

Poul Anderson

War of the Wing-Men

Chapter 1

great admiral Syranax hyr Urnan, heir Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet of the Drakko, Fisherman of the seas of the East, Conductor to the sacrifice, and Oráculo of the Lodestar, extended its wings and it returned them to join again with a surprising humming. During a little while, the papers that were upon the table raised as a result of the air. - No! - it said -. Impossible! It must have some error. - As it pleases my admiral. - the Executive Head Official Delp hyr Orikan, inclined with sarcasm -. the explorers, did not see anything. The rage, was reflected in the face of T'heonax captain hyr Urnan, son of the Great Admiral, presumed heir. Its superior lip rose until their canine eyeteeth showed a sparkling reflection that was darkened in its snout. - we do not have time to per to der with its insolencias, Delp Executive - it said coldly -. It would advise to my father who got rid of an official who does not show more respect. Under his distinguished official straps, the great physical contexture of Delp straightened up. T'heonax captain took a step towards him. The tails were opened and the wings extended preparing itself for the fight, until the room filled with its bodies and their hatred. With a calculation that apparently was accidental, T'heonax took its hand towards the lateral part of its waist. The yellow eyes of the Delp flashed and their fingers irritated on his tomahawk. The tail of admiral Syranax was fought against the ground. It was like the outbreak of a pump. Both young noble considered the place where they were, and very slowly, muscle after muscle left these rested under the acariciadoras skins and they relaxed. - it is already enough! - espetó Syranax -. Delp, your language will carry many misfortunes to you. T'heonax, already I am getting tired of your impertinencias. You will already have time to resolve personal your enemistades when I am grass of the fish. In the meantime, it leaves calm my few officials of solution. It was a this one explanation done with more firmness than anyone of which nobody had listened to him long time ago. Their son and his subordinate realized of which this creature of gray hair, of dim eyes and rheumatic, had been in certain occasion the conqueror of the Maion Mavy. (a thousand of wings of enemy heads had shaken of fear from the highest masts) and still she was his head in the war against the Flock. They assumed their maximum aspect of respect and hoped to that they continued. - you do not take my words very literally, Delp - the admiral said to average voice. One approached towards the bookcase that was upon the table and took a pipe of long fuze beginning to fill up it with long fibers of dry seaweed of the sea that took in a tabaquera in its waist. In the meantime its rigid already old body was lodged looking for the greater comfortableness in a armchair of wool, and leather. "I was surprised rather naturally - it continued - but am sure that our explorers still know how to use as a telescope. Descríbeme again and with all exactitude which happened. - a patrol approximately made its habitual recognition to thirty miles to the nornoroeste of here - Delp with much firmness in its words said -. This was was the general area of the called island... I cannot pronounce this lacking name of the hand of the Gods, Sir; it means the Flight of the Flags. - Yes, yes - Syranax- agreed you must know that I have thrown a look to the map sometimes. T'heonax made a face. Delp did not belong to the cut. This era its disadvantage. His grandfathers had been a simple constructor of boats, his father never was beyond the captainship of a simple square. She was later when the family ennobleció by the heroic services of the Xarit'ha battle, naturally. But they had remained in a rank of little level. A handful of people who as soon as it could exceed to those of his lineage. Syranax like answer to these ill-fated days of hunger and misery, had

chosen officials being based only on the demonstrated ability. This way little the important Delp hyr Orikan had been ascended, in few years to the second higher position in Drak'ho. Its rise, nevertheless, had not exiled the rudeza of its education, or, taught like behaving with real noble. If Delp were popular with the most common sailors he was at the same time the one that take refook with more misfortune on the part of many aristocrats. For them it continued being, a parvenú, a coarse one, with the nerve that was reconciled to a Sa Axollon. Once the protective wings of the admiral were folded with the death... T'heonax savored ahead of time what it would happen to Delp Orikan. Serious very easy to find some accusation to its name. The Executive continued: - I feel It, Sir - it murmured - I did not mean... we are still so profane in which it concerns this ample sea. The explorers saw this floating object. He was something since never they had heard previously. Two of them returned flying to give account to us of it and to request advice to us. I went to see what it happened by same me. Sir, is truth! - a floating object six times longer than longest of our canoes, like ice, and still, not even like ice. - the Admiral shook his gray head. Very slowly he put the spark plug in the lighter. But he was with unnecessary violence that lead pavilo to the small wood cylinder of the pipe. Moving it from a part to another one, he approximated the fire to the cazoleta of pipe and aspired deeply. - the polished rock crystal more could have an aspect very similar to this device - Delp was explained -. But not so shining. But not with so many sparkles. - and there are animals that move in their interior? - Three, gentleman. Approximately of our stature, or a little greater perhaps, but without wings and tail. They are not indeed animals... I create. Apparently they wear suits and I do not believe that the shining device has been conceived as a boat. One moves between the waves abominably and it gives the impression of not being able to change its location. - If it is not a boat nor another device come off some port, then by all the Gods, from where it comes? of the depths? - I do not create it, captain - Delp with irritation said -. If he were thus, the beings whom there are in him would be fish or mammalian or... good, able for swimming he gives all ways. But they are not it, have the aspect of a terrestrial typical configuration nonapt for the flight, but for only having four members. - Then, I must be conceited that they fell of the sky - said with T'heonax ridicule. - it would not surprise to me absolutely - Delp in low voice answered -. there is no another direction of where they have been able to come. - T'heonax seated on its heels, with the completely opened mouth. But his father only moved the head agreeing. - Very well - Syranax- murmured enchants to me to see that there is a little imagination in all this. - But from where they came, flying? - espetó T'heonax. - Perhaps our enemies of Lannach have something to see with this - the Admiral said -. They much more cover a great part with the world every year, that what we found place setting in many generations; they have contact with a hundred of Barbarian tribes down in the tropical and interchange the news there. - and women - T'heonax said. It spoke in that mixture of desaprobante voice, that was characteristic of the whole fleet when it watched the clothes of the emigrants. - That does not matter - Delp responded. T'heonax responded with vividness: - You, puppy that you put yourself from the low class, you dare... - the tip Closes! - Syranax shouted. After a pause it continued: - I have made investigations between our prisoners. In the meantime, it will be better than we send a fast canoe before this object finds others. - They can be dangerous - T'heonax warned. - Exactly - his father said -. If he is thus they will be better in our hands than if for example they found the Lannach'onai and they made with them an alliance. Dalp, takes the Temnis with an abundant and good crew. And it takes with you to that type of the Lannach who we captured, how that professional linguist... - Tolk is called? - a habitual pronunciación hurried in answering the Executive little showing. - Yes Perhaps he can speak to them. It sends explorers, once you are there so that fleet has me to current but mantente sufficient moved away of them with main, until you are well safe that the beings whom there are in that device, are to us inoffensive Mantente also

moved away until I have ruined any superstitious fear, about the marine demons, but I know robust if you must be it. We always can request excuses later... or send the bodies by the hut. Now, it flies! And Delp, voted.

Chapter 2

Desolation had to him caught. Even from this low and balanceante cruise of the killer sky, Eric Wace could see an immensity of horizon. He thought that immense dimension of this ring, where the pale sky was with the gray which they formed the stormy clouds and tmulos, and the great ones you whip of the waves, were sufficient to terrify a man. The aspect that presents/displays the death that watches to us had been faced previously, on the Earth, by many of its ancestors; but the Earth horizon, was not so remote. It did not matter that it was to a hundred of years light of his own sun. Such distances were too great to be able to include/understand them; they became simple numbers, and they did not scare to which counted in his salary a trip in spaceship per week. Even the ten thousand kilometers of the opened ocean, to a world of only a human group, people located there by special mission, did not mean more than another number. Later, if it lived, Wace would have to dedicate a dying time, asking itself how to be able to send a message throughout all this empty, but at the moment too much it was occupied in staying with life. But the total distance of the planet was something that it could see. This vision to him had not become present before in its eighteen months of stay, but then it had as much been isolated psychological as well as physically by a inconquistable technical machinery. Now he was single in a vessel that sank and was twice but far to be able to watch throughout the disagreeable waves of you limit them of the world of which there was it been of the Earth. The cruise of the sky was affected and balanced from a part to another one under a wild impact. Wace lost its balance and slipped throughout curved metallic plates. With rage it was looking for with his hands the cable of the light that whipped the boxes of food in the navigation turret. If it went towards a side its boots and dresses they would sink to him downwards like a stone. It was taken hold on time and it was arranged to rest a little, the inopportune wave slapped its face as if it was a humid and salty hand. Shaking of cold, Wace finished fixing and to order the last box and to put it in its site and soon were crawling towards the entrance hatchway. She was a small one and miserable emergency door but the stroll of crystal cover on which the passengers had taken a walk while the pilots of the cruise lead it through the sky, was full of water and his adorned submerged bronze doors. The water had filled the engine room now totally damaged, when they sank. Since then the ship had been taking water around all doublings retaining walls, until all the ship was together for pargo and last trip to the bottom of the sea. The wind happened whistling through his debilitated fingers and to traverse of his wet hair, trying to maintain open you hatchway while that Wace wanted to close it after him. It had a fight against the typhoon. Typhoon? Demons, no! He had only the speed of a wind which we had considered normal, but with superior an atmospheric pressure six times and that whipped like a terrestrial storm, the Condemned PLC 2987165 II! Damn the same PL, and the condemned Nicholas van Rijn and still still more condemned Eric Wace to be as crazy as to work by the Company! Briefly, while it fought against the hatchway, Wace watched over the foam of the waves, as if it looked for a salvation. It did not descry more than to a reddish sun and great storm cloud banks, dirty, in the north and a few points, that probably belonged to the Earth in that they were. Satn hurt with its rays those native people who did not come to help them. Those rays would have at least to disappear while human beings suffocated, instead of being suspended there in the sky rejoicing. Wace closed the hatchway, it separated quickly of her and it lowered the stairs. On his feet it had to stay

with force against the shaken forts. Still it could hear the waves fighting itself on the ship and the wind force. - He is everything in order? - Yes, my lady - so much said as there is it been never. - What it is not much, no? - Mrs. Sandra Tamarin exerted all her fulgor on him. After this she it did not mean more than another shade in the dark of the dead ship -. But you seem a drowned rat, friend mine. They see, we have dry clothes for you. Wace agreed and it undressed of its wet jacket and it threw to the distant spot its dull water floods. Ice cream without them had remained - they could not be to more than five degrees Celsius but it seemed that those clothes had remained during long time submerged in the ocean. Their teeth castañeaban while it followed it her by the corridor. He was typical a high and young man of the north of America, reddish hair, blue eyes and with characteristics of hardness in his factions who pronounced themselves in all their full body of very developed muscles. It had begun like apprentice in warehouses at the age of twelve years, there far in the Earth and now it comprised of the Solar Company of Especies and Licores in all the planet known with the name of Diomedes. It had not been an elevation to his rank obtained at a surprising speed. The tactics of go Rijn were to elevate in category in agreement with the results, that was just like to obtain that a mentality of fast reflections, a fast revolver and a clear vision of the things were favored by the opportunity at the ascent. But had been the one of him, a solid one and good race with a future of occupations on the less isolated and disagreeable positions, completed with an executive position and as category back in the world to which it belonged and... and why served all this if the waters more not knowing were going to swallow to him in a few hours? At the end of the corridor where the navigation turret rose, was again the cobrizo brightness of the sun that irritated its nerves and that were seen in the sky below dark clouds, by the southwestern part as the day declined. Lady Sandra left its torch and indicated towards a place on the cover. To the other side were the outer clothes, reinforced, smooth and protective clothes that he to need it before venturing itself again in the outside being put under the equinoccial spring. - Ponte all this - it said as soon as the boat begins to sink, we will have to leave the greater speed to him. - Where it is Freeman van Rijn? - Wace asked. - Dedic I accept to the last minutes of work on the raft. He is a very mañoso man with the tools, right? But in a while a simple worker of the space was given. Wace shrank of shoulders and hoped to that it went. - I have said to You that you change - she said. - But... - Oh! - a tenuous smile never crossed its face I thought about that there was a naked taboo on the Earth. - Good... not exactly, I create, my lady. But after all you belong to the nobility, and I am not more than a retailer. - Of republican planets as the Earth arrives the worse ones from snobs - it said here all we are human beings. And now, cámbiate quickly. I will become from backs if you wish it. Wace was contained as rapidly as possible in its clothes. The glad unconcern that it showed, was an unexpected balsam for me. It thought about the luck that always accompanied to that goat gordinflona and old that was their fellow traveller goes Rijn. It did not have straight! The collectors of Kermes speak to a large extent be a great grouping and their descendants had made the truth like something inherent in them, specially the aristocrats, after Kermes was proclaimed like great ducado an independent one during the Rupture. Lady Sandra Tamarin was almost as high as he and their devoid dresses of winter of form did not get to completely hide the full silhouette of feminidad. It had a face too much it last to be beautiful: extended front, great mouth, small nose, pómulos salient but with great and torn green eyes under very black eyebrows, that were prettiest than Wace had never seen. Its hair was long, straight, blond ash and that was gathered in a species of moño at that moment but that Wace had seen floating freely under a crown the light of a candle. - you are Already ready, Freeman Wace? - Oh... I feel it, lady. I was thinking. Only a little while and I am prepared! - the túnica put on him that had to cover all the body to him, but it left it without getting to close the rack. Still it was left a certain human aspect in its clothes -. Yes, already I am. I request pardon to him. -

she does not have importance - it became. In the small space in which they could move, their bodies were close. She watched at the outside towards the sky -. Those native ones, not yet are here? - That I create lady. Too high for me to be able to be safe but they they can rise to several kilometers of eniente height without inconv. - Me I have asked it same me but I have not had the opportunity to find out. I thought that it could not have flying animals of the stature of a man, and these Diomedanos has six meters in width with the extended wings. How? Now ask you this? She sonr ió. - we are only waiting for Freeman van Rijn. What another thing we can do that to speak of curiosities? -... we will help... to finish that raft soon Him, but we will sink. - it said to Me that we had only sufficient batteries for a short trip, so that soon he will be ready. Please, it continues speaking. The aristocrats of Kermes, have their customs and taboos, to even die correctly. What another thing is a man, but an accumulation costumary and taboos? Its dry voice had certain vivacity, she smiled a little, but he wondered himself to what extent the position that she adopted was real. To the demon with that farce! he had meant he. We are sunk in the ocean of a planet, whose life is to us poisonous. There is an island to a few hundreds of kilometers of here, but we only know its direction vaguely. Perhaps we pruned perhaps or perhaps no, to finish the raft on time, to save the fuel tanks and we pruned although he is not safe, to load in her our rations on time human type; and all this will depend on the storm that is forming in the north. These were native that watched over our heads does a few hours, but since then have let be... before us, or... to watch us, any thing less to offer aid to us. Somebody hates you to him or to the old one they go Rijn, meant. To me, I am not the sufficiently important thing so that they hate to me. But van Rijn is the solar company of Especies and Licores, which means a great power in Liga Polesotécnica, the one that is greatest to be able in the well-known galaxy. And you are Lady Sandra inheriting Tamarin of the throne of a whole planet - if you live that you have despised many supplies of marriage of its declining one and worn down aristocracy, preferring publicly to look for by other parts a father for your children, so that the next Great Duke of Kermes can be a man and not a reason for ridicules. And many cortesanos must fear their access. Oh, if, had meant he, was very many people who would leave winning, if as much Nicholas van Rijn or Sandra Tamarin, did not manage to return Era one galantería calculated on the other hand to him to have offered a trip in their particular ship from Antares where was she in the Earth doing high in the way which always they were interesting. At least it could look for commercial concessions in the Ducado. When more, no, as soon as it could obtain a true alliance; there was too much demon put in him. He (more intelligent and innocent fort) never would even allow that he rested his heavy innkeepers on the armchairs of your parents. But I go nomadic, my beloved, had to quer gone to say he; and the cause is that somebody in the crew of the boat, had been bribed. The scheme of the bribe well was perpetrated; that somebody looked for its opportunity. It arrived when you took earth on Diomedes, to see how it is true and unexpected a new planet, a planet where until the main continental configurations they had been you lower certain in the maps, during little the five years that a handful of men had here been. The opportunity arrived when said myself I of conduciros to you and my old one endiablado head to those mountains to half of way around this world, that has been designated like a spectacular scene. A pump in the main generator, a cruel crew, engineer and disappeared butlers of crew in the blowing of the death, the head of my copilot destroyed when sinking to us in the sea, the destroyed radio, and the latest that is of despoliation is going to sink long before which in Thursday Landing they begin to worry itself by us and come to look for to us. And in case we survive, it even is that there will be the small opportunity from which a few spaceships, crossing a unknown world almost in the maps, twice greater than the Earth, can get to see three human beings to fly on him? Anyway, it had wanted to indicate, since all our schemes and adaptations have not lead to us more than to this, would not be of more than we forgot them during just a short time that we have left and on his place she

kissed to me. But its throat was closed and he did not say anything of all this. - Therefore? - an impatience note was reflected in the voice of Sandra -. very you are shut up, Freeman Wace. - I feel It, my lady - it murmured - I believe that I am not very apt to establish conversation under... hum, these circumstances. - I feel much not to be described for ofrecerte the consolation as the religion - she with sharp sarcasm said. A great white wave raised over the outer cover, and reached the turret. They noticed as the steel and the plastic shook as a result of the blow. During a little while, while P! water crowded they remained in a blind person and tenebrous runruneamiento. Soon, while it was clarified, and Wace saw how far despoliation had arrived and it asked if they would get to be able to be able to reach the raft of go Rijn, that was outside of the hatchway, and were a whiteness that blinded its eyes. First it did not believe it and soon it had not believed it because one did not dare, but later no longer could deny it. - Lady Sandra - it spoke with immense well-taken care of; it did not have to notify to shouts to her like a terrestrial one of more low quality. - Yes? - It did not separate the Vista of the contemplation of the North part of the completely empty horizon, except of clouds and light. - There, my lady. Towards the Southeastern. She would believe... sails, fighting itself against the wind. - What? - She was like a exteriorización on the part of her. Something that made laugh aloud to Wace. - a boat or something similar - it indicated who comes in this direction. - she did not know that the native ones were marine - she in voice said is. - they are not it, my lady... in the environs of Thursday Landing - it talked back but this it is a great planet, approximately four times the area of the Earth surface, and we only know a small part a continent. - Then, you do not know as they are these sailors? - My lady, I do not have nor the smaller Idea.

Chapter 3

Nicholas van Rijn arrived giving to shouts when hearing those of its fellow traveller. - Condemnation - it shouted - a boat you said? Better serious than it was a shark if you are not mistaken, Condemnation! - It was towards the turret and it watched towards outside through the plastic and with salt water incrustations. The light was very tenuous and also due to the proximity of the loaded storm clouds that whipped with the air their face. - Therefore what is that, where it is that pestilente boat? - There Sir - that sailboat said to Wace-. - Swift-sailing Powder and bullets in your cement head that is a boat... no, hopes, condemnation, is a true very rudimentary boat although with a main mast and everything, ja! and what way to handle has it, it must have a quite great rudder, that all the Gods help us! A species of boat goes! - What another thing could wait for you in a planet without mortals? - Wace said. Their nerves were too sensible for him, to remember the deference that had to the prince of the merchants. - Hum... that is not more than rescue boats, perhaps some other species of rare boats, quickly, dame dressed dry, this is too cold for naked monkeys. Wace realized of which they go Rijn was put in a pool species and that the bitter water of the sea got to along with cover until its figure its legs. - I know where they are, Nicholas - Sandra said going towards the part of the corridor. The boat put every minute more dangerous than it happened as the water entered through all the parts of the same one. Wace helped its head to undress of the coverall that took. Naked, they go Rijn remembered gorila of two meters of very velludo stop and with a belly, with its backs very bent. Shouting to great voices its indignation and the cold and the humidity and the slowness of its assistants. But a great ring flashed in their heavy fingers and bracelets in their wrist and a small medal of San Dimas hung of their neck. On the contrary to Wace that found more practitioner a very short haircut and to shave itself very well, they go Rijn left his oily one and black hair was encaracolase and, to take it long to the last fashion, also letting grow his acierated moustaches below its nose. It entered the department of navigation with force and murmuring until it found a

bottle of rum. - Ahhh! I knew that this damn bottle had hidden it I somewhere, it put the bottle in his lips and gave three or four drinks. Good, very good! now I feel like a human man and respectable. It gave average return doing to remember a majestic planet when Sandra returned. The only dresses that it had found that they could conv enir to him to him, were the his own ones, those of him, a species of shirt with great bows and adornments in the part of the figure, trousers with great reflections of silk and averages, shoes and a hat of pens. - Thanks - he with courtesy now Wace said while seen me, he sees Perfect the living room and there you will find a bottle of and a box of Perfect and a small bottle of apple juice. Please, he sees look for them and soon he sees outside find our guests. - Blessed San Pedro! - the living room shouted Wace- is already full of water. - Ah? - they go Rijn sighed - then we needed only the bottle apple juice, now sees express, you do what you can. - It made crack its fingers. Wace said very quickly. - we do not have time, gentleman, I must make still all the route of the ship and to look for our ammunition, these native ones could be hostile. - If they have heard speak others to us, it is possible - she acceded go Rijn. It began to put his clothes inner of natural silk -. Brrrrr. Five thousand spark plugs would right now give to be in my office of Amsterdam! - To what santo you would offer them? - Lady Sandra asked. - To San Nicholas, my christian name... pattern of the nomadic ones and... - San Nicholas would want it better in writing - she said, go Rijn had a acierated glance but one cannot speak nor answer the heiress of a nation, with important commercial concessions to offer. It spent some time before they were outside. They go Rijn one was worried to leave by the emergency hatch and had to be pushed. The period of rotation of Diomedes was only of twelve hours and average and this latitude of 30 North degrees was still in the side of the winter equinox; thus the sun was arriving at the low part from the sea at a devilish speed. They arrived at the superior part and they left drags it of the wind along with cracked the waves on them. They could not make another thing. - it is not a place for a poor old and fat man - it whispered go Rijn, the typhoon took the words over him and it made fly over him and it made fly over the stirred up sea. Better it would be than I had had left in house in Holland where he is so lukewarm and I do not lose my few last years of life in squandering it here. Wace directed its eyes towards the waves. The boat approached. At the same time it could appreciate the masters of the crew and go Rijn did not abstain in praising them. - I would put to them in the club Sunday Yacht, condenac ion, yes! and to put them in the next regatas betting by them. It was a boat of more than thirty meters in length with a good elaboration in his candles but he did not have the speed and the prestancia of other boats. - the diomedanos - the tone of Sandra was still in its ears under the threatening wind and the humming of waters -. You have spoken with them sometimes during a year and means, no? What we can hope of them? Wace shrank of shoulders: - What we can hope of a tribe of humans back in the age gives stone? They could be cannibal poets or or both things. Everything what I know is the tribe of Tyrlanian that is hunting emigrants. They always stay according to the letter of their laws; they are not very scrupulous as soon as if spirit, naturally but is in general a decent tribe. - You speak its language? - I speak It whichever allows me my to paladar human and my tecnoterrestre culture, my lady. I do not mean that he can include/understand all his concepts but I get out of trouble myself. Exhausted the spaceship moved, heard as the walls crujían and the water that entered on the inside and at the same time felt like a convulsion under their feet. Sandra fell against him. Then it could appreciate drops frozen in his eyebrows. - This does not mean that I will include/understand the local language - it finished we are more far from Tyrlan than Europe of China. The canoe was now almost on them, never had been able to arrive more on time. What it was of the spaceship was going to sink in some minutes, arrived on time, the sailors threw cords, an anchor of sea and fornidos arms delivered all the attacks to remove to them from the water. Slowly then a diomedano approached with a cord. Other two went closely together to their side, of course noticed

being guards. First of them one approached and it watched the humans. Tyrlan being very to the north, many of their inhabitants, not yet had returned from the tropical; and this one was the first diomedano that Sandra had found. It very was wet, it had much cold and incapable to be able to enjoy the presence and the cruel grace of his movements but despite she watched with much thoroughness. Possibly it would have to live with this race during long time if it is that they did not kill it. It was of the stature of a small man, with a thick tail of a meter of long and finishing in a species of rudder grasiento and tremendous wings that were folded on their back. Their arms were under the wings near half of the body and had an aspect that remembered something human, under their muscle hands full with five fingers. The legs were less familiar, curved backwards from the feet with four heels that could have almost belonged to a prow bird. The head at the end of the neck that had been twice more length than the one of a human, was round, with an ample forehead of yellow eyes and with membranes under thick eyebrows, a black nose in a face that had short whiskers and a great mouth with oseznos teeth of the fat dining rooms. It did not have external ears but they had a full muscle crest in the head that helped them to control the flight. It covered a brown species to them of skin; he was really a mammalian male. It dressed two belts that happened through their "backs" and a third that tied in their figure and pair leather bags that hung of the same one. It took a knife, an axe of pedernal. Through the thick dark it was very difficult to guess what class of arms took their companions, was something long and thin, but that surely was not rifle, because in this planet there was copper nor no iron. Wace inclined towards ahead and forced its language to pronounce some syllables of tyrlaniano. - We... are... friends. Me... he includes/understands... you? All one retahíla of totally strange words was against him. One shrank and it extended its hands. The diomedano became through the spaceship and its body inclined towards dejante while it balanced his wings and their tail, and quickly tied its own cord to the same place in which they were tied and those of the spaceship. - a square knot - it said Go Rijn almost, calmly makes desire me return to house. In the other end of the cord they began to tie the canoe. The diomedano returned its face to Wace and indicated to its vessel. Wace agreed but suddenly account occurred that the gesture was probably without no meaning and took a very precarious step in that direction there. The diomedano took another cord and it passed it over him. It indicated towards there to the humans and made gestures. - Already I include/understand - it said Go Rijn -, they do not dare to approach more. He is too feasible that their boats explode against us. We must tie this cord to us around our bodies and they will hoist to us. Blessed it is Cristóbal, what things must to him make to an old poor man man with the already too hard bones! - But nevertheless it is left our food - Wace said. The cruise of the sky still moved and lowered more, the diomedano moved with nervousness. - No, not - it shouted Go Rijn -. it had the impression that if shouted enough it could be made understand and penetrate in the linguistic barrier. Their arms extended. - you never include/understand to me, species of idiot? Bond more than we suffocate in which it is of our boat in this pestilente ocean, that to try to eat your food. We will die! We will have pains belly! Suicide! - its mouth Indicated, gave blows in its abdomen and indicated the rations. Wace realized of which these demonstrations were too dangerous. Here they had a planet with oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, carbon, sulfide and biochemical proteins that formed genes, chromosomes, cells, weaves, protoplasma to give a reasonable definition, and the human that tried to eat a fruit or meat of the diomedanos, would later die ten minutes of fifty any allergic reactions. They were not the appropriate proteins. In fact only certain foods would cause that the men did not reach chronic diseases like asthma and other manifestations that could be reached in the air that they breathed or the water that drank. It had today been during many hours, reuniting all the supplyings of food that they had in the cruise to bring them to the boats. This lujurioso atmospheric vessel in which it had arrived with Goes Rijn was quick to do orgías of "picnic" when they assaulted the desire to

them. It was full of bread, mantequilla sweet, Edam cheese, smoked salmon, peaches, fruits in conserve, chocolate, pudín, beer, came and God knows how many other things to allow that three human beings could be there during months. The diomedano extended its wings doing to hit at the same time them and fluttering to stay still on. The merchant hoped estólido indicating once in a while with the finger towards the accumulated boxes. Finally the diomedano reached the idea or simply it gave with her. But it was very just a short time that to lose. He indicated towards the canoe, one of his companions he arrived, he undid the fastenings and he began to transport boxes. Wace helped Sandra to tie the cord around her. - I am afraid that one will get wet before very many gives to reach the boat, my lady - he said trying to smile. She made a gesture of indifference. - Therefore this she is pioneering Bravo between stars. I will say it to my cut of poets when she returns to house if she is that I return. When it had crossed and the cord had descended, They go Rijn made signs to Wace. , They go Rijn was discussing with the diomedano head. All this was carried out in the true one and real language among them, Wace did not know it but they had reached a point in which the indignation shouts were sent from one to another one. As well as Wace had reached the boat, They go Rijn seated on the cruise of the sky and it did not want to move. And when youngest, Wace made its arrival to the soaked boat of water, the merchant had won evidently the battle. A diomedano could raise approximately fifty kilos in short distances in the air. Three of them improvised a cord who tied of an a others and hung of her to Go Rijn to transport it over the water. , they go Rijn not yet had reached the canoe when the cruise of the sky sank.

