



*Illustration 190: From balloons to donkeys needing carrots, Tiberius dragged the huge sun reflector mirror back with him as enemy starbursts filled the sky with sharpnel from refused to join him.*

Tiberius Grant was a leader of human or alien for he dragged the mirror back to East Field where Harkos, brother of Hagar now ruled wisely. Unsuspecting that Fial tracked his movements for during the transmigration of the soul one atom had been dyed and now showed as a radioactive red spot on a radar in front of Fial and her father...  
..Lobodicus.

It was a feat of magnificence for Tiberius lacked modern means to haul the sixteen ton mirror and it took six months.

He also took all who escaped the burning of emerald City. Some three thousand snake women and children; Crak and his remaining followers, six hundred, their families three hundred. What remained of the bison men cult warriors, nine hundred, the little ones of Woo's new race, twenty thousand, orphans mostly born out of test tubes. What turtle folk that remained some two hundred who had fled out the rivers that flowed into the once proud Emerald City and Woo's off worlders mercenaries who had surrendered to him rather than chance Wayne's mercy, over three hundred well armed men and women, human and alien.

And Ino and her zealots four thousand and they might have sworn loyalty to her, but she had sworn loyalty to Tiberius the dragon, they would fight for him, he had the sun mirror also.

To Tiberius it was a nucleus of peace, one Taggetian race. All babes of Jock Thompson, all children of the way whether they liked it or not.

And for once Ino grasped the fact that Tagget her planet was slipping from her...  
...Wayne Haslam and Lobodicus and all the planets above her head, when she tried to visualise it all blew her **cosmos**.

Her head ached and she realised her religion was nothing, what made the stars stay above her head was raw power not contained in any acts of sacrifice.

It was what animates the good and the bad.

And at last she realised the survival of the old way depended upon Tiberius perhaps granting her followers a reservation.

So caused no trouble during the Great Trek of the Mirror.



*Illustration 191: The **cosmos** could only be viewed as a game of snakes and ladders.*

Besides, King Tiberius stood next to the mirror lever at all times, it was called diplomacy.

The trek was a long time, especially when dealing with Wayne. Now during that time a fleet belonging to Lobodicus fought the humans to a draw. So that Macpherson knew it was a matter of time before the next alien fleet arrived and they were defeated.....and Wayne thought of Maeve his lost sister not the.....

War continuing on the land.

Lo vast chemical gas clouds floated on the winds, killing all in their path without gas masks courtesy of the war. And when the rains came the poison went into the soil and waters and killed many more.

Sixty percent of all worms died and the soil with them.

Lo Planet Tagget was a waste where the ELECT had gone before.

Once on Tagget.....a lone miner's water run lay abandoned, her electric motor pump rusting, her shack doors swinging open in the wind, and the pond at the bottom of her run green from metal toxins and around it, skeletons of humpbacks that had made the mistake of quenching their thirst.

Now because of war badlands existed a thousand square miles in which everything died, from snake people to flies.

And all wondered when the dragon Tiberius would make the land fertile again.

\*

"Tiberius I put up with your fornicating ways with Morag, but Ino is something else, she is enemy," Morgan almost using snake as she was furious.

See Tiberius in his efforts to win Ino over had lain with her.

"Morgan, you will always be my love," he replied, "besides she cares for my child."

"Don't give me such rubbish; all I ever wanted was a child by you?"

"So what's the problem," and at this she kicked the idiot somewhere and walked out.



*Illustration 192: The land was barren and the houses had birds and vermin as residents*

Then *Simon* data scribe entered and told him: “Many men dream of what you have. You have three beautiful women and one of them has given you a girl child and another carries.”

He managed to stand still before helping himself to a mineral drink.

“Without Ino we cannot get rid of Wayne so tell me what I should have done?”

“Ino isn’t that important, this planet looks to you for modernising not Ino. We were winning without her because you are a figurehead like Ino is the figurehead for the old

ways and millions will rally behind you.....and the child is already seen as a gift from the sun god through his dragon Tiberius.

