

EL PASO TALES



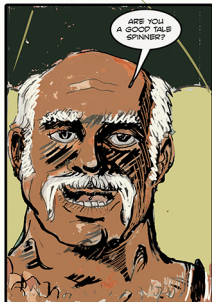
STORY AND ART BY JIM RAY

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REMEMBER! YOU CAN TELL ABOUT SOMETHING THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO YOU OR SOMETHING MADE UP, OR EVEN A FABLE SOMEONE TOLD YOU.

BUT MAKE IT ENTERTAINING - MAKE US LAUGH OR CRY, EVEN PONDER.

AS USUAL, THE ONE WHO DRAWS THE SHORTEST STRAW TELLS THE FIRST TALE OF THE NIGHT.

I GUESS THAT'D BE ME, SENOR.



NOW HOW CAN SOMEONE SO YOUNG HAVE ENOUGH LIFE UNDER HIS BELT TO TELL AN ENTERTAINING STORY?

IT'S TRUE, I'M ONLY 16 BUT I COME FROM A FAMILY OF GREAT STORY-TELLERS, SENOR.



I HOPE TO BECOME A COOK IN NEW YORK CITY, TO MAKE LOTS OF MONEY TO SEND HOME TO MY MOTHER FOR MY LITTLE BROTHERS' SCHOOLING AS MY FATHER IS TOO SICK TO WORK.



MY LATE GREAT-UNCLE LUIS, TOLD ME THIS STORY WHEN I WAS LITTLE ABOUT MY VILLAGE'S PAST. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN REALLY BELIEVE IT, BUT WHATEVER YOU MAY DRAW FROM MY STORY IS DUE TO HIS CLEVERNESS AND HIS WISDOM.



I'M JAMIE HERRERA FROM THE VILLAGE OF SAN TOMAS IN GUATAMALA, A FEW MILES AWAY FROM THE SANTA MARIA VOLCANO.

IN 1902, THE VOLCANO, WHICH WE MAYANS CALL GASKANUL, ERUPTED KILLING MANY PEOPLE, BUT VERY FEW IN MY VILLAGE.

THE COOK'S TALE



SAN TOMAS NESTLES CLOSE TO GAGXANLIL. VOLCANO HOTSPRINGS PROVIDE HOT WATER WHEN INDOOR PLUMBING FAILS, WHICH HAPPENS REGULARLY.



MANY STREAMS FROM THE VOLCANO NOURISH COFFEES PARTICULARLY OUR COFFEE TREES



ON THE DAY BEFORE ITS ERUPTION GAGXANLIL WAS SHOWING ITS DARK SIDE, GRUMBLED DEEP INTO THE NIGHT, SHAKING BUILDINGS.



MOST VILLAGERS WERE DEEP IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT DAY'S ARRIVAL OF EL PRESIDENTE AND HIS FIESTAS MINERALIAS.

WATCH YOUR STEER XELHA.



BUT ONE VILLAGE ELDER FELT THE VILLAGERS NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR A DIFFERENT EVENT.



HORADO GASTRONO HAD LIVED THROUGH PREVIOUS ERUPTIONS AND KNEW HOW UNPREDICTABLE AND DEADLY THEY COULD BE.

EASY BABY LET'S GET AWAY FROM THESE COAGS.



HORADO SCANNED THE TREES UNTIL HE SAW HIS SPIRIT ANIMAL.



THE EAGLE, HIS LIFE-LONG PARTNER



HIS PRAYERS AND INCANTATION TOOK AWHILE BUT EVENTUALLY THEY MERGED

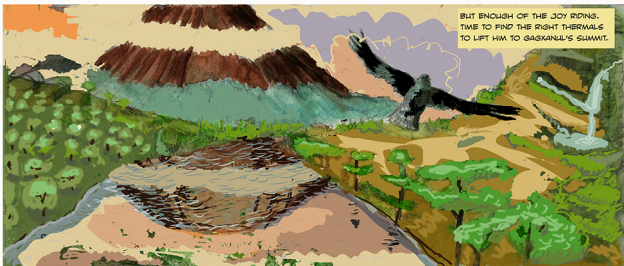


TO THIS DAY, NO ONE KNOWS HOW THEY TRANSITION, AND THE NAGUALS WON'T TELL.

