

TECHNOLOGY 1301

Chapter 1301 - Who Dares To Summon Me?

-The Capital City, Arcadina-

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~Drizzle. Drizzle. Drizzle. Drizzle.

The faint taps of rain fell onto the shoulders of a sturdy youngster on black.

These were the late weeks before the summer finally ended.

Thus, Fall was still a few weeks away from emerging.

Yet, in this early September, the rains had come ever so gently as though to give a warning of what was yet to come.

The deck creaked and shifted beneath the youngster's feet. And the sounds of night sea birds quickly fluttered away from the creaky docks.

He had to admit. The smell was still bad.

Salty water, rotted fish, horse shit, tar/ship sealant, poultry and all sorts of smells were mixed to produce a unique that constantly bombarded his nostrils without mercy.

The youngster frowned in displeasure: "Brodie... Haven't the policies been enforced yet?"

"Your majesty, it was done a few months ago. But some people are still stubborn about it, secretly dumping all sorts of waste and feces in the waters and grounds around the docks." Brodie stated. He was one of William's secretaries who used to be one of his father's most trusted aides.

The foul stench came from all the rotting items thrown around the place.

And even though rules were made, many just found it more convenient to throw their trash in the ocean or around the Sandy rock shores.

And a majority of times, the rule-breakers seemed to be those coming from their continents, be it in secret or publicly. These people take Arcadina and the rest of Pyno as a large dumping ground. And even when they arrived to auction out their many extraordinary 'potions' and items from Morgany or other regions, they seemed to do as they wanted.

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Typically some people could prepare to sleep on their ships if it was very comfortable. The matter of pooping out on the deck floors was a norm. By morning, the people assigned to clean the decks would have to row the feces away. But they weren't paid to be Toilet cleaners. So some things had to change.

Of course, they were those who still pooped by handing their butts at the sides of the ships. And if it stained their vessels before falling into the water, you best believe the stench would carry on.

But the most annoying thing was that they would throw their dirty 'toilet-sponges' into the waters after wearing out their use.

And the doing would naturally float, just causing the entire place to look like a floating trash facility.

People shared their toilet sponges, all willing the same ass with them. And now, imagine how they used to live before, William and many people in Pyno couldn't help shivering from disgust.

Lying trough. How was it possible that they used to use twigs, grass, sponges and those hard clothes to wipe their asses? More still, how was it possible that they also shared these items amongst one another in the same house?

Eww... Gross!

After using the soft and delicate Toilet papers from Baymard, they felt that if they went back to the previous ways, their butts would itch and scar from using such crude cleaning methods.

Oh my God! How come they used to share these things? So unhygienic!... Especially in these virus times.

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Over the years, the more they knew, the more they understood that hygiene and poorer care were why many illnesses popped up from stagnant waters filled with rotting disease items to various situations around the place; how could they not get ill?

The animals, rodents and even the waters around them carried deadly diseases.

And now, seeing the many toilet sponges and dirty items floating about the water, it was clear enough to see that the majority of the polluters were foreigners.

And by 5 A.M, the dockworkers would have to take their boats and canoes out and pick up every floating item, as well as clean up the dock floors and sandy shores too... All because some people had no manners or respect for the rules literally pasted on the massive boards across the decks.

William sneered.

Heh. It looked like he would have to increase Fine for any foreigners caught going against the rules.

Maybe they still did this because they felt that the current fine was chicken change. Then in that case, why not increase it by 200% for foreigners?

Hmhm.

Call him a bully all you want. But if he didn't do it exaggeratedly, they would really feel like they could just insult him and throw chicken feed to his face anytime.

As for the other Pyno citizens, they had their own fine different from that of Arcadinians. But in the end, there was a general rule stating that after one gets caught for the 2nd time, their home would increase too.

And if anyone within the merchant association, there were additional rights that would also be taken away from them as well.

It's because of this that many didn't disobey. Additionally, they had been 'civilized' over the years, throwing their garbage in the many garbage bins all across the ports.

Only the foreigners didn't seem to care.

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Past midnight.

~Din. Din. Din. Din. Din.~

William and his elite team moved amidst the light drizzling rain.

And just up ahead were several massive foreign ships all lined up majestically.

Brodie and everyone else's eyes glowed with displeasure.

Bastards!

How dare they summon his majesty as if he were nothing?

Many wanted to draw their blades out and slash these pieces of sh**t, sinking their boats to the very bottom of the sea.

Damn them! Damn them for looking down on Pyno and his majesty!

They understood why his majesty had decided to come out. But they still felt aggrieved on the matter.

William looked at the enormous galleys slightly bigger than his royal ships, only feeling that he needed to improve Arcadina fast!

As for these Morgs who called him out, it was never too late for a gentleman to take revenge. So why not follow his cousin's (Landon's) famous way of acting like a pig to eat a hangol?

William licked his lips playfully

Interesting....

Chapter 1302 - A Grand Welcome?

Tension.

The air was brittle and hard with uncertainty.

And like statues, countless foreign knights lined up proudly across the dock lanes closer to their ships.

Neither the faint drizzling rain nor the slightly cold ocean breeze deferred them from standing as still as statues. Swords on their waists, goldenrods in their hands, and very decorative attires on, all magnified the strength and wealth of these foreign visitors.

Who? Who was it? Who owned this magnificent legion of galleys?

Across the Pyno docks, several people within the regular ships belonging to Pyno merchants, nobles, fishermen and many more, now secretly watched the show with all sorts of questions and thoughts in their minds.

William was fully covered up with one of his famous Ghostly Prince masks and a black cloak... So many didn't know who he was.

Nonetheless, they could recognize the attire of the royal Arcadinian guards. And this clue alone made them feel that maybe these strange visitors were his majesty's guests?

No one could be sure for now. So all they could do was watch the show.

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~Din. Din. Din. Din.~

William's team walked across the dock, incoming their way closer to the main Galley, which was the largest ship of all, and had its upper parts painted Golden too. Its sails were light red, and even the ropes maneuvering them were dyed red.

From a distance, the moonlight seemed to reflect on the gold-painted ship, making it sparkle vibrantly.

Stunning. Stunning... It was indeed a beauty.

Too bad William had no mind appreciating its stunning and awe-striking appearance.

~Whoosh. Whoosh.

William's eyes moved left to right and back. On his left were rows of foreign knights, and on his right was another row of knights stationed in a straight line, right up to the main ship.

And as he moved by, these guards didn't even bow slightly or acknowledge his presence. They stared ahead like rocks, neither looking at him. But even at that, William could still see the disdain in their eyes whenever he got closer to them.

