

“Castle Artebrate was a hollow mountain covered in wild life and at the very top, snow.

It was also full of soldiers and refugees on their way to the City of Winds and priceless art treasures rescued from the Madrawts and machinery they didn’t want falling into enemy hands.

So landing on special platforms Boudicca noted that many individuals of the cohorts rested from special metal rungs set in the walls, like sleeping bats.

She looked below to see if the floor was covered in droppings.

*She had a sense of wicked humour.*

It was not of course, “Nostradamus they are not all beast, they are toilet trained,” she joked.

Unfortunately Mingo who walked ahead of her had good hearing, what bird didn’t?

He turned and faced her, “Will you join me for supper and your friends will be there.”

“Yes,” for she wanted Nostradamus human company.

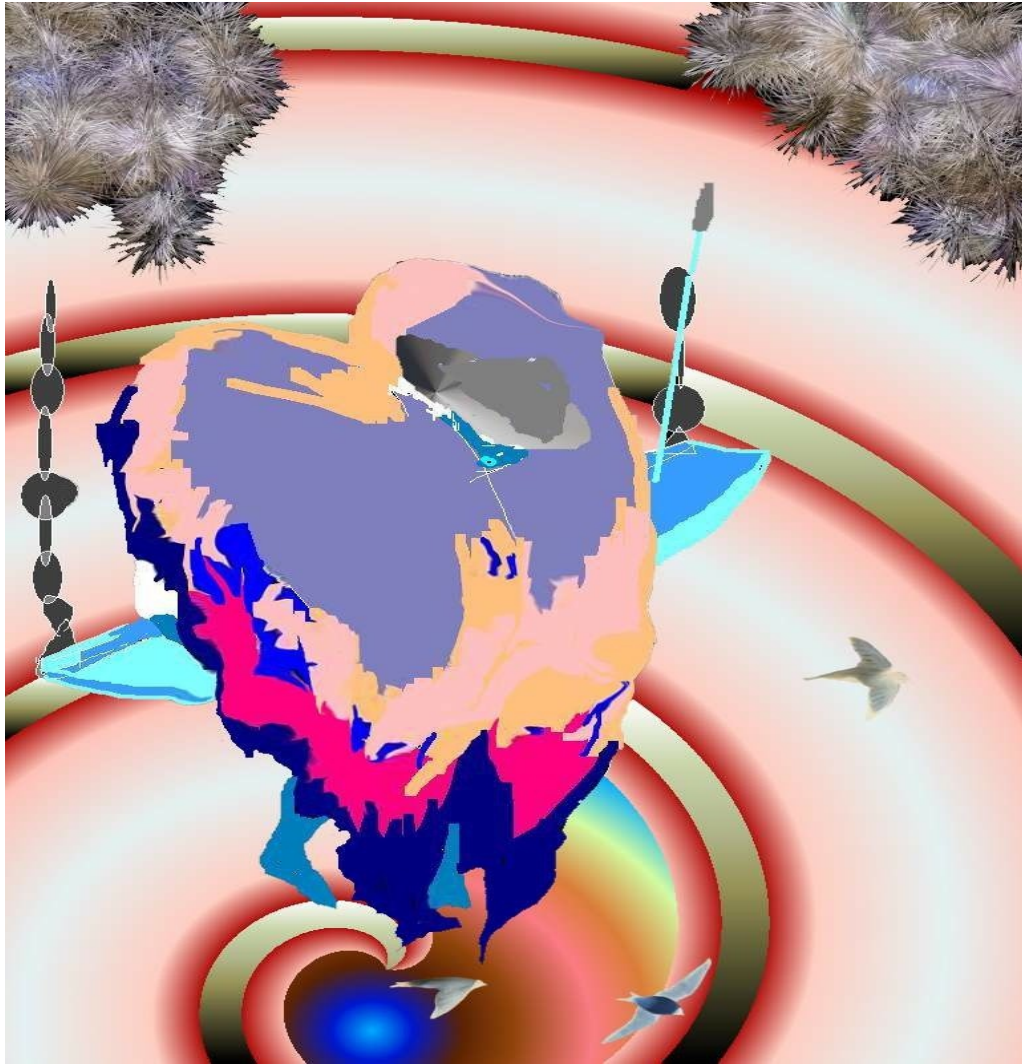
“Good, by the way, we shall be eating bird seed and we use disposable nappies,” then he left her, *he also had a wicked sense of humour.*

At first she took him seriously then laughed and laughed.

