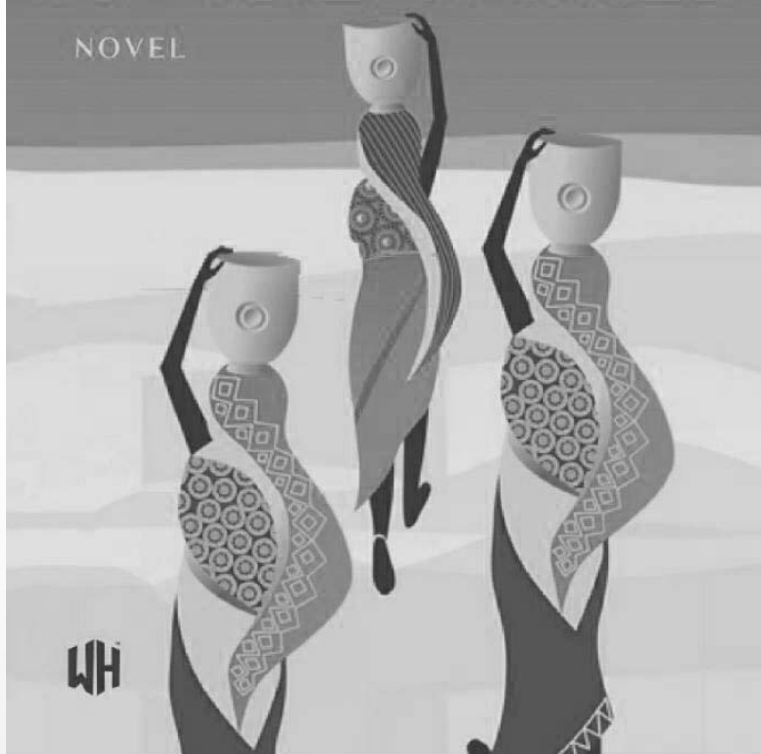


GATWECH R NYAK

**TALES OF EASTERN PART
OF THE WORLD**

NOVEL





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DEDICATION



This book is dedicated to my super mother Nyachan Kier Chuol, and my late grandmother Nyankhat Kandong Liem, who, when we were kids, would regularly sit us down in a circle after dinner, before we went to bed, to tell us all kinds of stories, parables and legends.

THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION



The eastern part of the world is a fascinating fictional story of love, adventures, quarrels and wars. It is a story about two reputable handsome young men living in the eastern part of the world. The book is written using a series of dialogues and consists of three parts.

The first part is about The Visitor, who comes from the northern part of the world, and the young men's visits to the city where their fiancées live and their return to their city within the eastern part of the world.

The second part is about their adventure to the northern part of the world, the land of The Visitor (later known as Kim). Kim and his fiancée become husband and wife, and the young men return to the eastern part of the world.

The third part talks about the fallout between two brothers, the falling apart of the eastern part of the world, the death of Deng, the crowning of King Jack, his war and victory against the western part of the world, his murder and the reign of Deng's son and his mother.

THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD



Part

THE REPUTABLE HANDSOME
EASTERN YOUNG MEN

THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

CHAPTER 1



The Young Men and The Visitor

Once upon a time, there were two handsome young men living in the eastern part of the world. They were famous and popular, and their reputation had travelled to the four corners of the world. Whenever there was a wedding festival, they would be the first to receive an invitation to the wedding. They were so famous that it was every bride's dream to have the two handsome young men dance at their wedding festival. One day a visitor came to their city from a faraway country. When The Visitor arrived in the city, he went to the first house situated at the entrance of the city and said, *"I'm a visitor that comes from a faraway place. I have heard about the handsome young men, Deng and Jack, and I have come to meet them. Do you know where I can find them?"*

The people in the house replied, *"Yes, go to the centre of the city and ask the people there. They will direct you to their home."*

The Visitor walked on towards the centre of the city and approached the second home. He asked the same question to the people in that house, *"I'm a visitor that comes from a faraway place. I have heard about the handsome two young men, Deng and Jack, and I have come to meet them. Do you know where I can find them?"*

"Yes. Their home is in the centre of the city. Get to the oak tree over there and you will find them," the man in the house directed him.

He continued to the centre of the city. As soon as he reached the tree, he saw the two young men coming out of their home. They were going to play in the city playground with other young men. He rushed towards the young men. He was not sure if they were really the famous young men that he was looking for. He thought to himself: These good-looking young men must be Deng and Jack. Is this a coincidence? Let me ask them.

"I'm a visitor that comes from a faraway place. I have heard about the two handsome young men, Deng and Jack. And I have come to meet them. Do you know where I can find them?"

They both responded, *"Yes, we are the most handsome young men in the whole of the eastern part of the world. Tell us how we can help you. You look exhausted. You must be coming from a faraway country"*

The Visitor rushed to meet the two young men with great excitement. He couldn't believe he had found them. He shook hands with them and spoke to them for a few minutes. He told them that he had come from a very faraway land because he had heard about them. After that, the two young men took The Visitor to their

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home. They called their sister and asked her to bring water for their visitor. She brought him the water and he had a drink. The men told their sister to prepare food for them. She went off to prepare some food for her brothers and The Visitor.

While the food was being prepared, Jack asked a question.

“you said you come from a very faraway country. Where do you come from exactly and what did you hear about us?”

The Visitor replied, *“I come from the northern part of the world. My people heard about your reputation for being so handsome and for being the best dancers in the whole of the eastern part of the world. I asked my girlfriend’s hand in marriage and she threw me a challenge. She said I must find those two handsome men in the eastern part of the world. If I could find them, she would marry me. But if I did not, she would not marry me.”*

The food was brought and they started eating. Jack asked The Visitor again.

“How do you expect her to believe you when you go back to her later and tell her that you found us?”

“She demanded to see both of you,” The Visitor replied, *“which it is definitely not in my powers to make it happen. Allow me to humbly ask you to make it possible. It will be my greatest honour if you would come back with me to my country.”*

Jack said, *“Ok. We will come with you. But first, we have to tell our fiancées that we are leaving and it will take six days to travel to your city.”*

The Visitor agreed to wait for Deng and Jack. They finished eating and Jack called their sister to take away the plates. She came and

took them away. Deng went to prepare a bed for The Visitor, while Jack continued asking The Visitor questions.

“How can we believe that what you are telling us is true?”

“I swear to you by my village and my ancestors, it’s true,” said The Visitor.

Jack nodded. While they were still talking, Deng finished preparing the bed for The Visitor. He came back and told The Visitor to take a rest as he was exhausted by the journey. The Visitor went to bed and the two young men stayed outside for a while. A few hours later they also went to sleep.

The Visitor stayed with the young men for three days. On the fourth day, Deng and Jack told The Visitor to get ready as they were going to the city where their fiancées lived. Their sister prepared food for them and the three of them ate enough food to give them enough strength for their journey.

The two handsome young men and The Visitor left the city that morning. They walked for hours through the dense forest found in their territory towards the neighbouring city. At noon, Deng said, *“Let us rest and have a drink for a while under this enormous tree.”*

They sat down. Deng took out his bottle of water and had a drink. Jack went off to urinate and returned carrying desert dates on his t-shirt. They ate the dates and lay down to rest for a few minutes.

There was a fearless leopard sleeping up on a branch of that tree. The sound made by the young men woke up the leopard. The leopard jumped down from the branch and fell right in the middle of the young men, roaring. The young men defended themselves against

THE YOUNG MEN AND THE VISITOR

the leopard and walked away from the tree. When the leopard saw that the men were not willing to fight, it let them go and climbed back up the tree.

As they walked away from the tree and continued on their journey, Jack started laughing loudly. He was happy that none of them had got hurt. Deng angrily ordered his brother to shut up as he might wake up more leopards in the forest. Jack stopped laughing and they continued through the forest quietly until they arrived in the first city. Here, they went to one house and asked for a place to stay for the night. The owner of the house welcomed them warmly.

THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

CHAPTER 2

The Young Men and the Owner of the House

“Have a drink, you must be thirsty,” said the owner of the house.

The three men quenched their thirst. The owner of the house then ordered his wife to make something for the young men to eat and his wife went on to prepare something.

“Young men, you look exhausted. Where are you going?” the owner of the house asked.

“We are going to visit our girlfriends in the other city,” replied Jack.

“Ok, haven’t you heard that the road is dangerous? People travel by train these days. You should have waited for the train.”

"We had no clue about the road being unsafe. We actually fought with a leopard but none of us was hurt," Jack replied.

The food was brought.

After they had eaten, the owner of the house said, *"Spend the night here. Tomorrow I will find a train for you; you will not continue on foot".*

They went to bed.

The next day, the owner of the house went to the railway station to check at the ticket office whether there was any train coming. The ticket officer told him that the midday train would be coming.

The owner of the house went back to the men and told them that he had found out that a train would arrive at noon. The men felt excited upon hearing the news.

"I can't wait to meet my girl. I haven't met her for quite a long time," said Deng.

Jack responded with a gentle smile, *"I know it's going to be a huge surprise for my girl, too."*

The Visitor kept quiet as he listened to the two handsome young men talking about their women. He spoke to himself: *"If these young men were really the two handsome young men that were known all over the eastern part of the world, they would have been recognised by the people of this city."* He decided to find out if the people around the city were familiar with the men. Then he asked the owner of the house, speaking loudly, *"Sir, may I ask: So, you know who these two young men are?"*

“No, I haven’t seen them before, but maybe I have heard their names. What are their names?” the owner of the house asked.

The men were sitting in the shade of a tree outside the house. *“The one on the left is Deng and the one on the right is Jack,”* replied The Visitor.

“Deng and Jack, the two handsome young men in the eastern part of the world!” exclaimed the owner of the house. *“Oh my God, I can’t believe my eyes! The admired popular handsome young men come to my own house! I must prepare a very special banquet for them before they leave my house! I want them to remember my house forever!”* He went outside to where the young men were and sat down with them.

“Deng and Jack, the popular handsome young men, welcome to my house. I’m honoured to serve you guys,” said the owner of the house.

“Please stay one more night in my house. Allow me and my family to prepare a special banquet for you. Then tomorrow you can be on your way!”

The two men and The Visitor agreed to stay one more night.

That evening the owner of the house went to the market with his wife. They bought a lamb, vegetables and other cooking ingredients. His wife went to her neighbours and asked her friends to help her with the cooking. The man killed the lamb and his wife and her friends started cooking. The owner of the house sent out word to the people in the city to come and feast with him in his house. The people came to his home, and when they saw the two handsome young men, they immediately recognised them.

