

THE WIZARD

BY H. RIDER HAGGARD.

AUTHOR OF "SIR," "ALLAN QUATERMAIN," "KING SOLOMON'S MINES," ETC.

CHAPTER XXI.

HOKOSUA IS LIFTED UP.

"What would you?" asked Hokosua of the herald as he halted a short space east from the wall.

"My master, the Prince Hafela, desires to treat with your master, Nodwengo. Many men have fallen on either side, and if this war goes on, though victory must be his at last, many more will fall. Therefore, if any plan can be found, he desires to spare their lives."

"Now Hokosua spoke with the king and answered: 'The king of Hafela come beneath the wall, and will talk with him.'"

"Not so," answered the herald. "Does a buck walk into an open pit? Were the prince to come here, it might chance that your spears would talk with him. Let Nodwengo follow me to the camp yonder, where we promise him safe conduct."

"Not so," answered Hokosua. "Does a buck walk into an open pit? Set out your message and we will of our spears."

"I am but a common man without authority, but I am charged to make you another offer, and if you will not hear it, then there is an end. Let Hokosua advance alone to that flat rock you see yonder, and there he shall be met, also alone, but one having power to talk with him, namely, by the lady Noma, who was once his wife. Thus they can confer together midway between the camp, and in full sight of both of them, nor, no man being near, can he find cause to be afraid of an unarmed king. What say you?"

"I think it well that you should not go," said Nodwengo. "The offer seems fair, and the stone is not out of reach of your spears. Still behind it may lurk a scheme to kill or capture you, for Hafela is very cunning."

"It may be so, King," answered Hokosua. "Still, my heart tells me it is wisest that I should do this thing, for our case is desperate, and if I do it not that may be the cause of the death of our king. I am a man, at the worst I am but one man, and it matters little what may chance to me; nor shall I come to any harm unless it is the will of heaven that it should be so, and be sure of this, that out of the harm will arise good, for where I go there the spirit of the Messenger goes with me. Remember, that I am a man, and you are a king. I will not speak of my own wisdom. Therefore, let me go, and we will return after the matter is done. I have no trouble about the matter, for thus it will be fated to some great end. Above all, though I have heard of the king's treachery in the past, do not dream that I betray you, keeping in mind that so to do would mean to betray my own soul, which very soon must find its account in death."

"As you will, Hokosua," answered the king. "And now tell those rebel dogs that are on these rocks that I have spoken with them; that they withdraw across the mountains by the path which their women and children have taken, leaving this land free to the king, and let them be gone against us. If they will do this, notwithstanding all the wickedness and slaughter they have done, I will accept their offer, and take the terms that he offers to you—namely, to turn this very night and begone from the land without arms or hindrance. Will you receive my gift, Hafela?"

"What will happen if I refuse it?" asked the prince, slowly. "Now Hokosua looked at the dust at his feet, then he gazed upward, searching the heavens and answered: 'Did not I tell you yesterday? I think that this will happen. I think—who can be quite sure of the future, Hafela?—that the king will go to the mountains, and tomorrow night will be lying fast asleep about this place, with jackals for your bed-fellows.'"

and charged, driving them back to their positions. But the king's men had the start of them, and had taken shelter behind it, whence they greeted them with a volley of spears, killing ten and wounding twice as many more.

"Now it was Hokosua's turn to laugh, and laugh he did, saying: 'My taking is well paid for already, Prince. A score of your best warriors is a heavy price for the carcass of one weary and aching man. But since I am here among you, captured with so much pain and loss, tell me of your courtesy if I have been brought to you.'"

"Then the prince shook his spear at him and cursed him. 'Would you learn, wizard and traitor?' he cried. 'We have sought you because we know well that while you stay yonder your magic counsel will prevail against our might; whereas, when once we hold you fast, Nodwengo will wander to his ruin like a blind and moonstruck man, for you were to him both eye and brain.'"

"I understand," said Hokosua, calmly. "But Prince, how if I have left my wisdom behind me?" "That may not be," answered Hafela, "since even a wizard cannot throw his spells into the heart of another from afar."

"Ah! you think so, Prince. Well, ask Noma yonder if I cannot throw my thoughts from the land without arms or hindrance. I have not chosen to do so, having put aside such spells. But let it pass, and tell me, having taken me, what is it you propose to do with me? First, however, I will give you for nothing some of that which you seek." "I will give you," said Hokosua, "for nothing some of that which you seek. I will give you, for nothing some of that which you seek."

"What will you give me?" asked the king. "I will give you, for nothing some of that which you seek. I will give you, for nothing some of that which you seek."

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leave me, for night by night they solenn at my side, tormenting me with terrors. He has told me that through my mouth that spirit whom he lives in, in my body prophesied that he should be lifted up above the people. Let the prophecy be fulfilled, let him be lifted up, for then, perchance the ghosts will depart from me, and I will win peace and sleep. Also, thus alone can you hold him safe and yet shed no blood."

