

The sun hung low over the horizon as twilight hit the beaches of Congo Bight. TuQ'uan Varick and his fellow Plagueians disembarked from their cramped shuttle and made their way towards the grand casino where rooms had been booked for them for this summit of clans.

TuQ was enjoying this opportunity to stretch his legs and take in the breathtaking beauty of the city and its twinkling lights. He had only been here a handful of times but those were some of the most relaxing vacations he had ever had the pleasure of experiencing. The Plagueian had hopes for this trip too, but he was fairly certain this trip was going to be anything but relaxing.

The air was abuzz with anticipation and nerves inside the hotel as members from all across the Brotherhood gathered for the meeting. One look at the check-in line and TuQ quickly realized that he was going to need to hit up the refresher before dealing with that nightmare.

The Kel Dor's soft footsteps echoed quietly off the marble floors. He always walked with a quiet footfall, an old habit he developed in his early days as a mercenary where being heard meant getting caught. Pressing his hand against the ornate door to the refresher, TuQ gave a gentle push and, as expected from a hotel of this caliber, it swung open soundlessly.

"Selika is a fool if she thinks this will work," a deep voice spoke over the sound of running water filling the sink. TuQ slowly let the door close, leaving an inch wide opening to continue listening in.

"Well, I say, if she wants to act like a fool, we make her look like one too!" a familiar voice responded.

"Did you have something in mind?"

"I'm sure something will come to me!" Appius roared with laughter.

Quietly, TuQ'uan let the door close and stepped off to the side waited for Appius to exit and fell in step beside the Taldryan Consul.

"Consul," TuQ whispered as he draped his arm around Appius' shoulder. "I overheard a nasty rumour about you, would you care to elaborate?"

"You dare threaten me, Varick?" his tone stern but voice quiet as not to arouse suspicion.

"Look, I'm just here to talk, no threats. Plus," TuQ gestured to the surrounding crowds of people. "You and I both know that while we are here a *tenuous* agreement stands and neither of us can touch the other."

Appius let out an angry sigh.

“So, back to the business at hand. I heard you have a surprise planned for my consul. The way I look at it, we have three options going forward. Either I tell my Selika and you have to deal with her wrath, you can buy my silence, or I can help you.” A look of confusion flashed across the human’s face. “Now, I am personally fine with any of the above, but those last two are my personal favourites.”

A smile crept across the consul’s face and he nodded in acceptance.

“Now if you know someone with a good arm, I know a great place to get a meiloorun pie nearby, they use extra whip on top,” he spoke with a hint of mischief in his voice. “I hear it’s Selika’s favourite.”