

Perish 201

Chapter 201: Nix Tribe and Dragon Flag

Acoupaigos continued: "The envoys of the Skodisqi people often visited various tribes of the Pannonians. The Pannonian leaders were like dogs, desperately trying to please them. Otherwise, if the envoys were even slightly dissatisfied, they would be punished. Back then, it was common for Pannonians to escape to our tribe, and we always treated them warmly, as if welcoming long-lost brothers. When I was a child, I even met a few Pannonians who had fled from the north within our tribe..."

He let out a deep sigh and said wistfully, "Perhaps because the Skodisqi people had become masters, and the Pannonians had served them too well for too long, they began to lose their former bravery and gradually failed to maintain control over the Pannonians. Yet, just over ten years ago, for reasons unknown, the Skodisqi people fought a battle with the Romans, and the Skodisqi suffered a crushing defeat. It's said that many Skodisqi warriors died—"

Quintus, who had been quietly listening behind Maximus, couldn't help but ask, "Great Chief, who was the commander of the Roman Army that fought the Skodisqi?"

Acoupaigos gave him a displeased look but still replied, "Not too sure. I heard it was someone named... named Sc... Scip... It was a strange name anyway."

"It must have been Lucius Cornelius Scipio Asiaticus, the great conqueror of Carthage and Scipio's great-grandson," Quintus explained as he lowered his head to address Maximus, who was glancing at him. "He once served as a Governor and also as the governor of the Northern Italy Province. Over ten years ago, during his tenure as governor of Northern Italy, it's said he won a battle against the Gauls. However, when the news reached Rome, it didn't spark much interest among the Romans. I suspect the battle he won might be the one the Great Chief referred to."

"Just look at it, a victory the Romans didn't even care about brought disaster upon us Alde Tribe!" Acoupaigos mocked bitterly, his eyes fixed on Quintus: "You're a Roman?"

"I used to be, but now I am a soldier under Maximus," Quintus replied calmly.

"Quintus has a deep hatred against the Romans. He has helped me several times in defeating the Roman Army and has personally killed some Romans," Maximus explained from the side.

Acoupaigos withdrew his gaze and looked into the distance again: "The Skodisqi people suffered a crushing defeat, their strength greatly diminished. The Pannonians seized the opportunity to rise in resistance, completely overthrowing the Skodisqi people and becoming the masters themselves.

But after they assumed power, they evidently forgot about the selfless help we Illyrians had given them in the past. Instead, they sought to impose the humiliation they had previously suffered onto us, invading our lands in turn..."

Acoupaigos sighed again: "Although the Pannonians lived like dogs in the past, they did learn a great deal from the Skodisqi people. They now have sharp longswords, sturdy armor, and even make the Skodisqi people lead the charge. More importantly, they are numerous... No matter how courageous our warriors are, they cannot stand against their numbers!"

"You say the Pannonian tribes are numerous. Just how many of them are there?" Maximus asked with concern.

Acoupaigos thought for a moment and replied, "I've heard that the Pannonians now mainly consist of seven major tribes: Brochi, Andizeti, Ditione, Perustai, Mazi, Desitia, and Segestica. These major tribes are further subdivided into many smaller tribes with a structure somewhat similar to our Illyrian tribe system.

But the difference is... perhaps due to their long-term enslavement by the Skodisqi people, they learned a hard lesson and became more united, forming a Pannonian Tribe Alliance. They discuss matters collectively and support one another in times of need... In this respect, we Illyrian tribes fall far behind. To this day, our tribes are still entangled in internal conflicts, which is why we can't defeat them!"

Acoupaigos spoke bitterly, his face clouded with anger, clearly recalling painful past experiences.

He turned to look at Maximus and said in a grave voice: "The Pannonians once claimed they had a 100,000-strong army capable of defeating any surrounding tribe!"

"A 100,000-strong army?!" Maximus exclaimed in surprise.

