CONTENTS

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

TROLLS ................................................................. 5

THE WITCH............................................................ 27

MANSION OF THE SPIRIT TREE, PART 1 ............... 45

MANSION OF THE SPIRIT TREE, PART 2 ............... 65

THE ASTRAL WORLD ................................................. 83

MAGIC STONE.......................................................... 103

ELEMENTALS.......................................................... 123

ENOCH VILLAGE ..................................................... 145

AMBITION AND REFLECTION................................. 167

TROLL RAID ............................................................. 187
FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC - THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

*FX JUMP

*banner FOOD PROCUREMENT SQUAD

Just you wait, thief!!

Hey there!

*FX CLOPPA CLOPPA

CRAP! That old ass's faster than I thought!

*FX MHRRRN

HE'S CATCHIN' UP.

*FX SCATTER

*FX SPROING

YOU SURE COST ME TIME.
HERE.

*FX: PAP

I CAN'T EVEN DO BUSINESS PEACEFULLY.

WHAT THE BLAZES IS THIS WORLD COMING TO? A KID LIKE YOU, A BANDIT?

MISTER...

JUST KEEP QUIET AND TAKE IT.

I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE, A KID LIKE YOU MAKIN' IT ON HIS OWN.

*MISHTERRR!

... DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN, SONNY.

*HYAH *WHUMP *GEFF

*GRAB

HNNN HNNN

ISI--
YOU ROTTEN SCONEDRELL!

HAND 'EM ALL OVER, STINGY BASTARD. GROWING BOYS NEED NOURISHMENT. YA BULL-HEADED...

I'LL TIE YOU UP AND TOSS YOU IN THE RIVER!!

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, YOU LITTLE BRAAAAT!!

FISHIN', HUH? NO THANKS.
AHHH, SHIT! HOW'M I GONNA LAND A HIT ON GUTS?

THAT'LL BE TOUGH WITH YOUR SKILLS AND HIM BEIN' NEARLY A MONSTER AND ALL.

V'YOU TRIED THROWIN' STONES? LIKE BEFORE?

IT'S MEANINGLESS IF IT AIN'T SWORDPLAY!

*FX WHOP  *FX WHIP

*FX FLAP FLAP  *FX COCO

I'VE SURVIVED 'CAUSE OF THESE AND MY WITS.

AND YOUR IMPELUENCE AND DEFEAT

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN STAND UP TO AN ADULT IN A FAIR FIGHT.

*FX SHNK SHNK

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO STONES, YOU REALLY ARE GOOD.

I'VE LOST MY GLOVES'RE WORN AND MY JOINTS ACRE.

*FX WHOP  *FX WHIP

TWO-HANDED THROWIN', NOW THAT'S SKILL.

GOT SOME MEAT! BIG HAUL TODAY.
FX. CLENCH

FX. ZHA AAAAH

WHOA.
Actually, no. You were really on a roll there.

Son of a bitch! I knew it!

Really?

Wielding with both hands so you can feint was also a good idea.

Use your small size to your advantage and attack from below, 'cause most fighters don't expect low blows.

You'd best land your last strike where you can see garments. It'd be impossible to penetrate armor with your strength.

But if you only attack from below, your enemies'll get used to it. You need a plan they can't see through.

About what?

Hey, you sure about this?

Luh-huh...

......
Ain't trainin' about practicin' basics for a long time before learnin' techniques and stuff?

Yeah, but...!

Aren't you layin' the groundwork every day?

You sure about a novice like me learnin' these kinds of improvised tactics?

Then how about the traditional school of self-defense style?

For starters, you won't get anywhere imitatin' me, right?

Everything about us is different, including fighting styles.

........

Talk about patient.

[tmp]

[tmp]

Or do you plan to wait and train for decades to become some master before goin' out to the battlefield?

In that case...

You bet your ass I don't!!

...All you can do is work with what you've currently got.
You don't just have one opponent, and there's arrows and cannonballs flyin' around. You can't survive only on sword skills. That said, it ain't uncommon for some half-assed master to get swarmed and killed by some gang wantin' to get famous.

Besides, a battlefield's different from exhibition games.

Isn't that...

I told you already, strain what few wits you have and think for yourself.

Then, how do you...

...how you've made it this far?

That was coooold.

On that note, elf dimension style is one of force. Man to man...

Rather kind of you.

Would you mind joining me in gathering firewood?
...YOU WON'T EVER DO 'EM!

ON A BATTLEFIELD SINCE THE TIME I RAN OUT ON THE VILLAGE.

I'LL BE THE ONE WHO USES THEM!!

IT WAS CARELESS OF ME TO RELY ON OTHERS!

THINKIN' ABOUT IT, MAYBE I'VE BEEN...

YOU AREN'T READY YET...!

ISIDRO, STOP THIS!
ME IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE? A COURT SERVANT? NO THANKS!

HEH! WHAT A LAUGH.

SPLURT SPLURT SPLURT

HOW PRETENTIOUS. FOR A GREENHORN.

'DRQ.'

IN THE FIRST PLACE, JUST WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO ONCE YOU LEARN THE SWORD FROM ME? GOVERNMENT SERVICE OR SOMETHING?

GO ON. RELY AS YOUR MASTER, I'LL SPOIL YOU PLENTY.

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO OBSTINATE...

ONCE, LEAP INTO THESE ARMS, MY SON.

*FX: PISSED
QUIT READIN' PEOPLES' MONOLOGUES!