They feasted together. It was a very special day for the people of the city.

When the feast was over, the people went back to their houses. The handsome young men, exhausted by the banquet, fell asleep. Early the next morning, the young men prepared to leave. They thanked the owner of the house and assured him that they would carry his name with them and would always remember his house. The owner of the house escorted them to the railway station. They found the morning train ready to leave; they jumped on the train and left the city.

“Do you know that my fiancée is prettier and more beautiful than your fiancée?” Deng asked Jack.

“No,” Jack shouted back at Deng, *“my fiancée is prettier than your fiancée.”*

“No,” Deng shouted back. They argued back and forth for some time in the train. The Visitor was amazed by how the young men boasted about their women. He said to himself, *“These guys must be the best men I have ever met. I have never before heard men talk about their women that way.”*

After six hours, the train arrived at the city where the young men’s fiancées lived. They got off the train and walked in the direction of Deng’s fiancée’s house.

“Shouldn’t we go to the house of my fiancée first? I’m sure her parents will warmly receive us,” Jack suggested.

“No,” Deng replied, *“let’s go to my fiancée’s house first. They will show us great hospitality.”*

The two handsome young men argued for a few seconds. The Visitor said, *“Young men, we will receive a warm reception in whichever house we go to first. Let us just go to the house which is closer to us; it would be better. Besides, we need to take some rest.”*

They agreed.

“The house of Deng’s fiancée is right over there, next to that mango tree,” said Jack. Then they walked to the house of Deng’s fiancée. The girl was busy sweeping the compound. Then she suddenly looked up and saw three men coming towards her. *“Is that Deng and Jack. Oh my God! My Deng is here!”* she said to herself. She ran into the house to tell her parents. *“Deng and Jack are coming to our house!”* she told her parents.

“Deng and Jack!” her parents exclaimed. They rushed outside to meet the young men.

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CHAPTER 3

The Young Men at the House of Deng's Fiancée

“My love, what took you so long to visit me? Haven’t you missed me?” Deng’s fiancée asked him.

“I’m so sorry, sweetheart. I have been busy with a lot of work at my father’s house. But here I am now!” Deng replied.

They hugged tight and kissed for a few seconds. She proceeded to hug Jack and The Visitor as well. *“Welcome to our house, young men. We are so glad you visited us. Come, let us feast together,”* said the parents.

They went inside the house.

“Take the young men to the guest room and bring some drinks,” the parents ordered their daughter.

"We are very happy with your visit, Deng. We expect you are here to arrange your marriage! And who is this man you have brought with you?" the parents asked.

"Thank you so much," replied Deng, *"I am glad to see you, as well. I have actually come to say farewell to my fiancée as I will be going on a long journey, and this man is a visitor who came from a very faraway land to search for us. The woman he intended to marry asked him to bring us to her as a condition for their marriage."*

"All right. We wish you a very safe journey and we hope that next time you will come to arrange your marriage," said the parents.

"We will be preparing special meals for your future husband and his brother. Call your friends to help us cook," said the mother to her daughter.

She ran off to invite her friends. *"My fiancé Deng has come to visit me today and he is in our house right now with his brother Jack and another man,"* said the girl to her girlfriends.

"Wow! You are a lucky girl. Did he come to complete his marriage?" her girlfriends asked.

"No, but next time. He has come to say farewell to me as he is going on a long journey to a foreign land that is very far away and the man that has come with them is the stranger that is taking them. They said that the girl he intends to marry asked him to bring Deng and Jack, the handsome young men from the eastern part of the world. Only then will she marry him," she responded.

"Wow! He must love his fiancée so much! Risking his life to fulfil her condition!" commented her friends.

"My parents are planning a special banquet for my fiancé Deng and his brother Jack and The Visitor tonight. Would you help me prepare food for the banquet?" the girl asked her friends.

"Of course, girl, we are coming with you to help and to see your fiancé as well," replied her friends.

"Ok, let us go quickly. My parents may be wondering now why I took so long to return!" said the girl.

She returned with her friends. Upon arrival, the friends went straight to the house where the young men were.

"Hey, handsome popular young men! Here you are! Welcome to our city!" said one girl.

"Thanks, you beautiful girls! We are glad to be here!" replied Jack. They shook each other's hands, and the girls went to the kitchen. When they got to the kitchen, they started talking to each other.

"You are so lucky, girl. Deng is so handsome. I bet you guys love each other so much," said one girl.

"He is so charming and good-looking! I wish my boyfriend looked like him," said another girl.

"What about the other guy, Jack? He is very handsome, too. Can you hook us up?" another girl asked.

"Ha-ha..." laughed Deng's fiancée. *"Thanks, you girls, for your sweet compliments. My fiancé and his brother, Jack, are very smart, good-looking young men. They are the most handsome young men in the eastern part of the world. I really wish my fiancé's brother Jack was single so that one of you could have him, but he has a fiancée and*

her parents' house is located between our home and the big forest right next to the hill."

"It's very hard for a handsome famous guy like Jack to be single," replied one of the girls.

"Let us prepare the food quickly. The people are expecting us to finish soon so that the banquet can begin," said Deng's fiancée to her friends.

Deng, Jack and The Visitor, together with the rest of the people who came to greet them, were having a lot of fun in the house. One man said, *"We have heard a lot about you two handsome young men. They told us that you are the most handsome young men in the whole eastern part of the world. Well, we don't believe in stories. Prove us wrong by showing us your dance moves and let us see if you would still be the handsome young men we usually hear about from wanderers."*

"We don't have to dance to prove to you that we are the most handsome young men in the eastern part of the world," replied Jack.

"No, let's dance," responded Deng with a smile. *"The people want to see us dance as well."*

They got up. *"Start the music,"* they requested. As soon as the music started, the young men started dancing. They performed their best dance move ever; the people in the house were clapping and making a lot of noise. Deng's fiancée and her friends in the kitchen heard the noise.

"What is happening?" her friends asked.

"I have no idea," replied Deng's fiancée. *"Let us go and see for ourselves".*

They went rushing into the house.

"Oh, it's my fiancé and his brother Jack dancing for the people," exclaimed Deng's fiancée.

"Oh my God! Let us get closer. They are pretty good at dancing," said her friend.

They got closer to the dance circle. The young men kept on dancing for some time and the people kept cheering up and clapping their hands. Deng suddenly looked over his shoulder and saw his fiancée watching them dance. He came dancing towards her. He grabbed her hands and pulled her to the dance circle. Jack excused himself to his brother and moved out of the dance circle slowly. Deng and his beautiful fiancée danced for almost half an hour. The people were clapping and clapping and were having a good time. They kissed each other and finished dancing.

"Attention, ladies and gentlemen," shouted the man who had asked the young men to dance. *"Now we all believe that Deng and Jack are the most handsome and best dancers in the whole eastern part of the world. Give them another round of applause, please."* They clapped again.

"Let me go back to the kitchen with my girls!" said Deng's fiancée to Deng.

"All right, see you later," replied Deng. They kissed and she went back to the kitchen with her friends.

"Ladies and gentlemen, please allow me to present my daughter's fiancé Deng to you," said the girl's father. *"Some of you may know him and his brother as the most handsome men in the whole eastern part*

of the world. But in no time, he will marry into our village; he will marry our daughter, my daughter. You will be a witness to the bond between my daughter and this young man as well as the bond between our city and their city. He has come today to say farewell to his fiancée, my daughter. He will be going on a long journey to the northern part of the world with that man whom he brought with him. Upon his return from his adventure, he will come back to us with his elders, to complete his marriage to my daughter. Tonight, we will feast together. Tomorrow, they will go to the other side of the city to say farewell to his brother's fiancée..."

"Girls, bring the food and drinks! Let the feast begin!" shouted the girl's father.

The girls brought in the food and drinks. The people, including Deng, Jack and The Visitor, started eating and drinking. The girls started singing and dancing and everybody was happy. They ate until everybody had had enough.

When the banquet was over and all the people had gone back to their houses, the host said to Deng's fiancée, "*Take the young men to the living room and show them their beds.*"

"All right," she replied. "C'mon let's go," she said to the young men.

They went into the living room, and she showed them their beds. "*You can spend the rest of the night here. Goodnight.*"

"Goodnight, dear," replied Jack.

On her way out of the living room, Deng grabbed her hands. "*Really! Are you going to let me spend the night alone? Take me to your room and let's spend the night together.*"

"No," she replied, *"you are not alone; your brother and The Visitor are with you. Besides, this is my father's house. I cannot share the bed with you in my father's house. What I can do is kiss you goodnight."* She then kissed him and went to her room.

"Ha-ha.....!!" laughed Jack at his brother. *"You must be ashamed of yourself trying to share the bed with your fiancée in her father's house. Didn't you know that she would refuse?"*

"Whatever... You know I missed her so much. Don't try to embarrass me like that. After all, she is going to be my wife," replied Deng.

"Ok, frankly, wait till you marry her. She is not your wife yet" responded Jack.

"You had too much wine," said Deng. *"You must be out of your mind. Let us just go to sleep, it's getting late."*

"I hate drinking wine. Now I need to urinate," complained The Visitor.

The night was quiet. Everyone was sound asleep, exhausted by the feast. Deng got up slowly and crawled to his fiancée's room.

"Who is that?" his fiancée shouted.

"Not too loud. It's me, Deng. Sweetheart, I can't sleep. Are you alone in the room?"

"Yes," she replied. *"But I told you before that I can't share the bed with...."* He suddenly shut up with a kiss and she couldn't say anything more.

They shared the bed that night. At dawn, she woke Deng up and told him to go back to the living room where his brother was

before her parents found out. He crawled back to the living room and accidentally stepped on his brother's foot. Jack immediately woke up.

"Yes, I know you were with her. Don't even deny it," said Jack.

"Ha-ha... You know me, brother. I told you earlier that I missed her so much. I had to spend some time with her," replied Deng, with a smile all over his face.

"I'm proud of you, brother," said Jack.

"I'm proud of you, too, brother," replied Deng.

Deng's fiancée went to prepare breakfast as it was already morning. When her parents woke up and came outside, they saw their daughter busy in the kitchen cooking breakfast.

"She is getting ready for womanhood," said her mother to her father.

"Yes, it's good for her to show her fiancé she can take care of him. It's a good sign of a hardworking woman," replied her father.

