

Vile 981

[Chapter 981 Pufferfish](#)

'Damn it.

I hate acting like a pufferfish in front of these high-ranking jackasses. I need to break into the C-rank soon.'

Eren thought to himself as he controlled the side effects of being exposed to a Grandmaster ranker's aura. He was out of the controlled facility and was heading to Agatha's office where he was supposed to welcome Jiana.

Amory's breakthrough forced Eren to change his plans a bit. He was supposed to head to Edin after three days. But since he needed to be present at the event celebrating Amory's breakthrough, the departure had been postponed by four more days.

Edin was at the center of Edinburgh's geography. It didn't have any teleportation arrays inside the city or anywhere near it for security reasons. Even with the use of the interconnected teleportation arrays which had the potential to send him as close to Edin as possible, the butcher was going to cut it close, arriving just in time.

But Eren didn't have a choice. No matter how he may have tried to underplay Amory's accomplishments for his gains, he knew perfectly well that it was extremely tough to become a Grandmaster ranker.

And since it was extremely tough, it was extremely significant for his guild. Especially when he was going to leave the city in Amory's care for an extended period. Thus, he had to attend the event at all costs.

Amory had shifted to his newly constructed mansion, resting and stabilizing his breakthrough. High-ranking breakthroughs weren't as straightforward as lower-ranked entities believed them to be. One needed to stabilize their extremely potent mana cores inside their bodies which were akin to highly reactive cosmic stars.

Amory was unable to stabilize his breakthrough within a few days. He couldn't fight right away. But he was fine for public appearances after some rest.

It had been a few days since Jiana was staying at the Carvo Bianco vineyards. She didn't venture outside the vineyards after her relocation. Therefore, it could be said that she was entering the city of White Raven for the first time since her arrival.

Jiana hadn't really talked about her role in the White Raven guild to anyone after arriving. And it was her first time getting into the heart of the city itself.

Agatha and others were busy organizing an event. So the responsibility of properly weaving her role into the guild's fabric fell on Eren's shoulders.

Eren snapped his fingers and used Instant Reset to eliminate all the negative effects caused to him by Amory. This was not the first time he had acted tough for his benefit. And he had a feeling that it wouldn't be the last.

Eren's peculiar body constitution and his exceptional mana control had made it easy for him to fake that he was not affected by any moves performed by high-ranked entities like Amory. But that didn't mean he didn't suffer from the tough-guy act at all.

What was he supposed to do anyway? He couldn't show his weakness at this point. Not even to his most trusted people. Especially during these times. He had to bear the burden of acting tough all alone.

No matter how fast he climbed the ranks, there was always someone above him. He had to fight a never-ending battle with the world until he reached the top.

Eren got inside Agatha's office which was a large stone hall with a chandelier hanging from its ceiling. The walls and the ceiling were studded with various gems and runic details that gave the space an opulent vibe despite its classic and no-fuss base.

Eren heard the sound of his own steps as he entered Agatha's hall. He saw a very pretty elf sitting in front of Agatha's desk— waiting patiently for someone to induct her.

Lightning struck and Eren appeared on the other side of the table. He flashed a light smile at Jiana before greeting her.

"You'd have to forgive me for making you wait, Miss Gold Wings. You know how it is being an ex-guild master yourself. I got busy with some unforeseen work."

Eren said in a friendly voice before offering a handshake to Jiana. His body language was confident and he seemed nothing like the tyrant Jiana had accused him of. It was as if the person who had subjugated a Grandmaster ranker with his words alone had been a different entity all along.

Jiana managed to flash a smile that seemed forced. She recalled Eren's way of getting Amory on track with him as she shook hands with him. She felt like she had lost her biggest advantage by not having Amory under her absolute control.

Still, it was not like Jiana hated Eren for pulling that move. She knew she couldn't do something like that if she were in his shoes. But she also wasn't stupid to not understand the Whys behind it.

Jiana wasn't sure how Eren was as a person. But that move alone told her that he was a better leader than her. She looked into his eyes and became lost in them. It felt to her that his eyes could create a world of their own around her.

"Umm... It's nice to finally meet you, Miss Jiana. Your beauty is as mesmerizing as your accomplishments."

Jiana was finally snapped out of her reverie as she heard Eren's next words. She found out that she had become lost in her thoughts and held Eren's hand for a few seconds longer than what was normally expected of her. So Eren had to say something to not make the interaction weirder than it had gotten.

Jiana cursed herself for losing her composure in the presence of a mere D-ranked man. He was younger and was supposed to be less experienced in life than her. And yet, it was she who felt the pressure of being in the vicinity of him.

Jiana became fascinated by Eren's eyes and flustered by her inability to keep her composure in front of him when she heard him compliment her. She could only reply with an "Oh yeah" as she quickly pulled her hand away.

'Well... what do you know? Maybe acting like a pufferfish comes with its own benefits after all.'

[Chapter 982 Argo's Gig](#)

'Well... what do you know? Maybe acting like a pufferfish comes with its own benefits after all.'

Eren looked at Jiana carefully and had a random thought. He smiled at her before he started discussing various topics regarding his guild and the city he had founded.

Jiana also started to open up after she found out how easy it was to talk to the so-called tyrant. Her forced smile became genuine as she kept interacting with him. The two talked to each other for hours on end until...

"Boss... am I interrupting your game?"

A certain demon managed to slam the brakes on Eren's progress with Jiana. He barged into the hall straight through the windows and didn't give Eren any chance to say no to him.

Argo was in his humanoid form and wasn't really looking at Eren. His red eyes were fixed on what looked like a rough book. He seemed to be busy writing something inside the book, using one of his own feathers as a quill.

He had his eagle wings sprouting from his back. And his legs were beastly. His demon horns peeked through his white hair briefly before retracting. Argo also magically dispersed his wings as he walked toward Eren's desk.

The untamed winds roared through the now-wide-open windows along with Argo. They threatened to blow a bunch of unpinned papers on Agatha's desk into the air.

Eren activated a certain small array over the desk and stabilized the stationery. He looked at Argo with a frown on his face before asking in a voice coated in mild annoyance.

"What do you want? If you want more money... then I'm going to have to..."

Argo closed his book with a loud thud and looked at Eren as if he had said something absurd.

"Money ain't no problem for me, boss. What I lack are the performers for my show."

Eren stared at Argo with confusion. Jiana also turned back and looked at the demon beast who had just barged into the hall without caring about a Master ranker like her being in the room.

