

Yellow and Whiter clouds, white wheat, red corn and blue grass, Tagget.



*Illustration 119: A Chinese chef would know what to do with six wings!*

In Taggetian mythology there exists a sun bird with six golden wings, two heads, one bronze and the other copper. The emerald green body is six metres long with tail feathers like a peacock.

Both heads are yellow,

Snake black eyes,

And forked purple tongue.

The right bronze head spits venom.

The copper head can't.

The fabled Sun Bird can speak for it is part of Taggetian mythology.

The last one was seen by Taggetians was prior to the arrival of Tiberius; no human had ever seen one till now.

They said it would come when the dragon came.

It had landed in the public square of captured Tagget City and was feasting upon the homeless and stateless.

There was also a lot of screaming and blood letting; it was too gruesome to describe.

It also gingerly watched where it placed its feet for it avoided the viral slime balls in its path.

One mouth on a head would see a screaming thief and want to eat him.

One mouth on a head would see a silent sun warrior and wanted to eat him instead.

And there followed a squabbling squealing pecking match before one of the heads won and devoured its meal.

First trepanning like the ancient Peruvians, then sending in the forked purple tongue sucking the food up.

Alas the other head would join in and dart its razor tongue into the food's belly sucking sucking sucking.

Now Tiberius when he saw the monstrous beast he ordered his off worlders and sun warriors to surround it.

To him it was just another alien that had to die as it esating his troops.

“Don’t kill it,” Lord Harkos came begging.



*Illustration 120: Harkos liked to dream and whine and dribble saliva when he dreamed.*

This is why Tiberius looked at Harkos as if he had lost his mind. And not on Tiberius’s orders Harkos was allowed to push through the armed ring about the Sun Bird but by his own determination and respect he had as a crop grower.

Maybe Harkos was feeble in battle for he dreamed of lilies but he walked boldly up to the monster clucking and squeaking squealing scraping dirt with his feet.

He was actually communicating.

“Amazing isn’t he?” I Simon, “only Harkos who has spent so much time amongst birds could have learnt the tongue of the Sun Bird.”

Did you know that Harkos is known as the Master Book Keeper of Tagget?

Owned a vast library until Hagar in one of his foul moods burnt it. Luckily Harkos wasn't there at the time, was in the west purchasing medical plants but his servants were, gentle bookworms and many died saving books.

Rumour has it they are hidden in the west.

And Harkos showed his spirit for he had those burnt written out again or bought from other worlds that traded with Tagget.

I explained all this to Tiberius who had no choice but to listen and in the end he put away his pistols and the warriors and mercenaries followed suit.

Harkos was rubbing the back of Sun Birds ear patches.

It was dribbling saliva in delight that flowed all over Harkos's sandals.

And it stunk of the gore the monster had just been eating.

But Harkos didn't mind, he was away with the fairies.

"Mmmurgh," or such sound escaped Tiberius.

Now Harkos was stroking the dominant copper coloured head until the bronze coloured head complained for it wanted its share of attention; like children.

Lo, to everyone's astonishment Harkos mounted the monster and the Sun Bird flew off with him.

"By all the prophets of God," Dracon scratching his head, "if we had an army of those things the west would be ours?"

Then Harkos swooped down scattering King Tiberius's warriors for it did toilet.

Only Tiberius and Dracon were left.

They would not fall flat like worms for a bird.

I tried tugging at Tiberius for those Sun Bird claws could open his skull for fresh air.



*Illustration 120: The Sun King Tiberius*

“Get up Simon,” was his reply and after taking another look at the swooping Sun Bird decided to stay flat, but Dracon had me!

And he didn’t let go off my belt.

Mama it just went and decided to land next to us. Maybe Harkos couldn’t direct it as those four eyes were eyeing me up as tapioca.

It must have been the pink!

“Come fly with me Tiberius,” Harkos shouted and Tiberius walked forward while both heads tried to peck him.

But touched him not.

Testing him for fear.

And being Tiberius I expected "I am Tiberius Grant" but no, silence as he mounted.

And away he flew with Harkos high up there, and I felt sick looking at them, so high, I get dizzy looking up at the majestic swirling energies of the clouds.

And he headed prophetically west too show the way forward.

Thus he became known as The Sun King Tiberius, for he never went anywhere without that monstrous Sun Bird which he called Belenos and Harkos taught him how to fly that MONSTER and the bird tongue.

\*

Zane Cameron stood in front of the head of Hagar which was attached to a pink moss in a plastic tank. (Another parting of knowledge from Tiberius, plastics. No human had bothered to teach primitive aliens such secrets, not even amongst the alien ELECT where technological secrets were not given away. *Any advanced stuff was taken by humans and what humans had and aliens didn't was kept that way.*

IT WAS THE HUMAN WAY.

Zane was waiting for Hagar to answer his simple question, “Are you really alive?”

The idiot.

To answer Hagar had to wait for oxygen to build up in the pink moss and pass up through thin latex vocal cords,” courtesy of The Medic.



Zane lifted the lid off the tank and prodded arteries that led up out of the pink moss feeding oxygen to the head.

