

From History of Tiberius and Triad Faces of Tiberius.

Ino sat on her gray humpback looking across the orange desert while Morgan watched her men training sun warriors' modern warfare.

Morgan didn't like this, had spoken against Tiberius in front of Ino accusing him of giving away the secrets of human supremacy.

"Don't you trust me?" Ino.

And Morgan decided Ino was a megalomaniac.

Now Ino moved closer to Morgan and her sun warrior escort also advanced like scarlet sand crabs back on Morgan's adopted world of Zeus.

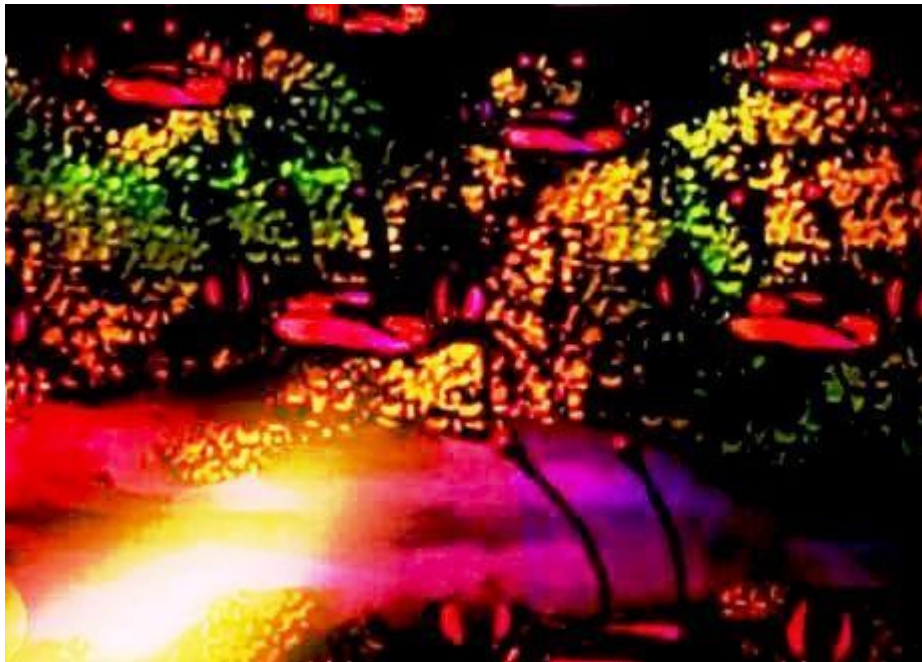


Illustration 81: Scarlet land crabs of Planet Zeus caught in a fisherman's light.

Then Ino asked Morgan to come alone to speak and Morgan fought down bile to do so. So stood alone while the sun warriors chafed at their dismissal, eager to show devotion, hoping a mercenary would step out of line so they could kill.

And an orange desert scorpion ran between the feet of the warriors. None moved, fear was alien to them, if one was bitten, so be it, and he died a sun warrior, afraid of nothing. And since mercenaries were watching them none crushed the insect with a foot just to prove a point.

That sun warriors were stupid arrogant folk .

It was also common knowledge amongst these brave men Ino dispensed favors to the bravest.

To lie with Ceugant Dana's chosen and perhaps provide an heir *was an honor to die for.*

That sun warriors were stupid arrogant folk

So left the scorpion alone.

And being an insect bite a heel.

And the man gritted his teeth looking towards Ino.

The tragedy was that Ino had her back to him and he fell dead on the scorpion flattening it which he should have done sooner!

And because the off worlders mercenaries had a good giggle the sun warriors wanted to kill them.

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"I am Ino."

Morgan, “So what?”

“When I was little I wanted to play with other children but the priestesses disapproved. Even my mother the High Priestess refused me although I saw in her eyes her struggle to allow this healthy past time.

But I was her daughter, special, favored by god the sun Ceugant Dana, *unique amongst women*,” Ino explained.



Illustration 82: A Snake Priestess, how could she hold so many?

And Morgan wondered where this soul letting was leading? Should she say nothing allowing this maniac to talk herself into an embarrassed lonely silence or each out and see what makes a High Priestess tick?

