

TECHNOLOGY 1361

Chapter 1361 - Hidden Agendas

Ground floor.

Ivo and the rest had finally arrived down below.

But before stepping out or revealing themselves, they readjusted their armor, checking to see if anything was out of place.

And with his chest raised to the heavens, Ivo took a proud and intimidating stance.

However, his eyes were quick to give him away now that he had a very closer look at the massive cluster of over 70 carriages.

Bloody Hell!

Though they were painted, he could tell that they were made of metal.

But... But this didn't make any sense at all!

Metal carriages would never last because of one word... Rust.

How can one have them when most seasons favor rain and cold?

Additionally, the weight of the carriages alone would be very taxing for horses to pull for long distances... Not to talk of the weight once a person or carriage was placed into them.

Wood was always the way to go.

So how did these people do it?

How come their metal vehicles weren't rusting and could even move at such astronomical speeds?

Ivo felt his world shatter in a daze. Of course, it wasn't just him, as his men also became confused, doubting life itself.

Secret... These strangers definitely had a manufacturing secret!

"My lord! Even if we fail to take one of these vehicles, we must get the secret and mass produce our own!" Like a snake in Eden's Garden, Cerberus spoke out in a whispered tone.

"I know."

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Ivo was even more determined to keep these people in his estate.

Tonight, they'll make their move.

All he wanted was a moment to strike.

With the overly heavy rains, no one in this crushed town should've seen these people come in. The earlier he got this done, the better for him. Dragging things might only end up being disadvantages for himself.

And even if a few peasants did see these people drive his way, so what?

It would be their word against his.

At present, everyone in town knows that his estate was closed, not willing to open his doors to anyone.

So if he said he rejected these people from entering, who could tell if he was lying or not?

His men were very loyal to him, knowing his ways of handling traitors.

So all he had to do now was take care of these guests of his.

With over 70 carriages parked before him, he planned to dismantle a few, understanding just how they worked.

However, what Ivo didn't know was that even after dismantling, he still would be able to figure out how plastic, rubber, tires, glass screens and the majority of the parts were made.

Talk less of undertaking the reasoning behind why these vehicles could run the way they could.

Fuel, coolant water, and other basic factors were just a few of what he would miss.

Car mechanics were complicated... Especially creating the wires and circuiting displays.

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Ivo gallantly rode on his horse accompanied by his men, making his way towards the lead vehicle at the forefront of gathering.

And in the meantime, James also stepped out, alongside 2 others, who held up wide green camouflage umbrellas.

And once again, Ivo and the rest marveled at the uniqueness of their umbrellas. It wasn't the typical wooden frame and painted paper umbrellas that they used.

Of course, what captured everyone's attention was the bluish-white camouflage attire that James and the other 2 soldiers wore.

From their attires to their shiny boots, every material was well-tailored and expensive.

And with their chests also puffed out, it only further highlighted their intimidating auras.

Ivo squinted his eyes at them, feeling his presence insulted.

To James and the rest, they were acting neither humble nor prideful. But to Ivo who was used to people groveling and kissing his ass, this was a slap to his face... Especially in his territory.

But though he was displeased, he still maintained a calm expression when facing these rare guests.

He had to get out as much information about them before his attack. Who knows if they had allies stationed around his town?

Heh... he had to understand his guests if he was going to strike them hard.

"I've been told you all seek an audience with me?"

"Yes, sir Ivo."

"Hmmm... As it stands, I cannot and will not let you enter without knowing your purpose. After all, you might be sent by my foes. So why should I trust you? Why should I host you in my palace?"

James raised an eyebrow, looking at the burly man before him. "Sir Ivo... Though I see where you're coming from, I think you might've misunderstood our visit."

I've snickered. "Oh? How so?"

"Sir Ivo... Believe it or not, we are only here to cure the situation at hand. For the mere fact that we delivered ourselves to you only shows how determined we are with our intentions."

Here to cure the people?

But why?

(?~?)

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Ivo didn't believe their mumbo jumbo.

Who would anyone waste money and resources to care about the lives of these poverty-stricken peasants? What sort of lame excuse was this?

Ivo sneered, feeling that these people had another hidden agenda here.

'What are they truly here for? What do they want from me?'

Though they speak Roma, they still make a few mistakes when speaking. And their accents aren't native around these parts.

So the more he looked into it, the more suspicious he became.

These people were here for him, right?

Dammit! He felt his body tense greatly.

'I, Lord Ivo, will not go down without a fight. So before they make a move on me, I'll be the one to finish them off first!'

Very quickly, Ivo masked his murderous intentions.

"You say you are here to cure my people. But for all I know, this could all be a trap. So what collateral do you have to show your sincerity?"

"Collateral?"

"That's right. Talk is cheap. So I want Collaterals." Ivo said slyly. "Hehehehehe.... To be more specific, I want your carriages. No carriages, no accommodations!"

Chapter 1362 - A Kind Natured Ivo

"You want our carriages collateral?"

"Yes... I have no use for taking in your men as collateral. After all, wouldn't I have to feed and roof them while they stayed under closed doors as collateral? That's why having one of your carriages is the perfect solution." Ivo stated as a matter of fact.

His expression was calm and steady, but deep down, he was overly excited, doing his best not to rush to these carriages and take one of them away now.

"So, let me make it clear to you. No collateral, no accommodations!"

'I know your hidden agenda is to stay in my palace. Whatever foe of mine sent, you must've hatched out plans involving you gaining my trust and staying in my palace. So what can you do if I say I want collateral? Heh... You will have no choice but to do as I say!'

Hahahahaha~

(^0^)

Ivo wanted to pat himself on his back for his quick thinking.

Firstly, his asking for collateral was reasonable. And wouldn't be enough reason for these intruders to tear face with him.

Ivo had thought everything thoroughly.

To fulfill their hidden agenda, they would give him what he wanted.

Here to cure the lowly peasants? Here to break the curse?

Heh...

He would never believe such a thing!

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-Silence-

Time seemed frozen in its place.

And silence completely engulfed the scene, except for the raging sounds of rain smashing onto the metal surfaces of the vehicles and armored knights below.

