

“There was a man lion thing Mungo who took into battle a glass casket in which the Incorruptible One lay.

And she no longer spoke for she was not with the computer at the castle for Mungo had stolen her.

It is written in the papyrus books that the Wild One will give rest to the oracle of the Unknown One, and this Mungo fulfilled.

He also deprived Peelock of his source of knowledge for now that evil must rely on darkness to advance his cause,” The Elder who instructed the young of his kind.

And he drew a halo above his incorruptible drawing but nothing above Mungo’s picture.

And this is how he stole her, “You are risen from the dead Peelock but I am not afraid,” Mungo as he rode Ono with lions and Malachi into Red Tower in Lamb Month.

And Peelock raised two vials, “Here is death and hope,” and laughed knowing one was mustard fever and one cure.

And Mungo urged Ono to leap upon Peelock but Ono fell short because of Mungo’s weight and Peelock fled terrified.

“Let him go for he has left his door open,” Malachi and it was bad advice for none understood what the vials contained, only the dying in Red Town.

Mungo

So it was then that Mungo upon the black lion entered Peelock's castle and went into the vaults and found the computer.

Now machines meant nothing to him for he understood them not, but the perfect woman lying still he had too own.

He was like a monkey always stealing from others things it did not understand.

"Malachi was his friend," the computer said and Malachi gaped, "what hell have I entered?"

And the computer displayed a bomb on its screen and Malachi understood what was offered.

"No, he screamed and hit the computer with a sword but dented it not.

"Malachi understands what I have to give you Mungo," the incorruptible opening her brown eyes and Mungo raised his sword.

"You cannot kill me and I have waited ten thousand years for you."

"You are dead and I was not a cub that long ago liar," Mungo shouted and brought down his sword.

And dented the casings not.

Then CS gas escaped from the computer and covered Malachi and Mungo and the lions that waited patiently.

"I am blind," Mungo shouted and slashed the glass cabinet the holy one lay inside. And an aesthetic spray covered the intruders freezing their limbs.

Mungo

“Am I to be eaten now?” Mungo grunted through numbing lips and the Incorruptible One laughed at his innocence or rather stupidity.

“I will give you the weapon to win the war with the Fermanians and Malachi do not forget, Malachi was his friend.”

“Dam holy bitch, does she expect me to exterminate my own?”

“But you already kill lizards Malachi of no nation,” and he felt a traitor, “Your love for The Wild One binds you to fate and I am fate. Be of good cheer brave lizard warrior, the doomsday bomb will not kill all your people, only Carman’s armies at Nodegamma.”

And Malachi knew it well, a dusty infertile valley with a village of that name, goat herders lived there.

Here the armies of darkness will gather for the final showdown.

Here Mungo will stand with his friends and here fate will triumph and alone Malachi will stand beside his friend.”

Then she fell asleep.

“We will take her with us,” Mungo mused and Malachi, “Did you not hear her, alone alone alone, just good stupid loyal friend Malachi again.”

And Mungo hugged him.

“Dam you Mungo for there is no escape for me but death.”

Mungo

“Malachi was his friend,” a mazarrat sang in the corridors and Malachi said, “The joke is that she will be with us at Nodegamma,” Malachi rubbing his awoken limbs, “I am cold, let’s hurry and get out of here Mungo.”

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“When will you kill Red Hide?” Sasha asked suckling a cub.

And the shuttle genes had done a good job for the cub looked more human than lion. The cub would have the strength and speed of a hunting lion and the lethal intelligence of a human.

But Mungo ignored a thousand times, Red Hide was an ageing lion and could proclaim himself emperor and it would not affect Mungo, he would still be Mungo.

And Sasha rolled across to him and unstrapped buckles so that her ruby dress fell away.

“I cannot be bribed,” Mungo averting his gaze and felt light enter him for his mercy shown to Red Hide.

“I will see,” and Sasha went into her cave and took from it a stolen Fermanian chest of silks and returned to Mungo.

Now she was cunning and she danced making sure she was in his vision and slowly gyrated till all her silk had fallen aside.

Now the lion in Mungo could be bribed and he pounced upon her and they did frolic.