Come to his territory and disdain him? This was ridiculous!

This move alone showed just how much 'respect' these foreigners had for him and his people.

They acted as though spending one more second here would kill them

But who was it that invited him out? Was he the one who called them over to Pyno? Did he beg them to visit Arcadina? No, he didn't. So what's with the attitude?

William's expression turned cold. And soon enough, he reached his destination, standing before a massive board that led upwards to the towering ship.

"This way."

"Hmm."

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William finally reached the very top and was immediately greeted by hundreds of soldiers lined up around the massive deck.

And at every interval, he could also see fire torches lit up to reveal the beautifully carved deck floor that looked like a piece of art.

His men hopped aboard the ship with him, taking in every little detail about the massive ship while secretly calculating what they would do if things took a turn for the worst.

But before they could get an even clearer picture of things, 3 burly men with terrifying appearances marched towards them in full knight armor.

"Stand your ground!" The men said, not having a single iota of care for this 'paper monarch of Pyno.

"The Marquess of Tuskilany, Marquess Rudolf, will make his grand appearance now!"

Marquees Rudolf?

Instantly, everyone turned to the massive upper floors above the deck.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Several stationed golden gongs were rung violently, followed by the sounds of flutes playing majestically.

Alright. If people in the neighboring ships weren't up before... now, their noisily neighbor had ensured their sleeplessness.

Bang. Bang. Bang. Bang.

The sound resounded across the open air.

And the next thing everyone knew, several ladies in very light and airy clothes all emerged from what seemed to be an open hallway on the floors above the deck.

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~Thah. Thah Thah.~~

The ladies threw countless flower petals and danced vigorously across the scene. They danced without care, slowly descending to the stairs and finally landing on the deck floors.

Some women then followed after the group of dancers and flower throwers, wearing unique sets of clothes with baskets of fruits and in their hands. And from time to time, they would also goggle and laugh shyly.

William raised his brows thoughtfully. A beauty scheme?

~Giggle. Giggle.

The ladies seemed to be chuckling at heaven knows what.

Of course, following this set of women was yet another set in very exposing outfits. These ladies held massive flower fans in many shades of pink, white and green.

What was the purpose of having these fans in this light drizzly night? Only the heavens would know. But well, with the size of them, maybe they would be able to serve as umbrellas.

That said, the faint rain had already begun stopping. The rain was so faint that it was almost as if it wasn't falling. And no one seemed to take note of it either. If anything, the rains seemed to raise up the heat that had long been trapped underneath the grounds.

And now, even though the slightly windy sea breeze gave a refreshing relief, it was undeniable that the heat was still engulfing them.

The late summer nights were still as tough as ever.

William and his men stared at the very seductive scene of women frolicking around and still stood firm, acting as though they couldn't see these women at all.

The outfits these ladies wore were so thin, exposing their nipples and every other body part too.

But, amid a potential enemy, why the hell would they be thinking of this?

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The ladies moved across the deck, doing their very best to look as enticing and as captivating as ever. And soon enough, the person they had been waiting for had finally decided to show up.

William chuckled playfully.

Good. He was here.

Now, they could get to the bottom of things. After all, he had to get back to sleep, no?

Chapter 1303 - Their True Purpose

Tall and intimidating.

These were the first few words that came to mind when many spotted the giant descending the stairs.

And as he moved, his men all bowed deeply towards their master. But William and his men didn't even flinch a muscle at his show of power.

How foolish.

Did these people think they would bow to them because of all this? Moreover, he, William, was a Monarch. And in the best, there have been countless Pyno rulers who bowed their heads to other influential foreigners. But he would never be one of them... Especially after they have done nothing but disrespect him all through the night.

What a joke!

~Din. Din. Din. Din.

The towering burly man descended onto the scene, taking his place on what looked like a built-in throne for him on the deck that stood on a rectangular podium.

The man sat his massive self on the seat, positioned himself like a king before gesturing for his to finally allow William and the rest to approach his vicinity.

"The Marquess will see you now!" One of the men said to William before leading the way, giving him no time to respond.

Tsk!... Rude much?

William squinted his eyes coldly, counting all their crimes against him in this head.

Well, he wanted to play a pig to eat a hangol. So until he knew their purpose, only then would he show his claws to the enemy.

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"Sit." The burly man commanded. And William did precisely as he was told, sitting on a stool they had just brought in for him.

You look at me, I look at you.

The duo maintained a fierce staring competition, observing and analyzing each other from head to toe thoughtfully. And soon enough, William broke his eye contact in defeat.

Marquees Rudolf sneered inwardly.

'Lowly Trash! Dare to compete with me? Heh... Weakling!'

Rudolf stared at the anxious William with disgust. He knew that these people were trash. But how could they be so bad? It looks as though apart from the late Alec Barn, no one in this shitty continent had the guts to stare him deeply in the eye for so long.

There was a reason why he was nicknamed 'the Abyss.'

He had med many go numb with terror with just a single glance alone. Well, at least even though the boy before him was trash, he was still better than many others since he could maintain a stare with him for these many breaths.

It was a minute and a few seconds before William broke off.

A broad smile was now plastered on Marquees Rudolf's face after giving his targets something to fear.

"William Barn... A lucky survivor who managed to trick and take down his Uncle, Alec Barn, from within the shadows... You, I've heard a great deal about. And though your beginning is somewhat impressive, it's a far cry from being capable and acceptable to be a ruler of this vast empire." Rudolf said cheekily before biting into a tasty grape laid out before him.

His tone and demeanor seemed relaxed. But his abyss eyes were something else!

They were cold, ruthless and told a lot of what would happen to William if he didn't follow along.

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Bubuum. Bubuum.

Adrenaline rushed through the veins of the Arcadinians as their hearts continuously speeded up with uneasiness.

WHAT DID HE MEAN?

Rudolf glanced at the tensed Arcadinians and chuckled: "What? Did you think that your uncle had sat on the throne without the help of others?"

The T.O.E.P! T.O.E.P!

Were they meeting a T.O.E P member in the flesh?

Everyone swallowed dryly with enlarged eyes, looking at Rudolf more instantly as though they wanted to burn his entire image in their minds.

William was greatly shocked, to say the least.

A real T.O.E.P ranked never, and not a subordinate!

Damn!... He never thought he would be seeing them this soon.

Marquees Rudolf saw their expression and only thought they were shocked from his words alone, not knowing that his T.O.E.P status had been uncovered.

The Marquees licked his lips, enjoying the sweetness and flavour of the grapes. He did love to torture his targets mentally. Oh, what fun it was!

