

CHRONICLES OF AK-SAR-BEN



B. F. THOMAS, THE CHANCELLOR. HENRY EHRENFORT, WHO SAVED MANY LIVES. LEROY LUCAS, WHO LED THE NEOPHYTES.

journeyed, and they were greeted by the people with great joy, so that they were exceedingly glad that they were alive.

In the tenth month of the year did the king make a mighty festival, and with music and the sounds of rejoicing did he and his train of warriors and nobles enter the city of his palace.

From afar off did the great caravans journey to the king's city, and the multitudes that encamped around about the citadel were without number. For the fame of Ak-Sar-Ben had gone abroad, even to the uttermost corners of the earth, and from all these places did the dwellers of the earth journey to see the glories and the wonders and the magnificence of the king, and partake of his goodness. So that the capital city of the king was overtaxed, and it was like all the barter they did make with the strangers. Even to the uttermost parts of the earth did the merchants of Quivera send their ships, and the goods of the kingdom were known of all men everywhere. In his season did the king make a great festival, so that even the greatness of his fathers was surpassed, and to it did come all the multitudes from the ends of the earth, and their numbers were without end. And they blessed the name of the king and called him greater than all other kings, for his glory was that of all others and then some, and he was a puissant man and wrought well in all things. Peace was with the land, and the palaces of the king and his nobles and counsellors were alight with much magnificence, and in the market places there was no night and no day, but one time of exceeding great joy unto all mankind. And when the feast was ended on the sixth day the king slept with his fathers, and after him came Ak-Sar-Ben VII.

AK-SAR-BEN VII reigned over the land in peace and wisdom and his days were full of joy for all the people. Under his goodness the earth did yield of its bounty to all, and the harvests were exceeding rich in all the fruits of the field and of the vine. And in the capital city of the king was much rejoicing, for the Builders were busy, and many people did come there to traffic at the market place, and all the money changers were active, and the fame of the kingdom and its ruler and the wealth of its people filled all the kingdoms of the earth, and great was the name of Ak-Sar-Ben and of Quivera throughout all the world. In the tenth month of the year the king did make a feast and a festival unto all his people and to all the sojourners in his kingdom, and to all the nations of the earth. And it was as was written of yore, beyond all that any king of his line had accomplished, so that all who did see did marvel much at its glory and magnificence. And when the king and his men of war and his counsellors, and his nobles, and his wise men had entered the city from the palace, it was with such splendor that no man might look thereon and not be stricken by its wonder. Even unto the evening of the sixth day did the feasting and the rejoicings continue, and, as they were seeking their pleasure, that Ak-Sar-Ben VIII was crowned king and ruled over Quivera.

UNTIL Quivera came many wise men and the great rulers of the kingdoms round about of the land ruled over by McKinley, and inquired for Ak-Sar-Ben VIII, for the fame of his goodness had gone through all the land. And these did marvel exceedingly at what they saw, and were filled with wonder at the richness of the king and the glory of his reign. His people did have more than those of any other kingdom, so that many did come to Quivera, that they might serve under Ak-Sar-Ben VIII and be numbered among his people and his men of war. And in the tenth month of the year, at the fullness of the harvest, he gave a great feast, as was the custom of those kings that did reign before him, and his splendor and magnificence were shown to all mankind. Him that is called Roosevelt, and also is called Teddy, did sit on the seat in the high place of the land, whereon had sat McKinley, and un-

der him did all the world wax fat. And when the king did give his great feast it was sent abroad that Teddy would come with his own eyes to see the wonders of Quivera, and a palace was prepared for him, that he might be given much honor. Behold, while he was even on his way did he fall so that he brake the skin that lieth over his shin bone; and the omen was such that he visited not Quivera, nor did he see the splendor of Ak-Sar-Ben VIII. He did send messengers with words of love and did promise that he would come again. And Ak-Sar-Ben IX was crowned king.

SUCH was the greatness of Quivera under the wisdom of Ak-Sar-Ben IX that its like had never before been seen, and Samson was never idle from receiving the caravans and deputations of those that did come to pay tribute and do obeisance at the court of the king. And many were instructed in the ways of Ak-Sar-Ben and the palace was thronged with knights, the most goodly number that the king had ever known. And in the capital city of the king was there much building of palaces for the traders and for the nobles of the land, and for those that did come to cast their lot with the people who served under the king. So that when the king gave his feast, after the fashion of his fathers, it was a time of great rejoicing and the people all said with glad acclaim, How great is Ak-Sar-Ben, and how mighty are Samson and his valiant knights! And while Ak-Sar-Ben IX yet sat upon the throne did come Teddy, who is also called Roosevelt, and he was welcomed at the king's city with much noise and great shoutings by the multitude that did assemble. For it was in the seed time of the year and the fields were not yet all planted, but Teddy did see that the kingdom is a mighty kingdom, and the king and his wise men are great in the land. Then came to pass that Ak-Sar-Ben X did sit on the throne.

AK-SAR-BEN X did rule over the land with prudence and the peace of his fathers did abide with all. And the harvest was bountiful and the king's feast was such as did show forth his splendors and the glories of his possessions. And he was followed by a great train and all the people did rejoice in his reign. And after him came Ak-Sar-Ben XI, whose name is also called the Builder, for he did cause to be constructed many magnificent palaces throughout the capital city, and through all his realm, that men might dwell therein, and his people did him much honor. The fields did return even a greater yield than had ever been known, and the fruit trees and the vines, and the cattle and the sheep and the swine were more than ever before, and the wealth of Quivera was the wonder of all who did learn thereof. And when he had served the days that were allotted to him and while yet there was peace and plenty in the land, he did give a great feast at his place, on the sixth night of the week, and after him reigned Ak-Sar-Ben XII, who continueth even unto this day.

Such is the glory of the Kingdom of Quivera and the magnificence of the king's court that none may tell thereof and say all. Even as one king surpasseth another in wisdom and might, so hath Ak-Sar-Ben XII surpassed all that did go before him. He hath builded, or caused to be builded, such palaces as exceed those that were constructed by his father, who was also called the Builder. And the wealth of the land is even greater than that which was told of by the wise men in the days of his fathers. His strong men are mightiest, and Samson is proud in his greatness, and a great feast that shall exceed any that ever was given is prepared by the king, that all who will may come and partake thereof. In Omaha, which is the center of all Quivers, and wherein doth dwell the king, for it is his capital city, and there is set his citadel and his palace, have the people made ready for the coming of the multitudes and the rejoicing shall be such as the land never knew.

(Here endeth the scroll of the Chronicles of Ak-Sar-Ben.)

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