

*Terres de Légendes*

CORBEYRAN ♦ PICARD ♦ BRANTS

# weëna

3. RESURGENCE



DEL COURT



FATHER! YOU DIDN'T  
TELL ME ABOUT THIS!

YOU USED ME!

AAAAHHHHHHH!



"STRAINT? 'BRANCHES' OH! TAKE PITY, OPERAI I DON'T UNDERSTAND...



IT'S VERY SIMPLE, WEENA...

THEN, PLEASE, BEGIN FROM THE START...



ALRIGHT! BUT ON ONE CONDITION...

WHICH ONE?



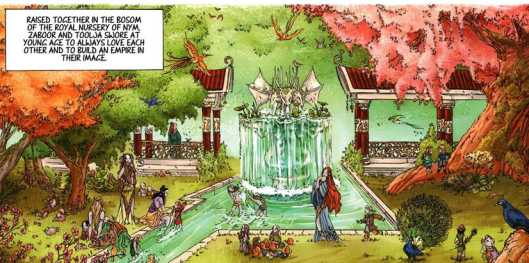
DON'T FALL ASLEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SENTENCE THIS TIME!

I PROMISE! I'LL TRY...




"THE STRAIN" DESIGNATES THE FIRST SOVEREIGN OF ZABOOR DY-NASTY, WHO UNIFIED THE KINGDOM OF NYM-BRUYN MANY EONS AGO...

RAISED TOGETHER IN THE BOSOM OF THE ROYAL NURSERY OF NYMA, ZABOOR AND TOOLJA SWORE AT YOUNG AGE TO ALWAYS LOVE EACH OTHER AND TO BUILD AN EMPIRE IN THEIR IMAGE.






THEIR CHILDISH DREAMS SOON CAME TO REALIZATION, SINCE ZABOOR AND TOOLJA WERE BOTH APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THIRTY FOR JOINING THE FORCES AND GOVERNING THE LAND...




HARDLY SEATED ON THE THRONE, THEIR FIRST DECISION WAS TO DISBAND THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTE THE OLD CORRUPTORS WHO PULLED THE STRINGS OF POWER FROM THE SHADOWS. SO WAS ESTABLISHED AN UNIQUE HEREDITY OF BLOOD WHICH TERMINATED THE ROYAL LEGITIMACY...



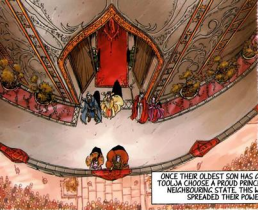
VERY QUICKLY THE DREAMS OF CHILDREN GAVE WAY TO DREAMS OF HECEDONY AND GLORY. THE CONQUEST HAUNTED THE HEARTS AND THE MINDS OF NEW SOVEREIGNS...

KING ZABOOR CONTINUED TO PUSH THE BOUNDARIES OF HIS KINGDOM BY STAYING AT THE HEAD OF HIS FORMIDABLE ARMY...

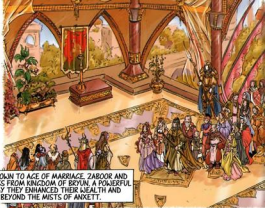


...HIS WIFE, QUEEN TOOLJA, ENSURED HIS LINEAGE BY GIVING BIRTH TO FOUR CHILDREN: THREE BOYS, RESPECTIVELY NAMED SKOOR, NOOR, AND TENGDOOR, AND A GIRL WHO WAS DISGUISED WITH A SINISTER NAME GOLJA, MEANING "CURSED ONE" OR "NOT DESIRABLE ONE" ON ANCIENT DIALECT...

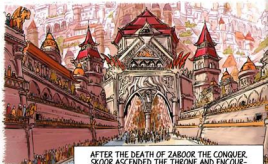




ONCE THEIR OLDEST SON HAS GROWN TO AGE OF MARRIAGE, ZABOOR AND TOOLJA CHOOSE A PROUD PRINCESS FROM KINGDOM OF BRYUN, A POWERFUL NEIGHBOURING STATE. THIS WAY THEY ENHANCED THEIR WEALTH AND SPREADED THEIR POWER BEYOND THE MISTS OF ANKETT.



SKOOR AND NAOUNE FOUNDED A STRONG AN DOMINANT FAMILY WHICH WAS ACCUSTOMED TO BEING NAMED "THE MAIN BRANCH".



AFTER THE DEATH OF ZABOOR THE CONQUER, SKOOR ASCENDED THE THRONE AND ENCOURAGED BY NAOUNE, UNDERTOOK TO PURSUE HIS FATHER'S PLANS.



DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF HIS TIRELESS REIGN, SKOOR THE PACIFIER NEVER STOPPED TO MAKE WAR AGAINST BARBARIAN TRIBES AND EXTENDING THE LASTING PEACE OVER THIS HUGE LAND.

AFTER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF KING SKOOR, HIS WORTHY DESCENDANTS DID THEIR BEST TO HONOR HIS MEMORY AND MAINTAIN HIS HUGE WORK INTACT.



THE MAIN BRANCH STILL GOVERNS AND BALANCES THE WORLD CIVILIZATION TO THIS DAY, BUT SOME ARE WHISPERING THE PEAK OF ZABOOR DYNASTY ALREADY BELONGS TO THE PAST AND THAT KINGDOM OF NYM-BRUYN IS SLOWLY DECLINING...



WEEENA?



WHAT?

ARE YOU SLEEPING?



NO, NO, I'M LISTENING...

YOUR EYES WERE CLOSED...