"That number might be true because about 80–90 miles east of Validosi lies the Sava River, where one of the large Pannonian tribes, Segestica, resides. Several years ago, the tribes under Segestica's control invaded my tribal territory along the Kupa River. I personally led troops to the east of Validosi to engage the Segestica Army in a fierce battle. At that time, their warriors numbered over 20,000. As for the outcome, I... was defeated..." Acoupaigos' lips twitched, forcing out the final sentence through gritted teeth.

For a moment, Maximus didn't know what words of comfort to offer.

"If it weren't for this, you wouldn't have come to this place either." Acoupaigos laughed self-deprecatingly, though his smile was tinged with bitterness. "But don't worry. The Pannonians may seem formidable, yet they have many enemies as well.

To the south of their territory is us, the Alde Tribe, now their mortal foe; to the north are the Celts. It's said that northern Pannonian tribes are expanding further northward, leading to conflicts with the Celts there; to the east, supposedly, are the Dacians. That area is too distant for me to know much about, but judging by the Pannonians' current behavior, it's unlikely to be peaceful there either.

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To the east... Hmm, that is, to the east of the Segestica tribe are the Yabod people and the Noric. These two Celtic tribes mostly live in the mountains... The Noric are manageable, but the Yabod people are prone to plundering, so the Pannonians need to remain vigilant...

Therefore, even if the Pannonians have an army of a hundred thousand strong, they couldn't possibly gather everyone to deal with you. Otherwise, our Illyrian tribes would have fled farther south a long time ago."

Maximus nodded thoughtfully.

"Well? Do you have the confidence to defeat the Pannonians? Or are you scared by what I just said?" Akoupaigos leaned to his right, his face carrying a trace of teasing, staring directly at Maximus.

Maximus smiled lightly: "I don't like making grandiose claims; actions speak louder than words. In time, Great Chief, you will see."

Akoupaigos nodded in understanding: "In that case, I'll wait for your good news."

Their first meeting was cordial, and they reached several agreements.

After Akoupaigos left, Maximus joined the fervor of constructing the camp.

The army had begun building the camp early, and combined with everyone's enthusiasm for creating a new home, by the time the sun set, the camp already had a rudimentary scale.

Acronis meticulously prepared a sumptuous dinner with her team. After the rebel soldiers were full and satisfied, they drifted into dreams to the gentle murmurs of the river under the night sky...

At this time, aside from the torches on the dirt walls around the camp that aided the sentries in their patrols, only the central tent remained brightly lit.

Maximus had summoned the heads of various departments: Military Officer Flantillus, Chief of Staff Quintus, Military Judge Sidonius, First Legion Commander Fesaros, Second Legion Commander Torrelugo, Third Legion Commander Camillus, Deputy Legion Commander Oluus, and Guard Captain Pequot, as well as Cavalry Captain Hagux. These individuals formed the core of the Army;

Other attendees included Administrative Officer Volenus, Warehouse Supervisor Capito, Deputy Supervisor Gaius, Kitchen Director Acronis, Commerce Officer Pigeris, Assistant Commerce Officer Alakosia, Medical Team Leader Horace, Nurse Chief Nexia, Chief Physician Minujus, Engineering Camp Leader Gaius, Chief Engineer Spukala, Transport Team Leader Secksipus (formerly the Livestock Team Leader), Female Camp Captain Karina, Weaving Team Leader Shemirret, Weapon Workshop Leader Kadesos, Financial Custodian Magus, and attendants Akegu and Casius...

For the first time, Maximus held a meeting with so many people, covering all aspects of the rebel forces.

Those like Alakosia, attending the meeting for the first time, were both nervous and excited. Meanwhile, someone like Kadesos was completely uneasy. He couldn't understand why someone of his low status, who had even made mistakes, was invited to such a grand meeting (he had always felt guilty about

mismanaging the blacksmiths, which led to disturbances in the camp during the rebel forces' battle by the Womans River).

As the tent filled with people, Maximus instructed everyone to sit on the ground due to the limited space. Standing at the front, he looked at the sea of heads before him, and a surge of boldness filled his heart: These are the talents I've unearthed and nurtured! They are the foundation that allows me to gain a foothold and thrive in this world!