Jiana focused on the strange tattoo on Argo's right cheek and understood who he was immediately.

"A demon..."

Another mana pulse was generated in the room as a second demon beast appeared inside Agatha's hall out of her own initiative. She was Jiana's demon beast companion, Bilo.

Bilo had purplish-pink hair. She was wearing a perfect-fit one-piece that was green and looked to be made of some kind of leaf. She also had butterfly-like, thin, and semi-transparent wings sprouting from her back.

Bilo also had a demon mark on her tummy that the audience in the room couldn't see. It glowed as she looked at Argo with utter fascination. She assumed a kneeling position as Argo walked past her.

"My prince!"

Bilo said in a respectable tone " her neck tilted downwards in obedience. It had to be noted that Argo received this much respect from a B-ranked demon beast while still being a newly minted C-rank entity.

Argo stopped in his tracks and looked at Bilo with interest. He thought of something and couldn't help himself grinning from ear to ear " his smile looked demonic.

The demon prince narrowed his eyes at Bilo and changed his direction. He walked towards her and stood when he was standing next to her while she continued to kneel.

"Get up."

Bilo stood upright as soon as she heard Argo's commanding voice. She looked straight in front of her and didn't dare to maintain eye contact with him.

"Babygirl... Do you know how to sing and dance?"

Bilo was stunned when she heard Argo's question. It could be said that she was ready to fight but not ready to perform on stage. Or at least she wasn't prepared for it from the get-go. She gulped down a mouthful of air before replying to him in a shaky voice.

"I... I can try, my prince."

Argo's eyes shone with brilliance and his expression showed how happy he was. He clapped his hands before placing them over Bilo's shoulders.

"Excellent. I'mma make you a star babygirl. Though... hmmm... you need some touch-ups."

Bilo didn't quite get what Argo was saying. But she sensed that he was not completely happy with the way she looked. Her face didn't show it. But she felt a bit downcast nonetheless.

Argo was a very perceptive demon. He took her hand in his and patted it before assuring her in a soothing voice.

"Hey... hey... hey... Nobody said anything about replacing you. We gon make this work. Come with me."

Bilo couldn't help getting excited after receiving Argo's invitation. It looked like being with someone like him was going to be a big deal for her somehow. She was about to agree to Argo's offer right away. But then she remembered where she was and her current condition.

Bilo looked at Jiana with pursed lips before speaking up.

"Master... I... I need to..."

Jiana understood what her demon beast companion was thinking. She also knew that demons were used to following a strict hierarchy" even stricter than humans. So she replied right away.

"Have fun, dear."

Jiana smiled at Bilo before waving goodbye.

Argo looked at Eren and smirked before commenting.

"Got what I came here for, boss. Gotta bounce."

The two demons vanished from the hall as soon as Bilo was ready to go with Argo. Following their departure, the windows were closed once more.

Eren understood what Argo was planning to do at this moment by using the mental connection he had with him. The young demon was planning to run a musical concert at Amory's celebration event.

Argo had sensed Amory's breakthrough before it was made official. He knew that a Grandmaster ranker's breakthrough would be celebrated by an entire city soon.

Thus, the young demon started buying various sound-element-related artifacts and alchemy products. He also hired a few craftsmen and ordered them to make a bunch of items for him. They were going to be used for his gig.

He spent 300 thousand Extols on his equipment for the concert. And since Agatha or Eren couldn't make heads or tails of why he bought them, they called it a random purchase.

[Chapter 983 Wise Tortoise P1](#)

Argo had set up a huge stage for his performance in the city of White Raven.

He had also coordinated with the city's administration and got it to sell his concert tickets. He made deals with a few array operators broadcasters and sponsors, allowing him to show his concert live to almost all parts of the city.

The event also had a large base of audience that was not in the city of White Raven. These viewers would be able to watch the event and Argo's concert from other parts of the kingdom across all four duchies. Various types of communication arrays had been created for this purpose. It was designed to generate another stream of revenue for the city of White Raven.

Argo's hunt for the necessary hardware to set up his gig was over. And he was now hunting for talented performers like him throughout the city. A bunch of artistic rankers who could master the various elements of the concert needed to make it as entertaining as possible.

The young demon had decided to make Amory's Grandmaster breakthrough celebration a memorable event for everyone in the city. He was also bound to make more money than he invested because of the sheer number of pre-booked tickets sold at this point.

Unbeknownst to Eren and the rest, this gig was going to turn out to be Argo's road to fame throughout the land of Anfang.

Eren explained to Jiana what Argo and Bilo were up to. She looked at Eren closely as she noted an observation in her mind. Eren didn't feel surprised by the way Argo and Bilo conducted themselves in front of him. He didn't even try to ask anyone about the mystery around them. It made Jiana realize something.

'He.. he knows about the continent-spanning array.'

Jiana sighed because she too knew about the restrictions she had. She was given access to some of the privileged information regarding demons. She wanted to know more about them. But the more she learned about them, the more restrictions were placed on her. As a result, she could not discuss this topic with anyone, just like Eren.

'Prince huh? So there's another demon prince that's appeared in the land of Anfang. What are the odds?'

Jiana then looked at Eren and wondered how much he knew about Anfang's past. She wanted to get to know him better. So she pondered for a bit before speaking.

"Guild Master Eren, you are heading to Edin in a few days, aren't you? I have also been summoned by the kingdom there. So I was wondering if I could..."

Eren smiled and didn't let her finish.

"By all means. I always have room for more on my itinerary. Especially if that "more" turns out to be a beautiful lady like you."

Jiana Jihang caressed her right earlobe a bit and flashed a smile. As unoriginal as it got, she liked getting compliments. The elf started looking forward to spending time with her new guild master. She wanted to find out about the other shades of Eren that she hadn't seen yet.

The city of White Raven. Chilly winter nights. 8 PM.

A certain vibe of excitement had washed over the entire city. The place was more crowded than ever. It was also more accommodating than ever at this point.

A large platform was suspended about 5 feet above the ground. It was a concert stage set up by Argo for his performance. There was a sea of people spread in every direction around it as far as the eyes could see.

The runic lights had been amplified by the use of arrays creatively, making various illustrations in the sky. The peddlers sold all kinds of food through the use of aerial summons and other modes. All the consumers had to do was shout their order and the food would be drop-shipped to them, no matter where they stood in the crowd.

