

Reeman Black Hair watched Mingo and followed so did Wookey Hole. These two would play important roles in the play of life.

Reeman Black Hair the coward was not so brave that day, more demented.

Eavesdropping was not easy for he had to double up inside a desert flowering thorn bush on a path that led into the field hospital.

Reeman Black Hair hated insects, especially the biting type, but humans were coming and he was more afraid of being discovered and terminated.

A human female and male approached him holding hands and talking sweet heart.

“Divipatreus,” the hated name drifted to his ears.

And by the time he struggled away from the thorns the humans had vanished around a bend.

Reeman Black Hair was now foaming at the mouth covered in thorn itchy pricks.

*He might be a little insane these days.*

He was **whispering** to himself as he walked drawing out his laser pistol.

And the human couple finally found the place they were seeking, a quiet lonely spot shielded by limestone walls and here they lay down on their jackets to cuddle.

They giggled, talked, stroked and fondled, leading to clothes being whipped off in a hurried frenzy of desire and lust.

And Reeman Black Hair the slightly insane one watched it all.

For he was truly evil.

And fired one shot through the back of the male’s skull.

Bird man

No one heard her scream as she fought to free herself of her lover's dead weight and brains.

Now Reeman Black Hair advanced allowing the human female to spend her energy freeing herself only to stare up into the dark blank eyes of the Madrawt.

Reeman Black Hair had always been a lazy son of a gun.

And placed the barrel of the laser pistol on her navel and asked her what he wanted to know.

She told him everything from fear and hope he would spare her.

She didn't want to die.

Then he frolicked with her till way past sunset time again and when he was too tired he shot her in her naval.

Then he walked away, mounted his zoomer and headed south, determined to get equipment for the long cold southern nights.

He was feeling more confident after his sexual encounter, men always do, when he thirsted he would steal drink, when he hungered he would steal food, when he wanted a human woman he did repeat what he had just done, when he wanted to bore someone with his one way monologue he did capture someone, yes there were many human/alien settlements on the way south.

And he went with delightful thoughts about Diviciacus's

Approaching END.

Now Theodosius Wookey Hole needed information as well.

So he walked into the field hospital and demanded what the Bird man Mingo wanted?

## Bird man

When refused he had his mutant platoon start ripping the drips out of the arms of the wounded.

So in the end Dr. Bates figured it would do no harm told him Mingo had been wounded and attended to before going to the City of Winds.

“His son Arthur needed stitching up also,” Bates lied, *indeed a Bird lover*

“Then why the problem in talking?” Wookey Hole demanded only half believing.

“I am a doctor, I treat the wounded, on both sides, I took an oath remember doctors do!” Bates went on.

Wookey Hole left it at that, he was being reminded he had no education and the doctor had and was his peer.

At least the brat half breed was still with Mingo.

Listen to the half breed?

And Wookey led his mutant towards the City of Winds.

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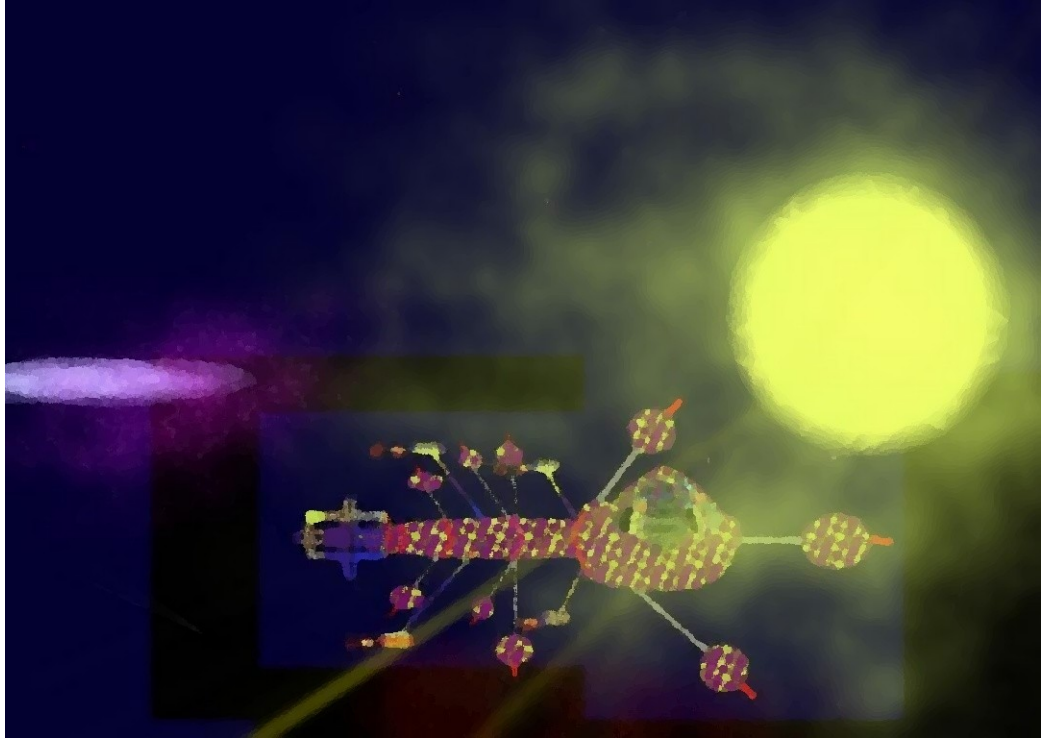
Two lone hostiles acting as rearguard scouts watched the Dictator Henry’s dust swarm come roaring through the wilderness.