...OR RISIN' UP IN SOCIETY!! WHAT I'M AFTER IS...

LISTEN UP! WHAT I'M AFTER AIN'T AS PETTY AS COURT SERVICE...

DRO'S (CURRENT) PLAN

...ULTIMATE SWORDSMAN !!!!

ULTIMATE

"DAZZLE"

"YEAHHH"

...BEIN' THE...
ER, IT MIGHT WORK... IT'S SIMPLEMINDED...

WHAT WAS THAT HATEFUL SMILE FOR?!

FX: TWITCH

FX: WHEWWW

I REALLY DON'T THINK I COULD COME TO LIKE HANDLING MEAT. IT'S DISGUSTING.
LET'S GET STARTED.

WH- OH, THESE ARE RATHER DAMP.

YOU GOT US ALONE SO YOU COULD SETTLE THE SCORE, RIGHT?

DON'T PLAY DUMB.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MERELY THOUGHT I WOULD DEEPEN MY FRIENDSHIP WITH YOU... THAT I WOULD BE PERFECTLY FRANK.

MY, MY, WHAT A HOTHEADED FELLOW.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

IF YOU'RE NOT IN THE MOOD, I'M LEAVIN'.

SUDDENLY YOU'RE SENILE...

"PLAP"

"SPIR"
...I am thinking how nice it would be if you died.

There's that face again, finally.

If I could, I would like to make her abandon this reckless journey at once.

That face, like an infant that's cried its eyes out...

I do not know that defenseless side of her.

To be perfectly frank...
YOU CHANGED HER.

I'll keep it in mind.

...if this journey leads to something such as her demise...

However...

That is when, as you wish, I shall oppose you as an individual. I do hope you understand.

So long as Lady Farnese continues this journey, as her attendant I will do my best to get along with you.

But, alas, I set aside my personal feelings.

Odd-ball.
WHAT HAPPENED?! WHAT THE?! EE EE EEK!

A BRIGAND?!

NOOOO!! Auu!!
HEY, YOU!!

WHAT?

NOT HUMAN!

THAT'S ...

THIS FEELING ?!

YOU ALL RIGHT ?!

YEAH!

JU...
WHAT IS THAT THING...?!?

OH MY GOD!

...A T-TROLL ?!

IT'S TROLLS.

BUT IT AIN'T HUMANS UP THERE.

...THAT'S ...

YOU MEAN...

NGEE... NGAK...

UGH... GROSS.
NO, WAIT.

WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSE, IT'S NOT BUILT ALL THAT BIG...

JUST ONE ENEMY.

WE SHOULD HURRY AND GET AWAY...!!

HERE IT COMES, ISIDRO. STONES, STONES!!

WHAA-HEY?!

I’LL TAKE IT !!!

RIGHT!!
WHATTA WE DO?

HEYYY...

UH-OH.
NOW THEY'RE GONNA DIE.
FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER
THE WITCH
BERSERK
LET'S DO THIS!!

Ya ugly monkey!

I'm not...

AFRAAID.

UOH!

Oh!
IT AIN'T NEARLY AS SLOW AS IT LOOKS!!

WHAT THE HELL?!
I'M DEAD--

I...

WAAH, STUPID....!!
DON'T MOVE.

BERRIES ...?
WH-WHAT THE--?!
TAKE A LOOK AROUND.

AGH...

WOW...

BE QUIET.

THERE IS DANGER.
WHEN DID THEY...?

THEY ARE SURE TO FORM PACKS.

TROLLS RARELY HUNT ALONE.

CROUCH DOWN, PLEASE.

AH, YES, YES! ALL OF YOU COME HERE.

?!
WHAT HAPPENS...

...YOU MUST NOT EXIT OR DISTURB THIS CIRCLE.

MAGIC RITUAL!

IT'S MAGIC!

WH- WHAT IS THIS?

MAGIC...?!
AN ELF!!

ONE A' ME! WOOWEE!

THAAAT'S RIGHT!

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS.

SHE'S A WITCH!

...SO YOU BETTER SHUSH AND NOT BOTHER HER, IF YOU DON'T WANNA DIE.

WHAT SHE'S CHANTIN' RIGHT NOW IS A SPELL TO PROTECT ALL YOU FROM THE SHAGGIES...

EGHE-NEH.

ADONAI TSABUT.

ARGRAH.

SWISS Z.

YOO NEEH YAU NEEH.

WHAT! WHAT'S HE SAYING! I'M MISED WAA.

HE SHO-NIN!
They're coming.

S-ww!"
WHAT'S GOIN' ON...??

WOW...

FX. ZHA ZHA ZHA

A WITCH...

I USED HAIR AS A CATALYST TO PROJECT THE POWER OF FIRE ELEMENTALS ALONG THE FLOW OF OD.

AFTER ALL, TO THOSE NOT OF THIS WORLD, IT IS THE SAME AS BEING SHOT WITH FIRE ARROWS.

DON'T BOTHER TELLIN' THESE GUYS STUFF LIKE THAT.

DON'T BOTHER TELLIN' THESE GUYS STUFF LIKE THAT.
BEGGING YOUR PARDON...

It would be best if you took your leave of this region quickly.

Please heed some advice.

We may not look it, but we're pretty used to monsters like those.

N-no need to worry.

...but based on what I saw...

...the next time, your sword skills will cost you your life.

WHAAAAAT ...?!

FX: GLOMP

H-hey, wait. Old Hag!! I must go.

FX: WOOP

FX: SWIP
OH! NOW YOU 
DON'T USE THE...?!