Chapter 4

The boat took on her a hundred of native all armed, some dressing helmets and constructed laminated leather armors, a catapult that as soon as it was seen through the dark, was mounted in the cover; in addition it had a cabin done of trunks and covered of marine seaweed that finished by the final part in a species of carabela of medieval style. In the ceiling two men directed a long rudder. - It is well sure we have found a navigation boat - he shouted Go Rijn -, it is not so good but in aim. With a retailer I can speak; with a pestilente official and bridles of silver in its brain I only can shout. -, entrecerró the eyes directing them towards the night where the crack of the storm became sensible. - I am a pecador poor man - it shouted - but this I have not deserved it. You hear to me? After a little one tied the humans and one went to them towards a cabin. The boat had begun to run before the typhoon. The balance, the murmur of the waves and the wind and the thunderclaps, had made echo in the conscience of Wace. It wanted, to only find a place where he was dry, to take off its clothes soaked in water and to let themselves fall in a bed and sleep during one hundred of years. The cabin was small. Three humans and two diomedanos let site hardly to seat. But she was lukewarm and a stone lamp hung of the ceiling and threw a tenuous full light of grotescas shades with the movement. The native one which it habíase found first with them was present. Its crystal dagger took it in a hand and it on the lookout maintained it like a lion; but half of its attention seemed to be concentrated in the other that was supported and was older, with gray tufts in its hair, and that was tied in one of the corners with a cord piece. The eyes of Sandra were narrowed. The diomedano with the knife watched through the room and Go Rijn swore: - You, species of idiot, want to let see to us how is a weapon? First the native one said something to which it was tied. This last one made a species of answer with gruñido and soon it became towards the humans. When it spoke it did not sound what as if said was the same language that the one of the others. - Thus, then! An interpreter! - he said Go Rijn -. You, to speak English? Hw, hw, hw! - a blow in its thigh occurred. - No, it

hopes, more bond to prove - it said, and then Wace was expressed in tyrlaniano. - understand you to Me? It is possibly the only conversation that we pruned to have together in common. The captive raised his encrestada head and seated on his hands and their heels. What responded was almost familiar. - It speaks very slowly, please - Wace said, and then it felt how all the dream that before watched it left him. Something that it could include/understand arrived to him. - You do not use a version of the Carnoy that I have heard before. - Carnoy? Wait for, if, one of the tyrlanianos has mentioned a confederation of tribes far from the South and who they have such name. I am using the language of a type of Tyrlania. - I do not know this race, they do not invernan in our fields. Nor either carnoy like regular thing, but once in a while does not do it when all of them are in the tropical some arrives at pas ar this way, therefore - and then he said something ininteligible. The diomedano with the knife said something, impatient and gave a sharp answer. The interpreter said to Wace: - I am Tolk, a moohera of the Lannachska. - what of what? - Wace said. It is not easy human beings to even talk when they must use a jargon different from a strange language. The dense accent imposed by human the buccal cords and the ears of the diomedano - that heard to them in a species of subsound, but did not get to reach the complete conversation; the declination of the maximum answers was different -, to the aim Wace it needed a few hours to be able to be made understand in a information of a few phrases. Tolk was a specialistic linguist of the great tribe of Lannach, was one of its functions to learn each one of the languages that arrived at their tribe and which they were many. Perhaps its title could be denominated heraldo, because their duties included a great amount of ceremonial subjects and presided over all the messengers of the body. Flock was in war with draconay, and Tolk had been captured in a recent skirmish. The other diomedano present was called Delp and been a high official of much rank of draconay. Wace posponed speaking much about itself, not only by desire to be somewhat reserved as far as him, but who because account of the so difficult task occurred that it would be to be made include/understand. It requested to Tolk that noticed Delp to him that the food which they had removed from the cruise, as well as was essential for the earth men, could kill the diomedanos. - and why this would have to say I to him - Tolk with a scorn gesture asked from the human point of view, he was very disagreeable. - If not it beams - Wace said, can repel on you when he knows that you did not do it. - It is truth. Tolk spoke to Delp. The official gave a fast answer. - He says that any damage will not be done to you unless you want it thus - Tolk explained -, it says that you must learn his language so that you can speak with him. - What is what it is saying? - he interrupted Go Rijn. Wace explained it. They go Rijn exploded. - What? What says? To have left here we until the death and all the demons of the world? But damn am, already would explain I to him! Wace rose on its feet. The wings of Delp, fluttered until becoming to put in their site. It showed his teeth. The door was opened and a pair of guards watched the interior. One of them took tomahawk and another one took a species of wood saber that flashed. They go Rijn took the hand towards its revolver. The voice of Delp spread in the room. Tolk translated: - It says that we have calm. - After to have spoken a little more and with considerable ones, efforts to be able to guess at some moments the part between Wace and Tolk, were explained: - he does not wish badly no, but he also must think about his town. You are something new. To perhaps you prune to help him or perhaps you are so bad for him that not you allow marcharos. I have to have time to discover it. You must yourselves undress of everything what you take above and leave it to its position. On the other hand he will provide to you with other dresses since account occurs of which you do not have skins that cover to you. When Wace had interpreted all this for the merchant Goes Rijn said with surprise: - I believe that we do not have election at this moment. We could get rid of many of them. Perhaps we could empower completely of the boat. But we cannot sail all the way until our earth by we ourself. - Without nothing else that what we have we would die of hunger by the way. If I were younger... by good San

Jorge, would fight on the general principles. Hand by hand would take and touch xilofón to him aside on its ribs and would cause that the nation completely helped me. But now I am too old and fat and am tired and is very hard to be old, boy. Frunció entrecejo on its inclining in front and agreed of a full form of experience: - But, condemnation! Where they are the enemies who pay to an a the others and where they are the honest retailers who have an opportunity to remove small benefits although she is in these occasions?

Chapter 5

- First - Wace said -, you must include/understand that the world has a ball form. - Our philosophers know this from kill time - he said to Delp with complacencia-incluso the Barbarians as the Lannachoia has an Idea of the truth. After all, they cover hundreds with kilometers every year in emigration. We are not so movable, but, however, we must work in the principles of Astronomy before we pruned to sail more far. Wace doubted if in Draconay could be located they themselves with high accuracy. He was surprising which its neolithic technology had finished not only in stone, but in crystal and ceramics; they got to even mold some resins sintético ace. They had telescopes, a species of astrolabios, and tables of navigation based on the Sun, stars and two small moons. Nevertheless, the compasses and the chronometers required iron, in fact, did not exist absolutely in Diomedes. Automatically it observed a rich market in power. The primitive tyrlanianos were very eager by the equipment and the arms for metal, paying exorbitant amounts in skins, gems and very useful juice in pharmacy and that did of planet one of much value for the attention of Liga Polesotécnica. The Draconay could use other more sophisticated objects: from clocks and rules, to machines Diesel, and they were able to be able to provide higher prices. It could find out from where it was: the Gerunis ship, headquarters of the official in head of the fleet; and this extraordinary one, at the moment, creature who seated in the cover and spoke with him, was in fact its jailer. How long had happened since they crashed? fifteen days diomedanos? This would be more than one week in the terrestrial aspect. A certain percentage of the Earth food already had eaten it, he had insisted on learning the language of Draco, of their companion of prison, Tolk. It was a luck that Liga had, necessarily, towards long time, developed the principles by which the instruction could be given in very just a short time, when trained ion pronounced one properly imaginac, could reach to include/understand the things that were only said once. Same Tolk used an almost identical system; it could not never have seen metal, but the Heraldo was semantically sophisticated. - Good, then - it said to Wace titubeando and EC putting errors in its vocabulary, but adapted its then intentions, you know that this world in ball form gives returns around the Sun? - A few philosophers create this - Delp said -. I am a practitioner, and I never take care much of some of these things. - the movement of our world is not very usual. In fact, in many aspects it is a place not very delimited. Your sun is colder and redder than ours, thus, then, your homes are colder. This sun has a mass... What you say... oh, llámalo a weight... not much more than ours; and it is approximately to the same distance. Nevertheless, Diomedes, as we called to your world, has a year only a little more length than ours. Seven hundred eighty and two days diomedanos, he is not that? Diomedes twice has more the diameter of the Earth, but it is I lack of heavy equipments that we found in our worlds. On the other hand its gravity. According to I have understood, I only weigh one more tenth part here than what would weigh in my world. - I do not include/understand it - Delp said. - Oh, does not matter - Wace with certain to weigh said. - What is what there is of rare about the movement of Ykt'hanis - said Delp. This era the name that dedicated to their planet and did not mean "Earth" but, in a language where the names were compared, it could be translated by "Oceanest" and was

feminine. Wace needed some time to answer. The technical words escaped of their vocabulary. It was, mainly, that the axial inclination of Diomedes was almost to ninety degrees, so that the poles were virtually in the elliptical plane. But this fact connected with the cold of the poor ultraviolet sun, had made the module of life. In anyone of the poles, almost half of the year was spent in one night total. The light of the endless day, was very special at night, but they were invernadores inexpressive. To forty and five degrees of latitude, a quarter of year even was in the dark in a very sad winter that the world had never known. As much to the north as to the south, it was solely where the diomedanos could live. The annual emigration required a great amount to them of time and energy, and fell on a acierated war of the paleolítico level. Here, to thirty degrees to the north, the absolute winter lasted sixth of the year - something similar to two months terrestrial and were no a few weeks of flight towards equatorial territories of reproduction and to return more in the same time. Therefore, loa Lannaska was a cultivated town very. The Drak'honai was native gives the south much more. But they could not do much without metals. Naturally, Diomedes had abundant magnesium, beryllium and aluminum, but, of what could serve all this to them if they did not develop the first electrolytic technique that required copper and silver? Delp inclined the head: - You mean that always it is equinox in your earth? - Good, not always. But according to your measures of the time, almost. - Then for that reason you do not have wings. The Lodestar did not put wings to you because you did not need them. - Oh..., perhaps. Anyway they had not served to us for anything. The terrestrial air is very voluble for a creature of your stature or mine and to be able to fly by its own one to be able. - What means voluble? Air is... air. - So dense it is the air, that if it had proportional amounts of oxygen or nitrogen, it would poison to me. Luckily the atmosphere of Diomedes contains seventy and nine percents of neon. Oxygen and nitrogen are less constituent in the proportion: their partial pressures do not get to exceed those of the Earth. The same it happens with dioxide of carbonic carbon or anhídrido and the water steam. Wace continued: - We speak of us. You include/understand that the stars are that other suns like yours, but infinitely more far? and that the Earth is a world of such stars? - Yes. I have heard the philosophers comment it. I will believe it. - it give account to You of until where arrives our power to be able to cross the space between stars? You know to what extent we can recompensaros by your aid if you take to house, and until the point in which our friends can punish to you to retain to me here? For a moment Delp extended its wings, its hair shone on its back, and their eyes were opened wide. It belonged to a very proud tribe. Suddenly one straightened up. Through all the racial differences the human could realize pregnancy in which rallaba. - You yourself you said to me terrestrial that you crossed the ocean from the East, and that in thousands of kilometers you did not see more than an island. It is to where they reach our explorations. Possibly we could not fly until so far, llevándoos to you or a message of your part to your friends without a place where to rest sometimes. Wace agreed, slowly and pensativamente. - I already realize. And you could not we took in a fast canoe before our provisions were exhausted. - I am afraid that no. Even with favorable winds throughout the way, a boat is much more slow that the wings. More perhaps half year would cost to us or, to cross the distances of which you speak. - But it must have some means... - Perhaps. But it remembers that we are maintaining one hard war. We cannot use many workers or soldiers for salvaros to you. - I do not hope Either that the admiral tries it

Chapter 6

I SAW To the South it was Lannach, an island as large as Britain. Near it was Holmonach, an archipelago there, that described a curve of hundreds of kilometers towards the North, towards the regions more freezing. Thus, then,

the islands acted like a limit and refuge, that was defined by the sea of Achan, protecting to him of the great currents you cold of the ocean. Here they were the Drak'honai. Nicholas Van Rijn, was on the main bridge of cover of the Gerunis, without separating his glance of the main thickness of the Navy of the Fleet towards the East. Its atuendos of robust fabric, badly made, and their trousers that one of the stars of those beings had done to him without many cares, irritated their customary skin to him to loa more expensive weaves. It was already tired of jamón in candy and the conserve peaches, although when such reserves were exhausted, it would begin to die of hunger. Single the fact to think that they had captured to him, fact prisoner, and that their desire "was not considered by anybody, meant an enormous anguish for him. And it was not reason for less anguish, thinking about the money that was losing the Company by the lack of personal monitoring. - Bah! - it exclaimed -. If they put all their persistence in taking to our world again, they could do it! Sandra watched it been strange. - and what would make meanwhile the Lannach, while the Drak'honai put all their persistence in giving back us to our world? - it responded -. this war Is something very important for them and the Drak'honai still could lose it. - By the revolting mouth of Satán! - it said, extending his hairy fist to the air -. While they dissent by their small and insignificant territories, the Solar Company of Especies and Licores, this losing a million daily actions. - But she gives the chance of which the war is a subject of life or death for both sides - she said. - Also for us - prayed malhum said he, removing the pipe and remembering at the same time that the tobacco was it lost in the water flood -. When it finds who put the pump in my cruise...! - it did not pass through his imagination offering excuses to Sandra it to have put in this subject. In addition, perhaps, she was she who indirectly had caused the situation in which they were -. Good! - it finished in a calmer tone -, it is truth that we must fix the subjects here, I create I. To cause that they finish the war, so that they can make important things, like the one taking to house. Sandra frunció the frown because of the brightness of waters, saying at the same time: - You mean that we must help the Drak'honai...? He is not something that concerns much to me. In addition they are the aggressors. On the other hand they saw his spouses and their hijitos dying of hunger. - He sighed and he ended up saying -: He is something very difficult to fix. But, since we must do it, we do it. - Oh, no! - its chin said Go Rijn inclining -. We will help the other side. To the Lannachska. - What! - she exclaimed separating of the railing and showing before him her cheek as if she had badly heard -. But... but... - Sight - it explained Go Rijn -. I understand a little some of the things of the policy. The policy is not very different from the one of our galaxy here. It is a culture of powerful aristocrats, these Flock, but all the force of the power is in the throne, the Admiralty. Now the admiral is old, and his son, the inheriting prince, has many things that to shut up. I have very fine ears, and in addition they forget that we far better heard that they in this atmosphere that seems sapa of peas. Yes, already I know it. That T'heonax is a very hard type. - Thus, because - it continued Go Rijn- we will help to the Flock against the Drak'honai. What has of bad in it? The Drak'honai already is winning. The Flock does not make but have itself in a war of guerrillas in the most rustic parts of Lannach. They are still very numerous, but the Flock has all the most strategic force and sites in their hands, and they do not need more than to maintain a status quo to win. Of any way, what we can do, and who God did not grant wings to us, in a guerrilla? - Good... yes - it acceded -. What you mean she is that we cannot offer nothing to the Drak'honai if he is not to deal and to treat later in them, in case they took us world to our. - Exactly. And what haste has they in putting itself in contact with Liga? To them it matters to them I comine of desconoc gone like us coming from the Earth. It is more important to them to consolidate to themselves in his conquests, that to be understood with powerful foreigners. In addition, I know what they will do with us; I know its intentions. Perhaps T'heonax lets to us die of hunger, or perhaps it cuts the

neck to us. Perhaps it throws our head of cattle cough by the hut and says later that never it heard of us. Or perhaps, when one of the boats of Liga finds him, he says, already we removed to some humans from the sea, we treated to them as well as we could but we could not retribute to them to the Earth at the moment that was necessary. - But he is that they could, really? I mean, Freeman Van Rijn, how you would take you to us to the Earth, with any class of diomedana aid? - Bah, details! I am not engineer. The engineers I rented them. My work does not consist of doing the impossible thing, but in that others do not do to him. There is a thing, and only it is that how I go to organize something, if I am not more than a prisoner of a king who does not have any interest in putting itself in contact with my fellow citizens? Eh? - Despite the Lannach tribe one is very subjugated, and they will allow him, as you say, to write its own card, in other words to make its will. Yes. - Sandra laughed with one picks of genuine humor -. Very well, friend! Now only I have left a question that to do, how we will be able to arrive at the Lannach? It extended a hand as if she showed the environs. It was not a very promising panorama. The Gerunis was a typical boat: a great structure, a group of united trunks and the others with enough space opened among them to allow the flexibility of the boat, and these tied to others. A wall of put trunks of foot, tied to the cross-sectional ones, defined a vast surface and supported the main deck. The prow and the stern rose by each one of their parts, showing on their flat surfaces the artillery and in last end the excessive rudder. Between these, prow and stern, extended a group of staterooms also constructed with trunks, and tied before to each other with marine cords that made they themselves with the seaweed and plants that the fishermen gathered in the sea. These staterooms used to store them food, tools and to shelter so much to the soldiers as my wife and pequeñuelos that went with them. The dimensions of the superior part were approximately of sixty meters by fifteen and that finished in an inclined part that had the form of a platform and with a great profile in the frontal part of the boat. If they had a favorable wind - remembering the wind force in most of the planets the boat that we could here call similar to a true boat it could make several knots to the hour and with a smooth wind it could be rowed. A hundred of diomedanos took with himself the boat, plus its spouses and their children. Of these, ten pairs were aristocrats with departments deprived in the part of stern; other twenty were marine with a certain specialty in the navigation questions, and that were separated in a room for each family in the incipal cover pr. The rest was marine common, that they had a cabin in the superior part for, all of them. Far from the rest of the square did not float there. They were ships of several types, some of constructed them of a very rudimentary form and that was united to the Gerunis, and others were positions, some took great concavities in which they stored to the fish and the marine seaweed. Often they were several together ones forming a temporary island Surrounding to them or patrolling among them they were the smallest canoes. Of another part the wings were fought in the sky, where an air force detachment completely watched the operations to the observation, they formed the military heart of the force of the Draco. Beyond this swarm that was to his around, the other divisions of the fleet darkened the water as far as they could reach the eyes of the man. Most of them they were fishing. It was a brutal work where the long networks removed by force of muscle. Almost all the life of the Draco was a full work of muscular force and in which there was to double the back. - I would like to see them work as enslaved - she observed Go Rijn -, suddenly she gave a blow to the rudder that was done conscientiously. - Although this is of good wood and still he is green, they work it with much calm, glass and stone equipment. I would like to rent to some of these individuals, if the Union of workers could allow taking me them there. Sandra gave a blow in the ground with the foot. It had not complained the death danger. Of the cold, the malaise and the difficulty of the language of Tolk, that was made understand through Wace. But there were limits. - If you do not reflect in which you say, or cause that have your words felt, Freeman I will go away to another part! I asked to you how we

could leave here. - they will rescue the Lannascka to Us - he said Go Rijn -, or rather, they will come to rob to us. Thus this way it will be better. Soon if they fail, our Delp friend cannot, to say that the fault was ours, and that we do not have anything to do in being wished by all the parts. It straightened up. - What you mean? How they are going to know they who we are here? - Perhaps Tolk will be said to it. - But Tolk is more prisoner than we, it is not thus? - Thus it is. Nevertheless... - They go Rijn rubbed the hands we have formulated a small plan. That Tolk has a good head. Almost as good as mine. Sandra watched to him. - and you will want dignarte saying to me how you you have fixed them to speak with Tolk, under the monitoring of the enemy and in addition not knowing to speak draco? - Oh, spoke Draco very well - it said Go Rijn with certain humor you did not hear say and admit the conversations to me that were made on board? You think thus because I armed much mess, but I went many hours taking lessons from Tolk. You think that I am so deaf and as idiot as not to learn easily? half of the time we are speaking and it is teaching its language to me of Lannach. Nobody in the boat knows it, so when they hear speak to us and we pronounced strangers noises, think that perhaps Tolk tries to speak words of our world, is not that? They still think that she is hopeless of being able to teach to me, through Wace, and to be able to put in the head their language to me of Draco. Ja, ja! they are stupid the condenador I yesterday explained to Tolk a dirty joke to him in Lannachamay. It was put very serious and one became angry. That test that this old poor man Goes Rijn, still has sense, and that it is well still. And we do not say anything of the rest of its anatomy. Sandra remained rigid during a little while, trying to include/understand what meant, when wanting to learn two nonhuman languages simultaneously, one of them prohibited. - I do not see why Tolk seemed displeased - it murmured Go Rijn -, it was a good joke. Listening: There was a sailor who traveled in one of colonial planets and... - Already I can guess why - Sandra interrupted quickly -, I mean... why Tolk did not think that it was a graceful story. In...! Freeman Wace was explaining it the other day to me. Here in Diomedes, they do not have the preoccupation of the constant sensuality. They only reproduce once every year in the tropical. They do not have families in the sense in that we have them. They do not think in the same way that we - she sonrojó - and they do not have that interest that lasts in us all the year, in the questions of which before we spoke and that stops we seem very normal. They go Rijn agreed. - All this I know it, but Tolk has seen something in the one of the fleet and within this one, they marry and they are born at any time of the year, like the humans. - This impression tired to me - she said, slowly and she worries to me. Freeman Wace says that the cycle gives reproduction is in them hereditary. By instinct, by glands, or as it is wanted to him to call. How could those of the fleet live different from as they dictate his glands to them? - Good, I do not know it, but they do it. - They go Rijn shrank his wide shoulders. - Perhaps we obtain that some scientist worries later about these subjects, and forms a thesis about it. Suddenly, it, crossed itself of arms and watched the distant spot. Their eyes acquired a gray tone. - But you have not said... what is going to happen? How it is going to speak Tolk of us to the Lannach? What we will do? - I do not have the smaller idea - he said to him to her with certain unconcern -, I already me will fix them. He also watched the distant spot, towards the red horizon of the sky. Several kilometers more far heard an enormous humming, at the same time something that was transported as if it was an enormous wood castle, and that floated in the air on all the extension of the boats of the Draco. To beat of wings one rises from there and it arrived to the Gerunis. - But I believe that we will be able to find some solution quickly - it said Go Rijn-because his rheumatic Majesty arrives here to decide what we will have does

The troops of guard of the admiral, a hundred of them to the service of him, landed with a magnificent exactitude and extended their arms, taking a strategic position on the boat. Polished stones and oily leathers were reflected on the cover, having radiated a light that remembered the reflection of the sea, and the air of its wings crossed by the boat. The crew of the Gerunis crowded around itself respectfully near just arrived, on the ceiling of the cover cabin and sent the ritual shout of welcome. Delp to her Orican advanced on the stern and it inclined before his gentleman. Their wife, the beautiful Rodoni Sa Axollon and its two hijitos arrived after him, crawling on cover with the hollowed wings. All of them dressed the suits scarlet and the ring pedrería that were the ritual dress before their gentleman. The three human beings stayed next to Delp. They go Rijn had suggested them would not have to incline. - he does not have right to that a member of Liga Polesotécnica must incline on the knees and the elbows. Anyway I am not done stops: this. Tolk de Lannach seated timid next to Go Rijn, their wings were tied and and a bow around its neck was taken hold by the other end at the hand of a powerful sailor. Their eyes were weak and fixedly watched the admiral as if they were those of a serpent. And the armed male Young people who formed the cut of honor of guard of Delp, their captain, were somewhat intimidated in their ways - not by the presence of Syranax, but towards its son the apparent heir on which the admiral inclined -. Their arms, their swords, his tomahawks and the wood bayonets were raised and they showed them with a gesture of total respect, Wace thought that They go Rijn would have to love the discord. Syranax clarified the throat, watched all and indicated with its snout towards the humans. - Which of you is the captain? - it asked. It had a deep voice, but no longer it arrived from the bottom of his lungs and was a certain one I clear one's throat in her. Wace went ahead. Its answer was the one that Goes Rijn had said to him that it gave quickly and without explaining. - the other man, is our head, gentleman. But he does not speak your language very well. I can have some difficulty with her, so we will have to use to your Lannacho prisoner like interpreter. T'heonax moved the head. - How will be able to know he what you meant to us? - it has been teaching your language to us - Wace said -. As you know, Sir, the foreign languages are the main occupation in their life. Because of this natural ability, as well as to its special experience with us, it will be able often to guess what we mean when we looked for a word. - It seems reasonable. The gray head of Syranax, moved. - Yes. - I am not safe! - T'heonax, watched with certain hardness to Delp. It had returned to face him. -... therefore, we speak - They go Rijn rose -. My good friend... um... and... to pokkar, which is the word? MY admiral, we to speak... good... to good brothers brothers, is as well as to say, Tolk? Wace watched it in spite of which Sandra had whispered to him, when fairy took to them by the force to receive the visitors here, could not think that so badly accent and so bad grammar could be gotten to include/understand. And why? Syranax moved with impatience. - It would be better if we spoke through its companion - it suggested. - Noses! - he shouted Go Rijn-, no, no, nor to speak, to speak i myself. Directly to you, as you correspond to its title. We to speak like brothers. Syranax sighed. But it was not happened to take the opposite to him to the human. A foreign aristocrat, was despite, an aristocrat, and to the eyes of chaste it was normal that one could acclaim its rights to speak by itself. - it had visited to Them before - the admiral said but they had not been able to talk with me and were other many things that to do. As they were hopeless more more and, the draconianos became more dangerous in their ambushes. It does not spend any day that we have some battle, although is without importance. - Eh? - They go Rijn did as if it comparatively took to the account with its fingers-xammaganai... déjeme to see, xammaganai... xammaganai... ah, yes! A small fight! I have never seen fights, old admiral, I mean honorable admiral. T'heonax was put severe. - your language, terrestrial Watches! - it shouted. He had been going often to visit the prisoners and they even remained under their orders. It was not left much

to do, but Wace decided. T'heonax was not able to admit that a being could possibly exist being in something superior to T'heonax. Syranax, lay on cover in a Ieonina position. T'heonax remained to its side watching the presence of Delp. - I have continuously been receiving the news yours - he continued the admiral are, ah! very remarkable. Yes, you do not speak. One says that you came from stars. - Stars, yes! The head of Goes Rijn, inclined with somewhat stupid idiot movement. - We come to stars. From very far. - It is truth, also that your people have established points to the other side of the oceans? They go Rijn watched Tolk. Lannach exposed the questions as if outside chiquillo. After you vary explanations, Go Rijn agreed. - Yes, yes, we come across from the ocean. From very far. - will not come your friends in your search? - They will look for, very many, by Satan! They will watch throughout. You must treat to us or our friends will discover - exc to it lamó Van Rijn with an aspect somewhat in a faint and leaning in their words in Tolk. - Oreo that the terrestrial one must be excused by its lack of tasto- exclaimed heraldo dryly. - It can conscientiously be a done lack of tact - whispered Syranax -. If their friends can, truely to locate to him while he still lives, it will depend much on the treatment class who receives from us, is not thus? The problem is, if they will be able to find him soon. What, you say terrestrial? - it sent the question dryly. They go Rijn backed down, I raise its hands like defending itself of a blow. - Aid! - he shouted - ayúdanos, llévanos to house, old admiral... honorable admiral... We will pay to you by far, much fish. T'heonax murmured to the ear of its father: - the truth is coming out ahead, although I already had suspected it before. Their friends do not have many possibilities of finding him before he perishes by the hunger. If they did it, not to be requesting it any thing with the insistence that does. - he had done It in any case. Our friends very are not experienced in these subjects. Well, it is good for knowing with the facility that the truth can remove from him. - Thus, because - T'heonax with certain joy said, worrying about the whisper the problem is not based in obtaining the maximum yield of the beast before it dies. The breathing of Sandra was altered. Wace took it by the arm with the opened mouth, and cut to Go Rijn when it was going to speak: - the tip Closes! Neither one more a word, stuned! - as it wants that the merchant resigned itself not to speak, he made an effort in a timid smile. - it does not have right - it operated Delp- by the Lodestan, gentleman, they are invited, nonenemy; we cannot serve to us as them! - What another thing you would do? - T'heonax asked. His father watched to them and he stayed to the blunt expectation if he hefted the arguments of both parts. Something like a spark, exploded between Delp and T'heonax. East flash ran, through the lines of men who were on the Gerunis and the troops of guard in an imperceptible movement. They go Rijn seemed to crumble suddenly. It took a somewhat mechanical aptitude, with the closed eyes and was of knees before Delp. - No, it did not shout, llévanos to house, ayúdanos and we will help you! - What is this? He was the wild gruñido one of T'heonax. It was towards ahead. - You have been dealing with them, is not thus? - What you mean? - the teeth of the executive hit a con others, to few centimeters of the snout of T'heonax. Their wings lev were antaron sharpened like knives. - What class of aid went to darte these creatures What is what you are thinking? - Delp extended its wings and it showed to them the winds at the same time that inclined and leaving events them they were solved. T'heonax, did not include/understand it, well. - Somebody could think that you have the intention of desembarazarte of some rivals within the troops - T'heonax whispered. In the silence that fell on the boat, Wace could hear the difficult breathing of the rivals. It could hear the noise of the other boats with his cables, hitting of the waves and the wind. If a prince little loved by his town, finds an excuse to arrest a subordinate whom they trust the others, he is possibly a man whom he will have to fight. Of this form the things in Diomedes happened. Syranax, exploded again: - There is some malentendido - it said shouting nobody is going to attack anybody or against anything, between the creatures without wings. What has of the other boat, of yours? What could make Delp by anyone of us, anyway? - This is to see

