Trial of the Wolves

written by

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EXT. CLEARING DEEP INSIDE A FOREST SURROUNDING THE MAOXI TRIBE RESERVATION-NIGHT

The sky is alight with stars tonight, unaffected by the pollution of LA's lights. The trees are nothing but long sillouettes surrounding a big clearing. In the middle of the clearing sits a young boy with wine colored hair tied in a ponytail. His name is Shay Shatterstar, the son of the cheiftan of the Maoxi tribe. Shay is twirling the bowstring of the bow his father gave him while looking at the vast array of stars. Joining him in the clearing now is his grandmother Tata with a lantern. Tata takes a seat right next to Shay on the grass

TATA
You only come out here when you are nervous, my child. What's wrong?

SHAY
(still focused on his bowstring)
In two days time is the trial. The trial to determine the Spiritwalker. I want to make our tribe proud. I want to make father proud.

Tata places a hand on Shay's shoulder. Shay stops twirling his string and looks at his grandmother for the first time that night. Her wrinkles stood out, even in the darkness

TATA
(smiling)
My child, there is nothing you could do to disappoint us. The only thing we ask you to do is to try your best and fight with honor. You can do that, right?

SHAY
(determined)
In the name of Locuxi, panther god of the hunt and the stars, I will fight with all of the strength I have in me

Tata smacks Shay on the back with a surprising amount of force

TATA
That's the spirit, my boy! Now come home, before your father knows that you are out here.

Shay takes one last look at the stars before he stands up and walks back with Tata, supporting her however he can. As they walk, Shay thinks about the task ahead. Once every 100 years, as Tata told him when he was young, the 10 allied tribes band together and hold a trial to choose the Spiritwalker. This Spiritwalker would then walk forward into the world as the tribes representative and do good in the tribes and their respective Gods names. Since Shay first heard the story at the young age of 5, he's been training relentlessly for this opprotunity. Now, at 15, the time is at hand for the trial. Shay and Tata finally arrived back home, a huge house where the Maoxi tribe all live together. Shay collasped in his small cot, exhausted. It was hot in his room, as it was every night. But, at least it was better than being on the floor. Before he dozed off, Shay put his hands together in prayer.

SHAY
Locuxi, I thank you for a good day today. I also pray to you for a good hunt tommorow so that we can get quality meat for the grand feast tommorow. Finally, I ask that you give me your strength and speed for the trial two days from now.

Shay then makes a prayer to Orobaxi, the Great Spirit, Creator, and Mother of All Life

SHAY (CONT'D)
Orobaxi, our Great Mother, watch over our tribes tonight. See that no one gets ill and that everyone has enough to eat. See that everyone recieves enough rest and that every representative for each tribe is well rested for the trial. By your grace, I shall rest. Goodnight, Great Mother

Shay finally closed his eyes to sleep. All was quiet, all was still. Exactly as Shay had prayed for.

INT. SHAY'S ROOM-DAY

Shay's alarm clock rang at 8:00am. He woke up immediately and turned it off. He stretched and went to put on his hunting attire. It was a pair of jeans and a tank top, elegantly decorated with the patterns of stars. As another bit of decoration, the outfit also came with a necklace with the mask of Orobaxi in the center. Pride filled his heart as he looked at the material

SHAY
I remember when I recieved this outfit. It was made for me 1 year ago, when I hunted the biggest boar the tribes have seen in a while. The reward was this hunting outfit, made specifically by the best weavers in the Telliastri tribe. It's gone with me everywhere.

Shay put on his hunter clothes and left the tranquility of his room to the giant common room. The beds have already been moved and replaced with giant rows of tables and benches. Everyone is already eating their breakfast. Shay noticed his father easily. His roaring laugh and wine colored beard stood out among everyone else. His father noticed Shay and motioned for him to come. Shay took a seat on the bench in front of his father.

SHAY'S FATHER
(with pride)
Shay, my son. Did you sleep well?

SHAY
(jokingly)
My sweat became my blanket, as usual

Laughter rang out at Shay's joke as Shay happily dug into his breakfast, steak and eggs, prepared by the best chefs in the tribe. The huntmaster, Elya, took a seat right next to Shay's father. Her pitch black hair was tied in a beautiful braid with a flower attached to her side.

ELYA
Chieftan, we should go hunt. The beasts are silent in this time of the morning.

SHAY'S FATHER
Of course. Shay, finish eating and go with her

SHAY
Yes, father. Rest assured, the hunters and I will bring the finest meat the tribes have ever seen

SHAY'S FATHER
(smiling)
Hah! I have no doubt that you will do that, my boy!