She still had much to learn.

The man had humour or should she say bird?

## Bird man

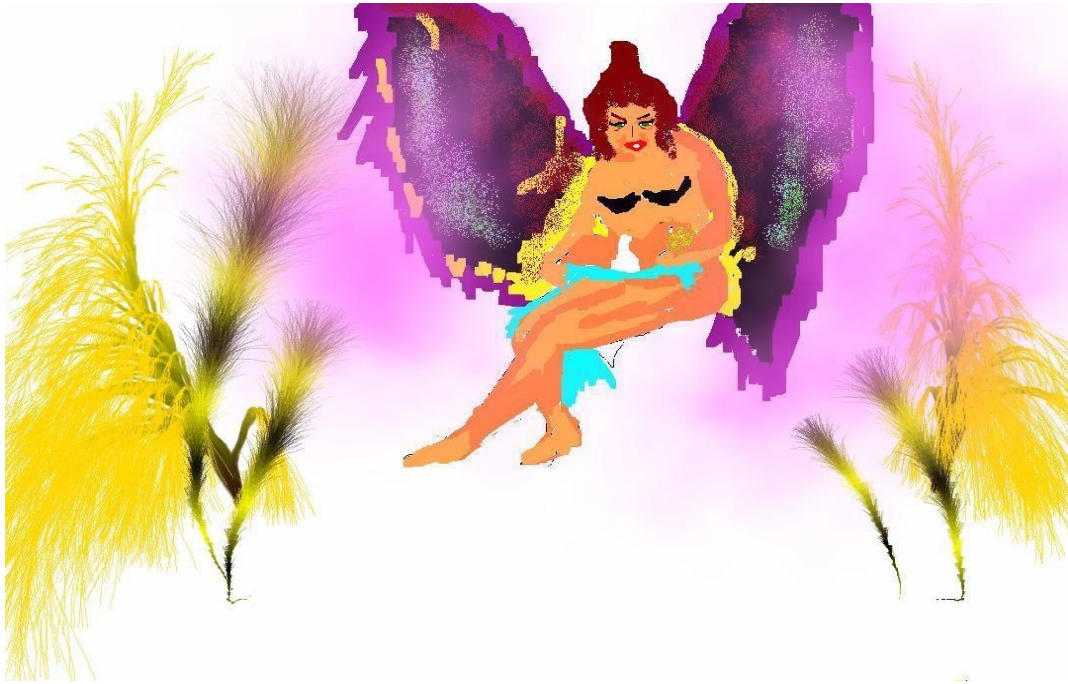


*Illustration 48: Asleep on his roost the Bird man was safe and cosy.*

And she was taken to the king's woman quarters, here she saw Bird women with children sitting on their knees getting tickled and stroked. Some were breast feeding, some changing smelly nappies, others nursing many children, perhaps orphans or a day care.

They made good mothers.

## Bird man



*Illustration 49: They loved their babies.*

They loved their children.

His children?

Many were heavily armed.

There was no sex discrimination in the ranks.

Also many flightless Bird men again.

“You will be safe here,” the voice belonged to one of her original female guards.

“What is your name?” Boudicca asked.

“Keira.”

“How quaint, what does your name mean?”

“Black Haired One and Boudicca noted the Bird woman had long silky black hair that set off her dark green eyes.

She was very beautiful.

The other guard said, “I am Gwenda the White Haired One,” she too was slim and pretty and her hair was silvery in color.

## Bird man

None wore much apart from gold chest coverings laced with gems and leather shorts and boots.

Boudicca was reminded of Birds of Paradise and could not blame Mingo for having many women.

She had heard stories that Bird women were highly prized by the underworld for the sex slave trade that could be stopped by governments *but men were men*.

Having a frolic with a Bird person, the idea had always been distasteful, but looking at these women, she wondered what it would be like with Mingo Drum on the wing with the stars so close you could touch them?

She was dreaming of **HIM**, Mingo.

Deep down she was a romantic.

And guess what, when she entered her rooms she found other humans present; SHE WAS SHOCKED to say the least.

One was a boy and the other a young adolescent female.

“I am Hamon Ma,” the boy offering a handshake.

She shook it.

