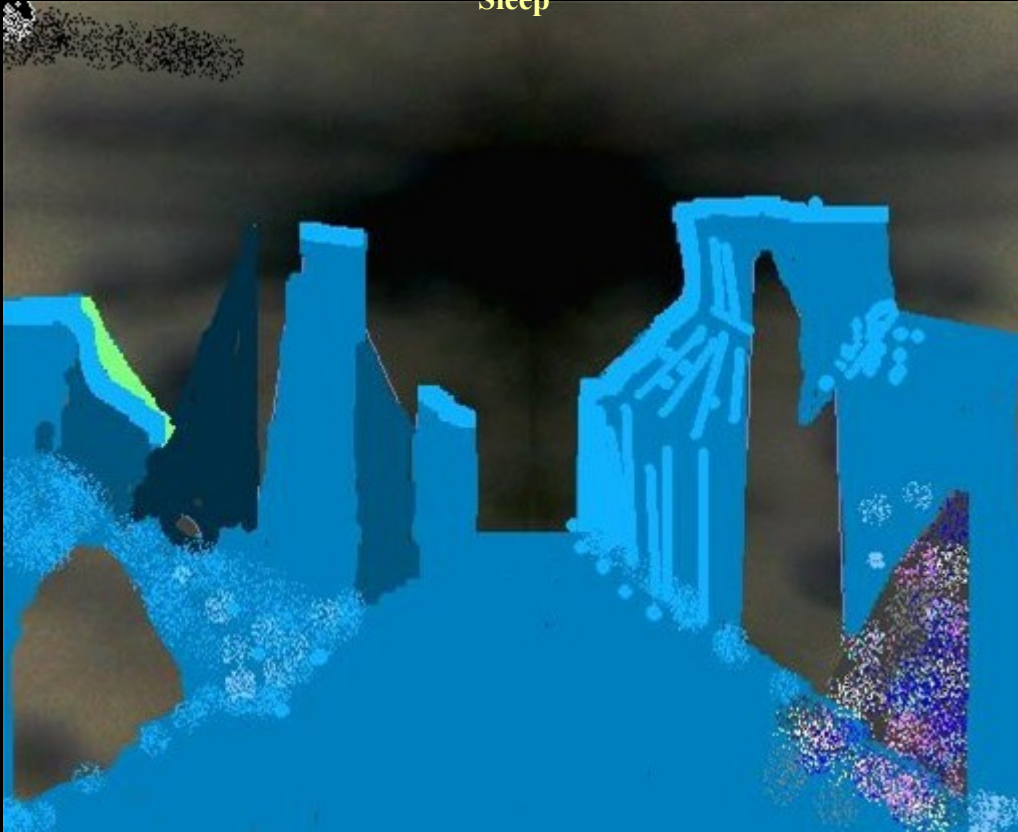


41  
**Oneghus  
Sleep**



Backdrop: Mountain valley and this brings us up to date as to why Zacross had won Icons forced admiration.

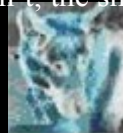
**SOUND**

Icon saw the ship approaching, unfortunately Zacross saw the worried look there.  
**Ever hear the wind whistle down a valley?**  
When poor Zacross got worried he did terrible windies that even poor Zacross could not stand.

And Oneghus stood at the viewing screen of S.S. Jewel of the Desert. Waiting for visual confirmation that the radar blips were Icon and companions.

Now Zacross saw the ship and saw Icon tensing, so Zacross stunk the air.

“Icon, it’s me,” it was the voice of Oneghus and Icon relaxed and Zacross howled excitedly. Poor Zacross had been eating rations and supplementing it with small rodents if you liked eating rat and Zacross didn’t; the small bones got stuck in odd



**Zacross howls**

Oneghus watched his ship anchor in the distance.

“WE have a lot to thank Mistress Oppo for,” Icon and saw those eagle eyes stare So thought, ‘Boss is getting talked about by a whole planet?’

And Oneghus being sensitive read it and winced.

Oppo had made sure Oneghus had enough of his drug to see him through this desert campaign against Sala. And what did that do for Oppo; it was a turn on to control Oneghus as he conquered a planet.

Now Oneghus signaled to advance and he led his soldiers forward and to Zacross, “Go ahead and kill any guards, Yaw go with Zacross,” nice and simple, Zacross could not fail to understand and Yaw being responsible would see to it.

