



Illustration 32: Triceps and Artebrates charge to war.

Mungo slouched on the red grass hill top looking down his valley. Behind him rolling to the great yellow river Yathan and the green grass was Red Town's grazing pha herds.

Lo a faint stink reached him on the warm breeze as well as fine slit.

"I have got to stop them doing that," Mungo referring to humans skinning Fermanian prisoners. This had to again stop or the Fermanians under Malachi would rebel and he didn't need what he danced to, to inspire him to think this way.

Mungo

The death of the prisoners was a bell ringing the end of Fermanian rule on this planet. Their numbers were dwindling; even the Berserkas under Malachi knew that and were nervous, hoping for a new life under Mungo's word.

And Mungo who had been given the land about him by John Wrexham *knew he owned nothing*. The land men thought they owned they held in trust from the great Unseen power that made the land.

And his belief in that was confirmed when in front of him, a yellow flower with a small bee on it.

"Such beauty I cannot make," and Mungo stood allowing his dusty brown leather kilt to drop and strode down the red valley taking care not to stand upon any flowers or insects.

He was in one of his close moods with the Unseen.

The Unseen that clothes all not by feathers or cotton but by spirit so Mungo was naked and unashamed and connected and joyed and leaped high and somersaulted and screeched strange words.

"Were creature," the humans whispered and were afraid of Mungo.

This was Mungo's land since John had made peace with Peelock and told the people Mungo must go or the plagues of Peelock would visit them.....*remember earlier their conversation!*

And the Incorruptible One no longer spoke to Mungo for he refused to use the bomb.

And Peelock had come to the ranch when he was known to be dead, so he was seen

Mungo

and the power of god of Red Town was seen....*they were human.*

That the real deliverer, The Wild One, Mungo was a deceiver, a fake.

In truth a tomato had genes causing decay removed so the tomato did not decay, and thus it had been done to Peelock, legacy of the computer so he would not decay when Mungo stabbed him and he had made his way to his castle *for repairs?*

Peelock was now an incorruptible by science not the Unseen, not by divine intervention.

And the humans had asked Mungo to leave and begged Peelock not to visit them with his plagues; which he did as a demonstration of course.

“I spit at your feet, don’t ask me back,” for Mungo wanted away to seek Leah not children who once sat at Mungo’s feet in hero worship but now threw pha dung clumps at him.

Mungo also saw pha riders ready to attack on John’s orders and Mungo wanted to fight, but his heart was with Leah and he did not want Malachi to fight either.

The humans had broken his heart, a heart that should have been strong with the dance of the Unseen.

And there were many flowers on the Red Plain grass, for this was Belenos Month and the year of the Red Lion.

Now suddenly a Fermanian warrior burst into view heading for Mungo who would give him sanctuary if he managed to cross the Red line, a boundary stream, red from iron oxides that separated Mungo’s domains from Peelock’s and John’s.

Mungo

And Mungo hoped the Fermanian would make it for hunting deinonychus were hissing coughing flowing from Peelock's lands.

And from a corpse of cherry trees in bloom reptilian eyes watched Mungo.

"My Lord Artebrates, it is Mungo, do we kill?" A seven foot long soldier with hollow bones.

Artebrates looked at Cathbadh's gene altered coelophysis, a dinosaur built for running on hind legs in its leather armour that was having difficulty standing still and he was disgusted at the parody before him. It reminded Artebrates from hence Fermanians sprung from, dinosaur eggs.

"Who told you you could eat and drink?" Artebrates and slapped the creature with his sword.

Apologetically the beast stuffed the chilli dusted fingers into its mouth and quickly swallowed.

And Artebrates eyed Mungo who had stridden four hundred yards and would be at his mud walled hut very soon. It wasn't the coelophysis fault it was fighting, it hadn't been asked to have its founder ancestor genes sliced so it could evolve a bit faster into a robotic soldier.

It was the Mighty One's Carman's fault in her ruthless efforts to find ways to exterminate humans.

