**Conflict**

**‘Hunt Festival and Tabling of Hunt Lords’**

**POV Focus: Kinless (Festival), Arhan (Road to the Tabling)**

After the events of the gathering, the southern tribes are in a tizzy. During this, Arhan tries to gain legitimacy for his reign as Hunt Lord by calling a Hunt Festival, to pledge in new Hunters and bolster the ranks. However, his focus changes when a messenger arrives from the north, claiming that the Northern Tribes Hunt Lord is calling for a tabling of the four Hunt Lords. Arhan must choose between staying home and legitimizing his reign or joining his old friend the northern Hunt Lord and seeing if there is a threat to the Promised Lands.

So let’s start with the introduction of our other protagonist, the young Kinless (First name pending). Hereby referred to as ‘Kin,’ Kin is somewhat of an outcast among the other young tribesmen partly due to his white hair and sharp features. He is mocked (only somewhat seriously) as a half-demon, because his mother is thought to be a woman in an illegal whorehouse that his old tribe used to frequent, who was possessed by an evil spirit of lust. This thought is exacerbated by the fact that Kinless was the only survivor of a demon attack that wiped out the entirety of his tribe and their sister tribe – luckily, Sig Sorno was able to arrive in time to slay the beast and return him to the capital (not sure what to call the main tribe area/capital) safely. Kinless is given the name Kinless because while everyone is 99% sure he is the albino child of his clan that shares his name, they cannot be certain. Kinless is allowed to stay in the old tribe grounds of his proposed tribe, but is not allowed to take their name in case of disrespect to the dead, a rule enforced by a biased/overly superstitious Wise Man. This Wise Man actually *does* think that Kinless is the child, but he had wanted the child killed when he was born, and thinks he is doing the dead tribe a favor by disallowing the boy from continuing their tribe’s legacy and dishonoring them by having their tribe leader be a demon child. This comes out later in the plot of the series.

Anyway, Kin is a boy who is determined to prove he is a full tribesman of the southern tribes by becoming a Hunter. Once upon a time he also dreamed of being Hunt Lord, though mockery has driven his confidence in achieving this dream quite low. Kin’s early role in this story is a window into the young and upcoming warriors/hunters, a viewpoint that isn’t important to see how the populace feels about the major shifts going on in the Southern Tribes, and eventually the series main protagonist. When it is announced that the Festival is taking place – a year early – Kin scrambles to get ready. He tries to pay attention to what the other prospective tribesmen are doing to practice and tries to get ready.

Meanwhile, the wise men think it’s a good idea for Arhan to call the Festival, which he is willing to do. However, a messenger from the Northern Tribes arrives to deliver a message to the Hunt Lord of the Southern Tribes. The message basically says that there is a threat to the tribes – all tribes – and that he asks for the Hunt Lord’s to join him to address it. Arhan relays all this to his wife late at night, after a long day of discussions with the Wise Men and preparing the tasks for the Festival. Arhan is torn. The wise men think he should respectfully decline the invitation, citing the coming festival and everything regarding his new ascension to Hunt Lord (i.e. getting used to it). Arhan shares his concerns with his wife, that he isn’t sure they should. He mentions how he trusts the Northern Hunt Lord as they fought together during the Demon King crisis, and that if a man as sturdy and reliable as he was worried about something, he was worth listening to.

After ruminating on it, Arhan announces that he is bringing a contingence to a tabling with the other Hunt Lords. The wise men are not too happy with his decision, which he tries to justify by saying that joining the tabling will legitimize him.