

And time stops still for no one not even for Cathbadh nor the hippopotamuses in the yellow river Yathan.

“Eeewawa,” Cathbadh screamed opening a secret tunnel under a memorial stone that would lead him to Carman.

“Die cousin,” a Serrant hissed and lunged with its mouth to rip Cathbadh's throat.

“Die yourself cousin,” Cathbadh replied as he raised his left arm to take the force of the serrant's teeth.

And did not grunt for his first scream was a summons for help but who would hear him amongst the graves of the ancestors of Telephassa?

“Yeah,” the Serrant moaned as Cathbadh's right hand stuck a two foot long bayonet into the serrant's belly and twisted. “Let me live and I will tell you who sent me?” The Serrant pleaded.

Now Cathbadh was not known for his viciousness and did not pull out his dagger that was twisted around innards that would follow.

“Vinki the woman and don't kill me for even Mungo spared me cousin,” the Serrant moaned and Cathbadh threw the beast away from him.

“You met Mungo?”

“He is my friend and the lover of Moragana the woman ape thing and she can lay a trap for him so spare me cousin?”

Mungo

Now Cathbadh picked up the serrant's gall bladder that had hung out and plucked and ate it.

"Wah don't eat any more of me please," the Serrant begged.

"You and Moragana will lay a trap for Mungo," Cathbadh and stuck the dagger into the jaw of the Serrant and took him back to his house.

And the Serrant was afraid it was too be cooked and eaten in sweet sauces.

"I am a master surgeon who taught the hunchback everything he knows, and when I give Mungo to Artebrates, Carman will reward me by giving me Vinki, that girl who wears pink frillies and I will slay him, and I have never known a Serrant to die from losing its gall bladder."

"Wah I will obey Cathbadh and capture Mungo for him," the Serrant.

And Cathbadh only stuck the Serrant together with sticky tape to ensure it would obey.

And the Serrant saw and was wrath.

"Why should I help you, at a moment all of me will gush out, why have you done this too me?"

"For insurance that the naughty Serrant does what it is told," Cathbadh who was indeed a true Fermanian, cruel and wicked. "Woooah you moaning beastie I have told Carmen I know you and that ape can bring me Mungo? See cousin reptile," and Cathbadh pulled some of the silver tape away so things behind threatened to tumble out, "bring that harlot Moragana here."

“First I must find her,” the reply.

“I have to the end of time, go now,” and Cathbadh knew that time was near for he often cast out his mind and saw Captain John Clinton on a star ship in suspended sleep as his ship a sphere within a rotating sphere to keep the gravity within the inner sphere at Earth g approach Experimental Planet 16A.

“”Even in her bed I cannot convince the woman a human star ship is coming and that all Fermanian cities must unite to meet the threat. There is only one solution; Artebrates must join Prince Annunaki’s sympathisers.

And then who knows a relation of King Sess may be found and made Emperor?”

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And time stops for no one under the red moon as water boatmen skate ponds teeming with mosquito larvae and beside such a pool sat Angus Ogg smeared in berry juice.

“Old Peelock do turned Angus Nero my cousin into something nasty? He lies at the bottom of his cage a dried toad.”

And Angus remembered Nero being cut about his skin and a strange smelling gel rubbed into the wounds, and during the summer he became a toad and knew not a shuttle virus had carried amphibian genes into his cousin to take root and grow.

“Feed well on flies Angus Nero who defied me,” Peelock to The People and Nero starved for he refused insects and cried, “I am not of The People who are no longer human. I am human and believe in The Wild One and a God with no name too.”



Illustration 15: Angus Ogg at the pool

“We have the red god,” The People but it was clear The People were not all behind Peelock who ruled with terror and employed mind control teachings.

“The Temple and Peelock get a tenth each out of us,” a common complaint for not all obeyed for they were human.

“I was wanted by Peelock and so gave him my land,” a warrior before sent into battle against Fermanians and had his bronze helmet opened by laser fire.

And Peelock divided the spoils with his loyalist warriors who were not much better than he.

Mungo

For there were some with consciousness like Angus Ogg who joined Mungo that night and there was John Wrexham who lived outside the walls of Peelock's Red Town.

And he read much and headed the Pioneer Settlement Association and knew of Mungo of the Lions.

"The spy says you are too late to save the girl Wendy," the man Cameron Black riding a Pha antelope told John.

And the man was dressed in reptile skins instead of furs and clothes for riding long distances on the range.

"We will show not all follow Peelock," John replied and mounted his Pha and led one hundred men who called themselves Freemen to Red Town where Peelock lived.

Anyway: Yathan Bend Crossing.

