

Mingo Drum

The Bird man

For the Attention of the High King

Arthur Verica,

Palace of Maonos,

New Alexandrius,

Tara 6.



*Illustration 1: Vercingetorix, a Bird man king.*

“I have obeyed your command, written and submitted to you for reading the early life of your father, Mingo Drum Vercingetorix, King of the Artebrate Bird nation and High King and War Chief of all Bird Nations during the Wars of Survival as known amongst the Bird folk and known as the Maonosian Wars amongst the human/alien settlers.

As you said, there are so many rumors and legends regarding the life of Mingo

Bird man

Drum that you wanted the truth.

I also note the political expediency of a popular book on his life to strengthen your won throne and emphasis that you are his heir.

I say we, not only yourself are the inheritor of the dangers of inter tribal warfare that so plagued your father's attempts at unifying the Bird Nations against the invaders; that I have put all my soul into this work in the hope that Bird men of all Nations who read it will bury their petty feuds and look to you as their one and only king.

Therefore I give you the manuscript

Bird man,"

Vern Lukas,

Imperial scribe,

City of Torrs,

Tarra 6, winter, 45185.

\*

"Then the sky glinted purple, mauve, crimson, various shades of yellow orange, the twin purple suns rising and the Bird man soared high with the warming wind, his dark shadow soaring across the pink limestone slabs underneath.

Below a military staff hovercraft had come to a stop.

The Bird man's vision was so good he could see the heat simmering from the midges on the craft's yellow sides. Also the painted red harpy with a rider and purple sun, heraldic markings of War lord Tzu Strath who himself was sitting in the enclosed weapon proof bubble of the passenger compartment.

## Bird man



*Illustration 2: Limestone slabs made up much of Artebrate land*

A hover lorry of escorts behind and two scout zimmers ahead, the man knew his business!.

Now two troopers in bronze coloured metallic body armour dragged a crying young woman out of the staff craft.

*The Bird man saw it all.*

Saw the War Lord throw something at her.

One of the men raised a laser pistol to the young woman's head.

And the shadow the Bird man crossed those below.

Swift it was, blocking out the purple suns like a sudden eclipse.

Making the War Lord Look up, seeing the large mass soaring overhead. The Bird man did not see him smile but did see the troopers enter the staff craft and watch them drive away.

## Bird man

And the young woman remained in a sitting position.

And The Bird man glided after the departing soldiers.

He gave his call, a grunting cough, the call of The Bird man.

And Tzu Strath turned his head and looked and he was no longer smiling.

He was crying.

He had left his most precious possession behind.

And the Bird man followed for thirty miles before he turned and soared quickly back to the woman.

**And found her gone,** so the Bird man Mingo Drum Vercingetorix landed on the top of a huge red sandstone monolith.

This was his domain.

And looked across the barren lands for signs of life.

\*

“The War Lord has kept his promise general,” Reeman Black Hair master of a thousand disguises said looking at the woman.

“Order the army to advance,” General Ce-Ra replied and strode forward to collect his prize.

Reeman Black Hair obeyed then scurried after his Lord. His jeweled hands holding his long and short laser swords to his sides. He was Lord Madrawt Ce-Ra’s pet and some said lover? *Just to be nasty!*

Reeman Black Hair was as ugly as any Madrawt, small of head, long flowing black oily hair, large bulbous amphibian eyes, a large abdominal area with strong legs to carry his weight and a multicolored gigantic cod piece that bobbed to his

## Bird man

But he loved himself and knew when he looked in the mirror he was handsome,  
*not ugly.*



*Illustration 3: Reeman was a handsome man in his own mirror.*

Also the young woman sitting saw them and hoped they did think the tears a result of the hot suns shinning into her eyes.

The general knew better, knew she was crying out of despair for she still lived.

And she looked up into Reeman's tiny eyes that peered at her beneath the gold slits of his helmet.

She looked him up and down.

She saw his bronze body armour had been made a size smaller to act as a girdle.

She saw his gold leg armour that acted as supports to his massive weight.

She saw his exposed groin.

She saw the large ornamented cod piece.

## Bird man

She saw Reeman Black Hair at a safe distance out of his master's vision rub his cod piece, open mouthed and gape while a snake like tongue flicked out of his mouth.

He was telling the woman her fate.