And since Oppo had been mentioned an urge to visit her developed. He did not like it, Oppo he knew was trying to control him. Thanks to Oppo he was now an addict, a retarded soul on the ladder of progression: weak; heading for reincarnation to get it right next time around.

Why Oneghus spat in the dust determined not to see Oppo but Yokel when he returned to Hesse City. The good doctor usually was behind the many addictive drugs and he would bring Zacross along to give the doctor flying lessons to ensure co-operation.

Now Oneghus smiled and forgot the dual between lust and spirit, two minds opposed.

“Are you really sure you want rid of Oppo?” His lust asked confident it would win.

Anyway ahead Icon heard Zacross snort, damn if he could see in this dark and suddenly just like that Sala’s advance outpost was there.

He heard a metallic click and a torch beam swung near him and was blurred as

Zacross flew through it onto the sentry who found himself in a closing beak. When finished with this man Zacross discarded him and pecked his awakened companions.

Why Icon felt his innards shift over the noise and a desert scorpion ran down the outpost wall seeking more hygienic quarters. But one desert man jumped over the battlements to escape and landed heavily, rolling into a cacti impaling himself. He did not scream for fear of alerting Zacross so gingerly pulled his body off the thorns. And that is when Icon finished him with a silent hand held crossbow.

As the bolt thudded into the desert man he wished by winged Xon his god he had screamed and alerted other outposts.

But he hadn't and died.

Amen for secrecy.

And that's when Icon noticed Yaw had gone.

Zacross tapped Icon on a shoulder and Icon wished he hadn't, he did be bruised for a week now.

And an image of a big tent was sent to him by Zacross using his limited telepathic abilities. *"Icon wasn't the only one who picked up the image as Insect complained there was an animal trying to possess him,"* a whisper.

Needless to say Zacross did not identify and thought it ruddy good fun and Insect being a superstitious little man began to sweat it out.

"Bring Oneghus here," Icon told Zacross and soon Oneghus was beside him.

"Put these on," Oneghus handing Icon the smocks taken from Zacross's victims. They were greasy to touch, human fat wiped there from greasy meals.

Inside the tent Insect felt the animal trying to get inside his head again. Outside he heard people coming, well what else can we call desert men?

Insect heard a sack being ripped open. Now Oneghus had told Zacross not to eat humanoids, but a drunken Frie sleeping it off outside the tent had not been included in those orders.

Oneghus and Icon had see too much cruelty and been part of it to retch.

The tent flap opened and inside Insect saw two Frie and as the two approached seeing the tent empty of guards showed themselves.

Why Insect sighed with relief on the end of a chains he was dangling from dressed as a jester. At his feet bats and juggling apparatus that Insect had been a failure at and now he was a dinner.

Have you still Beetlenut?" Oneghus.

"Yes," and Insect grinned revenge.



**This is definitely not hilarious**

Keeping to the shadows they dodged sleeping Frie, it must have been some party. Most had fallen asleep after the orgy as they were too heavy with drink to seek modesty.

As Zacross went he pecked, Oneghus stabbed and Icon slit, reducing numbers. They were professional killers like the Romans millenniums before on Earth. The Frie were enemy, Oneghus was not a follower of The Sacred Command of the Universes, “Thou shalt not kill.”

*“At the exact time in moving space he was where he was supposed to be from the doors he had opened previously. If he did not kill his enemies other doors would open and he did be at the exact spot in time he was supposed to be in but with other doors too open and his enemies would kill him,”* a whisper called We.

At the end of a clearing they saw Estor tied up on a plate with fruits adorning him, a main course forgotten during the drunken orgy, never mind breakfast?

And a Bee Bear Chad and Cullen armed with a shield and club sat exhausted facing each other at the end of chains from fighting each other.

Chad baiting.

“I am not going to show mercy anymore,” Oneghus but Oneghus had forgotten what mercy was?

“Tell Beetlenut to work,” Oneghus in the shadows.

The little man opened the little box and spoke to the insect with his mind and it flew away.

The Beetlenut eventually flew into a tent.

So did a desert scorpion seeking a new home and since the tent was open and the night cold?

It stood like a man with sword in hand



But wobbled as it walked 1

As Cullen rubbed his freed ankles the Chadite whined.

Oneghus looked, their eyes met.

Without hesitation he walked towards it and freed it.

Icon drew his laser, desert folk were definitely not friendly, he had Zacross as a constant reminder of that.

“Oneghus,” the Chadite in a sing song voice.

Oneghus didn’t ask how it knew him.

The Chadite clenched its fists and beat its chest, it had just said thank you.