- T'heonax- responded but one arza that can fly throughout the oceans in less of an equinoccial day, must know many arts. Then one became quickly towards Go Rijn, with the resolution of the inquisidor whose suspicion is disappear, said courteously: - Perhaps we pruned llegalos to house if you help us. We are not safe of like being able to do it. Perhaps your device can help to llevaros your planet. You will teach the way to us to use it. - Oh, yes! - it said Go Rijn, and crossing his hands it put them on his head -. Oh, yes, good gentleman. I will do it. T'heonax issued an order. One of the men of the Draco approached with a great box. - I have myself been occupying of all these things - the heir explained -. I have not tried to do mofa of this, nor to play either with it, are all shining knives and some other objects. Momentarily their eyes went towards their father. - You never have seen knives like these, father, cut of a sharp way or abrade the skin, do not do more than to cut smoothly. They can cut a whole tree. It opened the box. All a row of officials, forgot its dignity to plows it were forced, and they crowded around to his. T'heonax threw to them backwards. - You let the space free to be able to make a demonstration - it exclaimed -. Arqueros, artillerymen, you cover throughout, you are quick to shoot if it is necessary. - You mean to fight until laying way to us? - Wace whispered -. Not it can! To try to advance a passage between Sandra and the threat of the arms, that went towards them. They will fill to us before of arrows. - Either I know it, or I know it! - sotto murmured Go Rijn voce. - you think yourselves that because I am a already old man and because it has made a few errors, I do not have head? Hold, boy and when it explodes the commotion beats strong. - What...? But... They go Rijn one became from backs and it said in a draco language and that as soon as it was understood, but with a little common amiability: - Here... how you call... thing to him... Here one... thing. It fires. It makes holes, by Satan. - a portable, so small flame thrower? - it exclaimed. During a little while a terror shade it was reflected in the acute voice of T'heonax. - Already you I said it - Delp said -, we can win honorabemente much more dealing with them. By the Lodestar I think that we could also take them to house if we tried it. - You could wait for until it is dead, Delp, before taking the Admiralty - Syranax said. Yes it said it in ridicule tone, fell like a pump. The next sailors who were and had heard it, shook. The aerial guards made use to their arcs and their artillery. Rodonis sa Axxalon, extended its wings covering with them to its children and shouted. The women who were on cover put in the cabins and they closed them without including/understanding exactly what it happened, due to the terror. Delp controlled. - It is enough! - it shouted -. Quedaos there! Calm! By all the demons in the kingdom of Stars. She is that us these creatures have returned crazy? - They see, she takes the revolver... we we called revolver... tightens here... - the bullet left and it crashed against the main post. They go Rijn jumped at the same time towards a side, but she could also see that the bullet had deepened in centimeters on the wood. The flame blanquiazul had made its appearance on the cover and had left a powder scent. At the same time which all the men lay down towards a side, before he could let tighten the trigger. The draconianos, shouted. The finders of curiosities covered the sky. Nevertheless they were technicians falsified to their way. They were excited more than scared. - Déjame to see that! - T'heonax took the revolver. - Delay, good gentleman, hopes! - They go Rijn opened the firing chamber and with its heavy hands it removed the bullets from the same one -. First we are going to make sure. T'heonax watched and another one on the one hand the weapon. - What weapon! - it sighed -. What arms! Staying in a position somewhat watchman, hoping that They go Rijn it showed the amount of ideas that took in its mind. Wace realized of which draconay was quite afraid. He was quite natural in any case. But a revolver of this class would give only a serious effect him in a field of fight tactics. - Or I fixed it - it said Go Rijn -, one, two, three, four, five, or it is... four? Five? Six? Then it began to down give returns above and between the piles of clothes, sheets, lighters, stoves and other objects that took in the equipment. Where they are the other three arms? -

What other three? - T'heonax said fixedly watching to him. - We have six - They go Rijn counted carefully on its fingers -. Yes, six. I occurred all them to good Mr. Delp who is present here. - What? Delp, was running towards the human. - That is lie, there are only three, and you have them there. - Aid - it said Go Rijn behind T'heonax. The body of Delp, hit against the one of the son of the admiral. Both draconay mixed the one with the other in a confusion of wings and tails. - it is looking for that a riot is promoted - T'heonax shouted. Wace threw to Sandra on the cover and he himself put itself next to her, the air was fills of the arrows and other objects that were thrown. They go Rijn became quickly towards the sailor who was in charge of Tolk, but this one drako had gone away in defense of Delp. They go Rijn did not have more to cut the networks that they imprisoned to him. - Not - it said in perfect lannachamay -, it sees look for a Navy so that it comes to look for to us here. Express before nobody realizes. Herald agreed, made make fun of its wings and it went towards the sky. They go Rijn arrived next to Wace and Sandra, saying to them: - This way. It signaled towards one of the cabins, then it saw the revolution that the marine troops were organizing. - Rays and thunders, plague and poison. - It pushed Sandra towards the cabin and the three took refuge. When they were inside between ustadas women ace and young, they watched outside towards the fight and They go Rijn said: - It is a pain that Delp is losing. It does not have opportunity to be saved. And it is a good type; we could have made good businesses with him. - By all the saints of the sky! - exclaimed Wace- you exploded a civil war only so that your messenger escaped? - It is that you knew an average one better? - it asked Go Rijn

Chapter 8

When Krakna commander fell in the battle against the invaders, General Concilio of the Flook, chose to a Trolwn to happen to him. This I conciliate it was formed by the oldest and its election when choosing to one more young person, did not have importance, since the Lannascha, thought that he was natural that fues in lead by a young male. A commander needed the physical strength two to see them through one lasts and dangerous emigration every year; rarely he was debilitated. In any avalanche due to the impulse of its age ilio inclined before conc general, the leaders of the clan who are spoken fact too old for, to speak at the top of its squares, but not too old and weak, to make some trip through the days of winter. The mother of Trolwan, belonged to the group of Treekan, a rich line of blood that had great properties in Lannach. She herself had added to this wealth the benefits of some commerce. She knew that his father was Tornak de Wendru; to her it did not concern much to him, but Trolwen had a very remarcado aspect of a true one and brave soldier. Nevertheless, he had been a good soldier in all the senses as much in the storm as in the hardest battles of any day, and this had caused that Concilio did to him like the leader of all the clans. As of the ten days she had been head of a lost cause; but her tribe had possibly fallen back towards the hill of mountains, with more slowness of which they had done without him. Now she lead to most of the Flook tribes, who were fighting against the Fleet. The equinox of vernal finished happening, but the days still were extended. Each morning the sun rose more to the North, but a lukewarm air was mixed with the snow until all the fields of Lannach were flooded of water. It only used one hundred thirty days to happen of the equinox to the last Sun rise; from then, during the days without night of the High Summer, there would not be more water for all the fields. And if Trkaska were not founded by the leader, it exposed with certain Trolwen sadness, would not be way to follow ahead, the Flook would be finished. Their wings moved with certain lightness and rapidity in the sky as if it was the beat of a nomadic one. Under him whiteness of mysterious clouds was no it more, with the sea much more far underneath and that reflected tenuous tones. Over him one at

night was to the clarity and stars. The two moons had made their appearance. It had a little cold, the humidity arrived until its lungs and felt as it whips in his muscles, but had the ordinary joy of a normal flight. It thought much about killing. A commander did not have to show indecision, but he was young and the Cris Tolk of the Geral would include/understand. - How we will be able to know that those beings are still in the same boat - he asked in a tone under containing the rate of the breathing of his flight of route. The wind continued whispering and darkened its words. As it lowered through clouds, it still very far saw the enormous Fleet below him, but covering waters, these called islands the Pups that were rich banks from fishing to the East. As they went away approaching they suddenly heard an explosion of shouts coming from the boats and of the canoes at the same time that draconnay had heard the shouts of their own sentries and all they went to the arms. Trolwen folded its wings and it stopped. After him in a side of the Clan thousands swarm shouted three lannacha male. As it descended was watching and looking for. Where it will be this double terrestrial monster? There. The all-consuming vision of an animal in flight, made see three horrible forms in one of the covers of the boat that signaled to them and jumped. Trolwen, extended its wings. - Soon, here - it shouted. The swarms put themselves in battle formation, they took shelter and they were sent in perforated towards the boat. As they were lowering each one of the young people of the square chose one of the guards, but they were not sent to the attack until Trolwen fell on the sphere of the defenders. Drasca was forming their own rows at a frightful speed and with discipline. - By all the ignited demons, if we could have used a simple swarm - Trolwen- shouted and not a swarm of battle DES pués of a so long flight. - a simple swarm as soon as it had been able to take terrestrial the alive ones - Tolk-no said from the same base of the enemies. - We must pretend that it is not worth the trouble... to fulfill the commitment, when we retire. - They know very either, very or why we have come - Sight said to Trolwen -. how they are inflamed in the boat. The troops of Flook had made a formation of battle and those of Dracca they reached the surface of the water. A detachment was put around the humans and soon they were put on the lookout of the attack that arrived to them. The rest flew over to repel the assault of the enemy. It was a very equal fight on the cover. Both sides were equipped in the same way: Arms, techniques seemed to be able of much greater dangers than any other class. Wood swords with small pedernales in the end, small daggers, tomahawks gave very weak blows and also they stuck with leather strips. If one of the males were seen very attacked, could fly upwards; it was not absolutely tried to maintain the rows that had formed, was a free fight completely. Trolwen did not have a special interest in this phase of the battle, being very superior in cor number the amount of soldiers that had brought knew that it could take the boat, if their air groups could be on the lookout of draska. It thought of a conventional way, much that a battle in the air was resembled a dance: she was full of you intrigue, was beautiful and terrible. To coordinate the efforts of a thousand or more of winged soldiers, reached the highest levels of the art. The spine of such force was the arqueros. Each one of them took, grasping it with force, an arc in the heels, it tightened the cord with his hands, and while it maintained his flight, it took to an arrow of his carcaj with them teeth and it was prepared to shoot, before having to loosen the flexion of the arc. Such bodies of fight, prepared from their birth for the fight with the arcs, could easily send a curtain of axes that nobody never could cross alive. But after to have made make fun of the whistle of the death with his arrows, they fear that to return backwards and to take of hands of the porteadores, more arrows to continue the combat. This era the most vulnerable point of its work; and the rest of the Navy was dedicated to protect it. Some took to defend stone balls, a other species of lances with ends very sharpened. The flying arms were the most recent innovation, observed between the foreign tribes in tropical lands. In this drask went at the top: their arms had a repetition mechanism, on wood bayonets. At the same time, the considered military units separately, far

better were organized in the Flock. On the other hand, they stayed in contacts with the others by means of the calls of a horn, that it integrated to them to his Navy. Infinitely more flexible the body of the silbadores, went from a part to another one, of head in head, doing of the Flock an enormous one and feared organization. The battle was developed throughout, above and down, while the Sun rose and the clouds separated and the sea took a special brightness. Trolwen made crack its orders: Hunlu to reinforce the right flank, Torcha to attack the boat of the admiral, while Syrgen loaded by the a the opposite one. Once it had done this, sending a terrible shout sent to the combat he himself, while a group of draska did towards the same place. It struck very ruthlessly with "tomahawk" to one of them and saw how the wing of that enemy sank in the waters that undulated there down. Thus they finished and they had always made it the battles. When the hand-thrown weapons were finished, others were sent to a con, if no of sides had left, and reduced the battle to a hand-to-hand. Sometimes, the chaos extended between both sides so very ruthlessly and so enormous that both sides were disintegrated. But the Fleet was here, thought Trolwen, with all their arsenals: with more hand-thrown weapons of which their flying troops, who in addition were inferior is in number, could have taken with himself. If this fight did not finish soon... The boat with terrestrial ones on board, had been reached. The Draka canoes came near to make them back down. One of the canoes burst in the fire: feared, irresistible boiling oil of the Fleet, left one vasiya of ceramics, the catapults threw masses information that estilaban in flames with the impact. These were the arms that had annihilated the most frightful troops of the Flock and they had seized of the coastal cities. Trolwen frunció the frown with well-known expression and distresses when it saw them. But the terrestrial ones already were outside the boat, and six powerful porteadores took to them to each one of them in a special mesh. Changing often of porteadores, those fardos with the humans inside could be taken to mountains of the Flock without the smaller risk. The taken boxes of food as quickly as possible of the place where they were, were less difficult to take. A silbador let know he success of the expedition to all the soldiers. - Vámonos! The orders were made feel of mouth of Trolwen, and each one of the soldiers integrated the swarm to that they belonged. - Huniu and Syrgen, you go in formation next to the porteadores. Dwarn flies superficially with half of the swarm; other half that protects the left wing. Guards rear... The profiles in the morning were still very far from disappearing. Its nightmare had been that the main body of the Fleet they persecuted to them. A battle while they ran of return to his homes could remarkably have harmed the Navy. But as soon as they were in the heat of retirement, the enemy broke away from the enemy with them and they retired to its covers. - As you predicted, Tolk - it said with voice calmer Trolwen. - In agreement, Flock head - the Heraldo with its habitual calm said -, they were not very calm either, and they did not have true anxiety to mix itself in such fight of retirement. It had moved away much to them, leaving its boats defenseless. In addition, all of them thought that your idea was to force such displacement to them. So that they have decided simply that the terrestrial ones are not worth the trouble so that they risk, and they put in greater dangers; on the other hand I am sure that constantly this idea, the terrestrial ones on the other hand have been inculcando it in them. Let us hope that it is not a correct belief. But anyway, Tolk, you anticipated east event. Perhaps you had to be the Commander-in-Chief. - Oh, no. I no. He was the terrestrial fat person who predicted this. Trolwen laughed. - perhaps Then, commander had to be he. - Perhaps - Tolk said, pensativamente -. Quiza he wants it.

Chapter 9

The North coast of Lannach ran in ample valleys that extended until the sea of

Achan. There. in those rich and varied forests, and those lateral floods of grass, had risen these cabins in which habitually they lived the clan on the Flock. Where Sagna Bay opened its deeper cut on the Earth, there many beings had met to form formation force. Thus, then, cities that were Ulwen, and more separated, Mannenach and I of the Carpenters were finished. But their doors were demolished and their completely burnt ceilings, the Drak'ho canoes were on the Sagna beaches, patrols military made the rounds by the empty Ulwen and closely patrolled by the Anch forest watching the foods that had harvested during the winter sports resort in Brae Dune. Its sunk boats, its assaulted houses, and their lands of inaccessible hunting and fishing, the Flock retired towards high earth. On undulated flowing of lava of the Oborch mount or in them the cold tubes of the Misty mounts there were a few locations where poorest they had lived. The females, oldest and youngest, could go to those parts; caverns could be installed tents and be occupied. Looking for all the resources that could remove from this region from Hark Heath to Ness, and sometimes passing hunger, the Flock could continue living a little more. But the heart of Lannach was in the North coast, lands that now occupied the Drak'honai. Without them the Flock was not nothing, a simple tribe of savages whipped by the hunger until autumn, when the Time of Births left them to all without resources. - Everything does not go well - the situation said to Trolwen including/understanding. It walked by a narrow footpath towards the city. How it was called, Salmenbrok, that hung of the most rustic crests of the mountain. Further on, black stone volcánic to, still covered with snow mantles, and that went back winding towards a crater that hid between its own steam. The land crujía under their feet, only a little, and Goes Rijn heard a murmur in the entrails of the planet. This it is not a place for a man of its age and its condition. It would have to be in house, its armchair that sank, with a good cigarette and a pretty girl, a good drink and messes calm channels of Amsterdam to his around. For a moment the Earth memory was so acute that it could not less than to shake, and to implorar mercy for itself. He was very hard to have to leave the bones in a land of nightmare, when he had not thought more than about making bury his body under the spongy land of his world... Hard and cruel. Yes, and every day the Company had to be falling more and more deep towards the red one without being able to be he it stops to watch it. These thoughts made him return to the reality. - You leave clarifies this a little in my head - it requested. Was more to their taste in Lannachamael of which there was it been in the speech of the Drak'ho. Here by chance, the guttural grammar and sounds, re did not differentiate much from those of their language mother. It already began to speak with more soltura. - You returned from the emigration and you found the enemy who was hoping to you - he continued. Trolwen moved the head with pain gesture. - Yes. Itherto was known by us a vague way only; the regions that belong to them are very to the south of ours. We knew that been they had forced to leave because his resources suddenly. - the fish that comprises main of its diet its resources speaks altered their own habits, changing to them of the Draka waters to Achan. But not knowing that the Fleet was limited by our region. The long and straight hair of Rijn moved when answering: - It is like the history of our world. In the average age on the Earth, when the sardines moved in enormous banks to other places, for incomprehensible reasons, also changed the history of the marine regions. The kings fell and the wars were developed on new lands of fishing. - it has had an enormous importance for us - Trolwen said -. Few clans in the Sagna region have... have had boats, and have fished their foods with hook and line. No of those Drak'ska would do it, although they knew that they were going to obtain more fishing. But for our tribe this has a less marked importance. To be more exact we rejoiced, several years ago, when the fishing appeared in great amount in the sea of Achan. They are fished great and of very good flavor and their oil and its bones have many applications. "In those seas we found a the food of our young and for we ourself, and the job that is hard nonweight on our backs. Our sailors have fought against the inclemencies of the time, and in some cases against the weakness of the boats,

but we have taken upon maturity many duties with the greater illusion, because he was in good of ours. The songs of our names in the hard days have become today sadness, when thinking about that our children can, as he is beginning to happen, lack necessary foods tomorrow. "But such occasion is not appropriate as to cheer to us, as if... or, as if the great Gods had doubled in one night our young to us. Their fingers convulsively closed around the grip of his "tomahawks". After all, he was very young. - Now I see that the Gods sent foods to us with rage and disdain; then the Fleet followed the plans of which we had to use like feeding. They go Rijn, stopped the speech shouting in such a way that it drowned the rumors of distant lava for a moment. - Horns! Hold! You do not pronounce yourself like a man without head, please... ah! If the fish you do not bring it in great amount, why you do not leave Flock them can sail on waters of Chan? He knew, that this was not a true question, was only a stimulus. Trolwen, deliberated with same himself during moments and to the aim it pronounced itself with explosive obscenidades before gives to respond. - they attacked to Us at the moment at which we returned from our houses during the spring. They were oc upado our coastal lines already, and although they had not done, you had allowed it you who a horde of foreigners... whose customs are completely strange... You would leave them lived in the quicio of your doors? How much could last such agreement? They go Rijn agreed again. - You only suppose that a nation with a government of tyranny and his dirty and little cultured people went to request on your fields that needed all whatever you had. Personally it could be tolerant. In certain way and some occasions, the Draconay more approached the forms of the humans who the Lannascha. Its culture was a natural consequence of the economy: Utensils that did not happen of the neolithic thing, a great boat the quite powerful thing to take to several families, represented an investment of enormous capital. It was not possible, in individual way some to determine them and to gain his life by themselves: they were at the mercy of the State. In such cases the power always was concentrated into the hands of some aristocrats and intellectuals; between the Draconay, these classes had been fused in one. The Lannascha, on the other hand, more typically diomedanos in the first place, was hunters. They had very few specialized workers of office; the individuals could survive, using the constructed equipment or tools by themselves. The low calories of that temperature were sufficient factor so that the hunting caused that these people scattered themselves all along of the region, and each small group was independent of the rest. They pronounced themselves with certain convulsions, during the hunting for example, but they did not have to be sacrificing day after day until they fell exhausted, like cough fishing of networks or the men of the forest, or the sailors of cover that they had to work in the Fleet; thus, then, there was no an economic justification in Lannach for the classes of heads and watchmen. This way, its natural policy was a small one give that it was transmitted of generation in generation. Such groups of blood, almost free and independent of the Government, were lost the organization of the great Flock. And raison d'etre, aside from some small offices that could do each one in their house, had taken great increase in all when each one of the diomedanos in Lannach flew towards the South in winter. Or it returned for the war! - He is interesting - it murmured Go average Rijn in English -, between our people as in most of planets single agriculture acquires civilization. There they did not construct farms: You hunt, take fruits, you take grains, and until a little fish. But some of you knows to write and writes books. I already see also that you have machines, houses and dressed facts in weaves. The contact could be the stimulus that you have every year with foreign people in the tropical which gives ideas you. - What? - Trolwen asked vaguely. - Nothing, was asking to me same me why and since the life is quite easy here and since you have time for formaros and construiros a civilization, you do not make to obtain enough, eaten. You eat everything what you have, and you demolish whichever trees has in your forests. We this is what we called a fruitful civilization back in the Earth, but when it must enough to eat. - Our numbers do not increase the

sufficiently fast thing - Trolwen said -, it does about three hundred years to a daughter of Flook was educated it for this but it went to other earth. We lose many people in the emigration, you know? By storms, by exhaust, disease, Barbarian attacks, wild animals and some times by the cold or the hunger... - then it made give a humming to its wings that was equivalent to a shoulder shrinking. - Aja! A natural selection. All this is and is good very well if the nature does not force to you to die to survive she, if this would not have a horrible aspect of tragedy. They go Rijn was pulled its chin. The cheeks over her had acquired a shining tone. - Therefore, this gives a notion of which it caused that your race grew in intelligence, to hibernate, to work or to emigrate. And if you emigrate then to be the sufficiently intelligent and eloquent thing to be able to fight against all the class of disadvantages that can be put to you ahead. Then Van Rijn summarized their noisy one to char it of the following way: - But we must think about our disadvantages, specially in those to that they talk about same me, and that I am not arranged to support them much. Hum! Good, now háblame more. I caused that the panic spread on the cover and that they did not take care of you in that boat, lets to you escape and I made you come here and this way I released to you. Now you want to take to your homes and those of your men to low earth. And at the same time you want desembarazarte of the Fleet. - We fought very well against them - Trolwen said, with certain rudeza- we can still and we want to do it. There were reasons to include/understand why we suffered a defeat. We were tired and hungry when returning after ten days of flight. He is always weak to the aim of the spring day when one becomes to house. Our stronger possessions had been occupied. The fire throwers of the Draska had burned all our defenses, and for us it was impossible to fight against them and he at the moment continues it being by the water, where it is his true strength. - Their teeth entrechocaron with a carnivorous reflection -. and we must exceed, we must end to them soon them. If we do not do it we are lost. And they know it. - I do not include/understand this still very well - it admitted Go Rijn -, the haste is in which all your young people have been born at the same time, is not thus? - Yes. - Trolwen advanced from the place in that was and it was put upon the walls of Salmenbrok with a full gesture of rage. Like all the locations of Lannascha, it was fortified against the enemy animals. It had not fenced. This had not had sense here, where all the high forms that had life had wings. Most of the buildings was constructed of rudimentary way and form of the old defenses on land. The ground of the houses did not have doors and had small windows simply; the entrance became by the part of above or by a species of hatchway on the ceiling. A fortification was defended by outer walls, but not interlacing them together with a species of suspension bridges and underground passages. Here over the line of the forests, the houses were constructed by stones deprived completely of some relief, and that had been trimmed on the same place, and this abounded than the common houses more that they were in the clans of valleys. But this construction solidly was done, and provided with a comfort degree and that they indicated how they would be the houses of low earth. They go Rijn dedicated long time in admiring such constructed characters all in wood. A wood winch that also turned with a mordant end that were done of a cut diamond species, and a wood mountain range whose teeth were of renewable volcanic glass. A wind mill common chafaba some of the increases as wild nuts and grains and also saw other smaller machines and in greater number to squash foods. Vasiya of stone next to a reef with water included its vision great, and the water could return to leave to make again give returns to the wind mill when it did not make air. It also saw a pretty railroad, although of wood and that worked by means of helices and by which small cars ran on tracks that were constructed also of as hard wood as the iron. These delivery trucks took to pedernal and other stones that were taken in local quarries, wood of the forests, fresh fish of the coast, skins and other articles of low earth and also skilled labor of all the islands. They go Rijn was enchanted. - That is very well - Commerce said -.! You are fundamentally capitalist. Ah! Condemnation! I believe that still we will make business.

Trolwen shrank of shoulders. - There is a wind almost always very hard here. Why we are not going to allow that he is the one that transports our loads? At the moment all the apparatuses that you see took many years in constructing; we are not like those draska that all the work has it to do they themselves. The temporary población of Salmenbrok was crowded around near the humans with a murmur and a movement and at the same time entrechocar of wings, while the pequeñuelos pursued and they twisted between the legs of the humans and their mothers screamed to them saying to them that they returned. - By thousand demons! - it shouted Go Rijn -, to have if they are thought that I am a politician who comes to kiss the belly to them. - It comes this way - Trolwen-said towards the Temple of the Men. The women and the men cannot follow to us, they have their own temple. She lead to them throughout another footpath and saluting reverente to small ídolo that one was in a ballot box. By the aspect that it had that object had been carved made hundreds of years. The Flock seemed to rather have only a incoherent politeísmo as far as the religions and they very seriously did not take this in these days; but they were so strict in which it concerned the traditional ritual and, as classic they are the British regiments, whose rituals looked like. They go Rijn it went after him and it watched the footpath that was back. The women had an aspect here that remembered much to those of the Fleet: A little smaller and thinner than the men, their longer wings, but without one raised of wings completely developed. In fact as far as the racial questions, the two tribes looked like much. And even so, if all those people of the company had learned of Diomedes, it was not a pure coincidence, draconay represented a biological monstruosidad. An impossible one! Trolwen followed peculiar the cautious one of the man and sighed. - You can realize or in the situation in which they are - she murmured -. half of our women is waiting for or their next puppy. - Ejem. Already, that is its problem. Déjeme to see if I include/understand it well. Your young people are all born in the fall of the equinox. - Yes, within few days; the exceptions are very few. - But lack so that you must go towards the South, and surely new born cannot much fly. - Oh, no, he throughout goes stingy to its mother the way; they have been born with arms able to take hold themselves very hard. There is no no born of the preceding year; a female that is raising is not pregnant. Some other son of two years is the sufficiently strong thing to fly over those distances, give dolé periods of rest in which the pequeñito raises in the back of somebody. This it is the period of Dap where we suffered most of the losses. The greater ones of three years only need to be guided and to be kept: Their wings not yet are very suitable. - But this means many disadvantages for its mother, is not thus? - It is attended by members of a clan or of oldest than she has happened already of the childhood, but that is not the sufficiently old thing to survive so long trip. And the men naturally are going to the hunting and to explore, the fight and other things. - Thus, then, you go to the South I have heard say that it is quite easy there living, the nuts, the fruits and the fish are good for gathering. Why you return? - This is our house - it said with all Trolwen tranquillity. After a little while it continued -: and the islands of the tropical could not never get to supply to the thousands that meet each inv there ierno. At that moment the emigrants are quick to leave and since they have eaten everything already what they had in the Earth. - I already realize. Good, we continue. The time of the solstice is when you fly. -, Yes then desire arrives to us, already you know what is this. - Naturally - it said Go Rijn. It did not have intention to explain that human the reconstructivo module was like the one of the Fleet. Trolwen wanted to imagine to only once Go Rijn shouting and pataleando on the Earth to the year. Trolwen was free to do it. - and there is festivales and commerce with the other tribes - lannach sighed -. Already it is worth. Shortly after the solstice, when we return arriving here shortly before equinocc io, when the great animals of which we depend, have waked up of their dream of winter and have fattened a little. You got it the module of our terrestrial life. - it sounds a little to Me rare, as if he was not too fat and old - it said Go Rijn, blowing one's nose the nose with noise -. you do

not become old, Trolwen. He is so solitary. You have luck dying in the emigration when you begin debilitaros, you do not live more worried and abandoned than with your dear memories and memories. - Surely, and as they are developed the events are not very probable that me it makes old - said Trolwen -. I am seeing arrive the events and I see that it is not time than of childbirths more. And if one does not have food and shelter and all those things to point most of the young people will die. It is possible to be replaced to them - it added Trolwen with an emphasis degree that showed that after all he was not a winged man simply and with tail. Its tone of voice was become serious -: But the females that take to them in their sine are of a much greater importance for our force. A female that finishes being mother, must rest properly and to eat what never needs or otherwise will reach the South in the emigration, you include/understand? And fíjate what percentage of our females is going to be mothers. It is a company this one in which we are put, of brings it depends you sobreexperience on the nation of the Flok. And those pigs draska raising all the year like... like fish. No! - Truly, no! - it said Go Rijn -. Better it will be than we think quickly about something practical or otherwise I also will pass much hunger. - I spent many lives of my people for salvarte - Trolwen said -, because all we thought that you would devise something to help us. - Good, the problem is - it said Go Rijn- in which we are able to make arrive a message at our people in Thursday Landing, Then they will come here quickly, and I will say to them that they sweep to all those that I want entorpeceros. Trolwen smiled. Still in spite of the cruel form of his mouth, it was a smile without heat and humor. - No, not - it said -. it is not so easy. I cannot risk to me to send people in a crazy attempt so that they cross the ocean. No, while the Drak'ho has taken to us by, farsanta. In addition, and it pardons, how I will know that you to us have interest some in helping once you feel out of danger? It separated the glance of the one of his companion, towards the door of the cave that was the Temple of the Males. The steam left the mouth of the temple. Inside was the mouth of geiser. - I myself it it could have decided otherwise - it added with rage and in low voice -. But I do not have more limited powers. Concilio will not allow that we help you until the war has not finished. They go Rijn it raised the back and it extended its hands: - Confidentially, Trolwen, boy, in its place already had done the same.