That child will unite this planet Tiberius, not you or Ino.

It will need all the love and care her friends will give and parents,”.....and Tiberius knew Simon had elected that job upon himself. He also didn’t think much of her parents but that was the way and they were hers.

It was the way.

And as I Simon began to leave him added, “Besides the next time you lie flat upon Ino she may present you with a dagger and zip, all falls out.”

Ino just wasn’t stable; she had the temper of an absolute matriarch.

“And if you want peace with Morgan leave Ino alone,” this last bit of advice went against myself, when he was off to Ino, Morgan came to her pink frog for comfort.

“Maybe it is time to settle down,” Dracon adding, “You are king of a planet now.”

“Yes, maternity is like a cold spreading from woman to woman,” Tiberius answered.

And I Simon saw Morgan give birth to my off spring; I can dream?

\*

A fan fare of trumpets greeted Tiberius as he entered Tagget City. Lo, Lord Harkos was present, the scouts of Tiberius having summoned him.

Faithful Harkos, so unlike his brother Hagar tied to Zane’s humpback saddle.

Ah Harkos stood in front of his sun warriors in shock staring at the head. The head looked like it should have been buried and forgotten about.



“Brother?” Harkos asked.



*Illustration 193: Tiberius is credited with introducing jazz on Planet Tagget?*

Now Tiberius dismounting asked for the head.

And held it high for all to see.

Profound silence.

Then snarls so Zane Yellow Star Bird slid his real hand onto a laser handle, while his silver arm entwined a shield and fake silver hand held the reins of his beast.

Who said the Taggetians were a backward race, they had made Zane his new limb.

But Zane need not worry for the snarls were directed towards the head. It was the head's fault not the dragon's the land was unfertile. Why just look at the decay upon it and it was alive.

"Throw them the head Zane," Tiberius ordered as the sun warriors began to advance upon it, and reluctantly Zane did so, not wanting to give up his obsessive charge.

And the warriors picked it up and ran off between the irrigation ditches and orange pumpkin fields.

With the head gone Tiberius now had to get the land fertile again; a lot easier now that Woo's vaccine had begun to appear every where legally and illegally.

The sickness would die out, men would work the fields again and the harvest be reaped in; the dragon was back, so Tiberius possibly hoped?

And the sun warriors returned empty handed, the head was gone.

"This is a cruel thing that has happened to my brother," Harkos moaned for the head had been buried alive.

And regaining his composure told Tiberius Wayne had begun to rebuild the Emerald City, replacing the green emeralds with granite using slave labour.

From neighbouring cantons he took a thousand men each and has worked most to death, they are just aliens and we all know now what he says about aliens.

"Only good alien is a dead one."

And many revolts have occurred out of hate and Wayne retaliates by burning down towns and villages.





*Illustration 194: A twister on a pumpkin field had the same effect as a blender.*

“Now you are back you can unite all of Tagget against Wayne Tiberius,” Harkos hoping.

“Yes save us Tiberius, you are the dragon so can use the mirror of Ceugant Dana on our enemies,” the warriors demanded.

“I will, come and see it,” and he showed them the mirror.

And Harkos was distrustful of Ino who spent her time amongst the sun warriors trying hard to summon up their faith to the old beliefs, but they now looked like the rest of the planet beyond her and Tiberius, pinning their hopes on the girl child of the later two’s union, Aideen and a golden age.

And her eyes were purple; her hair red, her skin was not scaled. She was the dragon’s child, their new High Priestess, the future Queen of all Tagget.

And Tiberius loved Aideen his daughter and Morgan herself swollen by union with Tiberius was content, but was the new life from a scribes for Morgan had been lax in whom she sought comfort with?

It was the way, the making of life.

And one day Tiberius had a platform erected on the blue grass just outside Tagget City and about three, tea time, he gathered his host.