"I must be proud of the girl I have raised," said her mother. *"Look how beautiful our daughter is! She is the most beautiful girl in the city. We should get her fiancé to pay a lot of bride wealth when their time to marry comes."*

"Yes, we will," replied her father. *"Here she comes!"*

"Good morning, Dad. Good morning, Mom?" she said.

"Good morning sweetheart," they replied.

"Are you preparing breakfast for your fiancé and his brother?" they asked.

"Yes," she replied.

"Good work, daughter. Hurry up, they will wake up soon. It would be good for them to find the breakfast ready."

While they were still talking, the young men came out.

"Good morning," they greeted the parents.

"Good morning," the parents replied.

"How was your night? Did you enjoy the beds?" they asked the young men.

"Yes, thank you. The beds were so comfortable. We did enjoy ourselves," replied the young men.

"Good. Come, let's have breakfast," the parents invited them.

Deng's fiancée brought what she had prepared and put it on the table and everybody started to eat.

Jack spoke up, *"We will be going to my fiancée's house today. We want to go back very soon to prepare for our long adventure to the northern part of the world with The Visitor. He is very anxious about his marriage."*

The Visitor responded, *"It's true. I am getting very anxious. I think about my fiancée every night, and perhaps she thinks about me, too. She may be thinking something terrible has happened to me as it's the first time I'm visiting the eastern part of the world and nobody in our world ever comes to the eastern part of the world. We only hear stories and everybody back home now is anxiously waiting for my return so as to hear about what I have seen and to see the famous handsome young men they have been hearing about every year from wanderers."*

"You must allow us to go to Jack's fiancée. We must return to the village to get ready to set off for the northern part of the world," said Deng. "If everything goes well, we shall return in no time. And we will come with our elders to settle my marriage affairs and Jack's with you and your city."

Before the parents of Deng's fiancée could reply, she said, *"We haven't spent any good times together yet. Why not spend a few more days? Your adventure will be too long and perhaps will take a year. Please, spend two more days!"*

"No, the men must go," replied her father. "This man, The Visitor, must return to his people as well as his girlfriend. His people are wondering now what has happened to their son. They are wondering why he has taken so long. Let them go. Upon their return, they will bring back stories and your fiancé Deng will come back here to settle his marriage arrangements with you."

"Thank you, sir," said Deng to his future father-in-law.

After they had finished eating, the young men and The Visitor set off for Jack's fiancée's house. Deng's fiancée walked them through the city until they came close to the house of Jack's fiancée.

"We are getting close. I will be returning to my parents. They need me now," said Deng's fiancée.

"All right guys, go head. Let me have a word with my fiancée in private," said Deng to his brother and The Visitor. They went ahead, some distance away from Deng and his fiancée.

"My sweetheart, I'm going to miss you terribly again," said Deng. "I

wish I could spend some more time with you. But don't worry, I will come back, but this time for you. I will come back to marry you and take you with me to my city and it will be your new home."

"I will be waiting for you, my love. I will also pray that nothing happens to you on your journey," replied his fiancée. "I can't wait to be called your wife. You are the only one and the most important man in my world. Please, don't get too comfortable with northern women when you reach the northern part of the world. Remember that I'm right here waiting for you."

They hugged each other very tightly and kissed for a few seconds. "Farewell sweetheart," Deng said.

"Farewell, my love," she replied.

Then she returned to her parents.

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CHAPTER 4

Four

The Young Men at the House of Jack's Fiancée

Deng strode fast to catch up with his brother and The Visitor, who had now got very close to the house of Jack's fiancée. They looked back and saw Deng coming but still far away. They decided to sit down and wait for him. They sat down and waited until he arrived, then they got up and together went to the house. A little girl saw them, and she ran quickly to the house and told the parents of Jack's fiancée that Jack and his brother Deng and another man were coming to the house. The parents came out to welcome Jack and his brother to the house.

"Jack and Deng, welcome back to my house," said his fiancée's father. "What great pleasure to see both of you again! Please come and sit down

inside. I must feast with you tonight. You must be very thirsty. He added. *"Bring the men something to drink for our visitors!"* The man instructed his wife.

"Thank you so much, sir, for your warm reception," Jack replied. *"Where is my fiancée? I am not seeing her. Is she around?"*

"Please take some rest and have a drink. We will talk about her in a little while," replied her father.

"How are your parents?" he asked the young men.

"They are fine, thank you, and they send their greetings, too," the men replied.

"What is happening? Is there anything wrong with my fiancée? What is her father hiding?" Jack thought.

"We have actually been in your city for two days now," said Deng. *"But we went first to my fiancée's house. We tried to come to your house on the same day we arrived, but my fiancée's parents couldn't let us come. They told us to feast with them first and that was why we spent two days in your city without coming to your house."*

"It's customary in our city to show visitors great hospitality and to feast with them," the father replied. *"Excuse me. Let me kill my little lamb so that we can feast together."*

"Hey guys, I'm getting nervous and irritated right now. Why am I not seeing my fiancée? And why is her father acting like he is hiding something from us? I have a feeling that something terrible might have happened to her. My heart is heavy," said Jack.

"Stop acting weird, brother," replied Deng. "Don't worry. She may have gone somewhere. If not, her father will tell us later one way or the other."

"All right. Let me calm myself down," said Jack. "Maybe I'm putting myself under pressure for no good reason."

The father went on to kill the lamb and then send word out to his friends to come and feast with him. His wife and the other women took away the meat and cooked a very special stew for the banquet. The children started to play around the banquet hall where Deng and Jack were sitting. The girls joined in the play and both Deng and Jack went into the dancing circle. As soon as they started making their dance moves, the rest of the people stopped doing whatever they had been doing and stared at them in amazement. *"What a dance!"* they exclaimed. *"How did they learn these moves?"*

They started cheering the handsome young men and clapping for them. The people had never seen anything like this before. The men danced to the best of their ability. Then they stopped, and a big round of applause erupted from the people in the banquet hall and the noise went through the roof. They cheered and shouted at the top of their voices. *"It's a miracle,"* the people exclaimed. *"We have never before witnessed any feast like this. These young men are really the most handsome men in the whole of the eastern part of the world."*

The father of Jack's fiancée stood up in the middle of the banquet and said, *"Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to introduce to you the two handsome young men in the whole of the eastern part of the world, my daughter's fiancé Jack and his brother Deng. Most of you do not know them but here they are in front of you."* He paused for a while and applause erupted again. Then he shouted, *"Quiet! Quiet! Please*

allow me to be sincere to my daughter's fiancé Jack. I want to explain the incident that happened in our city that claimed many lives to him in front of you." Jack's heart started beating very fast. What he thought had happened to his fiancée earlier turned out to really have happened. *"Last month there was a big angry leopard that attacked our village,"* the father proceeded. *"We fought furiously with the animal, but we couldn't kill it. We lost many people to the battle with the animal and my daughter, your fiancée, was one of the people we lost that night to the animal. I was afraid to tell you upon your arrival because I didn't want to shock you. I wanted to wait to tell you after you had rested for a while and this is the perfect time to explain it to you. My wife and I are still in deep grief, mourning the death of our unmarried girl. We are still bearing the most unimaginable pain in our lifetime."*

"I must find that wild animal and kill it before it returns to kill more people," said Jack in a very sad, heavy voice. *"A leopard cannot kill the woman of my dream and walk away free. I must find it and kill it."*

"Yes, my brother and I will go to the forest down the hill tomorrow to find that wild animal," replied Deng, saddened by the shocking news as well. *"That animal can never live as long as we are still alive."*

"I must go with you," shouted The Visitor. *"I am a skilled warrior and, besides, you are now my family. Whatever happened to you, happened to me as well. We shall go tomorrow to the forest down the hill."*

"We need weapons," Deng said to the people. *"Find us good strong swords, spears and clubs tonight, and we will be ready to set out early tomorrow morning."*

The people prepared to leave the banquet hall to find the weapons. *"Wait, wait,"* exclaimed the father of Jack's fiancée. *"Let's eat first; you will bring the weapons later. Bring the food and drinks,"* he cried out to his wife. *"Let us continue feasting. Tomorrow is going to be a different day for our people in the village."* After they had eaten, they sent out a few boys to bring the best weapons from all over the city and they handed them over to the handsome young men.

"Ok fellas, the feast is over now. Let everybody go back to their house. Tomorrow, the strong boys will take the handsome young men to the forest down the hill where the animal is hiding," said the father of Jack's fiancée.

The people went back to their houses. *"Three of you can sleep in my room tonight,"* the father of Jack's fiancée said to the young men. *"There are a few comfortable beds inside there. My wife and I will spend the night in our daughter's room."*

The young men took the weapons with them and went to bed.

THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

CHAPTER 5



The Young Men and the Wild Animal

At dawn the next morning, the boys came and knocked at the door. *“Who is there?”* The father of Jack’s fiancée shouted.

“We are the boys and we’ve come to wake up the young men to go the forest down the hill,” the boys replied.

The old man came rushing to the door and opened it. *“But it’s too early, isn’t it?”* he asked the boys.

“Yes, it’s the perfect time to find the leopard still in its cave right,” replied the boys. *“OK, let’s call the young men; they must still be sleeping by now.”* He went to knock on the door.

“Who is there?” Jack asked.

"It's me. The boys are here and they said it's the perfect time to find the animal still in its cave," replied the father. *"So, get prepared. You will leave for the forest down the hill right now."*

The young men came out dressed in their battle clothes. *"Let us go,"* they said to the boys.

They left the city at dawn while everybody else was still sound asleep.

"Just show us the direction in which we can find it when we get closer," the young men said to the boys. *"We don't want you to get any closer. Only three of us will fight the animal."*

"I will help you in the fight. I am older and stronger than the rest of the boys," one boy replied.

"No, you are not strong enough to face the leopard," said Jack. *"Only three of us will fight the animal."* When they got closer, the boys showed them the cave where the animal lived.

"OK, listen to me," Jack said to the boys. *"Stay here and maintain a few metres' distance from us. Don't come closer no matter how long the fight will take. Pay attention. When you see that it has defeated us, run before it comes for you. Understand?"*

"Yes, we heard you loud and clear," replied the boys.

The three young men got closer to the cave. Jack lay down the proper plan to kill the animal. He said, *"Deng, go behind the cave. Visitor, go and hide behind the cave opening. I will go through the opening. Wait for my signal and don't let the animal get away. We must kill it today."*

The Visitor went and hid beside the opening of the cave. Deng went around to the back of the cave. Jack went in through the opening of the cave.

