these attacked or defended in groups.

Gilhouse watched as the soldiers around him that were not part of his security detail died one after the other from Meera's attacks. They screamed and cursed. They tried to attack, defend, and even run away.

There was a variety of military-grade equipment on them. And they tried to tackle the problem in groups. No matter what they did, Meera would overcome every obstacle they threw her way. She would tear through her opponents and their spells before claiming their lives.

Meera didn't let anybody approach Eren or Alephee who was behind her. The blade storm she created on the battlefield was so intricate that it created a defense line for Eren. The rankers weren't interested in approaching Eren either. They were too busy dying to care about anyone or anything else.

In the surrounding area, the number of dead bodies began to increase rapidly. Meera also received serious wounds on her body as a result of several rankers making combined efforts to harm her using various resources and forbidden spells and scrolls. However, nothing could slow her down. The more she fought, the fiercer she became as the wrath mana started influencing her and her spells.

Living undead began using wrath mana in strange ways in her attacks. Her attacks carried wrath mana, which could wreak havoc on the rankers' bodies through foreign mana invasion. They would create blisters and mana deviations, further decreasing the rankers' chances of landing serious hits on the living undead.

Eren watched the carnage being unleashed on Gilhouse's team with intrigued expressions. He wasn't thinking about anything at this point. For the first time in a long while, he had decided to enjoy his role as a spectator.

Gilhause knew he couldn't save the soldiers from Meera's attacks without compromising his chances of winning over her and Eren who was standing behind her. He had a special talent for gauging the strengths of his enemies. And something told him that Meera was the least of his worries.

Gilhause, along with his security detail, created a distance and chose to play the role of spectator. He ignored the pleas of his soldiers and watched them die at Meera's hands.

'Who the fuck is she? This kind of battle prowess and that recovery rate. It's almost like she is one of Goro's... '

[Chapter 894 Recycling The Dead Soldiers And Cultists](#)

Gilhause's face became bloodless as he considered the possibility.

'Is she... Meera Medinah that Goro's report talked about?'

Gilhause didn't personally know. Despite her talent, she was not known to even people in army circles because of her special forces background. But Goro had shared his reports with the clan after the ambush team had a get-together to set up an agenda. Goro had conveyed the ambush team's plans along with basic details about the rankers involved in the ambush.

It took a while for Gilhause to link Meera to the reports he had received from Goro. This was because he wasn't expecting someone like her to side with Eren and fight for him.

This was still a manageable shock for Gilhause. However, he derived another grim possibility from Meera's way of fighting her opponents. Another clue was her slightly peculiar mana signature.

Gilhause looked at Eren with a mixture of madness and anger. It was as if he had started to imagine what must have happened to Goro. Gilhause had seen Goro fight. Meera's presence reminded him of Goro's human doll spell. And the more he saw her, the more suspicious he became.

By this time, Meera had finished off the last remaining army personnel from the lot that Gilhause had chosen to abandon. He considered them dead weights at this point. Since their enemy had an Expert rank member, the quantity would only slow Gilhause down.

However, Goro's death wasn't something Gilhause could brush off. Just as Meera retreated to her owner, Eren heard Gilhause calling his name with a voice imbued with mana and anger.

"EREN IDRIL!"

Gilhause approached Eren with his security detail and pointed a finger at him.

"What... what the fuck did you do Goro? She is Meera Medinah, isn't she? Why the fuck is she working for you? And why does it look like you have converted her into a human doll using Goro's spell?"

Eren was smoking another Sativa Stick to digest his heavy dinner at this point. He released a cloud of smoke from his nostrils and smirked. He looked at Meera's gravely injured body and marveled before speaking up.

"Fascinating creature, isn't she? I never knew she had this much use when I first started to preprocess her. I guess it's true what they say. Sometimes, something you do on a whim becomes artwork on its own."

Eren's cryptic answer didn't bode well for Gilhouse at all. He clenched his fists and spoke in a threatening tone.

"You didn't answer any of my questions. Do not think that the Expert-ranked lady will be able to handle all of us alone. We'll make you regret ever messing with us soon enough."

Alephee kept quiet the whole time. She didn't interfere with Eren's business because it looked like she didn't have to. She watched as Eren used his summoning spell to answer Gilhouse's question.

"It's because I'm not getting paid to answer you. I can understand the curiosity one would have about their opponent in a situation like this. However, I am not obliged to do anything with that understanding.

So you can go ahead and shove those questions up your ass. Meera, be a good girl and finish those guys for me. I'll give you a few henchmen."

Eren ordered Meera before looking at the dead bodies of cultists lying everywhere around him. His hair turned white and his eyes turned blue. He raised his hand and spoke in a deep voice as if he was talking to the dead bodies themselves.

"Find your eternal peace by dying for me once more. Arise!"