Chapter 10

Now the light became more tenuous. Soon they would begin to park the lights at night, as soon as the sun was hidden under the sea and the sky remembered white small points of colors. The two moons could be seen already after the sun putting. At the same time which Bodonis left its room, the shining Sk'huanax beam ía its appearance in the horizon and one slid between many stars towards the slow and calm Lykaris. Among them, The one that Delay and The one that It persecutes formed a wonderful double bridge between extensive waters. Rodonis had been born in the old nobility, and it had been taught to him to smile to the cult of Moons. Quite good for the common sailors, that otherwise they had returned to his primitive sacrifices in the depths, but in fact, a cultured person knew that there was only a Lodestr. Nevertheless, Rodonis, under cover, was covered to itself with its wings and whispered its restlessness to the shining Lykaris mother. - a song I dedicate to you, a song only for you, done by the most exquisite poets of the sung Fleet and in your honor when soon you in marriage with which It persecutes to you. You will not become to unite in marriage with for more than a year, the astrologers me said it; there will be time sufficient to create a new song for you who will last while they survive the Fleet, oh, Lykaris, and that will only be thus if you allow me to have with me to my Delp! The Warriar did not go in its plegaria to Sk'huanax, in the same way that a Drak'ho man had not thought about going to

the Mother. But she said to him to Lykaris with her imagination, that did not have badly no in remembering to him and putting before its attention the fact that Delp was a brave being who always had fulfilled the one that before promised. The moons shone. A cloud bank by the west remembered the tops of mountains. Much more far the silhouette of an island was descried. It could hear the noise of the ice towards the north. It was a panorama of the great and wonderful sea; this one was not the green beloved Southwater where the hunger directed to the Fleet, and she asked herself if the Gods Achan would never allow drak'honai to return to their homes. The noise of the waves, crujir of the trunks of the boat, hissing of the cords and cables that had subjects to them, the murmur of the wind, the balance, the remote complaint of one flauta, and the nearest noises coming from the same boat, snores and lloriqueos of the children and the exhalations of some satisfied pair; all this was an enormous lightening in this cold called emptiness the sea gives Achan. It thought about his own children, two small empeletadas and put forms in a camita rich upholstered, and this gave the force him that needed. It extended his wings and one went back in the air. From above, the Fleet at night was not more than the accumulation of shades, with the blinking of small lights where some crew worked to high times of the night. Most of them already was laid down, undoing of the difficulties of a hard day of work, handling useful and cabestranes and coils, cleaning, salando and straightening the caught thing, folding and unfolding the heavy cords of the boat, gathering eatable seaweed and other fruits, others, in mainland, demolishing trees, giving form and molding the trunks with stone equipment. A member anyone of those people had little to hope in the life except the brutales and heavy works. Their moments of distraction were almost so strange and violent as the work: the dances, the athletic tests more brutales, a constant desire of the loving questions, and the torn uprooted songs to total lung of its throats that at the same time ingested enormous amounts of beer made with cereals coming from the sea. For a moment and while such thoughts crossed by their imagination, Rodonis felt proud of its tribe. For a great part of noble, a type of the low class, was a domestic animal, with bad modales, without a name, almost indecente, that was to have to him to ray by force of whip for its own good. But flying by encuna of the great sleeping beast of a Fleet, Rodonis felt a tremor that was removed like a snake over her. These were the gentlemen of the sea, and the high standards of the Drak'ho were raised on the vigorous backs of the components of the square. Perhaps, simply it was that the predecessors of their husband had risen until more cars ranks from the humblest positions of a boat not many generations ago. It had seen help him quite often his, working elbow elbow with them in the storm and the fishing. It had realized of which river was a misfortune to make the works humblest and at the same time to be able to float a boat for single her. If the work were a pleasure for the Lodestar, as they said sacred books, then, why the noble of the Drak'ho considered a thing hateful? There was something of insano in the old families, something that of course did not denote a true nobility of feelings. Those feelings had died and replaced by lower others, century after century. He was known well that the humblest workers were those than more descendants had, the specialized workers and the employees to complete days had less, and the officials by inheritance those that less than all. Why admiral Syranax had not had in his long life, more than a son and two daughters? It, Rodonis, already had two small ones in four years little of marriage. It was not a this one evident sample that the Lodestar Stop favored the honest people, who worked with honest hands? But no, those lannach'honai had all a new boy every year, like machineries, although many, of the small ones died in the emigration. And the Lannach'honai did not work; in fact they did not work; they hunted, they reproduced, and they fished with its encientes hooks. They were quite vigorous people, but never hours and days like a Drak'ho sailor were put under a work during. And, naturally, their customs were truly hateful. Animal! Indiscriminate vigor and that were everything. For the rest of his life the father of his small one was not more than another

male for her - he does not matter that you know who is he of all ways your woman that you do not serve for anything, of horrible modales! And in his home was no modestia between sexes; it had, even more distinction in the customs of every day, because no longer there were more desires. Uf! And in spite of everything, those Lannach'honai pigs, speak bloomed, perhaps, to the Lodestar, did not concern much to them. No, a thought was too cold, here, in the wind at night, under cenicienta Sklmanax. Surely that the Lodestar had designated to the Fleet like an instrument to destroy to those Lannach beastly and to seize of the territories that they had been enjoying. The wings of Rodonis beat with a little more rapidity. The flag of the boat was a little more, close now, and the turrets seemed mountain tips at night. There were many lamps ignited on covered Ja or in the quiet rooms. There were sailors moving interminably from a part to another one and in all directions. The flag of the admiral still undulated on the mast, which indicated that this one still lived; but the death surrounded hour after hour every time to him with more force. Like birds hungry of carrion, on the lookout, Rodonis with a sigh thought. One of the sentries whistled to him from his limited posición and it approached. The light of the moon scattered by all sides: - It holds! Who you are? It was prepared for beforehand so high conminatorio, but suddenly, the language remained rigid in its mouth. It was not more than a female, and a monster rugía more stop than she. A gust of wind whipped the dry things that hung of a post: the wings of some naval officers who now did not have other functions that to take care of the oars or the rudder, in the case in that they still came. Rodonis thought about the red outlines that would be reflected in the back of Delp, and this caused that the rage and the rage mounted in her until the point to have those to express with a shout. - In this tone to speak to a Sa Axallon? The guardian did not know his personality between the thousands Fleet citizens, but he distinguished the own clothes gives the class of officials. It was an affluent thing known that it had never been allowed that contiendo to the hardest works during all its life could obstruct the way of that delicate body that, in addition, comprised of the high sphere. - Póstrate on the cover, the condemned! - it said with wrath Rodonis -. Tápatelo the eyes when you go to me! - I..., my lady - it whispered -. I not... She sent herself directly towards him. The nonsubject another thing that to make that leave the way. The voice of Rodonis cracked like a whip: - Considering, naturally, that the head of the company to whom you belong has obtained my consent so that you speak to me. - But... but... but... Other soldiers had gone at that moment, going from a part to another one in the air, disabled to do nothing. Those laws existed, but nobody had taken them exactly during centuries. An official on the greater cover, realized situation when Rodonis landed. - My lady - he said with the due deference is not very advisable for a female without escort to move away minimum and much less to visit this boat of terror. - It is necessary - she said to him -. I have a message for T'heonax captain who cannot hope. - the captain is next to his honorable father. I am afraid that not... - those Will be your teeth that will start when it knows that Rodonis Sa Axallon has been able to cause another riot. It crossed the cover and she inclined on the hut railing as if she was vomiting his rage over the sea. The official titubeó as if he had not included/understood. But, suddenly, as if he had received coletazo in the stomach exclaimed: - My lady. Immediately... she hopes, she hopes here, only a second. Guard! Here the guard! You guard by my lady. You take care of that it does not need of anything. And it disappeared. Rodonis hoped. The true test arrived at this moment. Until then there had been no problem. The Fleet too much was affected; without officials, the ill sailors, they had refused to a new rise, when she spoke to them of it and was requested it. The first riot had been very bad. Such horror - a true one turned around against the Oráculo of the Lodestar- had not been known for more than one hundred years... and at the same time with the problem of a war among them. The first impulse had been to deny that any important thing by small that outside it had happened. A laborious one malentendido. Those in favor of Delp, arrived and they were given to the fight of a quixotic way at the same

time who gave themselves to a lacking desperate fight of loyalty for their captain. After all, it was not possible to be hoped of ordinary sailors of the low class who understood the most modern principles and than the Fleet and its admiral they could extend to the situations of an individual boat. Suddenly their tears extended by their face, remembering that Rodonis had been speaking with Siranax and the conversation that it had had already ago days was repeated in its memory. - I feel, my lady - créame had said he that I feel it. One caused his husband, and it had more justice of his part that T'heonax, was more right. In fact, if which was a simple fight which happened, that had not been planned, only one opportunity to make jump the spark of old resentments, and in which, my own son was the one who was going to leave harmed. - Then, it allows that his son loaded with the responsibility that he had! - she said. The white head moved balancing itself advanced backwards and implacably. - No. Perhaps he is not the person most honest and more responsible for his acts in the world, but he is my son. And the heir. I do not have left long time that to live, and the time military is not the moment to risk in a battle in the occasion of the succession. By the salvation of the Fleet, T'heonax must happen to me without discussion of anybody; and, by this, it must remain at sight of all like a irreproachable personage of the officiality. - But, why cannot you leave you also free to Delp? - By the Lodestar, that would do it if it could! But it is not possible. I can give amnesty to anyone, if... if I want it. But loading with the faults, somebody must have somebody where it is healed and where it falls the pain our wounds. Delp must be accused by to have imagined and to have tried a riot, and must be punished, so that everybody can say it; "In agreement, we fought, we had fought between us, but all the fault had he, so now we can trust an a again the others." The admiral sighed, a full sigh of fatigue that left its affected lungs. - the Lodestar knows Well that it did not want to do is to. It wanted... Also I love much to you you, and you, my lady. It wanted that we returned to be friends. - We can - it whispered if she leaves frees to Delp. The conqueror of the Maion, watched it surprised and said: - No. And now already I have heard enough. It disappeared of her presence. The days happened and there it continued the farce of nightmare of the judgment of Delp and the nightmare of the sentence that weighed on him, and the nightmare of the delay of his execution. The fast attack of the Lannacho had been as the moment of waking up of a febrile dream, because he was acute real and true, and the companion of boat no longer he was simply a furtive enemy but a sailor who faced the Barbarians in the clouds and that whipped to those troops doing them to back down and moving away them of the children. Three nights later, admiral Syranax fell ill of death. If it had not fallen ill, Delp would be now a mutilated slave, but in this nervous tension and this uncertainty the things had remained quiet at the moment and the sentence not yet had been pronounced. As soon as T'heonax had the position of the admiralty, thought Rodonix about deepest of its brain, no longer would be more delay. At least that... - It wants, my lady, to come by this way? All of them were obsequiosos, the officials who guided it throughout the cover and they introduced it between a great disordered battery of trunks. Crew members of the house crossed and walked above and down by the runners, corridors and windows that were illuminated with lamps, and they watched with a species gives it terror. Of any way the most secret things always were known in that part of the boat, and they knew them immediately, as if they smelled them. He was dark, full of things and in silence. In as much silence! The sea never was quiet. Only at this moment Rodonix realized of which they never had, in all its life, sense no attraction by the sound of the waves and crujiir of the trunks and the cords of the boats. Their wings were tightened; it had wanted to explode in a whine. To free itself with a whine. It walked uncomfortably. They opened the door to him. It entered, and it was closed after her with a full sound of coldness and apprehension. It saw a small one and furnished small drawing-room well where many lamps burned. The air was so dense, that it almost prevented him to breathe. T'heonax lay on a cushion watching it, playing with one of the knives of terrestrial ones. There was nobody more. -

Siéntese - he said. It shrank on her tail, with interrogating and cold eyes, although she watched of equal equal to him. - What was what meant? - he with indifference asked. - Lives the admiral, your father? - she asked. - I am afraid that it does not have left much - said he -. the God Aeakah'a will eat to him before the noon. - Their eyes went to where he was his father -. What releases it is the night! Rodonix hoped. - and well? - he said. Its head was thrown backwards with a somewhat repulsive movement. There was certain crudity in his tone -. Said you something about... another riot? Rodonix straightened up on its feet. It straightened his chest and it said; - Yes - the crew of my husband talked back with a chilling voice has not forgotten to him. - Perhaps not - T'heonax- talked back but they have had sufficient loyalty for the admiral and so did not separate of him, at the moment. - Loyalty for admiral Siranax, yes - it said to him but this never lacked. You know it as well as I, which happened was not a riot... simply a movement of men who were in against hers, of you. To Siranax they always have admired to you, not to say loved. - the true riot will be against its assassin. T'heonax gave a jump. - What means with this? - he shouted -. Who is an assassin? - You - escupió Rodonix between its teeth you to poisoned its father. It hoped. She hoped during a time that maintained the breathing in its chest. She could not say if the remarkable violent man to which he faced would kill it by to have said such words. She almost did it. She threw herself backwards when its knife came near to the throat of Rodonix. She tightened with force his cheeks, and jumped on his cushion and one stayed there at the same time with the bent back, the rigid tail, and the raised wings. - He continues - it said I gave your lies. I know very well to what extent you hate to all my family as a result of the husband without no class of value, that you have. All the Fleet knows it. Think that they can believe your poisonous words? - Never I hated its father - Rodonix with somewhat said of nervousness; the death had closely together passed of her he condemned Delp, yes. I thought, that she was not right to do it, but he did it by the Fleet, and I... I am of a sector of officials also. You must remember, that the day after the battle, I requested to you that you had supper with me to celebrate that draconnay had to march. - Therefore you did - you whispered T'heonax- a pretty gesture. Now memory how condimentada said the guests was the food. And the small memory that you to him gave him, that shining disc that belonged to terrestrial ones. As if it corresponded to you giving it, all that belongs to the admiralty. - In agreement, but this was the terrestrial thickness that me gave it me - Rodonix said. It was taking deliberately the conversation towards excellent lands, looking for that both calmed -. had taken it of her luggage - said to me -. called a currency to him, an article of market between her town. She thought that to me I could like to remember to him to him with that object. This was shortly after which... the avalanche... and shortly before which he and its companions had changed of the Gerunis to this other boat. - It was a miserable gift - the disc said to T'heonax- was quite lacking of forms. It goes! - their muscles were curved again -. It comes. Acúseme more still if one dares. - I have anyway not been enough idiot - Rodonix- said I have left written letters, so that they open my friends to them if I do not return. But we consider the facts, T'heonax. You are an ambitious male, and one of the people who are wishing more than happens the worse thing. The death of its father will make of same you an admiral, the virtual proprietor of the Fleet. How long has had you to be waiting for this opportunity! His father is dying, whipped by a disease apparently unknown by our surgeons: Not even a disease due to a poison known, and so ferocious that it will destroy to him. Now one knows that the attackers did not take all the food who had terrestrial ones on board; three small packages remained here. The terrestrial ones warned to us very frequently and to all that we would not have to eat nor only the smaller part of its rations, that would be as much as to be indicated with the death. And you, one has taken care of all the things of terrestrial ones! T'heonax straightened up. - Lie - it shouted I I do not know... I do not have... I never... Somebody will be able to say that I... anyone could have made such

thing as... to poison... its own father? - Of you, they will believe everything to it - right of perpetual ownership by the Lodestar said to Rodonix -. It! - the Lodestar will not give luck him nor will protect to the Fleet if they are commanded and to the orders of a parricida. - There will be riots only by this, T'heonax. It watched it fixedly while the savagery was reflected in its face. - What is what wants? - he shouted. Rodonix watched to him with coldest of the glances that never had directed to anybody. - I will burn those letters - it said and I will shut up myself for always. Even retractaré of which it has said to me of you, and I will defend to him if to somebody they have been happened to him such thoughts that to me. But he must have, from this same moment and for always, a total amnesty. T'heonax relaxed and it watched it with crudity. - it could not fight against you - you said podria it to have arrested to speak of so full form of treason and to kill to whatever it dared to do it. - Perhaps - Rodonix- said but, is worth the trouble, it could leave the Fleet and leave us at the mercy of the Lannaconay. Everything what I request is that returns my husband. - and for that reason threaten you to ruin to the Fleet? - Yes - she said. After moments she continued: - You do not understand. You them men make the nations and the wars and the songs and science, all the small things. You imagine that you are the forts, practical sex. But a woman once returns and another one under the shades from the death to bring a new life again. You are the duros, we, we must be it. T'heonax gave the back him, shaking. - Yes - it to the end whispered yes, the condemned you are. Ridiculous woman, horrible woman, yes, you can have your husband, right now I will issue an order to you, at this Moment. It takes its rotten feet and sácalos of my boat before the dawn, you hear it? But I did not poison my father. Their wings were fought in the full air of being able, until it rose there until the ceiling of the boat staying and shouting: - I did not kill it! Rodonix hoped. At that moment it took the written order and left there, was towards the bridge, where they cut the cords that they had imprisoned to Delp hyr Qrikan. She narrowed it between his arms and she cried. - I will conserve my wings... Rodonix Sa Axallon tightened its crest, spoke to him to the ear, tightened to him with force, spoke all the things to him, said to him that everything would go now, that returned to house and cried a little because it loved to him. In his interior it had a small memory of as the old one They go Rijn had given the currency him, but it had warned to him against... against what it had said... against poisonous heavy metals. "For you the iron, the copper and other metals are unknown objects. I am not a chemistry; chemistries I rent them when chemistry is necessary to me; but I believe that better it would eat arsenic that not what it is trying to chew one of your children in these currencies ". And she remembered, seated in the dark, with a stone in her hand, sharpening the currency, until there there were necessary spices that she would put I divided the supper of the admiral. Later, she remembered that the terrestrial one did not have such masters of its language. Suddenly she thought with a fright that it, the terrestrial one, could have left this food mortal to intention very well, with the intention of which she caused misfortunes. But, until point had gotten he to suppose the events?

Chapter 11

Guntra de Snklan crossed the door. Eric Wace watched. After him one shades rare between lights, and an accumulation of inexpressive forms. - Yes? - he said. Guntra showed an armor, two meters in length, a slight construction in wood forms. For more than ten years it had watched to hundreds of women and children while they reunited, gathered, separated and dried the fibers that gathered next to sea; they formed, weaving these fibers, a wood species, they took it to the factories and they made a set of all of them to form the wished

object. One had never felt so tired. Nevertheless, a small victory was reflected in its voice when it said: this one is four the thousands Chancellor. It was not his title, but the mentality of lannacha as soon as it could imagine to whatever it did not have a rank defined within the organization of the Flock. Considering the authority of the creatures without wings, it seemed more natural to call chancellors to them. - Good. - it took the object of his encallecidas hands -. a good work. Four thousands are but that nothing; your task is done, Guntra. - Thanks - she watched everything peculiarly what there was to his around. It was difficult to remember that she did not do long time had served, mainly. to store food. Angrek of the Trekkans arrived with a wood block between its claws. - Chancellor - it began - I... - stopped. Its glance fell on Guntra, that still was in medium age and him they had considered always beautiful. The eyes of Guntra found his. A rare brightness ignited in them. Their wings extended and it took a step towards her. He gave an almost imperceptible jump. Guntra became and flew. Angrek was watching after her, and soon it threw the wood block by the ground and ran. - What demons it happens? - Wace said. Angrek occurred a blow with its fist in the other hand. - Ghost! - he murmured - untiring spirits must be ghost... who live, always everywhere... are possessors of the Drakska, and who now come to punish to us. Another pair of bodies darkened the door of the room, that remained open towards the pale one and cuts night of the summer that began. NichoIas van Rijn and Tolk, the Heraldo, entered. - How it goes, boy? - it asked Go Rijn, he was eating a onion that had removed from one of the packages of the provisions; the pallor that was reflected in the face of Wace, and, until in the one of Sandra, at the moment was not reflected in Go Rijn. But then, Wace thought bitterly, until that moment the old one of the chin not yet had done nothing. Everything what for it was to take a walk and to speak to the local heads and to complain which the things did not go rather quickly, all the express that it had wanted. - Slowly, Sir - the youngest man I keep the words that to taste it had meant well. You crawl like a worm, and delays to return to house by means of my work and of my brain soon to sell me to other factories or to leave me in some other condemned planet lost. - Then haste will be necessary to occur - it said Go Rijn- we cannot wait for as much time you and I... Tolk watched inquisitively and with a certain expression in its eyes to Angrek. The specialized worker still was astonished and without including/understanding what it happened and he whispered for himself incomprehensible things, to the aim said: - What happens, what is what it does not go well? -... an influence - Angrek covered the eyes -. Heraldo - whispered - Guntra of the Enklan was here right now and during a little while we... were desired the one to the other. Tolk watched with certain gravity but it spoke without no reproach: That, has happened to him to many, contróláte to same you. - But, what is that, Heraldo? A disease? A judgment? What have done I? - Those innaturales impulses are not known - Tolk said -. They arrive at us and they are pronounced once in a while in each one of us. But naturally, one does not speak of it, one is surprised and done what better it can to forget what it happened - soon it added -: Long ago it more often happened enough. I do not know why. Return to your work and you forget the females. Angrek was pronounced with a difficult breathing, took the wood piece that had brought, and it went towards Wace: - his advice Would want; this form does not seem to me the best one for its intentions. Tolk watched his around. It finished returning gives a long trip, crossing over a vast land to speak to the tribe and to see how the works were made. - much work has become here - it said. - Yes - friend agreed Go Rijn with complacencia- is an engineer with much east talent mine. But the works in a new planet could much better if you could have good engineers. - I have not gotten to complete the details of its schemes very well. - My schemes, my schemes - it corrected Go somewhat proud Rijn I I said to him that it conducted military operations to us. Everything what has done has been to do them. - Everything? - Tolk asked, dryly. It watched his work that was in its beginnings. What is this? - throwing of darts a repetitive one, a metralleta I to him call. Sight, this part gives returns in

this sense and of this form shots, quite perfect can be obtained. The darts enter this disc by this belt... of way... and give returns rather quickly. Two or three in opening and closing at least of eyes. The disc is mounted perfectly to be able to lay for all directions. Ja is one me idea truely. I believe that Miller or Of camp, or some other constructed it long ago. But it is a very hard and very bad object to face him in a battle. - Excellent - it approved Tolk- and this that there is? - and we took a balista. It is like the catapults of Draco, or almost better still. This throws great stones to break a wall or to sink a boat. And here, aja! - They go Rijn took the armor that Guntra had brought -. This is not an object that stands out much, perhaps, but that it means enough for us and that it is not as useful as other Machineries. A sailor, in earth, takes it to the back. - Humm... if, already I see what harness class can do. This stops the projectiles that come from above, no? But in the meantime, our sailors will not be able to take it while they fly. - Thus he is - he exclaimed Go Rijn- unfortunately thus is! This it is the disadvantage with your diomedanas tribes. How you think that you can fight and you can wage a true war without nothing else that the forces of the air, eh? Here, in Salmenbroe, I go inculcando in the head of stupid officials these ideas and making every day them see that the infantry has a great paper and that she develops a tremendous importance in these wars. And in addition, that there is to create true officials to practice to them. But by the entrails of Judas, there is no time for it! In these few ten days, I must try to do what it is needed for it, ten years. Tolk agreed almost immediately. Trolwen had even needed long time and many discussions before putting the idea of a force combat, whose main body deliberately was restricted to the ground operations. It was a very strange concept. But the Herald only said: - Yes. I see its reasoning. Those are the points strongest than they will decide who took Lannach, the fortified cities that dominate all the fields of the region from which the food arrives to us. And for, to be able to take the cities we needed to lay our own way. - You think very well - the Earth history approved Go Rijn-, cost long time to the people to include/understand that a victory cannot be only reached about the powers of the air. - But still we have the firearms of loa draska - said Tolk -. Which are the plans about them? My mission, in the pasts ten days, have been almost completely to persuade to the border people so that they are united to us. I communicated to them of his part that we could be faced the firearms, which we would have throwing of firearms and arms our. Better, perhaps, he had done in saying the truth to them. He watched his around. The room where they were, turned a rustic factory, was too full of winged workers so that it could see it everything. Close, there was a water battery more primitive type, somewhat improvised by Wace, was serving to sharpen in her arms and tomahawk. Another machine, a stone to sharpen, was new for him: It at the top gave form of the axes and to other parts of her, not as good as the types that were made by hand, but formed of a type to standar. A hammer bordered the most salient parts of the sharp songs; a circular mountain range cut wood; one that it gave returns by means of cords, rolled at greater speed of which the human Vista could follow. All it formed a complex of machinery and work never seen in that earth. But all it also did able to be put under a fight much more soon of which lannach could imagine and supplying itself of better armament of the one than until now they had had and much more amount. - this one Is a thing very well-known - Tolk- said almost scares a little to me. - This will do that this earth, a new life - it said Go Rijn, expansive it is not this machine, or this other what it has changed your history. It is the basic idea that I have introduced: Production in mass. - But the fire... - We gave their firearms. The sulfide that they have taken in the Oborch mountains, and are very good liquid oil wells there where also there are consequidlo of arsenic. Distillation, this is another art that the Drako they have had and you do not have. Now we will construct some Molotov arms constructed by we ourself. The human continued: - But there is a thing that is truth, friend mine. We do not have time to train to your soldiers to things to which they are not customary and to these

materials. Soon I will begin to die of hunger, soon your females will be made heavy and the feeding must begin to meet for them. - it gave a pathetic sigh although I believe that it will do a long time, long time that I will be dead when your town begins to have true suffering. - it is not thus - we said Tolk with an expressive gesture still more has left of half year before the time of birth, is truth. But we already are debilitated by the hunger, the cold and the desperation. We have already let carry out ceremonies... - the Condemned your ceremonies! - he exclaimed Go Rijn -. I have said as it is the city of Ulwen the one that we must take first, where feels watching arrogant, Dunn Brsy and where lives all the beasts with horn, if we got to seize of Ulwen, we will have enough food, and also a point very easy to defend. But no, Trolwen and Concilio say that we must go back directly towards Matinesaeh, leaving Ulwen into the hands of our enemies, and soon to return directly to Sajna Bay, where their boats can attack to us. But, why? - You cannot include/understand it - she said to Tolk with amiability we we are very different. I myself, if the life has been developed in the work and this one has been able to conduct itself and to understand them to it with strange people, I cannot get to include/understand its attitude. But our life this constituted by the sky of the year. It is not that we take so to our old Gods in serious as before, but its rites, the rectitud and the decency of everything, the property... It had an arrogant aspect within the hidden shade of the ceiling where the wind blew and it slid over the machineries that speak formed in that dependency. - No, I do not believe that the ancestral ghosts fly that way during the nights. But I believe that when I give the welcome to the High Summer, in the great rite of the Mannenach, since my ancestors have done all since they exist the Flok... then I maintain I live to the same Flok. They go Rijn extended his hand with scorn and he directed it towards the barbica that had let grow in its face. It was not possible to be washed or to shave themselves. And although there was beloved, the human skin did not tolerate the diomedano Soap. - I will say porqué to you you have all those rites. First you are enslaved of the stations, much more that any farmer on the Earth in our old days. Second, since you can fly so much and leave vues tros homes leaving them empty during the station of the darks, the rites is the beautiful possession but that you have. It is the only thing that does not weigh to take it to you too much, with you to where you want. Perhaps - it is thus - Tolk said -, but the fact continues. If there is any occasion to praise to the Total Day from the Stone of the Mannenach, we took advantage of that opportunity. The lives extra that are lost as a result that more precise strategy cannot be taken to Ja will be offered in this war with contentment. - If all the war does not cost losing to us - it exclaimed Go Rijn -, demons and condemnation. My own chaplain in my house is not excited so much and he does not worry as much, by the things that are normal. East Porqué poor young type that there is there was on the verge of committing suicide, because a little because of a servant outside the time of the servants was excited, eh? - one has not become - Tolk said -, not yet it has done it. It was towards the store. After a little while, They go Rijn followed to him. Wace put the point of the discussion with Angrec, verified the operations otherwise, shouted to one of them Young porteadores that petroleum volatilizized within the warehouses was storing and left. Their feet were very heavy. He was too much a man to do, organizing, designating, surpassing and mixing themselves with the disadvantages of the arms. They go Rijn seemed to think that it was a routine transferring to neolithic hunters to an era of machinery in a few weeks. The Same one had it to have proven! It would have to take care of them to it with those beings. It would have to sweat much of the fat that took above! The nights now were so short, only one pallor between two red clouds in the horizon, that Wace could not realize course of the time. It worked almost until becoming weak, it slept a little and it returned to the work. Some times it was asked if it had felt sometimes the sensation of the rest and the cleaning, and the good feeding of the comfort and the tranquillity that experiences when being Mine, in some occasions. The morning began to blunt by hills of the North, where a full