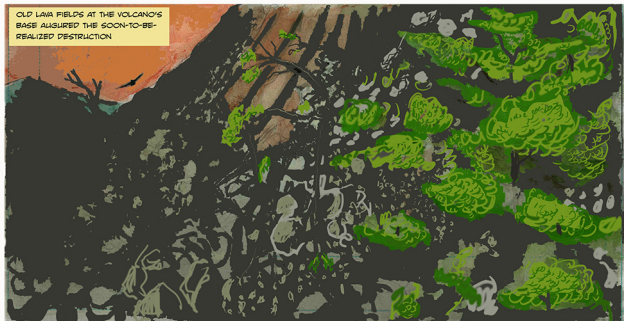




IT HAD BEEN AWHILE SINCE HORADO HAD MERGED WITH WITH HIS EAGLE SPIRIT-MATE AND HE'D FORGOTTEN HOW WONDERFUL FLOATING ON THE THERMALS FELT.



BUT ENOUGH OF THE JOY RIDING. TIME TO FIND THE RIGHT THERMALS TO LIFT HIM TO GASKANUL'S SUMMIT.



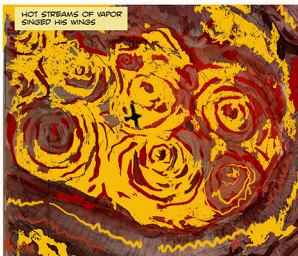
OLD LAVA FIELDS AT THE VOLCANO'S BASE ASSURED THE SOON-TO-BE-REALIZED DESTRUCTION



WHAT HORADO SAW
CONFIRMED HIS SENSE OF
URGENCY. ANIMALS LARGE
AND SMALL SCRAMBLED FOR
SAFETY OFF THE MOUNTAIN.



LAVA STREAMS BOILED,
SWIRLED, AND EXPLODED
LIKE A CAULDRON OF
SWIMMING CORN SOUP.



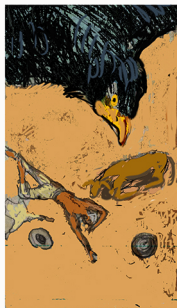
HOT STREAMS OF VAPOR
SINSED HIS WINGS



TOO QUICKLY A DEEP
FATIGUE DRAINED HIM



A WING TANGLED IN
TREE BRANCHES AS
GRAVITY PULLED HIM
DOWN FROM THE
VOLCANO'S SUMMIT





HORADO FELT WEAK
BUT HE KNEW WHAT
HE HAD TO DO.



MY SWEET
BABIES!



THE VILLAGERS CARRIED
ON BLIND TO THE DANGER



NO PISS,
HORADO? SO
TASTY - I'VE ALWAYS
LOVED THEM.

OOO... WHAT
HAPPENED TO
YOUR ARM,
SENOR?



YOU HAVE TO
FLEE NOW

THIS IS NO
TIME FOR A
FESTIVAL MY
FRIENDS!



NOW!
GASKANIL IS
GETTING READY
TO BLOW ITS
TOP!

UH PARDON SENOR,
BUT HOW DO YOU
SEE SOMETHING
WE DON'T?







HEH-HEH HORADO, YOU'RE AN IDIOT - SENSE. YOU CAN'T EXPECT US TO EVACUATE BASS? ON SUCH NONSENSE!

OH REALLY! WELL, MY UNCLE WAS A BULL.

JAMAM MI AMOR, I'VE BEEN ASKING TO TELL YOU...

WHEN I DRINK TOO MUCH, I THINK I BECOME AN ISHANA.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY, MY DAUGHTER'S A DOVE.



I MEAN, I NEVER SAW HIM CHANGE, BUT MY AUNT SAID IT TOOK 2 WEEKS FOR HIS HORNS TO COMPLETELY DISAPPEAR.

SO I DON'T DOUBT HORADO.

HE'S LIVED AS A HERMIT. MAYBE HE'S A SHAMAN, TOO. WHO CAN SAY?

BESIDES, WHAT'S THE HARM IN TAKING HIS WARNINGS TO HEART. EL PRESIDENTE'S VISIT IS ALL ABOUT GETTING RE-ELECTED, NOT US.



BY THE WAY, I JUST HEARD EL PRESIDENTE'S TOUR IS BYPASSING SAN TOMAS - I WONDER WHY?

WE ALL KNOW HOW UNPREDICTABLE AND DEADLY GASKHALAL IS



XELBA AND I ARE GOING TO VISIT MY COUSINS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VALLEY



YOU ALL WOULD BE WISE TO DO THE SAME.