Eren used Goro's summoning spell on the dead bodies of victims from both sides. The bloody bodies started moving when Eren's spell gave them temporary life.

The intact bodies became possessed by the residual souls of their owners. The souls that didn't have intact bodies were given mana bodies made of pure death-element mana, which retained their previous appearances to some degree.

Beads of sweat started running behind Gilhouse's ears as he witnessed Eren using Goro's spell to summon the undead around him. The dead bodies from both sides—the cultists and the army personnel that had died ever since the raid had started—stood on their deformed feet and cried in unison.

"Screeeee!"

Eren injected the dead bodies of rankers and cultists with wrath mana at the snap of his fingers. He watched as the undead became more powerful and aggressive around him. Eren had basically recycled the dead rankers and cultists at this point.

Goro's security detail wanted to keep a neutral face. However, even the six veteran rankers had a chill run down their spine when they saw their previous colleagues start to surround them with vicious hunger in their eyes. The hunger to kill them and gouge out their organs. The undead wanted to feast on their bodies until they could eat no more.

Using their inhuman strides and twisted limbs, most of the undead began running toward Gilhouse's team. Some of the undead walked and some crawled. They screeched loudly and made chattering

noises with their jaws and teeth. They halted at a safe distance, waiting for their commander Meera to make her move.

Eren's act of summoning the undead was also a form of answer for Gilhause. He couldn't help mumbling to himself in his head.

'Son of a whore... he... He really uses Goro's spells.'

Gilhause had come to realize that he wouldn't get any answers from Eren no matter how many times he tried to ask him. At this point, he could only conclude. And they were telling him that he was dealing with an abomination.

Gilhause started seeing Eren for who he was. He was someone who could escape such a solid line of rankers set up against him in the ambush team. Someone who could tame a ranker like Meera. And perhaps someone who could take Goro's achievements and spells for himself and use them better than the original ranker himself.

No further talk was necessary. Gilhause looked around and found himself surrounded by the undead who were closing in on him. He punched his right fist against his left palm before casting his earth-element summoning spell.

Goliath!

[Chapter 895 Goliath, Earth Arachnids, & Behemoth](#)

Goliath!

Gilhause cast the mob-summoning spell. The ground split and out came the earth-element golems that looked like they were trained soldiers with armor on.

These golems were up to 14 feet tall, making them taller than any normal ranker. They had four limbs that seemed to be inherently protected by armor-like outer shells made of shining crystalline stones. They had long feet and nimble arms. They carried various weapons in their hands. Some had equipped themselves with maces while others carried long earth-element runic shields.

These golems had two eyes that shined with white brilliance. They had square noses and wide jaws. Due to their similar features, they were practically indistinguishable if one ignored the weapons they carried.

There were other golems summoned by the Goliath spell that was not as eye-catching as they could be. They had lesser details and looked like ordinary golems. However, every golem carried a weapon. It let everybody know that even the normal golems summoned by Gilhause could put up a decent fight.

Earth Arachnids

This was the spell for giant earth-element Scorpions. They couldn't be summoned like the mob spell because Gilhause could only summon three at a time. However, they made up for their lack of numbers with their damage potential.

These earth-element Scorpions were up to 20 feet long and had very detailed mana bodies that resembled any typical Scorpio mana beast. They had six legs and two giant pedipalps. They also had a sting attached to their tail that looked as flexible as it was lethal.

Unlike normal scorpions, these summoned creatures had three mouths. They had sharp teeth and big tunnel-like mouths, which made them hideous to look at. These earth-element runes reinforced their bodies and made them resistant to normal attacks.

Gilhause was not done with his earth-element summons. One could say that he had more variety of spells in his arsenal than an earth-element summoner. And he intended to use all his powers against Eren.

Behemoth!

A small earthquake was felt in the surroundings as the earth started birthing a very large mana body on the battlefield. This creature was about 25 meters tall and 20 meters long. He had beads of sweat on his forehead as he cast this spell. The mana pulse released by this summoned creature was very intimidating. It told the rankers how fearsome this creature was going to be.

Behemoth had a lizard-like face with a bird-like beak. It had horns on its supposed nose. The horns also peeked through its forehead and other parts of its face.

This creature was on his fours. It had thin hind legs and long front legs that looked like arms. The creature had thick scales on its body as well as various earth-element growths. It had sawtooth-like spikes on its back. It had sharp-looking claws that seemed to be made of metal.

'Hmm. Things would have been troublesome if this old man could manage to summon two of those.'

Eren thought to himself as he looked at Gilhause's summoned creatures. He had to admit that he was slightly intimidated by the summoner's spells. No wonder he got into a prominent position in the army. With spells like these, Gilhause only needed army personnel to protect himself from any incoming attacks. The rest of the battle would be taken care of by his summons.

The butcher could see that Gilhause was a better summoner than Goro because he had his path figured out. He didn't need to invest much time in researching spells and their effects because summoning spells related to earth elements were already in relative abundance.