SO I CAN BETTER FEEL THE MUSIC OF YOUR WORDS, OPERA...

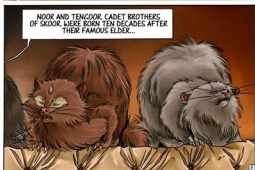


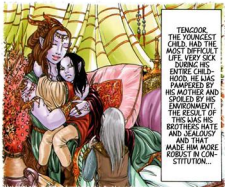
ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?



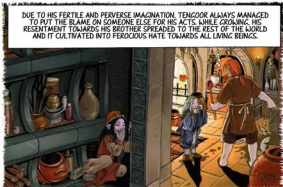
CONTINUE, PLEASE...

NOOR AND TENGCOOR, CADET BROTHERS OF SKOOR, WERE BORN TEN DECADES AFTER THEIR FAMOUS ELDER...





TENGOR, THE YOUNGEST CHILD, HAD THE MOST DIFFICULT LIFE. VERY SICK DURING HIS ENTIRE CHILDHOOD, HE WAS PAMPERED BY HIS MOTHER AND SPOILED BY HIS ENVIRONMENT. THE RESULT OF THIS WAS HIS BROTHERS HATE AND JEALOUSY AND THAT MADE HIM MORE ROBUST IN CONSTITUTION...



DUE TO HIS FERTILE AND PERVERSE IMAGINATION, TENGOR ALWAYS MANAGED TO PUT THE BLAME ON SOMEONE ELSE FOR HIS ACTS. WHILE GROWING, HIS RESENTMENT TOWARDS HIS BROTHER SPREADED TO THE REST OF THE WORLD AND IT CULTIVATED INTO FEROCIOUS HATE TOWARDS ALL LIVING BEINGS.



WITH THE BIRTH OF HIS LITTLE SISTER, TENGOR'S WORLD TURNED AROUND COMPLETELY. THE TERRIBLE CHILD IMMEDIATELY TOOK AFFECTION FOR THIS SMALL AND FRAGILE DOLL OF FLESH. HE RAISED GOLWA IN THE SAME HATRED FOR PEOPLE. THIS EXCESSIVE AND SICKLY LOVE LED THEM BOTH TO THEIR DEMISE...



WHEN IT WAS HIS TURN TO CHOOSE HIM A WIFE, TENGOR FLED FROM NYM-BRUYN WITH GOLWA AND A LARGE PART OF THE TREASURE. THEY SETTLED IN AN ABANDONED CASTLE WHERE THEY LIVED IN STYLE. TWINS WERE BORN FROM THEIR UNION...



ANXIOUS FOR MORAL AND ETHICAL EXAMPLE, SKOR decided TO PUNISH THIS CRIMINAL ACT. HE REQUESTED FROM OLDORK, A POWERFUL WIZARD WHO PREVIOUSLY ALLOUED JARROK DYNASTY TO SETTLE IN LONGEVITY, TO PUNISH HIS BROTHER AND SISTER.



OLDORK PUT A TERRIBLE CURSE ON INCESTUOUS COUPLE, CONDEMNING THE HEIRS OF TENGOR AND GOLWA TO REPRODUCE TOGETHER UNTIL THE END OF TIME.

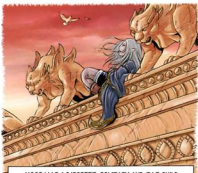


THE HERITAGE OF THIS DOMESTIC MISTAKE WOULD BE THE PUNISHMENT FOR THEIR DESCENDANTS, WHO ARE TO THIS DAY NAMED "THE DEAD BRANCH".



AND NOOR? WHAT WAS  
HIS LIFE LIKE? I WANT  
TO KNOW!

PATIENCE,  
WEENAI I'M  
COMING...



NOOR WAS A DISCREET, SOLITARY AND IDLE CHILD.



JUST AS HIS MOTHER RESERVED ALL HER  
TENDERNESS FOR SMALL AND BEAUTIFUL  
TANGDOOR, HE WAS IGNORED BY HIS FATHER  
FOR SKOOK'S EVERYDAY FEATS OF MARVEL.



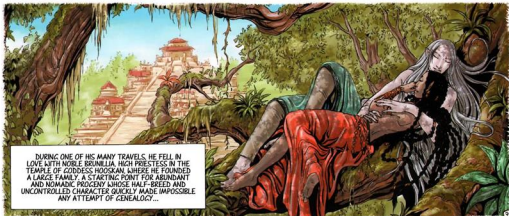
RESIDES, HIS LONG GRAY HAIR OF ASH  
GAVE HIM AN OLD MAN'S LOOK AND HE  
FRIGHTENED THE SERVANTS.



NOOR WAS A SHY TEENAGER, CONTAINED AND MYSTERIOUS, HE WILLINGLY  
PRACTICISED WITH MAGIC FOR WHICH HE DERIVED GREAT SATISFACTION.



IN HIS AGE OF MARRIAGE, HE LEFT HIS NATIVE KINGDOM TO  
SEARCH THE WORLD WITHOUT LOOKING BACK FOR THOSE WHO  
DIDN'T UNDERSTOOD HIM OR LOVED HIM.



DURING ONE OF HIS MANY TRAVELS, HE FELL IN  
LOVE WITH NOBLE BRUNILLA, HIGH PRIESTESS IN THE  
TEMPLE OF GODDESS HOOKKAI, WHERE HE FOUNDED  
A LARGE FAMILY, A STARTING POINT FOR ABUNDANT  
AND NOMADIC PROGENY WHOSE HALF-BREED AND  
UNCONTROLLED CHARACTER QUICKLY MADE IMPOSSIBLE  
ANY ATTEMPT OF GENEALOGY...