Placing his hands on his hips, he declared loudly, "Everyone, from tomorrow onward, our grueling marches will come to an end. We will begin a new life on this land! That's why I've gathered all of you tonight so that we can figure out together how to better establish our new home—not only to firmly hold our ground here but also to develop and grow more rapidly!"

When Maximus finished speaking, everyone straightened their backs, their eyes shining brightly, their spirits lifted.

"First of all, now that we've started a new life here, the name 'Free Italy' can no longer be used. If the Romans catch wind of it, they might march an army here or press the Illyrians into handing us over—"

"The leader speaks the truth. The Romans never let grudges go unavenged. We caused them so much trouble in Italy and killed so many Roman soldiers. If they find out we're here, they'll definitely try to wipe us out!" Quintus chimed in.

"I've already entrusted the Great Chief of the Alde Tribe to spread a false rumor that 'we've been wiped out by the barbarians.' Meanwhile, we must regard ourselves as an Illyrian tribe, temporarily forget the past, and quickly integrate here!" Maximus said with a heavier tone. "Therefore, I've chosen a new name for our Illyrian tribe—Nix!"

"Nix?" Most people in the tent repeated the name, puzzled.

"It's a word in Illyrian, meaning 'Wolf Slayer.'" After Maximus explained, the listeners understood and praised him: "A good name!... Let's use it!..."

To slay wolves was to slay Romans. Everyone there had suffered under Roman oppression or enslavement. Even though they had escaped Italy, the name would remind them not to forget their hatred of the Romans amid a peaceful life.

"Leader, since we've changed our name, shouldn't we also change the emblem on our banner? Otherwise, the Romans might still suspect our connection to Free Italy if they see it in the future," Flanitnus reminded.

Maximus nodded: "Indeed, the emblem on the previous banner can no longer be used. I've heard that many local tribes here use animals or mythical creatures for their banners. So I thought long and hard and even drew a new design during the march. Take a look and tell me what you think."

As he spoke, he extended his hand to the side. Akegu immediately handed him a folded piece of linen fabric.

Maximus unfolded it slowly, revealing the design painted on the linen: a peculiar creature, with a head like a camel, antlers like a deer, eyes like a rabbit, a neck like a snake, a belly like a clam, scales like a fish, claws like a deer, a palm like a tiger, and ears like an eagle. Its serpentine body coiled and spiraled, surrounded by clouds of mist, with a gaze that lorded over all creation, radiating a divine and awe-inspiring aura. The entire image was so vivid it seemed as though the creature might burst forth from the fabric.

It must be said that Maximus had been an artist in his previous life, and he had poured not just skill but emotion into this design. Its impact on the onlookers was profound, causing them to display a mix of eagerness to admire the artwork and trepidation to stare too long. The tent fell into an uncanny silence.

After a long pause, Volenus asked softly, "Leader, what is this?"

"This is a dragon! A divine beast revered by the peoples far to the east, beyond Persia!" Maximus's tone brimmed with a unique fervor. "To ordinary people, a dragon is auspicious—it brings rains for bountiful harvests, protects crops from wild beasts, and ensures the prosperity and wealth of families. To officials, it embodies authority—it rules the skies and seas, unrivaled in power. To corrupt officials, it brings thunderous retribution. To tyrannical nobles, it brings cataclysmic destruction. To a king, it is sacred—a messenger of the Heavenly Emperor. Revering it is upholding heavenly order, ensuring the kingdom's stability and the submission of the Four Barbarians!"

Maximus paused for a moment and then shouted, "Do you believe this dragon can represent the banner of our tribe?!"

"Yes! Of course, it can!" Maximus's words struck a chord in everyone's hearts. Slaying corrupt officials, destroying oppressive nobles, safeguarding farmlands, and maintaining order—weren't these their deepest desires? How could they possibly disagree?!