AND SO AS A MIDWAY DARKNESS
SETTLED OVER SAN TOMAS, A
CARAVAN TRUDGED OUT TO PLACES
FAR FROM DANGER



HORADO, AND XELBA, JOINED
THE FLOW PRAYING THEY'D
ALL CLEAR THE DROP ZONE



A FEW MONTHS LATER, XELBA RETURNED TO HORADO'S PROPERTY ALONE. HORADO NEVER RETURNED.



SOME SAY HORADO SHAPE-SHIFTED ONE LAST TIME. OTHERS THINK HE WANTED ABLE TO SURVIVE THE ERUPTION OR THE DEBRIS SHOWER THAT DESTROYED FARMS AND VILLAGES FOR KILOS AROUND.



SAN TOMAS WAS PARTIALLY DESTROYED BUT ENOUGH OF THE ROADS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS REMAINED TO MAKE IT WORTH REBUILDING. ONLY A FEW DIED THANKS TO HORADO'S WARNING.

A MASSIVE LAVA ROCK STILL SITS IN THE SQUARE TO THIS DAY AS A REMINDER OF GASKANUL'S POWER AND FURY IN 1902.



SUCH A SPLENDID TALE, JAMIE, AND AN EXCELLENT WAY TO KICK OFF OUR STORY HOUR.

GRATIAS, SENOR. SAN TOMAS IS MY HOME AND I ALREADY MISS IT. HOPEFULLY I'LL MAKE ENOUGH MONEY AS A CHEF TO RETURN THERE SOON.



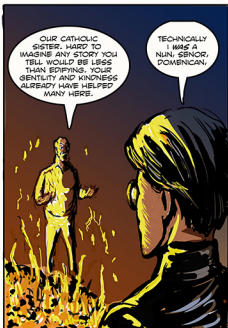
NOW! WHO ELSE HAS A TALE AS ENTERTAINING TO TELL US?

COME NOW! DON'T BE SHY. COME FORWARD AND BE HEARD



IT WOULD BE SUCH A SHAME TO WASTE SUCH A WARNING FIRE -

I WILL DO IT, SENOR, ALTHOUGH MY TALE MIGHT NOT BE AS ENTERTAINING AS OUR YOUNG COOK'S.



OUR CATHOLIC SISTER, HARD TO IMAGINE ANY STORY YOU TELL, WOULD BE LESS THAN EFFING YOUR GENTILITY AND KINDNESS ALREADY HAVE HELPED MANY HERE.

TECHNICALLY I WAS A NUN, SENOR, DOMINICAN.



THE EX-NUN'S PROLOGUE

WHEN I WAS A CHILD I WANTED TO BE A PRIEST. I DROVE MY PARENTS CRAZY.



WE ALL KNOW HOW THE WORLD WORKS THOUGH. THE CLOSEST I COULD COME TO THAT ROLE WAS AS A NUN.

I WORKED VERY HARD, HOPING AGAINST HOPE THAT THE OLD BOYS NETWORK WOULD RELENT AND REALIZE HOW WOMEN COULD BE AS EFFECTIVE AS THEY WERE IN THE PRIESTHOOD.



I WORKED MY WAY UP TO BECOMING MOTHER SUPERIOR FOR A CONVENT IN THE BARRIO BUT FOUND MYSELF ENBROILED IN CONFLICTS WITH THE BISHOP AND OTHER CLERICS OVER OUR OUTREACH TO THE POOR AND GANG VICTIMS.

UNTIL MY ACTIVISM BECAME DANGEROUS. MY LIFE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT OTHERS.



LONG STORY SHORT I GOT IN TROUBLE WITH THE LOCAL POLICE, WHO WERE VERY CHUMMY WITH THE BISHOP AND THE REST OF THE CHURCH HIERARCHY.

THEY WANTED TO CAST ME AS A REBEL AND FORCED ME TO RESIGN MY POSITION.

WHA...
ERR...
HAYE NOW IS NOT



BUT RESIGNING AS SUPERIOR AND LEAVING THE CONVENT WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR THESE HORRIBLE, DABOLICAL MEN.



SO - SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL ME.

NOW HERE I AM FLEEING THE COUNTRY OF MY BIRTH, COLUMBIA, AND THE PEOPLE I LOVE AND ONLY WANT TO SERVE IN HOPE OF ASYLUM.



IN COLLEGE I STUDIED THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS, SPECIALIZING IN ERAS BEFORE THE SPANISH CONQUEST IN THE 3000S.

MY TALE IS OF INTRIGUE AND BETRAYAL OF DREAMS THAT TELL THE TRUTH BUT MISLEAD THE DREAMERS. THIS TALE CONTINUES TO HAUNT ME.