“I am your king,” he shouted and none disputed not even Harkos and he stared forcibly at Ino so she stared at the grass rather than meet his eyes.

“I am your king and as such these are your queens,” and he indicated his women.

And I heard Morgan laugh, “You double dealing humpback dung,” and laughed for she had hoped Tiberius for herself.

“And these laws to your war band fianna then.....



*Illustration 195: The Royal family, can you put names to them?*

In a great man or woman's house be quiet,  
 Beat not thy hunting hounds,  
 Or you might starve when they run away.  
 Bring no charges against your partner until guilt has been proven.  
 In battle fight not the fool.  
 Take part in no brawl.  
 Have nothing to do with wicked or mad ones.

Two thirds of your gentleness show women, children and your song writers.

Never speak with a swaggering mouth.

Never abandon one you are pledged to support.

Do not abuse your Canton Lord's subjects.

Be not tale bearers.

Utter no falsehoods.

Don't become a drunkard.

Swear not at the old.

Do not give your Canton Lord an excuse to reproach you.

Never lose your weapons.

Follow after gentleness.

Look after the mentally ill and disabled,

Women can equal men

But must remember they were made for child birth,

And men remember your children, feed and clothe them."

And the host listened and liked

what he had said for it was a code for a warrior society and they even swallowed the woman bit. Many human mining doctors were woman and they had seen Wayne's female troopers that had killed many warriors, and had no further to look than Morgan and her off worlders. Some females even were captains of human and alien trading vessels, the times were changing and long life had brought this about. Was

a woman's purpose to lay children her entire thousand year life or even longer till all her eggs were used up?

And the warriors now had a code of chivalry and saw themselves as upholders of justice against evil lords like Hagar and Philos.

Even Ino seemed to like what he said for she had nodded several times and liked the bit at the end especially. Well she was a queen now, she liked that, it was what she had been fighting for, to be THE queen; how would she take sharing it with others, time would tell?

Where had Tiberius got such a code from? He said it had walked into the right side of his head.

Maybe Tagget at last had indeed found itself a king.

\*

Tiberius stood alone to greet them on the dusty blue gravel road as fields of red wheat moved in the warm breeze.

"I am Tiberius Grant," he shouted, he always shouted his name.

But these humans had not had any dealing with him so attacked instead of freezing with terror.

It was a small advance guard of Wayne's army and even being human Tiberius ordered the lever pulled down and the sun mirror swung about on them.

Those that escaped told Wayne about the weapon and Wayne wanted that reflector to defeat Lobodicus.



*Illustration 195: Tiberius stuck up menhirs with flashing lights and a voice, because quite a lot of Sun Warriors couldn't read or write; Ino saw soldiers for dying not reading comic strips.*

It might be one thing for Tiberius to dispense justice to a human miner or mercenary, but that was a human army, by destroying them he showed all he was Taggetian first, human second.

They had a leader at last they could respect; after all he was the dragon.

So what does one do with the mentality of a conqueror, Wayne seeks The Medic Woo and invaded Barren Rock Mountain and took Woo prisoner.

“Woo, you have one of the greatest minds known, to you I give the honour of giving me a weapon,” Wayne liked to play with his food before eating it.

“I am god Woo.”

And Wayne activated a screen and showing Woo his fate if he failed; sun warriors, all naked, just living skeletons, massed in front of a lake of toxic waste, until the human guards started firing into their ranks.

Nowhere to escape but into the lake, becoming stuck like flies, some died quick, others days depending upon what they touched and swallowed.

“As a god I understand,” Woo.

“I want a shield to protect me from that sun mirror of Tiberius,” and Woo took Wayne and General Macpherson deep into his mountain by cable lift showing Wayne what he wanted.

A shield called by Woo the Moon Mirror for it magnified the darkness of night casting it upon the sun mirror nulling it.

“I also want vaccines for all the diseases you have ever made,” and Woo knowing he was god showed Wayne a golden lever.