Chapter 203: Choosing a Political System

Even Torrelugo shouted, "This dragon is great! If our soldiers carry it, they can scare the enemy half to death without even fighting!"

"Alright, it's decided then. From now on, we are the Nix Tribe, and our banner is the dragon!" Maximus declared emphatically.

The reason for using the dragon as a banner was not just because of the influence of his cultural genes, but it also held a deeper meaning: he and his followers were outsiders who really needed to integrate into the local area to avoid rejection. However, integration also meant the possibility of being overwhelmed by the ways of the Barbarians, eventually becoming like them. Therefore, he needed to remind his followers of their "uniqueness" to become leaders of a new culture, with the dragon being just the beginning.

Tonight's meeting set a good precedent, giving him more confidence to control the entire meeting process.

"Next, we need to discuss an important topic." Maximus said with a serious expression: "How do we govern this new Nix Tribe we are about to establish? Or rather, what kind of political system should we use to manage our people? At this point, you might be wondering, we are just a small new tribe with a population of less than 20,000. Is it necessary to be so rigorous and formal from the start?"

Seeing everyone's eyes focused on himself, Maximus slowed his pace and said eloquently, "The political system is like the foundation of a house. The better the system, the stronger the foundation, allowing the house to be built higher and more stable, less likely to collapse. The political system is more like a newborn. A good system grants the newborn good birth, a healthy body, letting it grow smoothly and become stronger over time! Now you understand the importance of a political system, right?"

"Understood!" Fesaros shouted first: "Leader, only a fool would choose a bad political system... Of course, we choose the best one!"

Laughter erupted from the crowd.

Maximus did not laugh; his expression remained serious: "There is no best political system, only the most suitable one. Currently, among the various city-states, countries, and ethnic groups in the Mediterranean, there are approximately the following kinds of systems.

One is like the Illyrian Tribe, divided into leaders, elders, and tribesmen. Both the leaders and elders are nobles. The tribe's major and minor affairs are decided by them, and elders have their own tribesmen, which the leader cannot interfere with. This results in the tribe being relatively loose and lacking in management;

Another is like many city-states in Greece, where citizens form an assembly to discuss and decide the city's major and minor affairs, and vote to elect governors. This system is relatively fair to city-state citizens, but because too many diverse people participate in politics, it often wastes too much time arguing in the assembly, resulting in delays in making important decisions, or even making wrong decisions;

Another is like Persia, where the King has supreme authority, and nobles also hold great power, while ordinary people mean nothing to them. This system allows the King to quickly make decisions and concentrate the nation's power to solve problems, but once the King's prestige declines, it can easily lead to noble rebellions, and also fosters corruption;

There is also one like Egypt. It also has a King and nobles, similar to Persia, but they also have priests, who wield great power, own large tracts of land, and have their own armies. Ordinary people suffer from the dual oppression of nobles and priests, but because of their devout faith in the gods, they are willing to endure—"

"Leader, we can also resist!" Acronis couldn't help interjecting.

Immediately, Capito rebuked: "Acronis, don't interrupt, listen carefully to the leader!"

Acronis turned her head and glared at him, and indeed did not speak again.

There is also another system, like the tyrants of some city-states, or what we call dictators. They hold all power and can decide all city-state affairs and the life and death of ministers and subjects;

And finally, a system like Rome. It distinguishes only two kinds of people, nobles and commoners. It has the highest authority—the Citizens' Assembly—in which both nobles and commoners can participate and decide important city-state matters. It also has the Senate, handling daily affairs, which is mostly composed of nobles, although it gives commoners some opportunities, allowing them to serve as Citizen Protectors and eventually become Elders, with a few commoners achieving great merit in war and ultimately being elected as Governors...

But overall, it is always the nobles who hold the power in Rome. And in recent years, Roman Nobles are increasingly unwilling to share benefits with the commoners, leading to growing conflicts between nobles and commoners...

Moreover, there is a large number of people in Rome who are slaves. They have no rights whatsoever, and in the eyes of the Romans, they are not considered people, but livestock—"

Maximus suddenly stopped, looking around at the attentive crowd, and asked, "Which of the political systems I just described do you think is more suitable for our new tribe?"