“Are you crazy? We are becoming a menagerie,” Icon seeing they were about to adopt a new family member into their close zoo.

“See many times ride white dog,” the Chadite standing, “old Zacross fly with monkey man on back, telling all desert creatures The Deliverer here.”

The Chadite towered above Oneghus, and taking Oneghus's right hand smelt it, then lifted Icon's hand to its yellow nose.

"We brothers, me help Oneghus," the Bee Bear animal said.

Oneghus started walking to the tent.

"Let me in first, the Beetlenut gets carried away," Insect whispered going in.

Icon shrugged, he was impervious to bloodshed, but these strange lowly creatures had intelligence, emotions, and it was shaking his roots to the core.

Insect returned and beckoned them in.

Six Frie lay dead in twisted positions as the Beetlenut's poison had frozen them in agony.

A scorpion crawled off one, the Beetlenut total was five.

Then Cullen entered, followed by Zacross then the Bee Bear creature.

At the back of the large tent, which was more a marquee in size, a veil and behind the veil Sala ordering Oasis to yield to him.

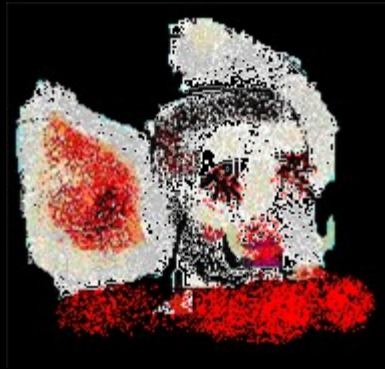
The Beetlenut crawled back into its box; the scorpion went into a ripped cushion.

Oneghus walked forward and slit the veil open with a sword.

Sala saw the elation in the eyes of Oasis and intuition dawned upon Sala so turning saw a glint of steel and felt himself painfully disemboweled.

Oneghus did not waste time, this was not film world; Sala's fingers could not hold back what was spilling out and looking at Oneghus fell to his knees.

Knowing the great strength of Sala Oneghus lifted the sword and cut the king's head off so it rolled into a dark corner, and as life faded from it, Sala's eyes watched a scorpion emerge from a cushion and crawl into a bowl of grapes. If only he could get up and move, but he had no body, then his mind zoomed down a dark tunnel to a light



at the end; he saw his parents and friends and a light, a presence come to watch him judge himself.

“Xon will forgive me for what I did; I killed in Xon’s name and ate in his name,” the mind of Sala shouted at the presence.

“Thou shalt not kill,” the presence smiled back, it was not here to condemn him, only to make sure Sala watched his life pass by.

Every thought, act and passion is recorded for we are spirit as the same spirit is found in cow, fox and scorpion.

Now the headless body of Sala with no direction like a headless chicken ran amuck and came to rest in a brazier spilling the hot coals amongst the cushions and silks.

“I am Sun Poon and I know who you are,” Sun Poon the Bee Bear as he held the tent flap open for them all to escape.

And as Oneghus turned back he saw a shadow disappear into the desert, Sun Poon was going home.

“Let’s go, Wong will never believe any of this,” Icon who followed Cullen carrying Oasis.

As the tent became Sala’s funeral pyre a scorpion left it too, its new home was getting too hot.

And if Oneghus knew Chadites better he would know it was not going home but



going to say goodbye to his people, for Sun Poon had found The Deliverer. Icon had been right, they were becoming a menagerie.

And as they escaped into the darkness sparks ignited other tents that exploded they so felt the ground underneath them shake.

Like a headless chicken Sala was



It was just a physical shell for the spirit had passed over  
The elephant man had a soul well well well!

### **Postscript Cernurex**

Wok had not forgotten about Cernurex whom he had locked in his special room. He cursed Oneghus for his troubles and wanted to assassinate him for he feared Oneghus's Justice. What right did Oneghus have to interfere with his pleasures; Cernurex was a slag, fit for his needs and he got a great deal of pleasure ending a young life just like that. Of course if Oneghus caught him he would be killed; bring back The Beast Wok sang in his heart.

Even Hagi might allow him to throw the unclean girl down Rad's Belly; but Oneghus, and Wok trembled.

And so did Cernurex who had been raped and beaten by Colonel Wok. What she did not understand was why he had gone to all this trouble when Madam Loo would have accommodated him with Cernurex for a handsome fee.

And Cernurex although not innocent in the ways of The Beast was a little afraid of the sprit of The Beast.