“I was allowed anything and as I grew older was segregated from men in case I fell pregnant and so ran away with a lover. It would have ruined my mother’s ambitions for me.....I was lonely, always my mother telling me I was next chosen one. They caught us and sacrificed him straight away to end the affair.

I envied ordinary priestesses who chose companions amongst sun warriors; often I saw their tummies swell.

Then I became High Priestess with the death of my mother and during the Sun Fertility Festival Hagar my brother was natural first choice; for my dead mother hoped for a dynasty and eventually a single powerful ruler on Tagget, *equal to Earth in power.*

So even in death my mother’s influence pushed me with my brother publicly. Hagar the ugly, a brute who was indeed a beast,” Ino hissed, “he was my second, and as High Priestess must come from virgin stock my mother saw to it that the witnesses to my first love were all sacrifices to Ceugant Dana, an honor not to be refused.

It was that or I die, led out into the desert and stripped to blister under the eight suns of Tagget.

Not even a passing humpback shepherd will dare help you, but encourage death by whipping.

Who wants you, you are now infertile, bad for the land, so the quicker you die the better for Tagget to make famine pass.

A good mother provides, none wants that fate for their daughter.

It is said some past High Priestesses gave their new babies away, others left out at night for scavengers to eat the evidence.

I am not the first chosen not to be virgin.”

And Morgan saw Ino as a lonely woman seeking friendship and was not suspicious and to take a chance and replied:

“When I was a kid I was allowed too much freedom. My adopted parents, dad a drunk and mum a whore and we lived on an ostrich farm on Zeus.”



Illustration 83: Zeus, Ostrich farm

“We are both lonely women; do not hate me for lying with the man Tiberius. Hagar is not a man, he only cares for himself,” Ino, “I like men, I am allowed to chose now

the chosen of god Ceugant Dana the sun. Tiberius is the dragon, he was considerate not like Hagar the Brute.”

“And Tiberius doesn’t care only for himself?” This was Morgan’s hurt; *she did not want to accept the way anymore. Humans were different from beasts and insects, coupling was not for survival of the gene pool but for love.*

She had read ancient books, knew of worlds where couples stayed partners for life, even if that was for a thousand years.

Was that boring, she and Tiberius were strong because they always came back to each other after a fling?

“He cares much for you,” Ino summoning Morgan to follow to an oasis where flowers bloomed and fruit trees offered avocado pink pears.

Morgan saw Priestesses entwined together.

Now it hit her, segregated from men, of course, not women.

So Ino led Morgan to a bunch of pink, red and blue flowers saying, “Here is Lady Spider, its venom is harmless but see how it keeps a harem of males in that silk basket it made.....it chooses one to mate and provide babies. It chooses the strongest by dropping food in the basket and the male survivor who has killed off the others for the food will be her choice.

See also Ino Lady Spider keeps the company of other females. Too help her rear her young and for friendship, love and companionship.”



Illustration 84: A spider's web doesn't let dinner go!

Now Morgan felt high and dizzy for the air was scented with natural drugs oozing out of the flowers and allowed Ino to seat her on a cushioned copper couch. She didn't want this, struggled to get up but Ino pushed her back.

"Tiberius help," Morgan groaned and felt Ino unstrap her body armor.

"I hated it with Hagar, it was public," Ino crooned victory.

And Morgan was surrounded by attending priestesses and was reminded of a past fling with a female general on Zeus. When she was fourteen till twenty five when the general was killed in battle in some silly alien war no body back on Earth cared about for it took two years for the news to travel to the ELECT.

A war which lasted seven days.

Morgan's first war for she had joined up and gone as the general's aid de camp with a second lieutenant shoulder pip.....favoritism and a general can do what she likes.

And her lover's death made her hate aliens, and it had taken her meeting with Tiberius to make her love a man again, and that man was Tiberius. For her real brother on Earth had sold her into prostitution for profit at fourteen and she escaped to Zeus, got adopted, met her female lover general *and is all about education*.

And she knew who her brother was?

And so do we?