“I am Hart Woo,” the girl and bowed.

“Just call me Boudicca.”

And as Boudicca made herself familiar with her surroundings they swapped events.

Hamon had been travelling with his family to make an olive farm in the imperial desert sector when Madrawts had raided, slaughtering his family but missing him. He had walked across the sector into Bird man Lands and been taken by Mingo Drum himself.

He was being treated well and Mingo had promised him his release one day.

## Bird man

“He wants us too understand Bird people so we stop killing his people; he wants peace but with respect, not a peace dictated down his throat by humans so we loot the land from he that his people feel they are guardians of,” Hamon.

“It is much the same with me, but I don’t want to leave. There is nothing for me to go back to in the imperial sector of Maponos,” Hart Woo lounging cat like on a sedan.

The word Maponos was not lost upon Boudicca, she had not used Tara 6.

And Hart Woo was dressed as the Bird women guards except for an added long blue sun reflector cape that hung across her shoulders fastened by a gold torc.

The boy Hamon wore a white toga and kept glancing at the dark blue shorts Hart Woo wore whose cat like position must have been having a tortuous effect upon the adolescent Hammond.

*Boys will be boys and girls girls; Boudicca.*

Bird men it was well known had no sexual taboos and coupled with the most available desirables.

It was good for the gene pool and looking at most of the Bird men and women Boudicca only saw healthy handsome people.

*“They need children, warriors needed replaced,” she remembered the Historian and Imperial Scribe Vern Lukas writings, “If parties of either sex agree to lie together they do. If a child is born from the union both parties claim parentage and the child is brought up by the mother.*

*Bird women made caring mothers.*

*The fathers visit and support the mother.*

## Bird man

*Sometimes other children are born from the same father, usually a Bird woman has many children to several fathers; it is good for the gene pool.*

*Also both sexes attend warrior school, but usually the woman don't join a warrior legion as by the age of thirty they have several children to mother.'*

Why Boudicca found herself looking for stretch marks on Hart Woo and with relief saw none.

*'Their's is a life of valour and chivalry, the mentally possessed are cared for, children of either sex are loved and cherished. Both parties contribute to feasts and celebrations; the weighty dowry does not exist, only laughter and gaiety under the surface of the warrior, both male and female,' V. Lukas.*

\*

King Mingo Drum Vercingetorix was absent for several weeks from his Castle Artebrate as he was engaged elsewhere for war makes one busy.

This was both a relief and displeasure to Boudicca who saw herself as a sexual prize for the Bird man king after Hart Woo admitted she had lain with the king several times for like Boudicca he was curious.

Now that made Boudicca disgusted, Hart Woo was in her late teens and the age difference, Mingo might be several hundred years old.

*"I became sexually active at high school, besides I am old enough to bare children," Hart Woo.*

Mingo Drum was a savage and this child deluded, obviously from bad parenting.

## Bird man

“I intend to have chicks, strong ones who will grow up as warriors and kill our enemies,” Hart Woo.

“But you are a human child,” Boudicca not admitting she had started becoming interested in boys at high school too.

“The mother goddess blessed me at twelve, Bird women start mating when their blessing starts,” Hart Woo referring to the monthly curse.

“But you are a human child.”

“Don’t call me child again, this isn’t the empire where it’s okay to solicitate high school girls and brothels and freedom of choice exists, this is Bird man lands where children are loved and there isn’t any brothels or cheapening of motherhood.

I AM NOT A CHILD,”

Boudicca shut up, if Mingo wanted Hammond and this girl to go home and say good things about his people he had done a *bad* job, except he had made a mistake with Hart Woo, imperialists could date high school chicks called Hart Woo, but Bird men were not even considered aliens, they were Bird men, to be shot on the wing and sent to taxidermists and mounted on walls or into coat stands.

“And I have killed a Madrawt, got him with an arrow on a nature outing. Of course the teachers finished him off, but it was my kill,” Hart Woo, “I was no longer a child and he had just lost another child in the struggle against us.