As soon as Jack set foot in the cave, the leopard woke up. Jack ran back out with the animal behind him. As soon as the animal got outside and before it could see the other men, The Visitor hit the animal on the head with a club. He hit it so hard that he broke its skull. The leopard fell back inside the cave and lay on its back, unconscious. Deng and Jack followed the animal back inside the cave and finished it off with their spears. There on the ground lay dead the animal that had killed Jack's fiancée. In great anger, Jack cut off the head of the animal and called the boys to carry it to the city with them.

They returned to the city at noon carrying the head of the leopard. The people came out of the city, cheering and praising the young men for killing the animal that had killed their people. The father of Jack's fiancée showed his gratitude to the three young men for taking his grief away and for saving their small city.

"No animal will kill our people from now on," said the father of Jack's fiancée. *"Thanks to you young men for taking away my sadness and for saving the lives of our people. Tonight, we will celebrate your victory over the wild animal."*

The people brought another lamb and slaughtered it for the feast. The inhabitants of the city came together to celebrate the death of the dangerous animal. Everyone was so happy about the news.

At midnight, Jack spoke to his brother: *"We will go back to our city tomorrow. There is nothing left for us here."*

"Yes, but we have to consult your fiancée's father first," replied Deng. *"Let's sleep; it has been a long day."*

Early in the morning the next day, they woke up and went outside to talk to the father of Jack's fiancée about their intention to travel back home.

"Good morning, sir," said the young men.

"Good morning, young men," replied the father.

"Something seems to be disturbing you so early in the morning. What is it?" asked the father of Jack's fiancée.

"We want to let you know that we will be going back to our city today," replied Jack. *"We can't spend any more days here."*

Before the father of Jack's fiancée could reply, The Visitor said, *"I have to get back to my people in the northern part of the world. I have been away for too long. My mission was to find these two handsome young men in the eastern part of the world."*

"Very well then. I will send you on your way, but please allow me to serve you one more time with a special last meal," replied the father.

The young men went back to the room and the father of Jack's fiancée went out to buy the best food ingredients in the market. When he brought them home to his wife, he told her, *"Listen, sweetheart. I want you to prepare a very delicious meal for the young men. They will leave our city very soon to return to their own city. Prepare*

something that will give them enough strength as they travel back." Then he went straight to where the young men were.

And he said to Jack, *"I have decided to do you the biggest favour of my life. Please allow me to find a good girl for you here in our village. After what happened to your fiancée, you are as broken as me the father. But I will make sure I find somebody to replace my daughter in your heart. My best friend has a young daughter and she shares the same features with my deceased daughter. You will like her when you see her."*

"I am a handsome young man and I can have any girl I want," replied Jack. *"But if you have decided to replace your daughter in my heart with another woman that you choose, I will gladly accept your offer as a great honour."*

"All right, then. Let me go to my friend and talk to him about that. I wanted to consult you first," said the father of Jack's deceased fiancée. *"Pease, give me a second."*

He went straight to his long-time friend's house. *"Good morning,"* he greeted his friend with a broad smile on his face.

"Good morning," replied his friend. They shook hands and sat down.

"Is everything OK?" asked his friend. *"You have come very early."*

"Yes, everything is fine," replied the father of Jack's deceased fiancée. *"You know, my friend, my daughter passed away last month when the wild animal attacked us. One of the young men who killed the animal yesterday was her fiancé and was set to marry her. But unfortunately, we lost her. You and I have been great friends for our entire lives. I have come to you to ask you a favour because you are the only one who cannot say 'no' to*

my request. I want you to talk to your daughter to take the place of my deceased daughter ... to talk to her to marry Jack."

"That is a very simple request," replied his friend. "The loss of your daughter was the cause of deep sadness to all of us. Please let me call my daughter in right away."

He went to his daughter's room and told her to come with him into the sitting room. They came back together. They told her about Jack and how handsome he was and she promptly assented to her father's request.

CHAPTER 6



The Young Men and Jack's New Fiancée

“Ok, my wife is preparing a very special meal for Jack and his brother because they want to leave today,” said the father of Jack’s deceased fiancée. “We will go back to my house together to meet Jack before he leaves. I’ve already told him about you and he is eagerly waiting to see you.”

“All right, let me get dressed,” said the girl. She went to her room and put on a very fine dress, and then sprayed special perfume on herself. They walked for some time before they arrived.

“Please come in,” said the father of Jack’s deceased fiancée. “Meet the handsome young men in the whole eastern part of the world. This is Jack, his brother Deng and The Visitor who came from the northern part of the

world to look for Jack and Deng."

"You must be the one my heart been craving to see," said Jack to the girl.

"Yes, I am," she replied.

"Let's go outside to chat for a while," said Jack to the girl. Both of them went outside.

"They like each other," said the girl's father.

"Yes, they do," replied the father of Jack's deceased fiancée. *"It's a great source of joy to see two young people in love."*

"The food is ready," the wife said to her husband. *"Shall I bring it?"*

"Yes please, bring it," replied the husband. She brought the food to the table and the young men and the two fathers joined the table. They called Jack and the girl to come inside and they both came back in. They all ate the food together. After they had finished, Jack said to the two fathers, *"We will return to our city now, but when we come back from our long adventure in the northern part of the world, I will come to marry your daughter. From now on, she is my fiancée."*

"Very well," answered the girl's father. *"According to our culture and tradition, you are now engaged to my daughter. We wish you a safe journey back home and luck in your adventure to the northern part of the world. We will pray that nothing bad happens to you in the strange land."*

The young men packed up their stuff and prepared to leave.

"I will accompany you to the railway station," said the girl. She walked with the men to the station and when they were about to arrive there, she said, *"The station is right there. I must return to my father."*

“OK guys, go on to the station and wait for me there. I want to say a few words to my girl first,” Jack said to his brother and The Visitor.

“I came to this village to see my fiancée with great hope to find her,” said Jack to the girl, *“but the wild animal took my happiness away, the animal deprived me of my joy. Now that I have found you, you have replaced the heavy boulder in my heart with the bubbly stream of love and happiness. You are a blessing to me, my love. You have come into my life in a time of darkness and you have changed the darkness into light. What more can I say? Please let me find you safe and strong when I come back from the strange foreign land.”*

“I will forever wait for you, my love,” replied the girl. *“You are a blessing to me as well.”*

They hugged for a long time and then kissed. After that, the girl went back to her father's house and Jack joined his brother and The Visitor.

They got on the train and left the city. After several hours on the train, they arrived in the small city where they had previously spent a few days on their way to visit their fiancées. *“Should we visit the house of the family who served us last time?”* asked Deng.

“But the train will leave before we even reach their house,” replied Jack. *“Let's just stay on the train.”*

The train was at the station for almost ten minutes before finally leaving the city. They embarked on another hours-long ride until they reached the final destination of the train, but their city was still far away. The young men had to walk for another two days to reach the city.

"We should spend the night here," said Jack. *"Tomorrow we will walk to our city."* They agreed and they went to a nearby house and asked the people there if they could allow them to spend the night with them. The people of the house welcomed them. They offered them food and drink and the young men ate and drank. They slept in one small room and at dawn the next morning, they started off to the city. They walked in the cool hours of the morning up to the hot hours of midday. Then they entered the forest. Deng, frustrated by the long walk, suggested, *"Why don't we take a rest under this beautiful fruit tree? Let us rest in its shade. We are hungry too; let us eat of its fruit."*

"You are right," replied The Visitor. *"We must rest. We have been walking all day. Let us sit down and regain our strength."*

The men sat down under the huge fruit-laden tree. Jack got up and went to collect some fruit. He returned with a rabbit. "Look what I found!" he exclaimed.

"A rabbit!" shouted Deng. *"Bring it here; we must roast it!"*

The Visitor gathered some firewood and the men roasted the rabbit and ate it. They rested for a while. When they had had enough rest, they got up to continue on their way. They again walked for many long hours till it got dark.

"We have to camp here," said Jack. *"It's getting very dark and hard to see."*

"OK," replied Deng and The Visitor. They camped and spent the night in the bush. They got up the next morning, dismantled their camp and started walking to the city.

"The city is getting close," said Deng. "I can hear the sounds of the cows."

"I can hear them, too," replied Jack. They walked and walked for a few more minutes and this time. As soon as they approached their city, the people saw them from a distance and immediately recognised them. They came out of the city in large numbers to welcome the men.

"Our handsome young men have returned!" they shouted. The young men entered the city together with the people who were cheering them upon their safe return. They went straight to their house and their mother and father came out to welcome them back home and to bless their feet.

"How was your journey, my sons?" asked their father. "And how are your two fiancées and their parents?"

"The journey was amazing," replied Deng. "My fiancée and her parents send their regards. They are hoping to see you over my marriage arrangements. On the other hand, a wild animal had attacked the city one month before our arrival. The animal claimed many innocent lives in the village and Jack's fiancée was among those killed. We went looking for the animal in its hiding place and killed it as soon as we heard about the incident. After we had killed the animal, the father of Jack's deceased fiancée offered another beautiful young girl to Jack in marriage. He begged us not to refuse his offer. And we accepted the offer."

"Well done, my sons!" the father said. "You did exactly what you were supposed to do. I would have killed that animal myself if I was there. But well done; you have made me proud. Take some rest and let your mother bless you."

Their mother took them to her room and thanked God for returning her two boys home safe and sound. The young people all over the city gathered outside waiting to hear stories from Deng and Jack. When their mother had finished praying, she told the boys to go to their friends outside. They went outside and told the people all the stories about their journey.

Part *2*

THE HANDSOME YOUNG MEN
IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE
WORLD

THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

CHAPTER 7

Seven

The Young Men and The Visitor Start out for the Northern Part of the World

The young men and The Visitor stayed for almost two months in their city. All this time, they were getting ready for the long and dangerous adventure to the land that was completely strange to them, the northern part of the world. When they regained their energy and strength and were ready to set off again, they went to their parents and asked them to bless them. Their parents prayed for them and sent them their way in peace. When the people saw them leaving, they sent their young sons to escort the young men and The Visitor out of the city. They went together, talking and laughing all the way to the forest.

“Boys, you have to go back to the city,” said Deng, “you have come too far.”

The boys returned to the city and the young men and The Visitor continued to the northern part of the world.

“How long will it take for us to get there?” Jack asked The Visitor.