Her name then on Earth was Maeve.

She never saw Earth as her home these days; it had too many bad memories. Maybe it was her real mum's fault being a Conservationist, sleeping about with alien ELECT.

And dad, an ELECT, too busy in the auditorium to sort out his son. In the end the son she heard from Zeus had taken over his father's ELECT post.

Suicide, her father had cut his own throat so they said.

But knowing her hateful bullying brother she suspected he bullied screaming "Do it do it," and it was done.

MURDER.

And brother sat and watched it done.

Or others would have done father to death in a more horrendous fashion.

So the boy was capable of twisted mercy.

Yes, she had feared her ELECT brother then.

Anyway Morgan realized she was lying down with Ino.

The spiders had been an introduction to the present.

Morgan wanted Tiberius.

“I am with Tiberius’s child,” Ino whispered.

Morgan now hated Tiberius.

“Some spiders and some bait; why some different and don't we say crooked path or straight path, implying our road is already set out for me and you and yours has led you to my web.

Life is an experience, whether straight or crooked, but the foolish wallow and the lesson becomes a trap,” *Ino implying Morgan was foolish to shout “Tiberius.”*

“You are the fool for you love your web so wallow,” Morgan whispered back much drugged implying Ino was stuck in her lesson and not moved forward.

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One year later.....Lady Spider dropped food in the basket, it was time to mate.

It was the way, the equilibrium of life’s cycle. Later Lady Spider saw one spider, thought it had killed the rest, didn’t know the rest died of a human made virus imported unknowingly from earth aboard one ship bringing in mining machinery.

The spider babies would die; the flowers would become infected from a withered stem in the soil.

Humans after all were on Planet Tagget.

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Day 5 for Harkos.

And he was afraid wanting to run, where? As a sun warrior he was being honored and since he had not challenged his hosts, he had signaled he would remain and fight for Ino.

He had changed sides; was the way of the warrior to follow who honored them.

From his cell window he could see across the orange sands a horizon where he lived. If he failed to kill Tiberius Hagar would banish him as 'Dead'. Forced to wonder the planet as outcast or be sacrificed. How could he reveal his identity in any canton for he would be sold back to Hagar to sacrifice as one of 'The Dead' or labeled an 'Out Cast.'

The lowest in society.

No appendages, all removed.

Neither man or female..

No ears, the hearing parts killed.

No eyes, horribly burned out.

An Out Cast, in reality one who would starve to death.

Sometimes luck would smile on an Out Cast and be taken in to a host's party, to be allowed to lie on the warm floor, and have scraps thrown to you from revelers who spat and kicked you for being what you had become.

At least it was food!

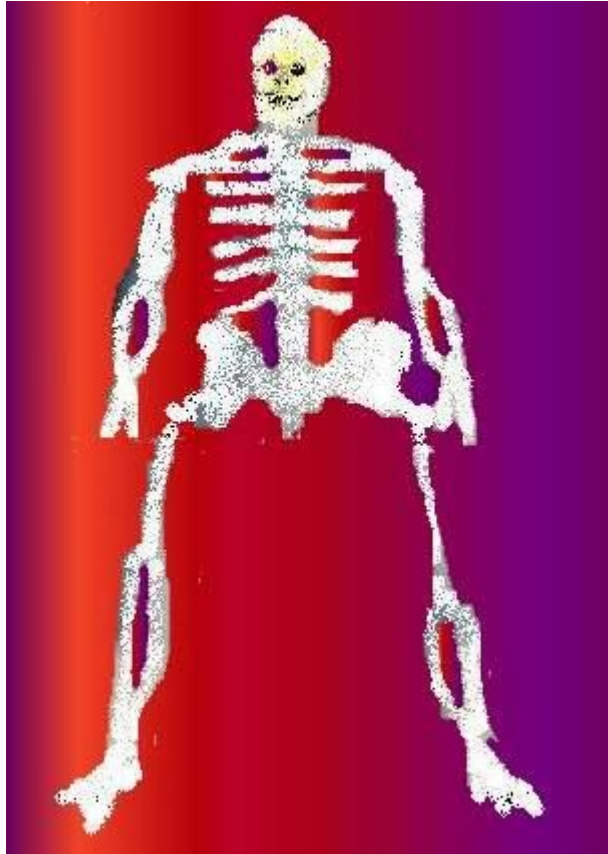


Illustration 85: Outcast, rejected by society, the square pegs who didn't fit into the round holes.