"John, lizard men," Cameron Black warned and John gave the signal to dismount and went ahead with an escort to investigate and saw a human with lions and a girl he swore was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen, ever.

"Who the hell rides lions?" But knew the answer so stood up.

"John are you trying to get killed?" Cameron Black asked following suit.

And a growl from the naked human greeted them and they saw lions circle and a large lizard hunter stand protectively in front of the human.

"Malachi was his friend," a mazarrat sang nearby.

John Wrexham grunted and walked purposefully up to the lizard that held a laser rifle to his belly.

Mungo

And Malachi slowly returned the smile thinking the man brave but definitely loose in the brain.

“Mungo I presume,” and John held out a hand and Mungo sniffed it.

“Excuse me,” Malachi to Mungo as he shook the hand and when finished Mungo shook it too.

“Yep, there sure was as hell plenty wild stuff in you,” John told Mungo.

Malachi groaned, this new human was as crazy as Mungo.

Now the hidden one hundred human riders seeing the lions circle John came riding hard in.

And Mungo roared and John shouted for his men to stop and Malachi shouted at the lizard Berserkas to form a wall.

And out of the confusion came order with both sides facing each other eager to kill.

“You are like Moragana the ape,” Mungo said to John.

“I am called John, and we are on the same side and where the hell did those armed mazarrats go?” He rubbing his throat staring at the bushes.

“I could ask the pha my cousin what they are doing with men things?” Malachi.

John grinned, “For a lizard I could get too like you?”

Malachi laughed, “For an ape that walks I could like you.”

At this moment The Elder appeared having wisely hidden in a badger’s burrow during the fracas. Fortunately for him the burrow was vacant.

“By gad its Moragana the ape,” John Wrexham gasped.

Mungo

“Where?” The Elder.

And John Wrexham got the feeling he was an alien on his own planet and that *mazarrats had been hiding something from him?*

Now Mungo again was given the opportunity to show his greatness for out of the dark came again the killer of killers and it stood no chance against all these armed beings but it was arrogant and the hundred charging pha had scared game off.

It could have waited, the game would have returned in an hour or so.

And Mungo took a lance and ran forward confident in killing one in the past he could kill another.

“Dam man thing,” Malachi spat following him trying hard to fix a three foot long poisoned arrow to his bow.

And The Elder stood waving his staff.

“I isn’t seen no mazarrat like that one boss?” Cameron Black looking back.

And John swore it was waving a bone necklace, so shook his head and said, “Let’s go boys,” mounting and the killer of killers seeing all this coming stopped, then focused on The Elder who froze and nervously peed.

He was only a little mazarrat, a tasty snack but easy to gobble up.

And Mungo drove the sixteen foot lance deep into the killer’s heart and the beast roared and Mungo somersaulted away on a broken lance.

Then Malachi sent the arrow near the lance so that feathers showed.

And the killer of killers fell down dead.

Mungo

John whistled, Cameron Black gasped, and the Berserkas had expressions of, “we could have told you so.”

The Elder nervously winded relaxing.

“Mungo you OK?” Malachi finding him in a rhododendron tree hanging upside down.

And Mungo dropped and then roared and danced under the red moon and John and the others stood bewildered by Mungo who ended up roaring on the tyrannosaur’s back.

“He is an evil man, I can tell you things about him no one else knows,” and John turned to look into the beautiful poisonous face of Nannaha.

“Why does Mungo order Aralwan Giant and his friend Lugh to beat Nannaha?”

John wondered why anyone could treat a lizard woman as good looking as this like that.

“Don’t listen to Nannaha, she is Lord Artebrates First Comforter,” Leah said and John whistled over this new beauty.

“Do all belong to Mungo as booty or something?” John asked and tried unleashing Nannaha thinking this was no way to treat a noble’s woman, especially Artebrates.

And Leah stopped his hand and John finally noticed soft scales under her skin.

“You are a lizard female?”

“So?” Leah.

And Nannaha kicked out at Leah and missed by a foot and John realised she had been affected by river blindness.

Mungo

“We got medicines,” he said and out of the corner of his eye saw The Elder scratching something on a termite block turned into rock by wind, bird pooh, rain, dust and green lighting.

“Grubbing for termites,” John dismissing the idea mazarrats had enough thinking power to write.

Many humans couldn't read or write.

Peelock only taught his followers.

So John never went and saw The Elder carve Mungo killing a killer of killers.

John Wrexham had human prejudices so never saw the work of art.

*

And a mazarrat sang from dark rhododendron trees and was copied by his kind, “Peelock sells humans to the Fermanians,” and Mungo heard.

And a lone warrior neared Mungo who rode Sasha and shouted, “I am Cadfael, let me join you John Wrexham?”