William glanced at him with a mix of uncertainty and fear of his face: "F-forgive me, your lordship. But you said that I'm not suitable for Ruling Arcadina. Then might I ask who has the power to decide such things?"

Instantly, Rudolf's face turned cold. "Boy, you're unworthy of knowing who the real decision-makers are. But like I said. My people placed your uncle on the throne years back. And long ago before his demise, a chosen successor was already placed should in case he died. Of course, based on the agreement we had, your uncle's first and only choice was his first son, Prince Eli. And the second choice was one that we, the decision-makers, had long chosen for him. That person had been groomed in the empire of Lingingburg, Veinitta, and will soon come over to take his rightful place as her to the throne. Yes! That person does have Arcadinian royal blood running through his body. His Grandfather was your grandfather's brother!"

Boom!

William couldn't believe what he was hearing.

He had another relative alive somewhere hidden in the shadows?

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Blink. Blink.

The information was too shocking. So, this long-distant cousin of his was coming back for the throne?

From the looks of things, this cousin should've been living well in Lingingburg and might even have a grand title.

Then didn't this mean that this person would be approaching with a man army soon?

Rudolf grinned: "Normally, we would've just assassinated you in the dark. But that cousin was so nice that he decided to give you a heads up on the matter. So, you might as well enjoy your last ruling period as Arcadina's Monarch. Because soon, the real heir to the throne will arrive.... William Barn, your ruling days are numbered!"

Chapter 1304 - Sebastian Barn

"William Barn, your ruling days are numbered!"

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The words resounded in everyone's ears as though it were the devil's call itself.

Rudolf looked at their struck appearance, carefully picked up a fresh juicy apple, rubbed it against his sleeve and bit into it playfully.

The real reason why they chose to tell William, rather than having him secretly assassinated, was because he was going to be prey for the big wolf.

That's right. His distant cousin, Sebastian Barn, had been born in the organization.

Yes. Some people were born, initiated and trained by the order. And the boy was one of them. And as he grew up, he still became a well-known young noble in Lingingburg.

But, he was 1/3rd Arcadinian and 2/3rds Linggion. So his grandfather had him never forget it!

Back in the days, his grandfather had planned to assassinate William's Grandfather, Oden, for the throne. Unfortunately, he failed woefully since Oden had so many faithful followers.

But because of Oden's kind nature, he couldn't bear to kill his own blood. Thus, he exiled him out of Arcadina, never to return.

Heh. If Oden knew that his decision would come to bite his grandson in the butt, Rudolf didn't know if the old geezer would regret it or not. But as it stood now, Sabastian was very determined to get the throne!

Anyway, the story went like this... Sebastian's grandfather struggled to flee Pyno with his men because apart from his brother, he had created other enemies in Pyno who couldn't wait to chew him raw now that he was down.

Staying in Pyno would only lead to his downfall.

And that's why he and his men had no choice but to disguise themselves, as well as their families, getting on a few of their ships and fleeing to wherever they deemed fit.

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They landed in Lingingburg, Veinitta and struggled to survive and work their way up in an environment that looked down on them, from Pyno.

First, they bought a grand estate with half of the money they all gathered. Each of their vassals lived in that same lavish estate, saving cost.

Additionally, they all knew that they were in a pinch, so no guard expected monthly pays, at least not until they picked themselves up again.

Now, the ladies formed and grew foods in the estates while the men still trained, but also went out to gather information.

After a while, they opened a small merchant guild. And soon, that guild grew into a larger and great guild that was now stationed in over 20 major cities in Lingingburg, pulling as much money as possible.

Everyone was curious about these new strangers, and only a few years later did they choose to disclose their identities, irrespective of the rumors flying around about them.

Some had long guessed their identities, while others were clueless.

But the confirmation from them only came after they established a certain reputation within some parts of Lingingburg.

Well, it's not like the entire empire knew their name off the bat.

No. They started with an average city, gaining trust and advantage there.

And soon enough, those in the neighboring towns and ages knew their guild. And after a while, they decided to go forth and open a branch in another faraway city, with the help of some of their new contacts, while they promised great discounts or free goods for their assistance.

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Like so, their population had spread for decades now, following Sabastian's Grandfather, his father, and now, himself.

Those were a lot of years for growth. Additionally, they also opened a few stores and owned a large cave with iron ores. Thus, their wealth had long grown.

But the key factor to making them gain a title in Lingingburg was because Sebastian's grandfather took in a Linggion woman as his 2nd wife.

It could be said that at that point, the woman was his only wife, seeing that he left his first wife behind in Arcadina.

The woman had refused to aid or have anything to do with him.

He married his first wife 6 months before he planned to usurp the throne.

At that time, he was 16, and Oden was 18. They did have 2 half-other siblings, who had long does from his hands.

It would interest many to know that Oden took the throne at 15 after his coming of age because their father had long been poisoned and slowly dying. So the man wanted to see Oden on the throne before he passed away.

Thus, Judd Barns had long schemed to kill his brother Oden but failed and was discovered by everyone.

Back then, he was hot-blooded and very short-tempered, wanting to get results quickly, hence calculating his enemy.

You know, after his rushed wedding, he didn't even spend the night with his bride, only because he wanted to hasten up and head for his secret base.

There, he finalized his plans and rushed to the Capital to take Oden down.

So after he got exiled, his newly married wife, who used to look at him in awe and lick his feet, now turned her face in disgust and refused to abandon her noble position to follow him.

That was that.

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He got into Lingingburg, married a noble's daughter after a few years of gaining some foothold in the empire.

Don't get him wrong. He did have a few fun nights with tons of ladies daily. But those were pleasure slaves who had their wombs destroyed.

He would never take a low life as a wife. And even at that, he waited and waited to catch a big fish, which he did.

And that lady birthed Sebastian's father, who was now birthed as a Lingingburg noble. Following that, Sebastian's father married only a single wife too.

There was a reason why they did this. Firstly, they were partly Arcadinian, so if they angered their powerful wives because of cheaper or lesser noblewomen, they would only be shooting themselves in the foot.

At the same time, their attitude had won the admiration of many women in Lingingburg who longed to be the only wife to their husbands. Fighting and putting every day in the harams was indeed tiring.

Like so, Sebastian Barn and his 2 other siblings were born as Linggion nobles!

Chapter 1305 - A Perfect Plan

Rudolf admired that Barn family.

A few years prior to the birth of Sebastian and his siblings, his father and grandfather had just joined the T.O.E.P.

As for their wishes, Judd used to gain more strength in Lingingburg, while his son used his to initiate all of his future children into the T.O.E.P... That was his wish.

