

## Civilization 261

### Chapter 261: Date and Science Popularization Part 1

The intense midday sun bathed the earth, and the New Year's festival reached its climax. Where the elders and the King passed, the ground was filled with prostrate worshippers, continuous cheers, and celebratory song and dance. The Priest's chanting, accompanied by the prayers of the people, recited the new doctrine in the community for the first time, while burning pine and sandalwood enveloped the Lake Capital City—it had indeed become the Divine Kingdom.

"The Mexica are devout believers in deities, fierce and combative."

Xiulote remembered the evaluation from future generations and couldn't help but smile wistfully. Then, smelling the strong incense and listening to the high-pitched chanting, he made his way through the frenzied crowd into a secluded alley. The Head Warrior followed closely behind him, and the two of them headed straight for the Montezuma Palace, following the waterway flickering with Wick Grass.

As the young man stepped into the grand entrance of the palace again, he heard the joyful sounds of "yo-yo". Following the sound, he ascended the two-story building, only to see the little golden eagle snuggled comfortably into a young girl's arms, rubbing back and forth contentedly, occasionally lifting its head to chirp.

Alisa, clad in white, gazed out the window, her eyes fixed on the grand celebration, lost in thought. She held the little Aviloztli closely in her arms as if clinging to her only companion, while her other hand gently stroked the molting eagle's nape, tenderness mingled with girlish nurture.

"She is pure, untouched by even a speck of dust, and also lonely, isolated from society."

At this thought, Xiulote felt a surge of compassion. He took a few gentle steps forward, half-embraced the girl in his arms, then pulled her in tighter. Then, he looked at her surprised face and said with a smile,

"I just finished up. Shall we go for a boat ride on the lake?"

"Yes!"

Alisa's eyes lit up with a smile, and she nodded vigorously, instinctively leaning on the young man's shoulder.

Xiulote looked at her tenderly, slightly bowing his head, intentionally leaning toward the girl's cheek.

"Cheep cheep!" A sharp, clear peep came from the little golden eagle, caught in the middle between the two and completely ignored. It unfolded its tiny wings in protest, fluttering about, causing Alisa's long hair to become disheveled. Alisa then shifted to the side, freeing herself from Xiulote's embrace and gently took the young man's hand.

Xiulote glared at the little Aviloztli, who, oblivious to the situation, continued to nuzzle in the girl's arms. Unable to bear it anymore, the young man finally stretched out his finger and flicked the eagle's forehead with force.

The little golden eagle yelped in shock, "Cheep!..." It then shook its tiny head and opened its round black eyes wide to take a good look at the "bad person"... "Cheep!" The good guy had turned bad! So, it plunged headfirst into Alisa's arms, raising its soft wings again to cover its tiny head.

Xiulote winced as a pinch on his hand hurt, but when he looked up, he saw the girl puffing with anger at him. He gave a gentle smile, tenderly pinched the girl's cheek, and spoke again,

"Let's go!"

Rowing on Lake Texcoco, the clamorous world suddenly receded, the brutal struggles were miles away, all that was left was distant song. Their solitary boat gleamed amidst shimmering waves, transcending all worldly matters—this small space became their own Peach Blossom Land.

The two sat facing each other, so close that they could clearly see the other's blushing face and hear each other's quickly hastening breaths.

Xiulote contained his wandering thoughts. Reflecting on the goal of the day, he reached out his hand to hold her soft and smooth hand, looked into her pure and sincere eyes, and asked earnestly,

"Alisa, how do you see the world?"

Alisa's face reddened; she looked into the young man's eyes, feeling the same purity and sincerity. This time, the girl didn't avert her gaze but spoke softly, revealing her thoughts,

"Xiulote, my father told me that gods created the world and that everything is destiny. From the past to today, people live or die, go on with their lives or fight, control others or are controlled, all according to

the will of the gods. Great people can change a part of their fates through fighting or worshipping the gods.

However, the fates of most mortals are already determined by the gods. We will follow a set trajectory to the end destined for death, and eventually reunite in the infinitely beautiful Divine Kingdom..."

As he listened to the girl's worldview, Xiulote was momentarily stunned. He wanted to say something but didn't know where to start. It seemed this was also Aweit's worldview. After hesitating for a moment, he changed the angle of his inquiry,

"Alisa, what is your world like?"

Alisa looked at the young man, her blush spreading from her face to her neck. She stayed silent for a while before speaking softly,

"In my world, at first there was only my father, then came my brother, and now you are here..."

Hearing this confession, Xiulote felt a flood of emotions rushing through him. He pulled the girl into his embrace impatiently yet carefully, feeling the real warmth, the shared intense beating of their hearts. After a while, he finally left the soft embrace and returned to the matter at hand,

"Alisa, aside from your father, your brother, and me, what are other people like in your heart? How do you treat them?"

Hearing this question, Alisa appeared a bit perplexed. She blinked her bright eyes, her answer uncertain,

"Other people? Even though the gods have designed different paths for them, they are probably similar to us. The guards are always nice to me, members of the Royal Family frequently give me gifts—maybe they have other motives... but I can feel, some of them have genuine emotions for me...

My father said I can control them, decide life or death for others. But I don't want to control anyone, nor do I want them to die because of me. I know once people go to the Divine Kingdom, they never return, life only comes once..."