

Now Leah gave birth to a boy in front of two court officers who had warrants to take her child.

And they did for no one was there to stop them.

And the hunchback noted the red blemish down the left of the lad's face.

The left foot slightly withered.

Apart from that the boy looked human.

"My father was right in stopping me having children," he blamed himself for passing bad genes on.

"Ha foot, this is the work of poison carried in her womb not a hunchback's genes," the midwife chided and one word sprang to his mind, "Nannaha."

But Leah blamed Mungo's lion spirit for making the foot bad and face marked.

"Will he grow a mane?" She scared and her father the hunchback understood grief had her for the baby was gone.

Only after birth remained and alone the hunchback used cat gut.

"Mungo I will never forget you, please come back for your son Conn," Leah groaned and the hunchback felt history repeated. It was Carman's orders to take Conn into her house to be brought up a lame Berserka.

A Berserka to be sent to hunt down Mungo, the enemy of his Fermanian race.

A boy brought up hating his mother for his foot.

Mungo

“That’s the way the snake works,” the hunchback thought and to Leah, “I have money, there are courts, even Carman cannot publicly defy them,” naively in hope.

“She is the mouth piece of Mount Tullos, I am doomed,” and Leah cried for her babe.

Somehow a cold shiver broke through the hunchback’s defences.

Leah was costing him his inheritance from mummy but, “She is my daughter.”

“I love you,” Leah and the hunchback filling with happiness cried, no one had ever said that to him and swore he did help the humans destroy evil Telephassa City and its false gods.

*

Now Leah sat in a dungeon praying to the God that Mungo danced too and found she was afraid. Somehow the hunchback had bribed the gaolers to feed her well, allow her privacy for toilet and bathing and not get tortured which was left to gaolers whims when no general orders had been given.

There had been no general orders concerning Leah, she was a plaything to the gaolers if not bribed well.

And the gaolers took the bribe and still played with her, ate meat destined for her, tortured and told her to use the hole provided and Leah blamed Mungo for her fate.

The only thing they did allow was their bath water.

And right now the hunchback sat furious knowing the gaolers fate now he knew Leah’s for Artebrates had told him:

Mungo

“She is destined to the vats that gave her birth to be boiled down and recycled.”

“My daughter I have failed you,” the hunchback.

Cathbadh.

Now the Mighty One was enjoying the entertainment provided by Cathbadh, armed slaves fighting venomous snakes in a tank.

And at a lower table sat Wonder Lord Vinki and friends who saw Cathbadh taking over their influence, something had to be done, like murder.

So that night Vinki sent two friends to bludgeon Cathbadh but they never returned.

Two days later Vinki’s cook got instructions from Vinki supposedly asking for Mungo’s soul, which was a recipe, vinegary sweetmeats and the Fermanians comforted themselves they were eating Mungo spiritually.

Yes Vinki liked what he ate that night.

And the next day got a letter from the Prefect of Police requesting him to identify two bodies.

Curiosity about his missing friends made him go.

And saw empty craniums and met Cathbadh who said, “Mungo's soul,” and Vinki was confused, had he eaten his friends brains? Vinki asked nothing but was invited to Cathbadh’s quarters. Needless to say Vinki went escorted by men of the mob.

“If I really wanted too I could turn you all into tripe,” Cathbadh told them. Whether he could Vinki sweated as his escort vanished at the threat.

Mungo

“Marvellous are they not?” Cathbadh asked and Vinki saw brains in beakers and they were alive.

“NO different from the labs?” Vinki replied.

“The difference is,” and Cathbadh pulled one out, “It lives in this aerated solution by filter pumps,” then Cathbadh dropped it into a solution of vinegar and said, “Great pickled,” and smiled knowingly at Vinki.

During the silence Vinki knew he had eaten his friends’ brains.

His special friends for was Vinki not called a Wonder Lord?

So Vinki fled ill and swore he did do the bugger Cathbadh one day. And it was Cathbadh who wanted Leah returned to the labs.

And Vinki sought the resurrected Peelock to eat fresh sweetmeat and plan Cathbadh’s destruction.

And incidentally Leah went crazy.

“I want Lady Leah returned to the vats that bore her out of kindness for Carman has ordered her destroyed through virus shuttles to turn her into a monster seeking only the destruction of her great love, Mungo.

It is the kindest act I can do Leah.

But the hunchback thinks my intentions evil and hates me, I am evil, I am Fermanian,” extracted from Cathbadh’s diary Eclipse Season Month.

“The harlot Moragana I am told successfully poisoned a herd of riding pha and Mungo still lives so has failed me.



Illustration 24: Moragana

Moragana is a bungling baboon in a ballerina dress.