“Don’t ask yet,” replied The Visitor. *“We haven’t yet got anywhere. Look, we have just left your city. We have to walk for three to four days to reach the border, and then we will cross a river to get to the other side of the northern part of the world. There will be a change of weather when we get to the other side of the world; it will get colder. Then we will walk for another three to four days to reach the first city of the northern part of the world. From there, the train will take us to my city. The people in my city are very kind. They will be happy to see us. You guys will love them.”*

The young men walked for several hours through the forest, then on to the plains. The Visitor gazed through the tall grass and saw a gazelle. *“Hey guys,”* said The Visitor, *“let’s kill that gazelle over there for our lunch.”*

They put their belongings down and walked stealthily towards the gazelle. As they got closer, Jack threw his spear and it hit the gazelle in the stomach. The gazelle fell and the young men came running to finish it off. They cut off the tastiest part of the gazelle and roasted the meat. They ate the meat and rested for a while.

“We have to carry some of the leftover meat for a meal later,” said Jack. *“We might not find any animal to eat when we become hungry again later.”*

“Yes, we will carry some,” replied The Visitor. *“Let’s get ready to go.”*

THE YOUNG MEN AND THE VISITOR START OUT FOR THE NORTHERN PART OF THE WORLD

They divided the meat among themselves and each one carried a chunk. The long walk continued. They walked for many other long hours and entered another dense forest. The young men, frustrated and overwhelmed by the long walk, decided to take some rest in the dense forest. They came to the tree and sat down under its shade.

Deng said, *“Jack, untie the meat. I am going to collect some firewood.”*

Jack untied the meat and prepared a piece of ground to roast the meat. Soon Deng brought some firewood and they started roasting the meat. While the meat was still on the fire, the wild animals in the forest smelt its aroma. A lion came straight in the direction of the aroma. There was also a pack of hyaenas coming in the direction of the smell.

“Get up!” shouted The Visitor. *“There is a lion over there coming towards us”.*

“What can we do? Fight the lion or evacuate the place?” asked Deng.

“Evacuate!” shouted The Visitor. They grabbed their belongings and evacuated the place slowly. The lion got to the meat and the packs of hyaenas arrived quickly, too. A fight erupted between the lion and hyaenas and the young men could hear the ruckus as they went their way. They walked for more hours through the dense forest and then reached the desert.

“We have to camp here,” said The Visitor. *“It’s too dark for us to continue.”*

They camped and spent the night there. The next morning, they left camp and continued their journey.

"I'm getting hungry and there is nothing in the desert to eat," Deng cried out.

"Let's walk for a few hours towards the mountain over there," replied The Visitor. "There are rabbits in that mountain. We will catch one for food."

They walked towards a mountain. As they approached the mountain, The Visitor said, *"Let's put our stuff down here. I know where to find the rabbits in the mountain."*

He ordered Jack to go and collect some firewood and Deng to prepare the ground and light a fire. He ran to the mountain and looked through the caves and every low area. Jack had already collected some firewood and Deng started the fire.

"What is taking him so long?" Jack asked his brother. "He said he knows where to find rabbits. He should be back by now."

"Maybe he is running after them," replied Deng. "Rabbits are fast runners."

While the young men were still talking, The Visitor returned, carrying two rabbits. *"Here he comes!"* exclaimed Jack.

The young men skinned and gutted the rabbits and then roasted them and ate them. They drank from their water bottles and lay down for a few minutes to regain their strength.

"Guys, we have to go," said The Visitor.

They got up and left. They walked through the mountainous area and entered another forest. They walked through the forest until

THE YOUNG MEN AND THE VISITOR START OUT FOR THE
NORTHERN PART OF THE WORLD

the sun went down, and then they camped in the forest for the rest of the night. They got up and continued their journey the next morning towards the border to the strange land, the northern part of the world.

“How far is the river from here?” Deng asked The Visitor.

“It’s very close. It’s only a few hours to get there,” replied The Visitor.

They walked and walked, and then suddenly arrived at the border. *“How can we cross this wide deep river to the other side of the northern part of the world?”* Jack asked, bewildered.

“Don’t worry,” replied The Visitor. *“We will make some sort of transport vehicle later. As of now, let’s drink and eat the leftover rabbit first to get enough energy to build a boat.”* Then they sat down and ate.

THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

CHAPTER 8

Eight

The Young Men in the Northern Border City

“Listen, we are going to remove those floating water hyacinths in large numbers,” said The Visitor. “We will tie them together with strings from these creeping plants and make a good raft. It will take us to the other side.”

They went into the water and removed a large number of water hyacinths and tied them together with strings.

“Now let’s put our stuff on our new boat,” said The Visitor. They put their stuff on their raft and pushed it into the river. They rowed with their bare hands and crossed the river. After they had got to the other side of the river, they took their stuff down from the raft. Then The Visitor said, “Let us push the raft back into the water where it belongs”

They pushed it back into the water and it floated away.

“The strange land doesn’t seem as strange as I thought it would be,” said Jack, standing on the land in the northern part of the world.

“It’s not different till you walk on ice,” replied The Visitor with a smile on his face. *“That’s when you will know that you are in a strange land. Follow me. Let’s head to the first city in the northern part of the world. There, we will find some woollen clothes, for the snow in my territory is terrible. It will be a little strange and worse for you because it doesn’t snow in the eastern part of the world.”*

They left the river and walked through the mountainous region of the northern part of the world towards the first city.

“The city is still far away and it’s getting dark,” said The Visitor, who knew the map of their region very well. *“Let us camp here tonight, and tomorrow we will walk to the city.”*

They spent that night in the mountains. The next day, they folded up their tents and put them back in their bags before starting the walk to the first city.

“This will be three hours’ walk and then we will reach the first city,” said The Visitor. The men walked for three hours and soon approached the city. The Visitor took them straight to a guest house.

The people of the city saw the young men going in the direction of the guest house and at once concluded that they were strangers. They brought food and drinks to the young men in the guest house.

“Young men, where do you come from?” asked the people. “You look exhausted and very strange to us, except that man over there looks like one of us.” The ‘man over there’ was The Visitor.

“We come from the eastern part of the world,” replied The Visitor. “I am one of you as you said but these two young men are Easterners. I went to their region three months ago to look for them because my fiancée demanded to see the famous two young men from the eastern part of the world. She said if I brought them to the northern part of the world, it was only then that she would marry me. So I went to the eastern part of the world to find these two amazing young men and, fortunately, they agreed to come back with me.”

“We have heard a lot of stories about the handsome young men from the eastern part of the world,” replied the people. “Deng and Jack, so you have come to our country?”

“Yes,” replied Jack, “we have come to fulfil the mission of The Visitor given to him by his fiancée, and to see the northern part of the world. We used to hear a lot of stories about the people of the northern part of the world as well, and we wanted to see with our own eyes. And now we are here.”

“Bring winter clothes for these young men,” said the king of the city to his people. “They look cold.”

The people brought thick clothes made out of wool and leather.

“Put these clothes on,” said the chief to the young men. “It will get colder when you get to the northern territories.”

“You will spend the night with us,” said the chief. *“And tomorrow you will take the train to the next city. Pardon me. I wouldn’t let you pass through my city without being served. My people and I have to serve you”.*

“We just wanted to rest for a few moments and then continue our journey,” replied The Visitor. *“But since you say so, we will stay for one night.”*

“What a great day for me and my people!” replied the king of the city. *“We will prepare a feast for the handsome young men tonight. Let us all go to my house and we shall feast there.”* Everybody, including the young men, went to the king’s house.

“Take two of the fattest lambs in my flock and slaughter them for the feast,” the king ordered his men. The men went out to where the flock was and slaughtered two of the best lambs. The king called his wife and told her to order the girls to prepare the meat for cooking. His wife called all the girls and told them to prepare the meat quickly and to make it very special. The girls started cooking.

“Bring some girls in to entertain my guests!” shouted the king to his men. The men went and brought some girls who were very good dancers. *“Please come in and dance for my guests,”* said the king to the girls.

The girls went in. *“Start the music!”* shouted the king.

Then the girls started dancing. They danced so well that Jack got up and joined the dance, then his brother Deng joined in, too. The young men and the girls danced and danced. Then the young men performed their favourite dance moves and everybody in the room stood up in amazement. The people clapped their hands and cheered on the girls and the young men.

The girls in the kitchen finished cooking, and they brought the food to the banquet hall. The king invited everyone to start eating. They ate and played for a long time. The young men danced again with the people after the feast.

When the people finished feasting and were about to go back to their houses, the king stood up and said, *"What an incredible night. These two young men are the best dancers we have ever seen. We have heard a lot of stories about them, but we did not believe the stories till they danced in our city. You can all go to your houses now. The feast is over."*

Then the people left the banquet hall and returned to their houses. *"Take the young men upstairs and show them where to spend the night,"* said the king to one of his sons. The boy took them upstairs and showed them the room. The men, satiated by feasting, suddenly fell sound asleep.

When the king got up in the morning, the young men were not yet awake. *"Prepare a quick breakfast for the young men,"* the king instructed his wife. *"They will leave as soon as they get up."* She went to the kitchen and prepared breakfast.

"Good morning, king," said the young men after they had got up.

"Good morning, young men," replied the king.

"We must leave now before the sun comes up," said the young men.

"Yes, you will, but first have breakfast," the king replied.

"Bring the breakfast," the chief ordered his wife. She brought the breakfast and the young men ate.

“Go straight in the direction of the small village on the top of that hill. You will find a train there that will take you to the northern territory,” said the king.

The young men set off in the direction pointed out by the king. They walked for hours and when they reached the village, they went to the railway station. Luckily, the train arrived immediately. They boarded the train and it set off in the direction of The Visitor's territory.

CHAPTER 9



The Young Men in the Train

“My fiancée must have missed me so much now,” said The Visitor. “Perhaps she thought something terrible had happened to me on the way, or maybe that I would never return to her.”

“Stop putting too much pressure on yourself,” replied Deng. “She is anxiously waiting for your return. Rather, be glad you will see her tomorrow.”

The silence resumed and reigned for hours as the train went farther and farther.

“These two men look strange to me,” said the northern girl sitting on the train to her mother.

"They must be wanderers," replied her mother.

Jack overheard the conversation and responded, *"We are the most handsome young men from the whole of the eastern part of the world, and the whole world has heard about us. Haven't you?"*

"Oh my God!" exclaimed the girl and her mother together. *"The stories we heard from wanderers have become reality today. The most handsome young men in the whole of the eastern part of the world have come to the northern part of the world."*

The rest of the passengers were woken by the loud sound made by the girl and her mother. They left their seats and came to see the most handsome young men from the east.

"Oh my God! They look very attractive!" said the passengers.