Smiling proudly, Shay grabbed his bow and followed Elya to the training grounds.

EXT.TRAINING GROUNDS.DAY

The training grounds were a set of targets lined up right next to a small building. Inside the building, their were collections of bows and arrows made in collaboration between the Maoxi and the Lelivana tribes. The 3 other hunters, Ezra, Millian, and Lily were waiting in front of the building.

ELYA
Good morning everyone.

MILLIAN
Good morning, chief huntress

LILY
Good morning, Elya

EZRA
Good morning, El.

ELYA
(face palming)
Ezra, at least use my full name

Ezra shrugged and waved at Shay. Shay waved back and smiled at him. Ezra and Shay were like brothers at this point.

ELYA (CONT'D)
Have all of you warmed up yet?

MILLIAN
Yes, we have. We were just waiting for you and Shay.

SHAY
May I warm up, Grand Huntress?

ELYA
(with gratification)
Finally, someone addresses me correctly! Yes, Shay, you may warm up.

Shay slung a quiver across his shoulder and went to the practice range. Six targets were lined up in a row. Shay pulled his bow, took a deep breath, and fired it at each of the targets. Six bullseyes right in a row. No one looks surprised, though.

ELYA (CONT'D)
Right, now that Shay is warmed up, let's go to the forest.

LILY
Yes, Grand Huntress

The five others walked towards the forest, meat the only thing on each of their minds

EXT.THE FOREST SURROUNDING THE MAOXI TRIBE

The forest felt completely different in the day. The trees were now marvelously tall and the birds were singing songs in different languages. Shay and the others walked calmly on the grass, senses tuned to the forests frequency.

ELYA
(silently)
Stay quiet. Let's split into two groups. Ezra and Shay. Millian and Lily, you will go with me.

Ezra and Shay went deep into the forest, to a spot that only they knew of

EZRA
(excitedly)
This spot is where we found that boar, remember? It was so fat and juicy!

SHAY
(even more excitedly)
Of course I remember! The taste of that boar is something that I will remember forever. Well, it got me this outfit, too, but..

Shay was cut off the faint squeal of a boar. Ezra and Shay turned to the noise and found two boar. It was twice as big as the one they saw before. The boar quickly ran away, but Ezra and Shay were faster.

EZRA
(while running and panting)
Come on! We're almost caught up with them.

SHAY
(panting less agressively than Ezra)
Yeah! But, are you sure you can keep up?

EZRA
(confidently as usual)
I'm the only one who can

The two moved quickly among the trees,chasing the boar. The two boar eventually lead Ezra and Shay to a clearing, the same clearing that Shay sat in last night. In that clearing sat 40 boar. 40 fat, juicy boar. Shay and Ezra sat there in shock for a moment

EZRA (CONT'D)
Aw, man! We won't be able to take them all

SHAY
(with bravado)
You sure about that?

Shay pulled out a bow and arrow. He remembered a spell that a tribe member of the Calachi taught him as he drew it back.

SHAY (CONT'D)
Locuxi, I invoke your name on this day. Strike the targets that I command. Let your might be known to all.

Shay let go of the arrow and it split into exactly 40 identical, star infused arrows. It hit each boar and killed them. Shay and Ezra were in disbelief.

EZRA
(shocked)
Holy shit! That actually worked

SHAY
I-I'm just as shocked as you are, Ezra.

Elya, Lily, and Millian showed up to the sight of dead boar and the two boys.

ELYA
(surprised)
Did you two do this?

EZRA
Well, it was mostly-

Shay steps in front of Ezra

SHAY
We worked together to capture these boar, and then we brought them here

Elya looked at the two and clapped her hands together

ELYA
Good job, you two! I'll head back with Millian and Lily to get more people to carry this boar. Do you mind if you carry our kills? We left a marker east from here.

SHAY
Of course, Grand Huntress. We will return in a moment

Shay speedily left the clearing with Ezra right behind him. They made it to the marker and the girls skills. They took out 20 birds. Shay and Ezra could each carry 10. As they took the birds, Ezra took a step in front of Shay.

EZRA
Why did you lie?

SHAY
Huh?

EZRA
You killed all those boar back there. Now, I have to lie to everyone else. I'm a terrible liar, you know

SHAY
(avoiding eye contact)
I'm sorry. I just thought you wanted the credit. I should have asked for your consent.

EZRA
Its ok, Shay. Just remember in the future, I want to get credit for my own achievements.

SHAY
Of course, Ezra. Before we go back, shall we pray to Locuxi? Today was a spectacular hunt.

EZRA
Of course

Shay and Ezra knelt down in silent prayer to Locuxi. They also made sure to offer reverence to Orobaxi, for creating the animals in the first place. Then, they left the forest.

