

# THE JAUNTINGS OF JASON: (Contd.)

And it came to pass that one day there came to the portals of Sleepy Hollow a warrior who sought out Jason and said unto him, "O, Great One, The illustrious Colius Rex, descendant of the venerable King of that name, bids you proceed to Cactus Grove to witness the ancient ritual known as "Stand to", and which is performed night and morn by his tribe." Arriving at Cactus Grove, Jason and his company came upon a motley collection of slaves who were slowly and laboriously wending their way up a small hill mumbling and calling down curses upon the head of one who was loudly blowing a whistle. Jason was conducted to a small plateau upon which were assembled several long tubes enclosed in mighty walls of bags of sand. Then one of the chiefs appeared from a small hut which looked as if it had been half swallowed by the earth - and shouted in a great voice, "Take Posts". At this there was much scampering and scurrying of slaves who clambered all over the long tubes, and who were obviously looking for a post to take.

Jason could not understand all this at all, and was further amazed when on looking into a shallow pit he saw several warriors gathered about a box which was covered with wheels and windows and which resembled in shape a barrel organ, though it emitted no sound. One of these vassals was making signs with his hands to the leader of the warriors round the long tube, who, bethough Jason, must be deaf and dumb.

Then a great bird was seen approaching, making a great roaring noise with its wings and the chief of the warriors pointed to the bird and cried in a loud voice "Plane." Everyone rushed about shouting and the great tubes were pointed at the bird, whereupon the chief shouted, "Fire". The slaves paid no heed but continued to place a long metal stick on a small platform near the tube and to take it off again without any apparent reason. However, when the chief cried, "Rest", the slaves sank down exhausted about the tubes. And as darkness fell, the shout of "Stand Easy" was heard, this causing much jubilation amongst the warriors who rushed madly down the hill rejoicing.

Now Jason and his band of followers much perplexed and their powers of concentration were sorely tried by so many different machines and shouts and strange goings on, the more so after having already visited "Sleepy Hollow", "The Ruins", and "Naia-on-the-Sea", where they had viewed many strange things which

were alien to their eyes. And so Jason felt more than ever a longing, which had been growing for some time, to return to his own land and people.

Thereupon, he spake to the Great One, Colius, of his desires, and informed him of his intention of returning immediately, proceeding thereupon to set about leaving this strange land and people. Colius Rex then called for an iron chariot to be brought and placed at the disposal of Jason to convey this band of nomads to their galleon which awaited them near "The Ruins". And amidst loud cheering and much waving of arms and hats, Jason and his men departed, promising to return at a later date for another visit to the Great Tribe of Wickstidium.

- The End -

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ere  
terday

derist dolle

thinks am not so good jist now as there am no wan wot unner stands me like

the other day i were standin watchin sum soljers wot am at ther regimentl skool uv destrukshun and they was marchin aroun in ther plaise korled ther bullring wot am reeli onli a bit o konkrete jist becos a bomadeer wot looks importint tels em to well i am jist standin there peesful like an kontent wen colcoooo oo as bin pertendin ter be sik seez me so befor e cin say nuthin i ops down ther bank bi ther kanteen and maik a lotta noise like orl ther surgeonz do so as colcoooo will think im werkin well i works aboawt a bit an i fines a ooge bloke wot am korled smitty e were kist lyin there eyedin an sez skram yer red orse ill be gittin inter trubbel threw yew an all the otha smart giez tooo. owever smitty terns owt ter be a nise genelman like i thort runti were bit e aint an e sez the lucki bloke an thoze wot works in ther cuem like danse ullivin an oo gitz plenti ter eet an am korled ther krane an that remins me i were alwaze ungri an so i arsed im wer i could git sum kake an e sez ther best plaise fer that sorta stuf am a plaise korled ther link house where it am all served up on a platt e sez they ave orl sortz ova ther bit ther best onez eez struk an pashindail puffz an javer knees delite witch am apair-intli like tukis delite an e sez they ave plenti an if i goze ova i am praktikalli sertin to cum back with a lode o sumthin wich will keep me gain fer a fare wile so i will go in termorrer an in me nixt litter i will tell yer wot i git as yer wood probibli like ter no

tom

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-