



'TIS THE WISEMAN! HE HAS COME TO GREET US!

JUST THE MAN I WAS LOOKING FOR. WISEMAN IS THE ONLY ONE WHO SEEMS TO HAVE CLUE ONE ABOUT THIS DAMN BOOK.

I'M HOPING HE CAN HELP ME GET RID OF THIS CURSE ONCE AND FOR ALL SO I CAN START LIVIN' MY LIFE.



YOUR RETURN WAS FORETOLD, CHOSEN ONE. AS WAS THAT OF THE BOOK. THIS BEGINS YOUR SECOND JOURNEY TO OUR TIME.

WELCOME. NOW COME. WE MUST GO. THE OTHERS WILL BE THOROUGHLY EXALTED BY YOUR RETURN.



HE IS VERY WISE.

YEAH, RIGHT. HOW COME EVERYONE SEEMS TO KNOW WHEN AND WHERE I WILL BE COMING AND GOING--

--BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO HELP ME OUT WHEN THE ROTTING DEAD COME TO PLAY GRAB ASS?



"HUSH, ASHLEY. 'TIS A LONG WALK HOME. DO NOT INSULT HIM YET."

I ALWAYS REGRETTED TAKING OFF SO SOON LAST TIME. I SHOULD HAVE STUCK AROUND AND SOAKED IN SOME HERO WORSHIP.

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, GREY BEARD, INDULGED IN A LITTLE--

IN WHAT, EXACTLY?

UH, THE FINE FOOD AND SONG, BABY.



SO, LET'S GET THIS TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF THE HERO PARTY STARTED. THE HEAD HONCHO OF ASS-KICKERY HAS RETURNED.

COME WORSHIP HIM.



UM...WHAT IN THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?

WE DISCOVERED TO OUR DISMAY THAT YOU ONLY DISPATCHED ALL OF THE EXTREMELY CLOSE BY EVIL...

MY GLORIOUS HOME... 'TIS HORRIBLE.



EXTREMELY CLOSE BY EVIL? STOP TALKING IN YOUR DAMN RIDDLES, OLD BEARDY. YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE.

I KICKED MY EVIL SELF'S ASS. I MOWED DOWN HUNDREDS OF THOSE BONY FELLAS. ALL MY CHOSEN ONE DUTIES WERE FULFILLED.



WHEN YOU REMOVED ME FROM MY RESTING PLACE, SIMPLETON, YOU SUMMONED EVIL FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

YOU THINK THE SKELETON ARMY A DAY'S MARCH FROM HERE, LED BY YOUR BUMBLING EVIL TWIN WAS ALL THAT WOULD CRAVE MY POWER?

THAT WAS BUT THE BEGINNING OF THE HORRORS YOU UNLEASHED ON THESE PEOPLE.



UNFORTUNATELY, THE SKIN COVERED BOOK OF IMMENSE EVIL SPEAKS TRUE.

BUT WE WON. I SAVED THE DAY.

"YOU WON THE FIRST
BATTLE, MY CHOSEN ONE,
BUT NOT THE WAR.

"THE WAR OF THE DEAD BEGAN
WEEKS LATER, AND RAGED FOR
CLOSE TO A FULL YEAR. LORD
ARTHUR AND HENRY THE RED
FOUGHT VALIANTLY AND SIDE
BY SIDE.

"THEIR COMBINED
FORCES MADE THEIR
STAND HERE...

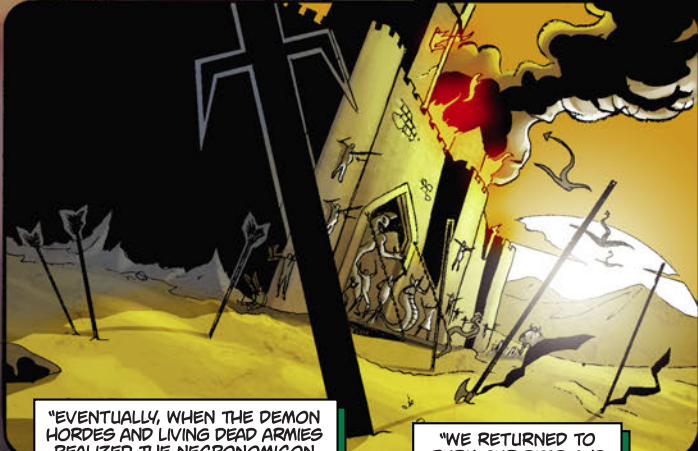




"...BUT IN THE END, EVEN THE LEGENDARY STRENGTH OF HENRY THE RED AND THE DEVILOUS CUNNING OF LORD ARTHUR WERE NOT ENOUGH.



"THEIR COURAGE, HOWEVER, GAVE MANY OF US TIME TO HIDE IN THE CAVE SYSTEM WE DUG BENEATH THE CASTLE WALLS IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THE ONSLAUGHT OF EVIL.



"EVENTUALLY, WHEN THE DEMON HORDES AND LIVING DEAD ARMIES REALIZED THE NECRONOMICON HAD MOVED ON, THEY SCATTERED BACK INTO THEIR HELL HOLES.

"WE RETURNED TO BURY OUR DEAD AND REBUILD OUR KINGDOM.

"ON THE NIGHT WE EMERGED FROM OUR CAVES I FORESAW THIS, THE FIRST OF YOUR RETURNS TO OUR TIME. WE PREPARED WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE KINGDOM FOR YOU--"