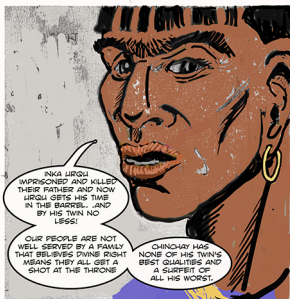


INKA CHAGUI-CHINCHAY RETURNS TO THE CITY OF CUSCO TRIUMPHANT. HIS OPPONENT, INKA URQU, HAS BEEN OVERCOME BY THE SHEER ALACDITY OF HIS AMBUSH. ALTHOUGH CHINCHAY'S BATTALIONS HAVE SUFFERED GRIEVOUS LOSSES AND HE KNOWS HE'LL HAVE TO OFFER RECOMPENSE TO HIS ALLIES.



LOOK AT HIM, KUNTUR. HE RETURNS FRESH FROM USURPING HIS OWN BROTHER PREENING LIKE A COCK OF THE PEN

FRATRICIDE RUNS IN THAT FAMILY LIKE A BAD CASE OF THE SHITS, AMARU.



INKA URQU IMPRISONED AND KILLED THEIR FATHER AND NOW URQU GETS HIS TIME IN THE BARREL... AND BY HIS TWIN NO LESS!

OUR PEOPLE ARE NOT WELL SERVED BY A FAMILY THAT BELIEVES DIVINE RIGHT MEANS THEY ALL GET A SHOT AT THE THRONE

CHINCHAY HAS NONE OF HIS TWIN'S BEST QUALITIES AND A SURFEIT OF ALL HIS WORST.



BROTHERS IN THE WOMB, SO PERHAPS BROTHERS IN THE TOMB?



SUCH WORDS, EVEN INBENT IN JESS, CAN GET YOU STRETCHED OUT ON THE SHINING BACK.

ARE YOU PLAYFULLY SPECULATING OR ARE YOU PROPOSING A DESIRABLE OUTCOME MY ESTEEMED FRIEND?

.... IT DEPENDS ON HOW RECEPTIVE YOU MIGHT BE TO THE LATTER



I SUSPECT YOU ARE OF LIKE MIND BUT I TRUST IN YOUR SILENCE IF YOU ARENT

MY THOUGHTS ARE MY OWN, COURSE, BUT I DO NOT BETRAY A CONFIDENCE



WE ALREADY TREAD ON QUICK SAND BY DECLINING TO SUPPORT HIS COUP AGAINST CHINQUAY WITH OUR PLATOONS.



IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR FAMILIES AFTER WE ARE BEHEADED TO YOUR BELOVED WIFE AFTER HE TIRE OF HER.



WHAT DO MY FRIENDS, KUNTUR AND ANARU, DISCUSS THAT DARKENS THEIR BROWS SO?



COME FORWARD, ARE YOU NOT IN A CELEBRATORY MOOD AFTER MY ASCENSION?

OF COURSE INKA CHAGUI, IT WAS JUST SUCH A SURPRISE COMING SO SOON AFTER YOUR BROTHER'S ELEVATION.



THE GREAT GENERAL KUNTER, I HONOR YOU AS A GREAT WARRIOR AND CITIZEN, EVEN IF YOU HAVE NOT SEEN TOO FRIENDLY TO ME AS OF LATE.

AND AMARU, WHEN IS THE LAST TIME YOU ATE? DO YOU NOT PARTAKE OF ANY OF THE MAIZE YOUR PLANTATION PRODUCES?

INKA KNOWS HE CAN COUNT ON OUR SUPPORT IN ANY ENDEAVOR TO IMPROVE THE WELLBEING OF OUR PEOPLE



I WOULD HOPE SO, HONORABLE COMRADES

AMARU, YOUR LEANNESS IS A TROUBLE TO ME.

BRING MY BROTHER FORWARD!



BRING HIM TO THE RUS OF SUPPLY

TAKE THE POSITION YOU MADE OUR FATHER TAKE, URAK!



BROTHER, YOU HAVE KILLED OUR PEOPLE AND OUR DEAR FAMILY. IT HONORS YOU TOO MUCH TO GIVE YOU THE SAME DEATH AS OUR FATHER RECEIVED AT YOUR HANDS.

NO-NO! CHAGU! YOU KNOW HE DESERVED WHAT HE GOT



HAVE - HAS INKA CHAGU CHINGAR FORGOTTEN... HOW I SAVED HIM FROM DROWNING AS A BOY?