THOSE 
AREN'T AN 
OLD HAG'S!!
FOR THAT MATTER, 
THEY'RE HARDLY 
THERE!
A KID...?!?

*BONK*

LADY FARNESE !!

HEY, WHAT GIVES ?!

DOK! DOK! DOK!

WELL...

WHAT IS HE DOING ?

WHAT HAPPENED ?
Even though I didn’t formulate with group magic, they saw the pentagram.

Has this region been invaded by the other layer to such an extent?

“Ooga ooga

And that girl...

That man, too...

...those two?

Who are...

...they’re attracting distortion.

It’s like...
THAT DARN WITCH KID! OOK!

SON'VA BITCH! OOK!

YES, THANKS TO YOU, OUR TWO WOMEN WERE SAFE.

I AIN'T SATISFIED! OOK!

GOOD JOB, FOR YOU.

THANKS A LOT.

...IN THE END, WELL, YOU WERE SAVED BY WITCH GIRL, TOO, MONKICHI.

OOK! QUIT THAT! YOU TELLIN' ME THAT MAKES ME FEEL ALL CREEPY! OOK!

"FX: EEEE!"

I MEAN IT...
I'D RATHER...

...NOTHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE COMPLETELY TAKEN TO LADY FARNSEESE.

WELL, PERHAPS...
...will save you.

Can't stop myself!

FOR NOW, THAT'S FINE.

I would...

...only hurt you.
I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH GHOSTS AND MONSTERS RECENTLY TO BE SICK OF THEM.

NO, I DID NOT MEAN THAT.

WHAT? YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?

STILL... TROLLS AND A WITCH?

I WAS JUST THINKING THAT, COMPARED TO THOSE, THEY SEEM A BIT FAIRY TALE-ISH.

WHO'RE YOU TO TALK?

YEAH, COME TO THINK OF IT.

COULD THERE BE AN APOSTLE?

TROLLS AND A WITCH.

HM?

WHAT THE...?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. YOU SAVED ME.

WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED?

THE SUN'S STILL HIGH, ANYWAY.

FINE BY ME.

IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN SEE HIM THERE?

THERE WERE FIVE OTHERS WITH ME, BUT THEY ALL...

YOU WILL NEVER MAKE IT BACK ALONE WITH THOSE INJURIES.

MY VILLAGE IS ABOUT AN HOUR FROM HERE.

ARE YOU FROM AROUND HERE, SIR?

THE TROLLS, Mmh...?

...BUT THIS AREA HAS FOR A LONG TIME HELD MANY LEGENDS OF FAIRIES, WITCHES, AND THE LIKE.

I AM FROM ENOCH VILLAGE.

I'M MORGAN.

AS TRAVELERS, YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW THIS...

THERE IS SOMEWHERE I ABSOLUTELY MUST GO FIRST.

I APOLOGIZE, BUT I CANNOT RETURN HOME YET...
Until that cursed night came. There were some who said they had actually seen them, but there had been no hard proof, and even among natives there were not many who believed the legends through and through.

Just like they had fallen out of a tale... a pack of trolls attacked the village.

They emerged from the darkness.

As if all that had been before was a lie...

Yes, ever since that night it's like the whole world has changed.

Not only do they ruin the fields and steal livestock...

They even carry off our women and children.
A LEGEND FOR A LEGEND...

Now we are raided by creatures of legend... it is just a matter of time before the village is wiped out!

Because of the war with the Kushan, heavy taxes are imposed on the people. Enoch village was poor to begin with, and it will be all we can do not to starve to death this winter!

...would he ever send soldiers for such nonsense like trolls?!

Even if we were to tell him...

Our lord has been dispatched to Vritannis, and the castle is now empty.

Then do you plan to appeal directly to your lord?

Then what'll you do?

We thought we would request help from a witch.

A witch.

A witch...?
IT IS SAID THAT DEEP IN THIS FOREST LIVES A WITCH IN HER MANSION.

IN ANY CASE, THE VILLAGERS ARE TOO AFRAID TO GO NEAR...

...BUT OF OLD THERE SOMETIMES HAVE BEEN CHILDREN WHO CLAIMED THEY SAW IT.

ONLY THOSE THE MISTRESS OF THE MANSION WILLS MAY REACH THAT PLACE...

EVENTUALLY WE WERE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO FIND TROLLS...

SO THERE'S A WITCH'S SPELL CAST ON THIS FOREST?

WE ALREADY SEARCHED THE FOREST FOR FIVE DAYS BUT COULD NOT FIND ANYTHING LIKE THAT...

THEN WOULDN'T IT BE A WASTE OF TIME NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU SEARCHED?
SOMEONE'S PASSED THROUGH THE BARRIER?!

IMPOSSIBLE!!

ELEMENTALS!
FAMILIAR
FBBUH
WHAT'S THIS?

THIS OLD FAMILIAR FEELING...

WH- WHAT THE HELL...?
Hey, hey, we found it already, mister.

Hey, hey, this is just like a fairy tale!

Sparkly things?

Some...

It really wasn't a dream...

Wait, is the house growin' out of the trees?

Trees growin' out of a house!

Ohhh wow!

Now what kinda payback should I get?!

That witch kid's probably here, too...

One of those children was me.

No one believed me, and so many years passed that even I came to think it was a dream.

DID I NOT SAY SOME CHILDREN SAW THIS MANSION LONG AGO?
GET AWAY FROM THAT!!

ISIDRO!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

DEAD SPIRITS?!

