

“They came quickly for there was no way of avoiding being picked up by radar or of fighting them as Mingo and Diviciacus had no idea what controls to use.

**So the pirates came.**

And boarded and roamed the ship at will.

Until they ventured towards the bridge.

And found the BEAST Mingo Drum Vercingetorix, and armed with small arms he shot the first alien through its large bald head.

The second he shot in the chest.

The third in the back as the aliens fled.

Mingo followed to kill them in the mass of ship's corridors for he was an enraged beast.

Divipatreus followed also for he did not to be alone?

His eyes watching the broad muscular back of Mingo with a mixture of admiration, hate, fear and want.

Want for a heart to give to Huitzilopitchli.

And fear that Mingo was unconquerable, so much that Diviciacus who was Divipatreus feared for his future if Mingo was ever to find out who he was.

So much that he thought of seeking the pirate captain and paying him for his freedom for this shaman knew where treasures had been stored away for a rainy day, and it was raining pirates.

Money bought anything he believed.

And then he saw four pirates coming out of the kitchen behind Mingo.

He held up his hands and walked towards them.

## Bird man

Mingo saw:.

his new friend was beaten about the head till he fell to the floor.

Then Mingo shot them.

He also heard something metallic bouncing down the stairs, the sound he had heard in war a thousand times, a grenade and he dived under a metal hatch.

The grenade went off capping his ears.

Later he awoke alone, cramped but alive.

In a darkened room and handcuffed.

The smell of sweat overpowering.

He smelled the air.

Madrawt stink,

He moved this way and that by shifting his bottom till he found a body.

MOANING.

Now smelt the strong iodine smell of Madrawt blood.

His toes felt handcuffs.

The kitchen porter?

“Divipatreus?” He whispered several times.

“Bird man king, they took him,” the porter answered.

Yes they had Diviciacus aboard the pirate ship which was towing the tramp to the Star Dust Galaxy. About the safest place for pirates was Tara 6, a Heaven of war and home to some other pirates, **the Gododdin.**

And the whole galaxy was a mirror of Tarra 6.

Also Dictator Henry paid well for Madrawt and Bird men scalps and more for Madrawt ships and he had a list of what he wanted to deprive Madrawt society off.

## Bird man

Dentist drills for their oddly shaped teeth.

Forceps for Madrawt difficult births.

Candies for Madrawt kids.

Films, watching repeats time and time again was moral breaking.

And Dictator Henry's list was endless.

This was total war, genocide.



*Illustration 96: The job of pirate was not discriminatory*

And Diviciacus revealed to the human pirate captain who he was and they were impressed and interested.

Could Dictator Henry outmatch Diviciacus's bid for freedom.

Except they had a vampire amongst them and he was presenting a case to allow him to sacrifice the porters to Huitzilopitchli.

## Bird man

Scalps didn't need feeding and still had a bounty on them and what to do with the shaman led to arguments and many wanted to take him to freedom now for they feared him.

To take him to Henry now.

To take him to a Madrawt outpost.

And all boiled down to same thing, they wanted rid of his evil presence and they thought they were bad men!

For he was bad luck.

First men died of the Choking Death.

Then the ambassador from Henry's camp told them they did have to wait several weeks in quarantine for payment.

The ship's air conditioning broke down.

They began to squabble amongst themselves.

A snake came out of a cargo crate and bit one who died in convulsions.

"I am Diviciacus the High Priest of Huitzilopitchli," he told them from his new sitting position in the mess room, "All this misfortune is because you have ill treated me.

Free me."

Alien or human they feared Huitzilopitchli that Madrawt evil blood thirsty god.

"I will not mistreat you as your human captain did."

They were puzzled.

"Did he not allow you to do the fighting and die? While he was safe?"

And so he spoon fed them with his worms.

"I will lead you and you will be my captains and the captains of Huitzilopitchli

## Bird man

who will bless you and bring you luck.”

Luck meant riches to them.

And one amongst them killed their captain and appointed himself the new pirate captain for he listened to Diviciacus.

“Free me,” and they did and then landed on Tara 6.

Then Diviciacus sent for the Madrawt porters.

The wounded one was very ill; his untreated wound was a festering stink. In his confinement Mingo had cared for him with soothing words of hope that he knew were lies.

“Where do you come from Bird man?” The other porter had asked not believing a beast could show compassion.

“From Maonos,” Mingo had replied.

“No, I do not mean that, here is your enemy and you show him mercy,” the Madrawt for he came from a world where love did not exist.

