



ALL THE KING'S HORSES (1953)



INTERPRETED BY GENE ZUR NIEDEN



COL. KELLY STOOD AND LISTENED QUIETLY TO THE 16 POOR SOULS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR, RACKED WITH GRIEF AS TO THEIR FATE.

"SARGE, THEY WOULDN'T DARE DO ANYTHING TO AMERICANS, WOULD THEY? I MEAN, THERE'D BE HELL TO PAY IF THEY HURT—"

"SHUT UP."

"THEY'LL TURN US LOOSE PRETTY QUICK THOUGH, RIGHT SARGE?"

"I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IS ALL."

PI-YING HAD SAID THAT THEIR FIGHT AGAINST DEATH WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT, PHILOSOPHICALLY, FROM WHAT ALL OF THEM HAD KNOWN IN BATTLE. BUT COLONEL KELLY WAS MORE SHAKEN THAN HE HAD EVER BEEN.



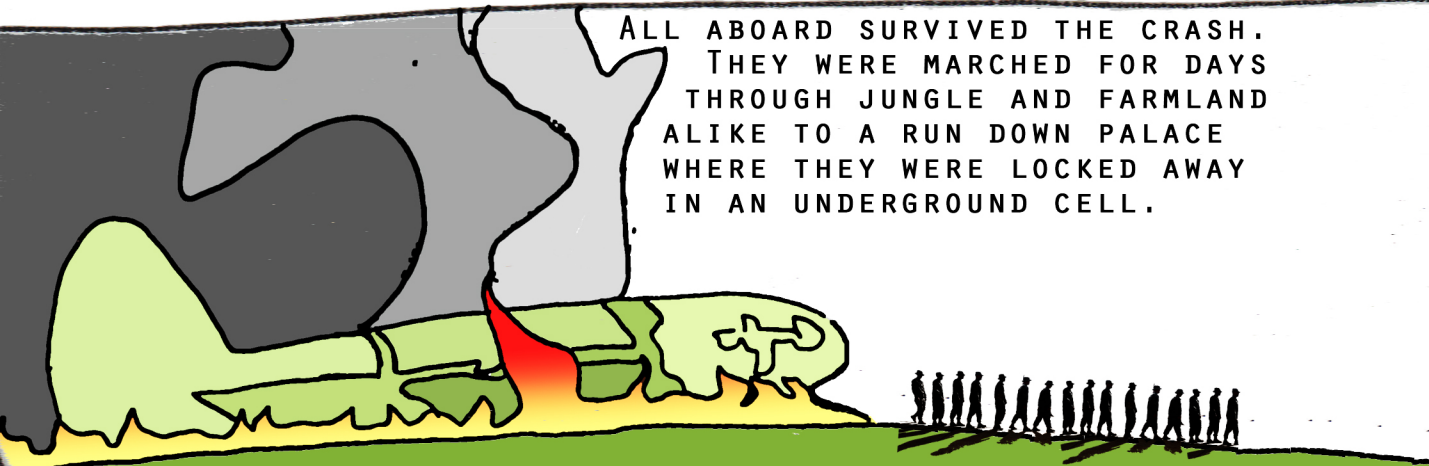


TWO DAYS
EARLIER...

"MAYDAY... MAYDAY... WE
ARE GOING DOWN, DO YOU
COPY? WE ARE GOING DOWN!
ENGINE 2 IS DEAD AND WE
ARE RUNNING LOW ON FUEL.
CAN ANYONE HEAR ME?"

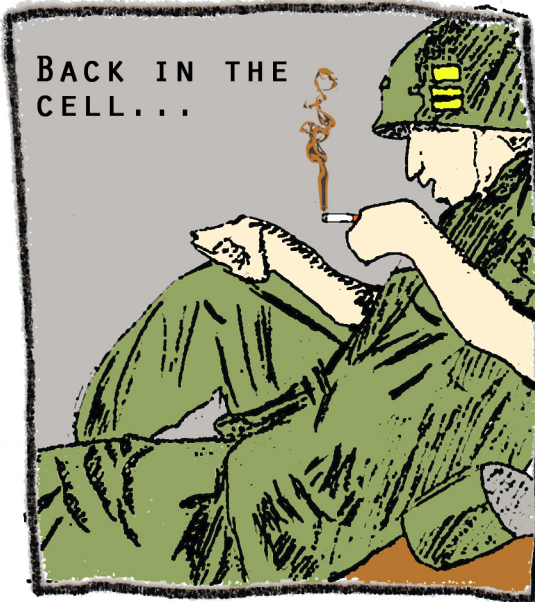


"THE RADIO'S DEAD SIR!
WHAT DO WE DO?!"