The two Artebrate were watching for the illusive major Vernpatgus who had soiled Boudicca.

They were soon rewarded by a black sedan hover car pulling into the dissolute area near where the pile of dead Bird men had been.

A heavy troop of storm troopers poured out of a convoy of assorted transports while overhead gun ships.

## Bird man



*Illustration 104: The gunship could enter space but for short periods as it did not have enough fuel or was designed for space flight. Two men manned it and one operated the laser cannon painted red. The other needed his wits to fly the ungainly ship designed on a spider.*

Cedric Henry took no chances.

And Major Vernpatgus greeted him, the two watching Bird men realised he was the one they were seeking.

He had turned up earlier with a small troop of soldiers.

The dictator indicated with a hand the opening door to Star Dust from which emerged a man in a black suit.

They did not know that Glen Zowanski was upon Maonos.

The two Bird men exchanged glances.

Mingo had told them to wait for the return of the military and learn the names of the top brass present, but now the most hated in their world was in front of them.

The youngest Bird man unfolded his dart pipe and took careful aim.

Bird man

.The older Solid Rock Artebrate knew hot head Alclud was the best dart blower and couldn't miss, and did nothing but watch with an expressionless face.

The hiss of compressed gas sent the dart hurtling towards the exposed back of the dictator.

It was not a poisonous dart, a pity.

Just a dart with a six inch needle point.

And hit the dictator square on, a few inches off target, the middle of his spine and went through his right shoulder high up.

Cedric knew what to do.

He pushed by Glen Zowanski and got into the car.

It was assassin proof.

Glen jumped in also not wanting to be next target.

Above the gun ships blasted the perimeter area extinguishing life out of dozing lizards basking in the sun, flowering plants ready to pollinate, flying insects, snakes and small rodent like animals.

But missed two Bird men.

Below the black hover sedan roared away to New Alexandria with the wounded dictator.

And Major Vernpatgus once again found himself alone in the wilderness. The only good thing out of the attempted assassination was that he had been given several extra companies to guard the underground labs housed in the area.

Glen Zowanski had invested a lot of capital in them.

Glen Zowanski had come to see some returns.

Bird man

That night the two Bird men sneaked down and **flew** over the new electrified fences!

They wanted names to go with faces.

They wanted the name of every trooper who had been present when Boudicca had been here.

Mingo would track them all down and get back his woman's honour.

Remember Mingo was only half civilised and these two were worse.

All had unreasoning beast in them.

Mingo had plenty of time left as he was only half way through his thousand year life span.

Cloning didn't come into it; you died to make way for the young.

But cloning machines had just began to make an appearance in some Bird man cities; but not yet amongst the Artebrate, would Mingo clone then?

Anyway the two Bird men took out the first guard they met, an alien trooper with long antennae with eye stalks on the end of them and two sets of arms.

He was carrying a heavy machine gun with ease.

So the older Bird man Solid Rock Artebrate threw a cheese wire across his head while Hot Head Alclud caught the dropped gun, gently and quickly put it down and picked up the struggling guard's feet.