OFTEN ENDOWED  
WITH SURPRISING  
POWERS, NECRO-  
MANCERS CHILDREN  
WERE ALL SATIABLE  
TRAVELERS.



PEOPLE STILL SAY TO THIS DAY THEY  
ARE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE HEIRS OF  
NOOR AND THE NAME FOR THEM IS  
"THE INVISIBLE BRANCH..."



I IGNORED ALL THESE  
THINGS. I NEVER  
CAME OUT OF MY  
VILLAGE...



IF ONE CAN CALL HALASKINI  
A VILLAGE IN MIDDLE OF  
NONHER! I'M ASHAMED OF  
ME, OPERA...

DON'T BE ASHAMED OF  
YOUR ORIGIN, WEENA...



HISTORY AND  
GEOGRAPHY WERE ON  
THE SCHOOL PROGRAM  
IN ANOPLIC. I'M NOT  
THAT SMART... JUST  
WHAT I REMEMBERED...



YOU SHOULD REJOICE  
INSTEAD... IF YOU TRULY  
ARE NOOR'S HEIRESS, HIS  
MYSTERIOUS POWERS  
COULD ONE DAY  
EMERGE IN YOU...

YOU'RE RIGHT...  
I HAVE NO REASON  
TO COMPLAIN...



BUT NOW CAN I  
BE SURE IF I'M  
WORTHY OF HIS  
ILLUSTROUS CHAR-  
ACTER I KNOW NOTH-  
ING UNTIL TODAY...

DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT THAT...



YOU'LL KNOW  
WHEN THE TIME  
IS RIGHT... SHHH!  
I THINK SOMEONE  
IS COMING  
DOWN...



I'M TELLING  
YOU THAT WAS  
JUST LARGOLSI  
LIVESTOCK SPEND  
THEIR TIME  
IN CRUMPY  
BICKERING...

YOU CON-  
TINUE TO  
IMPLY I'M A  
LIAR!





I NEVER SAID  
SUCH A THING!

OUCH!



YOU COULD PAY  
ATTENTION!

I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!  
MUST BE ONE OF THESE  
FURRY CLAWS THAT  
BIT YOU!



LET'S TURN BACK. WE'RE JUST  
GOING TO BRITATE THEM AND  
EVEN REGRET COMING DOWN  
INTO THE HOLD...



THE MIND OF  
A LARCOL IS  
UNPREDICTABLE AND  
CYCLOTHYMIC. THAT'S  
WELL KNOWN. LET'S  
GO BACK!

NOT WAIT!



I THINK (I KNOW)  
HOW TO MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN GROWL-  
ING OF A BEAST  
OR A VOICE OF A  
VIRGIN...

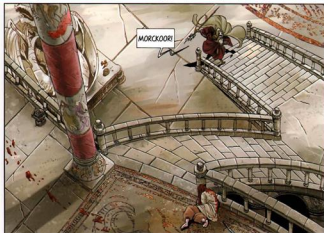


IT'S COMING  
FROM THERE...  
IN THE END...  
I'M SURE OF IT...  
I EVEN HEARD A  
LAUGHTER...



FINE... THEN  
YOU GO THERE.  
IF YOU'RE SO  
SMART...







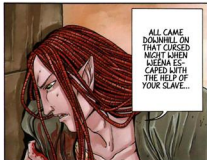
WHAT ANIMAL  
COULD COMMIT  
SUCH A TERRIBLE  
THING?

OUR  
CHILD...



ARE YOU  
MOCKING  
ME?

DO I LOOK  
LIKE I AM?



ALL CAME  
DOWNHILL ON  
THAT CURSED  
NIGHT WHEN  
WEEENA ESCAPED  
WITH  
THE HELP OF  
YOUR SLAVE...



I CAME AWARE OF THEIR  
ESCAPE PLAN AND I MANAGED  
TO CATCH THEM BEFORE THEY  
VANISHED IN THE HEART OF THE  
FURNACE OF WOOPHARCH...



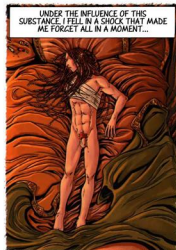
THAT'S WHEN MY REAL  
SISTER, OLJA, WHO I HAVE  
NOT SEEN FOR 16 YEARS,  
CAME TO ME LIKE A  
DEMON OUT OF NOWHERE  
AND PREVENTED ME  
FROM COMPLETING MY  
PLAN AS WELL...



AFTER SHE CUT OFF MY  
ARM, SHE BROUGHT ME  
BACK TO THE CASTLE...  
THE PAIN EXHAUSTED ME  
AND INJURY DROVE ME  
CRAZY... I WAS DELIRIOUS  
ALL THE WAY...



TO SOOTHE MY PAIN,  
OLJA MADE ME TAKE SOME  
DRUGS, BUT SHE TOOK  
ADVANTAGE OF MY ARTIFICIAL  
SLEEP AND MATED  
WITH ME...



UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THIS  
SUBSTANCE, I FELL IN A SHOCK THAT MADE  
ME FORGET ALL IN A MOMENT...



HOWEVER, I  
REMEMBER PER-  
FECTLY WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED NEXT...



OLJA ROSE UP. SHE DIDN'T  
EVEN HAD TIME TO TAKE A  
BREATH WHEN HER BELLY  
ROUNDED UP AND STARTED  
TO INFLATE...