At the same time, they also built up their forces for when one of their Barn Children would go back to Arcadina and rule it all!

It was never too late for a gentleman to take revenge.

Sebastian had 3 siblings, a sister 2 years younger than himself and a brother, 3 years a few months younger than himself. The 3 of them were close and very warm with one another, having little to no internal disputes.

After being born and initiated into the T.O.E.P, they had individually grown their power and had long decided who would do what growing up. Sebastian took up the mantle, swearing to become ruler of Arcadina and washing his grandfather's reputation clean.

The T.O.E.P in turn had faith in him, since he was someone they groomed from birth.

So even though they did agree for Eli Barn to be the first choice after Alec's death, they were always secretly pushing for Sebastian instead.

Do you know how many things would be easily accomplished when they had a ridiculously loyal person on the throne?

Well, they would've kept Alec's promise to leave Eli to take the throne. And after a few months, they would've killed him off instead.

Hey... No matter how angered Alec would get in the afterlife, they did abide by the rules of leaving his son to take his seat, no?

(^+^)

However, William was a bug that they didn't even see coming.

Who knew that he had a similar survival story to Sebastian?... Except that his was more righteous. But so what? Power speaks, and that's that. So all he could do now was back off for the true monarch to arrive.

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Rudolf massaged his chin thoughtfully.

He had been stationed in one of the Coastal regions in Lingingburg, with the sole purpose of doing his own job, should Alec kick the bucket.

Hehehehehe... Every so often, he found his leg stationed there in wait for news of Alec's death.

In particular, he would permanently get stationed there during the Kill-Free period when meets could plot and kill themselves. But he was in a specific department exempt from this, and was more of the policing type, finding and taking note of those who died.

So he got stationed there, planning to get information about some members in Veinitta, as well as some in Pyno.

He had just 6 people to focus on.

Additionally, Alec's case was unique because once he died, Rudolf also had another job of putting Sebastian's wish in motion.

T.O.E.P rules stated that members couldn't kill each other unless during the Kill-free period.

So back then, no matter how much Sebastiana and his family wanted Arcadina's throne, it was a crime to do anything to Alec.

During the killing period, they too were busy protecting themselves. So all they could do was wait for the bastard to kick the bucket and die!

The entire thing was just one big dramatic mess.

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Rudolf had always gone to that Coastal city to stay there for the next 8~9 months until he got word on Alec's situation and a few others in Veinitta and Tenola.

Of course, he wasn't the only one policing or checking them up.

Every enforcer had a list of people scattered in various regions. So concerning other T.O.E.P members like Nopline, that was not his business and jurisdiction. He was only focused on the list he had.

And just as he said, apart from being a T.O.E.P enforcer, he was also assigned to be one of the 4 lead units in charge of granting Sebastian's wish.

He had only arrived in the coastal region a few months prior, and had immediately heard of Alec's death and some William guy taking the throne.

So of course, he sent word of his next moves to Sebastian and his leaders, before taking action on William.

Firstly, William had a capital offence of killing a T.O.E.P member (Alec), which was unusable by death.

The order protects its kind. So any outsider that touched a member would be punished severely.

But... Because Sebastian wanted to play with William and make him desperate like a lab rat, they had long come up with an elaborate plan to make him live in hell right before his throne got snatched away.

Yup!

It should've been Eli and Alec's other children who faced this situation.

However, since they were unavailable, then William would have to do.

For Sebastiana and his family, William was an embodiment of Oden.

So yes! They wanted to treat him as though they were treating Oden himself.

That is, William's father, mother and everyone else would have to suffer until it was their time to die!

Judd Barns was still alive in Lingsburg to this day. So for the Grand finale, he would come over and be the one to behead William and anyone else who looked like Oden.

Because it was true William resembled Oden too much, as though he were Oden's twin.

Heh. He was in for a real treat in the following months to come.

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Like so, Rudolf only stayed at that Coastal region for 2 weeks before turning towards Arcadina and sailing up the Banvia river that led towards the Capital.

The river was deeper than that of River Nile back on earth.

And because of its importance, the number of guards stationed across it was always astronomical. There was also river control, with several massive drawbridges created to stop ships from advancing, as though they were building bridge checkpoints across the zone.

Of course, because Rudolf came from Veinitta, the guards allowed him to pass... especially after hearing that he had a message for his majesty.

They let him go but sent word on to warn William.

It was just that William just arrived at Arcadina a week ago, after getting sent back by the Baymardians.

He went to Landon's wedding and was back to find the message of strangers coming his way.

William chuckled.

Did they think he wouldn't dare to do anything to them because of their positions?

KILL!

Chapter 1306 - [Bonus]A Monarch's Guarantee

Rudolf looked at William and the other Arcadinians with a confident gaze that suggested they would never go against him.

But just when he thought William would break down and completely give in, a burst of loud laughter erupted, making him stunned.

"~Hahahahahahahahaha~~

William laughed heartily as though laughing at a clown.

"Funny... Very funny."

Very playfully, William relaxed on his seat and grabbed a few apples.

Thap. Thap. Thap.

He threw them at the first 3 Arcadinians beside him. And of course, he saved the last for himself.

Crunch!

He chewed and smiled at Rudolf mysteriously.

Very juicy... Very juicy.

Bold!

Rudolf turned colder than he already was, squinting his 'abyss eyes' at William fiercely.

No matter how slow he was, he realized that William's previous act was fake!

The bastard didn't fear him at all! Even now, William treated his abyss eyes like nothing, calmly enjoying himself as though he were an actual guest up here.

What the hell was wrong with this guy? Did he think of himself as the late Alec Barn? What impetuous! What arrogance! Did he believe that he, alone, would be able to stop the T.O.E.P from secretly taking over Arcadina? NAIVE!

Rudolf shifted his position, moving from relaxed to fierce on his throne-like seat.

The muscles along his jaws seized. And at this moment, it took all his restraint not to slash William into half.

How dare he play with him, the great Marquess Rudolf?

'Boy! Your arrogance will be your downfall!'

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-Silence-

A long silence followed. And all many could hear were the sound of apples being chewed, the calming waves below and several faint sounds from around the port.

The silence was pregnant with tension that seemed to freeze time for everyone!

Look left, look right.

Rudolf gave his men the sign.

And they in turn took out their swords and sacred, holding them as firmly as they could.

The ladies also stepped back, making themselves nonexistent too.

Everyone had their one little calculation at heart.

~Tap. Tap. Tap. Tap.

Rudolf tapped the armrest of his throne, keeping his eyes locked on William as though he were a wild beast hunting its prey.