NO.

WHAT'S THIS WEIRD FEELING?

*FX: WHUMP

ドン

HUNN?

THE HELL'S THIS STUPID-LOOKIN' STONE STATUE?
USED AS A HELPER OR HOUSE GUARD BY WITCHES.

IT'S A MUD PUPPET...

LIT'S AN AFRO! OH, THAT'S FUNNY, WITCH!

THIS ISN'T A STONE STATUE.

IT'S CALLED A GOLEM.

WHOM

PAA AAA!
W-WAIT, PLEASE LISTEN TO...

THESE THINGS WON'T LISTEN TO TALK!!

KEEP BACK, MISTER!!

NO, SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT...

DEAD SPIRITS...? APOSTLE MINIONS?!

GEH! THEY GREW BACK!
SHOULD I BE SCARED OR JUST LAUGH...?

OH, MY...
FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER
MANSION OF THE SPIRIT TREE, PART 2
霊樹の館②
"BOHHH..."

"THE HORDES, THE HORDES, HERE THEY COME!"

"FX TOK TOK"

"PONK!"
"Yeeeee! Go away, freaky thing!"

"FX KICK!"

"Oh, wimp!

"It's no use!"

"Even if you break 'em they come right back together!"

"TOK"

"BOAHHH"
Eventually they'll either run in fear or collapse in exhaustion.

Sure enough, it's them again.

It's useless. The golems will continue to regenerate each time they're broken.

Is there some secret about those two after all?!

Normal humans shouldn't be able to enter here.

But how did they pass through the barrier?
OR IS THIS TOO AN EFFECT OF THE APPEARANCE OF THE HAWK...?

WOW!

Hey, hey! That guy's sword is amazing!

......

FX: ZOOM

Forget swords! It's easier to smash 'em with sticks!

That it is!

Eeek!

"Wok"

"Bok"

But still...
...SOMEHOW THEY SEEM ACCUSTOMED TO THIS?

OH...

THAT THEY DO.

THEIR DUMB FACES MAKE 'EM LESS FRIGHTENIN'.

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THEY'RE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THE USUAL SPIRITS!

THUD

FX BENG

WHAT'S THAT?!
REMOVE THEM AND THEY CANNOT REGENERATE!

EVERYONE! SMALL FIGURES ARE BURIED IN THEIR CHESTS BENEATH THE SYMBOLS!

COME GET SOME MORE!

IT DOESN'T REGENERATE?!

NOW THAT I KNOW THAT...

YOU DON'T SAY.

OOPS, THE GAME'S UP.

*WHOM
WHAT NOW, SCHIERKE? I'LL GET 'EM!

IN THAT CASE...

WHAT NOW, SCHIERKE?! THEY'LL ALL GET BUSTED!

-DOSH

THAT IS QUITE ENOUGH.

I UNDERSTAND.

...YES, MISTRESS.

I'M NOT SURE.

BUT...

FX HALT

...HIN?
They just up and stopped.

What's happened?
THE WITCH...

I KNEW IT...!

AH!

YOU ARE ALL WELCOME. IT SEEMS MY MISTRESS WILL SEE YOU.

MISTRESS WITCH, PLEASE LISTEN...!

YOU READ MY MIND!

WHAT DO WE DO?

"FX: DMP DMP DMP DMP"

I'LL TAKE YA ON!!

LET'S GO HAVE A LOOK AT THE WITCH.

WE'VE BEEN INVITED.
WHAT'S ALL THIS NEAT STUFF?!

FEELS MORE LIKE A NEST THAN A HOUSE. I FEEL LIKE I'M A SQUIRREL OR SOMETHIN'. AND IT'S FILLED WITH TONS OF WEIRD STUFF.

DO NOT GO TOUCHING THINGS ON THE DESK.

AINT YOU SUPPOSED TO BE THE WITCH?

LOTSA MAGIC USERS LIVED WHERE I CAME FROM. I HUNG OUT WITH 'EM A LOT.

IT DOES?

AH, THE MEMORIES...
I'm Isidro, and I owe you one. I spent half a day up the family tree thanks to you.

Huh. Not even a real witch yet.

I look after Nalera.

I'm Schierke, and I am still in training.

Weird place? If you don't spell it out, I don't get it. Oooh! I'm a monkey, y'know. Oooh!

That was because you grabbed me in a weird place!!

Whaaaaa?

As I said ...

As I said, boobs.

As I said ...

...A weird place!

As I said ...

Could you just hurry and let us see your mistress or whatever?

Fools.

Come, this way...

Stop with the teasing.

*FX: Twitch

*FX: HHHHH...

*FX: BLEEP

*KRISHH
I HAVE BROUGHT THEM, MISTRESS.

...TO THE MANSION OF THE SPIRIT TREE.

WELCOME...
I AM FLORA, THE MISTRESS OF THIS MANSION.

SHE IS... PLEASE FORGIVE MY APPRENTICE FOR BEING IMPOLITE.

SURELY THE ONE FROM...

OH... YOU ARE...

HOOO... THANK YOU. I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.

SHE'S A WITCH? I THOUGHT FOR SURE WITCHES HAD POINTED NOSES AND LOOKED LIKE SOME WRINKLED MONSTER!

MY MOTHER WAS SAVED FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH BY THE MEDICINE I RECEIVED FROM YOU THAT DAY FIFTY YEARS AGO! IT'S UNBELIEVABLE. YOU'RE JUST AS YOU WERE THEN!