FEW HEARTBEATS LATER, HER BELLY SWEELED UP AND DEFORMED HIDEOUSLY. OLJA SCREAMED... FEAR AND PAIN WERE IN HER EYES...



FATHER! YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THIS! YOU USED ME!



AFTER HER LIGHTNING PREGNANCY FIRST SPASMS OF BIRTH BEGAN... PRELUDE TO A TRUE CARNAGE!

AAAAHHHHH!



STRETCHED TO THE EXTREME, OLJA'S BELLY SUDDENLY BURST UNDER THE PRESSURE OF INSANE FETUS...



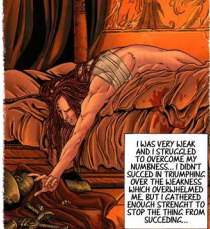
AND ON THE TILES OF THIS CHAMBER, MY SISTER GAVE BIRTH TO A HOWLING AND HUNGRY LARVA... HIS BLIND EYES THREW DARK BURSTS WHILE HE STRUGGLED IN ATROPHY AND ALREADY REACHING FOR SOMETHING TO EAT...



I WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE DRUGS, BUT I SWEAR, IMMEDIATELY WHEN THE BEAST CAME OUT OF HER FLESHY SHELTER I SAW IT CRAWL IN A WILD MANNER. I HARDLY HAD TIME TO BLINK TWICE WHEN THIS THING STILL COVERED IN MATERNAL BLOOD, HAS BECOME A DEMON FULL OF RAGE AND HATE...



HE QUICKLY REACHED FRIGHTENING WEIGHT AND SIZE... EXCESSIVELY EMITTING VEROECIOUS GROWLINGS, MONSTER ATTEMPTED TO THROW HIMSELF ON HIS MOTHER TO DEVOUR IT, TO TEAR HER APART AND TO EAT HER FLESH...



I WAS VERY WEAK AND I STRUGGLED TO OVERCOME MY NUMBNESS... I DIDN'T SUCCEED IN TRIUMPHING OVER THE WEAKNESS WHICH OVERWHELMED ME, BUT I GATHERED ENOUGH STRENGTH TO STOP THE THING FROM SUCCEEDING...



GRABBING OLGA'S SWORD, I THREW IT TOWARDS THE MONSTER WITH MY LAST ENERGY...



I HEARD HIM SCREAM IN PAIN... HE TURNED AWAY FROM MY SISTER'S BODY AND PEERED ME WITH HIS EYES. I COULD SEE HIS FURY AND HIS DAZE... I HESITATE TO SAY THIS, BUT I THINK I SAW A WELL OF TEARS FLOWING FROM HIS EYES...



WHILE HE CRIED, I THREW MYSELF ON HIM. MY ONLY WEAPON WAS A DAGGER BLADE AND I PUSHED IT INTO HIS BODY ONCE MORE... THEN I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS...



HOW MUCH TIME PASSED? I CAN'T SAY... BUT WHEN I OPENED MY EYES, OLGA WAS STILL ALIVE AND MONSTER DISAPPEARED...



WAS HE DEEPLY HURT? WAS HE DEAD? I DIDN'T KNOW, BUT I DECIDED TO FIND OUT... I BEGAN TO TAKE CHASE...



UNFORTUNATELY, MY LEGS REFUSED TO CARRY ME ON. I HARDLY CAME OUT OF THE CHAMBER WHEN I COLLAPSED WITHOUT STRENGTH ON TOP OF THE STAIRS.



THAT'S WHERE YOU FOUND ME WHEN YOU ARRIVED...

I ALSO FOUND THE FRONT DOOR BROKEN AND TRACES OF BLOOD MIXED WITH PLACENTA EVERYWHERE...

THE BEAST VISIBLY ESCAPED FROM THE CASTLE WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE FATE OF HIS PARENTS... WE WILL INFORM HIM IN DUE TIME...



...THE MOST URGENT THING IS TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR ARM...

LET ME GO!



DON'T TOUCHE ME, YOU  
BAND OF RUFFIANS!



NOW CALM DOWN,  
MY BEAUTIFUL!



THIS IS A BAD  
TIME TO PASS  
THIS! FIRST, WE  
REMOVE YOUR  
NASTY DRESS...



SCHTUNK!

...AND  
THEN I'LL...

UMPF!



BUNCH OF SWINES! DARE TO TOUCH  
ME AGAIN WITH YOUR FINGERS AND  
I'LL EAT YOUR NOSES!



OH! THIS ONE  
CAN RITE!

TAKE HER,  
BOYS, WE'LL  
HAVE FUN!



WHAT'S GOING ON?

GET OFF YOUR BROOM,  
OLD SOON IF YOU TRY  
TO INTERFERE, YOU'LL  
GET THE SAME FATE  
AS THOSE FURIES!

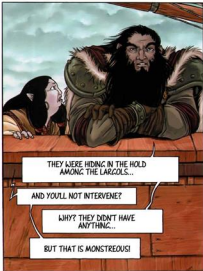


SERGEANT?



WHAT'S THIS ABOUT? WHAT'S THE REASON FOR THIS CROWD?

MY MEN DISCOVERED TWO HIDDEN PASSENGERS... TWO YOUNG GIRLS...



THEY WERE HIDING IN THE HOLD AMONG THE LARGOLS...

AND YOU'LL NOT INTERVENE?

WHY? THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING...

BUT THAT IS MONSTROUS!



YOU LACK EXPERIENCE, SEAMSTRESS...