Some rankers used artifacts while others used their respective spells to go airborne. However, nobody approached the platform or did anything stupid. After all, they were here to take part in a Grandmaster ranker's celebration event. And none of them wanted to mess with the rank of that status.

There were a lot of people onboard the levitating stage. Their enlarged spectral renditions could be seen in the sky above the platform.

Amory Stowage was among them. His normal adventurer gear still covered him, making him appear humble. He was holding a wooden staff in his right hand that measured up to his shoulders in length. The top of the staff was slightly forked and there were runic patterns all over it. It was an A-rank artifact that was sent by the kingdom of Edinburgh as a congratulatory gift to him.

It had been a while since Amory started talking about his life's journey. As a result of the platform's function, his voice would be amplified many times over in all directions. Everyone present at the celebration could hear what he had to say.

The old man didn't consider himself a talented speaker. He didn't have any plan regarding what he had to say either even though it was his day. He just showed up and proceeded to tell everyone the kind of lessons he had learned from his struggle.

"... So all I'm saying is this— if all our struggles could be personified, no two would be alike. And that's a positive thing. Otherwise, how boring would our lives be, right? Hahaha!"

Nobody laughed at Amory's dry humor. The audience thought that they were respecting an A-ranker by not laughing with him. But the treatment actually bothered Amory a bit. He sighed before continuing forward.

"What I meant by that is don't follow in my footsteps. Find your own path. My struggle can only inspire you, not guide your journey.

Some of our plans, coercions, and safeguards become pointless when life happens. When I was most hopeful, I was lost in every way. And when I gave up hope, a miracle happened.

It made me realize that life is... how should I say it..."

"A bitch— Life's a bitch... Gramps wise tortoise."

"Shut the fuck up, you delinquent demon. Let the old ma... Cough... I mean let Grandmaster Amory speak."

Someone on the stage behind Amory tried to finish his statement the right way but used the wrong word. And then there was the other voice reprimanding the previous one.

Amory frowned but didn't say anything to anyone. His audience also showed remarkable restraint in not laughing at the word choices of those voices.

Grandmaster Amory sighed at the youth's brash behavior before continuing forward.

[Chapter 984 Wise Tortoise P2](#)

Grandmaster Amory sighed at the youth's brash behavior before continuing forward.

"Anyway. What was I saying? Yes!

You can always create a plan for yourself. And if it works out for you, well done! But be prepared to act spontaneously if it fails. After you have your Plan A and Plan B, Plan C should always revolve around having no plan at all. And you need to find a way for Plan C to work for you.

You may think that what I say doesn't apply to you because you still have plenty of time for yourself. But you need to understand that time is fleeting. There may be second chances in life. But they are not for everyone.

You'll blink one day and find out that you are too old to do anything you wanted to do for your whole life. Most of us, most of the time, get only one shot at doing something. So remember my words next time you feel like passing up an opportunity just because you feel like there's soon to be another."

'This old man is distributing gold with his words but most of them won't get it.'

Eren sighed as he looked at the crowd below. He understood Amory's speech more deeply than the rest. That's because he knew exactly what he was talking about. After all, he was one of the rare few who got a second chance in life.

Amory didn't feel like he was wasting his breath speaking to the younger generation. Unlike the butcher, the teacher in Amory expected the best from his students. And that mindset allowed Amory to make a deep impression on his audience.

"A ranker's life is longer than a mortal's. But our suffering is also greater than theirs. So can we call ourselves superior beings to mortals?

When life is long, our struggles get stretched out. Our experiences get stretched out. Compared to us, mortals live short lives and manage to feel every emotion and experience we feel and go through. And in the end, we all have to call it quits. So isn't it better to live a mortal life?

I'd say the answer depends on how you carve out a path for yourself from the valleys of misery as a ranker. Mind you, becoming a Grandmaster or even a Sage is not the only measurement of success in a ranker's life. There are other scales as well that are too broad to put into words.

I'll wrap up with this— don't feel entitled to anything you struggle for. Because once you make it to the point of making it, you will start appreciating the struggle that almost broke you. You need that appreciation to make sense of your life."

A long silence ensued when Amory finished speaking. The array on which he was standing dimmed down when he didn't speak for a certain period. It was a while before someone somewhere in the audience clapped.

That clap was followed by another bunch of claps before it turned into applause. The old man smiled before raising his hand and releasing a powerful violet flame from his palm.

The violet flame turned white before taking the shape of a white raven. A mythical bird looked down upon the sea of people and crowed at them harshly before dispersing into thin air.

Almost everyone in the audience got goosebumps after an A-ranked entity manifested his powers for them. They clapped even louder to express their joy. Several rankers began calling Amory their teacher and decided to seek his recognition in the future.

The Grandmaster's speech was over. And now it was the guild master's turn to say a few words. Eren started walking towards the array Amory was standing in earlier. And the latter started walking towards the back of the platform. The two met in the middle.

"You did well, old man."

Eren said to Amory privately before walking past him. The old man chuckled and nodded without turning back. Amory believed that what Eren said to him just now was genuine praise and not just a formality. And for some reason, Amory thought that a few words of appreciation from Eren were much more significant than all the applause he received from everyone combined.

Eren stopped inside the array and stood motionlessly for a while with his hands behind his back. His stance made him look like a typical army veteran except for the normal clothes he was wearing.

Everyone in the audience was looking forward to Argo's concert at this point. And Eren was just an Adept ranker despite being the guild master of the White Raven guild. So, some fringe elements in the audience started demanding the start of the concert already.

It could be said that Argo was partly to blame for the audience's reaction. The demon had done a fantastic job advertising his content. The impact of the advertising was so massive that the celebration became less about Amory's breakthrough and more about Argo's concert.

"Mister Guild Master, step aside. This isn't your time to garner attention for yourself."

"Damn right. Don't ride on Grandmaster Amory's clout, Eren Idril. Nobody wants to hear your sales pitch for your guild."

"So what if you are a guild master? Come down this instant and let the concert I paid for start already. Or else..."

Eren didn't mind that he was being told to go back or come down the stage. He smiled and relaxed his stance. Driving fingers through his hair, he massaged his neck a bit. A Sativa Stick was conjured from thin air before it was lit. Taking a long drag of his smoke, the butcher spoke calmly and sinisterly.

"If anyone dares to make any further noise while I speak, I'll just ban them permanently from ever stepping foot in the city of White Raven. And I won't take responsibility for what happens to them once I kick them out of my city.

I hear Grim Pillar Town is a fun place. Wonder what it takes to become its permanent resident?"