“What is your name?” And Harkos froze with fear for it was Tiberius.

“Do, not be afraid,” the human said. Don’t be afraid, here was the human dragon god who would summon sun warriors and have him hauled in front of Ino.

“Is it Zark? Blythpos?” Tiberius persisted as it was his habit to get to know brave sun warriors under his command.

The personal touch.

And fortunate Tiberius did not recognize Harkos for he had only seen this snake Lord at a distance.

Therefore Tiberius did not suspect the sweat dribbling down Harkos's face was from fear for Tiberius was thinking the snake was sick?

And Tiberius put his hands to his sword hilts; which left poor Harkos with only one option, which he took as he bolted for freedom.

Now luck did not smile upon Harkos again for he tripped over his own running feet and fell flat so he stretched out his hands and his fingers went in a crevice in the red tiled square.

And he was bitten by a centipede so screamed as his hand swelled to bursting size.

And Tiberius being human flicked the foot long insect out of its crevice home with his sword and cut it to shreds.

He did not want a repeat of what had happened with the scorpion; that was a waste of a good brave man.

That sun warriors were stupid arrogant folk

Tiberius then blew his horn.

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"Who was he?" Tiberius asked Ino much later.

Morgan was absent.

Weeping in a bath.

"Harkos, Lord of East Field and brother to Hagar and also to me," Ino.

"Harkos? Here? How is he?" For Tiberius knew of the snake's fame **for his love of peace and irrigation were well known.**

“He is fine,” Ino showing Tiberius a stern face, the subject of her peaceful brother was closed.

But Tiberius had heard of Harkos **the gentle crop grower** and would not leave the subject alone.

“I wish to talk to him?”

But Ino remained silent sitting upon her sixth sun throne which was the lowest designated to meet heretics.

“I am your war lord and priestess,” and Ino knew that meant nothing to this arrogant off worlders; “You will not like what you see?”

In fact she denied Tiberius his request and he then sought sun warriors he was befriending: the man knew how to use his charm, he was after all to them a god, the dragon: who some saw as mightier than Ino who was only flesh and blood.

Whereas Tiberius was solar man who traveled deepest space.

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“We shall free him,” Tiberius demanded of us.

“Is that wise governor?” Dracon.

I Simon made no move, Tiberius was crazy, the sun had affected him, what was that Earth saying, ‘Only mad dogs and Englishmen play cricket in the noon day sun?’

If we were caught underneath the red tiled squared we would find new homes there?

But in the end I went with him, he was my human and needed my help.

Usually no one asks Simon for help, they see me as an awkward pink amphibian fit to be stretched about a lampshade.



Illustration 86: Tiberius was not alone in being Solar Man, that exists in all.

I also felt guilty sleeping with his woman Morgan.....she could say what she wanted, 'I am finished with the tyrant,' but I knew he would be back for her.

Somehow this frog did not want to end up buried in Tiberius's sword. I wanted life too, each morning I thanked the way for the glorious day ahead and trusted in the way.

No point in worrying what the day will bring.

Anyway the sun warriors and their General Ferdis led us to Harkos shoved aside the black masked soul gatherers, the executioners and with sword cut, cut ropes holding Harkos by his ankles from rings above, so freed the gentle much loved Lord.



Illustration 87: They always hide their face.

At that moment Ino appeared in a gold robe. She was smart, knew why her warriors had done what Tiberius had asked; *he was the dragon*.

“Poor gentle Harkos must live,” she crooned, “to grow crops to feed the armies of Hagar.” She allowed this to sink into the slow minded snake warriors.

“Kill him,” she then asked her warriors to choose. Her ways of thousands of years of teachings that she was special, were being put against Tiberius’s modern ways of unbelief. Follow Tiberius and die or follow her and live under the warm rays of Ceugant Dana god *and be the sacrifice as you were born to be*.