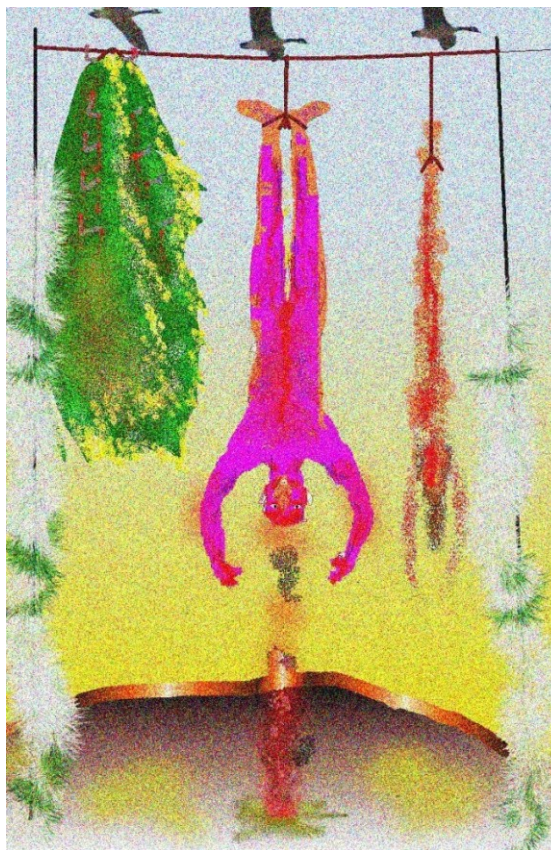
He needed comforting, there was a celebration for all us who had killed an enemy.....pause.....and not all were Madrawts.”

“Shut up Hart Woo,” Boudicca.

## Bird man

“You are not my mother, don’t tell me to shut up again and Hart Woo stood up,”  
*she seemed calm and her classes at warrior school had taught her some discipline.*  
*She was very stunning, but lacked sense, Boudicca would speak to Mingo Drum about*  
*her, if he wanted humans to leave his people alone, then he did better stop pawing*  
*human kids.*

*There did be human/alien imperialist hunting parties out wanting revenge, and that*  
*did happen, heaps, to rescue a girl from the clutches of an evil dirty lecherous Bird*  
*man.*



*Illustration 50: Flayed like Saint Barabbas in Armenia but not crucified but cooked on slow heat and that is what happened to Bird men that dated imperialist girls.*

Mingo Drum and his people saw things differently; they didn’t sleep with children

## Bird man

but with those ready to bare fine sons and daughters.

It was a clash of cultures.

\*

The beast himself was on the Plain of Salt at the head of a vast army of ants and allies.

He would send his legions first against the Madrawt lines on the wing to soften the Madrawts up. Then the ant phalanxes, then the Legions of Elephants and Legions of Lions.

They were exactly that.

Wingless Bird men sat upon their backs.

His Manticore Legion and the newly raised new Hippogriff Legion he would keep in reserve.

And an imperial plane flew over on reckon and took photographs that came up instantly on a computer hundreds of miles away.

Tzu Strath saw them.

Alert orders where given.

Was Mingo Drum about to attack them?

He hoped not, he too was preparing his forces for a counter attack on the Madrawts for intelligence suggested General Ce-Ra had taken much of his army back to his home planet to back his claim to the Madrawt imperial throne.

*May they be flushed down a black hole he hoped?*

*SHOULD HE SEND IN HIS BOMBERS AT THE BIRD PEOPLE?*

*STOP THEIR ATTACK AGAINST HIM.*

## Bird man

*And intuition lit his mind, it came waltzing into his right temple, now would be a good time to bomb the Madrawt lines to help soften them up to leave the Bird people and him to finish things off.*

