

## Bird man

## Who Would Expect Me

Six long months had gone by since we returned to Tara 6. Tribune Henry had been promoted to Consul which gave him a whole army to command. This meant thankfully I did not have to see him often.

But I suspected by his probing chit chat he hoped I did write up his victories and make him popular with the masses; fat chance.

But my thoughts were with my girl child whom Cartimandua had called Ena, the Fiery One. I *was* really **was** a father and wished to see her.

Mingo had taught me not to fear life apart from the sky falling on my head and tidal waves drowning me and I was no where near the sea.

But Tzu Strath was at war with the hostile Bird Nations and advanced to the Gododdin swamps, ready to attack Torrs their capital.

Only this question remained, 'Was it worth a frontal attack or be bypassed and taken later when weakened by shortages in supplies?'

What about Ena and Cartimandua whom I loved very much.

They were Bird people and would behave as Mingo would, with valor so die.

Something I had learned to do by dealing with Mingo, so thank you Mingo Drum Vercingetorix for that.

“Why do these Bird people rule our lives?” Tzu Strath asked me after me asking permission from him to see Cartimandua and see if I could get her to come in and sign a peace treaty.

THINKING TIME.

## Bird man

“Because this is their planet,” and didn’t add that as long as we shared it, it would be so which his military mind had an answer.

THEREFORE EXTERMINATE THEM BIRDS.

But they were highly evolved, or once but the way the friendlies lived as drunks aping us, the evidence would say they were a degenerate race needing the benefits and enlightenments of our ways.

“They are a defeated people,” I replied also from my depressive thoughts on the Bird people’s future.

Tzu grunted agreement.

I knew he was thinking then who needs them, does Arthur?

“Arthur is an alien; you have aliens fighting with you. There are alien kings and presidents who know who Arthur is and will surrender their authority to him when he asks their allegiance one day but not you.

They would not do so to a human war lord.

Guard your Bird man assets Tzu Strath,” I told him.

“And when I conquer all, what then of the fine warriors I needed against the Madrawts?” He asked striking a match.

He had started this disgusting smelly habit of smoking cigars lately for image.

“Until Planet Madrawt is dust you will need every warrior you can recruit, remember I have been there, it is huge, there are billions of Madrawts and all want imperial hearts to offer Huitzilopitchli.”

He listened politely. “And if the Madrawts recover from the Choking Death and their economic woes, what then Tzu Strath? They will be back with a vengeance,” and added, “I take it then I can go to visit Cartimandua?”

## Bird man

He nodded and waved me aside as our talk was ended.

“By the way, you remind me of Nostradamus,” he said not even lifting his head from some maps that had clouds of cigar smoke over them.

Was he hoping I did spy for him? And remembered Nostradamus’s *clicking clock* set in motion against Mingo.

I should have spent some time to find out what Nostradamus had set in motion?

But hadn’t!

So left Tzu Strath and went to seek Boudicca who was pleasant with me, had I not saved Mingo’s life?

And Arthur he was taller than human children his own age and looked like Mingo, except he lacked the rough stark features for he had inherited his mother’s facial beauty.

He was indeed growing into the handsome demi god I had created for all men and women to follow.

I could imagine him leading armies to liberate Earth and other planets under Madrawt rule.

Like an angel from Heaven flying across human skies waving his sword and the fear that they would worship him overcame me.

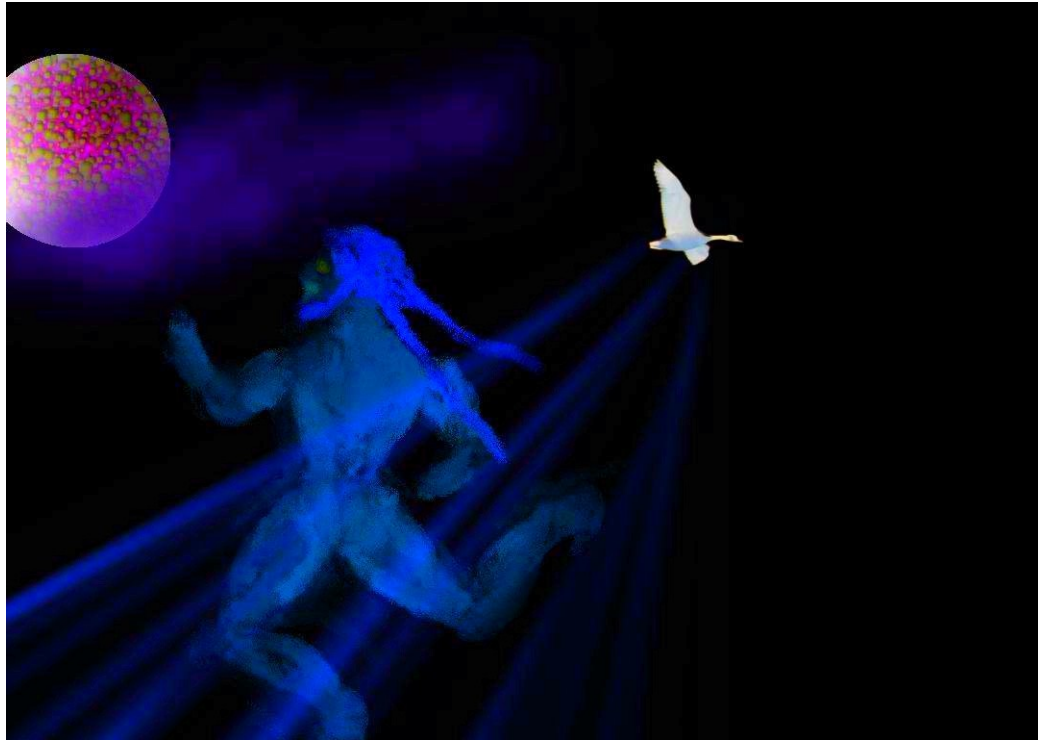
I was wrong to push my fellow man into worshipping another man.