That she why she had quickly put on a gold robe to appear like the eight suns.

“You Ino already have chosen backwardness for look at **gentle Harkos who hates war and whose ideas of farming are for ALL Taggetians,**” Tiberius who had paid Ferdis and his men much gold.

Now only Ino knew Harkos could not speak for his own defense for she had had his tongue ripped out; and that he could not flee as his ankles were in vices.

She had also given antidote against the centipede bite for she wanted Harkos to suffer, why? Because she was a cruel snake woman called Ino.

That sun warriors were stupid arrogant folk .

“Dracon, take Harkos down, there shall be no more barbarity on Tagget,” and I Simon came awake. What was Tiberius doing? Here a human ordering the freedom of an alien? Nothing like this had happened on Tagget before; Tiberius was assuming command from Ino.

Fortunately I was behind Ino when a smile crossed my lips, but some sun warriors saw me and took it as a sign I was supporting Tiberius the human dragon god.

He who blew his horn before he went into battle with those famous words, “I am Tiberius Grant.”

So made no effort to stop Dracon freeing Harkos, apart from the two soul collectors who General Ferdis pierced with his copper sword and dagger simultaneously.

“I am your High Priestess?

“Who lets scorpions bite us,” a sun warrior replied whose pockets were *also lined with gold.*

“He is the dragon war lord come to lead Tagget into the modern world,” General Ferdis.

It went much deeper than how much Tiberius had paid out in gold; these Taggetians had awoken out of the Copper Age into the Space Age.

Was not Tiberius he who gave them the potters wheel?

Was not Tiberius he who had taught them to wash before eating?

To boil their children’s white snake milk and their own water before drinking?

Was Tiberius not he who had given them many wonder cures for their illnesses?

Was not Tiberius known for showing mercy to his vanquished?

Was not Tiberius feared because he was the living dragon?

Was not Tiberius having Morgan teach them the skills of modern warfare and all in all had dragged them out of the Copper Age.

They had become modern snakes, men who could walk aboard a space ship and not be alienated by what they saw, maybe?

And Ino was she who cut open men’s chests and with her hand pulled out a heart and showed it to you beating before she freed it.

She who taught them to believe in the eight suns their god Ceugant Dana who wanted them as sacrifices.

The eight yellow suns, masses of burning atoms and not a god. Why lie submissively on the stone alter slab while Ino did what she enjoyed doing.

Now the sun had sent his dragon Tiberius to show them this was wrong, their god could not be seen, he was alive in all things, but not Ino who was the heretic.

It was also obvious Ino's tummy was swollen with the dragon's seed.

An heir was about to be born to the dragon and some where all ready calling the throne "Dragon's Throne."

And the teachings of Tiberius had caused the infant mortality rate to drop, he was fertile, blessed.

*

"Want to know what Ino is doing this exact moment Tiberius?" I Simon almost laughing.

"Coming to get me, so what?" Oh the man was so super cool it was annoying.

And Harkos lay asleep as Dracon Polanski stitched him as an off worlders medic mercenary fitted a new voice box inside his throat; a bionic machine.

"So what do want of Planet Tagget General Tiberius?" I Simon asked him.

As answer he paced over to the copper grilled window and looked out.

I followed and saw the expanse of orange desert.

Is this what he wanted, useless sand? We watched a desert owl fly into the air and below a desert python's whose strike had failed to catch the bird.

Was there gold or oil out there he knew about?

No no no, maybe?

But it was the expanse of desert that gave me the answer; he wanted to be king of it all.

So never noticed General Ferdis or Morgan enter our cell.