Indeed, the rains were deafening.

And many couldn't hear the conversation between Ivo and James.

However, that didn't stop them from feeling the heavy pressure enveloped within the air.

Ivo squinted his eyes with a confident gaze underneath his head shield.

'Pretend... Keep pretending! You have no more moves to play. I have closed the game. So what are you pretending here for?'

James glanced at Ivo expressionlessly before suddenly smiling. And seeing this, Ivo knew he was successful.

James looked at the burly man and chuckled.

"Indeed. We came here too suddenly without sending a letter or some notice of our arrival. And for that, we humbly apologize."

Ivo waved his hands nonchalantly, trying to hold his smile back. "It's alright. All is forgiven."

"Thank you for your grace, my lord. Your worries are profound, seeing how we arrived in your town's most chaotic time. So, it's understandable why you'd want collateral from us."

"Hahahahaha~... Good! Good! I'm glad we can see eye to eye!" Ivo said, laughing gleefully.

Unfortunately, his happiness came too sudden.

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"My Lord, I'm not finished."

"Bahahahahaha... Ah?"

James raised his left brow slyly. "As I said, it's understandable that we should give you a form of collateral. That's why we have long prepared something else for that."

Something else?

Ivo's face turned grim.

Sneaky little bastards!

So what if they prepared something else?

He, as the owner of the estate, would be the one stating the terms and what he wanted as Collateral!

"No. I refuse to look at whatever you've brought. What I want as collateral are your carriages. No carriage, no accommodations!"

"Is that so?"

"Yes!"

"Alright then. If that's what you want, then we'll go. Who said we must live under your roof?"

"You~..." Ivo's face turned red with rage at James, who had resolutely turned around, heading back to his vehicle.

What was going on here?

This was not his things were supposed to play out!

Didn't they have some hidden agenda here? Wasn't their plan to stay in his estate? So were they truly okay leaving just like that?

Or could this walking-away-act of theirs be part of their strategy to gain his trust?

But even if it was all in their hand scheme, he knew that he couldn't let them go.

As they say: It was better to keep one's enemy close by, rather than far away for the person to hatch a scheme and create more turmoil that he might not see.

But under his roof, with his many hidden guards, they wouldn't be able to move a muscle without him knowing.

Additionally, if they left with their vehicles, having such an opportunity to attack them might never come again.

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Tonight, he planned to take them down.

And to make sure his plan was perfect, he had to keep them in here while sending a few of his men to scout the town's borders, ensuring that no enemy was lurking within the zone.

Over time, he and his men learnt that the curse could be prevented by avoiding those touched by the curse.

So all the scouts had to do was move away from the people, and they would be fine. Of course, thanks to the heavy rains, he didn't think there shouldn't be many people out in this chilly weather.

Once the scouts return and give their reports, they finalize how to attack these foreign intruders.

That's why he had to keep them in here.

What collateral?

The carriages would belong to him in the long run. So why not lighten up for now?

Weighing both scenarios, it was clear which option was the better one to take.

Ivo took deep breaths, calling his hot-tempered nature.

"Wait!"

Oh?

James raised an eyebrow with a calm smile.

He knew Ivo would allow them to stay.

From the reports they gathered, they had a fairly good assessment of his character.

The man's greedy nature would never allow them to move too far once something caught his eyes.

"Wait!... It's raining hard, and you all have come from too far. This lord might've been too harsh on you earlier, so for now, you can forget the collateral altogether. Since you say you want to cure my people, then I'll give you a chance to prove yourselves by observing you all in the following days to come."

"Thank you, my lord."

"Don't thank me. Who asked me to be kind-natured? Come! I officially welcome you all into my palace!"

Chapter 1363 - Finally, It Was Time!

~Vrrrrr~

In formation, the vehicles drove steadily while surrounded by Ivo's men on horseback.

James leaned back against his seat with a sly smile on his face.

"That's what they said?"

["Yes, sir. Those are their words exactly."]

"Good... Keep up the good work." James replied, placing his communicator back in its place.

Yup.

The moment they drove in, a few of the vehicles were close to the exit doors along the estate walls.

So when Ivo and his men reached ground floor, whispering to one another, little did they know that their words were all being transmitted.

Though the heavy rains almost drowned their voices, with proper tuning and amplification, they were able to pick out word for word what they said.

Heh... Technology sure was good.

James squinted his eyes, tapping his armrest deep in thought.

James was determined to cure everyone in this town and complete their mission.

And if he was at least a person who cared about his people, James and the rest might've decided to go easier on Ivo and his men.

But now, they had no sympathy for them... Especially listening to these people call the civilian's lowly poverty-stricken animals.

Well then, Ivo and his men have left them with no choice.

It was time to take out the trash!

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Like so, both sides were ready to rain havoc on one another.

But unbeknownst to them, high up on the estate walls, was a fully cloaked figure in black.

The figure stayed as still as a statue for a bit before vanishing in the blink of an eye, appearing in another part of the town.

Phew.

Landon took off his hood, staying hidden within a tree.

That's right.

He was finally here to collect his sample.

For weeks now, he had been checking in and out regularly, waiting for any of the teams to arrive at the targeted cities, villages and towns infected by the virus.

Of course, more infected regions have been popping out. But he didn't worry about that because amongst the many teams he sent were the reserve teams that would handle unexpected or upcoming infected zones.

Anyway, it's been a long, long time since he kept tabs on all unit leaders.

So the moment he discovered that they had arrived at their targeted destination, Landon was quick to warp over.

What a joke!

He had to secretly carry out his own experiments, coming up with the right formula for the vaccine.

And like he said, he wouldn't give it to them right away. He, too, would have to test it out to ensure that it wouldn't cause side effects to humans. Additionally, it would look strange and magical if he sent the vaccine when the team in Baymard hadn't received the blood, urine and other samples from here.

This was late October.

And if they send the samples now, they should arrive late or early January of next year.

So how would he explain himself?

Say no more.

All he could do was carry out tests of his own, confirming whether or not the various medical teams were on the right track or not.

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Like so, Landon quickly flashed across the town, moving from street to street, assessing what he considered to be the initial to the worst state patients.