As he said that, the butcher let his aura spread throughout the surroundings. And suddenly, the audience started experiencing silence even more deafening than before when Amory was speaking.

[Chapter 985 Lights On. Drum Rolls. Brumm.](#)

The audience couldn't believe Eren would use Grim Pillar Town as a threatening tool.

At this point, the pillars in Grim Pillar town kept on growing as more and more pillars would get erected overnight by some unknown entity. All these pillars were dedicated to rankers who were perceived to be Eren's enemies directly or indirectly.

Nobody wanted to meet such an end where their remains would serve as an art collection for someone else. Nobody wanted to be an inspiration for their future generation by claiming a pillar in the Grim Pillar town for themselves.

Even Expert-ranked entities in the audience didn't dare make any noise because they knew someone like them had once messed with a certain wrong guy. They didn't want to follow in his footsteps.

Eren flashed a graceful smile as he observed the pin-drop silence. He took a fresh nightly breeze into his lungs before speaking up.

"It is not what you think. I am not here to advertise my city. Frankly, I don't need to grow my city any further anymore. In contrast to unstable exponential growth, the stability of the growth achieved so far is more important.

I don't want to hire anyone else in my guild either. At least for now. I never wanted a massive number of members added to my guild's roster anyway. So there's that.

Furthermore, I don't want to inspire any of you either. That job is for people like Grandmaster Amory. Frankly, I don't want there to be more rankers like me."

Eren's voice was calm but domineering. As it came from a position of confidence, nobody dared to ask him any questions regarding whatever he had said.

Eren took a brief pause before speaking further.

"Let me clarify why I'm standing in front of you. I want to use this platform to convey a message to some people who think that I or my city are easy targets."

Eren's presence almost disappeared all of a sudden which made it eerier for people close to the platform. His emerald green eyes shone with exceptional brilliance as he spoke directly to his enemies who were watching this concert from a distance.

"Whatever you might have in store for me, know that what I have for you is much worse."

Eren was not only talking to House Slughorn, House Remus, Demonmir's faction, or the Escalon guild. He was also referring to cultists and the royal scion of Layos who wanted to target him for assimilating Healers' Nirvana into his fold. He knew almost all of them would be watching live coverage of the event from their base. So he used the event as a way to announce a threat.

Normally, Eren wouldn't have let his enemies in on what he was doing. He would prefer to strike them when they were unaware of his actions. But that only worked with rankers with some kind of background who knew how to operate in groups and whose moves could be predicted.

Eren knew that his strategy needed to be changed when it came to handling cultists and the masterminds behind them. He needed to act as a dominant and unstoppable force in front of them. All so that when he does act on his warnings, it serves as a deterrent.

Eren didn't know how much success Kirin was about to achieve in eliminating the cultists and the royal scions from Layos. But he was sure that she would deliver on his promise soon enough.

Eren looked at the people surrounding him one more time before concluding his statement. This time, he sounded more like a cordial host.

"I think that's about it. Thank you for giving me the chance to speak. I'm sure you are eager to listen to the stars of the show. So I'll take my leave without further ado. Please enjoy the rest of the evening."

Eren bowed in front of his audience. Lightning streaks surrounded him and took him into their embrace. When they dispersed, he disappeared, leaving behind a sea of silent spectators.

Then a surge of excitement passed through the crowds as they started screaming random things out loud. They were waiting for the performers of the evening to take the stage.

Lights on. Drum rolls. Brumm.

The sound of a strange musical instrument was heard by the audience as they watched a demon suddenly appear onstage. It was a fretted instrument with six strings and some sound-element runes that amplified its output. The runes were in sync with the sound-element arrays spread across the field, sending sound waves in all directions.

The female crowd in the audience got goosebumps just by listening to the sound of that device once. The rest got utterly intrigued by the sound as well. They did not think that they had heard the sound of this instrument anywhere in the kingdom of Edinburgh.

The demon, in his complete human form, was seen wearing the instrument on him with a strap that stretched across his torso from the waist to the left shoulder. He called it the guitar.

He did not seem to have any stage fright or first-time jitters. It was as if making his audience mad for him and his songs wasn't new to him.

This white-haired demon had a wild air about him. He was wearing a very vibrant-colored, lapel-collared cardigan atop a black sleeveless tee. He had matching slim-fitting dark leather pants and black shoes that complemented his overall appearance.

DUN. DUN. DUN.

Argo smiled brightly as he looked at the crowd in front of him. He inhaled the air before producing a mysterious riff from his guitar that made the audience turn wild just listening to it once. From the moment they heard it, every listener knew that the riff was going to stay in their heads forever from this moment onwards.

Argo handled like a maestro. There was a sense that he'd done this countless times through one of his demonic possessions. It was as if he had lived one of his previous lives as a well-known artist in some distant world away from the land of Anfang.

[Chapter 986 Carry On My Wayward Son](#)

Argo felt like there was a part of him that missed being on stage.

He desired to be one with the audience. He wanted them to become crazy over his performance. So much so that they would not hesitate to offer him their hearts on a silver platter. He wanted people to get riled up in his name.

He was surrounded by so many people who shouted his name. But all he could hear at this point was the sound of his own heartbeat. He could also hear the breaths he was taking in his lungs.

Argo stopped playing the guitar and closed his eyes. He then placed his hand on his heart. The young demon wanted to feel his heartbeat more clearly.

Argo often liked to express his freedom-seeking individuality in various forms. And tonight, music was his way to do just that.

The demon prince's soul fragment inside him took over when he opened his eyes.

Hahahaha! I'mma play some of my originals and then borrow some from my homies. There ain't nobody DMCAing my ass here.'

Argo cackled to himself as a gust of wind surrounded him. His red eyes sparkled and he took to the air with eagle wings on his back.

"Woooooooooah! How are the fine people of this land doing out here?"

"First of all... Give it up for our teach- Wise Tortoise- Almost-a-Sage-with-age- Grandmaster Amory Stowage! We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him."

Argo laughed and threw a question at his audience and received more yells and screams in response. The demon stared at the people with sharp eyes and continued.

"And now... rejoice! This prince has come to greet you."

Argo said as if he had done a favor for his audience. And everyone in the audience believed it to be the case. A strange demonic atmosphere was now prevalent in the air, making rankers express their emotions to their fullest.

Wah Wah Chika Wah Wah

Argo "borrowed" another riff from somewhere and played it a bit before announcing the artists with him.