Goliath was supposed to take care of the enemy mobs. Scorpions were tasked with attacking key players within enemy lines. Lastly, Behemoth was supposed to destroy the enemy flanks with overwhelming might.

The Goliaths struck their weapons to the ground or on their chests in unison to create rhythmic thuds. The Scorpions made chattering sounds with their sharp teeth as they ground them against each other.

And the behemoth just stood still like a mountain. His eyes glowed green and he stretched his claws as if waiting for orders. Even without making any noise, the behemoth's presence couldn't be overshadowed by anything or anyone. This towering creature looked like it would create quakes every time he walked on his fours.

The earth element golems had a basic weakness and that was the golem core. Once it had been damaged, the summoned creature would disperse on its own and its body would revert to being a lump of earth.

However, one would have to wonder how they would find the golem core inside the Behemoth. Even if they locate it, the next question would be how to destroy it without getting squashed by the creature in the process.

Eren used his soul sense on the earth element summoned creatures and found out that Gilhouse wouldn't be able to maintain the Behemoth spell for much longer. He'd either have to cancel the remaining summons to focus on Behemoth or let Behemoth's consciousness get dispersed and crash its body in a few minutes.

Gilhouse started breathing heavily when he cast Behemoth. Summoning such a beast was only possible because of his C-rank elemental attainments and the in-depth research his clan had collected for him regarding earth-element summoning.

The whole reason Eren allowed Gilhouse to finish casting his spells was that he wanted to see for himself how the man did what he did best. He was bound to digest his experiences once he had Gilhouse in his grip. However, some things are better seen in real life for a broader perspective.

Eren's eyes shone with greed when he thought of digesting Gilhouse for all his elemental attainments and gains. He couldn't have asked for a better summoner at this point. Gilhouse's attainments would truly enrich Eren's summoner path as a whole.

"Wooo!"

The butcher whistled inadvertently as he exhaled a deep breath looking at Gilhouse's summoned creatures. He wondered how he would ever convey his thanks to House Remus for its all-in investment in him.

[Chapter 896 Pragmatic Gilhouse](#)

Eren was standing on a small mountain cliff as he watched Gilhouse's summoned creatures from an elevated perspective.

He was sure that he would have considered running away from Gilhouse if he only had his close combat class or his summoner class to rely on. The summoner couldn't be defeated with conventional strategies. Especially when Eren was a rank lower than Gilhouse.

Eren's gaze was inspective as he gazed at the army of Goliaths, the school of Scorpions, and the mini-mountain-like being that was Behemoth. It was as if he was watching a preview of what his upcoming summoning spells would look like.

However, Gilhouse took Eren's silence as him being afraid of his creatures.

The earth element summoner had an evil smile plastered on his face. He and his security detail appeared on the Behemoth's back and looked at Eren from the same altitude as him.

"Hehehe! My summoned creatures are difficult to kill and can be easily replaced by using the earth as a foundation. They allow me to consume less mana while allowing me to choose from a variety of battle styles.

They have allowed me to perform many party wipeouts. After I mastered my spells, I never really lost any battle against opponents of my level."

Gilhouse thought that he was trying to intimidate Eren. However, what it truly did was strengthen Eren's resolve to digest Gilhouse's gains.

Unaware of Eren's thoughts, Gilhouse continued his speech.

"I have a proposal for you, Eren Idril. Get captured by me for the time being. We will renegotiate our terms regarding ownership of White Raven City. We'll use our resources to save you from other organizations that you messed with."

Gilhouse's offer surprised him. The guy was using his summoning spells to intimidate him. However, what the butcher was surprised about was the fact that Gilhouse offered him a renewed offer even after messing with his clan so much.

"You are not interested in avenging your clan members' deaths?"

Gilhouse had a frown on his face after hearing Eren's question. He prevented himself from lashing out at Eren a couple of times before taking a long breath and restarting his thought process anew.

"The fact that you might have killed Remus clan members is indeed regrettable. However, we cannot bring the dead back to life."

Gilhouse looked at Eren's undead summons and had another brief pause in his speech. He sighed before adding further.

"We cannot bring them back like normal living breathing beings. I am not saying we will forgive you for your transgressions against us. It will require a lot of commitment and compensation on your part.

However, killing you creates a lot of unwanted effects for us. An intact city is better than a partially ruined one. Especially when we have to share it with other stakeholders.

What we are doing with you is gaining exclusive ownership. We would essentially replace you in the city's tri-party arrangement. This way, the city will remain prosperous and we will avoid sharing our gains with unwanted players."

Eren made an "I am impressed" face at Gilhouse's offer. He realized that Gilhouse would make a capable member of a business-oriented clan like his. This level of pragmatism is really rare these days.

The butcher chuckled before speaking up in response.