IF THAT'S HOW YOU CHOOSE TO REMEMBER IT, MAY IT BE YOUR LAST GOOD MEMORY



COME PEOPLE! TRAMPLE THE FOOL, TENDERIZE HIM FOR HIS UPROOFING SHAMING.

AND SO BEGAN A REGIMEN OF TORTURE NOT UNLIKE IN HUMAN HISTORY. IF YOU THINK IT BARBARIC, ONLY TURN TO THE PAGES OF RECORDED WESTERN CIVILIZATION WHERE THE INQUISITION SAW FIT TO HANG OR BURN WITCHES OR INFIDELS TO DEATH, BUT ONLY AFTER TORTURING THEM TO GET A FORCED CONFESSION OR CONVERSION.

STEP UP THE PACE

WHEN YOU'RE DONE, BRING HIM TO THE RACK

THE TRAMPLING WAS BAD ENOUGH

I DON'T HAVE THE STOMACH FOR THIS



OUR ILLUSTRIOUS LEADER DON'T SEE FIT TO SAY WHY SHOULD WE?

MORE TO DISCLOSE IN PRIVATE, FRIEND

I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY, BUT I'M NOT THERE YET

OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH UPSET AND TRUJLET, EVEN IF CANDY-AY HAS NO BUSINESS BEING KING, AND I AGREE HE DOES NOT, WHAT COST TO THE CALMNESS AND WELLBEING TO OUR PEOPLE?



THE COST OF A VAN, INSAIS, AND INCOMPETENT MAN WHO TAKES NO COUNSEL FROM WISER MEN, WHO ACTS ON IMPULSE, AMBITION, AND CALLOUSNESS. DO YOU THINK HE CARES ABOUT THE WARRIORS HE LOST IN THE BATTLE TO OVERCOME HIS BROTHER? OR FOR THAT MATTER THEIR FAMILIES?

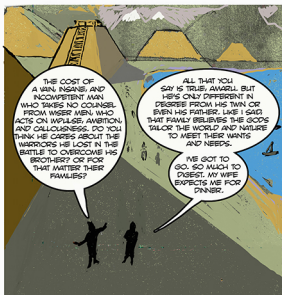
ALL THAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, AMARIL, BUT HE'S ONLY DIFFERENT IN DEGREE FROM HIS TWIN OR EVEN HIS FATHER. LIKE I SAID, THAT FAMILY BELIEVES THE GODS TAILOR THE WORLD AND NATURE TO MEET THEIR WANTS AND NEEDS.

I'VE GOT TO GO, SO MUCH TO DIGEST. MY WIFE EXPECTS ME FOR DINNER.

ALL THE MORE REASON TO NIP IT IN THE BUD, KUNTUR

I'LL SEND A MESSENGER TO LET YOU KNOW WHETHER OR NOT I'LL ATTEND

I'M MEETING WITH SOME LIKE-MINDED FRIENDS, SUNSET TONIGHT. PERHAPS YOU'LL JOIN?





I WOULDN'T BE HERE IN THIS CURSED MONSOON IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE YOUR PLAN IS RIGHTEOUS AND WILL WORK. AND IT DOES MAKE SENSE THAT THE DEED IS DONE OUT IN THE OPEN

AND THAT IT IS DONE BY THE RIGHT PEOPLE!



BUT I AM SURPRISED THAT THOSE PEOPLE ARE TUPAC AND QUNA. TUPAC! I THOUGHT YOU WERE CLOSE TO CHUNCHAY AN ADE. AND QUNA, AREN'T YOU A MAN SERVANT?

ALL THE BETTER TO SEE HOW BAD CHUNCHAY WILL BE FOR US AND WHAT ACTUALLY MOTIVATES HIM. GENERAL KUNTURI, HIS TERROR WON'T STOP WITH HIS BROTHER - HE WANTS ALL THE CITIES NEAR US TO PAY TRIBUTE TO HIM.

WE ARE CLOSE AND KNOW ALL HIS PRIVATE ACTIONS AND THOUGHTS

AND OFTEN EVEN HIS DREAMS



KUNTURI TUPAC AND QUNA ARE GOOD AND HONORABLE MEN

THEY WILL NOT SHIRK OR EVADE THEIR OATH



IT'S NOT THEIR COMMITMENT THAT WORRIES ME, AMARU.