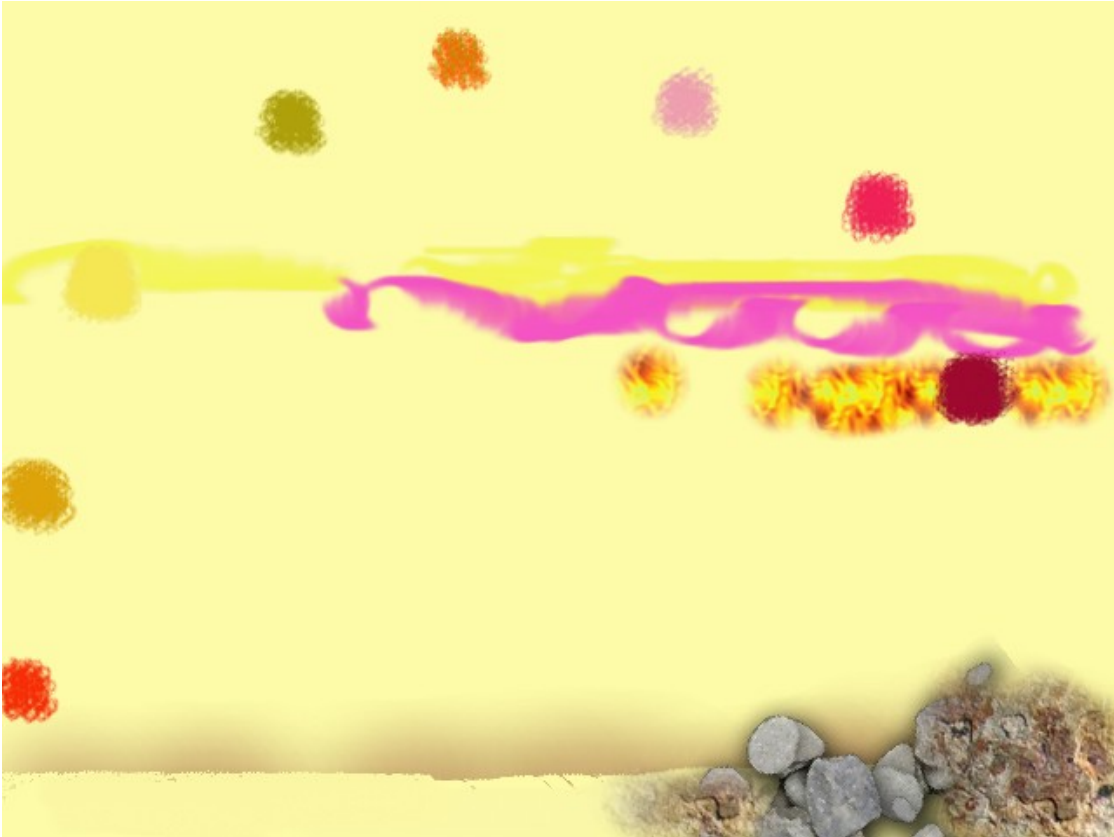


Illustration 88: Having 8 suns made sure you never had 6 months of darkness; also you had sunrise and sunset at each end of the horizon: my the hotel building business was booming,

“I do get sick of killing; maybe I want something like a place to settle down and live with my neighbors; maybe Morgan is right, it is time to raise children” it was almost a whisper but it was his answer.

At that moment I pitied him his lonely life.

And hoped Morgan never heard him? Was my frolics with Morgan too end; was I about to become a lonely man like him?

Tiberius was not a god, but a man and although we were aliens to each other, at that moment we shared a bond of closeness, it was the bond of uncertainty the future can bring to a man's soul.

Because he has wondered away from his course in life and gone his own way.

And I wanted the same, a family, a place to call home, I wanted Morgan.

"Can we of different worlds live together?" I asked him, part of me wanted him to say no so I could fight him for Morgan.

"Why not I am alive," his reply, did he think himself really a god? Or did he just believe in himself so much?

I new peace could only come if we sought out what animates each of us.

"Peace, no more snakes killing snakes. No more war, no more mercenaries taking what they want," the snake General Ferdis added.

And that is why they followed Tiberius and not Ino.

The dragon was a deliverer was the dragon not?

And I was amazed, Tiberius was an alien mercenary and the snake was no longer seeing him as such, but as a mighty warrior who would lead all Taggetians into a golden age.

So watched Tiberius post Dracon, four sun warriors and two alien mercenaries to guard Harkos. Saw Morgan throw an arm about Tiberius's shoulder and walk away with him.