YOU SOON LEARN HOW MILITARY CAMPAIGNS ARE LONG AND TEDIOUS, AND BOREDOM IS THE SOLDIERS' WORST ENEMY...



YOU WILL LEARN HOW ARMY IS A GREAT FAMILY... WHERE MEN ARE LIKE CHILDREN... AND FROM TIME TO TIME, YOU SHOULD LEAVE THEM SOME FUN...



YOU WILL FINALLY LEARN THAT THIS KIND OF EVENT BRINGS YOU A REGIMENT...

THE BOYS ARE PRODUCING THEIR MEMORIES... SOMETHING TO CHEER THEMSELVES UP IN THEIR OLD AGE WHEN SITTING AROUND THE FIRE WITH SMALL CHILDREN...

THIS IS THE KIND OF THINKING THAT IS BRINGING THE WORLD TO ITS END!



**NOOOOOO!**



GWYLYM!



DON'T SPEAK SO LOUD, MUREAL. I'M BEGGING YOU...

GET UP, LAZY! THE TIME HAS COME TO PROVE YOUR VALUE!



I'M SICK LIKE A JACKAL FROM A PRAIRIE... I HAVE NAUSEA... IN STOMACH... IN BONES... MY BRAIN IS LIKE WATER AND MY MUSCLES ARE LIKE MUSH...

I THINK MY INSIDES ARE LIQUIFIED... I'M DYING...

YOU SPEAK TOO MUCH TO BE DYING!



I WANT TO SEE MY LAMBEELS ONE LAST TIME BEFORE I DIE!

YOU'RE GOING TO SEE THE CELESTIAL PASTURES ANOTHER DAY! THIS HOUR IS FOR ACTION, NOT LAST WILLS!



I FOUND YOU A CHANCE TO BE A GREAT WARRIOR!

TAKE ME TO THE SIDE, PLEASE... I THINK I COULD PROFIT FROM THIS SOME OTHER DAY.



UNFORTUNATELY, I AM UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING AGAINST THE COURSE OF EVENTS... TWO POOR LAMBETHES ARE ON THE VERGE OF GOING THROUGH A WHOLE REGIMENT...

YOU CAN STILL SAVE THEIR HONOR IF YOU INTERVENE NOW!



THIS IS NOT THE TIME, MUREAL...

ON THE CONTRARY! THIS IS THE TIME TO SEE IF OUR SECRET WEAPON IS WORTH ANYTHING!



LATER! I WILL BECOME A GREAT WARRIOR WHEN I PUT MY FEET ON SOLID LAND, I PROMISE YOU...





MAKE AN EFFORT!

I CAN'T DO THAT... I'M A HERDSMAN... I NEED TO FEEL THE GROUND UNDER MY GALOSHES...

THE SMELL OF GRASS... THE TOUCH OF ROCKS...



EVERYTHING IS IN CONSTANT CHANGE HERE... EVERYTHING WOOLLES... EVERYTHING BRAKES... EVERYTHING SHAKES... I VOMITED ALL MY INNARDS... I'M JUST A CORPSE...

ALRIGHT, THIS CORPSE WILL MOVE IT OR HELL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ME!



THE IMAGE OF OTSKOOR ARMY LIES ON YOU ALONE. MY BOY! YOUR FRIENDS WILL SEE WHAT A SON FROM HALASKINI CAN DO!



WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? BUDGE! MOVE! ACT!



I SEE...



EVERYTHING MUST BE DONE BY OURSELVES...



?!

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO MUCH GOOD WITH THAT, SEAMSTRESS...





WHY ARE YOU  
WAITING TO TAKE  
THEM OUT?  
THEY'RE GOING  
TO DROWN!

THEY'RE NOT  
COMING BACK...

THEY'RE  
ALREADY  
DEAD...

COWARDS!  
YOUR HEARTS  
ARE DEAD!

THE WATER TEMPERATURE  
IS NOT EXACTLY FOR  
BATHING. SEAMSTRESS...  
I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND  
DIPPING YOUR TOE...

WHO'S GOING  
TO PREVENT  
ME?

I WILL!

I AM YOUR SUPERIOR.  
YOU MUST OBEY ME... I'M  
REMANDING YOU THAT YOU SIGNED  
AN AGREEMENT...

YOUR LIFE ISN'T YOURS  
ANYMORE.  
YOU CAN'T GET RID OF  
IT IN THIS MANNER...

YOU VOLUNTARILY  
INCORPORATED YOURSELF  
INTO THE ARMED FORCES OF  
OTUSKOR, UNDISPUTED RULER  
OF NYM-BRYNN KINGDOM, WHO  
I REPRESENT ON THIS SHIP...  
COMMAND YOU TO COME DOWN!

I WILL COME DOWN  
WHEN I'LL BE SURE  
NO BREATH OF LIFE  
COMES FROM THE  
LIPS OF POOR WRETCHES...

SOLDIERS! GRAB  
THAT WOMAN!

...AND PUT HER INTO STRICT  
JUDGEMENT FOR THE REST  
OF THE VOYAGE!





A SIMPLE SEED...



A PLANT THAT OFFERS REGENERATION AND IMITATION OF PARTICULAR MATTER WITH WHICH IT ASSOCIATES...



YOUR SKIN WILL NEVER RECOVER ITS ORIGINAL SHAPE, BUT THE PLANT WILL REPLACE THE COARSE APPEARANCE AND THE BASIC FUNCTION OF THE ARM...



IT'S PAINFUL...