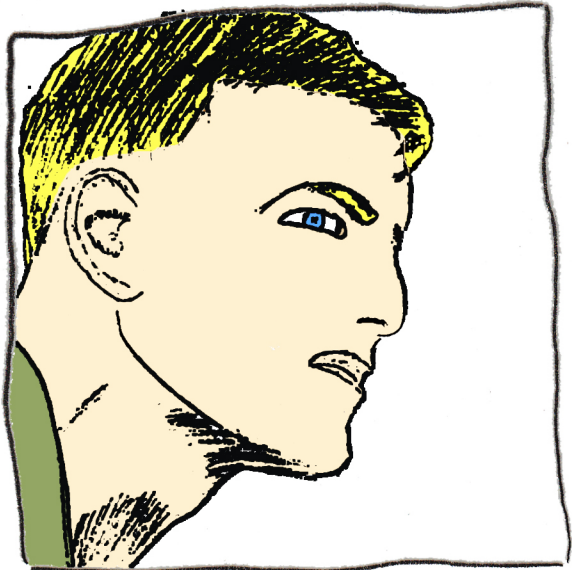


ALL ABOARD SURVIVED THE CRASH.
THEY WERE MARCHED FOR DAYS
THROUGH JUNGLE AND FARMLAND
ALIKE TO A RUN DOWN PALACE
WHERE THEY WERE LOCKED AWAY
IN AN UNDERGROUND CELL.

BACK IN THE
CELL...



"WHAT ABOUT IT, SIR?"



"THEY'D LIKE TO SHOOT US
ALL..."

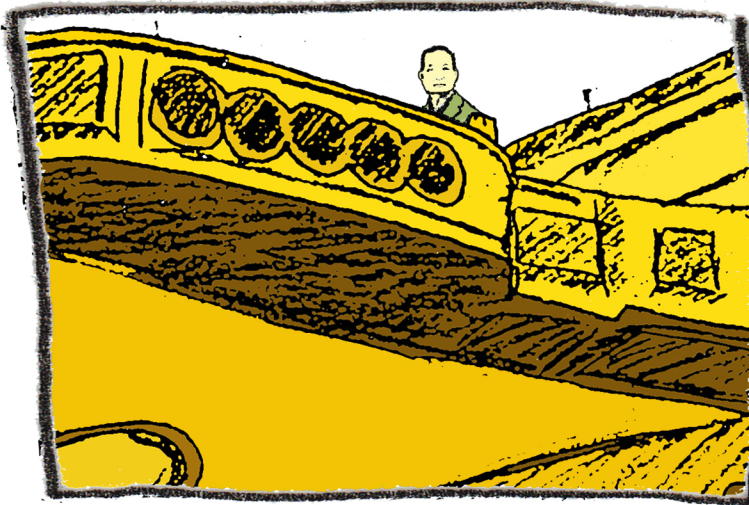
"PI-YING WANTS MORE ENTERTAINMENT OUT OF US
THAN SHOOTING US WOULD PROVIDE. HE'D LIKE
TO PROVE THAT HE'S SMARTER THAN WE ARE IN
THE BARGAIN. IN A LITTLE WHILE, PI YING
AND I ARE GOING TO PLAY CHESS FOR YOUR
LIVES AND FOR MY FAMILY'S LIVES. IT'S THE
ONLY CHANCE PI-YING WILL GIVE US."



"WE GET TO WATCH THE GAME?"