Most of Maximus's followers came from humble backgrounds, and even Quintus and Capito were merely Roman commoners with decent military skills, but no chance to engage with high-level politics. Now, as Maximus explained the various Mediterranean political systems in straightforward language, they listened intently, and for a moment did not respond to Maximus's question.

Chapter 204: Choosing a Regime_2

When Maximus asked again, Torrelugo quickly said, "Of course, I choose Rome!"

Actually, the various forms of government Maximus mentioned earlier weren't fully remembered by Torrelugo, but he thought: since Rome could become the ruler of the Mediterranean, its system must be quite good.

"We can't choose Rome!" Flanitnus loudly opposed, "Having stayed in Rome for so many years, I am very clear that the Roman Senate is controlled by the Nobles, and commoners have very few opportunities to emerge. The conflict between the Nobles and the commoners is very intense, and people can be killed at any time. If we do it like this, the entire tribe might become unstable!"

"Then what do you suggest we choose?" Torrelugo retorted unwillingly.

"I—" Flanitnus was momentarily speechless. He clearly heard that each government type Maximus mentioned had its advantages and disadvantages, and he did not find any suitable one.

At this moment, Quintus spoke, "Leader, you should have a better government system suitable for us, right?"

Maximus smiled slightly, "The type of government I am going to talk about next is actually something you have already started implementing..."

Hearing this, many people were puzzled, while some seemed thoughtful.

"In this government system, the leader holds the highest power!" Maximus spoke frankly, his gaze closely observing everyone's expressions. Seeing no obvious abnormalities, he felt slightly relieved in his heart.

After all, this team was personally assembled by Maximus, and everyone was already accustomed to his leadership.

"Under the leader are several major departments. The first department is the Agriculture Department, which manages the tribe's farms, livestock breeding, and forest and water products. The department head is the Agricultural Officer, assisted by two Deputy Officers, with a provisional five subordinates. For the position of Agricultural Officer, I think—" Maximus looked at the front row, "Volenus should take it."

"Me?" Volenus was a bit puzzled, "What about my administrative officer position?"

"The administrative officer position is canceled." Maximus seriously said, "You have been a farm manager for many years and are familiar with agriculture affairs. I think you are quite suitable for the Agricultural Officer position.

Previously, in Italy, fighting against the Roman Army made it impossible to distribute land to everyone, so we didn't set up this institution. But now we have land, and in the future, we might acquire more, so the Agriculture Department becomes particularly important because it determines whether we can eat our fill and live better here! You, as the Agricultural Officer, will definitely be very busy in the future. So, do you have confidence in doing a good job?"

"Thank you for your trust, leader, I... I will do my best!" Volenus replied, a bit nervously.

"Let me introduce you to a good assistant to ease some of your pressure." Maximus said, pointing backward, "Seksepis, you'll be the Agricultural Deputy Officer, responsible for the livestock affairs, how about it?"

"Me? Sure!" Seksepis showed joy as soon as he was asked to manage livestock again.

"You can choose the other Deputy Officer yourself, and you also need to quickly decide on the five subordinates and report them to me." Maximus instructed.

Volenus nodded repeatedly in agreement.

"The second department—" Maximus held out two fingers, "is the Commerce Department! It is mainly responsible for the internal and external trade of the tribe and dealings with other powers. (Maximus didn't think it necessary to set too many departments for a small tribe, wasting manpower; previously, the Commerce Officer also handled diplomatic matters), the department head is the Commerce Officer, with two Deputy Officers, and a provisional five subordinates... Pigeris, you used to be the Commerce Officer, are you willing to continue the work?"

"Leader, of course I am willing!" Pigeris responded loudly.

"Great, one of the Commerce Deputy Officers will be held by Alakosia."

"Thank you, leader!"

"You can select the other deputy and five subordinates yourself and report back to confirm."

"Okay, leader."