That's right. He brought several syringes and test tubes with him. With this, he would take samples for every possible stage he could see.

He also planned to take samples of infected dogs, horses, donkeys and other animals... If possible.

Yes. He wasn't sure if animals could get affected by the virus. Nonetheless, he still chose to scout around, just to make sure.

['Host, I should remind you that though you've been blessed with a very healthy body, you're still not immune to catching the virus.']

'I know.' Landon replied, wearing his black protective suit in his space.

His gloves, suit, boots and even makes were all gray and bought from the system.

The sun was nowhere to be seen, with the gray clouds turning the town dark.

And at present, the rain created a seemingly foggy yet gray film across the scene—this is why he chose his protective attire to be gray.

The system was indeed correct.

It would be funny if he got injected with the virus, returning with it.

The question the Baymardians would ask will be how that was possible.

How didn't his majesty catch the virus while staying in Baymard? Or could it be that there was some strange organism or plant in Baymard that caused it?

Everything would be too suspicious.

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Like so, Landon moved around collecting his samples after secretly sneaking into the patients' rooms and drawing enough blood from them.

These patients were in real pain, sweating, closing their eyes and suffering, even in sleep.

To them, staying awake was much more painful than sleeping.

So many just wanted to rest and not struggle to open their heavy eyelids.

And after drawing blood, Landon hid and stayed with the patients for a while, taking notes of everything he saw obtaining to patients in each stage.

Boils, warts, sweat, overly bony skeletal figures, weakness, swollen joints, purplish necks and balding hairs... The more he saw, the more he felt the virus was readying the patients for mummification.

Augh~

Thinking of the similarities dead bodies out on the streets had, Landon couldn't help shuddering a bit.

Sunken jaws, eyeballs also popped out of their sockets, body shriveled... They all looked like mummies.

How scary..

Landon finished up, deciding to warp back to Baynard.

Sigh...

It would be great if he could stay out and see how James and Ivo would deal with one another, watching live in the flesh rather than with monitors.

However, a bigger part of him wanted to enjoy his night in the comfort of his room, accompanied by his beautiful wife.

Additionally, he had a bigger task to see through back in Baymard.

Hehehhehehe~

Tomorrow, he'll be inspecting the first Tower!

Like so, things went just as planned, with months and months flying by in a blink of an eye.

And before Landon knew it, it was already April of the new year.

Hehehhehe...

Internet Countdown Begins!

Finally, they could start thinking big!

Chapter 1364 - New Year, New Beginning.

Hahhahahaha~

Landon couldn't help smiling from molar to molar.

Over this time, so many fascinating occurrences have taken place.

For one, they had finally been able to properly control the virus situation after mass-producing vaccines in late February of this year.

Oh, and when it came to Ivo's matter, it would interest many to know that they had kept him under house arrest in his chambers for months and months without end.

Hey... They had occupied the guy's home. So they wouldn't be comfortable throwing him in his cellar like a bunch of thugs.

Of course, by the time the cure was out, they found themselves treating and quarantining over 93% of Czar.

Meaning they had met with the existing monarch during this time frame. Surprisingly, he wasn't the one the system had designated to rule. So no treaty could be signed until that got sorted out.

The system had pinpointed out that future ruler if Czar was a prince who was neither favored nor unfavored.

One shouldn't forget that since the time Zalipnia signed a treaty with Baymard, Landon had sent many teams of diplomats to the targeted Romain empires.

After all, he had a dateline given by the system to sign treaties with all 37 or so Romain empires.

Thus, he had long started his work by sending people to those who were already the righteous rulers placed by the heavens.

And now, those diplomats had long been in contact with those leaders, inviting them over to Baynard.

Of course, some were still in the process of talking with the diplomats, while others had already signed the treaties.

Now, 11 more empires have joined the U.N!

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~Clap. Clap. Clap.

This was good news, especially for himself, who had to sign treaties with not just all 37 Romain empires, but the other empires in the different continents too.

Pyno was done and over with.

And in the next 2 or 3 years, he would assist those who have grievances or misfortunes, helping them sit comfortably on the throne.

Of course, he wouldn't just focus on Romain, as he had another mission in Tenola.

Heheheheh~...

Remember the Blue Zohl people he saved from the Adonis people at sea... Well, it turns out that they had something to do with the boy he was going to save.

They had tried to kill the boy time and time again, but nature always seemed to come to his rescue.

Nature loved the boy dearly, so they wanted the T.O.E.P to take action.

They wanted the crown prince dead!

And wouldn't you know it? As the world's biggest babysitter, he had to come to the boy's rescue.

From there, he would begin his work, breaking through Zohl and all its 11 empires.

He also hoped that by the time Romain was settled, Zohl would be too.

Again, he had to start with Tilda's matter if he wanted to break into Veinitta.

As for Tenola's matter, he and Lucy had long planned to pay a visit to those witches. Maybe when he gets to Tenola, he'll trigger another mission directing him to the chosen Tenola rulers.

But this wasn't all.

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Up next, he had to visit the continent of Omania, located below Tenola and Zohl, very close to the South poles.

And one shouldn't forget the Continent of Dania, which had been completely under oppression, and was seen as the second Adonis nation.

That's right.

Apart from Lampe, the Adonis people had taken over Dania.

Lampe was sandwiched between Morgany and Dania.

But ironically, even with another entire continent under their wing, they still couldn't defeat Morgany.

Of course, it was also noteworthy that the sizes of Lampe and Dania combined were roughly equivalent to Morgany's size.

Hehehehe...

The workload was heavy.

And for the big bosses of this world, Landon would only attack them last, lest he shoots himself in the foot.

So Dania, Lampe and Morgany would just have to be the last things on his mind.

For now, he had to unify the other continents and empires.

Tsk.

As expected, by the time he was done, history would remember him as the big teacher who helped the many monarchs take their seats on the throne.

Many might praise him, forgetting that it was still babysitting!

Whenever Landon thought about it, he didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Sigh... If he voiced his opinions, who would believe it?

(-_-)

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Like so, several treaty signing ceremonies had been going on while other works continued too.