HOLD IT THROUGH, MORCKOORI! AS FUTURE KING OF NYM-BRUYN YOU MUST WATCH THE FORCE OF NATURE.



THE PLANT WILL REPLACE THE COARSE APPEARANCE AND THE BASIC FUNCTION OF THE ARM...



AHHHHH!!!



HAGGRAL!!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME? THE SUFFERING IS DESTROYING ME!

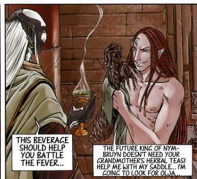
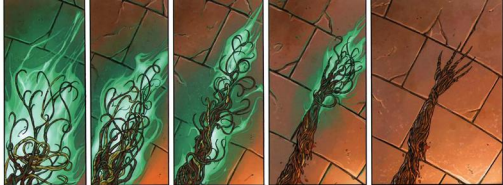


HAGGRAL!!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME? THE SUFFERING IS DESTROYING ME!



NOOOOOO!!!













I'M WORRIED,  
HAGGRAL...



WHAT WAS THAT CREATURE  
THAT ESCAPED FROM OLJA'S  
BELLY? SHOULD WE FEAR ITS  
RETURN? ITS REVENGE?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO  
THINK, MY PRINCE... YOU  
WOUNDED IT AND MADE  
IT RUN AWAY, BUT I  
THINK YOU COMMITTED  
AN ERROR...



IT WAS LEANING OVER MY SISTER! IT WANTED HER LIFE! WHAT COULD  
I HAVE DONE? WISELY WAITED SO IT COULD ALSO DEVOUR ME?

WHAT I MEANT  
TO SAY WAS THAT  
IT WOULD BE  
NECESSARY TO KILL  
IT WITH THE FIRST  
STRIKE... IF ONE  
CONSIDERS THE  
EXPERIENCE OF ITS  
SHORT LIFE, IT WAS  
ATTACKED FOR THE  
FIRST TIME... AND  
IT WAS VERY  
SURPRISED!



BUT IF YOU CONSIDER THE  
MANNER OF ITS EVOLUTION,  
YOU CAN DEDUCT THIS SUR-  
PRISE COULD NEVER BE  
CHIEVED AGAIN... IT LEARNED  
AS QUICKLY AS IT BELIEVED...



MY CONVICTION IS THAT YOU AND OLJA WERE  
NECESSARY FOR ITS CREATION, BUT SOME PARTS OF  
ITS FATE ARE WRITTEN WITHOUT YOU IN ITS REMAINING  
TIME, AND IT MUST BE PLAYED WITHOUT YOU...

BECAUSE WHAT OCCURED LOOKS  
STRONGLY LIKE RESURGENCE ON AN  
ANCIENT SPELL... AND I KNOW ONLY ONE  
MAGE WHO IS CAPABLE OF SUCH PRODIGY...

OLD'ORK?

OLD'ORK, YES...  
I'M AFRAID...

AND I DON'T BELIEVE A  
WIZARD SO POWERFUL  
COULDN'T FORESEE THIS  
EVENT IN THE DESIGN...

I AM READY TO BET  
THIS MONSTROSITY  
WILL PLAY A PRECISE  
ROLE IN ONE OF HIS  
SINISTER PLANS...

REASONABLE THINKING,  
HAGGR! IT JUST  
REMAINS TO FIND OUT  
WHAT THAT PLAN IS AND  
WHAT ITS ROLE IS!!

SEVERAL LEGENDS RUN ON THE ACCOUNT  
OF OLD'ORK... SOME SAY HE ALWAYS  
ALLIED HIMSELF WITH ZABOOR DYNASTY...

OTHERS SAY THE OPPOSITE, AFTER HELPING  
THE STRAIN SETTLE IN DEFINITE POWER, HE  
WOULD BE SEPARATED FROM THE COURT AND  
THROWN IN JAIL BY ZABOOR HIMSELF...

...AND KEPT IN CAPTIVITY UNTIL  
SKOOR SET HIM FREE IN  
EXCHANGE FOR A SERVICE...

AND THAT SERVICE IS  
THE FATE THROWN  
AT MY ANCESTORS.  
ISN'T THAT SO?

INDEED! WE MUST NEVER FORGET  
HOW THE MAGIC OF OLD'ORK  
CAUSED THE DEAD BRANCH...

...THEREFORE, WHAT OCCURED TODAY IS  
BY ONE MANNER OR ANOTHER BOUND TO  
THE CURSE OF YOUR FAMILY!





WHO CAN SAY IN WHAT KIND STATE OF MIND OLDORK WAS WHEN HE ACCEPTED TO HELP SKOOR?



WHO KNOWS IF HE DIDN'T BENEFIT BY PLANTING THE SEEDS OF HIS VENGEANCE ON THE STRAIN WHILE IN KING'S JUSTICE?



WHO KNOWS IF THIS CURSE, DESTINED TO PUNISH THE DEAD BRANCH, WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO ONE DAY PASS ON THE MAIN BRANCH?



WHO KNOWS IF THAT DAY HAS FINALLY ARRIVED?



OLD FOOL! YOU'RE DELIRIOUS! YOU'RE MAKING THIS UP!

MAYBE... THEY ARE ONLY SPECULATIONS...



BUT ON ANOTHER SIDE, IF THAT IS TRUE, IT COULD BE AN EVENT FOR OUR MARVELOUS PLAN...

IF THE DESTINY OF THE MONSTER IS TO ANNIHILATE THE MAIN BRANCH, IT WILL DO THE WORK FOR ME AND I WILL SEIZE THE THRONE MORE EASILY!



