



IT WAS HIS LOT IN LIFE AND IT TAUGHT HIM HUMILITY, WHICH IS A RARE THING INDEED FOR A NOBLEMAN.

AT TIMES HE STRUGGLED JUST TO WALK. HE USED A CANE TALLER THAN YOU, ABRAHAM.



"WITH A SILVER HANDLE CARVED INTO A WOLF'S HEAD, WHICH WAS HIS FAMILY CREST.

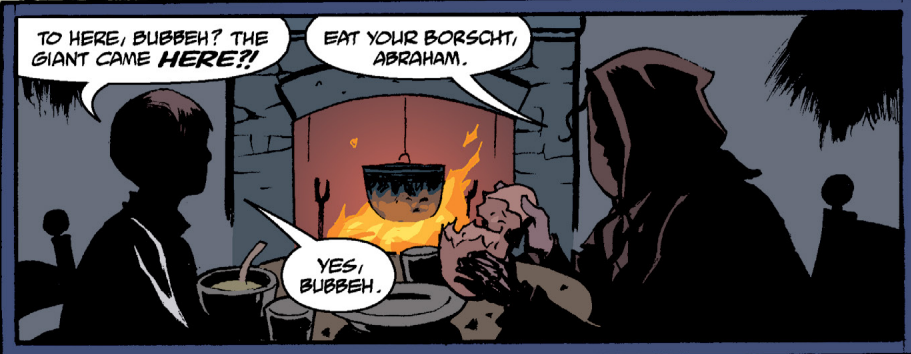
"HE WAS ESPECIALLY DEAR TO THE CHILDREN, AND HIS GREAT, DEEP POCKETS, THE SIZE OF TURNIP SACKS, BULGED WITH TRINKETS AND SWEETS.

"IT WAS SAID THAT MASTER SARDU LOOKED DOWN ON EVERYONE, YET LOOKED DOWN ON NO ONE.



"HIS AFFLICTION WAS A SOURCE OF SECRET SHAME FOR HIS FATHER.

"AT FIFTEEN, HIS FATHER AND UNCLAS MADE HIM ACCOMPANY THEM ON A SIX-WEEK HUNTING EXPEDITION TO ROMANIA."



TO HERE, BUBBEH? THE GIANT CAME **HERE!!**

EAT YOUR BORSCHT, ABRAHAM.

YES, BUBBEH.



"TO THE NORTH COUNTRY--THE DARK FOREST. THEY CAME TO HUNT THE WOLF, A **HUNTING** ANIMAL.

"YOUNG SARDU'S FATHER BELIEVED WOLF MEAT WOULD CURE HIS SON'S WEAK MUSCLES.




"THE DARK FOREST WAS FILLED WITH ALL MANNER OF BEAST.

"THEY ROAMED THE NIGHT AS IF DISPLACED FROM THEIR DENS, NESTS, AND LAIRS.



"CRAZY THE CREATURES WERE WITH THEIR CRIES AND WAILS, AND THE MEN COULD NOT SLEEP.

"MANY WANTED TO LEAVE.



"BUT THE ELDER SARDU WAS OBSESSED WITH OBTAINING THE WOLF, AND CURING HIS SON OF THE POX UPON HIS LINE.



"AND SO IT WAS THAT THE GREAT NOBLEMAN WAS THE FIRST TO BECOME SEPARATED FROM THE OTHERS.



"HE DID NOT RETURN TO CAMP THAT EVENING, AND IN THE MORNING, THE OTHERS SPREAD OUT TO SEARCH."



THAT EVENING, ONE OF JUSEF'S COUSINS FAILED TO RETURN, AND SO ON, YOU SEE?

YES, BUBBEH.

BEFORE MANY NIGHTS HAD PASSED THE YOUNG GIANT WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT.

"THAT DAY, IN AN AREA PREVIOUSLY SEARCHED, HE DISCOVERED THE BODIES LAID OUT AT THE ENTRANCE TO A CAVE."

"THEIR HEADS WERE CRUSHED BUT THEIR BODIES UNEATEN."



"WHAT MANNER OF ANIMAL WOULD KILL LIKE THIS? NOT FOR FOOD BUT FOR SPORT?"



"SARDU COULD FEEL HE WAS BEING WATCHED-- STUDIED, FROM WITHIN THE CAVE."



"HE CARRIED EACH BODY AWAY AND BURIED THEM DEEP, THEN RETURNED TO FACE WHATEVER WAS IN THE CAVE."