"So... Is this your choice?"

~Crunch.

William bit into his apple, taking his sweet time to digest its nutrients. And when he was finally done, his relaxed mood changed.

Boom!

The beast was unleashed.

William's powerful aura exploded across the screen, making many give him a second look of vigilance.

Pretender. Pretender...

There was no doubt about it now. This guy was definitely playing with them earlier.

Good... Good... What a good Arcadina!

They seemed to have a knack at birthing rebellious bastards!

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Everyone was inwardly cursing Arcadina and its rebellious nature. After all, a majority of those in Pyno's history to ever go against the T.O.E.P seemed to erupt from Arcadina. It was as though the people here were born with a certain level of stubbornness, trying to go against their fate.

That is, be it for good or bad purposes, there was no denying that Arcadina seemed to be the stubborn one in Pyno... Well, Arcadina and Deiferus.

As far as the T.O.E.P was concerned, throughout history, The 2 had always been the troublemakers in Pyno.

William's gaze was cold.

"You come to my territory, enter my gates and march in vibrantly, only to tell me this rubbish?"

Rubbish?

The faces of these foreigners quickly turned distorted. But they still remained silent.

"You come into my territory, telling me... No! Commanding me to abdicate my throne, as what? As my Deity? Are you my Omega? Are you my ancestors? Just who the hell are you all that I will have to give you face and listen to your nonsense?... Pff~... Bahahahahaha~... Aieyyy~...It's been a long time since I laughed like this. Hilarious. You all make good jesters... Say rather than doing all this, why don't I hire you all as my official court jesters instead?"

Bam!

"That's enough!!!!!"

Rudolf's thundering voice erupted across the scene, followed by the breaking sounds of the table, shattering before their very eyes.

Rudolf had slammed his fist onto the table with technique and pre-school, causing a zig-zag line for form on its surface.

And the next thing they knew, all the little bowls of food had slanted down the middle before falling onto the ground below. rays of foo

~Clang!

The golden bowls of fruit fell in one splatter

.

Rudolf's body was trembling with a fiery rage that could burn an entire forest to the ground.

"How dare you." His voice was low but powerful. "How dare you think of me as a common jester. Good... Good... Good... I hope you can still think all this a joke once you find yourself, your men and your families skinned and hung above the city walls for all to see!"

William squinted his eyes dangerously: "Is that a threat?"

"No. It's a guarantee!"

-silence-

William remained silent for a bit before applauding the big fool before him.

~Clap. Clap. Clap. Clap.

"Marvelous. Marvellous... Truly marvellous. Of course, I too love guarantees. But old man, whether your guarantee will happen or not, is something that's still far away in the future... For now, don't you think you should worry about my guarantee instead?"

Guarantee? Was he trying to...

Zoom!

Rudolf's eyes became laser-focused: "William Barn, do you dare?"

"Well, not only do I dare to do so, but I'm also 'guaranteeing' you of it too." William said, dawning a broadened smile on his face.

Offence Number 1: Disrespecting a monarch and summoning him out as though he were a mere subordinate.

Offence Number 2: Ordering him to abdicate the throne.

Offence Number 3: Threatening him with the lives of his family, his men and his people.

Offence Number 4: Belonging to the T.O.E.P.

And finally, Offense Number 4: Just being too unpleasant to see.

William stared at the offender before him coldly.

"Mr. Rudolf, your biggest mistake was underestimating your opponent. So here's my guarantee: I, William Barn, will promise that none of you will be able to leave Arcadina alive! Men!... Take them down!"

.

William's voice called out, and before anyone could react, a storm of Arcadian soldiers had jumped into the ships from all directions.

What?!!!

It was only now that Rudolf and the others realized just how crazy William was.

Even if they weren't from the T.O.E.P. the moment they mentioned their Morg status, he still dared to go against them like this? Was he tired of living?

~Sling!

Without wasting any time, Rudolf unsheathed his sabre. He had sailed into enemy territory, thinking that the enemy would have some common sense in that head of his.

Things always worked this way, no matter where he got sent to.

That was Morgany's reputation.

Plus, even without knowing Morgany, just seeing the level of wealth and the size of his vessels would make many not dare to touch him because they wouldn't want to invite troubles their way.

The situation could be seen as though he had a powerful father looking after him.

If one's father is the greatest being in Hertfilia, even if the son committed atrocities and misdeeds, everyone would be afraid to go against that son. Even if they hated him, they would have to put their claws away and smile pretentiously. They had no choice in the face of power.

And this was the standard order and logic here. So why in heaven's name was this bastard trying to go against that? Was he a fool? No one could bear the T.O.E.P's wrath.

Touch one strand on his head and the boy wouldn't be given an easy death.

They would find various ways of torturing and keeping him alive for decades and decades, living in complete despair, almost making mad.

As it stood now, his offences were just piling up one after the other.

First, he killed Alec. Then, he refused to surrender. And now, he dares to raise his swords against other T.O.E.P members too?

Great! Great! What a great William Barn!

.

Bang!

Rudolf kicked the already broken table fiercely while swinging his sabre as though trying to get a good grip of things.

Whoop. Whoop. Whoop.

His action looked confident and intimidating. But his no point didn't seem fazed at all.

William was no newbie to psychological pressure. So very calmly, he took out his sword and found his battle-stance.

One lean, one gigantic.

Anyone would definitely place their bets on Rudolf scoring a victory. His physique gave him the majority of battle advantages there were.

He looked like a towering beast when standing next to William.

However, it was too early to say who the real victor would be.

Rudolf licked his lips fiercely.

"Boy, remember...? This is the path you chose. So don't blame me for being cruel."

"Big fella, I could say the same for you, too. Now... as my favourite cousin would say.... Shall we dance?"

Chapter 1307 - The Mighty Rudolf

~Ting.

The duo clashed their swords against one another with a fiery passion. And just as one would expect, William was overpowered.

"YAH!" Rudolf yelled, pushing his pointe back.

Strong. Very strong.

This was William's thought, looking at how far back he had been pushed.

It was just the beginning of the battle, yet his wrists had already been forced to turn at extreme angles that made them feel pain.

Rudolf's bulging muscles and veins were already in full display from that single attack alone.

And seeing how far he pushed his opponent, Rudolf was complacent, grinning again at his might.

And with several more waves, he forcefully smashed his sword at William from all angles.

Whoop. Whoop. Whoop. Whoop.

The sounds of the air whistling dangerously.

Focus. Focus. Focus. Focus...

William dodged as though dancing, leaning to the left, right, ducking, and even falling backward, all to avoid the deadly blade.