“Pull and Macpherson did as Wayne trusted no one. At once cogs churned and the sound of much glass breaking was heard.

“What have I done Woo?” Macpherson drawing a cut throat razor to dispense Woo.

“Released vaccines into the winds which will carry them to devour the sickness upon the lands.



Human and alien will be carriers of the genes to kill the diseases for with each breath they exhale they spew forth moisture spores with the genes which when coming into contact with my disease will kill them.

I god Woo have saved space, am I not god?"

And Wayne knew nothing about Woo being god but just that he was too dangerous.

"Chain him to what is left of his throne," Wayne and it was done so Woo was forced into a kneeling position so the strain made his legs ache.

"You wanted riches Woo, so have them," and Wayne emptied his red wallet on Woo and the green paper money came to

Six thousand dollars.

"You wanted to be emperor," and Wayne had Macpherson have a soldier cut wires from a panel, twist them together and push it upon Woo's crown so he screamed and bled.

They also threw over him the black robe of a sun warrior and exposed Woo's chest and with a bayonet cut these words there:

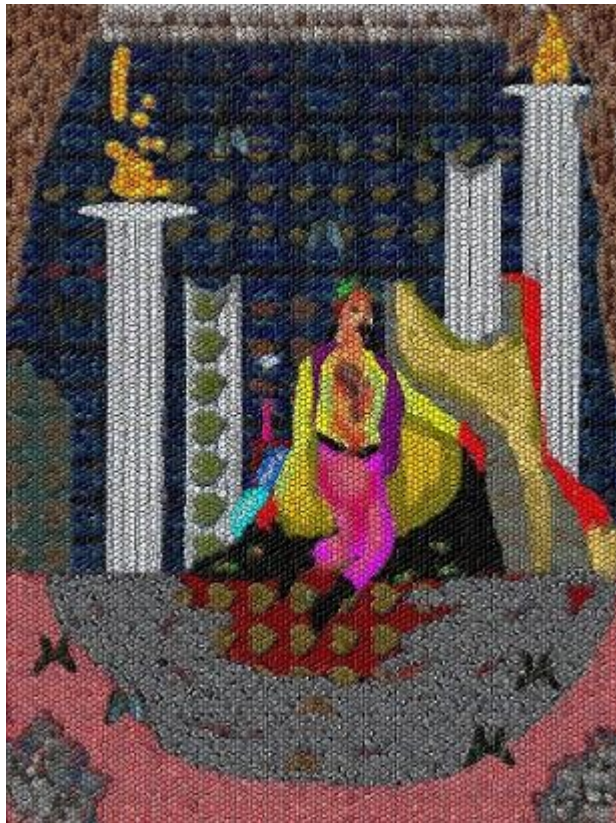
REX.

"You wanted to be god," and Wayne ordered his men to seal the throne room with explosives, and likewise connecting rooms so god Woo could be god of what he saw till the electric generators stopped from lack of maintenance or who knows, they might run for eons.

So was the fate that befell the Emperor Woo of the Emerald City upon Tagget.....he who said he was God.

And Wayne drove at the head of his motorised columns towards Tagget Canton and King Tiberius and found

“I am he who they waited an hour in the noon sun for,” he called from the back of Belenos his sun bird that rested upon a lavender sandstone outcrop.



*Illustration 196: Rex Woo, Morte in mosaic.*

And watching unseen “Who do you think will win this contest?” The Emperor Lobodicus asked his daughter Fial.

“The human Tiberius, through him there can be peace father at last. He is the one we have been seeking through the eons, the Dragon Tiberius,” Fial watching the screen.

And Woo would have envied Lobodicus for although mortal he acted like a god of ancient Hellos, watching those he played with against other gods of the Athenian pantheon.

And General Macpherson advised Wayne to go forward so his men would see he was not afraid of Tiberius who was ahead of his army mocking them with his presence.