EXT.RIGHT OUTSIDE OF THE MAOXI MAIN BUILDING-NIGHT

After 6 hours of preparation, the food is finally prepared. The other 9 tribes have gathered in front of the roaring campfire. The nine tribes are Telliastri, Orakau, Lelivana, Derioli, Calachi, Beroki, Aroka, Ferein, and Merozel. Each tribe specializes in a different thing. In the case of Maoxci, they specialize in cooking and hunting, thus providing the food, which everyone was eating happily. Ezra was eating with his family while mingling with people from other tribes. Meanwhile, Shay was sitting with the reprenstatives for the trial from the other tribes. It was silent for a while, until Shay mustered up the courage to speak.

SHAY
My name is Shay Shatterstar. I want to thank all of you for joining us tonight for this feast. But, I don't know all of your names. May you please introduce yourselves

More silence. Finally, a boy with coffee colored short hair spoke up. He had a finely woven pink scarf across his neck

OMO
(timidly)
My name is Omo. I come from the Telliastri tribe.

Perhaps because of Omo, but everyone else began introducing themselves

MARIANNE
I am called Marianne. I hail from the Oraku tribe.

PERCY
(confidently)
Percy Estrelles! I am the best warrior from the Lelivana tribe.

Shay smiled. He could not wait to beat him

LORILEI
My name is Lorilei, but you may call me Lori. I am of the Derioli tribe

CALABAN
My name is Calaban from the Calachi tribe

KIANA
Kiana from Beroki

JAMES
James from Aroka

EME
I am Eme from Ferein

Finally, the last person was obscured by their hood but theirlong gray hair stood out

FEL
My name is Fel.Merozel tribe

More silence. Somehow the atmosphere got even more awkward.

OMO
So, does anyone know anything about the trial tomorrow?

SHAY
(concerned)
Do you not know anything, Omo?

OMO
Well, when I asked, all I was told was that it was a trial. I know no specifics, though

PERCY
Allow me to fill you in, Omo. Basically, we are going through the Great Forest to face some kind of threat. Have you been training with any kind of weapons?

OMO
Yes. I have been training with throwing stars and daggers since I was five

FEL
I started when I was five as well

EME
Same. That is an odd coincidence

SHAY
If you guys get chosen to be the Spiritwalker, what will you do?

Silence, except this time, its thoughtful

MARIANNE
I want to write a book and share out stories with the world

FEL
I want to open a magic school with Calaban and share our magic with everyone. We've been talking about this for a while.

CALABAN
It's true. Then, not everyone would need superpowers to be strong or accepted.

SHAY
That is an admirable wish

KIANA
What about you, Shay?

SHAY
Well, my goal is a bit outlandish than yours

CALABAN
Come on, it can't be that weird

OMO
Yeah! Just tell us

Everyone's eyes pierced into him. Shay took a breath

SHAY
I want to be a superhero and join a team

PERCY
Interesting. Why is that?

SHAY
Well, heroes are remembered, aren't they? Our tribes are close to being forgotten and its mostly thanks to our conditions. If I can prove myself to LA, then maybe I can improve everything here.

PERCY
Why would you want to protect the people that put us in this position?

SHAY
Because they are people like us. People worth fighting for.

Shay's father came up behind them.

SHAY'S FATHER
It is time for the commencement. Please gather by the fire

The 10 individuals stood up and gathered by the campfire. They kneeled before their chieftans, who prepared a blessing for them

HEAD PRIEST
Orobaxi, Locuxi, Sherai, Kavou, Veraban, Madain, Anoya, Eurocara, Chiakain, Heoli, and Zaoloan. We invoke your names to bless our warriors with your strength and wisdom for tommorows trial. We trust in your descision to choose the Spiritwalker.

With this simple blessing, the 10 warriors were sent back to their homes. Shay lay back down in his blanket of sweat and fabric, his mind ready for the task ahead.

EXT.THE SACRED FOREST, FEREIN TRIBE.-NIGHT

The Sacred Forest. It is said that Orobaxi created the entire world from this forest. Now, the 10 warriors stood outside of of it for their trial. Ezra came to see Shay off. Shay embraced him tightly before he stepped inside the dense forest. This forest seemed to glow in the moonlight. Suddenly the silence was broken by the sound of dozens of footsteps. The warriors were frozen in fear.

KIANA
What the hell is that?

PERCY
(readying axe)
I'm not sure but get your weapons drawn

LORILEI
I think we should run.