And the more he dodged, the fiercer Rudolf became.

"Bahahahahaha~... Boy! It's already impressive that you can dodge by lightning Illusion sword for so long. Trust me, not meant people can do it." Rudolf said with a cheeky grin plastered on his face.

And for the first time, William truthfully agreed.

Make no mistake. Rudolf's slashes were nothing of the ordinary.

Take a good look at the slash.

Vibrations...

That was the best word he could come up with when examining the matter.

Picture a string held firmly at its ends. And then, imagine someone pinching and pulling the string from its center.

The vibrations that occur on the string, rocking back and forth, were similar vibrations he saw on the sword.

That's right. The sword, though looking ready, was rocking side to side with each slash.

This also meant that the sword attack would cover thicker width ranges too.

Moreover, the fact that it was constantly vibrating made it hard for William to see the precise location where the attack was targeted.

This might seem like a useless piece of information to many. But in battle, one could be saved an inch away from an attack.

Calculating angles and coming up with attack predictions was what would keep one alive.

He couldn't afford to slack off, or he would get cut without even knowing it

Dammit!

.

~Whoop. Whoop. Whoop

Sweat trickled down William's forehead the fiercer the attacks came.

"Hahahahahahahaha~... Boy, where's your confidence now? What's the matter, can't handle my lightning illusion technique? Hehehehe... If you think you can wear me off by doing and but attacking, then too bad. Don't you know where I come from?"

~Whoop!

"Boy! I've been on the battlefield for over 5 hours, using only this technique. So if you think I'll lessen my lightning speed, then think again!"

With that, Rudolf concentrated all his strength into the next attack, aiming to slash William onto half cleanly.

"Eat my sword, you lowly piece of sh**!"

~Whoosh!

The sword moved incredulously as William quickly moved to the side as though diving into water.

Bloody Hell!

What sort of techniques are they teaching those bastards in Morgany?

He didn't know if it was an illusion, but he honestly felt that his life was about to end just now.

William rolled off and painfully dragged his body off the floor.

Looking at his left shoulder, he was supposed to get scared.

The injury he just received was terrible. .that is, a thin, topmost layer of his skin had been sliced off as though one were slicing thin strips of meat.

Terrible.

The surface was now dyed red, with blood continuously oozing out of it.

The last time William ever felt this close to death was when Eli and Connor almost killed him in one of his secret bases.

Dammit!

William gritted his teeth while watching his opponent swirl the sword in his hand playfully.

"William Barn... I did give you a choice, no? All you had to do was just lower your damn ugly head for the return of the true Monarch. You are a paper Monarch, not wanted by anyone. So let me put it to you now. Even if you manage to kill me, your request will still end up the same. You, William Barn, will die."

William's blood went cold while listening to Rudolf.

If eyes could kill, Rudolf would've long been dead by now. William buried the pain he was feeling on his shoulder, focusing his strength on his sword, waiting for his opponent to come to him.

That's right.

It would be foolish for him to attack first. This guy had all sorts of strange techniques from Morgany. And William didn't like surprises during battle.

But his cornered look only pleased Rudolf more and more: "William, William, William... I take it that you're a man with some sense in your head. Tutututututut... Don't try to be like that rebellious late uncle of yours. You don't have what it takes to be the next Alec Barn. So don't try to be one. I'll tell you what... Because I like you, I'm ready to offer you a deal of a lifetime."

A deal?

William remained silent, listening to the giant before him.

Hooked and sinkered.

Rudolf smirked confidently.

He wasn't a fool!

Indeed. He had underestimated how many idiots existed in this world.

No one with some 'upstairs' would think of doing what William just did.

Thus, he came here into event territory, thinking he could just waltz back out after delivering the message. Plus, with all due respect, who attacks the messenger?

Wasn't he just doing his job here? In his opinion, William was way out of line.

And that was to secure his safety leaning this place, he decided to make a 'deal' with the brat.

Of course, whether he would keep and uphold the deal was an entirely different matter.

Heh.

Now that he had said what he came to say, all he wanted to do was leave, head back and report harshly about this wannabe Alec Barn.

Rudolf smiled. "Yes.... I want to make a deal with you."

Chapter 1308 - Taking Out The Trash

William frowned. What was this bastard up to now?

"Speak. I'm listening."

"Come now, William... It's simple. As it stands now, there's nothing I can do about my people coming for you. But, there's something else I can offer and Promise."

William's brows went up: "Oh? What's that?"

"William Barn... No... Since you're enjoying your last monarch period, I should call you... your Majesty William, no?"

"You should," William said flatly.

Since this guy got here, he's calling him William Barn with no titles or respect whatsoever.

Rudolf chuckled at the young lad's temper.

"Your majesty William Barn... Though I cannot do anything for you, when it comes to your family and close ones, I do have the power to make magic happen."

William rolled his eyes heavenwards. "Get to the point."

"Sure... Whatever you say, your majesty." Rudolf said while carefully avoiding the many people fighting around him.

The entire place was filled with fierceness, as everyone seemed to be battling for their lives.

Meanwhile, he and William looked like they were just here for entertainment.

Rudolf calmly stepped back. And in the space he once stood, another person soon fell on his butt while fighting an enemy.

Yes. Rudolf and William seemed to be immersed in their own little world.

.

"Your majesty Barn, it's simple... In short, what I'm guaranteeing you, is that when you die, your family will be safe. As I said, I can't stop the danger heading your way. But I can shield or stop others from coming to your family and friends. Your mother... Your father... Your loyal friends... And even your cousin in Baymard. All of them will stay alive with just a single order from me."

"And why should I believe you? Moreover, in what capacity can you do it? For all I know, you might just be a lackey. So what makes you think I can trust you?"

Lackey?

Rudolf laughed heartily, with a hint of disgust in his voice

"Your majesty Barn, even though I can't tell you how powerful I am, I am no lackey. My position is far superior to that of a lackey. So, please... Don't insult me!"

Oh?

William listened and came up with his one thoughts deeply.

With the way this guy was carrying about, he shouldn't be amongst the lacked class of those T.O.E.P.

Then, just what position had he reached?

.

So far, they didn't know all T.O.E.P positions, only knowing what classes Alec, Nopline, and the captured Baron Cain had undertaken, thanks to some secret messages found.

Now the question reminder. How many classes were there? Was this guy in a higher position than the late Nopline or Alec Barn?

William wanted to know.

Rudolf's face was still distorted with disgust after being compared to the lackeys that they usually got from the lesser continents.

He was a true-born Morg. So what position do they think he would get?