*Illustration 4: The woman who was left.*

Tzu Strath had not granted her wish of death, the bargain was for her alive. But for one second back there she had thought the tough War Lord had weakened and was going to order the trooper to fire his laser into her head.

Such a pretty auburn head.

“Are you hot dearest wife?” General Ce-Ra asked as he clicked a finger for Reeman to help drag her to her feet.

Reeman Black Hair enjoyed her struggle of protest for it meant his fingers pawed her smooth human flesh between the gaps of gold mosaic body armour.

## Bird man

Madrawt skin was lumpy from glands that sweated moisture onto their velvety skin.

In the end she slapped his face.

Anger glared in his eyes and his right hand shook and Reeman Black Hair clenched his nails into his palm tight to stop himself. This was his lord's property and not just some human woman.

*"Another time," Reeman thought, "when my master has bored with you. Then like the dog I am he will throw you from his table like a bone for me to gnaw and play with."*

The young woman shuddered for she had read his thoughts, "Why have you deserted me Tzu Strath?" She asked herself and she knew the answer.

Then all heard the grunting call of The Bird man and knew who had made it.

This was his domain, his land.

He held sway here over life and death.

And they were trespassing.

So the general gave orders for his escort to hurry. In the short years he had been fighting in this galaxy of Star Dust he had come to fear The Bird men and especially one called The Bird man.

Mingo Drum Vercingetorix.

Each bird man had a call sign and the grunting cough he had just heard belonged to his enemy whom the peoples of this planet called THE BIRDMAN.

And fear gripped the general.

And Reeman Black Hair was afraid too but would not admit it, he usually felt

## Bird man

brave and powerful under the protection of his Lord General Ce-Ra.

The warm purple air crackled with another grunting cough.

“This is my domain and I see all and have seen and I have witnessed wrong  
These rocks are my castles, the warm winds my roads, and my call is law to my  
people that hear it.

Wrong has been done here this day and you Tzu Strath have violated the peace  
by entering my domain,” The powerfully built Bird man called as he looked out  
across the barren land and clumps forest, his domain.

Then he walked to the edge of the red sandstone monolith and called again to  
his people shutting his eyes. Only the warm wind rustled about his short purple  
toga were a short sword and laser pistol hung.

His mind reached out through the implanted chips and wires to his subjects.  
Implanted there by the Star Dust Genetic Corporation, courtesy of their  
Chairman< Glen Zowanski, Atlantic City, Old Earth, West Compass Point,  
Empire of Alexander Caesar Vortigern.

And a small green lizard under the shade of a basalt rock slab opened its eyes  
as its chips received The Bird man's probing mind. Chameleon eyes rotated and it  
saw General Ce-Ra and his party halted for a water break.

The Bird man saw what the reptilian eyes saw and knew by the basalt slabs  
and multitude of flowering shrubs that it was the Well of Urd.

His mind reeled at the sight of the Madrawt's and knew his domain had been  
putrefied by the presence of Ce-Ra and Reeman Black Hair and his alien kind.

And the Bird man opened his eyes and grunted his cough to the winds again

## Bird man

just before he stepped straight off the ledge and spread his arms as the River of Dust that trickled a thousand feet below rushed up to meet him.

The membranes that stretched from his wrists to his ankles went taut as the warm wind current jerked him swiftly up and away.

Behind his spade like tail ruddered him towards the Well of Urd.

And his people heard his call.

Five answered.

One had eight legs and a head like a lion's and it ran to the call of its master Mingo Drum The Bird man at a steady speed of fifty miles per hour.

Another was the size of a house and was greedily stuffing ripe red squashy fruit into its mouth with two long proboscises.

It answered the call by a bellowing trumpet sound as it went thundering off through the forest to the Well of Urd.

The third looked like a monkey but had flight membranes like The Bird man and it was stuffing a beetle into its mouth. Its prehensile tail was flattened at the end and had suckers, The beetle was juicy and tasted like hot butter and Little Drum decided it could fly faster than Mingo Drum The Bird man so then he had plenty of time to get the beetle's mate from under a granite flake and eat it up.

The warm wind currents that carried Mingo's call also alerted two flying people twenty miles away.

One was male, the other female.

Like The Bird man their faces were sculptures of beauty. Only the flight membrane made them look ungainly vampires while walking.

Bird man

But the air was their kingdom and they came.

The friends of Mingo Drum were coming.

For they were the beasts of the air.”

Vern Lukas,

Historian and

Imperial Scribe.