I REMEMBER!

I INSALENE!

YOU BE SILENT, MONSTER!

YOU NEEDN'T BE SO FRIGHTENED.

LADY FARNESE?

YOU WERE THAT BOY.

YOUNG LADY... HOW NOSTALGIC.

I TOO REMEMBER.
How'd she...?!

My folk were not among those whose lives you took. Even if they were, the fault would collectively lie upon the servants of your deity.

I do not seek retribution from you as an individual.

The branded pair. And you...

How did you...?
IT PLEAS

ME TO

MAKE YOUR

ACQUAIN

TANCE.

I'VE BEEN

WAITING

FOR YOU.
...YOU KNOW ABOUT US?

THEN...

YOU'VE BEEN WAITING?
I have awaited you.

Could she be an apostle?!

She knows about the Brand...?!

This feeling...

No... but...

They of the Brand...

It aches faintly...

...but... something's different...
...is of trolls.

Your story...

One moment.

His story is of higher priority.

Much less attack their homes...

Rarely should they even be seen by humans...

Trolls originate from the astral world.

I am anxious about them, too.

...I cannot assist you.

Unfortunately...

......

In that case...

Well...

H-how come?
...NEITHER THE STRENGTH...

...NOR THE TIME LEFT TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.

WH-WHAT?
IF LOOKS SHOW KILL...

*FX GLARE

THE WAY YOU TALK, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA DIE.

NOW I SIMPLY WAIT QUIETLY FOR IT...

...MY TIME OF DEATH DRAWS NEAR.

AS THE BOY SAYS...
SCHIERKE, BE OF SERVICE TO THEM.

THEN HOW IN THE WORLD WILL WE...

AHH...

I CANNOT GO MYSELF, BUT I CAN HAVE ONE GO IN MY STEAD.

NO NEED TO WORRY.

MISTRESS, NO... I...

WHOA, BIG JOB!

I AM NOT! HOW VULGAR!

HMM...?

HEH NOW, YOU CHICKEN?

TWERP!

BUT, I...

IT IS HIGH TIME FOR YOU TOO TO PUT YOUR TRAINING INTO PRACTICE.
Could I ask all of you, please, to assist my disciple?

I think I might be of some use to you as well.

Naturally, I do not ask your help for free.

I understand you're worried about your favorite student, but we've got no obligation to go that far. Sorry, but we've gotta stick to our journey.

Whoa, whoa.

Upon your return, I shall produce talismans to protect you on the rest of your journey.
TALISMANS MADE BY THE MAGI ARE NOT THE SAME AS SUPERSTITIONS!

IT IS A CHARM.

WHAT'S A TALISMAN?

IGNORANCE JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND.

AIN'T THAT ALL IN YOUR HEAD?

CHARMS?

HOU Rilde!

...SHOULD REDUCE THE EVIL SPIRITS IT CAN DRAW... OR AT LEAST PROTECT AGAINST YOU YOURSELVES BECOMING POSSESSED.

THE CURSED POWER OF THAT BRAND DEFIES IMAGINATION. ERASING IT IS BEYOND MY POWER.

HOWEVER, WEAKENING THE INTENSITY OF ITS POWER...

EVEN SO, IT SHOULD HOLD FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR JOURNEY.

HOWEVER, DUE TO THE IMMENSE POWER OF THE CURSE, THERE IS A TIME LIMIT TO THE POTENCY OF THE TALISMAN.

...DO THAT?!

Y-you can...
"IT'LL PROTECT...

AGAINST THAT.

YEAH.

I KNOW WHAT?

SO THAT'S WHAT THAT BRAND DOES.

OH, OKAY.

IS THAT FOOLISH OR DARING...?

HAVE YOU BEEN ON THIS JOURNEY WITH THEM NOT EVEN KNOWING THAT?
*FX: FLINCH

*FX: 0000

OKAY, I ACCEPT.
M- MISTRESS ...
BRUTE SLAYING, EH?
THIS IS GETTIN' INTERESTIN'.
OH, BOTHER.
M-Hey...

THANK YOU SO MUCH...

EXTEND GREETINGS TO EVERYONE, SCHIERKE.

......

*FX: WHAP WHAP

THERE'S SOMETHIN' I OWE THOSE THINGS! I'M TALKIN' REVENGE!

YEAHHH, LEAVE IT TO US!

IT...

IT IS NICE TO MEET ALL OF YOU...

THAT'S BARTIN'.

WELL, TRY NOT TO GET IN THE WAY, LITTLE WITCH APPRENTICE.

SOMEONE HOLDS A GRUDGE.

HEH.
NO NEED TO WORRY.

WAIT A MINUTE. IF YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BRAND, YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THAT WE...

AND THE MEDICATED BATH.

NOW PREPARE THE EVENING MEAL, SCHIERKE.

OH, A BATH...

YES, MISTRESS...

SCHIERKE TOO HAS VARIOUS PREPARATIONS TO MAKE.

YOU MUST ALL BE TIRED FROM YOUR LONG JOURNEY. PLEASE REST EASY FOR THE NIGHT, THEN DEPART TOMORROW.

I GUARANTEE SAFETY FOR THE NIGHT.

THIS MANSION IS PROTECTED BY TALISMANS AS WELL.

YOU MAY REST EASY.
S'good, though.

I don't think I've ever had a meal of nothin' but nuts 'n' leaves. It is nutritious.

How do you know about the brand?

You said you were waitin' for us. What's that supposed to mean?

Old lady, back to what we were talkin' about...