But more importantly, Landon finally had ample time to teach the last surgical procedure he had to complete under his current main missions.

And it all involved dentistry.

As for what it was, why spoil the fun for many?

In 2 more weeks from now, the entire Baymard will be bubbling once the news of the procedure is made public.

It wasn't anything a modern person might feel to be jaw-dropping. But to these people now, it was Godly.

Soon, people from all over the world would be heading over for the procedure, though this also meant that they would invite trouble of their own.

More and more events have unfolded during this time, with all 3 of Penelope's brothers either getting engaged or married.

Hey!

They remained in the barracks here in Baymard. But according to the initial plans set out for them, in another year, they would be heading back to Carona permanently to aid Penelope and the rest in creating a stronger Carona.

Another fascinating news that Landon almost didn't believe was that Astar was now engaged.

Astar! Astar of all people!

Hahahahaahah~

This was a joke, right?

Landon felt that the information might be false.

But when he visited Astar for the engagement ceremony in February, he almost fell off his chair.

Seeing a very possessing Astar was too shocking. This guy was only possessive of food. So what was this?

Since when did this guy have a romantic bone in his body?

Landon felt weirded out.

Chapter 1365 - Changes All Around.

Astar? Romance?

Impossible!

Every time you see this guy, you only see him with food in his hands or mouth, even during public speeches and appearances.

Maybe the people were used to it, adjusting their eyes to filter the food he always had on him out of the picture.

So now you tell them that such a person knew how to take care of a woman?

Everyone was in disbelief but soon found it reasonable after knowing that their monarch had fallen in love with a palace chef.

Who else could get into his heart apart from a chef? Many of the ladies were biting their handkerchiefs in regret, wishing that they learnt how to cook an egg at least.

As noblewomen, many had never seen the kitchen in their entire lives. To protect their skin, delicate hands and bodies to remain soft, plump and good like a newly born baby's buttocks.

So how was it possible for them to know how the kitchen staff work?

Only those who visited Baymard had the privilege to learn a thing or 2 whenever they stayed in apartments or other rented spaces.

Even at that, they still couldn't tell how vastly different Baymard's kitchen was from that in their noble estates.

Thinking of Astar falling in love with that little chef, many didn't feel jealous because the way to Astar's heart was food. They couldn't cook. So why get envious of that?

Plus, it was Astar they were talking about. Weirdly, not even the ladies thought of him with romantic eyes.

Maybe because his image had been crushed severely every time he was out in public.

Would it be weird if they said that they saw him like a hungry child rather than a partner?

How do you go about seducing a blockhead in that department? It was like talking to a stone.

As for his fiance, she, too, was a bigger foodie than him.

He used to sneak into the kitchen, stealing whatever she prepared. And one day, she snapped, seeing how her precious food was always stolen.

She truly loved all food ingredients, be it from Baymard or Terique.

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Their love story was indeed hilarious.

She loved experimenting and creating various food miracles.

Astar used to steal her inventions. And the 2 began their romance from there, though she was very opposed to him at first. To her, what man can compare to food?

Her attention span was low on everything else except food. And for the first time, Astar found something other than food that gave him joy... And that was teasing her.

Landon's lips twitched wherever he thought of their romance. They were both 2 pure and simple people with one thought direction... Food!

In this world there is always a partner for everyone.

Well, though they were engaged, Astar's 16-year-old fiance refused to get married yet. After all, she had planned to enter the Culinary and Bartending Academy this year.

The age gap between Astar and her was only 2 and a half years. So Astar had no problem waiting.

His only cries were that he wouldn't be able to eat her innovative food all the time.

Sigh... Astar felt that he would be visiting Baymard more frequently than before.

Of course, all this was on the premise that she passed the entrance exams.

Landon had refused to open the backdoor for anyone concerning this matter.

Even if it were his child or his sister, they would also have to prove themselves worthy and compete fairly with others.

If they lacked skills, it wasn't something shameful.

Failing was a lesson for tomorrow's victory.

Well, 'Yukihira Soma' had taught him that!

(*^*)

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Landon shook his head, thinking of all the romance in the air.

It would interest others to know that thanks to him, William had finally gotten the green light from the girl he had secretly been in love with.

She was that port security guard who helped William the first time he came.

And even when William and his family had stayed in Baymard, waiting for Alec Barn's attack, she had seen and accompanied him for the few months he was here.

At that time, his identity was secret. And at that time, she only took him as a regular friend.

You know, even after William was monarch because his portraits hadn't spread out yet, many didn't know what he looked like.

Thus, she started falling in love without knowing his identity.

In the end, she was angry when she found out, refusing to see him.

And after 6 months of her turning him down, William had no choice but to ask for his help.

Even though he promised, he would never force her to do anything she didn't want. So he sent Lucy to her instead.

The girl said all her worries and concerns, which were all reasonable. She loved William, but his identity was too strong.

It took a while to convince her to let her worries go. But slowly, William revealed his heart, showing that those worries of hers were for naught.

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He, William, came from a single-couple family who lived with all sorts of identities in disguise, day in day out.

He had taken in various jobs, working lowly positions and meeting the lowest of the low in society.

William used his actions to prove his sincerity.

And in the end, the 2 got together, and Landon sent her to Arcadina every 4 months to assist in training Arcadina's airport security team.

That's right.

With the internet upon them, as well as the completion of those advanced technologies from the system... It will soon be time to launch Air travel.

And for this, the various airport sites in the other empires need to be prepared!

It's one of the reasons he has been busy of late.

Tomorrow, he'll meet with the other representatives from the various empires.

He had an outlined plan, stating what they needed to do and look for when choosing their airport site.

It can't very well be in an overly packed and crowded place.

As for their Runways, the system had permitted him to create, meaning he could use the same Tar they did for the Baymardians roads and runways.

In the end, the empires needed to look at spaces to complete the project.

Landon smiled foolishly, thinking of today's plans.

~Ring~~

["Bahahahahaha!~... You're majesty; it's Tim! The Internet is online! The big launch is a month and 2 weeks from now. So your Majesty, it's time to test out the prototype computers!"]

Landon chuckled.

Yes.... It's time.