Arthur was not a god amongst us.

Men who are worshiped become corrupted by worshipers.

No wonder Mingo Drum Vercingetorix disliked my writings.

## Bird man



*Illustration 92: Demi god*

So I decided to alter my writings and influence the minds of my readers that Arthur was a man, *to make one a god is a sin and I had unwittingly sinned; I felt separated from the light not controlled.*

I left for Torrs.

The journey was uneventful as I traveled along well established supply routes to the front line.

And news was brought to me of a great victory fought against the Madrawts, a turning point in the wars and it meant Tzu Strath and his allies were halfway to Earth and the borders of the Madrawt solar system.

If this momentum kept up Earth would be reached in a year.

Would Arthur be needed at this rate of victories *I wondered?*

Yes I concluded, there would always be a place for the Arthur's.

## Bird man

Our history and culture made sure of that.

And worse, that the victory had been won by Consul Henry and the Emperor of the East, Conchobhar.

More horrid news, both these men were coming to my Maonos where Tzu would honor the victory by promoting Henry to Dictator and give him two new armies to command and many planets to rule.

I hope Tzu knew what he was doing?

And feared for those planets for I had seen how much the killer the man was!

His star was rising too quickly.

He was not used too such power.

If Arthur wasn't Tzu's heir I did suspect the old man was grooming a new heir?

In another hundred years Tzu would need cloned but at the moment he should be taking the Master Pill to keep him young and virile and that was the word, for amongst the celebrations of victory would be announced Tzu's marriage to Conchobhar's daughter.

**An imperial marriage**, strengthen the human empire into one.

Yes Conchobhar was satisfied that a child out of this union would rival Arthur as inheritor of Tzu Strath's armies.

Was this why Henry was being promoted, to rival Conchobhar and not Arthur; was I blind, the old man I hoped again knew what he was playing at?

Human superiority and dominance.

Was Henry to take over operations against the remaining free, that was scary, I saw how he killed Madrawts and he disliked Bird men as much.

## Bird man

Henry would stay in this backwater releasing Tzu to greater victories; perhaps Tzu wasn't as daft as I thought.

Tzu Strath was now to be called Emperor of the West and the child from the marriage would be called Emperor of Earth.

Well?

*Any comment, it was so devious they were trying to outsmart each other.*

And as I crossed the swamps saw many Bird men on Tzu's side fighting their own kind.

Divide and rule, it had always been the way of conquerors!

And made myself known to the Gododdin warriors who allowed me passage and then it hit me:

THE EMPIRE OF TZU STRATH HAD BECOME SO LARGE AND  
UNWEILDY HE NEEDED A CO-RULER.

Henry his loyal trusting friend.

Tzu Strath was making the first important mistake of his life.

It also meant the culminating victories against the Madrawts that Tzu Strath was losing his belief in

A NEED FOR AN ARTHUR.

I had to forget about settling down with my daughter Ena and Cartimandua.

Henry's coming was the signal to the end of the Bird man world.

I had to convince Cartimandua that all was lost. We must flee north till some sort of peace was signed between her and the remaining hostiles and Tzu Strath, and as Henry would be negotiating it, it would not be in her favour.

I also resolved to return and lead Boudicca and Arthur to a place of safety.

Bird man

The least I could do for Mingo Drum Vercingetorix who was trapped for ever and ever upon the Planet Madrawt.

As the Gododdin led me away a shadowy figure floated out of the swamp.

OLD VATE.

Even the Gododdin saw it for they backed away in fear of a ghost.

“The power of the pen,” is all he said then vanished.

And I had another choice, not to make Cartimandua run but unite with the Artebrate and fight Tzu Strath; but I was and saw them as inferior, unable to stand up to the waves of colonists; but only time lets you see things the way they was?