*MAYBE HE SHOULD DO NOTHING AND LET THEM WEAKEN EACH OTHER, TENDERISING THEMSELVES FOR HIS COUNTER ATTACK.*

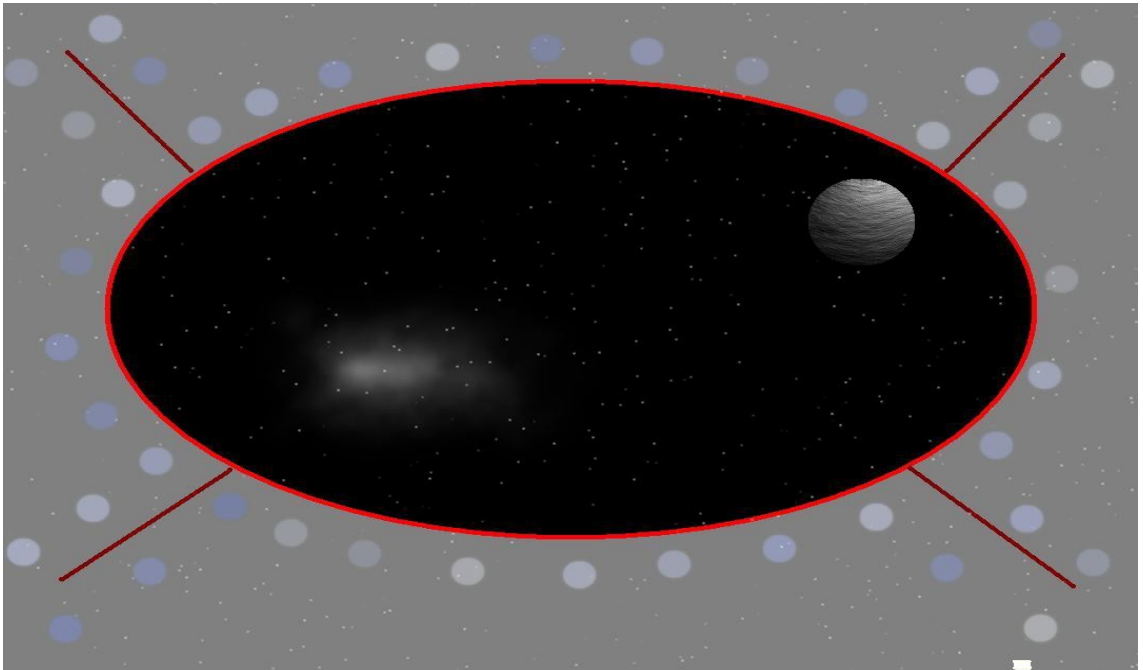
*What should he do?*

*He would attack the Madrawts at the same time.*

*Why even Conchobhar had agreed to help.*

*No one told the Emperor Caesar Alexander Vortigern as he was a waste of time.*

The Bird men were the reinforcements that weren't coming from Earth. The Emperor Vortigern was still trying to bribe the Madrawts off and Ce-Ra was now calling himself Emperor of the Madrawts.



*Illustration 51: Viewing screen on brig of IS Caesar.*

And Conchobhar could do with a glorious victory to help him claim his father's

## Bird man

throne. Now on the brig of his ship I.S. Caesar watching his torturer extract the truth from a Madrawt prisoner.

“Where is Ce-Ra?”

“On Planet Madrawt,” the high ranking officer replied during a pause in truth extraction, the bottle of nitric acid had been stopped dripping onto his groin.

They could have given a truth drug, but it was a Madrawt they had, they would kill him anyway, all remembered the impalements.

Why the torturer heated up a metal glove that was insulted within and held it up in front of the Madrawt’s remaining eye.

His left eye dangled over his chest.

IT BELONGED TO A HATED MADRAWT and must give a good view of the nitric acid burns.

See Conchobhar had learned much from his father. There was also much at stake, *the imperial throne.*

And the memory of a thousand crucifixions along Madrawt Appian ways.

Brutal revenge to match public lust for justice was needed to win support for a new emperor who was more suited to the brutal times.

The Emperor Alexander Caesar Conchobhar would restore glory to the names of Alexander and Caesar.

He would be a conqueror of planets, burn and loot civilizations and be called Great.

“It is the truth,” it was a squeak from the remains of the Madrawt officer.

Conchobhar nodded to the torturer dressed in black representing death.

The heated glove was placed on the prisoner’s tummy and melted everything in its path and the man died of course with a lot of sound.

Bird man

“No quarter given,” was Conchobhar’s orders.

It rallied his men who thirsted for revenge.

He understood the masses better than his father. The Madrawts were a God given opportunity to make his name. Could understand the War Lord Tzu Strath’s popularity was due to winning victories.

He would be greater than Tzu Strath.

Ruthless like Attila the Hun.

A soldier emperor at last and the troops did flock to him.

And Tzu Strath was always loyal to the empire would swear loyalty to him or die.

Across the ship’s screen the Madrawt corpse having been ejected floated away towards the Madrawt sector.

There were twenty three other Madrawt sailors aboard ship, taken from a skirmish.

All would visit the man in black who caused optical problems.

All would float towards the Madrawt sector at some time.”

History of Conchobhar,V. Lukas