Mungo

And then Sasha pushed Mungo aside and he asked, “What now?” For he lusted for her.

“The broth of Red Hide, his marrow will foam and his sweetmeat I will give to the Fermanians,” and “Mungo’s word is never broken.” And he would flee but she held him and coiled about him so all her femininity enveloped.

And he promised and together they joyed and as soon as his lust left Mungo felt guilt go through him. He was to kill Red Hide, another murder.

And Sasha seeing Mungo holding his temples gathered up her ruby dress and silks, then the cubs and went to a stream to bath, happy she would be a queen like Carman.

“Where is the harpist?” Mungo yelled but Malachi was not there to answer.

And the dark voices plagued Mungo sore.

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“What is this drawing?” A young mazarrat asked The Elder.

“The killing of Red Hide.”

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And it came to pass that **a storm** crossed the red plains spitting green lighting.

And Red Hide afraid hid in a vacant Serrant borrow.

“Come out Red Hide it is Mungo come to kill you and claim my kingdom?”

“We will go first,” the three companions of Red Hide advised and he agreed from fear of the storm.

Mungo

Now Malachi had come with Mungo for he loved him and feared Mungo's moods could cause harm and he sat on a grass cutter ant nest six feet high, bow in his hand.

And green lighting struck brown dust.

And a black lion sped out of the burrow and Mungo sunk his spear in its neck cutting spine so it died.

Thunder rolled.

Then as he freed his spear a white lion hit him so he rolled and the last a red lion jumped out to land upon him also.

"Help," Malachi as green lighting hit the ant nest, "This is Sasha's greed. Help me unnamed God above," Malachi blaming his misfortune upon Sasha and calling for supernatural help.

And Mungo answered with a roar as he slit the white lion's belly and cut the nose off the red so both retreated from his anger.

And the night turned green with lighting.

"My little man lion is a good fighter, why do I worry," and Malachi relaxed his bow string and watched Mungo and the red lion swords both drawn.

And the lion jumped and Mungo parried and kicked the beast between the legs and then as the lion doubled, he stabbed its heart.

Thunder.

"Now I will reclaim my kingdom," and he entered the burrow and found Red Hide cowering from thunder claps.

Mungo

And ten minutes later he walked up to Malachi as the sky turned green and threw a red mane on the brown dust.

“King at last?” Malachi.

“Sasha is now queen.” And Mungo walked on, he didn’t feel a king, he had killed good fighting lions and would rather have killed dirty minded humans.

“And where did Mungo get the idea it was his kingdom? Was he born a prince? It was just imaginations put into words that became prophecies and Mungo believed”.
The Elder sang.



Illustration 27: King Red Hide

Mungo

Now Malachi was worried, Mungo had gone alone into the desert and no one knew if he carried provisions. Gone to where he had hidden the incorruptible, not even Malachi knew where that was.

“You may love me Malachi but you are still lizard,” Mungo had said before leaving and Malachi was hurt but understood. The holy bitch had given Mungo a weapon the lion man thing did not understand, and he was lizard after all and his race faced a disaster in The Wild One.

Why oh why did he have to be his friend?

And Mungo had rent his clothes and covered his head in brown dust.

“Malachi was his friend,” The Elder and Malachi angered with sword slew sixteen young mazarrat companions of The Elder, they who were learning how to prophecy.

“You may kill me but will you tell Mungo when he returns?” The Elder.

Malachi raised his word.

“There is no escaping fate for you or even me if you bring down your sword upon my skull Malachi.”

And Malachi snapped his copper weapon and cried.

“Go after him, you are the only one he trusts and take the harpist,” The Elder instructed.

And Malachi’s heart broke, everyone thought his little man lion thing was crazy but old Malachi knew better, all this killing would poison any wild beast and Mungo was beast.

Mungo

And as Malachi left John Wrexham gave the order to crucify the first lizard prisoners, “I must bring Mungo back, he can stop this,” and Malachi meant the crucifixions of six hundred lizard warriors who had surrendered to Mungo who said, “I am tired, John you deal with them,” and John hated lizard more than he hated Mungo.