"I really appreciate the offer, Gilhaus. You have risen above and beyond to deliver your sales pitch. And I can also sense that your offer is genuine. If someone else had been in my position, I think they would have accepted your offer.

I am not saying that my city is unsellable. Except for a small number of things, everything else can be bought and sold. One just needs to figure out the right price and they'll be golden.

Nevertheless, I don't see your clan paying the things and prices I want in return for my city. In fact, I don't think any organization that wants the city for itself will be able to pay the price I'm asking. You just have to believe me on this when I say it."

The butcher then smiled mischievously before adding further.

"Besides, I'm getting paid in dividends for my enmity with you. Why would I ever stop that from happening?"

Gilhause sighed deeply as if he was expecting something like this from Eren. At this point, he could only fight.

No further talk was necessary. The mana in the surroundings swirled as the two summoners made their move.

Gilhause moved his Goliaths and scorpions. He sent them to fight his undead. The undead army was also made to move with all its vigor by the butcher. The wrath mana infused within the undead made them fiercer and more active. They approached Gilhause's army while releasing sharp screeches.

"Screeeee!"

"Groaaaar!"

"Kitchkitchkitch!"

In a few moments, the winner of the first skirmish was decided. The undead tried to attack the golems with all they had. However, they couldn't overwhelm the golems using their spells and attacks. The golems were just too sturdy to be affected by the undeads' attacks.

"Hahaha! Summon more of them, Eren. I will allow it. Let me show you how fearsome my golems can be. Let's have an exciting duel before I end up killing you."

Gilhause looked like he was enjoying bullying another summoner. The first encounter with Eren's undead assured him that he could defeat him easily. The butcher was yet to involve Meera in his attacks against the summoned creatures. However, Gilhause knew that she wouldn't be able to make much difference. At least until Eren's summoned creatures stay weak like this.

The butcher scratched his chin before nodding at Gilhause. He too was interested in having a summoner show off against him to learn more about how he utilized the earth-element summoning spells. He wouldn't miss the live demo for anything.

"Hmm. Let's have a duel. This time, no undead. Um... don't act surprised when you see my next summons though."

Eren said before raising his arm. He made all his undead perform kamikaze attacks on the golems. A distinct set of creatures were about to appear in their stead.

The woodland creatures that Rey Remus used to summon.

[Chapter 897 Woodland Creatures' Supremacy Over Earth Golems](#)

The woodland creatures sprouted from the ground like wild mushrooms.

Some were as large as Gilhause's Scorpio summons. Others were slightly shorter than Goliaths. However, all woodland creatures looked more nimble than the earth element golems. They were more lively, indicating that Eren's intelligence stat was capable of supporting the consciousnesses of so many creatures.

The woodland creatures also started wielding wood-element maces, spears, and other weapons. Some woodland creatures were seen wielding wooden shields that looked as weak as a plank of old and brittle wood. However, the wood-element runes enhanced their durability.

The woodland creatures screamed and stared at Gilhouse's summons with unmasked rage. As if each of them had a personal grudge against Gilhouse's earth-element golems. These intentions made them human-like and more active than any other regular summons.

Eren was seen using Rey Remus' spells better than him. Eren had mastered wood-element summoning like he had spent his entire life doing it. Even the undead summoning Eren had performed was a cut above Goro's summoning.

This was like an inspired product getting more popular than the original one. As if Eren had stripped Rey and Goro of all they had and made something better out of their illegally obtained resources.

The woodland creatures stood in front of Gilhouse's mini army in standard order. It made it look like two organizations were settling their disputes by having their juniors fight each other.

"What the fuck is going on?"

Gilhouse mumbled to himself as he watched Eren's summoned creatures take shape in front of him. Woodland creatures were Rey Remus's specialty. At first, he thought that Eren using undead summons was a one-off thing. As if this was some sort of weird coincidence. Or Eren must have done something to claim Goro's powers. As bizarre as it was, it still somehow made sense to him if it was only limited to Goro.

Eren, using the woodland creatures, presented Gilhouse with a pattern. That the butcher was a serial killer. He was especially targeting summoners from House Remus and luring them into traps in which they believed they were in charge.

"He... he wanted me here!"

Gilhouse had a metaphorical bomb detonated inside his head as he thought of this possibility. It looked like he wasn't the most excited about the mission. The latter was also looking forward to it. The exit from the army was one thing but the butcher was also anticipating Gilhouse playing dirty with him. So that he could use Gilhouse the same way he had used Rey and Goro.

"How the... no... why... no... that's not it either. YES! How... the bigger question is the how part."

Gilhouse started talking to himself. He looked distraught, shocked, angry, and afraid at the same time. He looked at Eren next before asking him in a grim voice.

"How the fuck can you do something like that? What kind of cultist ritual do you have access to and why didn't I hear anything about this?"