THEY ARE NOT EXPERIENCED WARRIORS. WHOEVER STRIKES THE FIRST BLOW MUST MAKE IT COUNT. IF IT DOESN'T HURT HIM ENOUGH, HE COULD ESCAPE

I WILL STRIKE FIRST SIR. WITH PLEASURE AND TO THE HILT.



SO BE IT, HONORED FRIEND

WE MUST EACH STRIKE A BLOW. AND BEFORE THE PRIESTS INVEST HIM. THIS CONSPIRACY CAN HAVE NO BACK SEATERS.



THE BEST TIME TO STRIKE IS WHEN CHUNCHAY REACHES THE TOP OF THE CEREMONIAL PYRAMID. IT'S REQUIRED THAT HE BE ALONE. HIS GUARD MUST WAIT BELOW

CHUNCHAY WILL BE FOCUSED ON THE RITUAL AND WON'T BE AWARE OF US.

WE SHOULD EACH LEAVE SEPARATELY NOW



EVEN IF WE SUCCEED THERE WILL BE TARGETS ON OUR BACKS. CHUNCHAY'S COUSIN WIRNA WORRIES ME.

MAY HUARI GUIDE OUR BLADES TOMORROW. SLEEP WELL COMRADE



INGA CHUN-CHU!
CHUN-CHU, INGA!
WAKE UP IT'S
IMPORTANT

I'VE HAD A
BAD DREAM, A
NIGHTMARE, A WARNING
ABOUT YOU

HHMMMM



IN MY DREAM,
A PANTHER SWALLOWED
A BABY WHOLE, THE GRAVES
OF ANcestors SPRANG OPEN
AND SURRY STALKED THEM
BREATHING FOUL VAPORS
FROM HER MOUTH

THEN LLAPE
ROARED ACROSS THE
SKY BURNING TREES
AND VILLAGES, IT CAN
ONLY BE ABOUT YOU,
MY LOVE.



STOP!
YOU MIGHT BE
MY FAVORITE BROTHER
BUT THERE ARE PLENTY
OF OTHERS WHO'D
BE HAPPY TO TAKE
YOUR PLACE!



I'M ALSO
THE LONGEST
SERVING AND I'VE
ALWAYS LOOKED
OUT FOR YOU

THE GODS HAVE
SENT A WARNING
AND YOU ARE IN
DANGER



I COULD
USE MORE
SLEEP BUT NOW
SINCE YOU WOKE
ME UP...

LISTEN TO ME,
THE DREAM WAS VERY
CLEAR, YOU WON'T
SURVIVE THE DAY IF
YOU GO TO YOUR
CORONATION



THAT'S
RIDICULOUS,
YOUR DREAM
MEANS THE
OPPOSITE

I'M NOT
STUPID, I KNOW
I HAVE MANY
ENEMIES

BUT I'VE
ALWAYS HAD
THEM, I'M USED
TO IT.



I THINK SURRY
AND LLAPE ARE
SAVING THAT THE
OLD WORLD IS
DYING AND I WILL
BE BUILDING A
NEW ONE

I WOULDN'T
HAVE SUCCEEDED
IN KILLING MY
BROTHER IF THEY
DIDN'T WANT
IT TO BE SO.

SIGH





DREAMS FOLLOW THEIR OWN LOGIC, PROVOKED BY THEIR MYSTERIOUS SOURCES.



LIKE OUR MAMMALIAN BROTHEREN, WE ARE ALL SUBJECT TO THEM, NO MATTER THEIR ENDS.



SOMETIMES THEY COALESCE AROUND THE SAME DREAM.



CHING-HAY BRINGS QUITE AN ENCOURAGE IN SUPPORT AWARU!

HAY! HIS CEREMONIAL GUARD WILL SCATTER LIKE ROBETS AT THE FIRST FLASH OF A BLADE!



I RECOGNIZE THE COLORS OF WIRNA'S GUARD BRINGING UP THE REAR.

WIRNA CAN BE DANGEROUS, BUT THE PRIESTS REQUIRE CHING-HAY ASCENDS THE STAIRS ALONE.

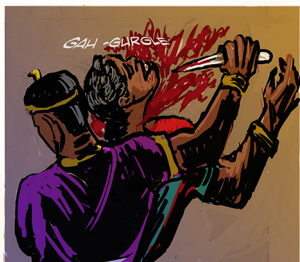
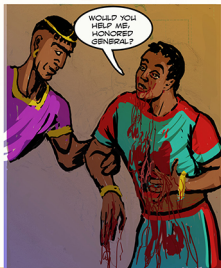


WITH OR WITHOUT A GUARD WE MUST MOVE FAST, WITHOUT HESITATION.