“I only stay because I know Mungo will make things better after the judgement,” Malachi breaking a white cloud that filled his lungs with cold air that smelt of pine for he had taken the yellow flying machine, “Them scribes have brain washed me, I am only here because of Mungo, I couldn’t care about the others except for Ono.

Judgement judgement it can’t be right?”

So Malachi went and found Angus Ogg following Mungo’s trail.

“We both seek him?” Malachi.

Angus eyed the hunter sniffing the air with disgust at the strong lizard stink.

Why suddenly Malachi felt like killing him and Angus felt like killing him too.

“Drop the weapons,” it was Mungo.

He also held out both hands to each warrior and Malachi gripped first, then Angus who felt the lizard shouldn’t be included, he had scales and a hiss to his words didn’t he?

“Let’s go put my house in order,” and there was something different about Mungo, he was leaner.

But at that moment Abel and Eve the hunting lions of Artebrates landed upon Malachi and dragged him away.

Mungo

“Brother and sister what do you do?”

“Our fight is with Malachi who stole us from our mother,” the lions.

“Malachi is now Ono’s husband.”

“Waha our mother has a lizard man as husband, we are shamed by this.”

“Not so, Malachi is good for Ono,” Mungo but could not stop the lions slashing scales off Malachi before they ran into the jungle crying out their shame.

“I owe you a life,” Malachi.

“Again I say friend, I give you freedom from the Fermanian customs.”

“Malachi was his friend.”

“Did you hear that? Fate says otherwise,” Malachi.

Much later Angus Ogg would whisper to Mungo, “Why did you save him, he is only a lizard without a soul.” For humans believed how could a lizard have a soul?

In reply Mungo roared out his frustrations; Angus Ogg was appealing to his old prejudices on lizard folk.

And the first thing he did when he got back to the ranch was to free the remaining two hundred lizard prisoners waiting crucified.

“Go home,” he told them and they looked at him as if he was crazy which he was, “go home,” and slowly they left not believing luck for about them was four hundred of their kind crucified with carrion birds and bats already feasting.

“What happened in the wilderness?” Malachi asked of him.

Mungo

“I told that sleeping corpse I am not blowing up half our world and yes I will take you to her. She is dangerous and cannot be destroyed. I tried Malachi, dam it I tried.

I stuck my sword into her and she just healed again.

I even buried her and lights glowed over her grave to mark my murderous spot.

I and you Malachi must make sure John and Peelock never get her or the bomb, we must be her guardians.”

And Malachi felt a great weight lifted from him about his conscious playing on him that he was a traitor to his race.

“But isn’t right,” John Wrexham complained and Angus Ogg agreed and John didn’t stop him leading Lachie, Keira, Hamo and others to some phas and go skinning freed lizards; some lampshades and belts needed making.

He also found a severed red lion's head and stuck it up in his ranch as a trophy and told all humans he killed Red Hide.

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“Here my lion sons Malachi, one strong, a lion indeed,” and Malachi held up a brown cub at arms length and it licked his hands.

“It has your face,” he said and the cub peed on his chest.

“Also your forwardness,” and he put it down and picked up a white cub and it bit him for it knew it was safe as mother was near.

“The King,” Malachi and put it down and now Sasha came into the room behind the mud walls.

Mungo

“One day I will sit on Carman’s throne will I not Malachi?”

“Yes mistress,” Malachi replied for he saw Mungo as a king already whom he loved.

And Sasha beamed, she saw lions and mazarrats bowing to her as she passed; she could dream.

Cathbadh his diary

Cathbadh knew things had deteriorated between him and Carman and now planned a dynasty of his own. “I must make her womb swell with a descendant of King Sess and be rid of her son by Prince Annunaki, Hebat who is cruel and cunning.

The act of killing will be a joy for he is a monster.

And Nudd who is not a prince but her son with friend Artebrates who still does not declare civil war on Carman to rid us of her indecision over the human star ship; which she refuses to believe exists, her excuse not to make peace with the humans.

At least Artebrates takes me seriously about it now.

The star ship may get him to act at last?

Oh gentle Nudd who is full of a strange light and loves all things and treats human slaves as he treats himself.

I would give life but you are before my child with Carman who I call a royal harlot equal to Moragana the ape woman thing that the wicked Serrant has failed to silence.