Maximus seriously reminded Pigeris, "In the past, in Pompey, in Sarabia, you were quite busy, but now you might have some leisure time. We can temporarily only trade with the Alde, managing your relationship with them is our most important task right now! Additionally, we must not sever ties with those pirates, as some goods are unavailable here and need to be transported from the Adriatic Sea!"

"I understand."

"Also, quickly learn the Illyrian Language! Since we're in Illyria, you will have to frequently interact with the Illyrians in the future. If you can't speak their language, how will you earn their trust?"

"I understand, I'll work hard!" Pigeris responded earnestly.

"All of you also need to learn to speak Illyrian well, otherwise in the future, it will be hard to communicate well with your subordinates and the citizens you need to manage; your tasks will be challenging to implement. If that happens, I might have to replace you with someone else." Maximus' words alerted everyone in the tent.

"The third department is the Public Works Department! Responsible for town construction, road and bridge building, weapon and iron production, the manufacturing of engineering equipment, even small items like earthen pots and wooden cups, to large ones like ships, all are handled by the Public Works Department. There's a lot for it to manage, so the head is the Public Works Officer, with four Deputy Officers, each responsible for a different area, and a provisional ten subordinates—"

Maximus took a few steps to stand in front of the warehouse manager, and spoke earnestly, "Capito, this past year your abilities have been seen by all, so this important position of Public Works Officer is entrusted to you."

"Yes." Capito responded calmly.

"Gaius, you'll be the Construction Deputy Officer, responsible for the town road construction, how does that sound?"

Construction Team Captain Gaius happily responded, "No problem!"

Maximus glanced at everyone and called out, "Kadesos! Is Kadesos here?"

"Lea... Leader... I'm here." Kadesos, upon being called, jumped to his feet and was somewhat at a loss, stuttering while speaking.

With a smile and a gentle tone, Maximus said, "Don't be nervous, you did well back in Sarapia, and during this journey, you've put a lot of effort into managing those Blacksmiths. Now I'd like you to be the Construction Deputy Officer in charge of weapon, armor, and iron production, what do you think?"

"I... I..." Kadesos tensed up again, then saw Capito staring intently at him, nodding forcefully. He was suddenly enlightened and said, "Tha... Thank you, Leader!"

"It's decided then."

After Kadesos sat down, he felt his palms sweat, but was extremely excited: a lowly slave like him, now becoming the tribe's Construction Deputy Officer, in charge of all weapon and iron production, was simply... unbelievable! Being obedient to the rebel army, choosing not to resist, turned out to be the right decision!

Maximus looked at Capito again, "As for the other two Deputy Officers, one can be in charge of manufacturing daily items like charcoal and earthen pots; the other can be responsible for the more extensive and complex productions such as ships and carriages. You can choose suitable candidates, including those ten subordinates, and report back to me."

"Do the craftsmen, carpenters, Blacksmiths also fall under our Public Works Department's management?" Capito asked.

"Craftsmen, carpenters, Blacksmiths, and anyone with skills are the key focus of your Public Works Department. They are the talents of the Nix Tribe; the department should care for them, actively supporting them to demonstrate their talents. Employing them requires paying salaries..." As Maximus spoke, his gaze shifted to another place, "Spukala, could you please stand up?"

Chapter 205: Panel of 9 Judges System

Spukala stood up with a puzzled look.

"And Doctor Minujus, please stand up as well."

Minujus, equally puzzled, stood up and exchanged glances with Spukala.

Maximus looked at the crowd: "Everyone, do you know what the most important difference is between our Nix Tribe and the other tribes in these mountains?"

Quintus felt a spark in his heart: "It should be that we are more civilized than the other tribes."

Maximus solemnly said: "Exactly. We are more civilized, and civilization is primarily reflected in knowledge and technology! Minujus is a doctor, and he has used his medical skills to save many wounded soldiers; Spukala is an engineer who often designs our camps. In the future, he will design bridges, build water hammers, water mills, and much more for us. These two are the greatest treasures of our tribe and the reason why we are fundamentally different from other tribes!