So Hagar grimaced, here was an unusual human off worlder that looked like a yellow



*Illustration 121: Yellow Star Bird Zane and the Taggetians believed he if ran fast enough he could fly to the stars; so Zane gave it a try; well you had to believe in something to keep sane!*

fruit from the south, either a fool or deliberately out to torture him.

This must be the one called Yellow Sun Bird?

Tiberius the usurper of royal blood had learned much since he had been on Tagget Hagar believed, how to be cruel for giving Hagar to this human?

If only Hagar had limbs but he didn't as he was just a head in a glass dome.

Zane Cameron had never seen the like before, heard such things were capable in human worlds, but never seen a head growing out of pink moss.

The Medic,

“Tiberius, may I guard the head?” Zane.

“It is a snake Zane, don’t be fooled by its human appearance; a snake understand?”

Dracon told him upon being questioned how to feed it.



*Illustration 122: "Mice and rats please," the head would ask nicely.*

And Zane Cameron kept the head in his cell, feeding it live and dead mice, scraps of raw meat, shelled eggs, live insects, *it was a snake remember!*.

Sometimes he would pour date and olive oil beer into the mouth as a treat.



And the head got drunk but never spoke to Zane Cameron, just glared remembering better days.

And waited for rescue by Philos his son.

But Philos was a head too, or was? Now Hagar did not know that, only seeing Philos whole before his unfortunate meeting with a sun warrior sword!

But sympathisers had stolen the head of Philos and taken it west to The Medic who did anything for a PRICE.

That is why Hagar could not forgive his son Philos for deserting him, thinking he had fled to safety when in fact he was only a head too.

Now according to Wayne's Book it is written, 'Good is avenged by those that do the avenging. Our enemies are evil for they harm us, then let us be mighty men and slaughter them.'

Such the fate of evil Hagar at the hands of his foes.

\*

And Tiberius flew west seeking its secrets and seeing none ventured further. And always *guilt* made him push himself under the heat of Tagget so that men said, "Our king is an immortal,' or 'He asks us nothing which he can not do.'

And the *guilt* was the knowledge that Ino had given birth to a daughter by their union; and Tiberius was sore in that knowledge that he could not pick the child up, cuddle and love it allowing it to know who he was.

So did Tiberius secretively long to be a father and propagate his race.

It was one of his secrets that he would not admit to Morgan or himself. He always had an excuse not to settle with Morgan, but now it had happened; he had been a channel for the creation of a life.

A precious little person whom he didn't even know its name.

And Harkos often accompanied him mapping and Belenos the sun bird grew to love Tiberius for he was kind to it.

"You are a mystery Tiberius," Harkos looking at the horizon where a great rift valley hovered in the sky, a mirage of the future.

"Why?"

"You take care not to stand or pick flowers. I see you stand under trees breathing their essence; lean against rocks and know they are alive in another energy dimension.

You alone pick up a lost pink sand worm and put it back in its burrow. You chase spiders into dark corners where they can't be trod upon. Yes you are a mystery for without hesitation you can kill a man just like that," Harkos deeply moved.

"Men try too kill me," Tiberius adding "what lies beyond the rift valley?"  
Changing the embarrassing subject.

"Some say the fabled Green Emerald City; Ino's holy retreat, others where The Medic lives.

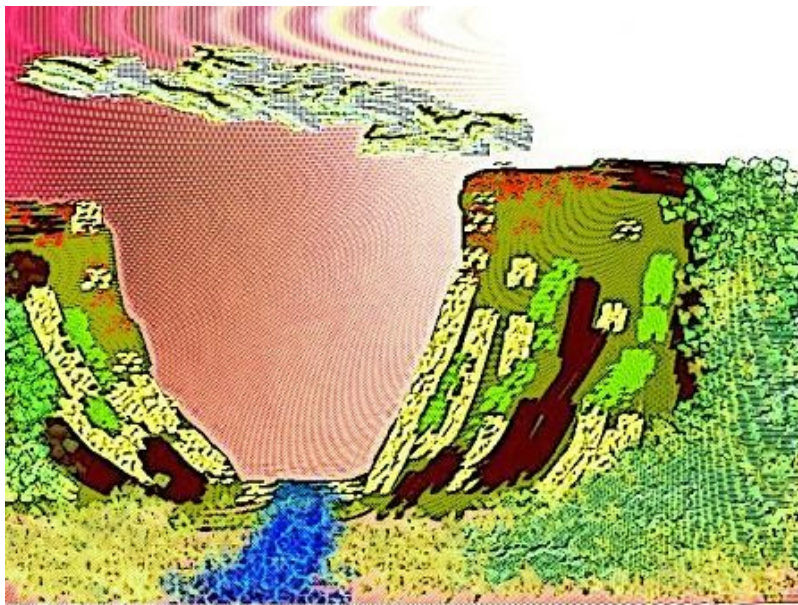
His army are the terrible Bison Men.....PAUSE.....his name is Woo,"  
Harkos trembling with fear.

"And the Emperor Woo is The Medic, we both know that Harkos; soon I will fly there and meet him"

\*

But a herd of sick wild humpbacks would reach the rift before Tiberius. They would mix with herds of Taggetian black bison and The Medic would see his Bison Men swell and turn to slime and know,

YOU CANNOT PLAY GOD.



*illustration 123: The rift valley came in many colors*