Chapter 1366 - A Very Clean Process

Hahahahaha~

It's time! It's time! It's time!

Landon was almost flying after receiving Tim's call.

Well, you know what this means.

Vrrrm~

Catchack!

Landon stormed out of his vehicle, leaving towards the newly emerged manufacturing site dedicated to all computer makers.

The estate was still small, but the buildings were tall and enormous!

Landon looked at the towering manufacturing building before him, rubbing his hands excitedly.

The entire place was super busy with people acting like ants, going about their various jobs.

And as expected, the moment he arrived, it didn't take long for Tim to burst out through one of the doors like a mad scientist.

"Eureka! You're majesty, we've done it now... Hahahahah~...."

Landon chuckled, allowing Tim to drag him about the place.

"Your majesty, your majesty, that happened to your legs? This way! This way!"

The overly excited man had forgotten Landon's identity, though he kept saying 'your majesty.'

But who can blame him?

The internet... Computers!

Words alone couldn't describe everyone's excitement.

And Landon more than anyone else understood why the entire manufacturing industry was going crazy with overly stretched smiles on their faces.

But, no matter how thrilled he was, Landon was, per protocol... He had to suit up.

~Zip.

Tim had an impatient and aggrieved expression on his face every time he entered and reentered the private locker room.

"Your majesty, don't worry... Take your time."

3 seconds later.

"Your majesty, are you finally done?"

5 seconds later.

"Your majesty, do you lack anything else?"

7 seconds later.

"Your majesty..."

"Your majesty..."

(-_-)

Landon didn't know whether to laugh or to cry.

Hello, can you give me some time here?

Tch!

Shaking his head left to right, Landon gave up and resigned to his fate.

With not just Tim but the various supervisors looking at Landon as though he had bullied them, he had no choice but to speed up.

And when he finally stepped out of the locker room, their saddened expressions turned into sunny ones in a blink of an eye.

" "

What sort of fast changing-attitude was this?

"Hahahahaha~..." Tim started laughing and skipping like a youngster in a field of daisies. "Your majesty, I will personally walk you through the inspection!"

Landon secretly rolled his eyes.

'With all the drama you've caused, who else but you will do it?'

Soon, they met up with several others who would also be attending this meeting.

Do you know what computers would mean for the future?

Better communications and other benefits that involved various ministries and departments.

This was a big matter involving the entire nation. So how can it be hidden?

Skip. Skip.

Lalalalala~

Tim was immersed in his one wonderful world, speaking on the matter at hand.

And like so, the inspection began.

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Strangely, the first place they started from was a room right at the very top of the towering building.

"Your majesty, esteemed ministers... The world of computers is very vast. And in the beginning, is the circuit diagram!" Tim said while passing through the hallways with floor-to-ceiling glass walls looking into the Circuit diagram design centers.

And in there, one could see experts designing and going over the current circuit diagram projected out.

Oh?

Minister Dinga looked at the massive image projected out, not liking what she saw.

It honestly looked more complex than several train maps stuck together.

Some lines crossed over the other, while other lines ran straight.

Lying through. What sort of brains did these people have to sit there and understand this diagram?

Though the circuits did have different coloured variations, it was still too tightly made and very disturbing to someone who likes things evenly spaced and neat.

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"Overseer Tim, forgive me for being ignorant. But what exactly is this circuit board, and how important is it to computer making?"

Tim beamed the moment he got a question.

And Landon could only shake his head wryly. They've done it now.

Teacher Tim (one of Tim's personas) is now online!

"Excellent question, minister. The diagram you're seeing is nothing more than a sophisticated yet integrated circuit system that is the main foundation of a computer itself.

As for how important it is, it's akin to a city plan or something of that nature." Tim said, slowly looking at the crowd from left to right and back.

"Ministers, please don't take this part lightly... It is an essential part that no computer can do without!"

Everyone listened like obedient students, nodding deeply.

Though they hated how disturbing the and clumped up the design was, since everything there was necessary, then just let it go for now.

But in the future, these people have to find a way to improve this so-called circuit board because their eyes couldn't take it anymore.

Heavens!

How can these people follow and see what was what, when looking at such a monstrous foundational plan?

Landon chuckled, seeing everyone scrunch their faces because of the board's aesthetics.

Heh.

This much was nothing to computer system designers.

Back on earth, he had seen even more complex circuit boards get designed.

.

Like so, Tim continued his inspectional tour.

"Everyone has seen the board design. It's a delicate yet complex system involving many integrated circuits/microchips. And to manufacture these microchips, we start with the collection of quartz sand!"

Now, everyone was staring through another floor-to-ceiling glass wall at a high point, staring down below at the vast white room that was whiter and cleaner than a medical room.

Everyone in there wore full white gear from head to toe, like doctors in an operating room.

Honestly, that was putting it mildly.

They looked like some secret government lab with everyone fully covered to avoid infection from alien contact.

But in this case, they only did this because of how delicate this particular manufacturing step was.

Very quickly, they processed the quartz sand to produce the microchip substrate, called silicon wafers.

And during the process, a high monocrystal is drawn from the purified silicon melt. And later on, the transistors will be fitted into it.

However, any impurities in the crystal will pose a threat to it all... Especially dust.

That's why these dust-free zones were kept in this manner.

And the result was that the wafers would get manufactured in an environment that is more than one hundred times cleaner than an operating theater.

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Oh~~

Everyone stared at the many scenes with open mouths.

Damn!

All this for computer manufacturing?

Hmph!

It better be worth it, or else some budgets would have to get cut!

Chapter 1367 - A Redundant Disappointment

Like so, Tim and his team walked Landon and the ministers through the entire process... Letting them see how their money was used.

Some ministers already had issues they were planning to raise, while others were content.

All in all, Tim had done a marvelous job, though some regions would have to be further studied and simplified.

Many had complaints now, maybe because they hadn't seen the finished product yet.

Hehehehe... Sometimes, seeing and using something would let a person understand.

Though they heard Tim's explanation, they just felt several things redundant.

"Overseer Tim, you said the keyboards have directional keys that do the same thing as the mouse... So why do we need the mouse then? Isn't that just a waste of money?"