Gilhouse's question didn't come as a surprise to Eren. Instead of answering, he chose to let his summoned creatures reflect his intentions.

"Kraaaaaa!"

The rage-driven woodland creatures charged at their enemies with enraged momentum. They attacked the golems nearest to them. They started engulfing the golems in their vines to hinder their movements and agility which were already low, to begin with.

With heavy blows and powerful weapon swings, the golems tried to destroy the woodland creatures. However, they were too rigid and sluggish for the active and nimble woodland creatures. Instead, they would divert or dodge the golems' attacks and keep on using their bodies as fertile soil for their plants and thick green vines.

This was the case with the Goliaths fighting normal woodland creatures. The butcher also summoned woodland creatures with integrated spells. He had used the wood-element spells used by Rey Remus himself to empower his summons.

This special group of woodland creatures came equipped with movement spells, defensive body armor spells, and a variety of mid-range attack-type spells.

These sturdy and spell-enhanced woodland creatures started targeting the Earth Arachnides. They made up for their rank difference by attacking in quantity. The integrated spells were an added advantage.

Gilhouse watched as Eren's woodland creatures absolutely dominated his earth-element golems despite the rank difference. The wood element spells were like the bane of Gilhouse's summoning creatures. Something he wasn't aware of before because it wasn't Eren who was using these summons.

The battlefield looked like it would soon be taken over by quickly growing vegetation. The wood-element mana in the surroundings was so dense that the nearby trees also started showing signs of growth and evolution.

It looked like Gilhouse's summons had gotten stuck in a green quagmire. The quagmire was using the essence of earth-element creatures against them. This collective essence was being used to fuel the joint AOE spell.

The more the golems fought with the woodland creatures, the more the latter's advantage started to become apparent.

Even though the woodland creatures did not attempt to destroy the golems, their cores were destroyed. The woodland creatures would just siphon the essence the golem cores had, drying them up.

The wrath mana provided the woodland creatures with the intention they were missing when they were summoned by Rey. With uncontrollable anger, they sought out the essence from the golem cores and used that to cage them.

This was similar to a sapling using the nutrients in the ground to grow and depriving the soil of its essence. The golem cores would be destroyed on their own after being subjected to this treatment.

For the first time in a long while, Gilhouse felt fear. Fear of meeting the same fate as the other two Remus clan members who had stood before Eren a while back. Gilhouse thought that they must have gotten cocky with Eren too, treating him as a minor nuisance instead of treating him like a real threat to their entire House. And both of them met a similar fate.

'No... I can't let that happen to me. I'll kill him with all my might.'

[Chapter 898 Cheats To Win](#)

'No... I can't let that happen to me. I'll fight with all my might.'

Gilhouse thought to himself as he looked at Eren with determination. The time for testing each other out was over.

He geared up his Behemoth for Eren's summons. It would kill his summons as well. However, that did not matter to him much if he was able to target Eren after destroying his summons.

Gilhouse's security detail observed the fight between two rankers as mute spectators. They were also shocked by the woodland creatures Eren had summoned.

The butcher could feel what he was thinking. So he made a few things clear to Gilhouse while smiling subtly.

"Hehe. Those two Remus clan members who fought before you had the same determination as well. What you have thought of isn't really revolutionary."

Eren looked down and found out that his woodland creatures had almost destroyed all the earth's golems except for a damaged-looking Scorpio. The Behemoth was kept away from the battle, so it wasn't included in the count.

The butcher pursed his lips and shrugged his shoulders before adding further.

"Alas! I'm afraid I won't be able to entertain you by allowing you to show me all your "might." This won't turn into a long and arduous battle for both of us.

I can prove that even that massive tank you have under your feet isn't helpful to you if I attack you personally. I can prove that I am not just a summoner or a close combat expert. That I am all of those things and more.

But what will it do?

Fighting with two summoners in death duels is enough for me at this point to know the ins and outs of the class. And I have seen how you use your spells as well. So there's nothing to see. Nothing to experiment with."

Eren took a long breath and looked at Gilhouse with a tinge of disinterest. He just paced around a bit before adding more.

"I don't have to prove my might all over again to myself or my opponent. Why should I take the toil of killing you personally at the cost of injuring myself when I know the result?

So this time, I'll just cheat my way instead. I'll use the simplest way to dispose of you and claim your achievements for myself."

Eren said and smiled before turning towards Alephee. He bowed and pointed to Gilhouse as if ushering Alephee into a room.

"Please do the honors."

Alephee chuckled when she saw Eren's gesture. It was as though he was using her as one of his lackeys to get rid of a minor nuisance. However, he did it elegantly. So she had to give him some brownie points.

"Alright. I'll just start training you more thoroughly from tonight onwards as my compensation."

Eren shook his head and smiled mirthlessly. He didn't mind getting grilled if the process was worth it. But he thought that he had hit a ceiling when it came to handling pain. It turns out he'll have to up the scales soon.

