

ONCE UPON A TIME, A
LONG, LONG TIME AGO,
BARSOOM WAS *ALIVE*.

MY GRANDFATHER, JEDDOK OF
HELIUM, WOULD TELL ME ABOUT
THE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS OF
EPHESIUM, THE FLOWERING
PIMALIA BUGHES, THE SWAYING
SKEEL AND SORAPUS TREES.



EPHESIUM WAS A LOST CITY,
ONE OF MANY IN BARSOOM. OLDER
THAN THE ANCIENT CITY OF HORZ,
ONCE RICH AND POWERFUL, WHEN
THE OROVARS RULED OUR WORLD.

BUT WHAT MADE
EPHESIUM SPECIAL
WAS THEIR ABILITY
TO CREATE *WATER*.



WE HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT TECHNOLOGY, AND NOW THERE ARE DESERTS INSTEAD OF OCEANS.



OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS, THE OCEANS DRIED UP. THE CITIES FOLLOWED THE RECEDING WATERS.



NOW WE FIGHT WARS OVER WATER.

The Royal Library of Lesser Helium

The Past.

RUBBISH. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT THOSE ARE SIMPLY FAIRY TALES YOUR GRANDFATHER TOLD YOU, PRINCESS.

LOOK AROUND YOU. THIS LIBRARY CONTAINS THE WRITTEN HISTORY OF OUR PLANET FOR THE LAST 100,000 ORDS.

THERE'S NOT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE THAT EPHEYSIUM EVER EXISTED EXCEPT IN THE MINDS OF ARTISTS, POETS AND DREAMERS.

MASTER DALIS, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?

BARGOOM IS DYING AND HAS BEEN DYING FOR CENTURIES.

EPHEYSIUM IS A LEGEND FOR DREAMERS, NOT SCIENTISTS.

BUT LOOK HERE, MASTER. WHAT ABOUT THE WRITINGS OF THE LOST SEA OF KORUS. IT MENTIONS EPHEYSIUM...

PAH. FICTION.

YES, BUT WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG? WHAT IF WE COULD REVERSE THE DAMAGE TO OUR PLANET?


NONSENSE. PUT YOUR FAITH IN ISSUS.

THIS IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW, PRINCESS.

I'M TELLING YOU, I THINK I CAN FIND IT IF I HAD MORE RESOURCES...

...AN EXPEDITION. MAYBE SOMEONE FROM THE ACADEMY...

YOU ARE NOT HEARING ME, PRINCESS.




THERE ARE MANY DANGERS OUT THERE IN THE DESERTS OF BARSOOM. LOOK AT THE FACE OF YOUR ENEMIES. THE WHITE APES, THE GREENS. STAY WITHIN THE SAFETY OF THE PALACE.

THE PLANT MEN WHO WILL SUCK YOUR BLOOD


THE WHITE APES WHO WILL STRIP YOU TO THE BONE.

THE WILD BANTHS WHO LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND.




THIS IS WHAT WE TRAIN FOR, AS SOON AS WE HATCH. TO SURVIVE.

HELIUM, PTARTH AND ZODANGA CONTINUE TO FIGHT OVER THE CONTROL OF DWINDLING RESOURCES,



BUT WHAT IF WE COULD INCREASE THE SUPPLY? WOULDN'T THAT MEAN LESS FIGHTING?



281GH I CAN SEE YOU HAVE A LOT OF LEARNING TO DO. TONIGHT I AM ASSIGNING YOU *EXTRA* HOMEWORK ON *TRUE* BARSOOMIAN HISTORY.

“SIGH” WHY ARE OLD MEN SO STUBBORN, SAJAD?

YOUR HIGHNESS, I'M JUST AN OLD GUARD WITH NO ANSWERS. EVERY ORD I THINK ABOUT MAKING MY PILGRIMAGE TO THE VALLEY DOR AND NOT COME BACK.

BUT THEN MY JEDDAK FINDS SOMETHING ELSE FOR ME TO DO. LIKE BABYSITTING.

IF I CAN LOCATE EPHYGIUM, I CAN UNLOCK ITS SECRETS AND RESTORE LIFE TO THE PLANET.

PERHAPS SOMEONE AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY CAN ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