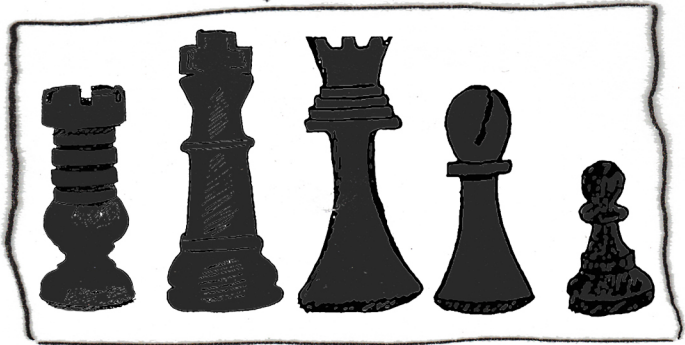
"THE SIXTEEN OF
US, SOLDIER, ARE
THE CHESSMEN
I'LL BE PLAYING
WITH."





"CAN YOU SEE THE WHOLE BOARD FROM DOWN THERE, WHITE KING? THIS ROOM WAS A WHIM OF MY PREDECESSORS, WHO FOR GENERATIONS HELD THE PEOPLE IN SLAVERY. THE FLOOR IS INLAID WITH SQUARES, A CHESSBOARD, YOU SEE?"

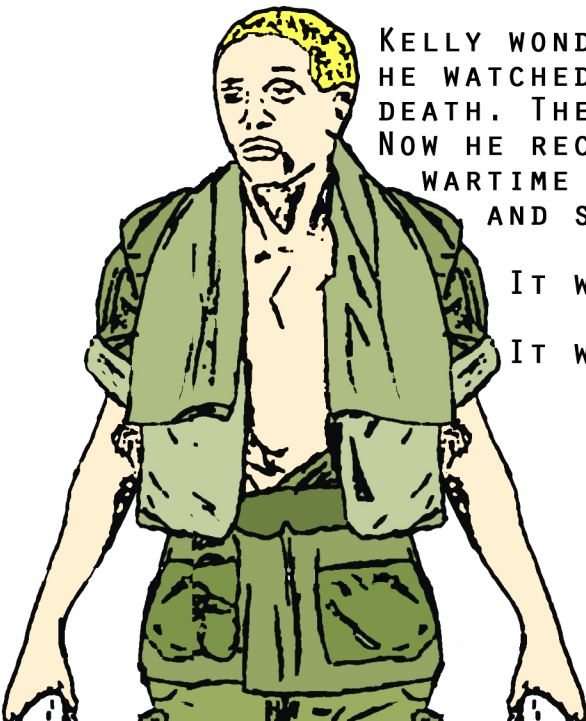
"TODAY OF COURSE, I WILL USE ONLY THE BLACK CHESSMEN, MY PIECES. AND YOU AMERICANS HAVE FURNISHED YOUR OWN CHESS MEN, A FASCINATING IDEA."



KELLY WONDERED WHY HE FELT SO LITTLE AS HE WATCHED HIS FAMILY IN THE FACE OF DEATH. THE FEAR HE HAD FELT WAS GONE. NOW HE RECOGNIZED THAT EERIE CALM-AN OLD WARTIME FRIEND-THAT LEFT ONLY COLD WIT AND SENSES ALIVE.

IT WAS THE NARCOTIC OF GENERALSHIP.

IT WAS THE ESSENCE OF WAR,



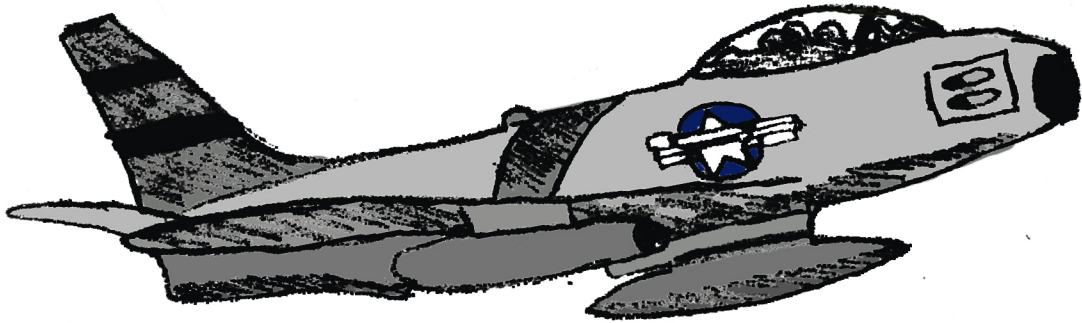


"NOW MY FRIENDS, YOUR ATTENTION..."