WAYNA AND
HIS GUARD ARE
COMING!



TRAITORS!
WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE!



NOBLE COUSIN,
YOUR SPIRIT SPLLS
ACROSS THIS SACRED
FLOOR AS SO MANY
LESSER SACRIFICES
HAVE DONE



YET THE TRACES
OF YOUR BLOOD WILL
LINGER SO MUCH
LONGER AND SHAKE
THE FOUNDATIONS
OF OUR PEOPLE



I WON'T WASTE
MY TIME DETERMINING
WHICH OF YOU IS MOST
CULPABLE. YOU WILL
ALL DIE



REST ASSURED
MY GUARD IS
WELL PRACTICED
AND QUITE READY
AFTER OUR RECENT
SKIRMISHES



I PRAY YOU HEAR ME OUT, WAYNA

MANY TIMES YOU AND I HAVE SHARED BLOOD AND THE SWEET TASTE OF VICTORY

BEFORE YOU D'ESECRATE THIS SACRED PLACE ANY MORE THAN IT ALREADY HAS BEEN BY US -



USE YOUR BRAINS ONLY ON ME NOW IF YOU TRUST YOU ARE INFORMED ENOUGH TO KNOW OUR MOVES



BUT IF YOU HAVE DOUBTS LISTEN TO ME, HONORED WARRIOR

AND YOU WILL HEAR THE TRUTH AS MY FRIENDS AND I SAW IT



DO YOU THINK GENERAL KUNTUR COULD BECOME OUR NEXT KING?

ONLY IF THE GODS AND LORD WAYNA WANT HIM TO



SO TELL PUKA TO BRING HIS BATTALIAN TO THE LITTLE MOUNTAIN WHERE THE SUN FIRST RISES AS SOON AS HE CAN.

RUN LIKE THE WIND!

I WILL, UNCLE, BR, LORD WAYNA

A HOT HUMID NIGHT AND PIERCE MOSQUITOS TOOK THEIR TOLL ON KUNTUR'S SLEEP AS IF THE GHOST OF INKA CHUQUI-CHINCHAY WANTED TO EVEN THE SCORE.



KUNTUR STARTLED AWAKE TO A CHIRPING PURRING SOUND. WAS HE DREAMING? THE SOUNDS OF RUFFLING FEATHERS AND A CACKLE SAID OTHERWISE.



SURELY YOU KNOW WHY YOUR NAMESAKE KUNTUR-CONDOR IS HERE



AFTER ALL, WE SHARE THE SAME DARK NATURE

THIS A DREAM. I'VE DREAMT YOU BEFORE BUT ALWAYS IN ADVANCE OF A BATTLE



AND THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL MEET ME AGAIN, SOONER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.

THE COUP WENT WELL. WAYNA HAS ACCEPTED THE RESULTS



THE COUNCIL WILL SELECT OUR NEW LEADER - A FIRST!

RIGHT
NONSENSE

SO YOU SAY BROTHER.



I MUST BE DREAMING



EVEN OVER 500 YEARS AGO BEFORE THE SPANISH CONQUEST, MEN WERE MISUNDERSTANDING THEIR DREAMS AND ACTING ONLY TO SATISFY THEIR EGOS. AS POWERFUL MEN TEND TO DO AFTER EVENTS SPIN OUT OF CONTROL... AND DISASTER ENDS. AMARU WAS KILLED SOON AFTER HIS HEART-TO-HEART WITH KUNTUR, IN A SURPRISE ATTACK BY HIS OWN TROOPS.



KUNTUR, PROBABLY THE MOST UPSTANDING, INTELLIGENT, AND YES EVEN NOBLEST OF THE CONSPIRATORS, STILL RESOLVED HIS GUILT IN THE ONLY WAY HE KNEW - THROUGH A VIOLENT ACT

ON HEARING OF AMARU'S DEATH, KUNTUR PERSUADED A TRUSTED SLAVE, ON THE PROMISE OF HIS FREEDOM, TO RUN HIM THROUGH WITH HIS OWN SPEAR.



OVER THE THREE PLUS YEARS OF WAYNA'S REIGN AND HIS CONSTANT WARRING, THE WARI PEOPLE GREW TIRED OF HIS STEADY DEMANDS FOR TRIBUTE INCREASES.