I must be done with her and that cousin Serrant before they destroy me from stupidity.

What a foolish man I was too put my trust in lower species, the lesson learned is to do the work yourself,” another extract from Cathbadh’s diary Eclipse Season Month.

*

Now Peelock, in his castle quite alive having been repaired by the Incorruptible One before he awoke her had got the computer to tell him what plagues affected

Mungo

humans on New Uranus and the machine programmed to help humans informed him about mustard fever. What he wanted was information to impress the people of Red Town he was still the Red god's chosen one.

There were still many Wendy's out there.

“I have the mustard fever from the wild mustard plant, there is no cure, forgive my sins holy one,” he to the perfect woman the Incorruptible One.

And she turned brown eyes upon him, saw through him and knew he had not changed but who was she too judge?

“I will instruct the computer to give you the genetic code for a drug that will save your race.”

Peelock used all his cheek muscles not to smile.

Behind him a disc span and paper came out of a laser jet printer.

“I am doomed to remain here forever for if I venture above I will be killed by Mungo,” Peelock faking gloom.

“The difference is that I remain here alive,” she replied.

Peelock angry faked tears knowing she meant natural death would catch him, even with all his youth hormones and transplants, eventually wear would kill him.

“Insanity will come first,” he said.

And she knew he was right, she was incorruptible, fixed into the life force that flowed through all and its pulse kept her sane; and wired into the computer. “No,

Mungo

one day Mungo will end your misery for you with a lance thrust,” she pitying and told the computer to instruct Mungo she existed.

Existed for this meeting for she was the link between what Mungo danced to and what he must do.

To use the doomsday bomb on Fermanians.

It was called obedience and that is what Mungo lacked, for he was ignorant of the power that visited him.

He was human, his God was human, and the universe had been given to humans. Mungo for all his lust, his weakness would be forgiven for he was a chosen human.

“I feed too many papyrus books into your INPUT,” Peelock snarled.

The incorruptible laughed, felt good, it was the first time she had laughed in ten thousand years.

And it was the same sarcastic laugh when the first human colonists of New Uranus had sealed her in alive in this glass sphere with her computer to preserve human knowledge against the Fermanian nuclear fall out.

Sealed because they had rejected human values from lizard wars and The People were sick, dying, thyroid cancer was rampant and leukaemia claiming children.

Then someone built a red calf and called it god and made peace with the lizards that realised tribute was a better way than having to fight wars for food.

And forgot her and the computer that had been wired into her brain as a joke, “A computer for the grave,” one of the human scientists back then.

Mungo

And the computer was her companion until Peelock chasing a mazarrat that had stolen a vial led him to her.

And now Peelock was happy, he had a germ to infect The People and a cure to offer them miraculously, he would be obeyed again.

As for Mungo he stood still under the red moon with Malachi watching a prisoner from Telephassa and Red Town at his feet.

And about them Fermanian Berserkas and human warriors all armed to the teeth waiting; waiting for what?

“You hardly dance these days?” Malachi asked.

Mungo knew Malachi thought he wasn’t The Wild One any more because he didn’t speak to the Unseen unnamed One these days.

“You have become drenched in blood, all day all night we raid blockhouses,” Malachi continued, “you are possessed with Leah, don’t you hear the mazarrats sing?”

“I will never give her up,” Mungo replied feeling an uncontrollable rage in his chest he was managing to control but still looked at the lizard prisoner with murderous intent.

“We men of Fermanian stock follow The Wild One who is to deliver us from the cruel ways of our queens and kings,” and with that Malachi brought his axe through the air and the human prisoner’s head bounced on the red grass.

Mungo

And the Fermanian Berserkas watching were pleased favouritism had not been shown the human prisoner and now the human warriors waited with skulls upon their faces.

“Our fates are entwined, I will always love you as my Lord and Master, when you die and if it is from neglect from my side I must fall upon my copper sword.”

Now Mungo replied, “I give you freedom from hate; go save yourself from me Malachi.”

“I am brave and fearless,” the lizard prisoner which reminded Malachi they were of the same blood.

“Won’t save you friend, I am outlaw,” and Malachi shoved him forward so he fell and looked up hearing a lion growl but saw the man thing Mungo on all fours coming at him.

A warrior was the lizard and he tried to rise, but his hands were tied behind his back.

This was an execution for Leah.

And why Mungo tore out his throat lion fashion and ate his liver and the human warriors watching were satisfied favouritism was not shown the Fermanian.

“Outlaws they be,” the mazarrats sang as to why Malachi did what he did, “Mungo commits murder,” became their song for Mungo.

“He is forsaken by the unnamed Unseen One he danced too,” The Elder added sadly.

287

Mungo