"Exactly! And if the left-side click on the mouse is the same as the 'Enter' key on the keypad, then why don't we remove the enter key altogether to lessen the clusters on the circuit board itself?"

"That's right! And on the keyboard, I noticed that there are 2 separate number pads... One clustered together on the extreme right, and one lined up on the very 2nd keyboard row. Why the repetition?"

"They are right. Even on the board, you also have some keys like the <shift, cntrl, and Alt> keys all repaired twice or thrice. So again, I ask what other ministers do... Why make so many?"

(*~*)

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How irresponsible of these people!

The ministers were disappointed, feeling that the answer to reducing the clusters on the internal board and system was right before their very eyes.

Yet, these 'engineers' and manufacturers had refused to take it!

You either get rid of the mouse or get rid of the repeated functions on the keyboard!

It was redundant for the directional keys on the keyboard and a mouse that did the same thing as the directional key.

Why? Why was it necessary?

And if the left button on the mousepads to be time is some them!

And for this, if many people on earth heard them, they would only look at these people like madmen.

One shouldn't forget that the computers they were making were those in the '90s

They had separate 'fat' monitors, a separate CPU for floppy discs and Cds, attachable keyboards with wires that had to be plugged in, as though one were charging an Xbox or Ps controller... And lastly, the noise was the final piece to the puzzle.

They had no freaking mouse pads on their keyboards.

That was it!

So did they think they could survive without a mouse? How can the directional keys on the keypad be enough?

Again, one couldn't take out the directional key too. And so what if there were multiple number pads?

In short, many would attest that having multiple alt, shift and control keys was essential and made things very easy when typing fast.

Hands flying everywhere during work or gaming... wasn't it a good thing?

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Landon took note of their complaints, trying his best to hold his laughter in.

They complain now. But wait till they use the computers for themselves. But then, they'll understand it all.

Sometimes, the simplest route might not always be the best.

Why eliminate so much when they've not even tried it out yet?

Of course deep down, Landon was planning to allow these sorts of computers to work and reign for another 5 or so years before bringing out laptops.

Undoubtedly, the current computer processors will continuously be improved during this time, but not by himself.

He wanted to see how much Tim and the rest would improve the processing units, the internal systems and everything else about computers.

Well, the good thing is that these computers were all in color, with no black and white images.

How fast they would operate and how much they could take on is something Landon wanted Tim and his team to improve for the next 5 or so years.

During this time, the already existing engineering academy would've also improved the knowledge being passed on to the engineers in training.

Landon had to constantly give room for general growth every time he wanted to advance a certain technology.

If by his time limit no one had created laptops before he did, then he would step in.

5 years looked far away, but it really wasn't.

In the next 3 or so years, he was sure he would start satellite and space technology.

Hey... If those on earth could do it using these old computers and not laptops in modern times, they too could do it.

No question there.

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"Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah~."

Tim listened to the many questions and comments dished out to him, still having a sly smile on his face.

F***!

He too used to be like them, thinking his majesty's design of it all was redundant. But after using the computer for the past 2 weeks, forget it... Everything there was necessary.

He even played something called Solitaire, using his house at every turn.

At present, they have also created a few hard-drive disc games.

One of them was a disc having various card games like Freecell, spider solitaire and a few strange but easy ones.

Again, they worked closely with the Baymardian Game Company and his majesty to create a whole disc game for Pacman that added background stories and extraordinary adventures to immerse others into.

Learning Cds for grammar and public math knowledge were also made.

For now, they didn't have the time to change films into CDs since they were only focusing on a few essential elements first.

The primary purpose of these computers was the internet and better connection.

Emails, work messages, urgent news reports, school work, connecting with teachers, travel, job ease, port work and many every little thing in Baymard would improve because of this.

This was a new dawn in Baymard's history!

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Tim watched them speak their tongues out before finally turning on the computers.

"Ministers.... Please, have a seat."

Chapter 1368 - Happy Ministers

"Ministers... Please, have a seat."

" "

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--1 hour later--

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"Hahahahaha~... Marvelous! Marvelous! Your team has done it this time!" One of the ministers exclaimed, patting Tim on his best excitedly.

"Yes. Yes!" The others added, making Tim restrain himself from rolling his eyes.

Who was it that had compliments earlier?

Who was it that wore their faces as though they were standing on dog sh**?

Oh... So now it's okay?

Heh.

The ministers sure did have thick faces because they seemed to act as though they had been pleased all along.

In the end, they quickly realized how vital the mouse was.

Lying trough. Though the directional keys were there, the mouse was just too easy to maneuver.

Again, the directional keys could also be used as a backup if a person lost their mouse and needed to do work urgently.

One shouldn't forget that with the directional keys, a person couldn't still change the volume and brightness of the screen.

In the end, many of their previous problems were for naught.

Sigh... As expected, one really couldn't judge a book by its cover.

Again, even with some key buttons repeated, some lefters grew fond of the intro button to the left, while others that heavily relied on their right hand used the control button on their right instead.

There were too many advantages of having multiple repeated keys.

And only after using the computers for themselves did they understand why things were placed the way they were.

In fact, they thought it was perfect.

For now, they couldn't truly make any changes to the keyboard or the mouse.

Well... Maybe in the future, the pads will change. But for now, they couldn't see it.

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Like so, after using the computers for an hour, they all became lax, merrily talking about the best features on the computers.

"Security! I like that we have to use a username and password before logging in. That's just too brilliant."

"Exactly! And what's even more ingenious is that on the same computer, we can create a maximum of 4 profiles. Hahahahaha... I will definitely create one for my husband, another for my children, and one for guests. It's just perfect!"

"Yes. But don't forget that program called 'Bycrossoft Word.' Amazing! Now, all documents can be done here and stored on the computer."

"That's right. We can also send files via this email thing, and it will appear in a matter of seconds. But that's not all. There's also Excel that has inbuilt public mathematical formulas!"

"Say no more. I'm impressed with this. Even on the computer, it's made multiple files like downloads, picture files and whatnot to make organizing a breeze."

"That's right. But maybe the most amazing thing is that amazing app called Google Chrome. There's also another one called firefox. But I prefer Google Chrome."