Equilibrium restored *but still managed a raspberry.*

I did not follow, I wanted the peace of this sick cell to think about what one man was offering.....himself.

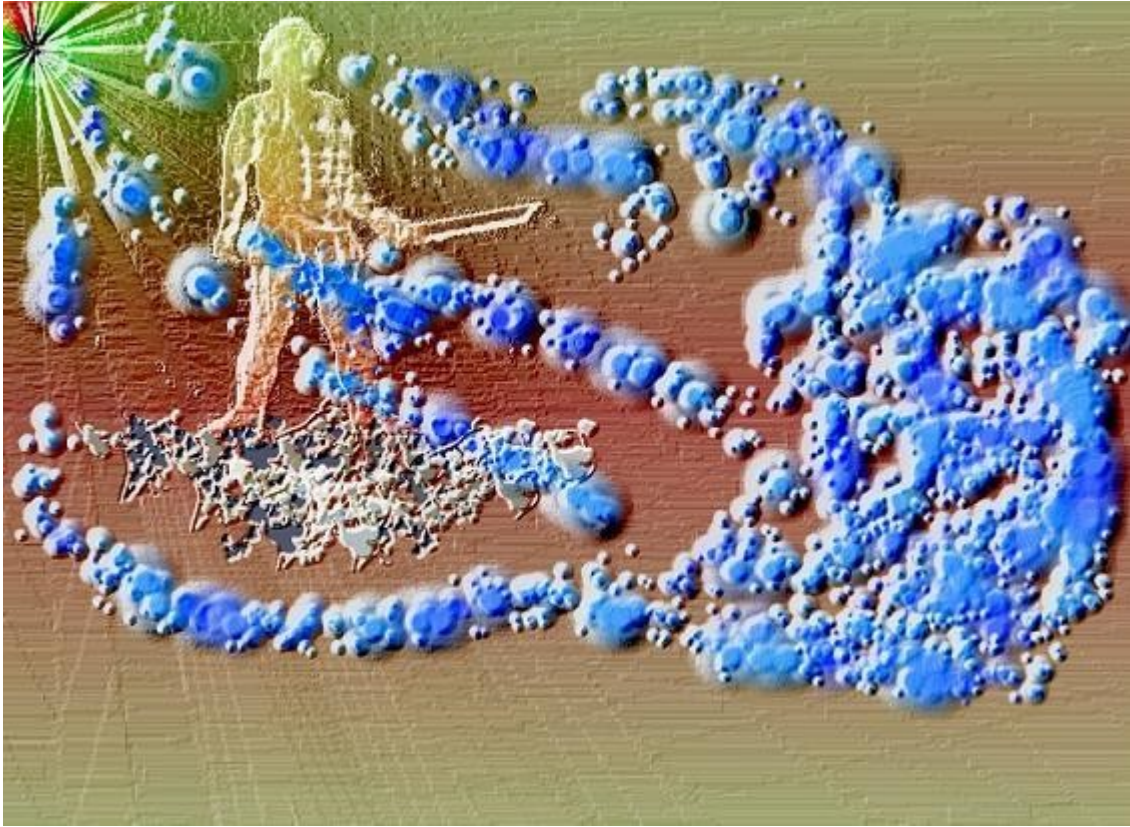


Illustration 89: "Hail Tiberius Caesar our god," and the sun warriors instigated a cult worship of the dragon who would use it to unify Planet Tagget.

And he didn't know it.

Had no set plans.

Things just evolved about him.

And he followed the path that opened.

A path that could make him High King of Tagget.

"King Tiberius," I shouted and Dracon gave me a puzzled look.

So looked at Harkos, Lord of East Field and knew why Tiberius wanted him alive;
he was a man of peace and knew why Tiberius would kill Hagar and possibly Ino,
they were war.

And Harkos would be the first to publicly acknowledge Tiberius as High King.

Suddenly sounds of fighting as Ino confronted Tiberius.

“I am Tiberius,” I heard him shout.

Then they came screaming down the corridor to our cell.

Those that followed Ino’s old ways.