And Mingo shuffled close to the Madrawt, “Soon I will kill him quickly to end his suffering, that will be mercy,” making sure the wounded porter could not hear him.

“You may as well kill me for they plan to torture me for I am a Madrawt,” the man replied sadly without hope.

“Take courage you will be in paradise soon with Huitzilopitchli,” Mingo said to heighten the man’s spirit.

“I am a kitchen porter, I do not believe in any god.

REFLECTION.

All I know is that Henry has placed a bounty upon Madrawts. These pirates will scalp me but first do will do bad things. They will hang me from a beam and beat me

## Bird man

till my bones break, then skin me and dry what they take to make belts, they will cut my abdomen and empty my bowls and make a soup with it and force me to drink the broth hot.

So the pirates will do to me,” and the Madrawt prophesied his own death *except for one detail*.

And the pirates eventually came for the Madrawt to do these things and caught Mingo strangling the wounded one.

And they beat Mingo who being a cornered beast attacked them and killed two till he was coshed.

Then Mingo awoke alone.

And did not know about *the one detail* that was that Diviciacus after watching the prophecy come true for the amusement of HIS new crew cut the heart out to give to Huitzilopitchli who would punish the porter in hell for not being brave and fearless and believing in him.

As for the wounded Madrawt Diviciacus found the stench of wounds so offensive after taking his scalp threw the lad over board and *Verns flew down and ate him for they minded not if the food was slightly off*.

And why a bite from a Vern can give you blood poisoning form their mouths are vile.

And Diviciacus told his crew that they were about to become rich.

And they wondered how for all this priest did was promise wealth. Two scalps did not go far and life aboard ship was boring; imperial troopers were making sure they did not break the quarantine.

## Bird man

“You have Mingo Drum Vercingetorix aboard this ship and Henry will pay a galaxies’ ransom for him,” Diviciacus told them and slowly it dawned upon their alcohol drug abused minds that they had only one Bird man aboard ship **and he must be?**

Then Dictator Cedric Henry did not believe the pirates’ claim but upon reflection why not?

It was a Madrawt ship, come from Planet Madrawt the last known place of Mingo Drum; this was Tara 6, Maonos, Mingo’s home.

Anything was possible with Mingo Drum.

Now Mingo smiled, he was facing the open door and there stood Cedric Henry.

“Tzu Strath promised you death once; I am here to carry out that order.

PAUSE.

Take him,” and soldiers took Mingo who fought hard and suffered more beating but he was a beast and so had the will to live and as beast will not stoically accept the human decree, he can bite and scratch and spit.

And even the pirates admired him for their drinking songs called themselves the ‘Last of the Free,’ but now knew their songs were nothing but lies.

And through closing puffed eyes he saw his friend Divipatreus and smiled at him, then was thrown into the back of a hover lorry.

It did not occur to him why his friend was standing next to Henry except that he was about to be tortured and questioned.

“You have done well Diviciacus,” Henry told him disliking the wicked man.

“Thank you, but that smile, he knows who I am,” and Diviciacus was wrong but fear had crept in.

## Bird man

“I shall keep my word and offer you aid Diviciacus but keep yours,” Henry warned knowing the priest’s idea would hurt the Madrawts.

Soon Diviciacus would announce to the planets he was alive, secretly done away with by Ce-Ra and call upon Madrawts loyal to Huitzilopitchli to offer Ce-Ra’s heart to their god or more doom will befall.

Anything to help the war effort was good.

Afterwards he would hang Diviciacus on cacti and slit his belly and leave him to be devoured by Vern.

But Diviciacus had different plans; he was planning applying for the coming vacancy of the Madrawt throne.

He could see the loathing Henry had for him in the alien’s eyes. Knew what the tea leaves foretold, knew he had to get away.

And as he climbed aboard another hover lorry as Henry would not have him in his staff hover car he saw the pirate crew rounded up and they saw him and spat.

They were going to get their riches but in another dimension, hell fire and brimstone!

As the hover lorry lifted up Diviciacus heard the tell tale sizzling sound of a laser Gatling gun and thought what a waste of fine beating hearts he could have offered to Huitzilopitchli and told his guards so, hoping to spread his worms again.

But these were imperial troopers, well disciplined and smiled inwardly knowing the wicked priest’s time was running out and maybe they would be the lucky ones to slit his belly on that cactus.

And Mingo Drum Vercingetorix coughed and grunted loudly so all heard.

