

Thalos 441

Chapter 441: Count Me In?

Almost every famous Greek tale had some tragic role reserved for the Amazons.

These brave and battle-hardened female warriors, with their absolute female supremacy, were fundamentally incompatible with mainstream Athenian culture.

For example, one of the twelve labors of the newly ascended God-King Heracles was to seize the belt of the Amazon queen Hippolyta—a belt personally gifted to her by the god of war, symbolizing the queen's authority.

In his encounters with the Amazons, Heracles faced many formidable opponents—Aella, swift as the wind and known as the "Whirlwind Maiden"; Perothea, who won seven duels; among the remaining eight women, three were chosen huntresses of Artemis, deadly accurate with their spears; there was also Archippe, who swore never to marry; and finally, the fierce Amazon leader Melanippe—Heracles had to go through great effort to subdue them all.

In another tale, Theseus, then king of Athens, in his early adventures reached the land of the Amazons and was warmly received by the warlike women. But he repaid kindness with betrayal—he tricked Queen Antiope into returning to Athens with him and married her.

The Amazons were furious at this treachery and waited for an opportunity for revenge. One day, they suddenly sailed a fleet to Athens, landed, and laid siege to the city, quickly establishing a camp in the city center. The Athenian army and the Amazons were locked in a long standoff, with both sides suffering casualties, and eventually, a peace treaty had to be signed. The Amazons withdrew, returning to their homeland, while Queen Antiope perished in battle.

In all the conflicts between the Amazons and the Greeks led by Athens, the gods always took sides.

Only the goddess of the hunt, Artemis, truly protected them.

As a result, while the Amazons publicly claimed to worship the Olympian gods, in truth they followed Artemis alone.

Their decision to defect was, therefore, not surprising.

Seeing her sister and most of their followers choose to follow the goddess of the hunt, Hippolyta was greatly comforted and announced before everyone: "The great Lady Artemis has been granted a hunting ground ten times the size of Asia Minor. And the true war between the *Æsir* and the Olympian gods has yet to begin. Now, sisters, let us first go survey our new territory—then, when the day of final battle comes, we shall unleash our fury upon those damned Greeks—!"

"Oooooohhh!" Led by Penthesilea, the Amazon warriors erupted in joyous cheers, raising their weapons high, many of them beating their shields with a resonant clang.

As a nomadic and hunting tribe, their mobility far exceeded that of agrarian peoples.

Within just half a day, these ferocious women packed their essentials and, without looking back, followed their queens through the portal that led to the unknown.

One day later, they arrived on the South American continent of the Ginnungagap world.

They were stunned by the vastness and undeveloped wilderness before them.

"My sister, don't just stand there—take ten thousand warriors. We're going to Asgard for the goddess's inspection! And to receive the God-Emperor's formal induction!" said Hippolyta.

"Ah! Got it!"

Not long after, Penthesilea led a fully armored company of Amazon warriors to an open field, and then, a massive beam of rainbow light pierced the sky, descending upon them.

For a moment, they thought they were about to be annihilated—body and soul erased by this divine light.

When they came to their senses, they found themselves inside a grand hall atop the Rainbow Bridge.

"Welcome, brave Amazon warriors! I am Heimdall, guardian of the Rainbow Bridge!" A towering god with fair skin, golden teeth, and golden armor smiled at them.

A god's smile!

Whether it was the overwhelming divine power, the astonishing height of the figure, or the hall itself recording the glorious hunting achievements of the *Æsir* gods—everything made the Amazon warriors excited beyond words.

They were a tribe that revered strength! A people of the hunt! Their very blood was filled with admiration for power!

And with women alone, reproduction was impossible. During designated festivals, they would lure many men from the forests to copulate. If a baby girl was born, she was kept and trained as the next generation of Amazon warriors; if a boy, he was returned to his father for upbringing.

Penthesilea gazed around the hall—at the eyes of the two progenitor giants, at the Kraken's tentacles, at the severed head of the venomous dragon Nidhogg... To say the least, she was moved in that instant.

This was exactly the kind of thing that appealed to Amazon women!

Penthesilea instinctively squeezed her long, elastic, bronze-colored thighs together and exclaimed excitedly, "Sister! Are these all trophies of His Majesty the God-Emperor?"

Hippolyta answered proudly, "Of course. During Ragnarök, the *Æsir* gods destroyed several chaotic behemoths—this story is widely known among the *Æsir*. In fact, it marks the beginning of their glorious history."

Just then, a squad of twelve valkyries descended gracefully, riding white-winged horses.

To the Amazon warriors, these helmeted female knights looked like figures of high rank—even the gods and giant soldiers guarding the hall bowed to them, while Heimdall merely inclined his head slightly.

"Hippolyta, by order of His Majesty the God-Emperor and the goddess Artemis, I have come to receive you," said the leading valkyrie.

Hippolyta stepped forward and warmly took her hand. "Thank you, Sister Brynhildr."

Brynhildr smiled lightly. "Get your ranks in order. His Majesty does value you all."

"Understood!"

After giving her instructions, Brynhildr rode with her sisters to the great gate to await them.

Penthesilea, having issued a series of commands to her generals, hurried over. "Sister, you called her 'sister'?"

Hippolyta's cheeks flushed. "Well... during the time when the goddess Artemis could no longer hold on, we helped out as divine attendants... so we're kind of close."

"Then can I join too? Add me in?" Penthesilea suddenly launched a direct attack.

Hippolyta wasn't the one to decide. "That depends on His Majesty's interest."

"All right!"

This was very much the Amazon way. In the later stages of Greek mythology, there was even the tale of the Amazon queen Thalestris visiting Alexander the Great and spending thirteen nights with him in hopes of conceiving a daughter.

Though the Amazon warriors were formidable, their strength ultimately remained within the mortal realm. Their bronze equipment wasn't much to speak of. Still, an army composed purely of women was an extraordinary sight even for the Asgardians.

Nowadays, most Asgardians were mortals who had served the *Æsir* gods for many years. A few possessed partial *Æsir* blood. Even if of different races, their temperament was thoroughly alike—exemplifying martial virtue in full.

Seeing the Amazons arrive not as captives, but as a newly allied army, many couldn't help but point and whisper in curiosity.