"What have you got us into?" Deng complained to Jack. *"You should have kept your mouth shut! Now, look how the passengers are staring at us!"*

"Please, go back to your seats," said The Visitor to the passengers gazing at the handsome young men. *"I belong here in the northern part of the world and these young men are my friends."*

The passengers went back to their seats. The silent journey continued for another few hours before the train stopped. Some passengers disembarked and the train continued to the next stop. The passengers who had got off went ahead to tell the people in their villages that the popular handsome young men from the eastern part of the world had been on the train with them.

“So, the stories we have been hearing are true?” asked the people.

“Yes, the stories are true,” replied the passengers. *“These young men are different from our people. They are good-looking and attractive young men. They have smooth skin and you can tell by their look that they are not part of our people.”*

The train approached the city The Visitor came from.

“Welcome to my city,” said The Visitor to the handsome young men. They got off the train and started walking away from the station.

“Hey look! Kim is back!” cried out a little boy to his friends. They came running to The Visitor. That was when the handsome young men learnt that The Visitor’s name was Kim.

“Welcome back, Kim,” said the boys to Kim and the young men. Kim hugged the boys and asked them if anything had happened after his departure. The boys said nothing had happened.

“Is my fiancée OK?” Kim asked.

“She is fine, but she terribly missed you,” replied the boys. *“She often sent us to the railway station to look for you among the passengers whenever the train came. She expected you to arrive back every day.”*

“My sweet angel,” said Kim to himself, *“Let’s go home.”*

“So, his name is Kim,” said Deng to Jack. *“We never bothered to ask his name. We simply called him The Visitor.”*

“Yes, we never bothered to ask him, but we have heard his name now. I bet we will no longer call him The Visitor,” replied Jack.

Deng and Jack stayed behind a little, so Kim called out to them. *"Guys, come quickly. Let's go to my house!"*

They went to Kim's house and his parents came out to welcome their son and the handsome young men.

"Welcome back home my son. You have been away for too long!" said his mother.

"These handsome young men must be the famous Deng and Jack from the eastern part of the world. We are very glad you brought them to our land," said his father. *"C'mon, let's go inside the house."*

They went inside and sat in the sitting room.

"Bring my friends the best wine, the wine of this new season," said Kim to his sister. She brought the fresh wine for the young men to drink.

"Your fiancée is anxiously waiting for you, my son. She frequently comes to visit us," said his father. *"Now that you have fulfilled your mission, you will marry her in no time."*

"Bring your son and her friends something to eat!" shouted Kim's father to his wife.

"I will send word out to everyone in the city to come and feast with me in my house. My son has brought a great deal of joy to my heart," said Kim's father. His mother brought the food and the men ate.

"Tell us some stories about the strange land, the eastern part of the world," Kim's father requested his son.

"The eastern part of the world is a warm country," replied Kim. *"It does not snow there like it does here. Its people are very friendly and kind. They*

have also heard a lot about us from the wanderers just as we used to hear stories about them."

Deng and Jack also told Kim's father and mother bunches of stories about themselves and their people.

"Hey sister, come here!" Kim called out. *"Can you do me a favour?"*

"What is it, brother?" his sister replied.

"I want to send you to my fiancée," Kim told the sister. *"I want her to know about my presence in the city before I spend a single day here. If I try to go now, our father will not allow me to do so. He will insist that I meet her tomorrow. So will you do me this special favour?"*

"Of course, I will. But don't tell our parents that I went to your fiancée's house," his sister replied.

"No, I will not tell them," Kim said. Then she ran off to the house of her brother's fiancée.

"What's happening? Has my fiancé returned? Why are you running?" Kim's fiancée asked the girl, surprised.

"He has just arrived. The most important thing is that he has brought the famous most handsome young men in the whole of the eastern part of the world, Deng and Jack, with him. He told me to let you know that he is always thinking about you," replied Kim's sister.

"I am coming with you. I must see my love today," said Kim's fiancée.

"No, he just wanted you to prepare yourself to meet him tomorrow. I have to go back now," replied Kim's sister.

“OK but tell him I missed him so much and I can’t wait to see him tomorrow,” shouted Kim’s fiancée.

“Oh, you have returned so soon! Did you find her?” Kim asked his sister.

“Yes, and she is eagerly waiting to see you. By the way, she said she missed you!” replied his sister.

Kim went back inside the house and joined the conversation. *“It’s getting late. Take Deng and Jack and show them the guest room upstairs,”* said Kim’s father to his son. The three young men went upstairs.

“My country is very cold at night. Take these blankets,” said Kim to Deng and Jack. *“Let’s enjoy ourselves as it’s our final destination. Tomorrow we will feast together with the people of the city.”*

“Hey, have you sent word to your fiancée? I bet you have. You can’t spend the night here without her knowing about your arrival,” said Jack.

“Ha-ha...” Kim laughed. *“I have already done that and she is ready to meet us tomorrow. Let’s just enjoy our sleep. It’s been such a long journey!”*

CHAPTER 10



Kim and His Fiancée Get Married

The cock crowed.

“It’s already a new day,” said Kim. “Guys let’s go outside and prepare ourselves. The people of the village will visit us soon. They have heard of my return and they are also expecting to see you. It’s going to be a great day for us.”

The young men went outside and sat down under an enormous tree. Kim’s sister prepared breakfast and she served it to the young men.

“The people will be here in no time, but I will wait till the sun goes down before I give the banquet,” said Kim’s father.

Kim’s fiancée told her father about Kim’s arrival and they both went to welcome Kim and his friends. They arrived at Kim’s house and his father welcomed them.

"I am glad my son-in-law has returned to us safe and sound. I have come with my daughter, his fiancée, to welcome him back and to welcome the two handsome young men from the eastern part of the world in peace to our city as well," said Kim's father-in-law.

"Thank you for your kindness," replied Kim's father.

"Excuse us for a minute. Can we talk in the house with my fiancée in private?" Kim requested his father-in-law and his father.

"Yes, both of you can go," they replied. Kim got up and grabbed his fiancée's hand and they both went into the house.

"My angel, my princess, I have travelled the world for you and now I have come back for you. I was away for a long time fulfilling my mission to win you for marriage," said Kim to his fiancée. *"I have brought the famous handsome young men from the eastern part of the world for you. Will you marry me?"*

"My love and my king, you have made me the proudest girl in the northern part of the world. It will be a great honour to call you my husband. I will marry you," replied his fiancée.

They threw their arms around each other and hugged for quite a long time, shedding tears of happiness and joy. Then they kissed each other and returned to their fathers.

"I want to give special thanks to Deng and Jack," said Kim's fiancée. *"I had heard a lot about you from wanderers for a long time. Then I decided to see you. So, I made my fiancé Kim travel to the eastern part of the world to bring you here. You have made my marriage possible by accepting to come to our village. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."*

KIM AND HIS FIANCÉE GET MARRIED

“Go out to the farm and bring the best lamb from my flock,” said Kim’s father to his son, “and slaughter it for the feast. The sun is soon going down.”

Kim went to the farm and did exactly what his father had told him. The girls went and prepared the meal for the banquet.

“Father, we have to get ready for my marriage arrangements,” said Kim. “I want my friends from the eastern part of the world to witness my marriage.”

“Son don’t ruin my feast right now. We will organise your marriage tomorrow; now let’s celebrate your friend’s visits,” replied the father.

“Bring in the food and the wine and let the feast begin!” shouted the father.

The people ate and drank. The young girls danced and the handsome young men from the eastern part of the world, inspired by the dancers, joined in the dance. They performed their best dance moves and the people went wild. The noise coming from the house was so loud that the rest of the people in the city who had stayed in their houses came to the feast. Everyone was happy and excited.

“That’s exactly what I have heard about them. They are very handsome and fantastic dancers as well. Thank you, my king, for bringing them here,” said Kim’s fiancée to Kim.

“It’s too late now. Let everybody go home. The feast is over,” shouted Kim’s father to the people.

“I must help you clean up this mess, and then I will go,” said Kim’s fiancée to Kim.

"All right, let's clean up then," replied Kim.

They cleaned up the house. When they were done, Kim said to his fiancée, "The cleaning is over. Let me walk you to your father's house."

Kim accompanied his fiancée to her father's house and returned to the other young men. They went upstairs to their room. Then they struck up a conversation.

"Your people are not as strange as I thought they were. They are very kind. Since we entered your territory, they have been showing us great hospitality," said Jack to Kim.

"You missed out on one thing. They have nice girls, too," added Deng.

"My people are just as kind as your people. It's the same kind of hospitality I received from your people that they have offered you. It's almost midnight. Let us sleep," said Kim.

Early the next morning, there was an attack from the neighbouring city which they had been at war for the last decade. The warriors came and demanded that the city hand over to them the strange young men.

"We have heard the news that the handsome young men from the eastern part of the world came to your city. Hand them over to us and we won't go to war again," shouted the warriors. *"If not, we will burn down your houses, kill your men and take your wives as captives. You either cooperate or you face the consequences. We give you two hours to decide."*

"Gather every man and every boy who can fight!" shouted Kim's father to his people. The men came out in large numbers and were ready

for battle. *“Men, we must defend our visitors and our city. We will fight to the last man!”* shouted Kim’s father.

“We will fight too. We are warriors as well!” announced the handsome young men to Kim’s father.

“Very well, then let’s go out to the battlefield,” replied Kim’s father. The men, including Kim and the handsome young men, went to the battlefield. They fought with the enemy fiercely until they defeated them. Then they returned to the village victorious. Deng was slightly cut in his arm. Kim’s father treated the wound in Deng’s arm and wrapped it with a strip of cloth.

“They have suffered a great defeat. It will take time for them to dare come back,” said Kim’s father. *“We have to arrange Kim’s wedding tomorrow. And the handsome young men will go back to their country before the next attack can happen.”*

The people of the city celebrated the victory over the neighbouring city.

Kim’s father went off to arrange Kim’s marriage with the father of Kim’s fiancée. They both agreed to speed up the marriage so that the young men could return to their country before the enemy came back. Kim’s father invited the whole city to attend his son’s wedding ceremony. The people danced and cheered Kim and his fiancée. Deng and Jack showcased their talent in dancing as well. Two days after the wedding, Kim’s father summoned the handsome young men and told them to be prepared to start their journey back home.

"There are a lot of stories to tell our people," said Jack to Deng. "Let us pack our stuff. Tomorrow we will be on our way."

Kim came running. Then he announced, *"Guys, my wife has some gifts for you! Please, let me call her in!"* He went out to call his wife and they both came in together.