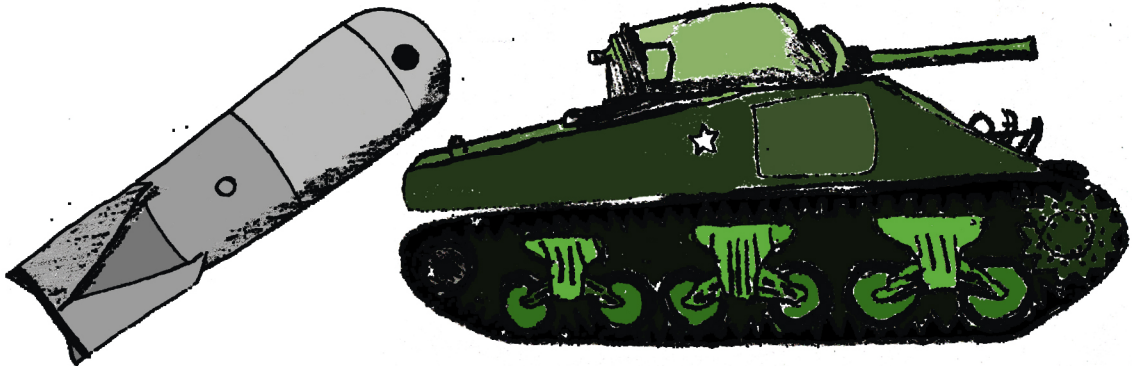
"THE RULES OF THE GAME ARE EASY TO REMEMBER. THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE SO UNFORTUNATE AS TO BE TAKEN BY ONE OF MY CHESSMEN WILL BE KILLED... QUICKLY, PAINLESSLY, PROMPTLY."



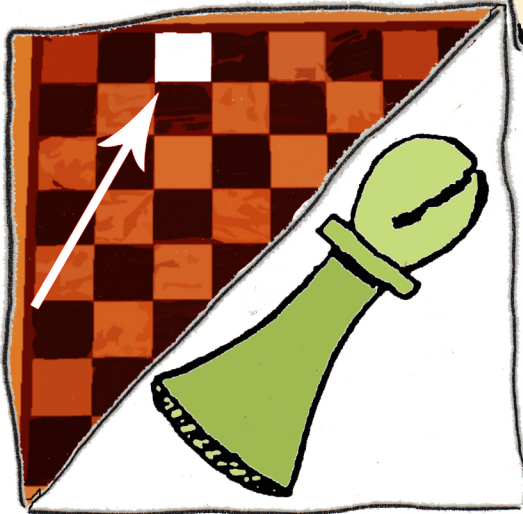
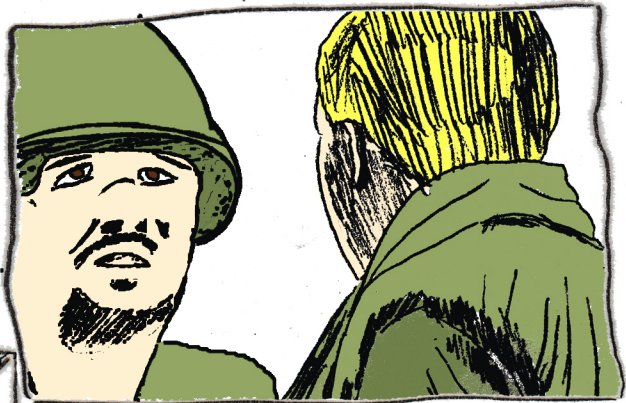
"HOW CAN YOU DO THIS TO CHILDREN!? FOR THE LOVE OF GOD-"



"IS IT FOR THE LOVE OF GOD THAT AMERICANS MAKE BOMBS AND JETS AND TANKS!?"



"COLONEL, YOU TELL US WHERE YOU WANT US TO GO. SAVE THE SOFT SPOTS FOR YOUR WIFE AND KIDS. THEY'RE THE ONES THAT COUNT. YOU JUST TELL US WHAT TO DO."