volcanic line of steam was reflected by all the horizon. The two moons were falling, each one forming a disc apparently twice greater than the stature of the terrestrial moon. The Oborch mount being like a great giant in flanks of mountains and mixing themselves between shades with the pallor of the sky. The wind arrived cold and sharp as a bar from iron that was used against the face of Wace. The city of Salmenbroch was descried to the distant spot. It reached the stairs that had constructed he himself, to be able to raise by her towards the room that used normally, when Sandra met with him when leaving this one the tower that served from room her to him. It stopped, taking a hand to her face. She could not hear what she was saying as a result of the air. Wace approached her. - Him request excuses to me, my lady, I have not been able to include/understand what said. - Oh... was not nothing Wace. - Their green eyes were with those of him, but it saw that their cheeks were red, it only said -: Good morning. - The same him desire - it showed great ojerias -, I have not seen him for a long time, my lady. Cómo.está.usted? - I cannot rest - she said -, I feel very unfortunate. It would not matter to him to talk a little with me? They left the place where they had been and they went towards ahead through the weeds that were by the ground. Over them in the walls there were sentries, but these were only beings, who watched to other impersonal ones hoping to the enemy from the air. Wace I know directed to Sandra: - What has been doing? - he asked. - Nothing that is worth the trouble. What I can do? - It lowered the head and watched her hands -. Treatment to do something but I do not have means, I am not prepared as you or as They go Rijn. -? - Wace exclaimed -. This... - it stopped regreting his words -. Good already is enough with having my present lady. - Why, Freeman? - She ed ***reflx mng with an amused pleasure half, and nothing burlesque. I never thought that you were so galante in your words. - Never I have had much opportunity to be it my lady - it tired and lacking of forces murmured too much to stay in guard. - No? She watched to him of average side. The wind ruined its hair and undid small curls of him. It not yet was whipped by the wind and the fatigue, but the bones of their face became but visible; there was a scar in one of his cheeks and their dresses were made of a quite rustic form sewn by a tailor who never had seen a human form before. But of any way dressed this form or to the way of a queen, it seemed to him to him prettier than ever. Perhaps because she was more close? Why she had said to him with all franqueza that it was not more than human meat like he himself? - Not - he between teeth said. - I do not include/understand - she said. - I request pardon to Him my lady, was thinking aloud. It is a bad custom. But one does in these worlds outside the human circle. You see the few men who accompany to him so frequently that they let mean a company; one separates of them. And naturally we are always lacking of the more usual ways and customs, so that one must be worth by itself and make several works, perhaps during whole weeks. But why I am saying all this? I do not know it. God mine what tired I am! They stopped in a small knoll, on its feet opened a reef that was cut to tip a hundred of meters until it was going to finish in the white foam of a river. To the other side of the tube there were mountains and mountains, while their snows melted to the sun. The wind arrived again and whipped the face of the human beings. - I already realize. Yes, the sun leaves for me. - Sandra watched to him with serious eyes and calm you have had to work very hard during all your life. There has been no time in you for the pleasures, the fine modales and the culture. He is not thus? - I have never had a minute of time, my lady - he said -, I was born in a separated site, to a kilometer of old Docks Triton. Nobody except poorest would live so near a port of the space, of the traffic, the noises and the murmur of terrestrial ones; nevertheless one is accustomed until this gets to comprise of one same one and it is mixed in his bones. Half of my companions has died or is in the jail, I create; other half is fighting and staying in works not very specialized, quite dirty and that nobody wants. It does not feel conmisericórdia by me. I was very lucky person. I entered of apprentice a commercial house when it was twelve years old. After two years I could put to me in contact with people who employed dirty and hard to me, but a work for

same me. This was in a boat of the space, an expedition to Rhiannon. I learned by my same a little for the difficult moments, and I perfected myself in the rest of the things that I already believed to know, and then I got to reach a rested better work and more. And thus continuously and continuously, until they put me to the position of this work outside the Earth, a work that can in its time to be beneficial but that until it it has not been now much. But always a scale, thus, then, I am here in the top of a mountain, with all the diomedanos down, and who knows what it will happen soon. It moved the head with certain violence asking itself why everything what it had locked up during long time had said at this moment it. Being he so tired and debilitated, it was like a borrachera. But this was not something there more... no, he was not looking for conmisericordia... nor treated either of which it could get to include/understand. But and if she managed to include/understand to him? - You will return to the Earth - she said calmly you you are of the class of men who always survive. - Such time. - He is something heroic, which you have done already. - It separated the Vista of him, towards the clouds that moved around the tips of the Oborch -, I am not sure that it can have something stops you to him. Except same you. - I? It began to be embarrassed, and wished to speak of other things. Its reddish beard began to be pulled. - Yes, what another one could? You have arrived so far and so quickly. But why one does not stop? Soon? Perhaps here in this mountain, you do not have to ask yourself itself to what extent she is worth the trouble to go far in the life. - I do not know it. I believe that she is due to go as far as it is possible. - Why, he is that it is so necessary to become something great? He is not enough free being? With your talent and its experience you can make much money, in many planets where the men remain more in their houses than here. Like Hermes for example. In this rich and powerful fight to be, he is not mainly that you want to feed and to give shelter to the small boy who once shouted by hunger and dream back in Docks Triton. But to that small boy you never will be able darte comfort, friend mine, long ago who died. - Good... I do not know it... I believe that a day I will have a family. I want to give to my wife something more than a normal life; I want to leave to my children and my grandsons with enough possibilities so that they continue in the life, so that they can stay in the world and separate of him if they want it. - Yes. Thus it is. I believe that thus it is... It saw before it separated her glance of him, how the blood had raised until its cheeks. - Perhaps the old Dukes of Kermes were thus. He would be something extraordinary if we had everything again a group of men like them. He would be something began to walk downwards quickly. Good already wonderful for having men Better thus - suddenly she said -. he is than we return, no? He followed it, little concentrated in the land that was being above.

Chapter 12

When lannascha was quick for the fight, they were called to Salmenbrok by the Silbadores de Tolk, until the sky was darkened with its wings. Then Trolwen laid way through a swarm of soldiers until Go Rijn. - Surely which the Gods are hastiados of us - it said bitterly almost always, in this time of the year there are forts winds of the Then South indicated towards the skies that remained immutable. You know some injurio, some method to make raise although it is only small air blowings. The merchant watched somewhat hastiado. He was seated in a table that they had constructed in a species of cabin that they had built to the other end of the city, since he refused to raise stairs or to sleep in a humid bed, discussing with the captain of the Syrgen Body by a precious stone subject that was means of local change. - Good - he exclaimed - and why have you who to extend its tail...? ah, seven! No, by all the demons, memory, seven is not a good number here. Good we will prove again. The three dices with which it speculated on the precious stone subject with Syrgen

captain moved again enters their hands and went to the other side of the table. - Hum, hum, seven again. - It returned to take the dices and it exclaimed -: Us we played double or nothing? - the tragadores of ghosts take it! - Syrgen rose - you are been gaining too much often my to seem. They go Rijn one rose wrath plenty and it exclaimed: - By all the furies or retirements, that or... - I did not say anything that could herirte - Syrgen said to him coldly. - But the significant thing. You have insulted to me, to me. - Already it is worth - interposed Trolwen -. What is what they think that is this, a celebration? A room of game? Terrestrial, all the forces of fight of Lannach are concentrated now in these hills. We cannot feed to them here during long time. And in addition, with the new arms that take in the cars battle we cannot move until there is not a wind of the South. What we can do? They go Rijn watched Syrgen. - I said that it insulted to me. And I do not have imaginac very quick ion when she has insulted herself to me. - I am sure that the captain will excuse itself by any offense that has said to him with lack of intention - Trolwen said drilling to them with the glance. - Truely - Syrgen said -. it spoke between teeth. - Therefore I like - she said Go Rijn, being pulled the beard -. and soon to prove that you do not put in doubt my honesty, we will throw the dices once again, is not thus? Double or nothing. Syrgen took the dices and it threw them on the table. - Ah, six has - it said Go Rijn- is not very easy to overcome this distance. I believe that there am lost again. He is not very simple to be a poor tired man, moved away of its earth and its Siamese cats that are everything what it has left to love in the world, aside from the money. ... eight! Two, three and three! Either, or, or! - I said that already it is worth - Trolwen said, not letting itself take badly by humor by very little. The new arms are too heavy for our porteadores. They must go by the route. Without wind, how we will be able to transport them until Sarnabay? - Very simple - it said Go Rijn counting the stones until we have a favorable wind, ties cords to the cars and that push all the young soldiers. Syrgen exploded: - a male pertaining to the free class pushed a car as... as a chrakal - he controlled itself and he continued -: That has not become, never. There is much work that to do. Our Mays it forces is in the city. Now that we must destroy all the doors and remove from the city to the enemy house by house and from room by room. You will remain here. - I no! Wace made a sign with the thumb to Angrek. - a square Designates to take to the lady towards the covered carts - it said in all conminativo. - Not - Sandra shouted. - It is too much late - Wace- said already had calculated this before we had left Salmenbrok. It dedicated to him of ours, but finally with more calm she inclined and she murmured in low voice to the wind and the murmur of the battle. - He returns safe, friend mine. It lead to the soldiers towards the tower. Soon no longer it had a more exact memory of the fight. It was an operation of much blood, axe and knife, to fists and tooth, with the wings and the tail, in the narrow tunnels and the rooms like caverns. It received blows and also it gave them. Once during several minutes, it lay unconscious and also in another occasion triunfal it spearhead towards a great ample room where was an immense group of enemies who beat. , it did not take arms nor it had wings, but he was the more heavy that any diomedano, and their blows rarely had to repeat themselves.

Chapter 13

Lannascha took enough Mamenach because they habíanse trained to become good earth fighters, or to at least have a concept of the battle with immobilized wings. The idea was like revolutionizing the different diomedanos to only fight with the teeth, the bandaged hands. Without being prepared for it, draconay ran as rats towards the tunnels in look for gives open sky. A few hours later, destroyed by the fatigue, Wace it raised towards one of the tile roofs the other end of the city. Tolk, seated there hoping to him. - I

create... that... we have finished yet - the human said. - But not yet he is enough - Tolk with certain bitterness said watches the bay. Wace watched and saw the dig in that appeared before him. No longer there were boats, no longer there were wharf, no longer there were walls in the water containment; everything had been reduced to immense humareda black. But the boats and the canoes of the Drako had put in the channels, having formed a bridge to reach the Earth; and over these sailors they were trying of! to reconstruct the catapults and the throwing ones of arms. - They have a too good commander - Tolk said -, he has welcomed the idea too much soon, that our methods also have their weaknesses. - What is... what is going... to make Delp? - Wace said. - Delay and you will see - heraldo suggested -. there is no way of which we pruned to do nothing. Draconnay was superior still in the air. Watching above towards the sky, rain clouds that took with himself bloody water, Wace saw them move to surround the air of Lannacha. - You see? - Tolk said -, it is truth that their flying troops cannot do much against our infantry, but the enemy head has realized of which the conversion also is truth. Trolwen was tactical a too good one to let itself surprise by such things. Fighting centimeter to centimeter their flying troops backed down. In the Earth covered by the constant bombing of the arqueros of the boats, the sailors were locating their mobile artillery. They had them more lannascha, and were better gunners. A few loads of infantry exploded a blood ruin. - They do not have ours would assemble of artillery, naturally - Tolk said -, but this way we do not have enough men to be able to compensate the difference. Wace watched Angrek that had met with them. - you do not remain there - it shouted -. It down sees and c onduce our tribe. We must catch those condemned, we can do it, you I say I to it. - Theoretically, yes - Tolk agreed inclining the head I can see where a person on the Earth, taking advantage can lay way through those catapults and of those throwing arms of flames, and the soldiers who handle tomahawk. But, actually good, we do not have such possibilities. - Then. What you would do? - Wace whispered. - We consider first what possibly it will happen - said Tolk -. There are lost our covered carts, if they do not capture them will set afire them immediately. Thus, then, our reserves are exhausted. Our forces we have been separated in two, and have thrown of here our flying patrols, does not have left much. Trolwen cannot meet again with us, since it is in a number much more under men. But we cannot face its artillery. - Nevertheless - it continued -, if we continue fighting, we must throw all our armors and new arms and return to the conventional tactics of the air. But this infantry well is not equipped for a normal action. We have few arqueros for example. Delp only needs to lodge itself in the boats behind the firearms, but its number of men is greater and we will be incapable to touch to him. Meanwhile it will have to us surrounded here, separated of foods and material. We will be besieged. All these excesses of food military have been in Salmembroc and there they do not have any utility. And in addition, greater reinforcements will possibly arrive from the Fleet. - To the demon with that - exclaimed Wace- we have the city, is not thus? We can have it and stay in her against them until we rot. - and what we will eat while they are rotting - Tolk said -. You are a good man of the terrestrial space, but not a student of the war. The cold fact is that, Delp fixed them to separate our forces, to divide them in two or more, and then it will have won. I propose that we divide our losses now retiring to us, while we can still do it. And then suddenly their modales were interrupted, it stopped and it covered the eyes with the wings. Then Wace realized of which heraldo had become old.

Chapter 14

Was dance on the cover, and full songs of joy that extended throughout Sarnabay by unfolded hills. It arrives and down and everything around, inside and outside, the feet and the wings made shake the logs of the boat. It

arrives, on one of the masts, a tañedor of flauta made leave his melodía; down a great drum of the great seas that made see La Paz the rowers, or made hear a full rate of zumbantes echoes. In a ring of bodies of folded wings, sweat of bodies and eyes that watched towards the sky, a sailor having narrowed its female, while a hundred of deep voices made hear the song: A navigation, a navigation. A navigation towards the sea of the bear, pretty girl, extending your shining wings as a sun and sails with me. Delp took a walk on the stern of the boat and watched towards its crew. Rodonix took from the arm its husband and it tightened it with force. - She wanted - she said. - If? - Some times... oh, is not nothing... The pair that danced to is of flauta and another pair approached to also dance in the same place. - Some times it wanted to be able to be like them. - and to live in the cover of the boat - Delp said dryly. - Good, no, clear that not... - There is a price in the dressed apartment, and crew members, and brilliants, and the luxury - Delp said. Their eyes became pale -, I am on the verge of paying something more for that reason. Its tail briefly struck the back of its wife, and then it beat the wings and he rose in the air. A dozen of armed males followed to him. The same they made the eyes of Rodonix. Under the punished walls of Manenak, the boats of the Draco lay full of beings, the disorder of the war that had not cleaned to enjoy almost lasts victory. , a few soldiers only remained alert, although no of them needed to notice much in case there were an attack. It was a glory for the sailors of the boat of the Fleet, drunkards and with a woman in his knees that could come up for the fight and fight if it were necessary against three of the enemies. Delp, flying through calmed waters, under a high sky without clouds, was to itself hefting the moral price of such pride against the practical fact that lannascha fought with, great force, as if ten demons had put in him. A group of light canoes floated to the distant spot. Draconnay this time had won, standar of the admiral floated from a engalanado mast. T'heonax, had come to the urgent rectification of Delp, instead of making him go to he himself to the main part of the Fleet, which could mean that T'heonax was prepared to bury old hatred. (Rodonix would not say anything to him to its husband of which it had happened among them, and he conmino him not to do it; but it was perfectly obvious that it had forced the pardon of the heir in certain way). Surely it was much more obvious that the new admiral had come to throw a look to the captain who did not trust, which had ruined the things giving the return to the orders that had received although it only was to gain one more a more important victory. He was not stranger by a field commander with such prestige to raise the rebellious flag and to try to reach the Admiralty. Delp, that did not have respect for T'heonax, but a positive reverence for the position that carried out supported although with certain bitterness this imputation. It landed on the later part of the bank as it were prescribed and it waited for until the Horn of the Welcome sounded in the air. This took more of the necessary thing in arriving. With certain rage, Delp approached and postró. - Levántate - it said to T'heonax in indifferent tone -. My greater deferences by your success. Now you would want to conferenciar a little with me? - Then it gave taps with the leg, in the ground -, please, hazlo. Delp, watched around towards the faces of the officials, the soldiers and the crew. - In prevailed with the advisors of more prestige of the admiral if to him he pleases to him - he said. - Oh? Think that what you must say is so important? - T'heonax watched a young aristocrat who was near him and did him a gesture with the oíos. Delp, extended its wings remembered where it was and agreed. Its neck was so rigid that it hurt to him. - Yes, Sir, therefore I want it - and it left. - Very well. T'heonax walked with certain soltura towards its stateroom. He was quite ample for four, but only both men entered with the young cut of favorites, that extended in the ground and closed loa eyes with a respect gesture. - does not love advice the admiral? - Delp asked. T'heonax smiled. - Thus, then, you do not try to give your own advice him, captain. Delp, counted mentally up to twenty, tightened the teeth with all its force and soon it said: - As he loves the admiral. I have been thinking about our own strategy, in our basic strategy, and the battle almost has scared to

me here. - Admiral, I... does not matter. Sir watches here. - he did not know that you were afraid. the enemy arrived here and was on the verge of beating to us. They occupied the city. We have captured arms of which the enemy brought equal or perhaps superior to ours including some others that never I have seen or I heard about them, and in addition in incredible amounts, considering on the other hand the short period of time that needed to construct them. Then also, they had these abominable tactics, in which to the earth fight she talks about, not like an incidental thing, like when we took the enemy boats, but like the main part of its effort. - the single reason that there is so that they lost, it was the insufficient coordination between the Earth and the air, and the insufficient flexibility. They must have been quick to get rid of their then armors and to send itself to the air in an equipment of perfect swarms taking care of a simple order. - I do not believe that they two take care of this error if we give another opportunity them. T'heonax rubbed its nails against its arm and it watched them with certain attention. - I do not like the pessimists - she said. - Admiral I am only trying to misestimate to them. It is very clear that they obtained all these new ideas of terrestrial ones. What other things can get to know terrestrial ones? And to what extent they will be able to teach to them? - Hum. Yes. - T'heonax raised the head. A little while of uncertainty and restlessness it was reflected in his glance. - It is truth. What you propose? - Now at this moment they are outside account - Delp with certain avidity said I am sure that the moment in which have been has demoralized they. And naturally they are lost all the heavy equipment. If we beat to them hard now we could finish the war. What we must do is to infringe a decisive defeat to them to the total Navy. Then they will have to leave, to leave, and to say that the nation us, she is ours, or to die like insects when the time arrives from the birth. - Yes. - T'heonax smiled of a way placentero- like insects. Like dirty, like filthy insects, we will not let to them emigrate, captain. - They deserve this luck - Delp protested. - This is a question that there is to study much, captain, so that I can decide it and take a concrete determination. - I... feel it, Sir - after a little while, she added -: but she will love the admiral, if she is thus, to assign the total group of our forces of fight to some excellent official, with sharp orders gives to pursue laconnay? - You do not know exactly where are they? - They could be almost anywhere of high earth, Sir. Thus it is, and this way we have some prisoners, who we can cause that they guide to us and give some information us. The spies say that the headquarters are in a called place, hum, Psalmenbrox, but naturally they can mix themselves in those earth. - Delp moved anxious. For him, whose world had been only the Islands and the level horizon, they had certain horror to escabrosas mountains, were in those infinite mountains places where to be able to find, this one would not be a easy campaign. - and how you set out to carry out all this? - T'heonax with certain malhumor asked. It did not like that it remembered to him at the end of to have freed a victory and to have had a good supper, that there was much death in front of him. - Forcing to be to them with us in a sure site gentleman, without mountains and to open sky. I want to take to the our most powerful main forces of fight, and some native guides who venerate to help us to go of city in city in those latitudes, wearing down systematically whatever appears to our step, burning the forests and llev I walk to end the war of this form. Not giving opportunity them to subsist in sites on which they depend to feed their females and their children. More soon or later, and probably more soon, they will have to take each I lard and to come to face us. Then he will be when we will destroy to them. - Already I see - T'heonax agreed. And soon, with a certain face it added -: and if they destroy you? - they will not do it. - it is written that the Lodestar shines, but not simply for a nation. - the admiral knows that there is always some risk in the war. But I am convinced that there is always some risk in the war. But I am convinced that there is less danger in my plan that to remain here hoping that the terrestrial ones put in improvement some new possessed method to destroy to us. The forefinger of T'heonax went towards Delp. - Aja! You

have forgotten that soon its food will be finished. We can have, to terrestrial ones, like something discounted. - I ask myself... - Tranquilízate - T'heonax shouted. After a little while it continued -: you do not forget that this enormous expeditionary force, that you try llevarte, would leave the Flet defenseless. And without the Flet, the boats, and until even us other same ones, we are exhausted. - Oh, you do not fear the attack, gentleman - Delp with a warm voice began. - To fear? - T'heonax made a gesture of displeasure -. Captain is a treason to think that the admiral is... is not the sufficiently competent thing. - I did not mean... - I will not very consider east subject - T'heonax with certain calm said nevertheless you could very or inclinarte before me, implorando pardon, or to leave my presence. Delp straightened up. Their lips tightened the one against the other, and the memory of all those that rage succumbed in the fight caused that the tears were tightened in their throat. T'heonax before the glance and the prestancia of Delp shrank, and it was lent to request aid. Very slowly, Delp controlled itself. It made action march. Suddenly one stopped. The tight fists and the membranes of its wings with a blood sweat. Like a machine badly conceived, Delp fell. - and well? - T'heonax smiled suddenly on the belly. - No. - I incline - she murmured - I will eat what you do not want. I declare that my parents were the slaves of your parents. Like a fish that is not worth anything, suplico your pardon. T'heonax envaneció. The fact that Delp had been so intelligently caught between its request and its desire to serve the Flet, did everything more candy. - Very well, captain - the admiral said when the ceremony had concluded alégrate of which I have not caused who this happened publicly. Now hazme to know your disposition, which you try. I believe that you were saying something about a protection of our boats. - Yes... yes, Sir. He was saying... that the boats do not have why to fear the enemy. - Really? Truly, they lie very well in the sea, but not too much far to be able to reach them in few hours. What has can be defended of the Navy of the Flok, that is not known you, in the mountains, and that if they attacked to us you could not come in our defense before the attack had concluded? - it only wanted that that happened thus, Sir. - Delp recovered a little enthusiasm -, but I am afraid that the one that leads to us in the fight is not stupid. Since when... I mean... at no moment in naval history, Sir, has been a flying form, that has not leaned in the water troops and that have not been, able to safeguard at the same time to the boat. I spread more and being very expensive, for them, they have been able to capture one or two temporarily boats..., like in the skirmish that was when the robbery of terrestrial ones. Soon the other vessels moved and then they moved away. Sees it, Sir? The flying troops can make use of the heavy arms military: Throwing catapults and of fire, and other arms, that by single himself can reduce to a naval organization. Where it wants that the crew of the boats can remain under the shelters of the fire that arrives from above, there also there will be flying forces to exile, them. - Naturally - all this agreed T'heonax- is so obvious because I am wasting my time. But my idea is, I I realize, that a small group of guards would be sufficient to support to an attack lannacho of any class. - and if we have luck to maintain to enem igo outside the sea until I arrive with our main forceses. But as he says, Sir, they must of being the sufficiently intelligent thing not to try it. - That is to commit itself much, captain - T'heonax- murmured means, tries, does not try, not indeed that I let to you go to the mountains, but that put you to the control of them. Delp inclined its head and dropped its wings. - I request my excuses, Sir. - I create yes..., I believe that it would be better than you were here in Manenak with the flotilla that corresponds to you. - As it loves my admiral. Despite it wants to consider my plan? - That Acak'ha eats to you! - espetó T'heonax- I do not feel any love by you, Delp, as you know; but your scheme is good and you are the best one to carry out it. I will consider it. Delp straightened up as if it had received a blow in the back. - Salt - T'heonax- said we will have an official conference later. - I thank for my admiral. - Salt, I have said! When Delp had left, T'heonax became towards its favorite. - you so do not have

the worried air - it said I know what you are thinking. That type will gain its campaign, and every time will get to be more popular, and little by little it will be taking infulas to seize of the Admiralty. - to Only it was asking me how one will fix them, my gentleman to prepare itself against this - the cortesano said. - Quite easy - T'heonax- said I know that type. While the war continues, there is no danger of rebellion on the part of him, no asi, then, déjale that is understood them with lannaconay as it wishes. It will persecute to those people, until being sure that the work has finished. And in that persecution..