“Show them Tiberius is a king who rides a turkey,” Macpherson and Wayne repeated it so his men took up the call,

“Tiberius is a king who rides a turkey.”

“Activate the mirror,” Wayne ordered as he went forward disliking the idea of exposing his body to injury.

And Tiberius ordered his sun mirror to work and the two mirrors cancelled each other out.

The battle would be won by other factors and Wayne was afraid now.

Now Wayne fired the first shot for he wanted Tiberius dead so he could feel safe so took out his laser rifle and fired a quick shot.

Now Tiberius seeing his movements had had time to dismount and roll amongst boulders.

And Lobodicus noted the new mirror and inquired of Woo?

“Father let us help?” Fial and ordered her to wait, he was still an emperor and wished his opponents to weaken themselves before committing his own race to battle.

And Tiberius fired back and Wayne hid behind shrubs expecting Macpherson to order battle but the order was not given.

SOMEONE WANTED WAYNE DEAD.

And all men

Of either race

Watched this fight between their leaders.

For that is what it had become.

And Tiberius now drew close to Wayne who ran firing to seek shelter behind a scout car.

And Lobodicus now ordered his daughter Fial to her squadron to protect the transports laden with his troops.

The soldiers in the scout car looked towards their General Macpherson who shook his head.

Wayne threatened them with the rifle but they pushed it aside and threw it away and left him.

Something had caught up with Wayne, it was his life style that revolted people, there was one thing killing aliens but quite another beating up the women personal so that they died.

It wasn't on, either was the sickness that he had paid Woo for that had killed many of them; they looked to a new leader of The Human Dominance Party who had been very active behind the scenes, General Macpherson and soldiers took orders from superior ranks, and Wayne wasn't in uniform.

If anything it looked like he was wearing silk pyjamas.

And all about Wayne could hear the whistle and thud of laser bolts and he fearing death drove the scout car away.

"Belenos," Tiberius called and the two headed bird answered his call and he mounted.

What happened next can only be the basis of future Taggetian methodology.

None saw Morgan mount an orange humpback and follow.

And Belenos in the air was seen to claw the scout car which veered into a rock and leaked LPG gas. Inside Wayne could hear the hiss of a burst pipe not smell it and knew no help would be coming from Macpherson and decided to settle it with Tiberius.

Firing wilding in the direction he thought Tiberius was in tried to get out of the car.

Science against myth.

The car started to burn and Tiberius dropped from Belenos into the scout car's open top just as the car went of a ravine edge and then

BANG

CLOUD of smoke.

Morgan hurried towards the bottom of the ledge fearing the worst.

General Macpherson knowing the worst turned to his army shouting, “I am GRAND ELECT,” and with that he ordered his men to attack as Tiberius he believed dead.

Now Fial appeared with the Lobodicusian fleet.

At once Macpherson ordered his men to retreat behind what fortified positions they could find.

And all the fear of the unknown Lobodicusians rose up in the men of Macpherson and so none noticed Belenos fly away.

Now to me Simon data scribe it was obvious Tiberius would have attacked the landing Lobodicusians because they would be weak now; so Macpherson threw away his chance for immortality as the victor and to the victor belongs the spoils.

“I am Fial, daughter of the Emperor Lobodocus,” a voice drifted from a loud speaker.

And all saw the Lobodicusians looked just like the humans, “we want peace not war.”

And out of the light that was the open door to her ship Tiberius Grant walked out shouting,

“For every five warriors slain three died of Woo’s sickness, all are sick of war and disease, let there be peace,” and in this way Woo by playing god had through pestilence made a desire for peace from the hearts of men and women.



*Illustration 197: Fial was menacing to her enemies but thankfully had a soft spot for Tiberius Grant.*



And then Belenos landed and Morgan clambered down for she was carrying child and held high the head of Wayne Haslam for all to see.

The sun warriors thought this a good trophy.

“My brother’s head,” she shouted and threw it far out in front of her so Macpherson was indeed GRAND ELECT.