"I want you to lend them a hand."

"They of the brand will visit this forest, guided by tiny wings."

"Lend a hand..."

"...so it's reversed."

There was an oracle... Though I'm the one being helped now...

...from a friend in the astral world.

Who the hell said--?
...To keenly sense ethereal bodies unseen by the naked eye.

...In which our world is overlapped by the existence of two other worlds.

The other is the soul of the origin of all existence, the world of the idea.

One is known commonly as the world of spirits, the astral world.

The cursed power of the brand, you all have been rendered able...

To put it simply, the afterlife.

Hey! What's that astral world thing?

Amateurs cannot tell one from the other!

...And touch it as if it were a real thing.

If an ethereal body is sensed strongly enough, your physical body will see it...

That's a little complicated, but it comes down to ghosts, right? Aint they a little too lively? They're all sticky like snot, makes me sick.

Those are the ethereal bodies that your ethereal body's perceiving.

Many people over the ages have recognized this fact as reality, and because their world view continues to be passed down, we are able to perceive, see, and touch these little ones.

Elves and trolls are inhabitants of that same astral world.
AHA! So that's why Farny couldn't see me at first. But now that she's seen enough scary stuff...

...so many of the elves who can no longer interact with humans have faded away to some place in the astral world.

Long ago it was quite natural to believe in the existence of elves. But with the spread of the doctrine of the holy see, of one universal world view, those who can see them have dwindled...

Fx. Twitch

SAVOR THE TASTE.

Fx. Rub Rub Rub

Please do not tease her.

Fx. Youink chomp

You're sure we'll be okay in your homeland...? Don't tell me it's the afterlife...

What are you, dumb?!

Pixies are born exaggerators. I'm a different story though!

No prob, no prob.

Plenty a' people have lived there.

There is a thing called the subconscious that humans cannot themselves control...

Then even the trolls'll be gone, just like that...

Then, Hey! All everyone has to do is stop believin' in weird stuff!

Fine, never mind.

Things are not that simple.

Don't say such mean things...!!!
...from the confines of our physical world to delve into the astral world.

Since long ago, we magi have learned and inherited the practice of releasing our ethereal bodies...

You can do that kinda thing?

...the scenery comes to look unimaginably different from that of the physical world.

Then, in the deep layer of the astral world...

Thus, the dead who did not realize they died or who left the physical world regretfully...

...various ethereal beings exist as living legends.

...in the relatively shallow layer of the astral world known as the interstice...

There exist astral entities with whom the ethereal bodies...

...of mere humans cannot even compare.

...often wander there.

Angels, demons, gods of polytheism...

Eventually, nearly all become aware of their own death or become unable to maintain the form of their ethereal bodies and pass away from this layer.

Even the scenery is mostly derived from the ethereal forms of our world, so there is little disparity between it and our physical reality.
Though if you dive too deep, you become unable to return, so no one has ever gone that far while alive... 

Realms people reach according to their own karma.

...in the abyss...

...perhaps...

Further still...

May be those places called heaven and hell exist.
ACCEPT THE GREAT MYSTERIES...

...AND EXPLORE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE FROM WITHIN YOUR WORLD.

THAT IS THE WAY OF MAGIC.
COME ON, HOLD STILL.

NYA HA HEE...

IT'S SO DAMAGED FROM THE LONG JOURNEY.
...DURING OUR TRAVELS.

I NEVER EVEN DREAMED I WOULD FIND COMFORT LIKE THIS...

...IN A WITCH'S MANSION.

WHAT'S MORE...

*FX: OMMMM

*FX: SHFF SHFF

NOW THEN...

*GRAB!

*FX: GRRR

A CHILD'S PRIVILEGE!!

*SCRUB

*SCRUB

GO AWAY, AHH!!
YOU WISH TO SHOW ME SOMETHING?
WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?

...........

LET'S HANG 'TIL MORNINGS!

DO YOU...

...KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
THAT'S...  

WHAT'S WRONG?  

IS THAT...?!

ALL WHO ASPIRE TOWARD MASTERING THE WAY OF MAGIC DO.

YES... I KNOW IT.

I GOT IT FROM A CERTAIN MAN.

WHERE THE BLAZES DID YOU--

DOES THIS BELONG TO YOU?

A KEY THAT LINKS A DEEP LAYER OF THE ASTRAL WORLD TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD.

I SEE.

A BEHELI'T.
A fetish for summoning the five angels.

That's a witch for you.
...AND SHUMMON THEM.

...THE WAY TO USE THIS...

THEY CARVED THAT INTO YOU.

THE BRAND...

REVENGE, THEN...
That isn't ladylike behavior...

Come back here!

Hey...

Please excuse us!

...You are all headed for Elfhelm.

Correct?

How ironic...

You don't miss a thing.

Elfhelm...?
It must be that malice...

Your life cannot be without hatred...

And so it becomes shackles...

...which make your sword heavy and blunt.

That has kept you on your feet until this day.

...is striving to incinerate even those you consider irreplaceable.

...but that hellfire...
...AND DANGEROUS EXPEDITION.

JUST LIKE TREADING ACROSS THIN ICE...

...IT IS A DIFFICULT...

...I CAN'T MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS. UNFORTUNATELY...

...THAT CAN BE USED IF ONLY YOU FIND THE MEANS, BUT IT IS NOT.

YOU THINK THIS IS SOMETHING...

YOU MEAN YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE TELLIN' ME?