BAD CALCULATION, MORCKOOR!



...IF THE MONARCHS OF NYM-BRUYN ARE KILLED, THE ZAROOR DYNASTY WILL BE SWEEPED OVER AND YOU WILL HAVE NO CHANCE TO CLAIM THE THRONE...



BY DOZEN, THE VASSALS OF OT'SKOOR ARE JUST WAITING FOR ONE FALSE STEP TO CLAIM THE POWER...

WHAT MUST BE DONE?



WE STAY ON THE ORIGINAL PLAN: REUNITE TWO MINOR BRANCHES, CHALLENGE OTSKOR ACCORDING TO ANCIENT RITUALS AND TAKE HIS PLACE WITHOUT BREAKING THE BALANCE INSTITUTED BY THE STRAIN...



AS FOR THE MONSTER, WE MUST DESTROY IT BEFORE IT COMPROMISES OUR DESIGNS...

HOW?



I DON'T KNOW... I WILL SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION... I'LL QUESTION THE CARDS AND SPIRITS... I WILL CERTAINLY FIND IT WHEN WE RETURN THE GIRL...



WEENA...

WHERE CAN SHE BE AT THIS TIME?



THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN FIND SHELTER ON THE SOUTH OF WOODPHARCH FURNACE: PORT CITY OF OPALDOSA.



IF WE DON'T FIND HER THERE, SHE BOARDED A SHIP... BELIEVE ME! SAILORS LOVE TO TALK WHEN SOMEONE PAYS THEM A DRINK... SOMEONE MUST HAVE SURELY NOTICED HER...















LET'S GO!  
HURRY UP, YOU  
PACK OF SLUGS!  
FORWARD!  
FORWARD!  
FORWARD!



SO THIS IS IT.  
THE FORTRESS OF  
ERCDONT?

NO, THIS IS JUST  
TEMPORARY... IT'S AN  
OLD FARM REFITTED  
AND ORGANIZED INTO  
THE BARRACKS...



THE FORT IS IN  
RUINS... IT CRUMBLLED  
TWO YEARS AGO...

AH...





WHAT IS THIS  
BATTLE YOU WERE  
TALKING ABOUT  
ANYWAY?

WELL... I DON'T REALLY  
KNOW... A BATTLE AGAINST  
BARBARIANS FOR EXAMPLE!

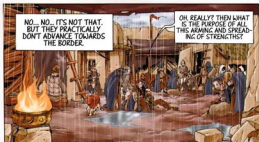


AH THAT. THE BARBARIANS...  
CAN'T SAY WE SEE THEM  
MUCH AROUND HERE...

HOW COME? ARE THEY HIDING?  
ARE THEY AFRAID? I'LL VOLUNTEER  
TO FLUSH THEM OUT PERSONALLY!



AAAAAAAAAAAA!



NO... NO... IT'S NOT THAT.  
BUT THEY PRACTICALLY  
DON'T ADVANCE TOWARDS  
THE BORDER.

OH, REALLY? THEN WHAT  
IS THE PURPOSE OF ALL  
THIS ARMING AND SPREAD-  
ING OF STRENGTH?



OH. THAT... IT'S REALLY JUST TO IMPRESS  
THE ENEMY... AND THAT DOESN'T EXCLUDE  
A LITTLE RAID OF RECONNAISSANCE FROM  
TIME TO TIME...



ON OCCASION WE RAZE A KEEK VILLAGE TO STRETCH OUR LEGS AND  
MAKE SURE OUR SWORDS DON'T RUST... WE TAKE KEEK VEGETABLE  
WHEN COMING BACK... THOSE ARE SOME GOOD SEEDS.



THAT'S OUR EXCHANGE  
RATE... BUT OVERALL  
IT'S A QUIET CORNER...

AH...



YOU REALLY ARE  
EAGER... AREN'T YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT! AND I'M  
READY TO TRY OUT MY  
NEW EQUIPMENT!



GIVE ME A SWORD, A MOUNT  
AND A HELM! I'LL LAUNCH AN  
ATTACK AGAINST THE ENEMIES  
OF THE KINGDOM!

DON'T GET  
TOO EXCITED!  
LET'S GO...  
LET'S GO...



TAKE IT!  
THIS IS YOUR  
SWORD AND  
YOUR HELM...



AS FOR A MOUNT, YOU'LL BE  
SERVED RIGHT UP... YOU'LL HAVE  
ALL REGIMENT AT YOUR DISPOSAL!



YOU ARE OUR NEW RECRUIT  
SO YOU WILL BRUSH THEM,  
CLEAN THEM AND FEED  
THEM EVERY MORNING...  
WITHOUT FORGETTING TO  
CLEAR OUT THEIR DUNG...

A FLOCK OF  
LAMBELS!!!!



WITH  
COURAGE,  
RECRUIT!

OH, NO!!!





Felms Rocky  
Ridge

Or'tengor  
• castle

Kalaskini

Kaggral  
tower

Road to  
Nym



Woopharch desert

Gallep'ch  
bay

Muh  
island

Opaloosa



YES... I REMEMBER  
THEIR LAUGHTER...

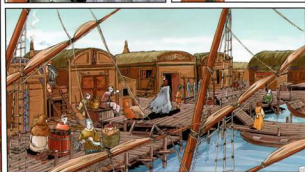
Muin



Ko'olphar'ch

Ko'ol  
island









I'M A  
DIRT!