There was the head of a man whose billion victims had shouted VENGEANCE, now they would extract that vengeance on the other side where we all pass to.

The Taggetians called it the Purple Otherworld.

And she had killed her own brother to stop Tiberius always feeling a barrier between them because he had killed her brother.

And Macpherson ordered his men back to their base at Emerald City and none complained, the city was rich and full of slaves and snake women for the taking.

Wayne had promised them glory but all they got was disease and minor victories.

Now they were outnumbered by aliens who knew “The only good human was a dead one.”

\*

And this is how Morgan dispatched her brother.

She had come amongst the burning car and found Tiberius and her brother winded on the grass.

“Maeve, is that you?” Wayne had called out for she had come out of the smoke like a dream answering his nightmare of Maeve who he had wronged.

“I am your sister Wayne,” and he held out his hand for help hoping to kill her with a dagger in her side.

Now his sister knew him well and as his hand went for the dagger she kicked him backwards and swung her sword, so that he rose to thrust the weapon into her exposed belly she cut off his head.

Wayne would never hurt anyone again.

Morgan was indeed one of the queens of Planet Tagget the warrior planet.

\*

And Tiberius awoke to find himself with Fial in a ship of the Lobodicusians.



*Illustration 198: Morgan had her own way of peeling potatoes.*

Another queen of Tagget? What was our king?

And the rest you know.

Except the sun warriors went back to Tagget City with Tiberius.

And the fleet of the Emperor Lobodicus did not leave but remained.

\*

“What now Tiberius?” Harkos asked.

“We wait for the next round of war,” and was sad, for history showed peace never lasted while another coveted another’s land.

“There could be peace Tiberius, you must work for it,” Fial the guest of Tiberius.

And Morgan looked at her sighing, and this time accepted the way for she was content with child.

The way was prolific was life was prolific; it was about beauty and diversity, colour and rainbows, tadpoles and the laughter of children.

And Lobodicus was at peace with Tiberius and a civil war had erupted in the Human Commonwealth with the news of Wayne’s death and all knew General Macpherson would leave with his army to stake his claim in the auditorium Dracon had sat on a wooden chair waiting to be executed.

What was one Emerald City to countless universes?

Not even a token garrison force would be left for Macpherson was a realist who knew he could not hold onto his beach head on Tagget. That would fall to Tiberius without opposition.

And Tagget would be united, trading in peace with the Lobodicusians and for once not be a bad place to live in, perhaps.

IT was the way and 200126 A.D.

\*

Death of Tiberius 200127 A.D.

“Morgan, I am content with my queens,” and she was content he had promised to have no more women, and hugged him and then together looked out from Hagar’s yellow brick palace in Tagget City.

It was then a zealot to the old religion masquerading as a guard drew his copper sword and cut off the head of our king and as Morgan stood in disbelief fled with his trophy, escaping down secret corridors to the city walls and under them.

None knew what he did with his trophy.

But all knew the dragon was the ultimate sacrifice for the fertility of the land, all knew except Tiberius that he would die some day, it was just a matter of when?

“Morgan, I am content with my queens, no more women,” where his lands words.

Oh great was the funeral procession for all the races of Planet Tagget came  
Twelve million souls behind the queens, all going to Emerald City.

And the body of Tiberius was wrapped in oils and silks and slid into the healing pool in the hope it would be preserved.

“I guess you will need me,” Dracon to Zane.