"Hey! What do you know? I like Firefox more than Chrome. Don't insult my Firefox!"

"Guys... Guys... You're both wrong. Clearly, Bycrossoft Edge is the best."

"Best my foot! With your bad eyes for good things, I'm beginning to doubt your onions in matters. That is, are you all blind? It's Google Chrome that's the best!"

"Screw you, Gordan. How dare you steal my lines? Even a blind man on the road will pick Firefox!"

"Damn you all! Today has opened my eyes. In the future, don't recommend any products to me. Because if you all can't see that Bycrosoft Edge is the best, then would be you be recommending trash to me?"

"You tasteless people! Chrome is the best!"

"Bycrosoft Edge!"

"Firefox!"

"Chrome!"

(*x*)

...

Landon listened to these grown adults arguing, only feeling helpless.

Sigh... It looks like the war from earth has found its way back here.

Everyone will inevitably have their best internet browsers.

The system had rewarded all 3 programs to him. And the reason why he didn't build back in making them was because he didn't want the Baymardians to heavenly focus on one, or else in future, it might be more challenging for other programmers to break into the market.

That's right.

Imagine if he started off with just Chrome?

If people used it for a long time, they would only think browsers should look exactly like chrome.

Whether one admitted it or not, Firefox, Edge and Chrome had different themes and designs, though they all did the same thing.

Many might like the style of ease when using firefox. And others might prefer chrome's navigational ease.

In short, if he started with just one, getting people to accept other methods or ways down the line might be harder... Seeing the standard he set.

More importantly, people will be very forgiving to future programmers if he didn't create the variations.

It's clear to see that each browser was different. And what was an advantage to one can be a disadvantage to other people.

The programs he made were not perfect. Each program from earth had its flaws, whether one accepted it or not.

So having 3 of them out in the open with pros and cons was what he needed.

And in future, other Baymardians who wanted to create their own unique browsers won't face too much criticism from the masses.

Who knows... They might even be able to create one better than the browsers he provided now.

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Likewise, in the offices and even in the school, everyone will have their preferred go-to browser.

This was a fact.

And during the fall semester of this year, he planned to introduce computer studies to the children.

No... They won't be learning programming or anything of that nature.

They'll learn how to use Word, hand displacement on the keypads, computer shortcut knowledge and many other essential skills.

That way, once they got out, some could put it on their resumes, knowing how fast they could type and how proficient they were with some programs.

Even learning to create presentations and present them was a plus.

Both citizens and international students would be allowed to learn.

After all, around Baymard, cyber cafes with computer access will be available for everyone. And public libraries will also have them too.

Overall, the ministers were pleased!

Chapter 1369 - Paving The Way

"Excellent work, Overseer Tim. We will be expecting your reports on the matter soon."

"Yes, ministers!" Tim said, escorting the ministers out.

Phew.

That was rough.

Finally, he was out of the hot seat. This time they hammered him hard.

But luckily, in the face of greatness, what complaints could one possibly have?

Sure, their product might not be perfect. But because this is the first of its kind, many might not have anything to compare it with, not knowing its flaws.

The majority of people would be grateful for having such devices.

Of course, that doesn't mean they wouldn't try to create variations of the same product.

Some will have bigger storage spaces, while for others, their CPUs can be made to stand vertically or lying horizontally, making one place the monitor on top of them.

And the mouse pads will have various colors and cute designs too.

In short, even the plug-in detachable keyboards will be done in all designs for those who want something manly, cool or anything else.

The military computers were going to be camouflaged in color... Some green, blue-white and many others.

Of course, with the emergence of these old computers, Landon had specially requested for Wiggin's industry to create a cleaning fluid for the CPU.

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The CPUs of these old computers have fans at the very back, which not only cool down the machine but also collect dust via the fan vents.

And inside, one can find a space for adding cooling liquid, sort of like a water coolant tank for a car.

However, unlike those back on earth where one could have to unscrew the back of the CPU to add the liquid, Landon had time ahead and created an opening on the corner of the CPU.

Yup!

Just like one did when adding fuel to a car, they just had to pop open the corner and add the cooling liquid from there.

As for how they would know when it would be enough, the corner with the cooling liquid has a well-protected sturdy transparent side.

They will be able to see the liquid they added fill up to the brim.

Again, how the coolant liquid got used wasn't the same as how a vehicle uses fuel.

A full tank of coolant liquid could last for up to 6 or 8 months before adding more in.

The little guy was just there to prevent overheating. And little bits typically did the job.

As for the fans, when they do get too dusty, a person could take them to one of the many computer cleaning stations around Baymard. And they would be able to clean them up in no time after unscrewing the back and getting right down to the nitty-gritty.

Of course, it's not like they would create new cleaning or fixing stations.

Nope.

Scattered around Baymard, there are already several electronic fixing and cleaning sites that focus on fixing printers, landlines, photocopying machines and whatnot.

To be more specific, these places scattered around were just office sites.

Typically, once these workers sort out the machines and documentation on the customer's worries, they'll send them to the Lower Region.

Meaning everything technical could only be done there.

In the end, after everything got fixed, the workers in the mall or other public sites would then hold onto the fixed or cleaned machines.

And the rest was history.

A cleaner CPU would make the computer run faster and quieter too. So it was advisable for one to take care of their various appliances.

Landon massaged his chin, thinking of all the secondary work that had to be put into place before the big launch.

The coolant, computer box packaging, instruction manuals, design variations and many others were essential before the big day.

Again, some monitors were made very wide. This still meant they would be fatter around the back since they weren't flat-screen.

But for some gamers, they would still like to buy the big-weighted boys to play adventure games on a big screen.

And he knew just the type of people who would get this... Little Momo and little Linda.

Landon chuckled, rounding up his conversation with Tim.

Tim quickly wore his glasses, taking out his notebook from his left pocket.

"Your majesty, since everyone has approved of the computers, then this means that we won't have to push the launch date back. Then, can we start with phase 2 now?"

Landon nodded.

"Hmhm. Phase 2 is an essential part of the plan. Alright. Agenda... Go!"

"Yes, your majesty," Tim replied, flipping his little jotter fast.

