

Civilization 245

Chapter 245: Cutting Hair, Blood Oath, and Conquest

The morning sun ascended into the sky, its light spreading across the earth. The chanting of Mexica priests resonated between heaven and earth, becoming the sole bridge between god and man.

In the central square of Xilotepec, the priests of Otomi had just been sacrificially offered, and the grand sacrificial ceremony was about to reach its climax.

Watching the one thousand kneeling Otomi warriors, observing their blood-stained hands, Commander Osellor nodded with satisfaction and laughed heartily.

"Good, very good! Someone, go call Elder Priest Uguel to preside over the sacred conversion ceremony!"

The guard respectfully withdrew. Soon, Elder Priest Uguel arrived, clad in the heavy solemnity of the Obsidian Divine Armor, holding the Emerald Divine Staff, and walked with firm, assured steps.

From a distance of several dozen steps, the gemstone's crown dazzled brilliantly, enveloping his broad forehead, the magnificent plumes fanning out into the sky, the tips shading his chubby cheeks. At that moment, Elder Priest Uguel resembled an envoy of the Heavenly Divine on earth, intertwining divinity with humanity, majestically indescribable.

Commander Osellor bowed his head in respect to the Elder Priest, who gently tapped his staff in reply to his friend of many decades. Then, the priest ascended the divine platform, extending his staff again to touch the Sacred Fire below.

Several dozen junior priests respectfully approached, carrying the mysterious yellow Stone of the Dead. First, the priests placed several huge sacrificial pots before the divine platform, pouring in barrels of tequila. Next, using the flames of the Sacred Fire, they arranged several widely spaced firepits across the square. Finally, they stood solemnly before the firepits, with several cups for the sacrificial liquor at their feet. At each side of every priest stood four Temple Guards dressed in Black Wolf War Clothes, holding shields and batons, devoutly guarding their faith.

Accompanying him, a Third Level High Priest quickly came forward and knelt to inquire.

"Esteemed Supreme High Priest, which type of sacrifice should be used for the Blood Oath?"

Uguel's face remained impassive as he issued his command in a deep voice.

"This is the first collective conversion since the Supreme God's ascension, naturally, the highest standard of Divine Descendants should be used. Go find Osellor, it will require at least a month's count!"

The High Priest nodded and stepped back. Soon, he approached Commander Osellor, saluted, and relayed the message. Upon hearing this, Osellor slightly started, looking up towards Uguel, who was also looking his way. The commander, seeing his dignified and serious old friend, helplessly nodded and quietly instructed his guard.

"Bring a squad of Divine Descendants from the Royal Family, try to gather twenty people."

Surprise flashed across the guard's face. Then, he respectfully withdrew to find the warriors in charge of the supervision.

Time silently passed, and the song of the Mexica priests echoed between heaven and earth. The Otomi people were oblivious to their fate, staring blankly in all directions. Suddenly, they began to shout and scream, only to be mercilessly suppressed by Mexica warriors.

A squad of elite Eagle Warriors then escorted twenty Otomi Divine Descendants to the central square. This was the highest lineage of the Royal Family of the City-State, having ruled Xilotepec for a century, another embodiment of the Otomi people's faith.

Several mid-level priests immediately came forward and directly led the Divine Descendants to the divine platform.

Under the incredulous gazes of all Otomi people, the Divine Descendants had already realized their fate. Some were generous, some angry, some fearful, some in tears... whether silent or vocal, calm or trembling, all were destined for eternal oblivion.

In the square, the priests' chanting suddenly grew louder, the warriors' drumming surged again, the Divine Descendants' cries of agony rose then gradually weakened, while the Otomi people were left in silent despair. They watched as vibrant vitality quickly drained away, waiting until the sacrificial pots were filled with bright red, pulsating fuel that was then thrown into the blazing Sacred Fire, burning away all the spiritual refuge of the Otomi people.

Soon, the cups of the sacrificial liquor were filled with fresh crimson sacred drink, placed before the several firepits.

Uguel looked up at the sky, the sun had risen to its zenith, bursting with limitless light and heat. The Elder Priest slightly nodded his head. He waved his staff, and all sounds stopped, leaving only the Supreme God's words between heaven and earth!

"Praise my God Huitzilopochtli! His might is boundless, supreme and grand. From the past to the future, controlling all that exists, until the end of days...

...Those who obey my God will ascend to Heaven, receive forgiveness, and enjoy eternal tranquility! Those who defy my God will sink into the Abyss, turn into Jin Shi, and never be freed!...

Otomi people, offer your entire being to the Supreme God, henceforth wash away all sins, and enjoy eternal light!"

Hearing 'eternal light,' Natali, who had been prostrate for a long time, finally lifted his head. He saw the Mexica priests adding the bright yellow Divine Objects into the Sacred Fire, turning the flames a deep blue. A gust of wind blew, the sacred aura hitting him face on, making him shed tears of devotion.

Natali struggled to his feet, and under the escort of the warriors, he briskly walked toward the Sacred Fire. Upon arriving at the firepit, he faced the smiling middle-aged priest and knelt down again with devotion.

Bravo smiled and nodded. He looked at the young Otomi warrior, his eyes full of benevolence.

After that encounter with His Highness, his fortune had suddenly turned. The Priesthood of the Capital City first sent people to recruit and inquired much about the local nobility, with the middle-aged priest replying in detail. Soon, he received the opportunity to study literacy, then to learn new doctrines, mastering benevolence and divine expressions. This time, he had even followed Supreme High Priest Uguel north, serving as a First Level assistant in the grand conversion ceremony of Xilotepec.