



IT'S YOUR DECISION, SIGVALD.



WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, I WILL RESPECT IT AND OBEY YOUR ORDERS. BUT YOU KNOW THAT.



BUT I DO NOT THINK THIS ALLIANCE WITH RILDORIG IS A GOOD IDEA!

I UNDERSTAND, MURDAS, AND I KNOW THAT *MANY* OF OUR MEN FEEL THE SAME WAY.



BUT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN TO *TRUST* EACH OTHER. OUR VICTORY OVER THE CENTAURS DEPENDS ON IT.



AT LEAST OUR CHILDREN, WIVES, AND THE OLD FOLK ARE SAFE UP IN THE MOUNTAINS.

YES, THERE'S THAT. FOR ONCE THEY WILL BE SPARED THE HORRORS OF WAR!



?!

AND WHO ARE YOU TO BE GIVING US ORDERS?!!



ONLY SIGVALD CAN TELL US WHAT TO DO! ALLIANCE DOES NOT MEAN ALLEGIANCE.



THAT'S ENOUGH!

?!!



WHY DID YOU HIT HIM?

HE ASKED US TO DO TOURS OF GUARD DUTY! AS THOUGH WE WERE UNDER HIS ORDERS!



HE'S A JARL AND HE IS TO BE RESPECTED! WE HAVE TO FORM A UNITED FRONT AGAINST THE ENEMY!



IF I EVER SEE ONE OF YOU PUT THIS TRUCE AT RISK AGAIN...



I WILL HAVE YOU EXECUTED FOR TREASON!



THAT'S THE PRICE OF SAVING THE KINGDOM!

COME ON! HURRY UP!! IT WON'T TAKE LONG FOR THEM TO NOTICE WE'VE LEFT!



I KNOW ALL THE PLACES IN THE MOUNTAINS WHERE MY FATHER SET TRAPS. SO WE CAN FOLLOW THEM WITHOUT GETTING CAUGHT OR RUNNING INTO THE DVERGARS. THEY ARE SCARED TO DEATH OF THEM!



WE'LL SHOW THEM THAT OUR PLACE IS NOT BACK AT THE CAMP WATCHING OVER THE WOMEN AND THE OLD FOLKS, BUT AT THEIR SIDE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CENTAURS.



HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE, HILMAR?!!



WHY CAN'T YOU DO WHAT YOU DID LAST TIME, WHEN YOU AND MY FATHER WERE VICTORIOUS AGAINST THE CENTAURS?!!

BECAUSE IF THEY'RE BACK, IT MEANS THAT THEY'VE TAKEN PRECAUTIONS!

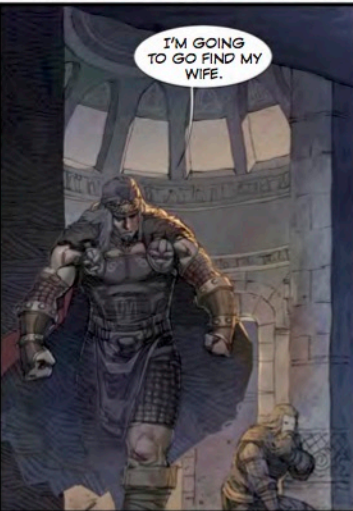


MAYBE... BUT IF YOU FAIL, I'LL ROAST YOU ON A BED OF HOT COALS!



AND NOW, I NEED TO UNWIND!

?!



I'M GOING TO GO FIND MY WIFE.



KEEP ME INFORMED OF YOUR PROGRESS, WIZARD!





RILDRIG HAS APPOINTED ME TO WORK WITH YOU TO SET UP A STRATEGY TO DEFEAT THE CENTAURS.



MANFRED, IT'S GOOD TO HEAR THAT MY BROTHER IS THINKING IN TERMS OF AN ALLIANCE. AND AS FOR A STRATEGY—I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST USING MURDAS' KNOWHOW.



WE SHOULD SCATTER TRAPS ALONG THE MAIN ROADS THAT LEAD INTO THE CITY TO WREAK AS MUCH HAVOC IN THEIR RANKS AS POSSIBLE, AND SLOW DOWN THEIR PROGRESS BEFORE APPRONTING THEM. WHAT DO YOU THINK, MY FRIEND?

IT'S POSSIBLE.



BUT IT'LL REQUIRE A LOT OF MEN TO DO IT RIGHT IN THE LITTLE TIME WE HAVE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT, **ARMOROR!** OUR MEN WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES!



EVEN THOUGH THE WAR HAS PITTED US AGAINST EACH OTHER THESE LONG YEARS, I'VE ALWAYS HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR YOU, SIGVALD...



AND YOU SEEM TO BE A GOOD AND SENSIBLE MAN, MANFRED...



MY FATHER KNEW HOW TO BRING GREAT VICTORY TO OUR PEOPLE.



TOGETHER, WE WILL HONOR HIM BY REPEATING THAT FEAT.

TEN YEARS EARLIER ON THE BORDER BETWEEN ALSTAVIK AND THE CENTAUR TERRITORIES.

YOUR KING RAGNULF ANGERED US WHEN HE RENEGED ON THE PROMISE THAT YOUR ANCESTORS MADE TO THE CENTAURS. IS NOT PAYING TRIBUTE TO US, LIKE YOUR PEOPLE HAVE DONE FOR OVER FORTY GENERATIONS, REALLY WORTH IT, WIZARD?



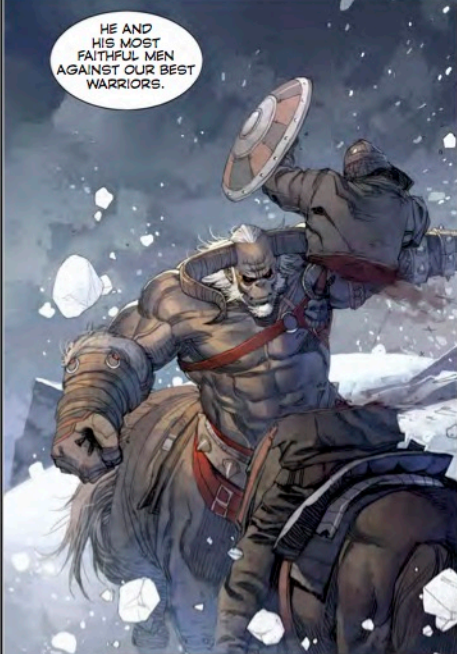
BECAUSE WHAT ARE A FEW RICHES COMPARED TO LASTING PEACE?



AND SINCE OUR TROOPS DEFEATED YOUR ARMIES, YOUR RULER HAS BEEN FORCED TO CHALLENGE OUR KING TO A DUEL.



HE AND HIS MOST FAITHFUL MEN AGAINST OUR BEST WARRIORS.



PROOF OF GREAT COURAGE, BECAUSE WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THIS COMBAT, YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE SPARED A WAR WHICH HE WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED IN.



BUT WE BOTH ALREADY KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO END, DON'T WE? YOUR KINGDOM WILL CONTINUE TO PAY US TRIBUTE, AND IT WILL HAVE LOST ITS *RULER* AND ITS BEST *JARLS!*



IT'S NOT OVER YET, SHAMAN!

REALLY HILMAR?



ARE YOU BLIND AS WELL AS STUPID?