And the ex warrior of Peelock was told that human thing on the white lion was Mungo.

“I am delivered,” Cadfael gripping his bronze spear tighter and followed. He also told all he had seen concerning Wonder Lord Vinki.

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So it was then a puzzled John Wrexham rode into Red Town and again The People came into the streets.

Mungo

And were amazed and frightened, hoping to see excitement for lions and lizard men accompanied John.

Mungo was also amazed for he had never seen a human town so sprawling and as large as Telephassa City. “If men build like lizards why are they slaves?” he asked.

“Because they feel secure when others tell them how to live,” Malachi also amazed for although he had eaten Red Town citizens he had never visited.

And The People knew of John for he survived assassinations opposing Peelock the Astronomer. And The People gazed upon a man thing sitting upon Sasha’s white back as she ran with Carman’s red velvet dress open revealing brass armour plates and sheathed weapons underneath.

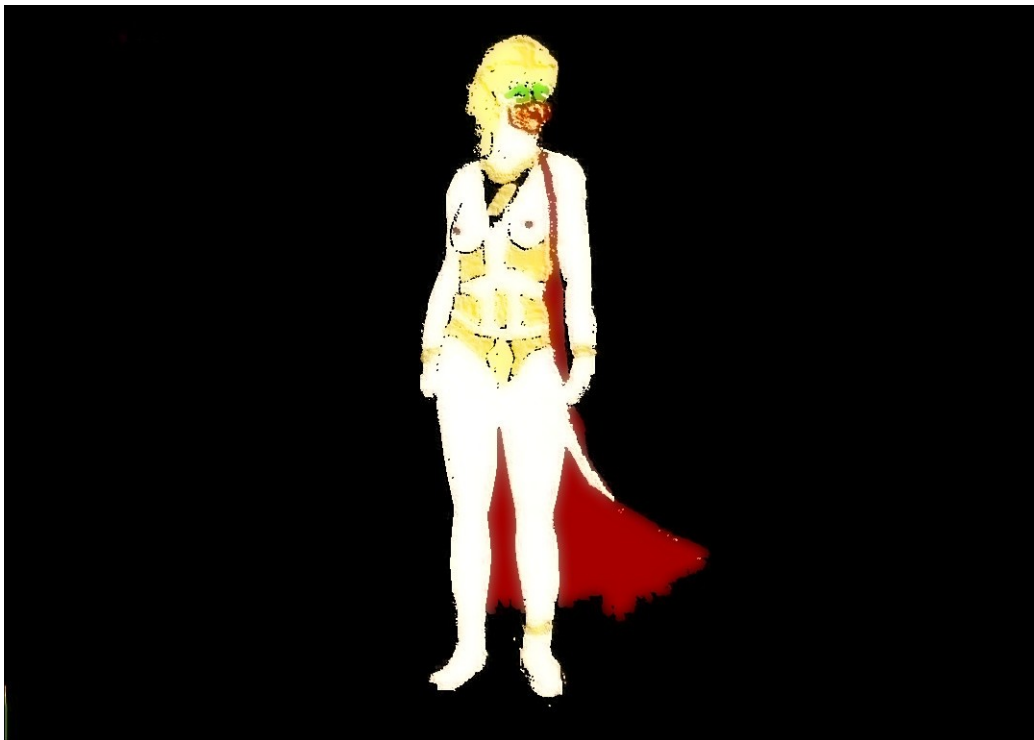


Illustration 16: Sasha daughter of Red Hide

Mungo

“He is Mungo,” Peelock for all when they eventually met.

“I have brought you something back,” Mungo and dismounted and took the back of a pha fur and opened so the burnt body of Wendy was seen by all.

“I am ashamed to be a man thing,” Mungo and then drew in the sand.

“What did he say?”

“Quiet I can’t hear.”

“What did he draw on the sand?”

But Peelock saw.

“A picture of a man riding a lion, what does it mean?” Peelock crossing his arms annoyed that Mungo had rode into Red Town displaying obvious threat.

“It means he’s The Wild One,” John loudly and at once electric anticipation flowed through The People.

“We are all the oppressed and yet you do worse things to each other than the Fermanians would do you, why cannot you love one another than burn and mutilate each neighbour?” Mungo asked relaxed.

“We do, why everyone here loves me Mungo,” Peelock boasted and trapped himself.

For a tramp in a cardboard box called, “I saw Peelock give humans to Lord Vinki who dinned in his castle on human sweetmeat.”

And the shadows of warriors drew close and Mungo growled with the loins and the pha whistled after their kind nervously.

