

Book One

Tiberius

Land of Snakes.....sunrise

Scenario....Planet Tagget, Tagget Canton



Illustration 1: A red sun rises over Taggetian blue grass.

King Hagar Lord of Snakes from his pink limestone veranda looked out over HIS City Canton of Tagget. Saw blue grass and grazing orange humpback herds. Beyond them orange desert with green basalt rock outcrops.

The canton was a thousand square miles and he was just a petty king.

Hagar saw the rolling irrigated red pepper and yellow rape flowered fields.

Hagar watched the human ship drop from the rich navy blue sky piercing white and yellow clouds as it headed towards his space port.

Hagar showed a rare smile, the green ship carried payment for raw heroin in modern weapons for his wars.

See he wanted to be the only king on Tagget; *it was his dream.*

Not only this planet, even now as the hot wind rustled his yellow printed flowered silken robe he saw beyond the deep blue.....the fringe of the universe.....and beyond.

Rich human worlds.

For their conquest he needed the High Priestess Ino declare Holy War against human off worlders.

The snakes of this planet would die for her sun creed. He knew how religious his black eyed snake people were, knew how to take advantage.

Hagar had an above average I.Q. for a Snake Lord.

Hagar Lord of Snakes wanted modern human televisions, swimming pools, air conditioners, cars, beautiful women and.....factories for his people to work in making Tagget a space power.

And he would own them all.

Behind Hagar city sounds and a green basalt table with cobra carved legs.

On it Earth magazines:

Space Play Boy.....Earth women were cheap.

Engineering Field.....He wanted dams.

Home Furniture.....Best of civilization.

Jane's Modern Fighting weapons..... Freaked him.

And younger brother Harkos Lord of East Field stood amongst the yellow rape flowers grateful the human Tiberius Grant had given them this plant.

It gave yellow oil, making life simpler cutting out lard for cooking that clung to your hands.

Harkos welcomed humans.

But.....admitted they needed controlled.

Harkos knew what had happened to worlds when humans arrived for in his rough brown jerkin pocket were:

Vol 1.....History of Human Expansion in sector 12A Space

And.....War North and South,

Human books giving insight into the human way.

Those worlds got raped and the survivors joined the Commonwealth through the ELECT.

Tagget would join on Taggetian terms.

Tagget could no longer remain in the dark ages, 200123 A.D. had arrived.

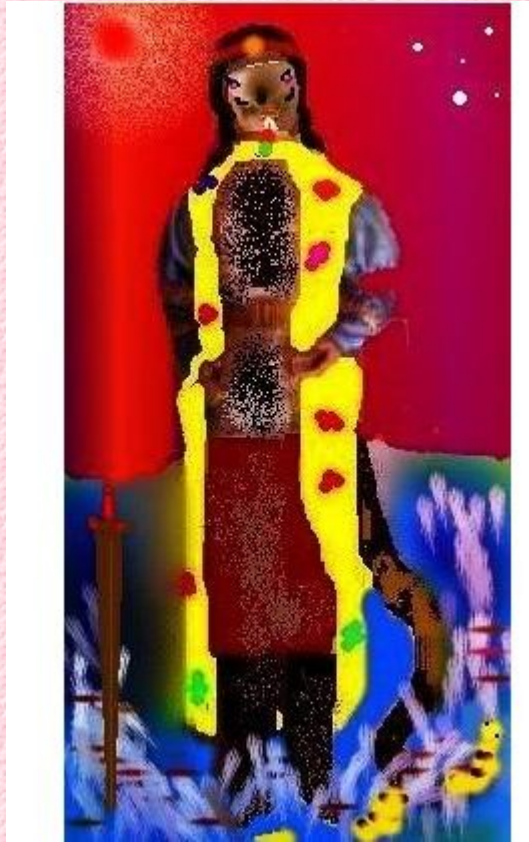


Illustration 2: "Hiss," went the snake, "I am Hagar, Lord of Snakes."

Although brothers, these snake aliens were opposites.

Hagar, cruelly crushed foes while Harkos stood in fields surrounded by....white butterflies.

Hagar crushed red caterpillars under his feet just because.....they were insects.