Chapter 15

The atmosphere took with himself compact particles that were the water nuclei of condensation to a superior height and at the same time would go more. Thus, then, Diomedes had more clouds and more frequent precipitations of all the classes that the Earth. In one night clear few stars were seen; in one night with fog no was seen absolutely. Moss extended through stones until the young Stop Summer arrived to dry them with its light. The hordes that lay around Salmenbrok murmured of their hunger and desperation; until the same sun one retired of them. No fire of camping was seen, the wood of this region had burned it. And all the bordering earth that extended around, city had been devastated the grains that in other times had been very fecund, and until such worms and insects the soldiers had eaten them. Now in one the wind narrows dark area only and the waters glaciers had existence. Trolwen and Tolk continued with the fatigue and the desperation that had brought them the fight and was directed by the close places in where the fog made its appearance; the discharges and narrow houses that appeared like unreal, towards the barn where the terrestrial ones worked. Here only it seemed to have something of existence. Still ignited fires were seen, water contained in containers and that fell of them to make move the left wheels of the wind, the movement of the hammers and the chisporroteo of the equipment at the same time that made fun of all the devices in the interior. Of some way, without knowing like, Nicholas Van Rijn one had fixed them to silence the protests of the side of Angrek, and all the factory was working "Working, why", Trolwen with cloudy reflections thought. The same one goes Rijn left to receive to them to the door. It crossed his powerful arms over his chest and said: - How it goes, friends mine? Here everything goes well, soon we will have many prepared pieces of artillery. - and why they will serve to us? - Trolwen said -, ah, yes, we will have enough work to make an amount infinite of holes in Salmenbroc. What means that we will be able to make all those holes of that I speak and meanwhile leaving the enemy that way who surrounds to us and dying of hunger. - you do not speak me to die of hunger - it said Go Rijn -. Suddenly it put its hand in a stock market that took hung and removed a dry piece from cheese, and watched it with ashamed eyes and to think that not long ago time this was rich and delicious a Swiss, Now would not offer it nor to the rats. - it put It in its mouth and it chewed with noise my problem to fill my stomach is worse than yours. In the first place the high boiling point of the water here repres enta in this world a great problem for the boiled questions of, and also for the bad cooks who do not have nor idea of the control of the temperatures. Secondly they hoisted and they took trav és to me of the air, during that full passage of risks for me from Mannenach. In order to let to me die here of hunger? - Almost to prefer it haberte lazy there - Trolwen said. - Not - Tolk said -, he and their friends have worked hard, doing what they could, head of the Flok. - Excuse - Trolwen with great contrition said was only... has said to me... that drakska finishes destroying Eiseldrae. - an empty city, no? - a city santa. And they burned the forests that surrounded it. Trolwen shrank of shoulders. - This cannot continue thus. Pr onto if this continues in these circumstances although we have won the war,

does not matter in how, the Earth will be too desolate for we can maintain. - I create, that still you will be able to save a few forests - this said Go Rijn- is not an over-populated region. - Sight here - Trolwen- exclaimed I have been born more or less at the same time that you. I admit that essentially you are right: The fact to dedicate all our power to free a decisive battle against a complete mass of enemies is to precipitate our final destruction. But you have been based here not doing anything, but a few attacks of guerrillas, in the exteriors of our fortifications, while they destroy our nation, are as much as being constructing our own tomb. - We needed time - it said Go Rijn- time to modify the pieces of greater importance, and to replace what we lost in Mannenach. - Why? They are not possible to be taken, if it is not dragging them. And that denaturing of Delp are broken all the tracks by where we lead them. - Oh, yes, can be taken. My young Wace friend, has returned to plan a new system, has found the means of which with the aid of the women and the small ones, each one of them takes a piece or two at the most of the small ones. This way we will be able to constitute on the land a heavy battery of arms, it right of perpetual ownership! - I already know it. You have already explained us all this before. I repeat: Against what we will use them. If we went beforehand against any part indicated in possession of lannascha, they do not need more than to separate and to flee of that place. And on the other hand we will not be able to remain during long time in any place, because our members do not have of what eating. Trolwen sighed. - Anyway I did not come here to discuss, terrestrial. I came from General Concilio of Lannach for decirte that the food in Salmenbrok has finished; and also the patience of the Navy is finishing. We must leave and fight. - Therefore we will do it! - it shouted Go Rijn -. See, I with you I will speak to those left without a leader advisors. Without wanting a blow in the head with the door occurred. - Wace, boy, more bond than you begin to pack all whatever we have. Soon we are going to transport it. - Already I heard it - the youngest man said. - Good. You you unite, here, and I will carry out the political subjects, and thus everything will go well, is not thus? - They go Rijn rubbed the hands and soon it remained watching at Trolwen and Tolk. Soon the three began to leave. Wace remained watching, and seeing to him how it disappeared between the fog wall. - Yes - it said thus is since it has been always. We worked and he speaks, Much equality! - What you mean? - the head of the table said to Sandra raising in which it was seated marking parts of the revolver with a small striker pin. A great number of women was working to their side. - What I said. What I ask myself is why I do not say it in its face. I am not scared of that parasite gordinflón, and no longer I hold but all its trivialities and their presence. - Wace gave a general look to the place where they were and to the confusion that reigned in him you do this, you do that, he says, and soon he takes a walk again. When I think that it is eating the food that would maintain you to him you live... - But he is that you do not understand it? She watched to him during a little while. - No. I create rather that you been too much have occupied this time throughout here, to stop itself to think. And before this, you were a man of small works without to have gotten to acquire the art of the government, is not thus? - What means? - it was the echo of Wace. He watched it with eyes tired, but shining and at the same time interrogating. - Perhaps later. Now we must hurry. Soon we will leave this city, and everything must be quick for our march. This time it had found a place for her hands, to be able to do something in the ten or fifteen days terrestrial that took in Mannenach. They go Rijn had requested that all the things - even the materials in excess military, that luckily do not speak taken with them in the first battle were taken by air. This required a certain amount of modifications so that the great wood pieces could be cut in smaller units to be able to unite them an a others if it were necessary. Wace was the one who had fixed all this. But all it would finish in a final chaos of the trip unless it were, a system later to be able to identify each one of the parts. Sandra had been in charge to make marks in the different pieces and now it was painting them, thus to be able to

recognize later them at the moment of the assembly during the battle. Neither she nor Wace speak had long time to sleep. They had not stopped nor to ask themselves why she had to serve the work who were doing. - the old Nich said atheist about attacking Flet such - it murmured Go Rijn -, it is that he has become crazy? He is that we could land in the water and perhaps reunite our catapults? - Perhaps Sandra said. - Its voice was calm -. I do not worry much anyway. Soon everything will have finished because only we have left food for approximately four weeks terrestrial or perhaps less. - We can last two months without eating nothing absolutely at least - he said. - But we will be debilitated much - then it lowered the eyes Yes -. Eric... -? She let his mountain range circulate and one approached next to her. The weak light happened through the fog and fell on its hair, made him shine like very small jewels splashed by he himself. - Soon... nor it will matter what I do... will be a very hard work, needing forces and certain masters that I perhaps do not have... makes lack not even fight, when I am not than a simple arquero more, but a good arquero. The nails of their fingers were white and it made slip on one of the brushes. - So that when this happens, no longer I will eat more. You and Nicholas llévenme to the distant spot. - he does not say trivialities - he with rage said. She straightened herself from her seated position, gave average return and she watched to him fixedly. Their pale cheeks reddened. - Are you who not you have to be stupid, Eric Wace - espetó he -. Yes I can to give them to him and to you although only she is one week extra, when you are strong, when the hunger that you have not allows you to think with the clarity that you must do it, then I will be to my same one also to who saves, perhaps. And if no, I do not have more lost than one or two weeks without importance. And now it returns to his machine. It watched it at great length, and its heart was frightened. Soon it agreed and it returned to his work. And more down the rails than were being opened on places of fresh grass, where Concilio was seated on one of the songs of reefs, They go Rijn was descried heatedly before them discussing. Oldest of Lannach, they lay like Phoenix, against a stone without form and they hoped to him. Trolwen was towards the head that was formed by one double line, and Tolk remained next to the human. - In the name absolutely Desire, we have been - the commander said ritually you leave the SoI and the Moons illuminate our understandings. You leave ghost them of our grandmothers are our guides. Perhaps it does not shame to me of that they flew before I, nor of whom they did not fly either behind me. It let save a sigh. - Good, my officials, are a thing already decided that we cannot remain here. I have brought to the terrestrial one so that he advises to us. You want to explain the alternatives to him to him? A man of white hair of oldest of Lannacha extended his wings and said: - First, head of the Flok, why has had to come here? - Because the commander Has invited to him - Tolk said quietly. - I mean Heraldó, we do not make the words difficult. You know what I mean. The expedition of Mannenach was undertaken because he was he who suggested it. It has cost to us much more that none of the defeats that we have been able to suffer in our history. Since then, I have insisted to him so that our main body remains here, idiot, while the enemy seizes of a defenseless earth. I do not explain porqué we would have to take its advice. The eyes of Trolwen were worried. - It is that your words can indicate that there is some other challenge? - it asked in low voice. An indignation murmur was heard between all the assistants. - Yes... if... if... to let respond to him, if it can. They go Rijn was put red as it seeds it and it began to sweat as if the fog slipped on its face. - the terrestrial one has been defied in Concilio - perhaps said Trolwen- loves he to talk back? Then one seated hoping like the others. They go Rijn exploded: - Plague and condemnation! By million, four million worms boiling in hell! Until when I am going to have to be sunk between stupid desagradecidos? With how many true politicians you have had occasion to treat in this universe? - it moved his fist in the air and shouted: - Hell, Satán and sulfide! This cannot be supported! If you are all so stupid idiot and of as hot blood as for convertiros in suicidal by you yourself, why the old poor man Goes Rijn must understand them to it and mix

itself in your own subjects? You jump, condemned protestant! By Boceo, if you do not let insult to me, I will step on the throats to you! - It advanced like a mountain shouting to him to all of them. The advisor but next to him separated. - Terrestrial... Sir... official..., please! - Trolwen whispered. When it had them to all sufficiently scared, They go Rijn, said coldly: - All the rights. I you say it, condemnation! I give advice you and you squander them cursing to me. But I am not more than a patient old poor man, not like when he was young and strong and full of vigor, no. Now I undergo everything with continuous a Christian resignation and aconsejándoos. "I already warned to you and I returned to you to notice, that you did not have to be first in attacking Mannenach. I already said to you that the boats could come directly against your walls, that these boats were strongest of the Flet. I fell on these two poor knees, requesting and implorando with you who you let to me go to the cities of High Earth, but you did not listen to me. And even so, we still have Mannenach, but the victory we despised it. Oh, if I had wings like an angel I you it had been able to lead in person! You have been in the first plane of the mast of the Admiral at that moment. By mitra of santo Nicholas! For that reason you take my advice, the condemned! No, now you will take my orders. No longer you will retire your words, or I will leave, and separate my hands to you of your works and by my same me I will fix them to return to house. From now on, if you want to continue living, when They go Rijn signals, all you you will jump. Included/understood? It made a pause, it could hear its own asthmatic breathing and the displeased murmur of the people who were in the fields to the distant spot; to the aim humidity of the water would go that floated in the air dampened rocks; he was everything what it was left and everything what could be seen in that world. Finally, Trolwen said with weak time: - If... if the challenge is considered as an answer... we will fix our own subjects. Nobody spoke. - Wants to take the word the terrestrial one? - Tolk asked the aim. Only it had an aspect that he pretended that he could control itself to itself, at that critical moment at which nobody appreciated the importance of the act which they carried out. - Ja. I will say that I know indeed that we cannot remain here during more time. You ask why I retained the Navy and why I allowed Delp captain who seized of everything and laid his own way - other primum Goes Rijn made crack their fingers a con to attack to him directly him is what wants; he knows that that way he could undo to us with greater advantage, since its force is greater and apparently it is not disheartened. Secundus, he will not advance until Salmembroc while all we are here, since we could tend an ambush to him; in addition, remaining here, the Navy has had opportunity to bet its forces gives artillery. Tertius, which desire, to lose somewhat of time while I maintain the factory that we have established arms and that will allow us to do to us with all means of the victory. - What? - it was almost the bark that left the throat of one of the Advisors who forgot the formalities. - Ah! - They go Rijn extended its finger towards its pointed nose and it wrinkled it - already we will see. Perhaps now you think that, being old, a weak one and tired, that almost inspires mercy and that to taste would remain in the bed with hot water bags and a good cigarette well, in spite of that are even a merchant of Liga Polexotécnica to that cannot be discussed. It is not thus? Good, then, I propose that we leave this region and we go towards the north. A murmur extended. It waited for patiently until they calmed down. - Order - Trolwen- shouted order! - a blow with its tail in the duro gave I am accustomed to calm! you are calm, official! Terrestrial, you have spoken to leave Lannach which means that our tribes more still dishearten, we could still reach Swampy Kilnu on time after... saving to our females and our children in the time of the birth. But that would be as much as to leave our cities, our fields and our forests, everything what we have, everything what ancestors belong to those men ours that will work the Earth during hundreds of years to create, to leave the darkneses, and to overcome the jungle, and after all, to become anything. I myself it would prefer to die in battle before to accept such election. It gave a sigh and it shouted: - But Kilnu is, at least towards South him. To the

north of Axan, still there is ice! - Thus it is - it said Go Rijn. - You want that we die of hunger and ice creams in glaciers of Dawrmach? We cannot land much more to the south of Dawrmach; the explorers of the Flet would be insurances to locate to us in Holmenach anywhere. At least that you want that we make the last fight in the archipelago...? - Not - it said Go Rijn- we must direct to us towards some place of Dawrmach. We can pack food and take, at least, the value of ten days of food with us, as well as the armament... it is not thus? - Good... yes... but even so, you try to suggest us that we would have to attack the Fleet, to the boats from the north? That would be an unexpected direction. But to be it a desperate action. - the surprise is what we will need for my plan - said Go Rijn- thus is. We cannot say it to it to the Navy. One of them could be captured in some skirmish and to let know it to the Draconnay. Perhaps it is better than not even I you say it to you. - it is already worth! - déjame said to Trolwen- to know what you try. Much more late... - it will not come out well. Oh, could technically be feasible very well. But politically it is impossible. - Political - it exclaimed Go Rijn- what is then, this time? - the soldiers and the women also, even the puppies - since it will be our complete nation the one that would go to Dawrmach- is necessary to say to them why we do it. Then, the complete scheme as you admit, would go to ruin if one of the people fell in you flow them of the enemy and said what knows, under the torture. - But he does not have porqué to know it - he said Go Rijn- everything what needs to know is, that we will spend a small time gathering eaten and wood for our trip. So only we have left to prepare it everything and to change of place, without saying to us why, or where. - We are not Draska - Trolwen with certain bitterness said we are a free tribe. I do not have right to make a decision so important and to put under it vote. - Hum... Perhaps you could speak to them to them? - it said Go Rijn touching itself his moustaches -. To throw a speech to them, to persuade speaking to them to them of the right that they have of knowing and of having that they must to help. Habíales of which they must seguirte without making questions. - Not - Tolk- said is a specialist in the arts of the persuasion, terrestrial, and has gotten to be able to calculate the limits of the arts. We are understood less with the Flok, now, at the moment it is difficult to be able to explain the things to them since they are cold, hungry, hopelessly, without faith in his leaders, quick to leave it everything, or to run directly to a blind battle. They do not have the prepared moral at the moment to follow anyone towards a unknown adventure. - But the moral can make to it them inculcar - it said Go Rijn- I I will try it! - You? - I am not so bad making speeches, when it is necessary. Déjame that I speak to them. - They... they... - Tolk watched to him. Soon it was ed ***reflx mng with a sarcastic note in his laughter. - Déjale that does it, great head of the Flok. Déjanos to know what, words can find the terrestrial one to speak to them and that can be better than ours. One hour later, if it seated in a table, with his town forming a mass of shades under him, and heard the low voice of Go Rijn that arrived through the fog like a ray: -... I only say, to think what you want here, and what they will take to you: "This throne of kings, this wonderful island, this land of Majesty, this Mars armchair, this other edén, paradisiáco means, this strength constructed by the same nature against the infection and the hand of the war, this happy race... - I do not get to include/understand all these words - Tolk whispered. - Cállate - déjame responded to Trolwen- to hear - it speaks tears in his eyes; it shook. "... This blessed place, this earth, this royalty, this Lannach. The Navy burst in into beating like of wings and whines. They go Rijn continued through the adaptations of the funeral speech of Pericles, "Scots Wháhae" and the Getysburg. At the moment at which it had finished discussing the day of San Crispín, it could have requested to be chosen commander if therefore it had wanted it.

the called island Dawnach lay much more there of the aim of the archipelago, to several hundreds of kilometers to the north of Lannach. Nevertheless, sweetly they flew the Flok, with pauses to rest in sites that some of them already knew beforehand, and was a question of terrestrial days the power to arrive there, and a physical nightmare for the humans who were transported. The memories that Wace could have of this trip were little pleasant. When to the aim it could still on put in the beach at the end of his trip, his legs as soon as they could maintain to him and one was not very well. The High Summer had arrived here also, and although this gave them very towards the north, nevertheless, the air continued being of winter; and Tolk said that never nobody had tried to live here. Now the Flok, wings, wings and wings that lowered from the sky until they darkened it, had arrived at the end of their trip. Black sands, dark waves that reached glaciers and made inflame the throat of a volcano. Thick and narrow trees were extended around low slopes. There were some birds of sea, that went and came from: it gives earth towards waters; on the other hand the hidden sun threw a weak light towards the region. Sandra shook. Wace was attracted before the Vista of the thickness that rose before them. And now that was here, in the last stage of her trip, she tried not to return to eat. It became involved in a blanket, and she closely tightened it against his body. The wind blew with force and its hair floated in the air, contrasting with the color of reefs. To his around they were seated, they took a walk, ten thousand hungry and winged dragoons moved incessantly. Whistles and guttural sounds of cruel speeches, entrechocar of wings, filled the empty air, that blew. While it pathetically closed his eyes like a boy, Wace saw that the hands of Sandra were bleeding. It felt as its heart twisted. Nicholas van Rijn arrived first, heavy one there and grasiendo, meant some words to comfort it to him: - Therefore, of all the demons, now we are in favor here, but soon we will return to our house to take a hot bath. Blessed San Dimas, as of this moment already I smell the air of our earth as if it was to three kilometers! Lady Sandra Tamarin, heiress of the great Ducado de Kermes, dedicated a fantasmal smile to him. - If a little could rest... - she said. - Ja, ja, already we will see - They go Rijn it put two fingers in its mouth and made a noise frightful. This attracted the attention of Trolwen. - You are there! Búscale a cabin or some site where it can put and take shelter. - I? - I said to Trolwen- I must guard by the Flok. - Already you heard to me, idiot head - espetó Van Rijn- now hazlo. You are quick to begin to work - it said going to Wace -. Now reunites á yours, so many as you need to begin. - I - Wace said lying down towards back watches for I do not know how many hours that we separated for the last time and... - They go Rijn escupió - and how many weeks it does that I no I have been able to smoke and not even to drink a small glass of gin? You do not have consideration tiara the others. - He is that perhaps I must do it everything? Why have filled to the Galaxy you that you are there, of things and no of them good? I believe that already it is sufficient! Wace saw Trolwen that lead to Sandra and took it towards a place where she could sleep, forgetting the cold, the pain and the isolation during hours. Then, it struck one of his fists against the palm of the other hand and said: - Very well! But,;qué you will be doing? - I must organize many things, condemnation! First I must see Trolwen about a band of people who destroy trees and make masts and oars. In the meantime, all these devices that we have brought from there, it is necessary to put them on the boats: and also we have we organized for the food and the shelter that we pruned to look for to us. It goes! All this is details. He is not that indeed what it worries to me. Details, for that I rent to people like you. - It is that the life is not nothing else that details? - Wace asked. The small eyes of Go Rijn studied to him during a little while. - Thus he is - said the merchant give desire to also speak you to you, eh? Perhaps you think thus because I am old and weak and I do not support to much the hard trips like this one, like when was young... to perhaps annoys the work you that I entrust to you, is not thus? Now it is very just a short time to discuss and for

meterte all these things in the head. So he sees you learn it by same you - he made crack his fingers now and, to yours! Wace left cursing itself to itself by not to have given to the old pig puñetazo to him in the stomach. But it would do it when the opportune moment arrived! Now not... Unfortunately Van Rijn, had arrived at a position where she was to him at that they watched all lannascha, in who trusted... instead of Wace, that it was the one who made the work. A paradoxical thought was this, no. Taking the subject from the boat, for example, They go Rijn had indicated that an island like Dawrnach, was provided with ice and of glacial, it could give sufficient materials for the construction. Bevelled stones would give form to bájales, to as great boats as any boat of the Fleet in few working hours. The most primitive species of torches, would be used for all the intentions of work, a mast would have to be planted in holes that would be opened for such intentions: It would be necessary to count on the water that, once frozen, would be like a fort cement. The Flok, males, females, old and young would make an enormous force of work for such projects. If an engineer did not appear in such practical procedures: To what extent there was to make a deep hole of putting a mast? The crossbows were necessary? How to be able to make an equal cut in a block of irregular ice of hundreds of meters of length? How to be able to diminish the low parts of the boat to make them lighter? The material era, rather, of little consistency; it was possible to be fortified adding to him a product mixture to him considerably certain unknown until then by the humans and water of the sea finishing in a cement species, and letting to him freeze later on the own boat? But, in what proportions to make the mixture? Truly, there was no time to prove all these things. Of some way, by God and other times guessing it by means of God and other times guessing it, with each one of the elements against, Eric Wace was hoping that all those things took place. And Van Rijn? In what it contributed They go Rijn? The basic idea according to the way to see the things, of all of them was that Wace was the Aladino genius. Oh, had extraordinary imaginative reflections that nobody could deny. But the imagination is cheap. Anyone could say: "What we needed are new arms, and we can do to them by such and such imprecidentes materials". It is an idea of a stupid fantasy that somebody comes to show to them what Wace was imagining for them. Thus, then, having made a slave of his almost engineer, Goes Rijn could take a walk all the day by the environs spending jokes with and discussing with others and when he already had to them to all working, he was coiled in a blanket and, to sleep.

Chapter 17

Wace stayed on the cover of the Rijstaffel and remained watching how his enemy arrived from the horizon of the sky. Slowly, it put the hand in stock-market that it had to his side. Its hand took a bread piece and another one of sausage, was the last terrestrial food that was. During several terrestrial days now, it had stayed with a much more abundant ration that before, so that he could enter battle with something in the stomach. Suddenly, account occurred of which it, after all did not want. After him a square of primitive sailors that had constructed masts of a piece with green wood, planted face to the wind of the north. These ice boats were round, but considerably less than the boats of the Drako; and with an incredible talent for the tyranny, They go Rijn had obtained that lannascha worked under frozen waters of the sea, cutting the bottom of the ice, and constructing boats of pointed form by the base. Now, given the power of the diomedana race, the war of lannascha would be developed on the waves of Arenan. In spite of everything, the most difficult moment, reflected Wace, had not been while they worked heartlessly to finish the boat; the most difficult moment had come later, when they were almost quick to leave, as a result of headwinds. During a period measured in

terrestrial days, thousands of lannascha had been become demoralized under frozen rains, looking for fished and birds to feed their young that starved. The Advisors and the clan of the Leaders said that this was the most important war of all its history: There was no another election if he were not to leave the Kilnu immediately. However, shouting, discussing, even punishing, requesting, promising - and in few cases, suplicando with which he had gained most of the times -, They go Rijn had maintained those beings in Dwarnach. Good, everything was to point! The merchant left a small stone cabin, walked towards the cover, he happened in front of some machines military, and of some hand-thrown weapons, until he reached the arcs where Wace stayed. - More bond than commas - it said soon you will not have opportunity. - I am not hungry - Wace said. - No? - They go Rijn took sándwich of between the fingers of then Wace-, condemnation, I yes that I have! - and it began to eat it to it with great bites. Once again it dressed one double armor, but it had chosen a weapon only for this occasion, a stone axe of great dimensions with the handle of a meter of length. Wace took tomahawk smaller and an armor. Around the humans the Lannascha Navy extended. - They are preparing themselves to receive to us - Wace said. Their eyes watched the extension of the enemy canoes that struggled against the wind. - Delays perhaps that extend an immense carpet since they do in America? I play whatever to you you want that they saw us already many hours ago. Now they send fast messengers towards his Navy in Lannach - They go Rijn took the last piece of meat, it kissed it reverentemente and ate it. But after all lannascha was winged fighters, tigers at this moment, thought Wace. The trip which they had done towards the south them had rested, and the terrain relief had provided to them with means sufficient to be able to feed; and the desire that had of battle had imposed they a new value. Also although they had a smaller ship, probably had more soldiers, still counting on the probable absence of the Navy of Delp. On the other hand, they were possible to be allowed the luxury to make small guerrillas. Their females and the young young were still in Dawrnach (with Sandra that had taken a whiter color and it had been tranquilized). They did not have treasures by which to be able to worry. As only impediment took to the arms and hatred. From clouds, Tolk, the Heraldo, lowered. It did it with the extended wings, but without moving them, planning, reaching the land smoothly, and curving his neck as if a swan one was, to watch the humans. - Goes here all good? - it asked. - As well as it was possible to be wished - it said Go Rijn- are signals of the no Navy in Lannach? - None, still. It would make say you which is the name of the new Admiral which we heard speak to these prisoners, he has messengers crossing the mountains. But this earth is very great this way. There would not be time to locate to him. - Nevertheless - it said Go Rijn -, we must hope to them soon. - Are safe you that we will be able...? - I am not safe of anything, and, now, he returns with Trolwen. Tolk again agreed and beat the air with its wings. - Good - it said Go Rijn- now begins ours, that San Dimas it protects to me! - San Jorge would be a little more appropriate, does not create? - Wace asked. - Perhaps you think thus. But I am too much old, heavy and cowardly one to call to San Miguel, or Jorge or Olaf or to any other of the soldiers of which they speak. I am far better in house with no santo who remembers energetic facts to me, one like Dimas, or my own christian name that is name of travellers. - and also it is the pattern of the salteadores of ways - remarcó Wace. He had wished that its language had not been made so thick and so dry suddenly. One felt anxious... not truly scared... but their knees shook to him as much and "the Father Ours" terribly seemed to him little familiar. - Ja! - it exploded Go Rijn- stuck that blow well, boy. The artilleryman of the part of stern on the Rijstaffel. A shout and the thumb had put average ton of stone in the nearest canoe. The boat shook; her crew shouted and on her a part of the soldiers of Trolwen fell; it had a little while of a mortal confusion and, then, draconnay of that boat had let exist. They go Rijn took to the astonished captain artilleryman by the hands and it balanced it on cover singing: - Du bist mein sonenscheln, mein einzij. Soneneech ein, du machst to mir freulich... Another canoe approached

with a continuous swing towards them. Wace saw its throwing ones of flames and the crew who inclined on her arms and he fell down under the small wall that surrounded the cover by ice. The waters struck the flank of the boat and they threw it towards a side and soon it became to extend on the sea. The water was completely, frozen. Hidden safe from the flanks I read boat, hundreds of lannascha upwards sent arrows, describing a curve on the sky fell upon the canoe. Wace tended next to the cover wall. The one in charge of one of the firearms, seemed dead. Suddenly, on one of the parts of the canoe, one extended desolation and the panic. A voice was heard that shouted: - Death to the front, towards there! The boat of lannascha sank. The canoes of the Drako formed a circle as if they were surrounding a wounded buffalo using all the speed and all the masters that they had in these operations. Converging on a simple boat, they dealt with to approach. They were not, none, inferior in number, and were quick to the assault. In the meantime, Trolwen with one absolute skill in the air, went from a part to another one shooting and using the axe. The canoes of the Drako as soon as lanz is aban to the attack. The small boats were destroyed, set afire and separated to a side as if they were unsuitable by his powerful enemy. By the virtue of being first, in attacking in forward edge, the Rijstafel made little opposition. Everything what there was there was bitten by the catapults, the fire arrows and all the arms. Behind, the same sea burned and formed smoke clouds. It faces, were the great boats. When these sailors and soldiers were at sight of the dragoons of Wace, these began to sing the hymn of the victory of the Flook. - They are a little premature, no? - it shouted from the place where one was. - Ah - it said Go Rijn, from where it was, calmly déjales which they laugh at the moment. Many of them will fall soon, and they will suffocate between the fish, is not asi? - That I create - hastily as if it had fear of which it had made to save his own life, Wace said -: I like this song, to you no? It is looked much like some old American popular song, John Hart, for example. - the songs of the Flook are very well if you yourself you were a Flook - espetó Van Rijn- I prefer Mozart, for example. - I always wished to get a day to include/understand to Bach, before dying, and to the old Johann Sebastián that spoke with God in mathematics. I do not have brain, nevertheless, in this condemned head mine. Perhaps anyway, it requests one more an opportunity to listen to the Eine Kline Nachtmusik. There was a great movement in the Fleet, Slowly and with much care, the boats were leaving the attempt of evasion. They were being organized in battle formation. They go Rijn made rage and anger a full gesture towards a Silbador. - Fast! Dile raises and Trolwen quickly that does not worry in covering to us from the sky against the canoes. It must attack the boats. That to them it maintains occupied, by all the demons! You do not leave are messengers who go from a part to another one until the point from which they can get to organize itself! While the young person lannascha left, the merchant shouted so that everybody could oir to him: - By all the demons! Until when I will have to occupy to think to me about everything? By the good one of San Nicholas, traedme an official, with brain between the two ears, instead of stupid, and I will construct a Mars cathedral to you! You have heard to me? - Trolwen is fighting there above - Wace- protested you you cannot hope that he can think about everything. - Perhaps not - perhaps it granted Go Rijn of bad desire, I I am the unique one in all the Galaxy that does not commit errors. Closely together, the global mass of the boats became a storm when Trolwen gave its opinion. To beat of wings it caused that all that was a reddish chaos. Wace thought that its boat podr ía to happen closely together of all that, but avoiding the destruction. - they are not fighting of an integral form - it said striking with his fist on the wall by all the demons, are not doing it! A Silbador landed taking on its body bleeds frost; there was a terrible wound on one of his sides. - There... Tolk, the Herald, says... to an empty place... a place... where they can attack Fleet - then, the body fell on the cover. Wace stopped taking to the young person cruel in its arms. Oía as the blood were crowded around in its lungs until drowning to him. Finally it died. They go Rijn rectified the position of the vessel in

which they were, a few degrees only; it could not make another thing. But while the other boats began to approach the ice cover, it was possible to be seen that there was an ample crack in its line. If assault of Trolwen had prevented that approached to them. The water was dyed of red, and in her arrows and arcs floated, that indicated as a hand towards the floating castle of the Admiral. - There - it shouted Go Rijn- you end them! Coméoslos for breakfast. A catapult whistled near them and went to give against the wall, grazing its sleeve, and making jump ice pieces consequence of the blow. Suddenly an ignited arrow fell, one of lannascha shouted at the same time. The fire began to extend. This time did not serve anything to throw water, the oil and the masts had become a great torch. Suddenly, They go Rijn saw that the boat Was going to sink and it was mixed with all the soldiers who were on her and within the great confusion who spread, it was forwards and leaning against the wall, with the stone axe and began to issue orders with her in the hand. - Here - express shouted! Ayudadme, band of stupid! Express! It is that you have hairs in the brain? Express before we sink! Wace, directing the crew of artillerymen, who was fighting against a near boat, did not realize of which it happened, more than of a very vague form. Others were quick long before that he. The confusion that reigned in the ship was enormous. They arrived at a little while in that the boats were as opposed to others in a terrible fight; they ran from a side to another one throwing backwards to mans clone gives Drako it that did not know towards what side to go. The trunks that formed the boat crujian. While the Rijstafel moved away, the enemy vessel became an enormous pyre of flames. Now, the ice boat was almost uncontrollable, lead at certain moments by the deepest currents and also by the movements due to the fight that was being developed. But, through the hole that it had extended yet ardor Goes Rijn, the rest of lannascha put in him to protect itself. The flames of the war formed a species of floating monsters, but the wood would be burned, whereas the ice no. Through one humareda enormous and more and more increasing, between the darts and the arrows that went from a part to another one, from top to bottom, on a cover full of death and wounds, but still full of hatred towards the enemy, Wace approached towards the pump of next crew. They were being prepared to set afire another boat as soon as the enemy boat approached her. - Not - it said. - What? - the captain at the same time became towards Wace showing in his face the surprise that made bristle its crest in sample of stupor but gentleman, they will throw fire to us to us. - That we can support it - Wace- said we are very well protected by our walls. Nevertheless, I do not want to burn that boat. I want to capture it. They go Rijn that way passed at that moment raising its axe. It could not have heard what Wace was saying, but, without I engage the clutch, murmured: - Ja. It was on the verge of also ordering this I. We can use this boat to transport our supplies. The order ran throughout all the boat. His, covered slippery it was darkened with armed shades that waited for a new fight. Approaching more and plus the floating ice ship, It approached the other boat that at the same time acquired one more a higher and greater form due to the proximity. Fire, stones, and fights spread by all the corners. The fight was hard, lannascha supported it with enough entereza. Wace sent to a Silbador towards Trolwen to request aid; a flying detachment sent by the artillery of the Draco with arrows. Trolwen had a numerical great superiority. It could cover the sky with his soldiers, doing to hope to draconnay for an assault on the sea. Until then, Wace thought, the Gods of Diomedes had been smiling. They could not support it much more. It followed the first wave of lannascha. Suddenly, Wace thought to reach one of the superior masts of the boat and for it passage between the crowd was opened and began to climb. When alc anzó the top and when had raised his tomahawk and prepared its armor, without realizing it was in the frontal line of the soldiers. The smoke of the boats burned throughout, hurt its eyes; only indifferently it saw the defenders drakonay, that avanz before aban in rows he and towards the highest cover. Perhaps had been redoubled the shouts and the tumult suddenly? A forzudo finger gave blows him in the back. One became and one was with the

glance of Go Rijn. - Diantres and demons! what class of climbing was this one! Better it had been than I had had left down, no? Good, boy, now we are in ours, our own atmosphere. Tolk finishes to me sending a message, the expeditionary force of the complete Drako, is at sight and it approaches towards here, quickly.

