



I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.



A MOMENT MORE, LADY HEIDMARCH. EACH OF MY COMPANIONS HAS SHARED A TALE. IT SEEMS ONLY FITTING THAT I FINISH OFF WITH A STORY OF MY OWN.



I'VE GOT REAMS OF YOUR FIELD REPORTS, EZREN. YOUR ADVENTURES IN VARISIA ARE A MATTER OF RECORD.



THOSE REPORTS CONTAIN THE DETAILS OF MY ADVENTURES, BUT NOT THE MOTIVATION THAT MADE THEM OCCUR IN THE FIRST PLACE, THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN IN VARISIA.

FOR THAT YOU MUST GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING, TO ABSALOM.

"THEY CALL ABSALOM
THE CITY AT THE
CENTER OF THE WORLD,
AND UNTIL YOU'VE BEEN
THERE YOU CAN'T REALLY
IMAGINE WHAT PEOPLE
MEAN WHEN THEY
SAY IT."



"GROWING UP, I NEVER
EXPECTED A LIFE OF
ADVENTURE. BY TWENTY
I'D NEVER EVEN LEFT
THE CITY WALLS, BUT I FANCIED
MYSELF AN EXPERT ON
THE WORLD BEYOND."



"SPICES, YOU SEE.
MY FATHER BUILT
AN EMPIRE IN
SPICES IMPORTED
FROM THROUGHOUT
THE INNER SEA AND
BEYOND. CARDAMOM
FROM VUDRA, BLUE
SAFFRON FROM
JALMERAY, THUVIAN
BAHARAT."

"WHY BOTHER TO
TRAVEL THE WORLD
WHEN THE WORLD
COMES TO YOU?"



"MY FATHER'S
BUSINESS WAS VAST
AND IMPORTANT, BUT
AS THE FOURTH OF
SIX CHILDREN, I WAS
CONTENT TO PLAY A
MINOR PART IN IT."



"UNTIL IT ALL CAME CRUMBLING DOWN."

"THE CHURCH OF ABADAR ACCUSED MY FATHER OF HERESY, RUINING THE FAMILY BUSINESS. I RESOLVED TO MAKE IT RIGHT, AND SPENT YEARS TRYING TO CLEAR HIS NAME."



"INSTEAD, I DID THE OPPOSITE. I DISCOVERED THAT MY FATHER WAS IN LEAGUE WITH SLAVERS CALLED THE SALT CARTEL, FROM THE DEVIL-BINDING EMPIRE OF CHELIAX. OUR FLEET SMUGGLED SLAVES ALL AROUND THE INNER SEA, AND MY FATHER KEPT A METICULOUS RECORD OF EVERY SHAMEFUL TRANSACTION."

"WORSE, I LEARNED THAT MY FATHER HAD ADOPTED THE RELIGION OF HIS CHELISH ALLIES. ALL OF HIS SECRET LEDGERS WERE BLESSED WITH A BENEDICTION TO THE ARCHDEVIL MAMMON, WRITTEN IN MY FATHER'S HAND."



"OF COURSE WE KEPT IT FROM YOU, EZREN! WE KNEW YOU'D RUIN IT IF YOU FOUND OUT. SAD, MEDIOCRE EZREN."

"COME BACK TO ABSALOM, AND I'LL KILL YOU."

"I TURNED OVER MY EVIDENCE TO THE AUTHORITIES, AND TORE MY FAMILY APART ONCE AND FOR ALL. I, WHO HAD LABORED SO DILIGENTLY TO SAVE IT. MY YOUNGER BROTHER, TRUAN, TOOK IT WORST OF ALL."

"I FINALLY MASTERED MAGIC YEARS AFTER ABANDONING THE CITY AND MY FAMILY. WHEN AT LAST I RETURNED, I HOPED TO PETITION THE PATHFINDER SOCIETY FOR MEMBERSHIP AT ITS ANNUAL 'GRAND CONVOCACTION.'

"BUT THE FIRST CHANCE I GOT, I WENT RIGHT TO TRUAN'S FAVORITE WATERING HOLE, THE BARBERHOUSE, NOT FAR FROM THE SLAVE MARKETS OF THE COINS DISTRICT.

"I WANTED TO CONFRONT MY FAMILY DIRECTLY, TO PROVE WITH MY NEWFOUND POWER THAT 'MEDIocre' OLD EZREN WASN'T TO BE UNDERESTIMATED.

"SIMPLY PUT, I CAME BACK FOR REVENGE."

PATHFINDER ORIGINS CERTAIN SACRIFICES

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"I KNEW TRUAN WOULD SHOW EVENTUALLY. IN THE MEANTIME, I WATCHED THE ANTICS OF A TRAVELING BARD. A MOST AMUSING LITTLE FELLOW NAMED LEM."

SO WE ALL RAISE A FORK, AND A KNIFE AND A SPOON,

FOR WE KNOW THAT OUR BANQUET IS HAPPENING SOON,

WE'LL HELP CLEAR A SPACE FOR THE NIGHT'S MAID OF HONOR,

A MOST TASTEFUL GUEST IS THE UNICORN'S DAUGHTER!

YOU'VE BEEN ADMIRING MY PERFORMANCE FOR THREE HOURS, OLD-TIMER. LEAST YOU CAN DO IS BUY ME A DRINK.

I'D BE DELIGHTED. THE NAME IS EZREN.



I'M LEM. YOU'RE WAITING FOR SOMEONE, EH? AND BY THE WAY YOU KEEP CHECKING YOUR SPELLBOOK EVERY TWENTY MINUTES I'D SAY YOU'RE ITCHING FOR A CONFRONTATION. YOU SOME KIND OF WIZARD?

INDEED I AM. I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH A SLAVER KNOWN TO FREQUENT THIS BAR, AN UNTRUSTWORTHY LOU WHO GOES BY 'TRUAN.' HE HAPPENS TO BE MY BROTHER.

I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT WICKED BROTHERS, I DO. BUT THIS TRUAN IS AS MEAN AND DIRTY AS THEY COME. TIED UP WITH THE CHELIAX GANGS DOWN BY THE DOCKS. VERY DANGEROUS. AND HE JUST WALKED IN THE DOOR.

BE CAREFUL, EZREN. THIS IS NO PLACE FOR FIREBALLS.

