

Wolves and Dragons of the Blood: Revelations

“What do you hear from the other Chief Justices?” Martin asked him now.

“The news of your existence and what has happened here is running rampant among our people on the Tasmor planets that we occupy.” Nalmos answered. “It has only been a few days and many are already clamoring to return here.”

Martin nodded his head. “That’s a good thing.” He said.

Nalmos looked at him. “There are also many who are not.” He stated. “I know of several hundred who have entered into relationships with Tasmor females. Namiri has told me of them. They will not want to leave.”

Martin nodded his head. “That is their decision. I’m not going to force them to return here Nalmos.”

“The Tasmor have been good to our people Milord.” Nalmos said. “They did not have to help us as they did.”

Martin shook his head. “No, they did not, but they also had an ulterior reason for helping you.” He told him. “The natural healing properties of our bodies and our longevity will go a long way to saving their species.”

“Saving them?” Nalmos asked. “What do you mean?”

“That doesn’t matter.” Martin told him. “What does matter, and what impresses me the most, is that they asked and did not take. They gave our people the choice to help and we did. That says quite a bit about them as a species and speaks volumes about their leadership.”

Nalmos nodded his head in agreement. “Yes it does.” He stated. “You will help them?”

Martin nodded his head. “Anja is doing that right now.” He stated. “We are not the Pralor people Nalmos. I know that you don’t have a lot of information about them, but let’s just say they were unwilling to help the Tasmor. Anyone for that matter. That has since changed but I am not like them. My people are not like them. We embrace others who want the same things we do. To live in peace. To prosper and see our children play and grow. I have a sense that the Tasmor only became arrogant and insular when they discovered what was happening to them. Now that they know there are others who will help them and want nothing in return, they will begin to see not everything is as they thought. That is my hope anyway. We’ll see what happens over the next few weeks and months.”

Nalmos looked at him for a long moment. “There is something you are not telling me King Leonidas.” He stated finally.

Martin met his eyes and nodded slowly. “Yes.”

“Does it have to do with this Kintaur species?” Nalmos asked.

Martin shook his head. “The Kintaur are not even a blip on my radar at the moment.” He answered. “I could take the ships and troops I have right now and spank their *midaeus* back into the Stone Age if I wanted to. No... there is something far more sinister and deadly out there.”

“These creatures that attacked Ventori then.” Nalmos spoke. “You know of them and what they are capable of. You knew before you came here.”

Martin nodded his head. “It is a very long story that one day I will relate to you and the others, but suffice to say, they are the largest threat out here right now.” He said. “They are moving for a Pralor colony world in an adjoining sector of space right now. I believe their intent is to do exactly what they did here. I can’t allow that Nalmos.”

Nalmos was silent for a moment and let his eyes drift over the barren remains of what had once been a beautiful spot in his city that he had come to often. “We will fight.” He said softly.

Martin shook his head. “That I can’t allow.” He said.

Nalmos looked at him once more. “Train us in your ways. Equip us with your weapons. We will fight! We fought them before!”

“You were defending your world.” Martin said. “Anyone would fight for that purpose. But fighting for vengeance is not something I can allow. Those who fight with vengeance in their hearts make mistakes and those mistakes get others killed.”

“Have we not earned the right to seek vengeance?” Nalmos asked softly. “Over three billion of my people dead. I...”

“Our people.” Martin corrected him.

Nalmos nodded. “Our people my King.” He spoke softly. “Fathers. Mothers. Sons and daughters.” He met Martin’s gaze. “Have we not earned the right to seek vengeance and justice for what was done to us?”

Martin nodded his head. “Yes you have.” He answered softly.

“Then allow us to fight!” Nalmos spoke. “To return some measure of pride to ourselves.”

“Nalmos what you did, if what I see around me is any indication, you put up a hell of a fight.” Martin said.

“What would you do my King?” Nalmos asked him suddenly. “What would you desire?”

Martin was silent as he looked at him for a long moment. Finally he nodded his head slowly. “Then pass the word to the other Chief Justices.” He said softly. “If they are willing and able and wish to see true justice done, then I will allow it. True justice Nalmos, not vengeance.”

Nalmos closed his eyes briefly and nodded his head. “I will...”

Martin’s implant crackled in his ear and he saw Nalmos jump ever so slightly. He and those they had since found on Ventori had been fitted with COM implants almost from the outset to better facilitate their treatment and needs.

“Marty?” Julie’s voice echoed clearly in the COM.

“Go Jules.” Martin spoke instantly.

“Martin... you had better come to our position.” Julie spoke evenly but Martin could detect the tremors in her voice.

“What’s wrong Jules?” Martin asked as he gripped Nalmos’s arm. “Where’s Danny?”

“It’s better if you see this for yourself Skipper.” Julie continued. “You had better bring Justice Nalmos too. And Danny says to find Namiri and Emylea Daret if they are close by. This concerns the Tasmor too.”

“Julie!” Martin demanded.

“Just come to our position fervon.” Julie told him. “Now.”

Martin looked at Nalmos briefly for Julie almost never referred to him in the ancient Lycavorian language. She was fluent in the language but she only used it if the situation was bad. And she almost never referred to him as brother even though that is the emotion that flowed between all of Martin’s Team and himself.

“On our way!” Martin snapped.