"Let me introduce you to my drummer for the evening. I know you know him from somewhere. But after tonight, he won't need another introduction.

Very talented but a bit shy with the ladies- My man- the T-dawg, Tuan Aag!"

A man with Fire Wings suddenly appeared in the sky. He flew towards the flying Argo and punched him in the gut in a playful manner. Tuan Aag wasn't as confident as Argo when summoned on stage. So he bowed awkwardly to the audience and hoped he would not mess up the gig.

"Damn! A punch outta nowhere, huh! Who hurt you, bro?"

Argo missed another punch thrown at him by Tuan in midair before answering his own question.

"I know. I know. There's this cheating bitch who's dead. And there's another who dumped you. I say GOOD FUCKING RIDDANCE!

It all happens for a reason, my man. Fret not. After tonight, I'mma make you drown in pu.... Uhhhh... Never mind. Hahahaha!"

Argo laughed and took joy in Tuan's awkwardness on stage. He flew across the stage before introducing the next set of artists.

A day before the concert, Argo had contacted a bunch of members of the White Raven guild. He trained them for various main roles and support roles needed for his concert. The demon introduced the members with an on-stage presence and gave credit to the off-stage artists by calling out their names.

Bianka Bluedust, Rodrick Renar, Will Evaan, Tara Faelar, Bhaa Laah, and a few others had been selected as on-stage music artists. Bilo, Katalina, and a few others had been hired as dance artists, which would only make appearances for a select few songs.

Rankers like Tumko Darata, Drin Dawn, Ray Rinehart, Van Wilder, and a few others also supported the concert in their own way by being off-stage artists and managers. One had to appreciate Argo's people skills for getting so many rankers on board with his plan.

"Aight! Now that the introduction is over..."

Argo took a long pause before speaking hurriedly "I'mma go home!" He even flew backstage to scare the audience with his fake exit.

Various mana pulses surged all at once when Argo tried to mess with his audience a bit. The demon beast laughed before coming clean.

"Hahaha! I was just messing with y'all. Let's start this shit already."

Bumbadum chicka Chicka bum bada!

A magical atmosphere began to take shape as everybody assumed their roles for the concert. After it started, it drove listeners' minds insane by the minute. They soon became addicted to the music they heard.

It was as if a special kind of demonic spell had been cast on them.

Eren's room. Kukenan Plateau. Midnight.

It seemed that the full moon night was filled with strange energy and vibrancy. Argo's concert was still carrying on. The sound waves of his concert would travel a significant distance and make everyone who listened to them dance or sing to the beats.

Eren wasn't paying attention to Argo's concert though. The mana control training was keeping him busy.

The butcher was laying topless on the elemental shards that tore through his back. Alephee was operating the array and observing his progress at the same time. She had obviously upped the difficulty level of the mana control training once again, preventing Eren from ever finding it to be easy or painless.

Eren had sealed his lips with runes to prevent himself from screaming in pain. He was sweating all over and his eyes had turned red. Since he couldn't scream, his eyes had become a bit moist to express the suffering he was experiencing. It also made him take long breaths that made his chest rise and fall in quick succession.

Alephee had tuned into the live concert through the communication array. A corner table in Eren's room projected a spectral representation of what was happening on stage in miniature form. The spectral imagery had a sound of its own that blended with ambient noise from a long distance and created a reverberating effect.

"Eren, do you want to stop here?"

Alephee asked as she looked at Eren's condition. She had told him to take a day off because of the concert. But the guy wouldn't listen. So she was stuck with him instead of attending the concert live.

The butcher also felt like maybe he should listen to Alephee and stop the process midway. But then he heard someone call out to him in his head.

"Yo boss!"

Eren and Alephee both looked in the corner table's direction to see Argo's spectral form looking at them. He was still holding strong with his concert from the looks of things, keeping his audience captivated.

Argo's spectral form looked at Eren as if he could see him before speaking further.

"Wherever you are, this one's for you. Listen up."

Eren and Alephee both looked at each other before coming to a tacit understanding to take a break. The butcher looked at Argo intently. The young demon closed his eyes and modulated his voice in real-time to suit the texture required to sing the kind of song he was above to sing.

Argo's voice sounded different when he sang the lyrics of the song dedicated to Eren.

"Carry on my wayward son..."

Eren clenched his hands while lying on the elemental shards as he listened to Argo's song. He then stared at the ceiling of his room that had become his most-seen view of the month.

As Argo sang, Eren continued to look lifelessly at the ceiling. He remained quiet for a while when the song was finished. Argo moved on to singing and playing more songs for his audience. But Eren didn't pay attention to any of those anymore.

Argo kept dedicating various songs to various people he had come to know. He knew that most of them would be watching the concert somewhere. So he took the liberty to sing, perform, and dedicate songs to them that weren't technically his own.

By this time, Eren's condition had gotten somewhat normal due to non-moving elemental shards. But then he looked at Alephee, as if answering the question she had asked him.

Alephee looked at Eren solemnly before sighing to herself. She then cranked up the difficulty level of the training even more than before, hearing Eren's muffled screams and inaudible determination in the backdrop. Wt

[Chapter 987 Onboard Freya](#)

The Leith river. Central Edinburgh.

The water of Leith was an ever-flowing river network that ran from north to south of Edinburgh. The main river along with its network of tributaries separated the kingdom of Edinburgh's lands into various parts to create the four duchies and the central region.

The central region of Edinburgh was under the direct control of the current king. This region was very rich in all forms of ranking resources thanks to the Water of Leith. The main river looked as vast as a sea if one stood at its banks from either side.

Various ships were selling in either direction of the river's flow. They all maintained a safe distance from each other, traveling at a constant speed using various elemental arrays.

Some ships would disappear from the main river by taking one of the many tributaries to the river Leith while some would get added up for the same reason. Traveling over the Water of Leith was one of the primary ways to travel in central Edinburgh after all.

There were no business opportunities in central Edinburgh. No competitive rankers' markets. This region of the kingdom had hit a saturation limit in terms of the opportunities it would offer to the outsiders. All the great businesses and opportunities in central Edinburgh belonged to the extended royal family.

The central region of Edinburgh was safe from all kinds of threats as well. So there were relatively few adventurers or hunters' guilds. So there was nothing much to do for an ordinary ranker who had just started his journey as a ranker.

In short, there was no room to grow and get big for anybody whose name was not Renar. This is why almost everyone from the four duchies would only enter the central region for one main reason— to visit Edin, the capital of Edinburgh.