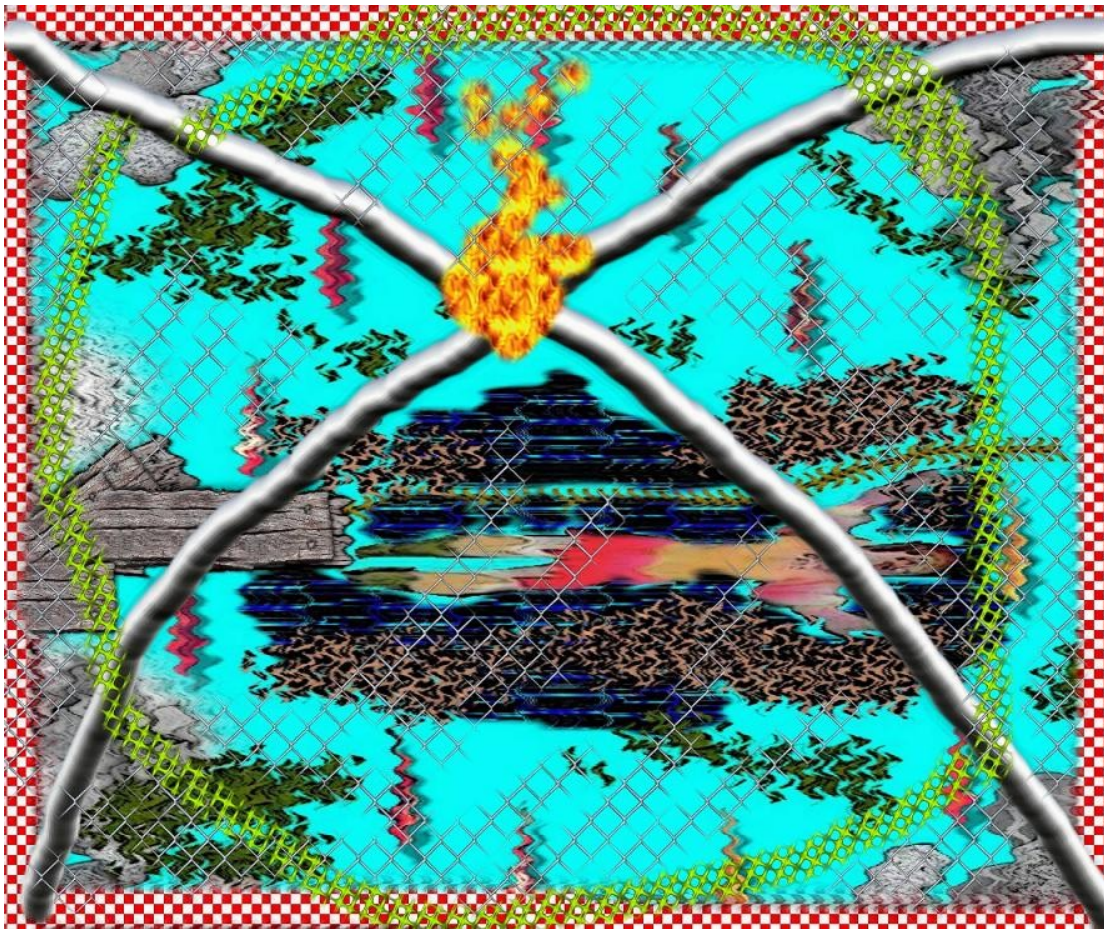
“Huh, what do you means?” Zane the rash Yellow Star Bird and Dracon smiled and  
Tiberius where ever he was would know why?

And the ships of Fial anchored over Tagget City was a reminder that there was  
PEACE.

And I Simon would give my all to Aideen the future High Priestess and Queen of a united Tagget.

And what of the sun bird Belenos, it like a dog returned to the pool every evening to wait for Tiberius to come out of the pool.

Such the ways of war and religion.



*Illustration 199: Tiberius took his final bath.*

What's it all about, mothers suffer labour so grieve for their sons. Men instead who know not this pain foolishly carry their slain sons like Spartans on their shields and prepare more war.

Where is the way, it is the orange butterfly in the wind, the March hares fighting it out for the best bitch to have young.

Where the call of the moose for a mate. See the brown house sparrows busy building nests for eggs. A fish in the sea has a million young, some to be eaten some to grow old.

This is the way, the laughter of children in the sun.

END.