

Name: Stepan Vasilyev, previously Dro'Khan, no further known names.

Race: Catfolk

Age: Twenty Five.

Gender: Male

Next of kin: Unknown

Hobbies:

- Cooking
- Target shooting, either stationary or clay pigeons.
- Hunting
- Parties, the hosting- and attending of them.
- Several vices best left unmentioned
- Studying languages
- Fashion
- Art trading
- Exploration

History:

Stepan's is a bit of an unbelievable story, yet if one were to trace its steps then they'd find evidence of its legitimacy. Found as an abandoned child in the city of Votaburg, the grand city by the Okon Range, Stepan was raised in one of the city's many orphanages. Stepan spent a long time having to teach himself before he was finally able to secure himself a formal education at the age of twelve. An event he refers to as his first successful exchange of opinion. Stepan entered his puberty finally learning how to read and write, which allowed him to further develop that which he calls his greatest assets: His tongue and wit.

During his time in education, Stepan became more and more aware of the squalid living conditions of the city's lowest classes, many of them Catfolk like himself. After the empire of Mechtadorf established its foot in the region and annexed Votaburg, many generations ago, some Catfolk slowly decided to trade in the nomadic life for what they believed to be a more stable, peaceful existence. Instead finding themselves having to dedicate themselves to the few jobs they would be offered. Long hours, low pay and dangerous working environments were what dominated the lives of many catfolk men. Women would not find their lives any easier, many finding themselves in the brothels that thrived in the city's suburbs. It is rumoured that Stepan was conceived at one of these brothels, a topic which he does not like to talk about.

Within the suffering of his kin, Stepan found his calling. After finishing his education, a rare privilege amongst his kind in the city, Stepan managed to secure himself a job as a clerk at the provincial administration hall. It is here where he began his political career, proving to his peers the capabilities of Catfolk through his own sharp work, as well as through studies and lectures about catfolk, their many cultures and languages and the expansive steppes they inhabit.

At the age of twenty-one, Stepan decided to take the next step in his quest, set up an expedition so that he may see his ancestral homeland for himself. To this end he would have to strike his most important deal yet. He had travelled to the capital city where he had met with the directors of the Daily Dorf. He managed to pique their interest enough to allow him to publish one story in their paper.

One story was all it took. Three months later Stepan set off, accompanied and funded by two lower noblemen and their entourages, as well as two students from the Imperial university. A total of twelve men.

For a year the expedition was gone, a year which was spent in the Chitaya valley deep within the steppes. A lush land inhabited by the Aht Chitaya, 'Federation of the Chitaya' in the peoples' native tongue. A federation of linguistically and culturally similar tribes within the large valley.

Eventually the expedition returned. Its members carrying trinkets, carpentry and art rarely seen before by the people of Mechtadorf, as well bearing many learned lessons. Stepan wrote a primary source on the Chitaya, their lifestyle, culture, system and language. The federation's most interesting feature is its bureaucracy, something rarely seen amongst the tribes of the steppes, albeit infantile compared to the gargantuan bureaucratic structure that is the empire.

With the profits he gained selling this book, as well as added gains from selling various exotiques from his expedition, Stepan was able to purchase himself a decent apartment in the Imperial City's upper district, allowing himself to finally tread where he'd always wished. In his own eyes, Stepan had risen from poverty to power in mere years. He could do anything.

Stepan Spent the next few years getting himself invited to parties he'd never dreamt to attend, managing to gain a toehold in the lower and middle echelons of Mechtadorf nobility. He used these opportunities to continue to attract interest in his beliefs. Arguing that, albeit small, the bureaucracy of the Chitaya is a conduit with which the empire could integrate the federation into its sphere on autonomous terms, a deal he claims to be mutually beneficial. He has said that he's already presented the idea to the leaders of the Chitaya, and that their response was somewhat positive.

It is his wish to be the one who links the empire and the Chitaya together, an alliance made to educate and enrich both parties. One which will present to the empire the capabilities of the Felinae, and open up the market to them.

While the expedition he lead was successful, it was nothing compared to an operation at such a scale. Before Stepan can secure the imperial backing needed to make it happen, he will have to prove himself capable directly in the eyes of the emperor.

It is because of this reason, that he has volunteered to assist in the repair of an imperial colony in the far north.