Edin could be reached by river Leith from almost any major region in central Edinburgh using the Water of Leith. A certain ship was making its way to Edin from the north of Edinburgh.

The ship's name was Freya. It looked like an old sailing construction that was too big to call a boat but too small to call a proper ship. The ship was painted navy blue with white sails aboard it that had wind-element runes over them. The deck was around 15 meters wide and 50 meters long. It had a white raven figurehead at the forepeak.

Freya was Eren's most recent purchase. It had two floors below the deck. These floors hosted various dedicated spaces for various leisure activities for passengers.

No matter the state of the water, Freya's deck and the floors underneath it would not shake. This was thanks to the various stabilizing arrays it had etched on the base.

The entire ship was run on autopilot. One just needed to feed it the coordinates and it would sail there on its own using various elemental arrays as sensors and operators.

This was Eren's first day on the Water of Leith. It had only been a few hours since he had entered central Edinburgh using the teleportation arrays available to him.

He had already traveled hundreds of miles inside the boat. But it was not enough to cover the huge distance that separated him and Edin. Central Edinburgh did not have teleportation arrays, which made travel time-consuming for rankers. As a result of the long journey, they got to explore more of the places.

Eren had just received a message from his old party a few hours ago. Jake, Steve, Renita, Ramy, and the rest had already reached the capital. They were waiting for him to show up.

Eren had no choice but to make them wait for him. Even with non-stop travel on autopilot at a relatively high speed, Freya still needed 5 more days to reach Edin. The graduation event was supposed to start on the sixth day. Being a participant in the graduation event, Eren was really cutting it close.

Thankfully, Freya was very comfortable traveling. It had to be for the kind of money Eren had paid for it. Plus, Eren had a company that kept him busy.

The evening sky had set in. The yellow-orange sky painted the river's water the same color. The winds that swept over the water carried a distinct freshness in them.

Eren was standing on the quarterdeck, leaning on the deck's ledge. He had his head propped in the palm of his folded hand. The butcher was looking at the ever-changing scenery around him as the ship kept moving forward. For some reason, he found the scene enchanting to look at.

Eren did not come to central Edinburgh in his past timeline. He wasn't qualified at that time. This region offered even less breathing room for nobodies like him from the past timeline. Thus, he was trying to take it all in while observing the juxtaposition of his two lives in his head.

Eren remained motionless for the time being. It was as if water was trying to talk to him through some unknown means. The water-element spirit beast mark he had on him was making its presence known. He felt like he would solve most of the world's mysteries just by maintaining his current position for days on end.

"What are you doing?"

Eren heard a question from behind him speak in a voice that was laced with shock and suspicion. He ignored the voice's texture. And he didn't have to turn back to find out who it was. The butcher smiled before answering honestly.

"Just admiring the view, teacher Levine."

Eren replied calmly. He felt like he should have traveled alone. For some reason, he felt that there was a certain magic in the air that only he could perceive. As if the world only wanted to talk to him and nobody else.

Levine was standing behind him on the quarterdeck. Nina and Jiana were also present on the ship. On the main deck of the ship, the two healers were engaged in a discussion related to their fields.

"Hmm? Just admiring the view? I could have sworn you were practicing some kind of strange ranking technique. I... I'm not sure... But... Look!

Look at what you have done to the river's flow."

[Chapter 988 Breakthrough Into Expert Rank](#)

"Look at what you have done to the river's flow."

Eren raised his eyebrows when he heard Levine. He looked down from his position and was surprised by what he saw. He had split the water into two and made the river bed visible which was at least 100 meters deep.

Levine was shocked because she didn't think there was any usual form of magic involved in the phenomenon. It was as if what she was seeing was the natural state of the water at the time. Even Nina and Jiana who were standing not too far away from them did not know about the existence of the phenomenon.

Levine wouldn't have been able to sense it either if she hadn't seen it with her eyes. The Master potioner knew that it could not be done by a mere Adept ranker.

After Eren came so close to the body of water, his Way of Water became stronger thanks to the spirit beast. Levine was also right. He had started practicing the Rootless technique subconsciously while he was lost in his thoughts. He felt like he had reached a critical point in his ranking journey at this point.

"I... I'm about to enter the Expert rank."

Eren mumbled to himself before climbing over the ledge.

"I'll be back."

The butcher yelled out his message to the three ladies on board his ship before jumping off the ship's deck. He swam like a fish in the water and plunged deep, closing the rift that had opened in the water behind him.

The surface water became calm once again as if what had happened a moment ago was only a mirage. Nina and Jiana appeared beside Levine all of a sudden and looked down. They then looked at Levine questionably, intending to get some form of clarification from her.

"Well... there was this..."

Levine was about to explain to the two Master-ranked ladies what had transpired. But she stopped speaking when she felt the changes in the surroundings.

Lightning clouds had started to gather in the sky out of nowhere. Before thunder rumbled, the benign white clouds turned gray. The winds started howling in the region, setting the stage for incoming thunder and rain.

Rumble!

It was as if a recorded scene on the array disk was being played in fast-forward. It only took a few moments for the thunderclouds to start rumbling from the moment Eren entered the river. This change in the atmosphere was only concentrated around the ship. After some distance, the three ladies observed that both the river and the skies were calm. They understood that they were now inside a special zone.

"He is entering the Expert rank."

Nina smiled and made a prediction. She could also feel that there was something unusual about Eren's breakthrough that galvanized the entire surroundings to such an extent. If people didn't know about Eren, they would have assumed that a higher-ranked entity was making progress in its ranking.

Nina started to remember what Eren had said to her when they were in the city of Osan. That he would catch up with her one day before surpassing her in no time. She only took joy from the fact that Eren was delivering on his words. And she felt like she needed to up her game as well.

Soon, lightning strikes started hitting the water surface where Eren had dived straight down. Various elemental manifestations started appearing in the surroundings as well, causing miniature mana storms that affected the very spatial fabric.

Clap. Crash. Boom.

Densely charged lightning bolts started hitting the river and evaporating huge amounts of water in an instant. As a result, the air turned damp and the clouds turned darker. A low-pressure atmospheric belt was created in the surroundings.

A peculiar kind of wind storm was summoned into existence in the region as a result of this phenomenon. And it kept getting more massive with time.

Despite the agitated surroundings, Freya remained steady in her position. It had stopped moving after it sensed its captain was not onboard. She waited patiently for his arrival.