"My Lord, Mungo will cast the lance at the warrior, do we kill him now?" The coelophysis soldier asked.

Mungo

But Artebrates wanted to see what Mungo would do? Would he kill the Fermanian or help it cross the red line he had heard so much about from Vinki.

“The mazarrats been at work here,” he meaning singing about Mungo’s good friend Malachi and Mungo’s love for lizards.

And the soldier coelophysis looked about for invisible mazarrats, oh yes they were there all right, just somewhere close as usual!

And the Fermanian didn’t make the stream as the first deinonychus clawed him.

The throw of Mungo’s lance had been too late.

Then Peelock’s hunters riding pha emerged and one dangled a rope about the Fermanians right ankle and rode away with the herd of deinonychus following.

Why Mungo walked back to his mud walled hut.

Artebrates sighed, the mazarrats had been right.

“Fire the signal,” Artebrates ordered.

And a woman with human anatomy saluted and was followed by the coelophysis out of the cherry corpse and she fired a flaming arrow into the yellow sky and at once Carnyx horns sounded with metal tubes and gongs, cymbals and horns.

Mungo looked about himself.

His eyes followed the smoke across the yellow to the bow, “Leah?” He asked of the woman for he could see long blond hair flowing from under her bronze helmet.

And the woman had vision as good as eagles so read his lips and hissed.

Mungo

And Mungo saw armoured Triceratops pour down his red grass from the hills into the green valley of Peelock's.

“Artebrates again,” Mungo seeing this lord appear now.

In answer a flaming arrow thudded next to Mungo's feet.

And the firer hissed and allowed her forked purple tongue to scent wind directions for a better aim.

And Mungo retreated into his mud bricked house to his weapons and cover.

And the female archer wondered why this naked savage was feared and a faint memory rush of her lying in the grass with this savage and she was slightly confused for the woman felt aroused and did not like the memory.

And she forced herself to show her fangs and drop venom onto an arrow tip.

And Mungo appeared holding sword and was calling, “Leah.”

And the sound of bow string twanging as an arrow streaked for Mungo.

And sunk into his left ankle and burned for the venom was fresh and wet.

What else could Mungo do but yank the shaft out.

“Why Leah?” He asked and then held up his hands to stop Lord Artebrates war club descending on his head.

And as the venom clouded his mind he was aware of lions roaring and Ono coming to his aid.

Mungo

Now Artebrates had been released by Peelock from pressure from Vinki who was under pressure from Carman. This is why Lord Artebrates was back, not breaking the peace treaty with Peelock but with John Wrexham.

Now we all know Vinki wanted Artebrates dead but Vinki did not want to lead the army so was glad Artebrates was on the field, which left Telephassa in his greedy hands.

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Mungo had left the ranch easily because his heart was sickening for Leah.

And he had asked Malachi to stay and protect the Fermanian Berserkas there for he knew John wanted to skin them all and make belts out of them.

Also Malachi could tell Mungo what events occurred on the ranch, but the Berserkas were not as numerous these days as the humans, so were at the mercy of John. And many were skinned on this and that pretext, not executed as soldiers but killed in cruel thought up fashions to remind Malachi he was lizard, something that needed to bask on a rock to warm itself before it could move.

And Malachi knew this was true, the great weakness of his race, that they did become sluggish when the day cooled.

And wished he was human and able to fight even in the cold rain and freezing nights. To run fast and not be lumbered by heavy scales.

Mungo

And the thought weakened him and made him drink so he was glad to see lizard's skins waiting tanning for his race of reptiles deserved their fate; they were lizards that needed to bask under the sun.

A backward evolutionary species that was dying out to make way for the mammalian humans whom fate had favoured.

"Take me next so I may be away from this misery," Malachi.

And mazarrats heard and sang.

"Where is Mungo? His friend Malachi needs a harpist."

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And Mungo was hit from behind by a club from a Fermanian officer, and then the reptile's yellow tail lifted Mungo for the downward sweep of Lord Artebrates club.

