

Game of Thrones: The Blackfyre Rebellions

(At a meeting of the small council. The albino **Brynden Rivers** is Hand of the King and Master of Whisperers. Joining him are **Prince Maekar Targaryen**, heir to the Iron Throne, and Maekar's sons: **Prince Aerion Targaryen** and **Prince Aegon Targaryen**. Maekar's father King Aerys the First, uninterested in ruling, is nowhere to be found.)

Brynden Rivers: "As the saying goes: 'A wheel with two hubs will not turn, and a kingdom with two kings will burn.'"

Prince Maekar: "Not that such a cost would have stopped Daemon Blackfyre. Well, Master of Whisperers: what of the bastard Aegor Rivers?"

Brynden Rivers: "Though King Aegon IV also legitimized him, Bittersteel has not advanced his own claim to the Iron Throne. Instead, he's thrown his support behind the Blackfyres."

Prince Aegon: "Daemon the Younger?"

Brynden Rivers: "No, the first Daemon had another son: Haegon. The so-called 'King Daemon II' had no sons of his own, so Bittersteel will prop up his younger brother as the next legitimate ruler of the Seven Kingdoms."

Prince Aerion (seething): "You should have anticipated this!"

Brynden Rivers (calmly): "It is why I kept Daemon alive, but a man can only survive so long as a prisoner in the Red Keep."

Prince Maekar: "So another rebellion, then?"

Brynden Rivers: "Bittersteel has founded a band of sellswords: the Golden Company."

Prince Aegon (realizing): "He's raising an army for an invasion."

Prince Aerion (bloodthirsty): "Let them come! We will greet them as true Targaryens: with Fire and Blood!"

(*Maekar and Aegon give each other uncomfortable, knowing looks at Aerion's declaration. Aerion's madness is becoming more apparent.*)

Prince Maekar: "But where? Westeros is vast, and the bastards are sure to win favor from the other houses. Not every noble supported my father when 'Daemon, First of His Name' rose up, and an army of Tyroshi cutthroats will be hard to refuse."

Prince Aegon: "I have a feeling the Bloodraven already knows?"

Brynden Rivers: "Indeed. The Golden Company will land at Crackclaw Point. Knowing Bittersteel, he will use The Whispers as a foothold as he sails up the Bay of Crabs to Maidenpool."

Prince Aegon (determined): "Then we must warn House Mooton!"

Prince Aerion (uncaring): "No."

Prince Aegon (protesting): "We cannot let these pretenders raze Maidenpool!"

Prince Maekar (resigned): "Aerion is right."

Prince Aegon: "Father?!"

Prince Aerion (wickedly): "We need to lure Bittersteel to his real prize."

Brynden Rivers: "Harrenhal. If Bittersteel wants to threaten King's Landing AND secure the Riverlands, he must take Harrenhal. There, we spring the trap."

Prince Aegon (bravely): "Then I will go to Maidenpool."

Prince Maekar: "Aegon... "

Prince Aegon: "If the goal is Harrenhal, let me lead a fighting retreat with the Mootons. A Targaryen prince on the run is tempting bait."

Prince Aerion: "Hmph! Hardly a Targaryen or a prince."

(Brynden ignores Aerion's insult.)

Brynden Rivers (to Maekar): "He's right, Your Grace. We need to draw both Haegon and Bittersteel into the noose."

Prince Maekar (reluctant): "And once the bastards are in Harrenhal?"

Brynden Rivers: "Leave that to me and Aerion..."

(Brynden pauses as a murderous look crosses his face.)

Brynden Rivers (darkly): "... And I will give my bastard brother Bittersteel what I should have given him at Redgrass Field."

(Maekar looks unsure at his cruel son Aerion, but finally nods in agreement.)