THE 68th PRIDE

“I am but one sinner before many judges. And I am not guilty, nor am I innocent.”

“Pride is as much a virtue as it is a sin.”

“I am sorrowful. Sorrowful that you cannot see the world through my eyes for it is infinitely better. It is my world. It is mine to change and shape. It is mine to love and mine to hate.”

Pride is a Seeker. After committing a terrible crime that was motivated by a powerful sense of pride, he was put into the Orbital’s Seeker program. His body was slowly tortured for his crimes and modified for his new purpose as a Seeker. His mind was also changed in the process, to atone for his actions and to prepare him for what he would do in the future. The Seekers are the Orbital’s hitmen, and each one is named after a powerful human emotion or concept. Their names are chosen based on the crime they committed.

Since there are so many Seekers and since they die or new ones join, some names have to be reused. And thus Pride’s full name is the 68th Pride, for there were 67 Seekers before him with the same name, who committed crimes for the purpose of pride. Seekers are also known for their immense power and capability. Entire cities and armies have disappeared due to the actions of one Seeker.

Our Pride has gone rogue though. He no longer listens to his superiors at the Orbital, and instead has found a calling among the poor of the city. He believes that pride can be a positive trait. He seeks to change the world he is in so that it is better for those around him, and he believes that to accomplish that is prideworthy. He wants to balance the city so that all could be happy, and he could be proud of achieving that.

His original task from the Orbital is to eliminate all the poor in the city, as the Orbital wants to take control of it and does not want their blood on their hands, or for them to rise up. When Pride realized that his Seeker’s Light was shining on every poor or homeless person he encountered, he was shocked. He could not bring himself to do it, and does not know if he is a coward because of that or if he finally realized that he needs to change his purpose/direction.

Pride is still healing from the Original crime he committed. He knows what he did was wrong, and he knows he did it because of negative pride. So to balance that, he wants to commit an equivalent act that is powered by positive Pride. He wants to show to everyone that pride can be multifaceted and should not only be known as a sin.

He sympathizes with the poor of the city. He wants them to look at the world in the same way he does, with a similar sense of pride and hope. He wants them to realize that the world is just as much theirs as it is his or anyone else’s, and that it is theirs to change.

He is only travelling with the protagonist because he hears that another seeker, the 11th Justice, is targeting him as an enemy of the state. He wants to avoid dealing with Justice and his followers are also concerned for his safety. However, he also believes that the protagonist could help him achieve his goal. He also believes that he can change the protagonist.

“Are you proud of who you are?”