Eren felt like he was being embraced by the world itself as he sank deep into the river water. He felt like his body and soul were being nourished at the same time because of the assistance offered to him by his spirit beast.

The spirit beast appeared in its regular form and swam around Eren as they both headed straight for the riverbed. It was only a matter of a few moments before they reached it.

Eren sat at the bottom of the river and assumed a meditative pose for his ranking practice. He closed his eyes and started practicing his ranking technique consciously.

'Nothing is more flexible and adaptable than water. And yet, nothing can resist it.'

Eren started refining water-element mana into his body and started harnessing it inside his mana core which was on the verge of destruction. He began comprehending the other elements as well while under the influence of his epiphany.

'Lightning is nothing like the roaring thunder it is accompanied by. It is silent when it strikes and destroys.'

Fire also takes part in the creation and destruction of the matter it comes into contact with. It destroys everything in its wake. But it also transforms that which it can't destroy.

The wind, the earth, and the void. And every other derived element we see around us. They all tell a story to their attentive listeners.

Every element is involved in the creation and destruction of matter. They write their own laws onto the blank slates called matter and give them meaning. Then they rob those meanings from them, turning them into blank slates again.'

Eren's Adept-ranked mana core imploded as he kept comprehending the ways of the elements. Various natural elemental runes started appearing around Eren before disappearing into his body. His hair turned from black to white. Tribal tattoos appeared on his skin and even Sin Series mana started manifesting around him.

A newly formed C-rank mana core started spinning inside Eren's body shortly after the destruction of the old one. There was no bottleneck or difficulty for the butcher to become an Expert ranker. Additionally, he stabilized his breakthrough right away, giving him the confidence to give his best at the graduation event.

'Well... this is going to be... interesting.'

Eren opened his eyes and flashed a subtle smile. There was no doubt that his smile was going to be a doomsday sign for his opponents.

[Chapter 989 Expert Fisherman & His Unexpected Haul](#)

In the river water, a tornado formed.

The tornado connected the surface of the water with gray cumulonimbus clouds in the sky. It spun around itself at high speeds, producing wild gales around it.

Then all of a sudden, the tornado was unnaturally disconnected from the gray clouds. A certain individual was ejected from its mouth towards the deck of Freya.

Badum.

Eren appeared on the main deck of the ship through the tornado, which he dispersed with a wave of his hand. The butcher ran his finger through his hair and looked around him with a smile on his face.

Eren hadn't changed much physically after his breakthrough into the Expert rank. And his presence got even more conspicuous.

Still, the mystery around Eren was what made him appear more intimidating and intriguing at the same time. He had the potential to fly under people's radar if he wanted to and force them to back off with his mere presence at the same time. It was now up to the perception of his opponents.

Every breakthrough was done with a particular mindset that affected a ranker in various ways. When he broke through the Oni dungeon's Adept rank, Eren required absolute power for himself. As a result, his presence became sharp and domineering.

Eren's breakthrough this time highlighted his calm mindset. It allowed him to regain the control he had lost when he was at the Ace rank. With his breakthrough to the Expert rank, Eren had made substantial progress in his Way of the Elements. With progress came control. His mana control training also paid off, allowing him to achieve a certain tranquility with his elements.

When he was an Adept-ranked entity, he couldn't keep his presence completely sheathed. As a result, no mortal could come near him. The recent promotion in rank allowed him to change that. The C-rank offered him finer control over his powers.

'This... I was never a C-rank in the previous timeline.'

Eren clenched his fists and felt a new energy surge through his body. He felt like he had been born anew with his recent breakthrough. It's as though he shed an impurity from his last timeline that had been following him around. He had officially risen above his previous self with this breakthrough.

Eren rotated his neck and stretched his limbs. There was no elemental surge as he rediscovered his identity as an Expert ranker. Unless one used their mana sense on him, he appeared to be a harmless mortal.

Most of Eren's clothes had been torn to shreds by his breakthrough. He was only able to keep his pants intact. When he appeared on the ship's deck, his ripped body was on full display for his viewers. He wasn't buffier than before. But the three ladies instinctively felt that he had leveled up.

Eren's pants stuck to his skin. His wet hair stuck to his scalp and face. There were streams of droplets making their way down all over his body. The two ladies couldn't help staring at Eren when he suddenly appeared on deck in a raunchy manner.

Nina didn't pay attention to Eren's physical appearance. She was glad that he was successful in his ranking advancement.

"Eren!"

She appeared near him before taking him into her embrace. Eren smiled before returning the gesture, his hands caressing her back.

Cough!

Levine feigned a cough before speaking up in a dignified manner.

"Eren... congratulations on your breakthrough. You really are one lucky guy."

Eren separated from Nina and smiled at Levine a bit to receive her compliment. But he felt like he had to add something.

"Thanks, teacher. Yes... this breakthrough came really out of nowhere. But lucky? I had to spend a thousand restless nights to get lucky once. If that's what luck is, I don't want to find out what being unlucky means on that scale."

Eren's emerald green eyes met Levine's and shone with confidence. He knew that Levine didn't mean to undervalue his diligent work. By saying that he was lucky, she wanted to say that he didn't get stuck in the Adept rank for a long time. That he didn't face any long-term bottlenecks like most Adept rankers.

However, Eren felt like he shouldn't disrespect his own diligent work by allowing someone to call it luck. He clarified Levine for his own sake— for his own mindset.

'He... he doesn't fear me anymore.'

Levine thought to herself as she looked Eren in the eyes. She could still feel that he valued her as his ally. But there was no longer any need for her.

Eren had never feared Levine in the past as well. Still, he was always careful with his words and his actions in her presence. However, becoming an Expert ranker liberated him from the shackles of decorum.

Eren's change of attitude towards Levine made her subconsciously seek even more approval from him than before. Unbeknownst to her, her subconscious mind started feeling the urge to grab his attention even more. She started feeling irritated by his obvious indifference to her subtle advances.

The butcher flashed a knowing smile in his head when he subtly observed Levine's expressions. They were proof that his act of playing aloof in the face of Levine's advances was working for him. He just needed to crank her thirst to the maximum before he approached her.

Levine was an entirely different equation to solve for Eren. She wouldn't be wooed by him simply because he gave her compliments and said all the right things. She wouldn't be impressed by money alone. And she didn't care about his ranking status before his breakthrough.

Eren needed to act indifferent until he wasn't ready to handle Levine. However, his recent breakthrough gave him the confidence to... bait the fish. He just needed to cast his net wisely and wait for the right opportunity.