"Please accept my small gifts to you," Kim's wife said. *"Take these two kilograms of gold and one kilogram of silver. My grandfather brought them from the western lands a long time ago. Take them to your people and tell them that there is much more in the northern part of the world. It is because of me that you are here in our village today; my husband Kim was fulfilling my demand".*

"Thank you for the gift," replied Deng. *"It is our great pleasure to accept your gifts."*

Then she went back outside. The young men shared out the gold and silver and tied them together with their stuff. They finished packing their stuff and returned to the room where Kim's father was sitting. They told him that they had finished packing their stuff and tomorrow they would leave the city.

"We will have our last special banquet tonight!" announced the father.

He killed another lamb from his flock and made the girls prepare food for the last banquet. He sent his son to call the elders of the city to come to the banquet. The girls prepared the food and wine and served them to the men in the banquet hall.

"Elders and the people of the village," spoke Kim's father while standing, *"I have organised this last banquet to honour the young men*

from the eastern part of the world. They will be returning to their country tomorrow and I have called you to feast with them for the last time. Now, let everybody eat."

They ate and drank and danced again. The young men also danced for the last time for the people. When they finished dancing, one of the elders stood up and thanked the handsome young men for visiting their land. Another elder stood up and showed his gratitude to the handsome young men. Then the elders blessed the handsome young men.

The banquet was over and the elders went back to their houses.

"Go upstairs and sleep early," said Kim's father to the young men. *"That way you can wake up early tomorrow."* The men went upstairs to their room.

"I will go with you until you reach the border to make sure you cross our territory safely," announced Kim to the handsome young men, *"and then I will return home".*

"No, you don't have to leave your bride behind and bother to escort us to the border," replied Jack. *"We will go alone. Just spend some time with your bride."*

"No, you will look too strange to the Northerners in the other cities without me," responded Kim. *"I must make sure both of you reach your home territory safe and sound."*

THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

CHAPTER 11

Eleven

The Young Men Return to the Eastern Part of the World

“Ok well, we will go tomorrow together. We might never know what the other Northerners might do to us,” said Deng.

At dawn the next morning, the young men left. Kim told his father and his bride that he would escort the handsome young men to the border, and then he would return to them. His father and bride agreed and the men left.

They walked to the railway station and boarded the morning train, and then the train left the city. They enjoyed the sight of the beautiful scenery and the endless conversation with each other. Some passengers, surprised by the charming looks of the young men, struck up conversations with them, which went on till they approached the next stop. The train ride continued for some more

hours and the young men felt tired and fell asleep for a while. Then the train's horn sounded and the men woke up. They disembarked from the train and went to the border city.

"This is the first and last city to and from the northern world," said Kim to the handsome young men.

"We have to go and spend the night at the house of the man who served us last time. You still remember him, don't you?" Kim asked the young men.

"Of course! How can we forget him easily like that?" replied Jack. *"He is very generous and kind."*

The young men went directly to his house. As they approached the house, his children, who were playing outside, recognised the young men. They ran to their father and said to him, "Father! Father! The handsome young men from the eastern part of the world who danced in our house last month have returned and they are coming to our house again!"

Their father got up quickly and ran outside to meet the handsome young men. *"Welcome back to my house, gentlemen,"* he enthused. *"It's a great honour to see you again. I will be more than glad to serve you for the second time."*

The handsome young men and Kim went inside the house and sat down. He told his wife to serve the men wine and she did.

"I have been expecting your return, gentlemen," said the owner of the house. *"Why did you come back with Jack and Deng again?"* he asked Kim.

THE YOUNG MEN RETURN TO THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

“I just wanted to make sure that they crossed the border safely. I will come back when they have made it to the other side,” replied Kim.

“This may be my last time to see you guys. So tonight, we will feast again. I will make the night special for you as it’s your last night in the northern part of the world,” said the owner of the house.

He went to his wife and told her to prepare a sumptuous meal for the young men, and then he went to buy wine in the nearby market. After he had returned from the market, they went to the banquet hall and feasted together for the last time. The young men, inspired by a song, jumped into the dance circle and pulled off their dancing strokes, and the people cheered and clapped for them. Then the feast was over and the men went to bed. The next morning, they got up and went to the owner of the house.

“We are leaving now sir. We want to assure you that we are more than grateful and forever indebted to you. You have treated us with great care and honour and we really appreciate your hospitality. Please accept this small gift from us. Here is one kilogram of gold; take it,” said Deng.

The owner of the house tried to turn down the gift, arguing that the men shouldn’t pay him back for his hospitality, but the men insisted and begged him to accept the gift. He then changed his mind and took the gift. They bid farewell to one another and the young men headed to the border.

They walked through the mountainous areas and entered the forest. *“It’s midday. We have been walking for a long time. Let’s rest here,”* said Jack.

They lay down under a tree, overwhelmed by the long walk. Kim, who had a little more stamina, went off to collect fruit and brought it to the young men. They ate the fruit and felt a little stronger. Then they continued their journey.

The land got dark and the young men camped under the huge oak tree in the middle of the forest. They spent the night there. The noise made by the birds woke them up early the next morning. They folded up their camp gear and left, embarking on another long walk. After several hours, they arrived at the border.

"We are finally here!" shouted Jack. *"We have to build a boat to cross the river."* Then they went to the shore and collected bunches of water hyacinth, tied them together and put their stuff on it.

"I will go back now, my brothers," said Kim. *"It's safe for you to continue now on your own."* They hugged one another and said farewell.

Kim went back to his bride and the handsome young men crossed to the other side of the river, the eastern territory.

They pushed the water hyacinths raft back into the water and walked towards their city. They had walked for only a few hours when two rabbits came running in their direction. Deng threw his spear and hit one rabbit. They sat down, lit a fire and roasted the meat. After they had eaten, they rested for some minutes, and then they continued.

"The sun is going down and the city is still very far away," Deng told Jack. *"Let's camp here."*

They camped there for the rest of the night. The next day, they continued their walk towards the city. At midday, they arrived. The

THE YOUNG MEN RETURN TO THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

whole city came out to welcome the young men back. The people couldn't wait to hear the stories about the northern part of the world and its people.

The father of the young men organised a huge banquet to celebrate the return of his sons. During the celebration, the young men told wonderful stories about their expedition. They showed the audience the gold and silver they had brought back from the northern part of the world to the people. The city was full of joy that day. One week went by, and the young men spoke to their parents about their marriage arrangements.

"Rest for another week and let your body gain enough energy before you start on another trip," said the father.

After spending close to a month in their city, their father, mother, the elders of the city and the rest of the young men set off for the city of the handsome young men's fiancées. They carried with them the kilograms of gold and silver they had brought from the northern part of the world to present them as gifts to their fiancées. Also, large numbers of cattle and sheep as bridewealth. They travelled for almost two days, and then they reached this small village where the people were very kind. They were given a place to sleep, a place to keep their animals and food to eat. The next morning, they started on their way and approached the city at a time when the sun was beginning to set behind the trees.

They first settled with their animals at the house of the father of Deng's fiancée. Deng was the older boy, and it's the tradition for their people to arrange the marriage of the firstborn first. That night, the elders, both from Deng's side and his fiancée's side, sat

down to negotiate the bridewealth and they agreed on a certain number of cows and sheep and a certain amount of gold and silver. The next day, Deng married his fiancée, and they thus became husband and wife. The people celebrated their marriage with wine, dancing and singing. They stayed at the marriage venue for two days and, on the third day, they went to the house of the father of Jack's fiancée. They offered him the animals, gold and silver that had been leftover from Deng's marriage, and Jack thus married his fiancée. They stayed for a few days after that ceremony, too.

Jack was happy about his marriage, so he went to visit the father of his deceased fiancée. The father warmly welcomed Jack and his new wife to the house. He blessed Jack and his new wife and told them to have many children as they could. Jack thanked him and he left.

"Everything is now done," said Jack and Deng's father to his people.
"We have to go back to our city."

They prepared themselves and on the morning of the next day, they left and went back to their city with their two new wives.

Part 3



THE WAR WITH THE WESTERN PART OF THE WORLD



THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

CHAPTER 12



The Kidnappers and the Fallout between Young Men

There was great joy in the city when the young men returned from the northern part of the world and after the conclusion of their marriages. They were living happily in their city with their new wives when one day, some strangers out of nowhere came to take away their joy. And this was during the summer, at a time when young women would go to the bush to cut grass for building grass-thatched houses.

The group of young women in the eastern territory, including Jack's and Deng's new wives, left the city and walked for miles to the bush to cut grass. That was when some strangers, later identified as Westerners, attacked the women and kidnapped ten

of them, with only a few managing to escape and flee back to the city. They quickly spread the news throughout the territory and the strong young men in the eastern part of the world, including Jack and Deng, gathered quickly and were soon ready to pursue the kidnappers.

The elders held a quick emergency meeting with the eastern territory warriors, including Deng and Jack. The elders demanded that their warriors should pursue the kidnappers and bring back their daughters. When the meeting was over, the warriors set off after the kidnappers. By this time the kidnappers had already crossed the border and reached their land. After some days of running after the kidnappers, the warriors reached the border.

They camped there and rested for two days before crossing over to the western territory. They prepared themselves just in case the kidnappers might ambush them. A few hours later, all the eastern warriors crossed the border and made it to the western part of the world. When they approached the first village, they were attacked by a small group of Westerners; whom they fought and defeated. They went to the village and searched every house until they found their women. Then they burnt the village to ashes and left. When they arrived back in the eastern part of the world, their people received them with great joy.

“I am getting too old to rule the whole of the eastern part of the world,” said the king to the overcrowded population seated under the enormous oak tree in the centre of the city. *“Choose a young man to rule our people. A man who loves peace and who is ready to defend the city in times of war. A fair ruler who will reign with justice and bring prosperity to the whole eastern part of the world.”*

THE KIDNAPPERS AND THE FALLOUT BETWEEN YOUNG MEN

The people looked at each other, and they whispered among themselves. Then one elder stood up and said, *"I choose Jack. He is the perfect man to rule our city and the whole eastern part of the world."*

Another elder stood up and said, *"I think Deng is the perfect man for the throne. He is older than Jack and a true warrior."*

Still, other elders stood up and there erupted a huge quarrel among them. Some chose Jack; others wanted Deng to be king. When the king saw that chaos had broken out in the crowd, he stood up again and motioned to the crowd to be silent. Then he spoke, *"We seem not to agree on who should take our country to another beginning. Let us all go home and decide very diligently on who should be our king. Tomorrow we will meet again."* Then the people went in different directions, each to their own homes.

