

VARANSIAN GUARD

“I see that the Emperor has some new lackeys.”

The second courtier rolled his eyestalks. “Yes. They’re from some one-planet barbarian species that swore fealty personally to the Emperor, rather than be conquered.” He squinted. “Based on their heraldry, I suppose they worship some sort of bird.”

“Will they be a danger to our plans for his Imperial Majesty?”

“Doubtful. Barbarians are barbarians. These didn’t even have warp drive when we found them. And look at that bird-god of theirs! Carrying some sort of primitive arrows. I sincerely doubt more than half of those barbarians even know how to *read*...”

- Moe Lane

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