Chapter 18

grasped its weapon with force. To his around the winged bodies shouted, they moved and they advanced quickly in all directions. These were mainly troops of the trimming of Mannenach; each one of the ice boats took a quite high number of soldiers, to who, it had taught the most elementary knowledge to them of the earth fight. And throughout the trip towards the south until arriving at the encounter of the Fleet, Goes Rijn and the captains of Lannascha, had exhorted to them: - Never, at no moment, you mix yourselves with the Air Force. You remain on the cover when we approach a boat. The success of our plan consists of the amount of boats that we pruned to catch or to destroy. Trolwen and its swarms of the air will go over us for ayudaros. These ideas did not enter well the head of all the diomedanos perfectly. Wace was not completely safe if this plan not to die it after one hour to have it saying, leaving him to him and to They go Rijn single on the cover while the soldiers sent themselves without a direction determined towards a battle in the sky But he did not have another election, more than to trust them at the moment. Suddenly it threw to run. The noise that made their followers destroyed its brain to him as if it was the emptiness of drums. Wings moved in front of him, very instinctively the desentrenadas lines of the Drako were being opened in two lines. Through the geologic eras the only good thing that it could make a diomedano had been to take by above to an attacker. Wace burst in into the place where they had been. The enemy navigators were decided before these peculiar adversaries who did not fly. Lannascha forgot his to have, wanted to fly but suddenly it was itself struck by three enemy bodies. He fell like guñapo in the sea; Draconnay was sent downwards. Suddenly, they approached a speed possessed towards them. The occasional land troops of lannascha, had taken their armors made by they themselves and that conserved of last the distant one and quickly they were transformed into artificial turtles. The rest waited for the aerial assault. And the arqueros were prepared. Wace heard sinistro whistle that rose after him, and saw fifty draconnay. Later, a dragoon passed near its face, taking with himself a knife. Wace stopped the blow on the armor. This blow fell on its left arm bruising muscles to him. It at the same time sent patadón that catched completely the hard belly of the enemy and saw as this one lost the balance. His tomahawk rose and fell with all its forces on him, oyendo a terrible sound. The diomedano fell as if it was assaulted by a epiléptica disease as a result of his broken wing that had produced him the blow. Wace hurried, the draconiano was hoping to shoot its arc. The object was to capture the artillery of the boat. Somebody from above must have seen what tried. From one it leaves to another one of the boat was possible to be seen the soldiers with arrows of lannascha; but suddenly an organized affluent line of the mass of draconnay approached a great speed towards the cover and when it arrived at her, it planted to them before the main battery of the throwing ones of flames and the balistas. - Thus! - it murmured Go Rijn- anyway, these make things that are not badly absolutely. But now we will see. Suddenly he approached with trote somewhat elefantino, taking with himself his axe over the head; a generous stone piece gives some axe struck to him in the abdomen, an arrow happened clearing the cheek to him, and some darts bounced on their double armor. One approached of a jump towards two winged guards to give spirits them and at the same time it struck with his axe to the air as if it saw imaginary enemies. At that moment one was between the defenders. - Je maintiendrai!-shouted, and approached its head towards next of

the Draco- that God sends the reason - it shouted giving a blow with his axe which Fram approached him, Fram, Kristmen, Krossmjnn, Kongsmenn! - it continued shouting and defying three soldiers who approached him Heineken Bier - he said becoming to fight towards a winged shade that approached to him behind, taking it by the neck. Wace and lannascha approached him. There was an interval of fight, and a noise of broken bones, wings and tails. Draconnay burst in there. They go Rijn one approached towards a throwing one of flames and went to put it in movement. - You aim towards there - it shouted we see if we can sweep them to all, infected heads. One of lannascha approached the military operation that was conducted of ceramics, it pushed with force the ignition wood button, and threw boiling oil. Down, on the cover, inferior, the balistas began to hum, the catapults sang their song military, and the throwing ones of flames did not stop a little while. A part of the men who were in the ice boat reunited next to one of the wood machines, and threw darts to the last ones of the Draco attackers. A female ran towards the superior part of the boat: - It is to our husbands to those who are killing! - it screamed destruidlos! They go Rijn it jumped of the upper deck, and fell to about three meters. There were enemies who prepared themselves to attack to him. Shouting, moving its arms one approached towards the monstrous beings: - You back down! - it shouted in its own language You go backwards! If, it is you create it and you. It is that you want to leave to your children without protection? I like a the young people draconnay. He left that place and he backed down towards a site where it was possible to be protected. Wace left a hollow. Its body was flooded of sweat. It did not have been in much danger. Perhaps, in theory, a female could arrive to be carved up before the eyes of its sprouts, but, that could arrive at this? In any case, Eric Wace, no. He was better to leave and to dedicate themselves to the fight like a horseman. Suddenly, account occurred of which the boat was hers. The smoke was still very dense in the air so that it could see well, as he went by the other sites? Here and there, through a breach, it appeared some vision: A boat was in flames, left; an ice vessel, destroyed, without masts, plenty of arrows that had fallen on him, went to the drift; another boat lannascha that lay next to another boat, and another one more approaching to one than still took on the soldiers. Wace did not have idea of how the fight could go on the sea, whichever small ice boats are spoken destroyed or how many soldiers had deserted, or, caught by the instantaneous attack of the Draco, leaving unsuitable the boats and some enemies. It was perfectly sure - it thought - Go Rijn had said it with enough clarity to Trolwen in the Council, who but the small one, the worse one equipped, virtually out of condition navigation lannascha, would not have opportunity to win to the Fleet. The crucial phase of this battle was not going to be reduced to stones or flames. It watched upwards. There to the distant spot, where its glance could not reach, the sky pretended incredibly calm. The formation military balancing itself from a side to the other, they were so far from which seemed as if darts were dying. Single after minutes its inexpert eye realized situation true. Having to the greater one of its task in the boats, Trolwen was ridiculously inferior in number in the air as soon as arrived Delp. On the other hand, the elements of Delp had been flying during hours unemployment to arrive here; the good individually did not have rested comparison that was lannascha. Occurring to account of this each one of loe members of the divisions, it had his particular advantage; Delp ordered impenetrable masses of men who went to the load; Trolwen used swarms smaller than they moved in the fight, they struck with all his force and they returned towards the boats. Lannascha backed down at the same time, except when Delp tried to send a great number of soldiers to stand out in the boats. Then, the complete force magnificently integrated in the air to the disposition of Trolwen would go to burst in against this enemy group of forces. This would disperse when Delp brought the reinforcements, but already speak obtained its intention: To break the formation and not to allow the free movements in the sea. Thus they continued the things during some limitless time under the sun of the High Summer. Wace was lost to itself

contemplating the terrible beauty of the winged and disciplined death. The voice of volv Goes Rijn him ió to the reality towards the wretch lack of wings of the humans. perhaps - Wide-awake, you are dreaming, as you remain there with the open mouth and breathing with anxiety! Rayos and Lucifer! If we want to continue conserving this boat, we must do I follow with her, by all the demons! You direct the battery here and I am going to say to those men which must do. Thus! - a voice that but remembered the sound of a locomotive by the depth well and by the noise Gave that produced. They had been able to free itself of all the attacks to return to capture the boat and until the crew thrown of her went to meet with the legions of Delp. Now, and, suddenly, They go Rijn took the boat and one approached and it put it in movement. It was approached slowly over smoky waters until arriving at a Draco boat that was before him. Then, as if it had been a spontaneous movement, the arrows formed a curtain, and the crew as much had an Aspect in a side as in the other, like being badly at a moment. Wace continued in its site in the superior part of cover, directing the fire of its arms. Stones, fights, pumps, oil, everything were thrown in an extension of a few meters as if it was a total avalanche. In a while determined, a special brigade organized to extinguish the fire that the enemy had sent. But late it saw one of his new catapults squashed by a stone of two tons, and forced the survivors to raise this stone and to throw it to the sea and to return to the fight. It saw like at certain moments, the crew, acquired a strange aspect, as if they were completely drunk and the bodies both entrechocaban a con others on vessels behind each one of the terrible blows that were sent. And at the same time and yet the rage of the fight was asked in a rincconcito of its brain why the fight did not have more feeling, in no place of the universe, that to be always fighting a con the others. They go Rijn did not have the quality of crew who needed to win that battle like a neolithic Nelson. Nor its specialty either did not allow him to try a boarding against another boat; it was only all his small force which allowed its small force him military, it was to attack this man and to fight against this Other. But, nevertheless, one stayed there with firmness, containing to the men of the crew in the war on which they were insisting, going from a part to other to maintain in the most complete exahustación to the rowers lannascha. And its boat went from a part to another one through the fire storm, a storm of living bodies, until it was almost on the vessel of the enemy. The horns were raised to the air between draconnay, their soldiers sent themselves with all their forces and burst in from BUS places to desengajar the formation of the Fleet. They go Rijn let to them do, watching at his around the masts and the cords that extended around to some kilometers to his. Suddenly one approached towards the next hatchway, he lowered through the aftercastle, and thus he arrived at the main deck. One rubbed the hands and he said: - Aja, we gave a small beating them, is not thus? They will not return to approach any of our boats in a moment! - I do not include/understand, Chancellor - Angrek with an immense respect said we have one more a smaller crew and with less intelligence. It must have approached or, at least, to approach us there. It could to us have swept if we had not left the boat! - Ah - it said Go Rijn. He extended his finger that remembered a sausage but you see, youngster he is taking to the women and to the children al same time that much useful that us can be of great value and other goods. Her complete family, is in the boat. One does not dare to risk his destruction; we could burn to them easily, without remission, in case we did not prune to capture to them. Ja! It will be a morning of much pleasure for all those that are in hell when Nicholas van Rijn arrives there, lives God! - the females... - the eyes of Angrek rose towards the superior part of the cover. Their eyes showed a strange brightness. - After all - it murmured - it is not as if they were our females... A great one, part of Lannascha went in that direction, apparently with a determined intention, but their wings were unfolded and their open tails rigidly. It was a known thing very that most of the most recent soldiers was in this group, more than in other classes. Wace arrived running towards the edge from superior cubier ta. One inclined by the railing, it put his

hands as a horn in his mouth and shouted: - Freeman van Rijn! Watch towards that part, upwards! - In agreement. The merchant put his hand on the forehead to watch, closed a little the eyes, blinked, breathed with force and soon he made a sound as a snore with his nose. One by one, lannascha rested on the bloody covers elevating their glance towards the sky. And a rigidity was pronounced in them. There above, the battle was finishing. Delp had finalized the meeting of all its forces in same a unique mass but irresistible and it had taken to them downwards to all to the time towards the level of the sea. There they met with the crew of the boats that were in battle, boat by boat, one after another one. A party of lannaschas that had been and to such an extent so suddenly inferior in number, did not have election to be able to fly and to leave its ice boat, and were towards Trolwen. Draconnay hic ieron only an attempt of by returning to capture the boat that was completely in possession of lannascha. It cost to them much. The instructions stayed at the moment that had occurred previously; these purely aerial forces, were relatively impotent against an affluent unit defended of the Fleet. Having determined of a decisive way and with all exactitude who would have to attack and at what moment each one of the boats, Delp regrouped its forces and lead a portion of its troops again, to attack the air groups, that already had been increased, of Trolwen. If it managed to make them flee, then, given what it was left of the boats of the Draco but the total of the domination that at those moments they had in the sky, Delp could reconquer the lost vessels. But Trolwen did not flee so easily. And while the naval fight, as They go Rijn had been dictating, continued there down, a ferocious combat settled in clouds. By both parts, as much in the naval thing as in the air, the battle was indecisa. Such era, of an approximated way, a situation of the events, as well as Tolk related to the humans one hour more or less but late. Everything what could be seen from the water was that the Navies, in war of the sky they were separated. So soon they lowered as they flew from a part to another one zigzagging towards inconcretos points, so soon were two united masses of a confused form like two black points that were tightened against a cloud bank. Doubtlessly, threats, shouts, and insults threw an a the others to the wind, but no longer there were arrows. - What is that? - Angrek exclaimed -. What it is what it is happening there? - If it doubts, a fight - it said Go Rijn. Hurgó the teeth with the nail, and struck the abdomen complacientemente. - they were being prepared to the fight, but in the end Tolk sent somebody to Delp and it let him know that they could be entertained in parlam to entar, and, then, Delp acceded. - But... we cannot... you nor can deal with the Draco! He is not... is a foreigner. A murmur of voices that reinforced the feeling of Angrek ran throughout all the Lannascha groups. - this one cannot be talked with a wild, filthy animal as - Angrek-everything said what it is possible to be done is to kill to him. Or he will kill to him. They go Rijn made a gesture significant to Wace that was in the upper deck to which it was, and said in English: - I thought that perhaps we could say now to them that this truce is the only objective of all our fight, perhaps peto is better not to say to it them now, you do not create? - I wonder myself if never they will arrive to admit or to accept this point - it said youngest of the humans. - We will have to admit it, today, and I hope that they do not bury to us alive reason why we have said. After all, we caused that Trolwen and the Council acceded. But then if he is thus they are hard egg heads. - They go Rijn shrank of shoulders we speak now. Now that appears the opportunity to us with more brilliance. This it is the moment in which the letters are put on the table, Ja! You have the nerves sufficiently the temperings to see what can happen.

Chapter 19

Approximately one déc ima part of the boats separated of the general confusion and they met to a few kilometers far. Them some ice boats approached that were

still in use. The covers of all of them were flooded of soldiers who hoped impatiently. These were the vessels of lannach. Another one tenth part approximately was burning, or had been undone and defeated by the fire, the stones until they sank under waters of the Achan. These were the boats of which already nobody had account, left by both sides, both nations. Among them there were small undecked vessels in two, broken, in which it did not have but that great despoliation, or where all the crew was composed by Dacconnay dead. Those that was directed forming a great mass around the castle of the admiral. Of course it was not a group of constituted boats either, and better prepared or formed by equipped canoes or. No crew had escaped to have her losses, and a good number of vessels could be said that they were already unsuitable. If the Fleet could return to half of their force of fight normal to put it in action again they would have much luck. Nevertheless, this was almost three times greater than the units than lannascha had at this moment. The number of males by each side was approximately equal; but with a superior space of load, the Dr aconnay had In addition the ammunition. Each one of its vessels, was also superior individually, better constructed than the ice boats, and better prepared than the captured boats. Brief, drako even had the balance of the power. While they helped to Are going Rijn to put in a captured canoe, Tolk said with certain malhumor: - I in his place it would keep my put armor, terrestrial. Thus nor it would have but that to tie it to me when to truce it finishes. - Ah! The merchant extended his arms of a monstrous way, he occurred blows in the stomach and he was dropped on a seat. - We suppose, nevertheless, that the armistice is not broken. Then I will have been dressing this damn corsé without no reason. What would be worse than a dart in my buttock, I put by witness to San Dimas. - I realize - Wace- added that neither you nor Trolwen take armors. The commander smoothed his skin with nervous hand. - That is because of the dignity of the Flok - it murmured -, these stupid ones are not going to think that I am scared of them. The canoe began to move, its crew inclined on the oars. Lannascha slipped sweetly towards a dark water place Over them watched the rest of the guard, putting whichever enthusiasm could in the demonstration of the flying parade so that it saw the enemy them. There was approximately a hundred. It would not serve anything to mix itself between the iracundos Fleet. - I do not hope that we pruned to reach no agreement - nobody said to Trolwen- can... with a as strange intelligence as the one that they have. The people of the Fleet are exactly just as you - she said Go Rijn -, which you need is more understanding between you yourself, condemnation! It seems to me very well that you kill yourselves, but you do not have racial prejudices. - You say that they are like us? - Trolwen exclaimed. Their eyes enlarged enormously and they put of a yellow color terrestrial sight... - it does not matter - it said Go Rijn- I agree in which they do not have a station in the year to emigrate. And you think that this is a very great thing, of much importance. In agreement. But now I have things in which to think by same me. He closes the tip! The wind raised enormous waves and it crowded around myself with great force. The air was cold, humid, smelling a little to salty life. It was not a little while very easy to die, thought Wace, it last of all, nevertheless, to save to Sandra, while it was tended under ice reefs of Dawnach. It requests by my soul, loved, while you hope to follow to me. It requests by my soul. - It leaves the feelings personal of a part - Tolk- said is much to discuss on our subjects. For example, a tribe with life, so other people's to us as drascha, will have an equally strange spirit. I do not try, attempt not to follow your thoughts, terrestrial. I and consider my friend, but we admit it, we have very little in common. I only trust you because your immediate reason - to survive has been easily comprehensible for me. When I with himself not to follow perfectly your reasonings, can easily think that at least it beams with good intention. - But draska now, how we can trust them? Let us say that one reaches a peace accord. How we will be able to know that they will respect it? They cannot have concept of the honor absolutely, as well as they do not have any concept of the sexual decency. Or although they even try to carry out his júrame cough, is that we could be sure that the

words of the treaty will mean the same for them who stop we. In my capacity of Herald, I have seen many semantic lacks of understanding, between tribes with different languages. Therefore, that will be of the tribes with different instincts? - Or I ask myself... He is that perhaps we will be able to even count we ourself in respecting such treaty? We did not hate to anybody by the simple fact of to have fought against us, But we hated the deshonor, the perversion, the dirt. How we can live with we ourself, if we establish La Paz with creatures to those who the Gods must despise? He sighed and he watched with great agitation towards the next boats. Wace made a face: - it has been happened to you to think, that they are thinking of the same form, the same things as far as you? - it talked back to him. - Clear that they are doing it - said to Tolk- this one is the another most important point in the footpath of the negotiations. Personally, Wace thought, very I will be satisfied with a temporary treaty. Nothing else it is necessary to leave them that they fix his differences sufficiently like so that allows us to send a message that reaches to Thursday Landing. As for me after the message has arrived, they can absolutely be killed and annihilate an a the others without to me she matters to me. He watched the winged and thin forms that were to his around, and thought about the work and the war, the torment and the triumph; yes and sometimes in some laughter or the fragment of a song. He thought about the good heart of Trolwen, the philosophical Tolk, the impulsive young person Angrek; he thought about Bravo and amiable Delp and their Radonix wife, who was much more lady who many human females that he had known. And the small covered youngsters of skins, that are revolcaban between sweepings or they raised between his legs. No, he said himself to itself, I am mistaken. This means much for my, after everything, that this war would have to finish for always. The canoe slid among other boats. Some faces dracco downwards watched imperturbables, towards them. Once in a while some escupía the water. They were all very calm. There was a pile of soldiers extended throughout and a special guard formed a ring surrounding the main deck. In front of the wood tower, surrounded by skins and cushions, admiral T'heonax and his advisor hoped. To a side he was Delp captain with few of his personal guards, had with the habits military, dirty plenty still of sweat and. A total silence extended over them as the canoe arrived and until this stopped before the boat. Trolwen, Tolk and most of the troops lannascha flew over the cover. It was minutes later after many sufferings and oaths that the humans could arrive at the top of the cover where were the heads of both army! They go Rijn watched his around. - What hospitality! - only one small cord exclaimed in language dracco- that tends to him to one from abaje, and that is, hoisting to my poor bones tired towards a tomb that... it would not have to be more than for you. I put to skies by witness, who this is very hard. Very hard! Some times I think about leaving and retiring. Then what will be of the Galaxy? At that moment all you would feel very ashamed, when already outside too much late. T'heonax directed a satirical glance to him. - You were not the guest who better conducted itself of all whatever had the Terrestrial Fleet - she responded - I have many debts with you. Yes. I have not forgotten it. They go Rijn went towards Delp, extending its hand: - Thus, then, she was I who I was right, and you were you the one who you were making all the work - it talked back - it must to me have supposed it. Nobody more than you between the Fleet has as much brain. I, Nicholas Van Rijn showed all my respect to him. T'heonax straightened up and their rigid advisors, somewhat watched surprised towards the admiral whom did not pay attention. Delp shrank for a moment. But later it acceded to give the hand to Rijn and it tightened it with force to the terrestrial way. - That the Lodestar helps me, it satisfies to see his thickness and vile face this way me again - it said you know you it to point that was to cost my to me... good everything what I am? If it had not been by my wife... - We did not mix the businesses and the friendships - ah said Go certain Rijn with soltura-, if, its good Rodonix wife. How one is now and all the small ones? Still they remember to the old Nicholas uncle and the stories that it narrated to them when they were going away to sleep like for

example... - If it does the favor to me - T'heonax with a voice said that revealed his nervousness-we would want if you us allow it, to continue. Who will do of interpreter? If now him agreement, heraldo. - a full glance of then resentment pays attention. Say to his leader who this parliament was allowed by my commander of field, Delp to her Orikan, without sending if it loves a messenger here to consult to me. It had opposed me to it it to have known. One was prudent nor necessary. I will have to make sweep these covers where they have stepped on the Barbarians. Nevertheless, since the honor of the Fleet is pawned, you also have a word of honor in your language, is not thus? Then I will hear what your leader must say. Tolk agreed courteously and it translated to the language lannascha. Trolwen seated, declaring in, its eyes all the concentrated attention. Their guards retired a little, and their hands were narrowed on their arms. Delp moved its feet anxious, and some of the captains of T'heonax watched at far from an embarrassing form. - Dile - Trolwen said after a little while, with a bitter precision that we will allow that the Fleet goes away immediately. Naturally we will need hostages. Tolk translated, T'heonax retired its lips of between my teeth and it was ed ***reflx mng. They are seated here with its small handful of boats undone, and they dare to say this to us? But their advisors, who commanded their flotillas, remained serious. It was Delp that said: - the admiral knows that I have taken part in this war. With these hands, these wings, this tail, I have killed male enemies; with these teeth I have bitten the blood of the enemy. Nevertheless, I say now that it would be far better that we listened to them. - What? - T'heonax was on its awares extremely I hope that you will be joking. They go Rijn also went ahead. - I do not have time for stupidities - espetó - escúcheme, and I will put the so clear things and words that a sprout of two years could explain it to it. We have taken the most essential places from this war and the main points of the Fleet, and if you one does not behave as it must and it reasons properly, we will squash to them. Watch there! - its arm extended widely towards the sea we have boats. Not so many, perhaps, but enough. It will have to talk with us or we will continue fighting. If he is not asi, soon you will be who you will not have sufficient boats. So he métase that in the pipe and he absorbs with force. Wace agreed. Good. Quite good. It was demonstrating that it rather vividly wished to interchange firings and more firings among them or to cause that the soldiers fought a con the others in the air. But what it did not wish was to risk to be boarded, to reject its boats or that seized of them lannach. Because this was its house, the only way in which the culture of these people conceived living. If the boats undid, it would not have enough to be able to go to the fishing either to be able to lodge the fish, nor either places where they could inhabit the groups of soldiers who left alive this fight. It was not more than this. - we will sink to You - T'heonax screamed. One rose, beating his wings, hoisting the crest, and stretching the tail with as much force that seemed an iron bar. - We will drown to each one of which they are of you. - It is possible - it said Go Rijn- but you think that that is going to scare to us? If we left now, we will have finished for always also. So first we will take you to hell with us, so that our shoes abrillantem to us and to take drinks you cold, is not that? Delp, said with certain pregnancy in its words: - We did not come to Achan by the mere fact to love the destruction, but because the hunger lead to us. You were who you denied the right to us to fish, straight that nobody never granted to you. Oh, yes, we also took part from your earth, but it is the water which we needed. We cannot leave at this moment. They go Rijn moved anxious. - There are other seas. Or perhaps we allow you that you fish fish more before you go away. A captain of the Fleet said very slowly: - My gentleman, Delp has said most crucial of our subject. This deserves a solution. After all, the sea of Achan has little value or no for you lannascha. We, it is truth we seized of your coasts, and we occupied some islands that are the source of the wood and of other things that you need. And naturally we wanted a port for single us in Sajna Bay for moments of emergency and repairs. These with subjects of defense and the sufficiency of each one of

us, but a thing so necessary not to live as the water. Thus, then, perhaps... - Not - T'heonax shouted. It was almost a whine. It made them remain in silence to all of them. The admiral shrank, giving small jumps during a little while, and then he went to Tolk: - Dile to your Leader... who I, the supreme authority... refuse. I say that we can make fun of of you and of your ships of toy with small losses by our part. We do not have reasons for daros more explanations. The only thing that we grant to you is that you keep High Earth from Lannach. It is the highest concession than you can hope of us. - Impossible - espetó heraldo. Then it said with all haste which had heard to Trolwen, that shrank of shoulders and watched towards the air. - the mountains do not support to us - Tolk with more calm explained we have eaten of them all whatever had, and that is not a secret for anybody. We must also have Low Earth. And we are sure that we will not allow that you seize of those earth as wants that it is, so that you attack a year later to us. - If you think that we can potters of the sea now, without a loss that also makes hundiros to you, inténtalo right now - Wace added. - I said that we can! - it said angered T'heonax and thus it dried it. - My gentleman - Delp said doubtfully. Their eyes were closed during a second. Then my gentleman said with enough distrust admiral, a fight at the moment would be surely the end of our nation. The few boats that have survived would be the prow of the first Barbarians who are in the islands. - and a retirement towards the ocean would also end us - T'heonax said. Its forefinger extended - unless you can remove to the fruits and the wood that we needed the sea of Achan or from waters that still are not known to us. - That is truth naturally, my gentleman - Delp said. One became and it watched the eyes of Trolwen. They arrogantly watched the one to the other, but with respect. - Heraldo - this said to Delp- dile to your Head. We are not going to leave the sea of Achan. We cannot. If you insist on which we do it, we will throw it and I hope that you are destroyed without many losses by our part. We do not have another election. - But I think that perhaps we can leave any thought of occupation or am lannach or holmenach. We can keep all solid Earth. We can also remove fish, salt, seaweed, workers, meals, stone, wood, dresses and oil. With time he would be beneficial for all. - and incidentally - it said Go Rijn- you could also think about this. If the draco does not have earth, and Lannach does not have boats, more duro for each one of them would be a little to wage the war with the other. He is not asi? After a few years, the commerce and the wealth of each one would have made them independent and the wars would be impossible. So if you agree now your quarrels will have finished and then Nicholas Van Rijn with things will come from the Earth for all. Like Noel father, my prizes also are very reasonable. What you say? - Cállate - T'heonax shouted. It was towards the head of his guards and it gave a push him with one of his wings and indicated to Delp. - It arrests this traitor! - My gentleman. - Delp was thrown backwards. The guard doubted. The soldiers of Delp approached surrounding their captain threateningly. From the lowest cover certain murmurs were heard. - the Lodestar listens to me! - Delp said -, I only suggested... I I know that the admiral has the last word... - and my last word is not - the arrest like admiral declared T'heonax leaving of a side at the moment and oráculo, I prohibit it. There is no a possible agreement between the Fleet and these... these vile... filthy, revolting ones, animals... - it passed the hand through its lips. Their hands were curved becoming claws, that soon happened through their head. A murmur happened through daconnay. The captain was with the extended wings, still maintaining his dignity, but there was terror in his eyes. Lannascha, ignorantes of the words but having a feeling what it happened crowded around together and still took their arms with more force. Tolk translated quickly in low voice. When it had finished, Trolwen sighed. - Hatred to have the one to admit - it said -, but if let to know these words them are truth. Create truely, in serious, that two as different races as ours can live the one next to the other? It would cost much not to break the treaty. They can return to us to rob our earth while we are in our emigration, to take all our cities... or we we could again come once again towards the North with the Barbarian allies, and fight with

the promise of drako. We would return to sink our claws in the throats, of a form or another one in the term of five years. Better it will be than we do it now. Better it will be than we finish of once. It leaves Gods decide them who is right and, who does not have right to live. Almost without realizing it put in tension its muscles, to prepare itself to fight again if T'heonax finished the armistice at this moment. They go Rijn raised to its hand and its voice. It sounded like a drum. It caused that everybody stopped and the arrows were again putting itself on carcaj. - Deteneos! You wait for only a minute by all the demons. I have still not finished speaking. One went towards Delp. - You have good sense. Perhaps we pruned to find some others with brain although they will not be more than those than fit in a spoonful of tea of which they sell my competitors. Now I am going to say something. I will use as the draco language. Tolk, you can be translating at the same time. I have deciros something that nobody in this planet has heard before. I say to you that you, the draco and lannascha are not foreign, are the same and identical stupid race. Wace contained the breathing. - What? - it whispered in English -, but the reproductive cycles... - Matadme to this worm gordinflón - T'heonax shouted. They go Rijn made a gesture with the impatient hand. - Tranquilízate. I am speaking. Thus, then, siéntate, sentaos the two nations, and you listen Nicholas Van Rijn.