Gilhause wasn't sure what Eren was thinking or talking about. But at this point, he didn't care. He commanded the Behemoth to charge. The mini-mountain-like creature stepped forward and started running. Each of his steps caused a small tremor in the surroundings. And his momentum was strong enough to agitate the winds around him.

The woodland creatures along with what remained of earth golems were destroyed when the Behemoth used his arms to smash them into the ground.

The giant earth-element creature also destroyed the quickly growing vegetation on the battlefield. It also used a peculiar spell to imbue the very ground with its mana, making it difficult for the summoned creatures to use the ground as their foundation.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The Behemoth got rid of all the small fries within a few seconds before focusing his gaze on Eren who was standing at a distance. He charged towards Eren with its master and his security detail on its back.

Gilhause gave a heads-up to the rankers assigned to protect him. And he started casting a defensive spell around him, as he watched himself getting close to Eren. However, he saw the Gothic girl standing beside Eren disappear into thin air.

The next thing Gilhause knew, this Gothic girl was standing in front of him, inside the perimeter created by his security detail. She did it so flawlessly that Gilhause's security detail was yet to catch up.

Alephee raised her hand and cast her spell. And et voila. The security detail around him all mysteriously died. Their bodies crashed to the ground as if they had lost all control over them. It was as if they had died in their sleep while standing up.

Gilhause wasn't spared from this phenomenon either. He had his heart removed from his chest without there being a single wound on his torso.

After Alephee held his heart in her petite-looking hands, the Expert-ranked clan member's tank spell came to a halt. There were no signs of blood leaking from the heart as if it were still doing what it was supposed to do. The spatial fabric around it was lucid and rippling like the water surface.

The butcher appeared beside Alephee and raised his hand— his empty palm demanding something. Under Gilhause's horrified gaze, Eren took hold of his heart and crushed it without a moment's delay.

Drop. Squeeze. Squirt.

Blood spewed from the major arteries and only then did Gilhause feel pain in his heart. The spatial ripples around the heart were stabilized when that happened.

Gilhouse was brought to his knees and the Behemoth started losing form. It crashed to the ground before turning into the mini-mountain it was. The butcher, Alephee, and the dying Gilhouse were now seen on the peak of another small hill surrounded by recently destroyed vegetation.

"Thanks for saving me the trouble, Alephee."

Eren said to the homunculus before transforming his hands into slimy blobs. He narrowed his eyes at Gilhouse's ashen face before speaking up.

"Thank you for living a good life and collecting experiences. Rest well knowing your mantle will be carried on by me.

And say hi to those two for me, would you? Fret not. I'll send some more Remus clan members your way if and when I get the chance. Bye!"

[Chapter 899 Entering D-Rank Solid Stage](#)

After Eren stripped Gilhouse of all he had, he reached the solid stage of the Adept rank.

Eren claimed the Expert summoner's spells, experiences, weapon comprehension, and elemental attainments for himself. He also processed some of Gilhouse's key memories. Gilhouse's storage was also claimed by the butcher.

The Expert-ranked entity's life essence along with his diversified experiences was enough for Eren to progress further in his ranking journey. He stopped progressing when he was only a step away from breaking into the C-Rank himself.

The butcher smiled and opened his eyes when he was done reading through Gilhouse's experiences. He raised his hand and summoned a golem for himself, trying out one of Gilhouse's go-to spells— Goliath.

"I was always lacking in earth-element attainments. I'm glad that this guy took care of the issue for you. He was a worthy supplement."

As Eren reflected on his progress, he felt joyous. There was a stark difference between what he was in his last timeline and what he was at the time as an Adept ranker.

"Hehe. Having Goro and Gilhouse back-to-back must have hit the spot. I wonder what kind of summoner House Remus will send next."

Alephee said to Eren while looking at the surroundings in front of her. The battle between two summoners had changed the entire landscape of the battlefield. Gilhouse's tank summoning Behemoth was the main reason behind such a drastic change.

"Hehe. No need to wonder anymore. I know who it is, thanks to the memories I have obtained from Goro, Gilhouse, and Rey. His name is Birmond Remus.

The guy's a B-rank. But he has an injury from practicing his ranking technique. It would be a while before he came out of seclusion. I wouldn't hold my breath for his appearance."

Eren licked his lips and narrowed his eyes before speaking further.

"But make me wait long enough and I'll visit him instead."

Eren chuckled before letting his demon beast come out of his beast space. As Argo spread his wings, he approached the dead bodies of the guards Gilhouse had appointed to protect him from harm. Alephee had taken care of them as well and they needed to be disposed of. A job Argo was willing to take. The demon beast, however, like its master, had an ever-increasing appetite.

"Yo... boss man. Argo wants Expert-ranked meat as well. Argo demands equal pay."