"You it so," said the prince. "When we plotted together of the death of the king and as your price, Hokosua, you bargained for the girl whom I had chosen to wife, did I not warn you that this witch of many words who holds both of our hearts in her little hands, should yet wound you to death and mock you while you perish by an end of shame? What did I tell you, Hokosua, when he heard his fate, Hokosua bowed his head and trembled a little. Then he lifted it and exclaimed in a clear voice: 'It is true, prince, but I will add to your words. No soldier has told of the contents of the scrolls of the People of Fire as this, the last stand of Nodwengo against the thoughtless Hafela. Now all the shouting had died away, for the men were left where-with to shoot, only from the gloomy place of battle came low groans and the deep sobbing of warriors gripped in the death-bug.'"

"Light on! Light on!" shrilled the voice of Hokosua on high. "Let the skies are open to heaven, and let me see the impia of heaven sweep down on the head of the king!" They dashed the sweat from their eyes and looked forth, and as they looked, the gloom was lifted, and in the golden glow of many-starred lights, the king and the legions of heaven indeed, and the regiments of Nodwengo rushing round the bend they reached the top of the cliff, and with heads held low as if in prayer, they stood with the bolles of the living, for the wounded, the old men and the very women pined themselves there in the place of the storm. No other sign was told of the contents of the scrolls of the People of Fire as this, the last stand of Nodwengo against the thoughtless Hafela. Now all the shouting had died away, for the men were left where-with to shoot, only from the gloomy place of battle came low groans and the deep sobbing of warriors gripped in the death-bug."

"Back to the kopple," he cried, "there to die with me! I am not strong for us, and lost is this my last battle and the crown I came to seek." They obeyed, and all that were left of them, some 10,000 strong, they ran to the kopple and formed themselves upon it, ring above ring, and here the soldiers of Nodwengo closed in upon them.

"Now when she heard these words Noma shrieked aloud, for a sudden she felt that the power of the will of Heaven, from which she had been freed by him, had once more fallen upon her, and that come what might she was doomed to obey his last command. Again she heard the soldiers' cheer, and in the darkness they bound him fast there upon the lofty cross. Then they descended and left him, and they departed with them from the trees. But this they could do, for always she broke from them screaming and fled back into its shadows.

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have seldom fought before, and with them fought the women and even the children. They were few, and the foe were still many, but they listened to the urging of him whom they called their king, and they stood as one man, and they held their ground, and still they held their own. Twice portions of the wall were torn down, but they filled the breach with the corpses of the dead, and with the bolles of the living, for the wounded, the old men and the very women pined themselves there in the place of the storm. No other sign was told of the contents of the scrolls of the People of Fire as this, the last stand of Nodwengo against the thoughtless Hafela. Now all the shouting had died away, for the men were left where-with to shoot, only from the gloomy place of battle came low groans and the deep sobbing of warriors gripped in the death-bug."

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THE ADVANCE AGENT OF HEALTH... SAFE... COCAINE... MARIJUANA... DEAFNESS & HEAD NOISES CURED...

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The following proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, as hereinafter set forth in full, are submitted to the electors of the State of Nebraska, to be voted upon at the general election to be held Tuesday, November 3, A. D. 1896.

A joint resolution proposing to amend sections two (2), four (4), and five (5), of article six (6) of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, relating to number of judges of the supreme court and their term of office.

Be it resolved and enacted by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska: That section six (6) of article six (6) of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska be amended so as to read as follows:

Section 2. That the supreme court shall until otherwise provided by law, consist of five (5) Justices, a majority of whom shall be necessary to form a quorum or to pronounce decisions. It shall have original jurisdiction in cases relating to revenue, civil cases in which the state shall be a party, mandamus, quo warrantu, habeas corpus, and such appellate jurisdiction, as may be provided by law.

Section 4. The judges of the supreme court shall be elected by the electors of the state at large, and their term of office, except as hereinafter provided, shall be for a period of not less than five (5) years as the Legislature may prescribe.

Section 5. At the first general election to be held in the year 1896, there shall be elected by the judges of the supreme court one of whom shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, and each general election thereafter, there shall be elected one judge of the supreme court, and each judge shall hold office for the term for which he was respectively commissioned.

A joint resolution proposing to amend section thirteen (13) of article six (6) of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, relating to compensation of supreme and district court judges.

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Section 1. That section twenty-six (26) of article five (5) of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, limiting the number of executive state officers, be amended so as to read as follows:

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A joint resolution proposing to amend section eleven (11) of article six (6) of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, relating to increase in number of supreme and district court judges.

Be it resolved and enacted by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska: That section six (6) of article six (6) of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska be amended so as to read as follows:

COCAINE... MARIJUANA... DEAFNESS & HEAD NOISES CURED... NOTICE OF THE SITTING OF THE CITY COUNCIL AS A BOARD OF EQUALIZATION...

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