NOT THAT.
THE OBJECT ITSELF IS AS NOTHING MORE THAN A STONE, BUT THE FATE ASSOCIATED WITH IT RESTS IN THE HANDS OF ITS MASTER WHO SENT IT.

A BEHELIT IS A HIGHLY SPIRITUAL OBJECT THAT GOVERNS EVEN HUMAN FATE... PERHAPS AN EVEN GREATER EXISTENCE SENT IT TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD.

THAT'S THE WAY IT IS.

WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, IT WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF THE PERSON TO WHOM IT BELONGS.

...THAT THE OWNER CRAVES THEIR POWER.

AND IT IS CERTAIN...

...TO BE AT THE VERY MOMENT...

IF IT IS NOT YOURS THEN, IN SPITE OF YOUR WILL, IT SHALL AT SOME POINT LEAVE YOUR HAND.

IF THIS BEHELIT INDEED BELONGS TO YOU, EVEN IF YOU WERE TO DISCARD IT, WHEN THE TIME COMES, IT SHALL FIND YOU.
I CAN'T STAND THAT.

GOD ONLY KNOWS, HUH?

IN ANY CASE, IT IS BEYOND HUMAN WILL.

WISH THAT IT LEAVE YOUR HAND.

DON'T GO CARRYIN' MY BETCH! AROUND WITHOUT ASKIN'!

SNATCH

...TO DO ANYTHING WITH IT JUST YET.

WELL...

...I DON'T PLAN...

YOU KNEW I'D BE PASSING THROUGH, BUT WHO--

STOP, STOP!

AHH!

OH, YEAH.
I mean, I'm the one takin' care of him.

Right?

It's yours?

One more thing.

I betcha didn't even see that.

It's strange.

That is one of the great mysteries for those of us who explore the astral world.

Perhaps in that domain, it is unattainable...

...for one to arrive as a person, clad in the ethereal body called Ego.

...and that as reincarnations...

...they are the executors of the will of something lurking in the distant abyss of the astral world.

The Godhand.

What I do know is that they were once human...
I'm sorry I can't be of use.

What a cloud of words.

Man oh man...

It's all right, I'm just countin' on the talismans. I'll go take a bath too.

...Do the best you can tomorrow.

Well...

...That those branded with that become an offering to those of the darkness until their dying breath...

It was taught to me by my mistress...

That... is the brand of sacrifice.
...I'll have to hit 'em where it hurts.

One day...

...intend to defy...

Do you...

...things such as angels and demons that can even govern fate?

You got it.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SCHIERKE?

OR MAYBE LILENIGHTENED...

HE IS FOOLISH.

...HIS OPPONENT IS A TRANSCENDENTAL ENTITY BEYOND PHYSICAL REASONING!

THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ARE INDISPENSABLE EVEN FOR MAGIC.

...I SAW HIM.

WHEN I WENT TO MIDLAND BY YOUR COMMAND TO CONFIRM THE FULFILLMENT OF THE REVELATION...
He appears to be human, but spiritually he cannot be called that.

An enormous flow of od that engulfs and charms people. A fortune so strong that no blade of the physical world can touch him.

An existence that no one in the physical world can rival alone.

Surely he is the absolute.

The hawk...
...IF HE IS THE HAWK OF DARKNESS, THEN HE IS DREADFUL.

IF HE IS THE INCARNATED FORM OF THE FIFTH ANGEL RECORDED IN THE REVELATION...

...WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRANDING HIM.

IT WAS THAT HAWK HIMSELF...

BUT DOES NOT THAT KNOWLEDGE ITSELF SOMETIMES RENDER US BLIND?

WE MAGIC HAPPEN TO POSSESS, MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE, KNOWLEDGE OF THE MANY POWERS IMMANENT TO THIS WORLD.

THEN ALL THE MORE REASON...

SCHIERKE.
HE IS STILL ALIVE.

YOU SEE...

I DO NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND YOUR WORDS.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

...BUT LOOK CLOSELY AT THE TRUTH THAT IS BEFORE YOUR EYES.

BE NOT ENAMORED SOLELY WITH THE WONDROUS MARVELS...

...AND ENCOUNTERED YOU.

HE CONTESTED WITH FATE...

...SURVIVED IT...

THE FAVORITE DISCIPLE OF FLORA, WITCH OF THE FOREST OF THE SPIRIT TREE.

SCHIERKE.
GOD BESTOWS UPON US FATE.

BUT IT IS THE CHILDREN OF MEN WHO CHOOSE IT.

THIS IS MY BELIEF.

IT IS YOU WHO WILL DECIDE THAT.

YOU WISH FOR ME TO AID HIM?!

THIS IS MY PERSON.

WHO CHOOSES IT.

WHO WILL WANT THAT.

THIS IS MY BELIEF.

GO AND WITNESS WITH YOUR OWN EYES...

...THE SIGNIFICANT NATURE THIS ENCOUNTER WILL BEAR FOR YOU.
FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR: CHAPTER
ELEMENTALS

THAT... DOES IT.

SEALED WITH PURIFICATION SALT.

AGH... WHAT THE-?

ARE YOU READY OVER THERE?

I LOOK FORWARD TO THAT.

BUT THE BRAND SHOULDN'T ATTRACT EVIL SPIRITS FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS.

IT IS COMPLETE, NOT ON THE SAME LEVEL OF MY MISTRESS' TALISMANS...

WHAT IS THIS? OINTMENT?

THIS STUFF TINGLES.
Now is a good time to explain the things I will give to you.