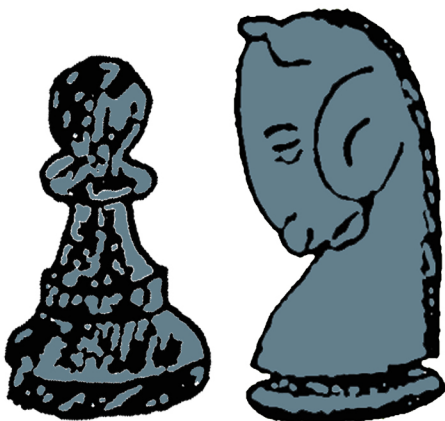


"THERE ARE NO SOFT SPOTS. NO SOFT SPOTS FOR ANYBODY. PICK A SQUARE, ANY SQUARE."

"WHAT DOES THIS SQUARE MAKE ME?"

"YOU'RE THE KING'S BISHOP, LIEUTENANT."

"AND ME IN CHURCH ONLY TWICE IN MY LIFE. HEY PI-YING, WHAT'S A BISHOP WORTH?"



"A KNIGHT AND A PAWN MY BOY, A KNIGHT AND A PAWN."



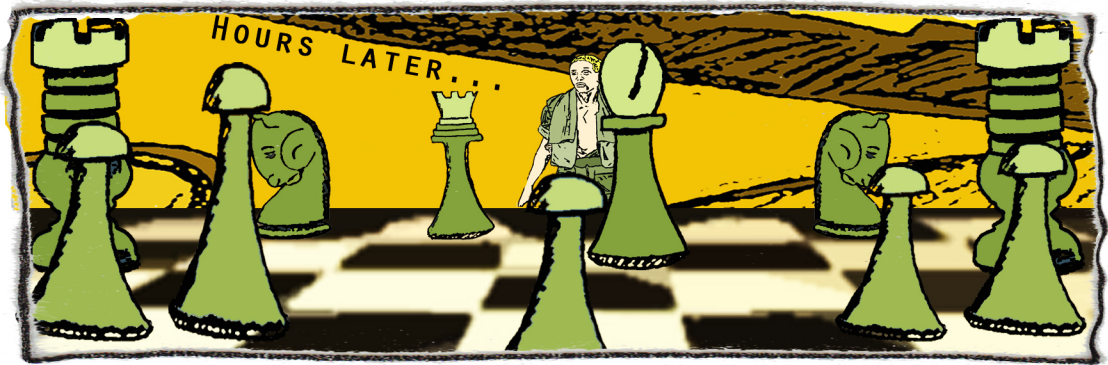


"ALL OF YOUR PIECES ARE IN PLAY NOW, EXCEPT YOUR KNIGHTS AND YOUR QUEEN, COLONEL. AND YOU OF COURSE, ARE THE KING."

"THERE, GOOD; NOW WE CAN BEGIN. I THINK THIS IS AN EXCELLENT WAY OF BRINGING TOGETHER THE EASTERN AND WESTERN MINDS. HERE WE INDULGE THE AMERICAN'S LOVE FOR GAMBLING WITH OUR APPRECIATION OF PROFOUND DRAMA AND PHILOSOPHY."



"OH, AND TWO MORE RULES: WE ARE ALLOWED TEN MINUTES A MOVE, AND THIS GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT NO MOVES MAY BE TAKEN BACK. VERY WELL, THE HONOR OF THE FIRST MOVE BELONGS TO THE WHITE MEN, AN ANCIENT TRADITION."



THE MISSING FOUR? BUTCHERED IN SENSELESS EXCHANGES THAT HAD COST PI-YING ONLY BLOCKS OF WOOD.