Eren had dark lines on his forehead when he listened to Argo's demands. The beast knew his master had just digested Gilhouse whole. And he wanted to do the same. Since Eren had been able to attain the solid stage of the Adept rank, Argo would be getting close to breaking into C-Rank because of the synchronous reaction of the master and the beast. He just needed the right nutrients to do so.

Eren pressed his temples and looked at Argo with a grim face. He pointed at the dead bodies of the Adept ranked rankers before commenting.

"Look... these are what we have right now. You can get more when we have more. Besides..."

Eren was about to continue speaking to Argo when he noticed a new presence approaching. The expert-ranking Edinburgh army officer who accompanied Gilhouse had followed in his footsteps. He had come alone, telling everyone else at the cultist base to stay put.

"He must have felt the C-Rank spells setting off. So he decided to support Gilhouse in case he needed any help in dealing with the cultists."

Alephee commented looking in a particular direction the Expert-ranked army officer was coming from. Eren nodded at her assumption before adding up.

"That's good as well. I had to tie loose ends one way or the other. I guess the fat bird will have the food he wants after all."

Argo drooled when he heard that Eren was about to offer him an Expert-ranked soldier. He flapped his wings and let out an eagle cry to express his joy.

Eren didn't bother taking care of the guy personally. He had Meera Madinah intercept him. Argo fought with the Expert-ranked entity as well, earning his ration. He was very particular about hunting for himself from the moment he was born.

The demon beast was injured and bloodied in the process. With Meera protecting him and his aerial skills on point, no attack turned fatal for him.

Eren looked at his status window while Argo was busy devouring the Expert ranker whole.

Name- Eren Elijah Idril (Verified)

Organizations- Edinburgh Army (Nightshade duchy, Applying for Exit Mission), Lionhearts Adventurers' Academy

Academic Status - Graduation On Hold

Ranking Technique - Rootless (Custom Name)

Base Stats:

HP- 42 / 42

MP- 42 / 42

STR- 44

AGI- 42

INT- 42

BTP~ 212

BTP Visibility - Private

Ranking Status: D-Rank (Solid Core State)

Abilities (custom): Sin of Wrath (Domain of Wrath), Sin of Lust (Mist of Lust), Sedating Gaze, Expedited Regeneration (Bloodline), Devour (Bloodline), Shapeshift (Bloodline)

Self-created spells: Wind-Fire Shards

Lightning-element spells: Blitz Steps, Blitz Heal, Blitz Storm, Blitz Shield, Blitz Bolt, Solid Spark, Lightning Seed, Lightning Tree

Fire-element spells: Fireball, Firebreath, Hatching of the Flame (variations), Fire Wings, Rain of Fire, Crimson Storm, Igni Chains, Igni Steps

Time-element spells: Sedated Perception, Stunning Speed, Total Control, Age Expedite, Age Reverse, Motion Manipulation

Space-element spells: Blink, Dynamic Distance, Perfect Projection

Wind-element spells: Wind Wings, Wind-blade Tornado, Wind Steps, Wind Wall, Wind Shards

Water-element spells: Aqua Hammer, Aqua Heal, Aqua Blades, Aqua Wall, Aqua Steps, Aqua Storm, Aqua Whips

Wood-element spells: Green Prison, Vicious Vines, Healing Vines, Wood Life Control

Earth-element spells: Earth Wall, Earth Steps, Earth Manipulation, Earth Spikes

Death-element spells: Death Wave, Death Rot, Shadow of Death

Miscellaneous spells: Beast Contract Spell, Demon Beast Transformation Spell, Wind-fire Wings, Wind-Fire Shards

Summoning Spells: Fire snakes (variations), Purple Lightning Snakes, Red Lightning Bull (Contract beast Summoning), Griffin, Woodland Summon, Woodland Wonderland, Army of the Dead, Contract Undead, Living Undead, Goliath, Earth Arachnids, Behemoth (calibrating new entries)

One had to say that Eren had the most comprehensive set of spells and Abilities in his arsenal at this point. It was more than anyone in his rank in the land of Anfang. This kind of variation alone was a testament to how difficult it was for him to progress further in his rank. And yet, he still managed to keep his ranking progress at a relatively rapid pace.

[Chapter 900 Thriving Evil](#)

Eren then started cleaning the battlefield.

The dead bodies of all the rankers, including the officer with the expert rank, were devoured by Argo. He progressed further in his ranking status as a result, only stopping at the doorway of the next rank.

No other army personnel came to the site while Eren was crafting the details of the scene for himself. In doing so, the army personnel stationed at the cultist base had saved their own lives without them knowing the danger they were in.

When a doctored battlefield was created as per Eren's wishes, he called out Arjun and Lyon. He also asked for their help in setting up a narrative. They had to get their stories straight after all.

Arjun and Lyon were tongue-tied when they heard from Eren that two Expert ranked army officers along with a bunch of Adept rankers had been "martyred in the line of duty." Only at this point did they realize how much of an iceberg Eren was.