"Hiss," the female archer for she was dumb and saw Mungo's head clearly as his bronze helmet fell away.

And thought Mungo beautiful and understood why he was a hero and said, "His hair is his strength."

Also hissing, "Your beauty captured my heart and gave me misery," and implanted fake memories where of Mungo whipping her before he raped flooded into her mind put there by Cathbadh.

She must kill Mungo.

"Hiss, you must die for the freedom of Conn.

Mungo

Hiss, if Mungo had been a Fermanian he would have been declared a god after his death and his statue joined the heroes of her race in the Hall of Fame.

Hiss, I am Fermanian not human.”

And a distant emotion called love saddened her as she saw the club strike Mungo’s skull.

Now Lord Artebrates lifted his club again but Ono bit it in half then tore the neck of the Triceratops apart so it sank to its knees with Artebrates also.

Now Malachi broke away from the humans and with Berserkas ran to save Mungo his friend.

“Come back Malachi,” the humans wanting him and his remaining Berserkas to fight and die for them.

“I am his friend,” mazarrats replied as Malachi and his men attacked those about Mungo.

Now he killed many and the last he killed was a coelophysid that fell upon him so he fell backwards on top of Mungo.

“They are dead, we have nothing to fight for now,” the friends of Mungo and Malachi shouted.

“They are dead?” Mazarrats alarmed.

“Is Mungo dead at last?” Peelock deliriously happy.

Now he was safe for his followers were armed with new laser weapons and a robotic spy falcon sat next to Peelock, all from Vinki for payment for sweetmeats.

Mungo

But his happiness went for the Fermanians were attacking his gates using human slaves as shield and they had charges hanging from poles to blow the gates.

“I am betrayed, today I am lizard food, men light the fuses,” and Peelock ordered bags of black powder thrown upon the human slaves so they died.

Anyway: Mungo’s friends took guns and beat back the lizard enemy and closed the gates belonging to a low mud wall about Mungo’s mud house.

And Lord Artebrates seeing Mungo dead took a knife to scalp him.

But the fates of Planet New Uranus intervened for Artebrates was shot by a friend of Mungo. And Artebrates was shielded by his shield bearers who many now fell dead as they carried their Lord over the small mud walls to safety.

“I have done my duty well, I will be in paradise this day,” a shield bearer just before three coelophysis walked over him, then twenty retreating Fermanian in heavy brass plated armour.

But he died happy as his liver ruptured from the weights on him.

And a reptilian fired back a gun at the walls at Mungo’s friends.

They had guns too, Peelock traded in all things.

“Hiss,” the female archer who felt pleasure that her Lord Artebrates had not struck Mungo again and immediately became confused, enough so she mounted her own Triceratops and rode away to the rear ranks where she knew Artebrates would be and that the Battle of Mungo’s Mud House was over.

Mungo

Compared Artebrates to Mungo and wished her lord dead and herself the commander of the Fermanian army.

She also found Lord Artebrates waving his house flag when it should have been The Mighty One's Carman's, so had committed treason.

Cathbadh

“The Legion senators declared for the bread rioters, they demand Artebrates be emperor.

Some shout for me, “Let Sess rule, give us Sess,” so I fear this crazy world and spend my time assuring Carman I am loyal, besides I have been ordered not to leave her castle so am prisoner.

Outwardly I obey but use secret tunnels to disobey, I must ingratiate myself with Captain Clinton and he is pleased with the maps I have sent him, for without maps an invader is lost.

In return he has granted me my wish of being governor of our lizard people and to keep them in order, thus I have saved my race and prospered..

A sort of go between.

Now a very bright light can be seen day and night, it is the star ship coming closer, but Carman believes it is Fermanian so her cruelty to humans increases.

“Of course it is dear,” I lie and croon lover's words to her, Captain Clinton will know what to do with her and Lord Artebrates.

I could do with a nice shiny new belt and shoes!