Harkos would put them on a white leaf.

Under the way most alien space followed, life was precious. You only took what you needed.

Hagar followed the way, the black side. That inner circle of a man's forces, Anno Annwn Cythrawl, the forces of chaos

Void, **thunder, rain, genetic strands.**

Abyss,

Darkness, although he didn't know it.

 If he did, he would flaunt it proudly for it made him strong,

brutal, **everything a Lord should be.**

bullying,

domineering.

 Harkos would reply that was one side of strength, the other was mercy,

 kindness.....**for that was true greatness**

 Love.

 Harkos stood for Anno Annwn Gwynfyd, the opposite circle of life creating energy.

 brilliance,

 color, life.

 Diversity.....he was just a gentle person.

 Brothers at odds mirroring the sun worship creed, that the solar deity the sun represents
God in the outer circle of energy outside the body, the

 Ceugant,

 INFINITY.

 There must be evil, there must be good or there would be no.....equilibrium.

 Then no balance, no life, just primeval gore waiting for infinite God, Ceugant to start
again.

Their mother had been a High Priestess to their Sun god Ceugant Dana, the visible face of god Ceugant.

And Dana, a pantheon of beings who were sinking to land deities. With faces and characteristics so the common folk could identify with.

Ceugant holy, Dana carnal, equilibrium.

And male Taggetians claimed descent from Dana through the male god Dis, their god of the Dead on their mother's side.

It gave them common unity in times of peril; like off worlder invasions.

And Harkos's mother gave birth first to Hagar as a result of the loud public mating ceremony, The Sun Ceugant Dana in their mother the High Priestess conjugating the King of Tagget then, who seen as the Brown Bull of Life, the rain for corn, he who had much fertile seed, then.....

Eaten him for there had been sore plague caused by the arrival of the first human miners and missionaries.....it was their way, their beliefs.

Boiling him in a copper cauldron and drinking the broth for he had been the ultimate sacrifice to bring fertility back to Tagget.

It didn't come, just more humans wanting land rights and the aliens of emperor Lobodicus raping, looting.

So now many didn't believe the royal sacrifice was necessary as Ceugant Dana was ill with diseases brought to him from off worlders.

He had pox.....the main modern scourge of Tagget and enemy of the way.

For the way was prolific and before the arrival of humans it was the way for free men and women to be with whom they choose.

Now people feared, none knew who had this human disease and the gene pool was affected, less babies meant less warriors.

And the survivors were at the fate of the gods that had let them down.

The way was in trouble.

And Hagar was glad, not that he would offer himself up as the ultimate sacrifice, but because chaos gave him excuses to war.

And the tie through his priestly mother gave Hagar claim to the ancient vacant Emerald Sun Throne of the whole planet.....*his dream again.*

Whoever sat upon the Emerald Throne in Turtle Canton Land could declare Holy War, expect help from every warrior and ruler, and start seriously thinking off world expansion.

But his mother also gave birth to a girl, Ino, as ruthless as Hagar and now High Priestess and at war with Hagar her brother.

For she followed the way and the ancient customs as she dreamed also.

*

Tagget always suffered minor civil wars, but each summer solace the rulers of the cantons met and swore alliance to either Hagar or Ino as the claimants to the Emerald Sun Throne.

An ancient ritual for once one did sit upon the throne of a united racea....four hundred years ago.

Whoever they swore to they gave a fifth of their troops, their annual payment to the claimant.

These troops would fight the major battles between Ino and Hagar and their rulers would return to their minor wars.

Tagget the Orange Planet was not at peace and it is a testament to man's strength of character that Tagget canton's fields remained untrampled by marching warriors.

Harkos Lord of East Field *and because he was gentle men said cruel things about him.*



Illustration 3: Ino knew how to wiggle her body even if she was a snake and could hiss!

And that the straw thatched roof orange and brick hovels of the poor were ablaze by war bands is a testament to one man's cruel selfish ambition.

Hagar Lord of Snakes *and none dared say cruel things about him.*

And Hagar left the balcony returning to sit upon his highly polished copper throne picking up the copper mace that was the invested law making power of the Emerald Sun Throne. The mace that belonged in Smet Village, Turtle Land, and the mace he stole from Ino.