The three rankers sat around the same bonfire Eren had lit up previously. They were talking about various things at once.

Eren lectured the two rankers for a while and instructed them what and how much to say in their reports. While releasing a cloud of smoke from his nostrils, he suggested the idea to his two friends.

"This settles my affairs with Edinburgh's army for good. And I am not coming back. You guys should leave the army as well. Leave the army and be done with it.

I am not saying you would be in danger as you battle the forces of Layos in the upcoming war. But there's a high chance someone from our own kingdom will use the war as an excuse to get to you."

Lyon raised his eyebrows at Eren's absurd theory. He was drinking his limited stock of dwarf ale. The dwarf had shared his bottle with the two rankers. Eren had drunk more ale in one gulp than the two of them combined. As a result, Lyon refused to pass the bottle over to Eren again.

"You and your conspiracy theories. Why would they target us? Our work on this mission has been flawless. At least that's what the reports would say."

Eren shook his head in denial and sighed before speaking up.

"It's not about you. It's about me. They would like to obtain more information from you regarding me using any possible way. Arjun has connections. So they won't be able to do these things within the army's legal framework. But all bets would be off when the war starts.

Contrary to what you might think about me, I'm one of the most influential figures in Edinburgh right now. Hehe. You are drinking ale with a low-key celebrity."

Arjun nodded at Eren's statement, completely agreeing with his predictions. He clenched his fists before speaking up.

"It won't be easy for me to leave the army, Eren. I had signed up for the spirit beast program and received a spirit beast in return. Even with my connections, they won't let me go this easily right before the start of the war."

Eren stared at Lyon's bottle for a moment. He created mental pressure with his soul sense to make Lyon pass him the ale. The dwarf looked at the butcher scornfully and mumbled a few cuss words under his breath before passing up the bottle.

Eren drank from the bottle and finished the whole contents in one go. He then continued to smoke his Sativa Stick before providing both his mates with a solution.

"Hmm. I'll call Altashia up and tell her to arrange an exit strategy for you. Something that won't kill you outright. You would want House Argas' shadow protecting you at this point. So be prepared."

Eren knew that altering the crime scene, doctoring the evidence, and setting up a flawless narrative weren't enough anymore. It would protect him and his mates from legal trouble. But the organizations that were targeting him had gotten a hint of what he could do. They would see right through any kind of bullshittery he had cooked up for the masses.

Lyon sighed in a melancholic tone when he saw Eren finishing up his limited stock of dwarf ale.

'Celebrity, my ass. This bastard has his own liquor brand that is making headlines. He probably has tens if not hundreds of White Raven Ales in his storage now. Yet, he indulges in gulping down the free stuff whenever he can.

He hasn't changed at all when it comes to thriftiness.'

Lyon got up from his wooden log serving as his seat and dusted his butt off. He then started pacing around the bonfire before talking about his next set of worries.

"But where will we go after leaving the army? It's not like our enemies will stop coming for us when we do that. In fact, they'll just get bolder since we don't have an institution to back us up."

Arjun and Eren chuckled at each other when they saw the dwarf pacing around with his hands behind his back. They both agreed with each other on the fact that Lyon would speak sense while he was half drunk.

Eren finished his smoke before voicing what Arjun had in his mind all along.

"Both of you are welcome to join my guild. I won't guarantee your safety 100% but it is close to that number. Now that I'm technically out of Edinburgh's army, there's no force holding me or my guild down. It'll only prosper in the future. Especially during these turbulent times.

My journey is only beginning. Hehe. Why not make use of me while I make use of you?"

Eren's words made sense to Lyon and he agreed to do what Eren asked him to do. Arjun was already on board with the plan and was just waiting for Eren's invitation. The three talked some more before leaving the region.

As Eren had planned, the killings of two Expert-ranked officers as well as Gilhouse's security detail were pinned on the cultists. The three rankers stationed at the distant post had their stories in sync. And lastly, the influence of House Argas made the army authorities close the case on the mission.

The butcher's connections to key figures within the kingdom also played a significant role in assuring his progress was not hindered by the forces that were trying to target him. They could only watch him while gritting their teeth, waiting for the so-called right opportunity to launch another strike at him.

Eren successfully left the army. And his mates were on their way to follow in his footsteps.

The White Raven city and his guild had created a well-functioning mechanism for Eren to receive everything he needed. His manufacturing line along with his connections to the Last Blood Bastion made his products famous outside the kingdom as well. They were now slowly making their presence known throughout the land of Anfang.

It was safe to say that Eren and those who were with him were bound to thrive in the upcoming times. The butcher's progress was slow but deliberate. He did not run after an instant growth. He wasn't completely perfect in his plans. But he was sincere in his efforts. And efforts like these were soon starting to pay him his due dividends.