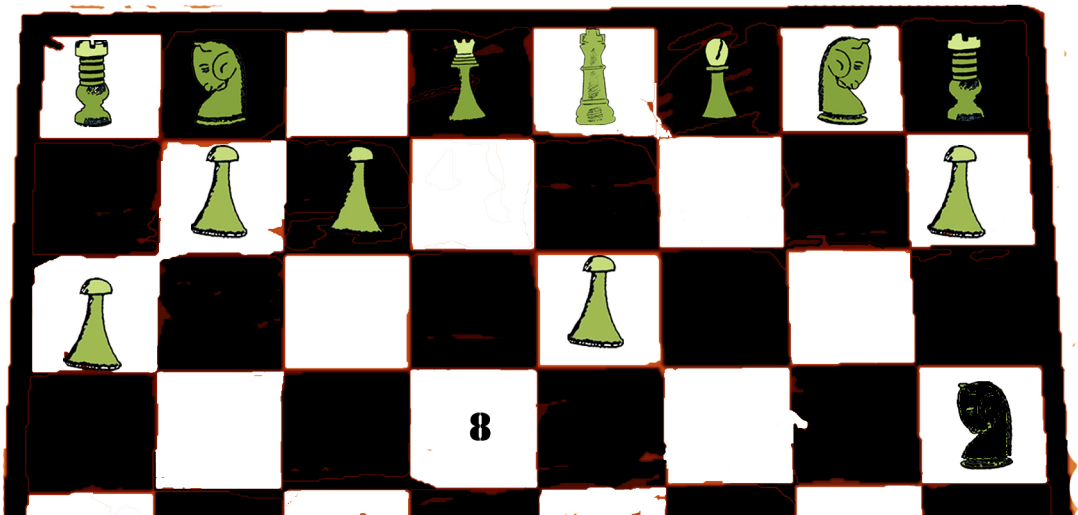
"I THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO CONCEDE. IT'S JUST ABOUT OVER, I'M AFRAID. DO YOU CONCEDE, COLONEL?"



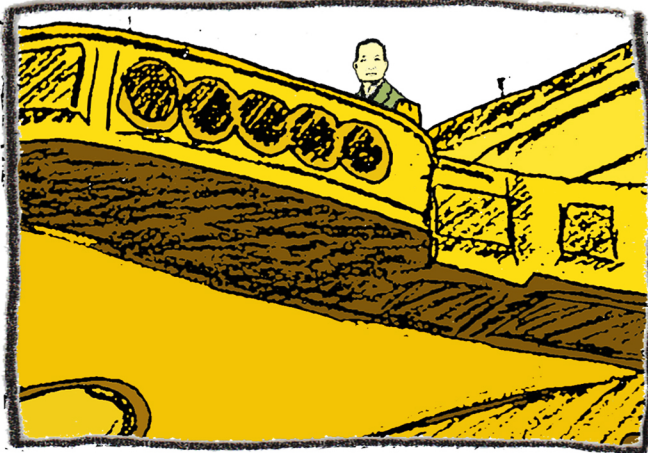
FROM THE SHADOWS BEHIND PI-YING, MAJOR BARZOV SPOKE AS IF TO CHILDREN.

"IT'S A VERY DISTRESSING THING ABOUT CHESS. THERE ISN'T A GRAIN OF LUCK IN THE GAME, YOU KNOW. THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THE LOSER."

THE PURE GEOMETRY OF THE WHITE CHESSMEN'S FATE BURST UPON KELLY'S CONSCIOUSNESS. A SACRIFICE HAD TO BE OFFERED TO PI-YING'S KNIGHT. IF HE ACCEPTED THE SACRIFICE, THE GAME WOULD BE KELLY'S. THE TRAP WAS PERFECT AND DEADLY SAVE FOR ONE DETAIL-BAIT.



"JERRY, MOVE FORWARD TWO SQUARES AND ONE TO YOUR RIGHT."



"ARE YOU IN YOUR RIGHT MIND, COLONEL? DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE JUST DONE?"

"AN EXQUISITE MISTAKE, TO BE SURE. HOWEVER, I CANNOT LET YOU TAKE HIM BACK, FOR WITHOUT RULES, MY FRIEND, GAMES BECOME NONSENSE. WE AGREED THAT ALL MOVES WERE TO BE FINAL, AND SO THEY ARE. KING'S KNIGHT TO KING'S BISHOP THREE!"

THE BAIT WAS TAKEN. THE GAME WAS COLONEL KELLY'S FROM HERE ON IN.