But the fisherman wasn't aware that another fish was swimming near his net as well, wanting to get trapped. Unbeknownst to him, he was about to have a better haul than expected.

Jiana Jihang also congratulated Eren for breaking into the Expert rank. She couldn't help but stare briefly at his torso when she did that.

It was a big deal in rankers' society to finally reach this milestone after all.

The C-rank was a dividing line between low- and high-ranked entities. A ranker could not be considered a low-ranked entity after it reached Expert rank. This was the first breakthrough in a person's ranking journey that consolidated all of their advancements to this extent.

This very consolidation of various accomplishments a ranker had achieved during their journeys was what allowed the Expert rankers and beyond to exert their powers more freely than before.

Most of the Expert rankers who had naturally achieved their breakthroughs could tweak their existing spells and elevate them to their current standards with only minimal effort. Although it would take relatively significant time, they could also alter their ranking techniques to suit their current needs as well.

Exceptional rankers started becoming free from the organizations' hold over them from the moment they stepped into the Expert rank. The organizations needed to offer high-ranking entities exponentially more rewards to keep them under their banner.

In short, a ranker's individuality would start to show when they entered C-rank. This was why Expert rank breakthroughs and beyond were celebrated so much.

[Chapter 990 "Those Are Rookie Numbers!"](#)

Eren didn't forget to say thanks to Jiana and Levine for not spying on his breakthrough.

Getting to expert rank and beyond was a very personal thing. Most rankers would only consciously attempt to achieve their breakthroughs in seclusion. This was because of the world phenomenon they created around themselves.

A ranker's entire path would be manifested at the time of a breakthrough into Expert rank and beyond. Someone could learn a lot about a ranker, their strengths and weaknesses by observing their breakthroughs closely.

The three ladies would have been shocked beyond belief if they had seen the myriad of elements and their Aspects he was cultivating. They couldn't have kept track of the number of runes he had absorbed into him. And they would have doubted their sanity if they had realized that Eren also had two distinct classes he was progressing in at the same time.

This was why Eren submerged into the river when he felt like his body itself had decided to initiate a breakthrough on its own. As much as he trusted the ladies onboard, there were some things about him that he would rather keep private.

Alephee also congratulated Eren before getting busy with her own work inside her pendant abode. Now that the butcher was in Expert rank, she had decided to increase the rank of her homunculus vessel as well. She had all the resources she needed with her.

Four days later. Nighttime.

The ever-flowing sounds of water and distant noises of water-element beasts could be heard in the background. The atmosphere was cold and peaceful.

Eren had spent the last three days in seclusion, perfecting and practicing his C-rank Rootless technique inside his private room without any pause. His epiphany had helped him elevate his technique. However, Eren owed most of the credit to the many paths he taught himself.

It seemed that the Rootless technique only blossomed when Eren was trying to gain everything at the same time. It allowed him to know more intricacies about himself when he started to find subtleties hidden in every element and path.

He heard a familiar voice in his head as he opened his eyes.

'Hey... hey... hey... Congratulations boss! Where's the party at?'

Eren smiled when he heard Argo congratulating him. He had left the young demon in the city of White Raven to do a few things for him.

Argo didn't want to stay behind but he obliged Eren's wishes nonetheless. He carried on with his party fever nonstop until he found some time to congratulate Eren on his success.

'Haah! You finally got the time to talk to me?'

Argo cackled when he heard Eren's question. Instead of answering Eren's question, he declared his achievement to him.

'Kekekeke! Boss... I smashed!'

Eren was changing into his normal clothes while talking with Argo about his mental connection with him. He chuckled when he heard about Argo's feat. While buttoning his shirt, Eren responded.

'With the kind of stardom you created for yourself in that event, I would have been surprised if you didn't. I'm sure you didn't stop at a single digit.'

Eren summoned an array circle near him to produce a special drink, which appeared in a silver chalice. He sipped the liquid slowly as he waited for Argo to speak more about his endeavors.

'Single digit? Pfft! Those are rookie numbers, boss.

I banged some 130 chicks in the last few days. No cap.'

Argo heard Eren coughing severely as if he was drinking soup made of cactus thorns for a drink. But the young demon ignored it and sighed dramatically before continuing.

'Man... it was exhausting! KnowwhatImsayin? This frail vessel can't keep up with my... let's say... expertise.

Anyway, it's easy to lose count after a while. You get tunnel vision when you are done with your first 50s. You know how it is, right?

So I do apologize for contacting you this late.'

Eren couldn't believe that Argo would lose his V-card in such a grandiose way. And the young demon treated it like it was no big deal. As if he had done this numerous times. Plus, he also sounded a bit downhearted while listing his accomplishments. It was as if he was upset about the fact that he was losing his edge in his current form.

Eren gulped down his drink in one go to pacify himself. He placed the chalice inside the small array circle and let it disappear before commenting in a grim voice.

'You know what? It's fine. I don't want to discuss that topic any further. Just remember to do what I told you to do when you are done with the whole thing. I'm busy with some work right now. Will talk to you later.'

Eren abruptly hung on Argo before getting up. He didn't feel like he had any right to criticize Argo's promiscuous ways no matter how ludicrous they sounded by his current standards. It was his mistake to treat Argo like a normal young man.

He could also tell that Argo was not only out partying. He had progressed much further in his ranking journey following the concert.

Technically, Argo was ahead of Eren even after the latter's breakthrough. And it wasn't just about his ranking. Even Argo's soul seemed to have been strengthened after he got popular.

The young demon had his own way of progressing. The butcher could only surmise that demons, in general, were more focused on evoking emotions in people and using the same emotions to control them. This was why demon beasts would release psychic waves at the time of their breakthroughs.

Eren also believed that the demons harnessed those emotions for themselves as well, furthering their own cause in various ways. Their expertise in intent-based magic was a testament to that.

Argo's way of doing things was a bit flashy. It was as if he had ulterior motives for getting famous. Not every demon inside a demon beast was capable of the feats Argo had achieved for himself.

'Hmm... he is a special existence even among the demons.'

Eren had come to realize the fact that Argo would sometimes refer to himself as "this prince." So it didn't take long for him to draw his own conclusions based on these subtle hints.

'I'll reach the capital soon.'

Eren thought to himself as he climbed back up Freya's deck. He had just freshened up and was wearing a normal outfit. The ship was close to reaching the capital. So he decided to talk to the three ladies about a few things before the ship was docked.