Don't insult him!

"Your majesty Barn, whether you believe me or not doesn't matter. As it stands now, your only choice is to take my word for it. Or... Do you want to see your entire family skinned alive and hung on the city walls?"

William narrowed his eyes dangerously: "What do you want in exchange?"

"Smart boy. What I want is simple. Let me and my men go, and not only will I leave Arcadina for good, but I'll also do my magic, guaranteeing that no harm will befall your loved ones... So... Do we have a deal?"

Yes! From the reports he got attacked to the one about Alec's death, it stated that this guy was a big family guy.

He could walk onto the belly of a beast because of his family. Meaning his only known weakness was his family.

So for sure, in desperate times such as these, this guy should waste no time taking his offer.

....

Rudolf's hands remained in the air for quite some time, waiting for William to shake it.

But soon, his coy smile turned stiff with displaced anger while looking at the little imp, who was just standing there as though he, Rudolf, was invisible.

Dare him?

Rudolf's eyes were blazing hot after all the insults he received today.

"Boy! What do you mean?!"

William didn't even bother talking to him. All this time, he regained his strength after being backed to the corner by Rudolf.

Like Sherlock Holmes, his eyes and mind had been calculating what he would do to secure his victory.

'First. Attack special point on leg.

Get target to step into the hole on the floor. Standing at a higher position than the man who is now in the hole, employ body shot, kicking his chin, forcing him to fall backwards.

Block his angry attack, weaken left jaw again, attack ribs... Fracture left check, attack ribs again and finish assault by fracturing his cheek, dislocating it permanently for the last time.'

William accessed everything like a movie in his mind.

And this time, with his plan in motion, he attacked first.

"What? Boy! You...."

~Bah!

Rudolf had no time to react, as he suddenly found his left leg numb.

And because of reflex, he tried to stabilize himself with his right leg.

But because of a little shove from William, his left leg fell straight into a newly formed hole on the deck.

Plop.

"~Grraaaah~."

The wooden stakes tore into his skin painfully. This while had no doubt been formed tonight through another person's battle. So the sharp edges of the hole would be merciless to any who fall into it.

Dammit!

The pain plus his loss of control over his left leg made him livid.

But how could this be all William had in store for him?

.

~Pah. Pah. Crack. Pah. Boom!

William wasted no time in kicking the shit out of Rudolf, aiming for his weaker point, until both of his jaws seemed dislocated.

Yes. He, William Barn, might not be the strongest man, but he was one of the smartest and fastest.

Speed seemed to be his gift. And it was why he seamlessly avoided those lightning attacks earlier on.

William thought of his so-called distant cousin and sneered.

Want to threaten his family and get away with it?

Tsk. Naive.

Sebastian Barn...

Soon, they would meet.

But for now, he had to take out the trash.

Chapter 1309 - Mission T.P Activated

Landon woke up in the middle of the night, only feeling like cursing and screaming into the air like a shrew.

The number of notifications he received from William's near-death battle was too many, as though he were receiving several phone notifications at once.

Ding. Ding. Ding. Ding. Ding!!!~

(:Y×Y:)

With his pillow over his head, crying with no tears. He has really suffered in this life.

After fluffing his pillow for the umpteenth time, he quickly closed his eyes and began counting sheep.

He had several long days ahead of him. So how could he afford to keep cutting his sleep like this?

Time flew by in a blink of an eye, and before Landon knew it, they were already around Dafaren's perimeters.

Good... Finally, they could begin mission T.P.

.

~Wheewww~

The sea winds blew, and the atmosphere got slightly colder than usual.

The last couple of days had been rainy, showering faint droplets below.

The air was gloomy, hard, and filled with immense pressure.

~Din. Din. Din. Din.~

The soldiers and marines marched towards their respective stations, ready to suit up and head out or stay in!

1, 2, 3, 4... March, march, march.

Within the ships, their heavy footsteps thumped on the ground. His majesty had long given his speech, with them staying below deck.

That's right.

Landon's words echoed throughout all ship communications. And no matter where they were, they could hear it.

With that, the many brave men and women quickly headed out as instructed.

Landon and Josh walked into the control center of the main ship alongside several others.

-Military salute-

"Sirs!"

'At ease.' Landon commanded. And very quickly, everyone else in the control room took their seats once more.

There were bigger things to worry about.

"Your majesty, Major General Josh, sirs... the stars aren't visible, the clouds are foggy above, and just as predicted, tonight is darker with little to no moonlight shining on us... Captain Raymon stated." That being said, tonight, the Air force units will be able to take off momentarily."

Josh nodded while listening carefully.

.

The rains had given a little fear that maybe they wouldn't be able to use the various air force units tonight.

But luckily, the drizzling rains seemed to stop this morning. And thanks to the Navy navigator, who was also taking weather related courses from the academy, he was quick to give a prediction on the matter.

From the rain gauge, the spinning wind arrow, the clouds and several other factors, there was a high chance that rain wouldn't fall until tomorrow or well into the early mornings around 3 or maybe earlier.

So with this quick break from the rain, they had to cease the opportunity to send forth the air force teams as quickly as possible.

Josh nodded in satisfaction: "Good. Good... Keep watch on the weather. Inform the teams that the moment they sense any rain droplets, they are to head back fast!"

After all, hot air balloons were powered with 'Hot air.' It's best not to get to the point when accidents could occur. Luckily, even though it's been raining over the past few days, it hasn't necessarily been windy. It was as though the Fall was trying to force itself early but was constantly getting defeated by Summer.

Yup. They still had a week and a few days before the summer ended.

.

Landon listened in and was secretly glad that his plans were based on the system's weather report that he, by the way, bought with money.

F***!

Tilda's coming of age was a few days after Summer officially ended. So you best believe that during that time, the rain would be the one beating them silly if they didn't take it into account.

After all, their rescue mission involved hot air balloons. Meaning they had to fly at considerable times.

Thus, Landon checked the weather and was certain when making his plans.

During this rescue time, the rain seemed to lean more during the day. And at night, they would cease.

At times they would have to stop playing at 4 A.M, and at other times, they could successfully finish flying at 6 A.M. instead.

In short, since the night was their flying time, Landon had long dedicated how they would fly going forward.

In the end, Landon was also grateful that the rescue mission was at the end of summer/start of Fall.

Why? Because even the rains wouldn't be harsh. The weather was still within the transition time, confused between summer and Fall.

Thus, they were at an advantage here.

However, if he delayed his plans by 2 days max, things would get ugly because the heavy rains would eventually fall in, making them take horses or carriages to flee.