FEL
I think so too

They started running, but as they ran, the footsteps grew faster and louder. The sound of howling echoed through the trees. Omo made the mistake of turning around. Pale white wolves, the color of the moon were chasing them. Omo screamed and the wolves howled back. Then, Shay had an idea.

SHAY
Everyone, stop! Stand still and be quiet.

The shock of his command made everyone stop. A giant moonwolf appeared in front of them. Its pale blue eyes stared through the warriors. But, it lingered longer on Shay, who showed no fear. The wolf howled into the night and vanished. Everyone's breath returned to them.

OMO
(teary)
Shay, how did you know?

SHAY
They were attracted to your scream, so I assumed that they would leave if we made less noise.

PERCY
That was a risky assumption. You could have seriously hurt us.

SHAY
That is true, but I thought that it would be worth it.

The wolves howl pierced the night again

SHAY (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Listen, we have to move quietly to not attract the wolves. We have to make it to the end of the forest.

Everyone nodded and began to move. Omo held Shay's hand as they moved. The warmth of Omo's hand also comforted Shay. In what felt like hours, they made it to the clearing. Everyone collapsed for a much needed break.

JAMES
(exhausted)
Finally, we made it.

LORILEI
Yeah. Shay saved our asses though. We owe him

Percy scoffed.

PERCY
It wasn't that big of a deal

Shay ignored him. People like him feed into reaction. However, Omo took the bait

OMO
You're so ungrateful, Percy. He helped us and this is your response. You don't deserve to be the spirit walker.

Percy advanced towards Omo, who flinched a little.

PERCY
(threatingly)
Are you worthy, crybaby?

FEL
Stop it you two. This is not worth fighting about.

Suddenly, tree branches wrapped around Percy and Omo. Their screams grew loud as they were dragged back into the forest. Without hesistation, Shay ran back into the forest.He followed the dragging bodies until it stopped. Finally, they stopped and locked Omo and Percy onto a tree. The giant moonwolf stood in front of Shay.

MOONWOLF
Pick one.

SHAY
What do you mean?

MOONWOLF
Two choices. Save one

Shay paused for one moment. Shay didn't like Percy at all. He knew what his descision would be. Shay drew his bow at the wolf.

SHAY
Orobaxi taught us that all life his sacred. I will save both of them.

The moonwolf seemed to smile.

MOONWOLF
So be it

The moonwolf swiped at Shay, who dodged it. The two fought with each other for a long time until they were both sweating and bleeding.

MOONWOLF (CONT'D)
My child, you have succeeded. Percy, Omo, and everyone else will be returned safely. As for you, Shay...

The moonwolf transformed into a panther made of the very stars. Shay bowed immediately

LOCUXI
Stand, Shay. Come and meet my kin

EXT. THE GODS DOMAIN

Locuxi and Shay were teleported to the God's domain, a perfect black abyss. Above them were the nine other gods, with Orobaxi in her beautiful mask. Shay had to bow.

OROBAXI
Rise, Shay. You do not have to bow.

SHAY
I cannot help it, Orobaxi. You created everything, You deserve respect.

OROBAXI
You humble me, Shay, but now, you will represent us. You will be our Spiritwalker. Now, close your eyes.

Shay closed his eyes. Orobaxi snapped her fingers. Her and the other 9 gods gave Shay a portion of their power. Shay screamed in pain but he bore the power well. Then it stopped and Shay opened his eyes again. He was back outside the forest, with everyone else staring at him.

SHAY'S FATHER
My son! You have been chosen! I could not be more proud!

Everyone bowed to Shay, who radiated power of the gods. Shay did not care at this moment. All he wanted to do was sleep. He was tired and so he collapsed and rested

INT.MAOXI TRIBAL HOME, A FEW MONTHS LATER-DAY

Shay is in his room once again, packing his things for LA. There was a knock on the door and Ezra opened it. Shay smiled at him

EZRA
Today's the day, huh?

SHAY
Yeah, it is. I'm going to LA. Going to bring us change.

Suddenly, Ezra ran up to Shay and hugged him tightly. Tears streamed down Ezra face and burned him. Shay embraced him back tighter.

SHAY (CONT'D)
I'll visit often, ok?

EZRA
You fucking better

Shay laughed as he let go of Ezra. Then he grabbed his bags and walked down to the hall again. His family waited for him. There were no words anymore, at least none that were necessary. Shay walked out of the door and looked down the hill that stands over the city. Shay clapsed his hands in prayer.

SHAY
Orobaxi, Locuxi, Sherai, Kavou, Veraban, Madain, Anoya, Eurocara, Chiaban, Heoli, Zaoloan, give me your strength

Shay looked back one more time and then stepped towards his future.