THEY FOUND OCCASION TO DEPRIVE WAYNA OF HIS EXALTED POSITION AND LIFE ON A TRIBUTE VISIT TO ONE OF HIS HOLDINGS AND QUICKLY DISPATCHED HIM

MEN! WAYNA COMBINED THE WORST QUALITIES OF HIS TWO UNCLE'S WITH A STREET URGHIN'S GREED FOR MORE, WHICH IS WHAT HE BASICALLY WAS ANYHOW

NONE OF THE PEOPLE IN MY STORY HAD A CLUE TO THEIR PERVERTED VIEW OF LIFE BECAUSE THEIR ENTITLEMENT BLINDED THEM

THE CONQUISTADORS WHO OVERCAME THE INKAS WERE AS SAD IF NOT WORSE. THE MALE DEFECT IS NOT BOUND BY ANY CREED OR IDEOLOGY

MEN ARE STILL IN CONTROL OF MOST FACETS OF LIFE TODAY. THEIR TENDENCY TO EXERT POWER IS A CONSTANT FOR US ALL. THAT IS MY TALE. MAKE OF IT WHAT YOU WILL.



THE END

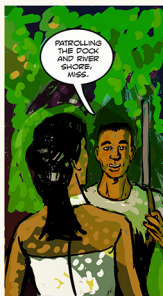


IN 1968, TERCO MENENDEZ, A VERY RICH SWAGGLER, LIVED ON A COMPOUND NEAR THE CITY OF LA CEBRA, HONDURAS











HEY
WHAT'S
THE HOLDUP!



IGNORE THEM,
BUT I'M LATE FOR
MY HORSE RIDE SO
IF YOU COULD LET
US GO...



YOUR FRONT TIRE
WAS - IT'S GOING
FLAT - THAT'D
MAKE YOU REALLY
LATE!



THANKS FOR
THE SHARP EYE
ER - WHO MIGHT
YOU BE?

PALDAN
GUERCO,
M'AM.



I THINK I
JUST MET YOUR
BROTHER THIS
MORNING IN THE
GARDEN.

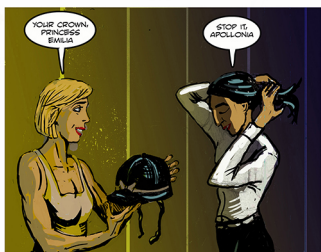
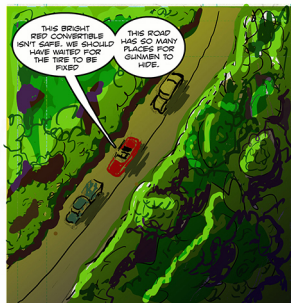
COUSIN, OUR
FATHERS ARE
BROTHERS,
AND YOU?



NEVERMIND
WHO SHE IS.
YOU JUST GUARD
THE HOUSE. ALL YOU
NEED TO KNOW IS THAT
SHE'S UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF TERCIO
MENEZES - YOUR
BOSS

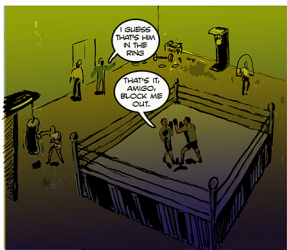


SHE'S SO
BEAUTIFUL -
I MUST HAVE
HER













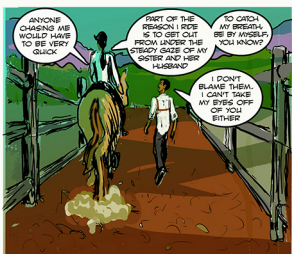
THAT'S HER -
WITH A BODY-
GUARD?

ARE
YOU SURE,
ENRICO?

POSITIVE!
BEN'S BEEN FOLLOWING
HER SO LONG,
I KNOW HER BY
THE SHADOW
SHE CASTS



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
FOLLOW ME
SO CLOSELY,
PALDAN



ANYONE
CHASING ME
WOULD HAVE
TO BE VERY
QUICK

PART OF THE
REASON I RIDE
IS TO GET OUT
FROM UNDER THE
STEADY GAZE OF MY
SISTER AND HER
HUSBAND

TO CATCH
MY BREATH,
BE BY MYSELF,
YOU KNOW?

I DON'T
BLAME THEM.
I CAN'T TAKE
MY EYES OFF
OF YOU
EITHER



AND I NEVER
WOULD IF YOU
EVER GAVE ME
A CHANCE

HAH-HAH
SO SILLY



WOOF,
PRETTY COLD
SHITDOWN,
PALDAN. ARE
YOU OKAY?







