

### *Wolves and Dragons of the Blood: Revelations*

A few moments later Radem sensed him approaching from behind but did not flinch as the *MENKLA* began to reach for the sky. He turned slowly and watched as the young King of the Lycavorian Union stopped only a meter in front of him. He still wore his combat armor, but his shoulder length black hair was now free and blowing in the slight breeze across the area. He dwarfed Radem in size really, and without doubt could end his life in a blink of his eyes, yet Radem sensed he was full of questions. Standing before him was the father of Soul Slayer, and behind only his son and Elynth, the one who had been the dagger in the heart of his people. His people's finest military minds could not outthink him, or outfight him. He seemed to be able to predict what they would do at nearly every turn, and he was equally as feared as his son by the vast majority of the Evolli military. Radem could detect several members of his personal team hidden from plain sight but watching no doubt. Not by his choice if Radem was a measure of character, but because they knew the worth of the King that they would so willingly follow into the darkest reaches of horror and death.

Radem dropped to one knee in respect, surprising Martin with this action. "King Leonidas." He spoke the words almost reverently.

Martin seemed taken aback as he stepped closer. "I think we need to have a talk." Martin told him calmly.

Radem lifted his head and met his dark brown eyes. "As you order my King." He stated.

"And stop with that my King shit!" Martin hissed. "Given... given what has happened here I think that is really stupid! You saved the life of one of my Queens and my children and nephew. You bow to no one! Now get up!"

Radem rose to his feet as the King he and so many of his people were terrified of moved even closer to him. Androcles had told him that his father hated royal protocol and anything like it. He also said his father would honor him in action and words for what he would do. It would appear that once more Soul Slayer had been correct. "Milord?"

"How... how long have you been here?" Martin asked him.

"I arrived with Admiral Lorian's forces Milord." Radem answered.

"My daughter Zarah knew you were coming didn't she?"

Radem nodded his head. "You might be surprised at what Soul Slayer shares with his beloved sister Zarah Milord. I discovered after our time together

that she is... she and his sister Eliani are conduits into his soul. One only needs to be clear of mind to see this. You have seen this before no doubt.”

Martin rolled his eyes at that and nodded his head. “Now that... that doesn’t surprise me in the least. He has always been closer with them.” He said. “Zarah and Lucia have been hiding you this entire time? That’s why they remained here and didn’t return? They knew that he was sending you?”

“I would expect that this is what Soul Slayer intended... yes. They met me on Admiral Lorian’s ship and have kept me wrapped within the shadows hidden until the time to strike was upon us. My sincere apologies for the injuries suffered by your nephew. I was too slow in my actions.” Radem told him.

Martin shook his head. “You saved For'mya and him.” He stated. “And Kalis is tougher than he looks. They have kept you hidden this whole time?” Martin asked.

“I have never experienced... the way they can move about within the shadows is most thrilling Milord. I have never experienced anything like it.” Radem said with a touch of happy adventure in his voice.

“What is your name?” Martin asked him. “Your true name. Your Evolli Spirit name.” He finished in a whispered voice as he moved even closer.

Radem looked at him and it was his turn to be surprised. He smiled slightly after a short time. “I see Soul Slayer does indeed share many sacred things with his father.” He said.

“Not everything it seems.” Martin said.

“My Spirit name is Radem Holnari Convoasce Milord.” Radem answered the question without hesitation. The Evolli Spirit name was perhaps one of the most guarded secrets of the Evolli culture. Very few individuals outside of Evolli culture and territory knew of such a thing. When each child was born they were given a spirit name, to be used only by their dearest loved ones and most treasured friends and never spoken in public. Radem had told Andro his Spirit name on their last mission together. If Soul Slayer saw fit to tell his father the significance of an Evolli’s Spirit name, then there was truly hope after all.

“And what does it mean?” Martin asked him.

“From the beginning.” Radem answered.

“Then maybe that’s where you should start.” Martin told him after a second.

“It is a very long story Milord.” Radem explained.

Martin nodded his head. “We all have long stories Radem.” Martin spoke in agreement. “Perhaps now would be the time to start sharing them instead of having to do all this sneaking around crap.”

“Soul Slayer once told me that you liked to sneak around.” Radem said and he relaxed quite a bit when he saw Martin Leonidas’s face break into a small grin and a flash of the child like playfulness that Androcles said resided in his father’s spirit came forth.

“Yeah... well... that is true... but now I would like to know what my son has cooked up in that brain of his. What other surprises has he got planned?” Martin said.

Radem smiled slightly as well, revealing his sharp pointed teeth. “I bless that he now calls me friend Milord... but even I do not know what swirls within Soul Slayer’s mind. I do not believe I want to know. I do not believe anyone would want to know. Not if they wished to keep their sanity intact. Nor do I believe anyone would wish to know what resides within your mind either Milord.”