~Flip. Flip.

"First of, we need to get all public establishments and industries to create websites.

From the hospital to the schools, everything from tuition to enrollment, courses offered, and the rest have to be on the internet.

Even the number of waitlisted candidates.

Services provided, be it cleaning, gardening, and even entertainment, must be on the internet!"

Landon was satisfied with the first order of business.

This alone should get the ball rolling.

Making appointments online by clicking availability would be great.

Booking reservations for entertainment weeks and even months from now was a plus.

Hey... Maybe those who want to prepare for their honeymoon could also book hotels and whatnot for the future.

Even foreigners could do the same from Baynard.

Once it was in the system, even if they came several months later, they would still have that available slot, similar to how one could buy a plane ticket in January for September.

Of course, some changes might occur, but because the world didn't have the internet, they would try to keep any changes to zero - unless the weather or some natural disaster caused the changes to occur.

Other than that, the emergence of the internet would only make communication simpler and faster!

Heh... Who can tell that he was indirectly having the way for air travel?

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Tim's blood boiled with adrenaline.

The more he spoke, the more excited he became.

"Your majesty, that's not all on the agenda."

Chapter 1370 - Death Was Inevitable!

(^0^)

"Your majesty, that's not all on the agenda."

"Oh?" Landon raised his brows playfully.

He could tell that Tim was enjoying this.

"Hahahahha~... Your majesty, have you forgotten? Heh... Maybe this is my favorite part of all... The emergence of forums and that which you call blogging!"

Yes. Who wouldn't like this part?

Landon grinned, thinking of it all.

For now, since cameras aren't public yet, blogging and forums would be a big hit and sensation.

Now, fashion blogs, cooking blogs and many other blogs would pop up.

Some people might become internet celebrities just for this.

However, every blog that emerges will have to be screened, lest people put harmful information online.

Of course, with the emergency of the internet and blogs, one can now have digital files of images in there.

That's right.

By next week or so, those tasked with producing the military drones should round up.

With their understanding of the camera technology, Baymard would be able to create proper cameras for major industries like news reporting, photography, etc.

Now, all files will be stored digitally.

And customers can take their digital pictures in flash drives before transferring them to their computers.

Again, it could also be sent by email.

This also means that the new photocopying and printing machines will get buttons that connect one's files to their emails or computers.

Sigh... There was indeed a lot that would change with this new digital age.

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Anyway, people could pay to take their pictures on public sites and post them on their blogs.

The beauty and fashion industry was going to boom and gain the most from this.

And on the platform called Baxian, celebrities would be able to open their own separate profiles, post pictures, comment on their days and see people on the firms go crazy over them.

One shouldn't forget that Baxian had long been here.

In the past, celebrity profiles would get bundled in one or 2 magazines, with a few comments from the fans who sent messages via mail.

From A-list to fresh meat celebrities, the more popular one was, the fewer people they would have to share a magazine book with.

Their positive or negative comments from fans will all be there, and even some thread comments on some matters from the earlier editions would also get posted.

In short, these books had long been acting as the internet, with fans crazily sending in their mail to insult or speak up on a comment they saw 2 weeks ago.

Don't belittle the power of fans.

Some people didn't sleep well at night after reading some comments from others.

But now, Baxian would make everything a reality, with people seeing forum posts and commenting on them immediately.

The work would never be the same again.

.

Inwardly, Landon was a little glad that cameras and personal video-taking weren't public yet.

He only felt that these people were on the brink of craziness. So imagine if he just dumped everything all at once?

Say no more. Even he didn't dare to do that.

Tim flipped the pages of his mother, going over everything left to do.

"Your majesty, I'll be quick to contact all establishments on the list. And 2 weeks before the big launch, they should've already created their websites, having standard information about their establishments... This also includes public transportation too."

"Hmmm... It would be good if one could look up the bus schedules online."

Tim nodded vigorously.

"That's exactly what I was thinking as well. That said, all that's left is marketing.

Your majesty, we need to hire advertisers to market the monitor and the internet!

Billboards, commercial adverts... It all has to be done. And time is already running out." Tim said anxiously.

Landon sighed.

"Alright. I'll sign for phase 2 initiation."

Tim was right. They didn't have time to wait for the minutes to go back, review and sign everything... Unless they wanted to push the launch date back.

At least, the ministers had already verbally spoken in agreement for the launch to commence.

But per protocol, he'll need at least one signature and stamp printed on the document for Tim and his team to continue.

On getting his promise, Tim began jumping merrily.

"Hahahahaha~... Good. Good. Your majesty, I knew you would do it! Don't worry. I'll send out an ad in the newspapers, radio, Tvs about hiring advertisement actors."

"Hmm... Don't forget that before the launch, short videos on how to use the computer must also be available on the official website too."

Simple problem shooting issues must also be online before the big launch.

Sometimes, simply turning off and on a computer could do a lot.

As for bigger problems, they will have no choice but to send them for repairs.

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Landon got into his vehicle with a helpless smile on his face.

He felt that this period before the launch was the busiest he had ever been.

For the last few weeks, he and practically everyone sales had been working hard, gearing for the change.

The computers and monitors had already been completed a while ago... With barely a few tricks and adjustments to do.

Today, they had officially concluded that it was all good and ready to go.

Landon shook his head wryly, imagining the chaos that would reign in Baymard once these computers land on the shelves.

Already, he felt mightily drained.

But little did he know that danger was once again looking its head above the waters.

.

--Chandon Coastal City, Deiferus.--

Bam!

Several broad-shouldered men set foot on the busy port, looking left to right, right to left with a cold glint in their eyes.

In intimidating rows, the burly men marched on.

And everyone who saw them quickly backed away with fearful expressions.

Goodness, what wind had blown these people over?

The lead man wore an immaculate white robe, looking at the disgusting sight before him.

Just being in this Pyno made his stomach churn.

The man scratched his face in disdain.

"The earlier we get this done. The earlier we can return."

"Hmm!" His entourage agreed.

Now, it was time to find the frauds they were looking for.

That's right. They came to find the so-called healers who treated diseases without blood-letting.

All frauds must!