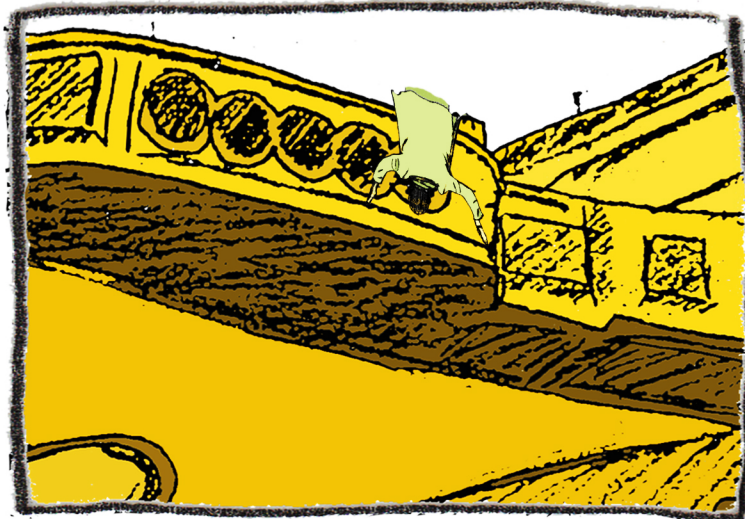


"WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT!?"



"YOUR HUSBAND SACRIFICED A KNIGHT. YOU'VE JUST LOST YOUR SON."

"SHALL WE GET ON WITH THE GAME COLONEL? HOWEVER, IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET THAT I -"



SUDDENLY, PI-YING FELL SILENT. HE SLUMPED OVER THE BALUSTRADE AND FELL TO HIS MEN BELOW.

THE YOUNG ORIENTAL GIRL WHO HAD BEEN BY HIS SIDE ALL ALONG WAS NOW STRUGGLING WITH MAJOR BARZOV. IN HER FREE HAND WAS A KNIFE. SHE DROVE IT INTO HER BREAST AND FELL UPON THE MAJOR.

HE LET HER FALL BESIDE HIM.



"SO WHAT NOW, MAJOR? THIS IS YOUR GAME, AFTER ALL."

"YOU'VE WON ONLY THE INITIATIVE, NOT THE GAME COLONEL. AND NOW YOU HAVE ME TO RECKON WITH."





"SO MUCH BLOOD HAS BEEN SHED IN THIS GAME. IT WOULD BE A PITIFUL WASTE TO LET IT GO UNRESOLVED. WELL, WHAT ABOUT JERRY THEN, COLONEL? I'LL MAKE A SPECIAL CONCESSION IF YOU'D LIKE. WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE THE MOVE BACK?"

"WITHOUT RULES, MAJOR, GAMES BECOME NONSENSE. I'D BE THE LAST ONE TO ASK YOU TO BREAK THEM."

"VERY WELL THEN. YOUR MOVE COLONEL. TEN MINUTES."



WITHIN 3 MOVES, KELLY HAD MANAGED TO TRAP BARZOV'S KING.

"YOU ARE IN CHECK, MAJOR."

"CHECK INDEED. NO CREDIT TO YOU, COLONEL, BUT TO THE MONUMENTAL STUPIDITY OF PI-YING."

"AND THAT'S THE GAME, MAJOR."

"AND WHAT OF JERRY?"

"NO, I WON'T TAKE THE BOY. BUT THIS WAS MY INTENTION EVER SINCE RESUMING THE GAME WHERE PI-YING LEFT OFF. WINNING WOULD HAVE ONLY BROUGHT ME SATISFACTION AND TAUGHT YOU A VALUABLE LESSON."





"PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY ANOTHER GAME COLONEL? PLAIN CHESS THIS TIME WITH WOODEN CHESSMEN AND WITHOUT PI-YING'S REFINEMENT. I DON'T LIKE TO HAVE YOU LEAVE HERE THINKING YOU PLAY A BETTER GAME THAN ME."

"THAT'S NICE OF YOU, BUT NOT THIS EVENING. PERHAPS SOME OTHER TIME."

"VERY WELL THEN. WHEN AND WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE IT TO BE?"

"UNFORTUNATELY, THE TIME AND PLACE ARE UP TO YOU. IF YOU INSIST ON ARRANGING ANOTHER GAME, ISSUE AN INVITATION, MAJOR, AND I'LL BE THERE."

