

## Well of Urd

““The human woman sat in the hover car, sullen, downcast, shaded from the heating rays of the purple suns. She was too wrapped up in fate to take any notice of her surroundings.

Then she heard as Ce-Ra heard the coughing grunt.

Her green eyes looked to the mauve sky where fragments of white cloud sped rapidly on their unknown journeys.

Her red lips parted showing perfect teeth.

She knew whom and what made that call, her guardian Tzu Strath's enemy.

The Bird man, sworn enemy of the Emperor Alexander Caesar Vortigern and she was not afraid. The Bird man would kill her swiftly where life with Ce-Ra would be a living hell.

*“Come Bird man come,”* she whispered.

Then her attention was attracted to Reeman Black Hair as he shuffled towards the protection of the car as a black shadow raced along the ground behind him.

General Ce-Ra was making a stand; he was ordering his men to fire at something above him as the fleeting dark shadow overtook Reeman.

Then a glint of light from an arrow in flight.

With a scream Ce-Ra fell back clutching his left foot, his head knocking hard against an ancient sea worn stone smashing the graphite fossil marine animals remains embedded in it.

With a groan the alien general closed his eyes as rich oxygenated red blood flowed onto the yellow sands.

## Bird man

Reeman Black Hair's soul died when he saw his master fall and screaming lurched back to aid him.

A stun grenade landed in front of him.

Reeman Black Hair fell prostrate across his master and very good friend who gave him his crumbs from the table.

And those who wanted to be nasty said 'lover.'

And through dazed red eyes streaming tears and ears that buzzed loudly, the young auburn haired woman thought she saw a large four legged beast with a head resembling a lion's roaring as it leapt and landed amongst the staggering alien escort.

Her mind was too stunned and dizzy to identify its species and just as she passed out she saw two things, a brown beast the size of a house with two proboscises and four tusks join in the attack.

And the feared Bird man himself.

But to the human woman one Bird man was no different from another. To her, The Bird man was all Bird man.

He was the scourge of humankind.

It was said he ate humans, spitting them alive over fires and laughed while he basted them with hot oil.

And for a moment she looked into the eyes of a hungry eagle and realised she was about to be "His supper," she thought and The Bird man saw her look at him this way as one looks at a beast or a dangerous predator of the skies, and was full of remorse.

## Bird man

So he took several steps towards her and she raised her left hand in fright and protection. Her eyes glinted terror and her red full lips parted to make way for the scream of berserk terror forming in her wind pipe.

And an alien Madrawt then jumped him and The Bird man fell back, his right arm raised to shield his throat, some of the flight membrane sizzling open under the heat of a laser sword.

And The Madrawt's other hand clung to Then Bird man's right arm, the long nails raking drawing blood.

Hoping to bleed his enemy good.

So The Bird man drew both his legs up and extended his hidden foot talons raking downwards.

There was a horrid scream and the Madrawt spiraled towards the human woman, his arms failing the air as his blue abdomen came apart.

Such the silly results of war.

And the air did stink.

And the woman had one last look into those hate filled Bird eyes just before her lids closed and mistook the hate in the Bird man's eagle yellow eyes as hate directed towards her and her human race and not the Madrawt's.

She was still laying slumped unconscious on the hover craft seat when Little Drum arrived late.

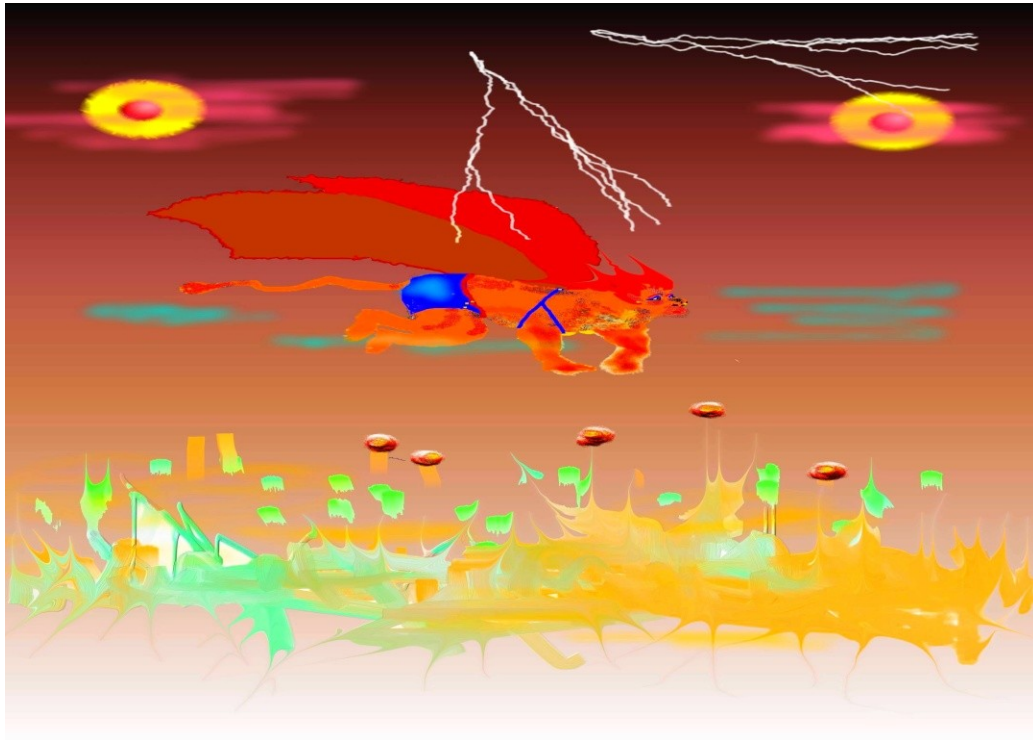
Perhaps he could not fly as fast as Mingo Drum, *but then he had monkey blood in him.*

"Last as usual my little one," The Bird man smiling.

## Bird man

“Death revolts me,” was the tart answer as the ape creature gingerly threaded a path through the sprawled bodies.

“One day you will meet him,” the lion creature grunted with an evil look in his eyes. At once Little Drum scurried up The Bird man's right arm and clung to him for protection.



*Illustration 5: Little Drum was a pet.*

The Bird man ignored them both and walked over to the hover craft where he looked down at the sleeping human woman.

She was very beautiful, if not the most goddess like creature he had ever seen.

“Did they not say Tzu Strath’s women were the best?”

*“Her genes have sculptured her perfectly. I am ashamed too look upon her thus defenseless. I am not a man?”* he thought.

Bird man

And many human/aliens would agree and call him

“BEAST.”

Yet still he wanted to know her better and get her out of the craft and away from this most hated enemy.

FOR HE WAS THE BIRDMAN, A LAW TO HIMSELF.

Then he heard the sing song Bird call of his two friends above, stood back and watched them land.

“Greetings Bran Llyr my blood brother.

Greetings Branwan my blood sister.”

Greetings Bird man Vercingetorix our Jarl and life, what can we do for you?”

Now Vercingetorix who preferred his forenames Mingo Drum could not look at the defenseless human woman who made his own ugliness shine forth like beacon lights.

“Help me carry her to a safe place?”

And the two Bird people after assurances from Vercingetorix that she was merely stunned and not suffering from internal injuries or diseases lifted her out.

“Where shall we take her?” They asked.

“Why to the Castle of Artebrate of course,” Mingo Drum replied blushing under his tan.””

Vern Lukas, Historian

and

Imperial Scribe.