Mungo

“Is it bloodshed you want Peelock?” Mungo smelling Peelock’s men and suddenly a flint dagger pressed into Peelock who could not withdraw for Mungo held his head down.

“Kill me and you won’t live,” Peelock warned.

“It’s a good night to die,” Mungo and cut Peelock a little so he bled.

“You are insane, let us rule together,” Peelock begged.

“I don’t want to rule and I know I don’t like you so tell your men to sit down,” Mungo ordered and Peelock feeling his blood soaking his under shorts obeyed.

“Take their weapons,” John barked and men things and lizard men obeyed but some isolated fighting broke out.

When it went quiet the armed mazarrats vanished.

“Was that a mazarrat holding a dagger?” Someone asked disbelievingly.

“Not all love Peelock but their own hides,” Mungo hissed sliding his blade two inches further into Peelock.

Who felt something throbbing, then it was cut and he quickly went faint.

As Mungo said, “It is a good night to die.”

Poor Peelock wanted home to his robotics.

“Go back to your barracks and await commands,” Angus Ogg shouted and men did not wanting the humiliation to be disarmed by lizard men and strangers.

Then Mungo did to Peelock what Peelock did to chickens, so the man staggered to his castle.

Mungo

“John is astronomer now, and no more killing each other like you did to Wendy,”

Mungo roared.

And he walked up to a fat woman plucking a chicken for supper and Mungo took the carcase and threw it to Sasha who ate it.

Lesson learned upon the crowd who was Boss.

“What about us?” The fat woman asked and she wore a multicoloured robe.

“Peelock’s missionaries are disbanded,” John and pushed past Mungo and digging angry fingers into the fat woman who hated him anyway said, “To the victor belong the spoils.”

So she saw an end to her looting bullying ways as she sat in the front row on the Yathan River watching Peelock’s enemies drown.

And always kept knitting scarf’s and the such.

And a young girl who had spoken earlier said to her friend, “I won’t have to go to Peelock’s any more,” and her friend cried with relief as they remembered Wendy.

“We must go to Hurreva,” Mungo resting a hand upon Malachi’s shoulder and Malachi looked close at Mungo wishing he had never met him for he was trouble just as The Wild One is supposed to be.

But in the meantime they followed Peelock into his castle and to the inner chamber where the Incorruptible One lay.

An easy trail to follow for Mungo knew how to work a knife?

Mungo

"The end of time is upon us," Malachi coughed seeing the Incorruptible One. And robotic women had slid Peelock into a tube that sent shiny probes into his bodies secrets. Also a shatter proof glass shutter slid down to separate the intruders from what happened next.

"Wheel the cage to me," a metallic voice ordered the two women and they took from an adjoining room a caged naked man and the rooms were set at body temperature.

"Put the cage in the slots in the floor," the computer and the women obeyed and stood back.

"Let me out, the man screamed as metal hands came from the computer operating on Peelock and seized him.

And made him ready for transplant for Peelock's liver was ruptured and they took out the man's parts for future needs and a hole appeared below the cage and the corpse fell through to Peelock's pet killer of killers that ate.

It needed fed too.

And because Peelock's walls had an inner chamber containing a duplicate atmosphere all sounds and radio waves were ducted back to their source and thus sound proof; so none heard Mungo scream, "Is the world full of evil only?"

And not once did the two females speak for they feared the machine god they could not understand and knew Peelock a wizard could turn them into toads like Angus Nero.

Mungo

And about themselves vials full of mutated versions of the shuttle virus vehicle the soil bacterium *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* that put its own genes into a host and what ever Peelock wanted carried.

On a microscopic level of course.

And the computer inserted Rec A that spliced and cut DNA fragments to rebuild chromosomes damaged by radiation leaking from the damaged fast reactors outside Red Town.

And wrapped Peelock up in argiaes the silver dressing that kills bugs that antibiotics can't.

And John Wrexham took pity upon Nannaha giving medicine that stopped the river Blindness and killed the parasitic worm causing it.

"We want to wash for we are women," Leah also and Wrexham sent an escort with them to fresh water and they bathed and washed their clothes.

And only The Elder dull of misgivings saw John and Cameron Black ride out.

"They are beaus," Cameron to John not believing lizard women could be desirable.

"Yes, they sure as hell aren't described like that in folklore," John answered.

"No, things big and fat with fangs hanging from purple rubbery lips and udders dripping kids," Cameron.

John nodded; he needed a stiff drink like men did when their world went crazy.

Mungo

“I work hard and play hard,” he to Cameron on the way back, “I also think I am a fair man, never hurt no kid and treat no woman kind unfairly,” and remembered what he had seen bathing and was stirred and now coveted Nannaha and Leah.

They weren't human so came
under a different set of rules.