With it he claimed right to make laws for the whole planet. Whether other canton rulers listened was something else....*he could dream.*

Yes as a dreamer Hagar tried to enforce his law, for on his yellow orange brick city walls under the white and yellow clouds were brown dried out remains of what Hagar caught,

pinned rulers

like butterflies on wooden boards.

One was a hundred years old.

Snakes lived long lives.....*it made for long dreams*

They didn't need human science for that.

Reptiles always outlived mammals.

It was the way.....*just look at turtles*

And Harkos hated these mummies who represented the dark things humans said about Tagget.....CHAOS.

Behold even now a child was pinned there; his father supported Ino not Hagar.

Alas alas his moans attracted passing humans, aliens and vultures like flies, except these flies had cameras and what they photographed went back home.

Red vultures feasting upon a child.

And a hundred feet away one blue butterfly sat upon a white petal in a veranda flower bed.

Yes Harkos knew Hagar was a fool, humans would bring an army here on pretext of stamping out these practices, and eventually.....the snake people.

*

In front of Hagar a grey marble table full of miniature chariots, warriors, cities with red dyed wool representing flames.....death, screams. Some smart alec had actually got smoke to rise from ruined buildings for realism! *It helped make the dream reality.*

His miniature model black tunic warriors everywhere.

Table legs carved as python mouths and so real they might bite!

And Hagar needed an end to Ino's war so his vast army of thirty thousand pinning her amongst her sacred rocks could be released.....to suppress all Tagget Planet.

It was a vast army as armies on the field depended on the agricultural calendar too stay marching.....*this snake had never seen a real human army, yet!*

If harvests failed because of war, warriors starved. (Most cantons fielded four thousand men.)

So canton rulers kept warriors home guarding cattle and ripe white Tagget maze.

It was only due to Harkos's love of growing things that enabled Hagar to field many warriors plus the annual levy at the Summer Solace.

And the rulers of the other cantons knew Hagar wanted their cities and them slain but hated each other so they could not unite against Hagar.

Except one man, the human Tiberius Grant whom Hagar hired to defeat Ino and later turned against him.

“Why?” Hagar asked.

“I am Tiberius Grant,” well, what did Hagar expect, this was a human!

*

And often Hagar Lord of Snakes upturned the table of war in hate frenzy.

Another human had arrived and Hagar feared Tiberius would unite with him.

He was The Medic who called himself Emperor Woo for he had taken the Emerald City in the Land of the Turtle as his own.

And Hagar had just finished ripping into shreds an imperial demand for acknowledgment of the supremacy of the Emerald Sun Throne over all cantons.

Hagar had also just finished a can of

7 UP.

Some things about Earth he liked, he dreamed of a fridge full of cold canned drinks. Hagar’s way.

“Mr. Woo you are too far in the west to bother me.” Hagar spat knowing time was running out if he could not defeat,

sister Ino, then eventually Emperor Woo would come when the threat of Emperor Lobodocus’s invasion passed.

And Hagar knew fear hating it.



Illustration 4: The butterfly said, "Come and have a picnic here!"

And had taken his frustration out on four score prisoners of Ino.....snake people as his own folk.

FOR HE WAS LORD OF SNAKES.

Had them cut open and dragged through the orange desert at the end of mighty humpbacks, (a beast like a hippo with the head of a bull).....so that their cuts widened and deepened

So their organs fell out.

It was Hagar's way.

The way of Anno Cythrawl, chaos.

“Brother, you will generate hate towards you and unite the enemy,” Harkos wept hearing what Hagar Lord of Snakes had done.

And the human General Tiberius Grant and friend Sergeant Dracon Polanski were revolted and joined Ino.

And that was the answer to

“Why?” When Hagar asked Tiberius why he left!

Above yellow and white clouds, below blue grass fields, Planet Tagget. A butterfly flew away from Harkos and sought a flower near an irrigation ditch. Harkos knew the value of pollination and the equilibrium of life.#

He often sat upon the blue grass the carpet of Anno Annwn Gwynfyd, the good side of life.