WE'RE HERE FOR  
WEEKS AND I STILL  
HAVEN'T SEEN THE  
COLOR OF THE SKY!

SKY HAS NO  
COLOR IN THIS  
LAND, OTHERWISE  
IT WOULD RAIN...

I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANY MORE! MY BACK  
IS IN PAIN AND THE SMELL OF THE STABLES  
IS SO ENCRUSTED INTO MY CLOTHES IT EVEN  
MAKES THE LAMBELLS SICK!

AND I HAVE MY  
HANDS LIKE LINT  
OF PEELING  
THEIR ROTTEN  
VEGETABLE...



I MISS MY HERD,  
MUREALI! MY  
STREAMS, FRESH  
AIR FROM THE  
MOUNTAINS... I  
MISS THEM ALL  
TERRIBLY...



...AND I MISS WEEENA  
MORE THAN EVER...



THERE IS SOMETHING I HAVEN'T  
TOLD YOU, GWYLYM...

ABOUT  
WHAT?



ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY ON  
THE BOAT... WHEN I CAME TO ASK FOR YOUR  
HELP FOR TWO POOR WRETCHES SOLDIERS  
FOUND IN THE CARGO HOLD...

ARE YOU TRYING TO CHEER  
ME UP WITH THAT GLORIOUS  
EPISODE OF MY MILITARY  
CAREER?



ONE OF THOSE GIRLS  
WAS WEEENA...



YOU'RE KIDDING?

THEY THREW  
THEMSELVES INTO THE ICY  
WATERS OF HUN TO  
ESCAPE FROM THE PACK OF  
ABUSERS... I WANTED TO  
DIE AFTER THEM... MEN  
DIDN'T ALLOW ME...



THEY DIDN'T  
COME BACK UP...



NO! THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU'RE  
WRONG! THAT  
WASN'T HER!

I RAISED THAT CHILD  
AS MY DAUGHTER,  
GWYLYM...



I'M NOT  
WRONG...

**SHUT UP!**



**YOU'RE LYING!  
YOU'RE LYING!  
YOU'RE LYING!**



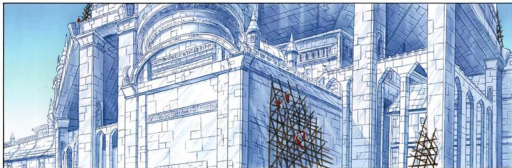
OH, NO!  
WEENA! NO!  
NO! NOOOO!



**NOOOOOOOOOOO!**







I'M WELL.  
THANKS TO YOU...



HE TOLD US THE STORY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR "APPEARANCE" IN THEIR NETS IN GREAT DETAIL...





ACTUALLY, I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AFTER I SANK... MY MEMORY IS FUZZY... ONLY A FUNNY FEELING...



...A FLEETING TRACE OF STRANGE SENSATION UNKNOWN TO ME UNTIL NOW...



ADMIT IT! AND WE'LL ALL PUT THIS ON THE ACCOUNT OF AN INSOLENT LUCK!

TAKE YOUR REST, MY CHILD... YOU ARE STILL VERY WEAK... MOORLIK WILL BE YOUR HOME AS LONG AS YOU SEE IT NECESSARY...



I WAS WITH A FRIEND WHEN THEY BROUGHT ME HERE...



SO YOU WERE MAJARE?

NOT REALLY... BUT I KNOW WE NEVER RELEASED OUR HANDS... WE WERE VERY CONNECTED... I WANT TO SEE HER...



UNFORTUNATELY, MY DAUGHTER, YOUR FRIEND DID NOT HAVE THE SAME LUCK AS YOU...

SHE COULDN'T RESIST THE AFTERMATH OF THE COLD... WE BURIED HER LATER THIS MORNING IN THE CRYPT...



MAYBE YOU COULD PRAY FOR HER SOUL'S JOURNEY?

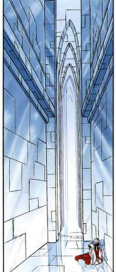
SISTER KEETHA WILL TAKE YOU TO THE CHAPEL...



THANK YOU... I WILL CRY FOR HER ACCORDING TO PRACTICE FROM MY VILLAGE...

AS YOU WISH...





MOTOPLICI  
MOTOPLICI



CATCH, SNOTTY BOY,  
AND QUICKLY DISAPPEAR...  
I DON'T NEED YOU  
ANYMORE!



I FOUND YOU AT  
LAST, WEEENA...

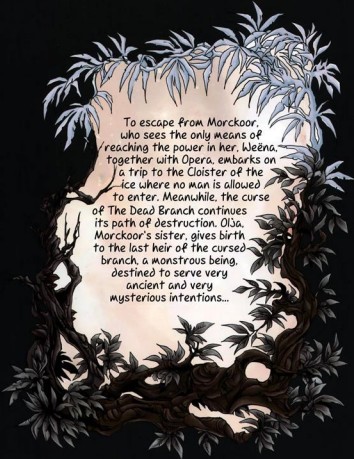


YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW I  
BURNED TO SEE YOU AGAIN...



I HOPE YOU'RE EAGER  
TO SEE ME TOO!!!

# Weëna



To escape from Morckoor, who sees the only means of reaching the power in her, Weëna, together with Opera, embarks on a trip to the Cloister of the ice where no man is allowed to enter. Meanwhile, the curse of The Dead Branch continues its path of destruction. Olja, Morckoor's sister, gives birth to the last heir of the cursed branch, a monstrous being, destined to serve very ancient and very mysterious intentions...