

Vazurgd Framadar returned from his pilgrimage of penance to Mammon with the Sacred Bowl of sustenance filled with Manna.

'Yea,' he cried, 'my bowl runneth over.'

And Vayu chortled with glee. 'Look you,' he said unto the mortals, 'Vazurgd Framadar begged for only eight hundred shekels' worth of Manna but lo! Mammon has granted him eight hundred and five and a score shekels worth!' And he declared that this was a sacred signal of approval of Akhenaton by the Archangels Imf and Worldb.

And it looked as if Akhenaton was as secure in his position as before the conspiracy of the curse of the Persian Apple.

And the Mortalization of the Heavenly Spirits proceeded forthwith. And this Mortalization took place within the portals of the Hall of the Sacred Portions, within which mortals take part in the daily ritual of sharing of the pie. And it came to pass in those days that the denizens of Indraprasta did take part in a ritual tussle; and a son of a star did emerge victorious in this holy game. And he gave unto the celestial treasury a holy offering of more than one thousand thousand thousand silver Darics. And with the ritual sacrifice was the Mortalization of the Heavenly Spirits completed.

Meanwhile, Mardouk had sent the Host of Turya to harry the Immortal Host of Arya, and Shorab fell upon the outposts of the Immortal Host and slew them. And so, the Immortal Host was restive.

Thus, it came to pass that Rustam drew up the bravest of the Immortal Host and equipped them with the chariots given to Akhenaton by the Jade Emperor. And he led them out against Shorab, who was encamped in the wilderness. And he declared that his battle would be the third conquest of the wilderness.

And Rustam swept down like a lion in the wilderness, his cohorts gleaming in their olive green cloaks. His chariots shone like the stars in the night, the tread of his elephants shook the ground.

And for three days, did Rustam and his

mighty host advance through the wilderness.

And Vayu announced a great victory. 'Verily,' he cried, 'the Immortal Host has conquered the wilderness for the Third Time.'

But Rustam was vexed, for nowhere could he find Shorab. And so, at the end of three days, he led his host back from the wilderness.

'We cannot defeat Mardouk by force of arms alone,' he said, 'there must be a solution to the problem of Mardouk by means of polity.'

Even if Rustam had failed to quell Shorab, he had nevertheless, certainly quelled his foes within the Imperial Host, who had been whispering among themselves that the chariots of the Jade Emperor

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by Corpus Delicti

were unusable, unlike the elephants which had been brought from Moravia.

Vazurgd Framadar, on the other hand, was not so fortunate; for, on the advice of the Archangel Imf, he declared that the two celestial treasure ships would no longer float. For it had come to pass that six thousand thousand thousand silver Darics had been removed from the treasure ships, thereby exposing them to the elements. And so, Vazurgd Framadar wished to mortalize them, to keep them afloat.

This caused a howl of outrage to break forth from the mariners of the Celestial Treasure ships. 'Lo,' they cried, 'Vazurgd Framadar is visiting unto us, not the sins of our forefathers, but the very sins of the Pantheon itself.'

And Lo! Vazurgd Framadar recanted.

'I said not,' said he, 'that the celestial

Treasure ships would sink, but merely that they would not float.' However, this dexterous verbiage did not reflect the anger of the mariners, nor the fury of the Immortals.

And, Pruthuvi set her seal upon a spell, a curse to be recited to fix a hex upon Vazurgd Framadar.

'Yea,' cried the heralds of Pruthuvi, 'Vazurgd Framadar is indeed a heavenly donkey, to pull the celestial treasure ships Through the mire.'

And, the Immortal of the King's Party declared that he would set out on a pilgrimage to Alexandria, to protest against the mortalization of the Treasure ships of heaven, as well as the perversion of Dharma. And Kubera rallied to his call and declared he would march a hundred

fourscore and sixteen Yojanas side by side with the Immortal of the King's Party, to protest against the doings of Akhenaton and of Tammuz and to defend Arya against Turya.

And the Holy Family declared itself with the Immortal of the King's Party in his pilgrimage. And, Thor came forth from Valhalla to plight his troth: 'Verily,' he cried, 'these are the Ides of March.'

However, the others of the Aesir did not agree. Loki and Tyr withdrew to Valhalla and looked on with displeasure. for they were deep in their incantations to lay a curse upon the Unafraid Quality Ruler Immortal, the chief of the Holy Family Once Removed. And their incantations caused pandemonium in the Western Paradise, and much wailing and gnashing of teeth.

And, it came to pass that the Magus of the Celestial Counting House, the Lucre Magus, thought to build a tower like unto nothing seen in *Aryanam Kshathra*. And this tower was to be like unto twice the height of the bamboo tower on the main treasure ship.

Akhenaton was so vexed by this. Indeed, he was so vexed with the Lucre Magus and wished to lower him a peg or



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two. Accordingly, he commanded Vayu to announce that the Lucre Magus was in disfavour with the all-highest. And, his bidding was done.

For Akhenaton had no more loyal and faithful servant than Vayu. Indeed, Vayu took the monotheistic heresy to extremes. 'There is no god, but Akhenaton,' he declared, 'and Vayu is his Prophet.'

Now, Akhenaton was unhappy at the state of things, for, the augurs had told him to beware of the Ides of March. Accordingly, he shaved off all the hair betwixt his chin and forehead and dedicated the shavings to Alexandria. For,

Alexandria was the terminus of the pilgrimage of the Immortal of the King's Party.

For it came to pass on the day following the ides that the Immortal of the King's Party arrived at the Victorious Gardens of Indraprasta, to find that Lo! and behold! the gates were closed. But, not disheartened, the immortal of the King's Party, accompanied by Soorya, Chandra, Kubera and Thor, together with a multitude of mortals and immortals, set out for Alexandria.

And, Vayu declared that this was a plot to aid Mardouk. And, he caused the celestial artist to draw likenesses of the

Immortal of the King's Party juxtaposed with public houses.

And, Akhenaton declared that he, too, would set out on a pilgrimage to Alexandria.

However, at this time, the Immortals and the denizens of Indraprasta were thinking more in terms of their annual pilgrimage to the climes of mount *Kailasa*. 'The climes are worth the climb,' they said, 'even if the gardens of Kailasa are devoted to the flowers of the Victorious Banner.'