Chapter 20

The evolution of intelligence in the life of Diomedes still remains in the incognito; there has been no time to obtain fossils of others eras. But basing to us on the base of existing Biology and on the general principles, it is possible to deduce the millenarian events. In certain time in the tropical of the planet, there was a small continent or very great island, that was a very thick forest, the equatorial regions never know of the long days and nights of the high latitudes: In the equinox the sun remains in high during six hours, to cross the sky and remains hidden during other six; in the solstice there is a certain lightning, the sun is either superficially or below the horizon. In which one talks about Diomedes, these are ideal conditions that will give a permanent, abundant and good life. Between the species of this last time it had a small carnivore of shining eyes. Like some flying Earth animals, and he developed his membranes by means of which he jumped of branch in branch. But a planet of low density, has a different structure. The continents rise and they sink due to speed incidents, and this happens in hundreds or thousands of years. The currents of the ocean and the air correspond; and because of the great axial movement and of the surrounded greater fluid masses, the currents of Diomedes are a warm or a cold more considerable than in the Earth. Thus, then, until in Ecuador, there were radical climatic shifts of position. It had then, a period which the old wood forests that formerly were precious turned great and dry Pampas, the flying animals of those days developed true wings to go from a side to another one But being an adaptable beast, it also began to be prow of other hungry animals of grass that fed itself in all latitudes. Therefore, eating grass and other animals it grew in size. But then needing more eating for a greater body, a variation of the places was necessary that surrounded to them, the sea, the mountains, and the plains; but then by virtue of mobility it remained in a already certain place before to have to walk by new spaces. An individual by itself could this way face many types of regions in its life, him as a prize to its intelligence went. In this period for some unknown reason, the species, or a part of them, the part destined to become something important had to march the Earth where it had remained until then. Possibly a earth landslide broke the original continent in small islands which could not support a so great animal population. Whatever it is the cause, the families and the tribes had to leave slowly towards the North or the South, through a period of hundreds of generations. There they found territories new

and an excellent hunting, but a winter which they could not survive. When the period arrived from the great nights, they were themselves forced to return to the tropical to wait for the summer. He was not because of the place in where their young of automatic action of the birds could reproduce, terrestrial emigrants. This animal was already too intelligent to be an instinctive machine; their customs were something learned. Selecc natural ion of the annual flights stimulated this intelligence more and more. Now the prize to intelligence is a very long period of youth in proportion to the total of the life. Since then it is not the module of the action which counts, each generation must learn all the new things, which has been long time. Therefore, no species can get to be intelligent unless what surrounds to him produces some mechanism to keep the together parents, so that they can protect to their young children during the extensive period of infancia incapable to by itself use or the period ignorante youth. The love of the mother is not enough; the mother will have enough who to do with taking care of the inquisiciones or the works that their children provide to him, without having to understand them to it with gaining the sustenance at the same time or keeping them. The father must help otherwise. But that kept to the father around the mother, once its sexual instinct has been satisfied? The instinct can do it. Some birds, for example, use parents both to take with himself to the young son. But the instinctive impulses are incompatible with intelligence. The father must be a good right to remain there, if the father has the mechanism is simple: Permanent sexuality. The human never is satisfied once to the year. From this fact the family derives itself, and argues the possibility of the prolongation, the immaturity. In the case of the diomedanos, there was emigration. Each tribe had a length and dangerous way to travel every year. He was better to go in company, under some organized form. To the aim of the trip, in the tropical, soon the abandonment was pronounced towards the tastes of each one; but soon the inevitable trip of return appeared, because the equatorial islands did not support to many visitors during long time. Without counting this primitive annual group (since she was not one: instinctive thing, but the fruit of the experience animal) were losses of permanent associations. Defensive bands became cooperative bands. The exigencies of the trip had caused that the females and the males specialized their type of body, to fight, and others like porteadores of the things that took with himself. He was then, advantageous that sexes maintained their companion the year throughout. The animal of permanent family (in Diomedes, as a rule, a family great affluent month, has a complete married clan) with long gestation, of great number of young, the constant change and the challenge to the environs, the fight to look for its foods during the winter with strange bands in strange ways, this animal was a evolucionativa right yields greater time for, to begin to think. Without counting on these reasons there was also a reason to begin to pronounce itself by means of the language, to begin to use the things, the fire, to pronounce itself like organized nations, and these vague and unattainable situations are those that we called "culture". Now, while the diomedano did not have an irrevocable module of reproduction conduct, it tried to follow certain means of life. They were always easiest. Analogous, the human class, is not pronounced by instinct to formalize and to regulate the married things, but the human societies have done it thus almost invariably. He is more comfortable in which it concerns everything. Thus the diomedanos emigrated towards the South to reproduce. But they did not have porqué to do it! When the reproductive cycle exists, they are controlled by some simple machine. Thus, then, for many birds on the Earth it is the increasing measurement of the day of the summer which causes the reproductive period to them: The optical stimulus exerts on the hormonal process that makes react to other sleeping cells. In Diomedes, this is not thus; the cycles of light vary much with the latitude. But once proto intelligent diomedano has acquired emigratorios habits (and therefore it must only reproduce in certain period of the year, if the young person must survive) the evolution will take an obvious course that it causes that the emigration is the governor of itself.

Ordinarily a hunter, with accidental meals of nuts, wild fruits or grains, the diomedano exercises this very easily. The emigration requests a prolonged effort; it must have hundreds or thousands of generations to develop flying muscles, time sufficient to develop itself other adaptations. Thus, then, the effort stimulates certain glands, that they operate through a complex, hormonal to make wake up the reproductive cells. An exception was the nursing female, whose mammary glands secreted a restricted agent. During the great flight, the hormones of each sex were concentrated; there was no time to waste the energy in these dissipations. Once they were already in the tropical, rested and fed the diomedanos they recovered of the lost opportunities. And they did it so incessantly that the return trip did not have any significant effect in its exhausted glands. Sometimes once in the homes, and due to some little usual exercise, some it could feel some desire towards opposite sex. The one that felt it suppressed this, as rigorously as the human it suppresses the impulses of the incesto, and due to more practical reasons: New born outside the station it meant death during the emigration for him and his mother. This does not mean that a great part of diomedanos made this; simply they accepted the taboo, they founded religions and ethical systems and were concentrated in it, nevertheless, doubtlessly the constant attraction during all the year towards other sex had been a race to go conscious for the initial development of sects and tribes. When the diomedanos emigrants found a tribe who did not observe this law that was mainly a moral base, they felt a physical horror. The one of the draco one she was one of the several that now have been discovered by the investigators. They can be originated like groups living near Ecuador and therefore, not needing to practice the trips; but this is still a work what totally is not verified. The clear point is that they began to live more far from the sea than on the Earth. During many centur ias elaborated physical apparatuses of boats and they handled them until these became their means of life. This gave more security them than the hunting. It also gave a home them that could continuously be inhabited. It gave the possibility of constructing and of using those apparatuses them, accumulating great libraries, seated and thinking or debating problems; shortly, the freedom to obtain a true civilization, that no emigrant had accepted in the smallest degree of them limits. On the other hand, this meant a very hard work and a domination aristocrat. This work stimulated the sexuality; but as lukewarm children and foods gathered of the sea had done of their birth I follow independent of the stations. Therefore, the marine nations pronounced themselves like a module similar to the human in the marriage and the education of the children: There was still a romantic concept of the love. Truly no of the cultures could imagine how it could be the other of the same species. And how will be able one to trust the other?

Chapter 21

Simplez ace ideological those that wage the true and dirty war - it said Go Rijn -, but now I leave of a side the ideology and we can of a sensible way and friendly to raise some of the problems of each one of us, he is not asi? Detail had not explained naturally some of its hypotheses yet. Lannascha philosophers had a vague idea of the evolution, but they were weak in astronomy; draco science was almost in the reserve. They go Rijn had been contented to itself with simple and repeated words, drawing for what had to be the real and true explanation of the known reproductive differences. One rubbed the hands and one stayed during a little while in silence. - Thus it is! I have not showed all this with all dulzura. But I cannot explain it so that it would need long time. During the coming times, you think about the others and their defects. You ***reflx mng yourselves of a dirty way of the others. You count disagreeable histories. (I know some that they can be adaptable to you), but you know at least that you are of the same race. Anyone

of you could have been a solid member, of the other nation, is not thus? Perhaps other times come, and you begin to have to interchange some of your aspects of life. Why you do not experience a little eh? No, I do not see that you cannot assimilate still this idea, no longer I will say more. It crossed his arms and it hoped, fatigue, rage plenty and showing the fatigue of the weeks. During a little while and under a red sun and the wind of the sea, the great amount of winged soldiers and captains showed in their faces the echo that had produced in them these words. Delp, in the end said, so under that as soon as could be heard and that it really did not break imperturbable silence: - Yes. This has sense. I create it. After another minute inclining its head towards the rigid stone that at those moments er to the face of T'heonax said: - My gentleman, this changes the situation. Cr eo. It is not as much as we waited for, but it is better than what we had. I believe that we can talk: They will have all Earth and we will have the sea of Achan. Now that I know that they are not... demons... animals, good, the normal guarantees, oaths and change of hostages, and other things of the sort, I believe that we would have to close the treaty of once firmly. Tolk had been whispering in the ear of Trolwen. Lannach commander agreed. - This is also what I think - said. - We can persuade to the Council and the Clans, head of the Flok - Tolk whispered. - Heraldo, if we arrived at a honorable peace, the Council will vote to our ghosts after we die. The glance of Tolk became towards T'heonax, that remained immovable between its cortesanos. T'heonax rose. Their wings beat the air, raising noises as the one of an axe crossing a bone. Suddenly it exclaimed: - No! I have already heard enough. This farce has qua to finish. Trolwen and the escort lannascha did not need interpreter. They grasped with force the arms and they were put in a defensive circle. Their cheeks were tightened automatically with force. - My gentleman - Delp was elevated. - It holds! - T'heonax- shouted already you have spoken too much. - Its head moved from a side to another one -. Captains of the Fleet, already you have heard how Delp to her Orikan pleads for La Paz with the lowest creatures of the beasts. Recordadlo. - But my gentleman - an old official rose, with the hands in protest signal my gentleman admiral, already us have shown it, they are not beasts... is not more than they are different... - Considering that the terrestrial one says the truth, which is safe á certain science, that there is then of all it? - T'heonax watched at only Go Rijn- makes make worse the things. The beasts cannot help themselves among them. These lannascha are dirty. And you want to let to them live? You could... you could deal with them... to enter the cities... you leave your young people are seduced by them... no. The captains watched an a the others. He was like an audible murmur. Only Delp seemed to have the anger to speak again. - I humbly ask the admiral who thinks that we do not have a true election. If we fought with them until the end he also can be our true end. - Ridiculous, that is ridiculous - T'heonax- shouted either they has scared to you or has bribed to you. Tolk had been translating sotto voce. Now tired already, Wace heard the answer of the commander to his heraldo. - If he returns this attitude, a treaty could not be carried out. If he did it, he would sacrifice his hostages for us, is not necessary to speak of ours towards him; to only see us surrounded another one, time in a war. Let us return before i myself he violates the truce. "and there", Wace thought "is the end of the world. I will die I lower a stone rain, and Sandra will die in the Earth glacier. Good... we wanted it ". The admiral could not let march this embassy. Delp was watching around one by one, all the faces. - Captains of the Fleet - he shouted -, I request your opinion. I you imploro who you persuade to my gentleman admiral... so that... - the next traicionera word that is said by anyone will cost the wings to him - shouted T'heonax- or is that you put in prohibition my authority? Naturally, it thought Wace, T'heonax was going to leave with hers; no in this society would make you deny its absolute one to be able, not even Delp. They could not be in agreement with him, but the captains would obey. Silence became greater. Nicholas Van Rijn suddenly broke it with a great shout. The total of the people that was there, watched. T'heonax jumped backwards. During a little

while it was like the milkshake of a wing. - What was that? - it shouted. - You are deaf? - it responded Go Rijn- I I said... - it repeated with trémolo. - What means? - It is a terrestrial term - déjeme said Go Rijn- to see... good, means that you are... - the rest was the obscenidad greater than it is possible to be imagined and that Wace had heard in its life. The captains watched, some took their arms. The guards draco on the upper deck took to the arcs and the arrows. - Matadle! - T'heonax shouted. - Not - the voice of Goes Rijn exploded in their ears. The estridente volume of the same one paralyzed to them -. I am an ambassador, by all the demons! You hurt an ambassador and the Lodestar will sink you to all in the boiling seas. This stopped to them. T'heonax did not repeat its order; the guards retired backwards; the officials remained quiet, removed by these words. - I have something deciros - he continued Go Rijn duplicating the volume of his voice-I speak for all the Fleet, and request that you ask yourselves you yourself, why this being is so stupid. He causes that you stay in a war where both sides you lose; it causes that you risk your lives, your spouses and your children, and perhaps the sobreexperience of your own Fleet. Why? Because it is scared. It knows, that within few years with my arrival here next to draconnay and dealing with me in my company to truely fantastic prices by low it, the things will begin to change. You will do better in thinking by you yourself. You prove the freedom. Little by little its power is come off him. And it is too much, cowardly to live by itself. And if no, you watch. He must have guards and slaves and to all you for mandaros, to prove itself to if same that it is not simply small and stupid and a dirty one, a true Leader. Before he will ruin to all the Fleet will even die to itself that he will lose the rank that has dreamed up. T'heonax said affected: - You leave my boat before it forgets that this is an armistice. - Oh, either I go away, or I go away - it said Go Rijn. It advanced towards the admiral. Its threat reverberated in all the boat returns and will wage the war again if you insist. But I only have a small question that to do before. - one stopped before the real presence and it indicated the nose ago of the prince with its hairy forefinger. Why you have as much hatred to the life of lannasca? If as much hatred you have to them, why tests not to clear it you yourself to it? It returned his back and one inclined. Wace did not see what it happened. There were guards and captains among them, it heard a noise, a noise that came from Go Rijn and then there was a murmur of wings before him. Then it intermingled itself between the bodies, a tail struck to him. Hardly he felt it, his fist jumped, to only strike to one of them soldiers and so that he left the expeditious way him and to be able to see. Nicholas Van Rijn was with both hands in the air while a group of soldiers threatened to him. - the admiral has catched to me - he shouted I am here like ambassador, and these pigs have catched to me. What class of relations is these between several nations, when state heads apresan to the foreign ambassadors? He is that perhaps a apresa terrestrial president to the diplomats? This is incivilización. T'heonax was thrown backwards, escupiendo and cleaning the blood that ran by its cheeks. - Salt - it screamed with strangled voice vetoes of here immediately. They go Rijn agreed: - We go friends - it said we will find other places where they have better modales. - Freeman... freeman, where him... - it approached saying Wace. - it does not matter where - it said Go Rijn of malhumor. Trolwen and Tolk were united to them. The escort lannascha walked behind to a step. They kept a step hurried through the cover, separating of the confusion of draconnay under the wall of the Tower. - You could it have supposed - Wace said. One felt tired, exhausted by all the things except by the weakness and the rage of the incredible madness of its head this race is carnivorous. It is that perhaps it has not seen them how act hastily an a the others when they are gotten angry? It is... a reflection... must it have known! - Good - it said Go Rijn with more virtuous tone, taking his hands to calm his insult must not why to me have catched. I am not responsible by his lack for control or the consequences that are derived from it. But us they could have killed all. They go Rijn did not worry in discussing this situation. Delp was united to them in the railing of the

cover. - I feel much that this must finish thus - it said we could have been friends. Perhaps - it does not finish as soon as seems - it said Go Rijn. - What means? Tired eyes watched to him hopelessly. - Perhaps you see the things more quickly, Delp... They go Rijn tended a paternal hand on the back of the draco. You are a good element. I could serve to me as one like you, like an agent for some subjects in these territories, in subjects of commissions, naturally. But so far, he remembers that you are one that all of them respect and want. If something happened to him to the admiral, there would be panic and uncertainty, but they you would become towards you, to request advice to him. If then they built quickly, same you could be the admiral. Perhaps then we made businesses, does not seem to him? It left become absorbed in thought Delp watching to him and one became quickly towards the canoe. - Now boys - it said you row with all your forces. They were almost already in his boat when Wace saw wings that covered the real boat, then exclaimed: - perhaps Perhaps the attack... has begun already? On the other hand one was afraid that its voice had reflected a somewhat stupid aspect. - Good I have been being glad of not being so near them as for minutes - They go Rijn remained of foot as it had made the trip throughout, agreed complacient-but I think that this is not the war. I only believe that they are revolutionized. Soon Delp will be able to take control of them and to calm to them. - But... Delp? They go Rijn made a face. - If the diomedanas proteins are deadly for us - it said ours will not be very good for them, is not thus? and our old T'heonax friend took a good whiff from mine. All this will show to them that the wild temperaments do not lead to anything concrete. Better it will be than you follow my example. When it is attacked to me, I return the other cheek. It is a good joke, no? Thursday Landing had few facilities in which to hospital it talks about: A autodiagnosticante, surgical and therapeutic a few robots, a few medicines Standard, and a xenovionologístico position that did the times of medical clinic. But an uninformed one of six weeks did not have very serious consequences, if he were strong, and although it was had in hand been in contact, feet, wings and tails, between two very nervous nations on a planet, no of the two could infect diseases. The treatment progresses quickly with the aid of the dioceladina, the intravenous glucose and other medicines. To the sixth diomedano day, Wace had obtained a great amount of fat and now it was in a very weak period, but that experienced certain slight improvement in its room. - It smokes, Sir? - the Benegal young person asked. He had taken part in the exploration from rescue at the moment of the arrival; but he did not have the news of how the events had been developed; at the moment he was literally finding out everything. He offered cigarettes with a very respectful air. Wace stopped, its Albornoze hanging on the knees. One approached. It extended his hand towards I doubt and to the aim it said: - In all this time without to have had tobacco, I believe that there am lost the custom. But the thing is that it would not cost to me much to return to me to put in it. Perhaps it would be better than it did it? - Good, I believe that no, Sir... - Demons, he gives it to me. Wace seated in the bed and absorbed the smoke with certain caution. - I believe that truly I am going to return to acquire all my old vices that I wished on the Earth, and without a doubt some to acquire others. - Good, in... you were going to say Sir to me... as this station got to inquire into which happened to them. - Ah, yes. Thus it was. It was a very simple thing. A thing of children. I realized in ten minutes, as soon as we had a little while of rest. To send good dotac more ion of diomedanos with a written message, naturally, one of the professional interpreters of the Tolk, to help to ask the way them who had to follow towards the Ocean. Was constructed to a great life raft simply, a rudimentary raft that she could take easily. Each one of them took one of the pieces; then they reunited them in the air and they rested in her when they believed it necessary; and also they fished from there. Also it rained enough so that they could drink to small sorbos in the air. It knew that there it rained, since draconnay remained in the sea during indefinite periods, and after all, also it is a planet where it rains. Anyway, for reasons that now do not come to the case,

this expedition was including some females lannascha. What means that the messengers of both nationalities had to leave some prejudices. From now on, this is going to change its history more than anyone of the impressions that we, the terrestrial ones, have done by the simple fact that they have flown through the Ocean in a single day. Thus, then, it is a safe thing that the beings who have carried out this trip will comprise integral and gives great importance in the elements of both cultures; but, however, this is a thing that corresponds to Liga deciding it, and not to me. Wace made a gesture inexpressive. - Once we saw that they had gone - the only thing finished - who we could make era put in the bed and hope to us. Later, the first days no longer we felt much. The appetite had disappeared. The cigarette with a somewhat strange aspect was smoked. It was being annoying to him. - When I will be able to see the others? - it asked - already I am enough hard like so that they bother to me. I need company, condemnation! - Without it serves as commentary - Benegal- said I believe that Freeman van Rijn said something similar...: an uproarious one by all the demons of hell! - and it was sent towards the corridor and it thinks that it will come to visit to him today. - Then, it vetoes - Wace with certain sarcasm said you are too young to hear these things. We were done brothers of blood when facing together the death, brandishing our arms, and many things more, so we will have to hold a meeting now. It was put at the same time of foot that the boy left the room. At that moment, They go Rijn appeared in the threshold of the room. They go Rijn had a different aspect completely; he was not so heavy; one leaned in a cane with silver head. But its curly hair was shining, and their moustaches and beard demonstrated he adjustment to that they speak put under; its shirt was white and impeccable; their legs, however, maintained to him with all the power; it took to a diamond in each one of his hands and a chain of silver around the neck, able to anchor a destructive boat. It had in his mouth a pure cigarette and a hand great sándwich: - So already you are again still on. Good boy! The only means to be are well not to let themselves squash, as has said the doctor to me of nerves who has visited to me - extended its forefinger with indignation is that that doctor has been believed who I am going to hold all along here with his sinapismos that she wants with the amount of money that costs to me hourly that I remain here? How many things I will not be able to do if I arrive at the Earth and my company before the news arrive to them from which Nicholas van Rijn still remains alive? Indeed I have been discussing with the engineer of the station in which we were saying to him that first that it must do is to use the head and at the same time that if my spaceship is not quick to leave tomorrow these places at noon, will have them to do with me. So that you will return to the Earth with us, he is not that? Wace did not answer immediately. Sandra had followed the merchant to the room. She lead a wheelchair, and had a so white and weak aspect that the heart of Wace was altered. Its hair was a pale cloud on alm ohadón that it had supported his head. It gave the aspect of which the tact would be cold. But their eyes had much vivez, immense, the infinite brilliance of the lukewarm Earth seas; and she, smiled to him. - My lady - it whispered. - Oh, comes she here also - an apple of the fruit one said Go Rijn choosing that was next to Wace- we are going to continue our interrupted trip, perhaps, without so many emotions in our trip. - Put a lewd glance on her these emotions we will reserve them for later on the Earth, when we have returned to normality, he is not that? - If my lady has the force sufficient as to travel - Wace exclaimed. One seated, his knees could not have to him of foot during long time. - Oh, if - it murmured nothing else is to follow the diet that has been prescribed to me, to rest much. - worse Things can do you you exclaimed Go Rijn, finishing the apple and taking an orange. - it is not a very advisable thing - Wace- protested we lost many crew members when it cruise of the air fell on waters of the Oceans. It would not have... - Nor a simple maid to take care of to me? - Sandra straightened up nervous, but it maintained his genuine amiability after all the experiences that we have happened I must forget what we did and what we carried out, and to be so correct and to be so formal with you Eric?

this would be the most idiot thing of the world, when we have scaled together hills of the Salmembrok, is not thus? and when we have passed so many difficulties the one next to the other. The pulse of Wace was accelerated. They go Rijn, throwing to the ground the skin of the orange, said: - With a little luck, the good Gentleman, we can send much money, if it is His will. I cannot know each one the men of the Company, as promising young people as you and that they entertain themselves in small trips of the space like this one. Now I want to take to the Earth and to look for for you a wage and a work like which it agrees to him. If she wanted to remember that morning upon the Oborch mount, Wace thought, by its own hombría, could also remember less pleasant things and mention them in level words. It was the moment Was still very weak to rise. A little was shaken, but it got to find the glance of Go Rijn and said with voice lasts and rage flood: - Indeed, that is the way easiest to reach the salvation of its own responsibility. Cómprela! Sobórname with any thing to forget as Sandra seated without no class gives shelter in a room would go, until of exhausted DES May and as it lately gave the rest us of food that it had left... as i myself I worked and I forged in my brain and of total heart, to be able to leave that place in which we faced to win a battle. No, it does not interrupt to me. I already know that you also have taken part in it. You fought during the naval fight because she did not have another election, did not have no place where to hide. You found a dirty and disagreeable way to have the obstacles and, disadvantages that appeared to us in denied elaciones of La Paz. You have talent for this class of things. And you also gave some suggestions. I admit everything to it. "But, why it served? All that served to say to me: "Beam this"! Now it is necessary to construct this. I had to do it without no class of human aid, and with equipment of stone, another age. I had to design, At that moment any stupid idiot one even could have said to me: "Llévame to the Moon" only made lack brain to be able to make it! "Its leadership, was simply transformed to take a walk from a part to another one, chatting and discussing, politiqueando, eating like hipopótamo, while Sandra died of hunger in Dawnach, nevertheless, you were the one who took all the credit of the subject and now you she thinks myself that I am going to return to, the Earth, to seat to me behind a good armchair and to pass to me the rest of my life crossing to me of arms and being calm while you to char it with loa others. He is not thus? - he is already worth! I cannot prevent that you hate the society, but can throw to him of my side. You can take the then part that agrees to him and... Wace saw how Sandra watched to him, burdens, and that with the eyes requested to him it stopped. - I go away - he finished. They go Rijn one had swallowed the orange and he returned to his sándwich during char it of Wace. Now relamía the fingers, inhaled with force its cigarette, and said with certain kindly air: - If it thinks that I have taken the way easiest to work, she is that you are very optimistic. I am offering him a work of importance, not for no reason but because I believe that you can make it better than ualquiera c on the Earth. Him promissory note which the work is worth in himself. And I assure to him that you will work for which I pay to him. Wace made a face. - He continues and if he wants to insult to me in public if he wishes it - he said Go Rijn- but now I am going to go to the Earth and to find me who was the one that put the pump on the cruise and I will take care of myself of him. At the same time I will take care of which my small Italian me of sándwichs like which I want. Death and dynamite, this people want to end my bones killing to me of hunger. - a sign Did and it separated of them in friendlier tone. Sandra approached its wheelchair and put its hand on the one of Wace. It was a lukewarm, slight tact like a leaf in October, but it burned. As if the voice came from very far, he heard that he said to him: - He hoped that this arrived, Eric. It is better than you include/understand it now. I, that I was born to govern... my complete life has been a government, he is not asi? I know of which I am speaking. I know that there are many individuals that are heads of expeditions but that do not have talent nor to indicate the way that must make follow their people. If. But this one is not one of them. Without him, you and I would sleep in the

death over the sea of Achan. - But... - you complain to You which he made you make the things hardest and of than he used your talent, he is not asi? Clear that he did it. It is not the work of the directors doing the things by themselves. Its work consists of ordering, persuading, directing, bribing, even, even that, causing that the others do as much what is due to do, if they think that it must or that does not have to become, if is possible or no, is the work of a leader. You say that it went discussing, speaking all along, making jokes, and other things to make an impression to the native ones. He is not that? Naturally! Somebody had to do it. We were monsters, foreigners who we were going to even suplicar to them. Perhaps you or I could begin like deformed beggars and finish being like kings? "You say that it bribed, who lay, that killed, that politiqueó, that killed several to lay way. Yes. I do not say that it was right. But I do not say either that it recreated in it. Perhaps but you can say that there was another way by which to be able to save our lives and power to return to the Earth? Or, perhaps, to even cause that those people could live peacefully like whom they have? - Good, good... - the man watched at the distant spot through the window. He thought that it would be a very pleasant thing to be able to live in the interior, about the battered Earth horizon. - Good, perhaps - each word said he to the aim silabeando I... I believe that I was too severe. But, anyway, you know that we also played our role. Without us, he... - I create, that without us, it had found some other way to return to house - it but without him interrupted, no. She shook the head. Its face was put red of rage and in such a way that nor the light of the sun of the outside could disguise it. It thought, in a sudden reflection: After all, she is a woman, and the women live more for the next generation who what we can live the men. In addition, she does it of one more a more special way, since the life of a planet can exert influence in the children who she has, and she is the purest and significant aristocrat in of the word. The one that he is the father of the next Duke of You decrease, she can be old, heavy, without no attractive, and unconscious, incapable one to see it like any thing if not like a simple episode. Nothing matters that the woman sees him like a man. Of course, a day I will have much to be thankful to him to both. - I... - Sandra took a somewhat confused air. Its glance seemed to want to formulate an unexpected request I believe that it will be better than it goes to me and it lets to you rest - after a little while of silence it continued -: it is not as strong as it says. To perhaps it needs me.

The End