Worst, they might have to stay hiding for extended periods, only waiting for a night when the rains or the finds won't be heavy.

Of course, they could also wait for the Baymardian vehicles to rescue them. But that would blow their cover.

That's why Landon wanted things to speed up and go according to plans.

.

Like so, Landon, Josh and several other influential people all had brief checks on the various operations for tonight.

Finally, it was time for them to head out too.

"Captain Raymond, remember... Stay undetected, and retreat if necessary."

"Yes, your majesty."

"Good." With that, Josh and Dorian left the room.

They both wore sac-like clothes and had filth on their faces too. Their skin looked clumpy, and their lips looked parched and cracked from ribbing seawater on them.

With ruffled hair, lousy odor and several other changes, they looked like everyday peasants along the streets.

"Your Majesty, your copper coins." Brain said while handing Landon his Rachel of coins.

That's right.

Brian was also here as well.

What a joke! His majesty still had paperwork to complete.

Don't think that while he was on this mission, he wouldn't be doing his duties.

All the time he had been sailing, he had been working.

Landon looked at Brian, not knowing where to laugh or cry.

This guy was the sort of person that could chase him to the ends of the world and even stalk him in a bathroom to complete the paperwork.

Landon sighed and accepted his fate.

Who asked him to become ruler?

Landon placed the satchel of bound on his waist and took off with Josh.

Time to engage!

Mission T.P Activated!

Chapter 1310 - A Difficult Docking?

10 P.M

A Long stream of ships, vessels and boats of all sizes were either heading in or headed out along an invisible path on the waters.

On the ships, several people could be seen drinking, yelling or watching the view with expressions on their faces.

The salty air made everyone's throat dry.

Some were busy cleaning the ships, others were controlling the sails while another group of entitled people just stood there, mocking, pointing or marvelling at the other ships.

"What a beauty! Did you see that? Doesn't that belong to the famous Chariton Java?"

"What? The Great Chariton Java? Oh, my eyes! I can't believe we have the privilege to sail next to his fleet."

"Yes. Yes... Do you think it's everyone that can become a Chariton at his age?"

"That's right. At 29, he is already bestowed with the Chariton title after creating the Elixir of Youth! It's said that just a single bottle can fetch 20,000 silver coins!"

"Damn! Worthy of his title."

...

The voices of those aboard the neighbouring ships were just too great to ignore. Landon had a hint of interest in his eyes but didn't bother looking at the fleet belonging to this great Chariton Jave.

Elixir of Youth? Sorry, it doesn't exist.

~Swash. Swash. Swash. Swash.~

Landon, Josh and the rest of their teams rowed their little canoes carefully along the waters.

They were being smushed by these massive towering vessels. And the water waves caused by the ships made it seem like they were canoeing on a very jumpy jungle-like river.

As for trying to get a peek at Chariton Jave, why bother? They couldn't even see past the towering ships around them. So it was no use stretching their necks for nothing.

Now, their primary task was to get ashore safely, with no canoes breaking.

Fortunately, the turbulent waters below advantageously gave him a push or momentum, making their rowing less tasking. The only thing they had to control was the direction, or else they would smash into the bottom of another ship, crushing their little canoes.

.

Row, row, row the boats.

The gang rowed their boats amidst the vomiting sounds from those above.

"Hey! Hey! Come quick. Take a look at those guys below."

"Wait! if they are on those little boats, then doesn't it mean that they came from a coffee one somewhere deep in the waters?"

"Eh? I thought of that too. But take a good look over there."

"Wow! I just spotted a lady there. And there's another one again."

"Yes! You see. Men and women can't be rowing together unless they are family at best. So it's likely that they came from another ship that might have had some misfortunes out at sea. For all we know, their big ship would have sunk days ago, and they had been paddling since then for land."

"Yeah! Such a thing isn't uncommon. After all, even I have been washed ashore and struggled out in the open waters."

"Yeah! Think about it. They can't be noble or have any powers because what noblewoman would stoop so low to row a boat? Damn! Being with all you bastards aboard for months has made me miss the taste of a woman's flesh."

"Hah hah hah!~~ Old Crugo is at it again. No wonder you were analyzing the status of these ladies. Well, at least you won't suffer any repercussions when targeting them. Yes. They might be dirty-looking, but who is to say that she won't be a beauty once cleaned up?"

"I want that one!!... Hey girl! Why don't you ditch those poor bastards and come over to daddy? Look! I'll even lower a rope for you if you say yes!"

"Yeah, girl... Come on over! Our old Crugo is very vibrant and energetic for you!"

(^_^)

....

Row. Row. Row the boat.

The soldier and marine ladies, who had now become the target to these starving men, didn't even bother replying or paying them any heed.

Like so, the whistles, name-calling and mocking voices of the men continued on nonstop, with some even throwing apples or rotten fruits at them below.

But no matter what they did, Landon's and Josh's teams were entirely focused on controlling their boats.

And soon, they finally made it to the docks, toed their boats onto the many wooden stakes, before paying one of the dock keepers around.

"Com'on 200 copper coins for each ship." The fat greedy man said with disgust.

"200? That's not fair!" One of the marine ladies said, blending in well with her role of a struggling wife.

Yup. The moment they got here, they wore their fake identities as sleeves, as though they were acting in a live-action movie.

Everyone's face turned distorted with unwillingness.

And the dock keeper, who had no idea that he was on a reality tv show, sneered at them as if looking at filth.

There was a reason why peasants typically chose to sail via general travel ships that also transported goods.

They understood that people would bully and make things difficult for themselves. Thus, they would always choose to take the risk and enter a big transport ship.

Plus, could it be possible that they could row from here to another empire out in the dangerous waters?

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The entire group looked fearful but unwilling.

"Dock keeper! This isn't fair! How can we pay 200 copper coins for each canoe? Is this price yours for our entire stay per boat?"

The dock master's smile broadened: "No... It's per night."

"What?!" Josh exclaimed. "Surely, you must be joking. We came in 5 boats. So you mean to tell us that we will be paying you 3 months of what we make as salaries just for a single night? Are you crazy?"

That was 1000 copper coins for their small canoes per Night! Then what if they wanted to spend 10 nights here? Even Josh knew how ridiculous it was.

At best, it should be 5~10 copper coins per night. No wonder dock keepers were always wealthy. These people were committing high-end robbery!

Everyone was unwilling, about to argue things away.

But soon, a deep voice echoed out.

"Stop! What is going on here?"

Who?

Everyone turned around in confusion, only to get utterly stunned by the man approaching the scene.

Eh?

Wasn't this Chariton Java?