Therefore, individuals like Spukala and Minujus, even if they do not hold any official positions in the tribe, should earn everyone's respect, and we should create better conditions for them to fully utilize their talents! I also intend to give them special rewards to express my gratitude for their past contributions. I will discuss this in more detail later."

After the two sat down, both were quite emotional, especially Minujus.

One must understand that Minujus had not willingly joined the group initially. It was only because his whole family had been captured that he was forced to join. After more than a year of living together, he

reluctantly accepted his fate. But today, Maximus's high regard for him was something he had never experienced as a doctor before.

Now, both he and Spukala eagerly awaited Maximus's rewards because this young leader often had surprising ideas.

Maximus then solemnly instructed: "Capito, the strength of our Nix Tribe largely depends on the Public Works Department! Pottery and wooden bowls make our daily lives more convenient; stone bricks and tiles allow us to construct better houses; roads and bridges aid our movement; charcoal, iron plows, and wagons enhance agricultural and commercial development; weapons and armor benefit our battles... The Public Works Department is connected to every aspect of our tribe, so you must take this work seriously!"

Capito merely nodded firmly. He wasn't fond of boasting and enjoyed a life filled with challenges. He was quite pleased with the task Maximus had assigned to him.

"The fourth department is the Legal Department, which is responsible for proposing additions or deletions to the legal code to the leader and key officials, and for judging criminals who violate tribal laws. The head of this department is the Legal Officer, supported by two Deputy Officers and four subordinates." Maximus said, "Sidonius, you have always served as the Military Judge in our group and have been steadfast in enforcing the law. Would you take on the role of Legal Officer?"

"Alright." Sidonius responded succinctly.

"Once you take on the role of Legal Officer, your first task will be to draft a comprehensive legal code suited to our tribe. Previously, we had implemented some decrees, but they were far too simplistic.

This new Nix Tribe legal code must encompass all aspects of our tribe's life, such as marriage, divorce, inheritance rights, property ownership, debt, contracts, service obligations, as well as military law. Most importantly, this legal code must first clarify the type of political system our tribe adheres to and the specific responsibilities of officials at every level..."

For the first time, Sidonius's stern face cracked as he exclaimed bitterly: "Leader, I was just an ordinary Roman before. I have never served as a Legal Officer, let alone taken on a responsibility as significant as drafting the tribe's legal code. This is... challenging for me."

"All of us were ordinary civilians before. We had never been officials nor managed people, yet haven't we all done quite well now? A person will never know their full potential unless they make an effort to try," Maximus said patiently. "Weren't you a Roman citizen before? Are you familiar with Roman law?"

"I know a bit," Sidonius answered honestly.

"You can start by referencing Roman law, then adapt it to suit our tribe's actual situation. Begin with a draft, and then I, along with the other department officials, can review it together, revising and refining it as necessary until we reach a final version.

Afterward, you'll need to have your subordinates publicly read the legal code to the tribespeople, so they understand its content. If there are strong objections from the people about certain aspects, those sections will need to be revised again.

Even after this legal code is implemented, as our tribe develops further, it will need constant modification. As the primary drafter of these laws, your understanding of them will naturally deepen, making it easier to enforce them. Do you understand?"

"I'll give it a try," Sidonius was finally persuaded.

"As our Legal Officer, I have only one demand of you—" Maximus said in a serious tone, "and that is justice! Whether it is me or anyone else in this tent, as long as someone breaks the law, you must punish them according to the provisions of the code!"

"Rest assured," Sidonius replied without hesitation this time.

"And now, the fifth department is the Finance Department, responsible for collecting taxes for the tribe, managing the treasury's expenditures, and storing and distributing the public resources of the tribe. Additionally, the Finance Department will handle the registration of tribespeople's household records. The head of this department is the Financial Officer, supported by two Deputy Officers, with an initial five subordinates." Maximus glanced at the crowd and sighed quietly before saying, "Gaius, how about you take on the role of Financial Officer?"