So Ce-Ra on a far distant planet awoke out of a nightmare for he had seen the last

## Bird man

Madrawt soldier die on Tara 6 as he was choked by Mingo Drum **Vercingetorix**.

And there were Madrawt soldiers on Tara 6 under Reeman Black Hair who had maps in front of him showing the latest isolated pockets of hostile Bird men holding out against the Dictator Henry's imperial forces massing for a final assault.

And Diviciacus was on the radio denouncing Ce-Ra. Well Reeman Black Hair had always liked Ce-Ra who had treated him fairly. There came a time when you just had to look after oneself; things were not going well for Ce-Ra because of Diviciacus, there were rebellions back home by Huitzilopitchli devotees seeking revenge for their High Priest Diviciacus fall from grace.

Mutinies were occurring in the ranks, the Madrawt Empire was in trouble.

So Reeman Black Hair did what others did at the fall of the Roman Empire, in fact what helped the fall; declared himself Emperor of Madrawt Tara and sent peace envoys to Dictator Henry who hung them up by their toes and then slit their bellies so the entrails covered their faces.

What could Reeman Black Hair do? Escape was almost impossible as the Dictator's fighters controlled the skies.

Desertion amongst his men was high and was a suicidal act as where could they go, *into the wilderness?*

**Everyone knew what a Madrawt looked like, it was quite impossible for a Madrawt not to look like a Madrawt!**

At least in the wilderness hostile Bird men were few these days. So he would flee into the wilderness with amassed wealth and take his chances floated into Reeman's right temple from some place unknown. A wealthy Madrawt was welcome in some brothel as any alien, *money counted*.

## Bird man

He was also thinking of disposing of Diviciacus who had brought all this misfortune upon the Madrawts especially himself.

But then imperial shells rained down down down and didn't stop.

The demoralising effect was horrid as the Madrawt front lines evaporated as all sought their chances in the wilderness.

"Bugger this," Reeman Black Hair finding no staff manning his control room as radio cackle needed tuning.

So had to carry his own bags to his private staff hover car.

"Bugger this," again, someone had taken it and gone into the wilderness without him.

Then the shells landed on his residence and Reeman Black Hair fled with two suitcases of wealth only.

On the way a shrapnel splinter ripped one open so a million imperial dollars blew away.

Frantically he tried to catch the floating bills.

Then burning beams from the roofs fell about him and his other suitcase went poof.

***No one welcomed a poor Madrawt in any brothel!***

"Mummy, did you hear that?" Arthur excitedly.

Boudicca stood up and looked towards the city.

Yes, she had heard the coughing grunt.

So he was back?

Should she stay or keep fleeing?

"When I deliver you to the Artebrate you will be safe," Kenala saying studying her but saw nothing so added, "And then I will return and free my friend, take care of Arthur."

## Bird man

She knew he was right.

“I want to go and fight too,” Arthur jumping up and down, the little boy was growing and pulled Boudicca’s light silk dress so the hem parted under her body armour.

“Naughty boy.”

So it was then that Boudicca and her party looked upon an empty City of Winds; all was desolation and destruction.

Broken skeletons, household artifacts, spoiled food and burnt out hover tanks with Cedric Henry’s twin grinning black skull heralds on their turrets was ample evidence as to whom and what caused the looting and allowed hell to exist.

As long as Bird men were getting killed it was cool!

“We have nowhere to hide,” Boudicca as she cried.

Arthur put a protective comforting arm about her waist, and then cried as well.

He still wasn’t that big and Mingo would have cried when seeing his beloved city.

And while they cried Kenala looked for signs as to which way his people fled.

Then a single laser shot, it puffed up in front of him.

“Freeze Bird man,” the voice was human..

Out of rubble emerged seven humans and two alien settlers and deserters.

Boudicca told Arthur to run and she did also.

She was followed by whoops and howls.

“The boy can fly,” walked into her right temple.

“Fly Arthur fly, get daddy,” she cried and with all her strength swung him into the air where he stretched his wings and flapped and hovered instead.

He wanted to fight and raked the heads about him with his small talons.

## Bird man

“Shot the little bugger,” one of the humans and Boudicca attacked the men with her fists.

Something in Arthur knew he would be killed, that mummy was doing this for him, to give him time to get help, daddy,” so he flew away dejected and angry and hating himself he was not a full grown *beast like daddy*.”

As for Boudicca in her struggle her dress was torn more so more flesh showed so was not beaten for the men now had ideas?



*Illustration 97: They ripped the clothes of her because they were strong men*