The next day, another meeting was held. It was a long one and there was extreme chaos in the crowd again but this time, it was worse than during the first meeting. The quarrel eventually turned into a fight between the elders. And the people divided themselves into two camps. Some people chose Jack to be their ruler and the other group chose Deng.

At that moment, the eastern part of the world fell apart. The two famous handsome young brothers became enemies and went to war against each other. After months of constant war between the two brothers, news about the fall of the eastern part of the world reached the northern part of the world and Kim and his people came to resolve the quarrel between the two brothers. They called a meeting and asked Deng and Jack to reconcile and come together

as brothers, reunite their people and save their young men from dying in a senseless war. But Deng and Jack did not come to an agreement. Jack set some terms that Deng didn't like and the war started all over again.

When Kim and his people realised that the two brothers were not listening to him, he and his people returned to their home city. One day, Deng and his men were engaged in a battle against Jack and his men in the valley between the two mountains in their territory. They fought very hard and Deng, in his chariot, was hit in the chest by a poison-tipped arrow and died instantly. When Deng's men saw that their king was dead, they laid down their weapons and surrendered to Jack. They begged Jack to take pity on them and accept them to be his warriors. Jack pardoned all of them and he became the king of the whole of the eastern part of the world. He reunited his people and forgave those who had rebelled and sided with his brother.

King Jack ordered his men to carry his brother's dead body back to the city. When the men brought the body, he told them to clean it and lay it on the bed inside their house. Then he went in and closed the door behind him. He got down on his knees, put his arms around his brother's body and wept bitterly for about an hour. When he had finished weeping, he wiped his face with a handkerchief and went outside to the people.

Jack organised a huge funeral for his brother and fasted for two days.

THE KIDNAPPERS AND THE
FALLOUT BETWEEN YOUNG MEN

After the funeral, Jack ordered his men to go and bring his brother's widow to him. They went and fetched her. She came into the king's palace and bowed to King Jack. The king got up, took two steps forward, bent over and grabbed her hand and told her to stand up. The king asked her to sit next to him. *"I have called you to beg for forgiveness,"* the king said. *"I sincerely feel terrible for the loss of my brother. I regret that I went to war with him over the throne. If I could bring him back, I would. But since it's impossible to bring the dead back to life, you are the only one left that I can beg to pardon my mistake. I promise I will take care of you and your son. While I am still alive, your son can have anything he wants in my kingdom."*

She wept bitterly and then responded, *"It was a random arrow shot in the battle that killed my husband. Against whom will I hold a grudge then? I have forgiven you because you pleaded for forgiveness. If God can forgive, who am I to hold back forgiveness? I cannot weep forever but must accept my husband's death. But please, promise that my son will always live under your protection."*

"I will always guide and protect him until he is able to look after himself," the king replied. *"Here is my promise ring. Take it and protect yourself and your son with it. I assure you no one will touch either you or your son. You will always flourish in my kingdom as long as I am alive."*

THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

CHAPTER 13



King Jack and the Western's King

Deng's widow left the king's presence and went back to her house. After some years had passed by, King Jack ordered fifty of his men to go around the whole of the eastern part of the world announcing that there would be a big meeting at the beginning of the new month. At the beginning of the month, the whole of the Eastern part of the world came together.

King Jack stood up and said, *"People, I would like to bring to your attention that our war with the Westerners is not over. They came and kidnapped our women for no reason. You will remember they did that seven years ago. I will make the Westerners pay for what they did to us. Do you want me to wage war against those monsters who kidnapped your daughters?"*

The people shouted together with great anger, “Yesssss!”

Then the king said, *“All right, I need all the warriors to go to their homes, prepare their weapons, put their armour on, and kiss their wives goodbye. We are going to the western part of the world at the beginning of the new moon.”*

The people began to sing war songs and went back to their villages to prepare themselves.

At the beginning of the new moon, the king assembled all his warriors and they set off to conquer the Westerners and make them pay for the crimes they had committed seven years earlier. When they crossed the border to the first city of the western part of the world, they demanded that their king worship them and pay them taxes or else they would burn their whole city to ashes. Their king was stubborn and could not think of the best way to save his small city. He instead went to war with King Jack.

Jack and his warriors killed the king of that small city. They also killed his men and burnt the city to the ground. Jack ordered his warriors not to touch the women and the children. They proceeded to another western city and caused havoc there, too. The few survivors ran and told the Westerners in another city that the Easterners had come to conquer them with a huge army that was very powerful and they had already burnt down the first city and killed the king of that city and his few warriors.

Upon hearing the news about the Easterners, the Westerners were terribly shaken. Their king sat down with his advisors and agreed that he would not go to war with the Easterners but would offer

anything the Easterners demanded. Then they sent a messenger to ask the Easterners why they had come to conquer them and what could be the solution. When the messenger approached the camps of the Eastern warriors, the commander, hungry for battle cut off the messenger's head, tied the body on a horse and sent the horseback. When the horse entered the city carrying the dead messenger without his head, the Westerners became even more afraid of the Easterners. *"These eastern people are animals," said their king. "Who kills a messenger in this world?"*

"We have to send another messenger. If they kill him, too, then we will go to battle with the Easterners," the king announced.

The Westerners agreed. They sent a second messenger. When this messenger reached the Easterners, the commander in charge that day took him to the king.

"This man is a Westerner and he has a message to deliver," said the commander to King Jack.

"What is it that you want to deliver?" the king asked the messenger.

"Your Majesty, my king wants to know why you have come to conquer his kingdom and what can he offer you that can make you change your mind," replied the messenger.

"Tell your king that seven years ago, your men went to the eastern part of the world and kidnapped our women and now I have come back to avenge the crime you committed against my people. I demand that you and your people pay taxes to my kingdom every year and I want five thousand coins of gold, ten thousand coins of silver, two hundred horses without chariots

and one hundred horses with chariots to take with me. Fulfil my demands and we have peace. Reject it and we go to war. Run and tell your king."

The messenger passed on all of King Jack's demands to his king in the presence of his people. The people cried out that the demands were too heavy to fulfil, but their king motioned to them and there was a great silence.

"Your men seven years ago under the rule of the previous king committed crimes and now we are paying the price," said the king. "What do you prefer between going to war against those monsters the Easterners and fulfilling their demand? We don't have enough warriors to defend our people. So, we have no option but to fulfil their demands and pay the taxes. Once we have a good number of men who can fight, we will rebel."

His people agreed to his suggestion and he sent the messenger back to the Easterners.

"Your Majesty, my king agrees to fulfil your current demands and pay taxes to you every year. But he needs some time to gather all your demands as they are too high," said the messenger to King Jack.

"OK, I will give him one month," replied Jack.

The messenger went back to his king. Jack told his warriors to wait for one month for the Westerners to collect and put together their demands. He also told them to kill any goat or sheep they found around the Westerners' cities for their food as they waited for their demands to be fulfilled. Sometimes the troops would go to one of the Westerners' small villages, raid it and plunder all the resources in the village. The Westerners' king saw that his villages were being

raided despite the agreement he had forged with the Easterners. He organised a secret attack with his few warriors, but the Easterners repelled the attack and the Westerners were defeated heavily. There was a great slaughter that day.

THE EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD

CHAPTER 14

Fourteen

Jack's Victory and His Murder.

The western king and a few of his warriors survived and ran back to the city. When they reached the centre of their city, they called their elders and advisors and asked them to hurry up with the Easterners' demands or else the city would be burnt down to the ground. In a short time, they brought the demands to Jack and his warriors and promised Jack that they would pay him taxes every year.

Jack and his warriors took their booty and left the Western territory. When they reached the Eastern part of the world, their people welcomed them with great joy. They had brought with them five thousand coins of gold, ten thousand coins of silver, two hundred horses without chariots and one hundred horses with chariots.

The people feasted for two days in their cities, celebrating their great victory over the western part of the world. King Jack grew mighty and stronger and Westerners continue to pay him taxes every year. Gold, silver and horses became plentiful in the Eastern part of the world during Jack's reign.

Ten years later, Deng's widow went to the commander in charge of Jack's troops and asked him to teach her son to become a warrior and promised to pay him whatever he wanted in return. The commander agreed to her demand and told her to bring her son, who had now grown up. She wanted her son to avenge his father's death, so she was doing everything possible to make her son ready to kill King Jack. The commander trained her son for two good years in secret without King Jack's knowledge.

One day, the king was taking an evening walk around the city with two of his bodyguards. The commander told Deng's son to lay an ambush for the king in the west corner of the city wall and kill him. Deng's son laid a proper ambush and when the king and his two bodyguards approached the west corner of the city wall, he attacked them and killed King Jack and both his bodyguards.

He then went to the palace and he and his mother, with the help of the commander, seized the throne of the eastern part of the world's kingdom. His mother proclaimed her son as the rightful heir to the throne that was once his father's and the people bowed down to the new king and shouted, *"Long live the king! Long live the king! Long live the king!"*

Deng's son became the king and ruled over the whole of the eastern part of the world with his mother. When the people of the western

part of the world heard the news of the new king, they refused to pay taxes to him. The king and his mother became furious and decided to go to war with the Westerners, but their people refused to wage another war with the western part of the world, saying that they had already paid for their crimes.

The new king quarrelled with his people and left with only a few warriors for the western part of the world to claim his taxes. But the Westerners heard the news of their coming. They laid a proper ambush and killed all of them except one man in a single battle. That one man was meant to take the news of their defeat back to his people.

The man returned to the city running and carrying the head of his king. When he reached the city, he told the people that they had suffered great loss in the battle and the new king, Deng's son, had been killed. He showed them his head. The people wept for the king and the rest of their warriors that they had lost in the battle.

The elders called a meeting in the city square and there a new king was chosen that day. He made peace with the Westerners and they both accepted the conditions and terms of the peace agreement. There was peace and tranquillity for the people of the eastern part of the world afterwards. They lived in harmony with their neighbours, the Westerners and the Northerners.

When Deng's widow heard that her son and his warriors had been killed by the Westerners, she pleaded with her people to seek revenge for the death of her son. However, the new king did not want to go to war. Instead, he chose to negotiate peace with the Westerners. When she saw that nobody wanted war, she left the

city and went to the forest, where she hanged herself. Some boys who had gone to the forest to play found her hanging on a tree. They returned to the city and told the people that they had found a dead body in the forest. The people went to the forest and brought the dead body back for burial. They buried her and organised a funeral to honour her.