And together the two Bird men carried the alien into the shadows.

"Vernpatgus is the only name he seems to know," Solid Rock spat, "He doesn't know how to speak our language.

SOLDI ROCK TURNED THE CAPTIVE'S HEAD TO SEE IF HE HAD A LANGUAGE IMPLANT.

## Bird man

Nope, just our luck,” then Solid Rock tightened the wire.

While the cheese wire did its job Hot Head went off in search of another guard.

The only thing he found was a well lit long brown tent. Inside several officers getting slowly drunk; one of whom he recognised as Vernpatgus who had greeted the hatred dictator.

Also two scantily dressed Bird women who were the subject of indecent prodding.

Now Hot Head went back for Solid Rock and the dropped machine gun.

*These were Bird men warriors who feared nothing, not even death; well they did the sky falling on their heads and tidal waves drowning them.*

*And they knew none of that would happen tonight, it never did.*

They were hostiles and believed in their invincibility. Human/alien troops were held in contempt; they knew it needed a hundred imperial troopers to kill one Bird man, and the trouble was the imperialist troopers were so numerous you couldn't count them.

*Never mind, plenty to go around. And since there were two of them there was needed two hundred troopers to get them?*

They had nothing to fear.

Nothing to loose.

If they died they were about too die well.

But they didn't believe they were about to die.

They believed their enemy was about to die though!

“They were Bird men, they thought differently from us,” Vern Lukas.

And together they calmly walked into the long brown tent.

Vernpatgus had been holding a lighted cigar very close to one of the breasts of one of them Bird woman to see how far a bird's pain threshold was; in truth he was just a cruel

## Bird man

drunken bum.

Then he noticed two shadows behind his victim through the midgy netting.

And his alcoholic fumed brain fought to recognise those shadows.

Then Solid Rock Artebrate threw open the tent flaps and Hot Head Alclud walked in holding the machine gun.

Vernpatgus slid to the floor and *slithered* under the tent flaps into a beer storage tent.

Very calmly Solid Rock asked for names.

Names he was getting because no one wanted to end up like the young lieutenant that had told the Bird men were to go.

Foolish young man.

A quick sweep of Solid Rock's short sword sent the human's head rolling by itself into the storage tent where the dying eyes looked up at Vernpatgus.

*"And the innocent die for the guilty," Vern Lukas.*

Now Vernpatgus realised he was a marked man so felt fear creep from his bowels and the need to empty them came upon him.

"Mingo will hunt them down one by one by one until they are dead," Hot Head was saying.

Vernpatgus crawled out of his tent in a hurry and his foot caught a tent rope and pulled out the pegs, shame.

The storage tent naturally collapsed.

So Vernpatgus got up screaming for help and managed to lose his shoes and dragged the tent with him.

The silly officers in the tent went for their weapons thinking help was at hand.

## Bird man

So the women started butchering them before Hot Head could live up to his name.

“Let’s fly,” Solid Rock pulling Hot Head with him and the women followed.

But Hot Head was amongst his most hated enemy, human/aliens troopers whom his ancestors wanted revenge against.

So landed turning a circle spraying the camp with his machine gun laser bolts till his magazine was empty and slew many, perhaps a hundred.

Throwing the gun away he turned to run to get the leverage to fly.

A dark nasty shadow appeared from behind a rock.

Vernpatgus stood there with an air to air shoulder missile launcher.

A trigger was squeezed.

Hot Head was smiling as the missile slammed into him; it took a hundred enemy to kill one Bird man and Vernpatgus was one hundred and one.

*“I think he saw the White Eagle that would take him to paradise,” Vern Lukas.*

Anyway Solid Rock was safely amongst the sandstone monoliths.

And Vernpatgus even having lost his trousers in his hurry to escape reloaded and fired in that direction.

Solid Rock smiled, the missile was off target and he knew Mingo would hunt this man down to ends of the earth.

Hot Head would be avenged as well as Boudicca.

That night Vernpatgus put on new trousers and became A.W.O.L. after he stole a hover lorry loaded with looted valuables from the laboratory safes.

It was rumored Diviciacus ran a regular flight out of Tara 6 for A.W.O.L.’s just to annoy the dictator whom the shaman loathed like a woman’s scorn.