Because it dulls the five senses, it makes it easier to perceive ethereal bodies.

It is called femme fatale ointment. A kind of narcotic mixed from almond oil, celery, belladonna, wolfsbane, and the like.

These are...?

They are magic arms granted the protection of the spirits.

Magic fetishes.

With these, everyone should be able to confront the trolls, even without spellcasting.

I borrowed them from my mistress.
FAINTLY SEE SOMETHING...

...THIS HOOD AND SWORD.
FIRST, FOR SERPICO...

PLEASE LOOK AT IT CLOSELY.

IT FLOATS ON ITS OWN...
WHAT IS THIS HOOD?

I FAINTLY SEE SOMETHING...

OH...?
SHAPES LIKE TRANSPARENT WINGED INSECTS...

SYLPHS.

YES, THESE ARE WIND ELEMENTALS.

I-IT'S TRUE.

WOW, WHAT ARE THESE TINY ANGELS??

ELEMENTALS.
YOU MEAN I'M A WIND SPIRIT?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE SHOCKIN' TRUTH!!
I'M NOT A CHESTNUT HEAD!!
ONE SWING CAN GENERATE A WHIRLWIND...

ALSO GRANTED THE WIND'S PROTECTION IS THE SYLPH SWORD.

...AND CAN SWEEP ASIDE SWORDS AND ARROWS.

HE WHO WEARS IT IS CLAD IN ATMOSPHERIC CURRENT...

THAT IS THE SYLPH HOOD, A FETISH GRANTED THE PROTECTION OF THE ELEMENTALS.

...THAT CAN TEAR THE ENEMY'S FLESH WITHOUT EVEN TOUCHING IT.

THE BLADE IS MADE FROM A WHITE-SHOULDERED EAGLE'S FEATHER AND THE HILT FROM MISTLETOE GROWING ON THE HIGHEST BRANCH IN THE FOREST.

THIS... IS A SWORD? OR A FEATHER DUSTER...?
MIGHT I GIVE IT A TRY?

PLEASE.

THAT WAS QUICK
YOU MAKIN' FUNNA MY FAMILY?! KINDA WEAK, HUH?

NOW, SERPENT! WITNESS THE POWER OF MY BRETHREN!

ツラリ

 werk

おおっ

OH!
" THESE...

WE HAVE NO ARMS FOR CHILDREN TO USE HERE.

DON'T I GET A SWORD OR A SPEAR TOO?

AIN'T MY TROOPS OVERWHELMIN'??

OH NEAT! OH NEAT! WHERE'S MINE?
WHERE'S MINE?

THIS IS QUITE HANDY.

IT'S SLOWIN' WHAT'RE SMALL SQUIRMIN' THINGS...?

WHAT'RE THESE SMALL SQUIRMIN' THINGS...?

LUZARDS...

THOSE ARE FIRE ELEMENTALS.

HUH...?

WHAT THE--?
THE BLADE OF THE SALAMANDER DAGGER IS MAGICALLY CRAFTED FROM MOLTEN LAVA.

CUTS MADE WITH THAT DAGGER WILL IGNITE AND BURN AS IF STRUCK BY A HOT IRON.

*WOOSH*

FIRE'S DANGEROUS. GO WITH WIND, IT'S COOLER.

*SFX CHNK

RAH

SOUNDS LIKE YOUR STYLE.

THOSE ARE CONSECRATED BERRIES. YOU CAN SCATTER THE TROLLS IF YOU THROW THOSE AT THEM.

SO, WHAT'S THIS?

HE IS THE DANGEROUS TYPE TO GET HIS HANDS ON THINGS.

YOU MUSTN'T GIVE HIM THAT! THE WORLD'LL BURN IN A SEA OF FIRE!

SALAManders ARE Hooligans!

IT IS DANGEROUS! DON'T BRANDISH IT SO RECKLESSLY!

THIS'S SWEET.

PLeASE DO YOUR BEST NOT TO GET IN THE WAY LIKE YOU DID BEFORE.

BUT IT IS MY MISTRESS' COMMAND, SO OH WELL.

THEY ARE AT BEST FOR SELF-DEFENSE. IF IT WERE UP TO ME, I WOULD NOT BRING ALONG SOMEONE AS UNBRIDLED AS YOU.

IT'S ABOUT TO GET IN YOUR WAY NOW...

NOW... SAME FOR YOU.

SIGH

SAY WHAT?!
Silver has strong talismanic properties.

Also a silver knife for Farnese.

For our two ladies, Farnese and Casca...

...Silver chain shirts.

Their efficacy is realized by the strength of your faith in their astral power.

When the time comes to use the fetishes, please envision the faint figures you see now as clearly as possible.

Finally, I have this for guts...

Also, the deeper the mutual trust grows, the more power they are likely to lend you.

And if you use this power, do not forget to appreciate the elementals! In the end, the power of the fetishes depends on them, not you.

I hope we can all work well together.

Yeahhh! Let's do this, Fire things!!
I DON'T NEED IT.

I WANT TO TAKE INTO BATTLE WHAT MY HAND KNOWS BEST.

BUT WHY NOOOT? WHAT A WASTE. JUST TAKE IT.

......

NO...

I'M FINE.

HOW UNGRATEFUL!
THE SUN'S COMING UP. LET'S GET MOVING.

HEY, I'LL HANG ON TO IT.

STOP...

WHAT ABOUT MIHIME? WHERE SUPER ZAKUWARU?

HEY! I SAY HEYYY!

“VMM”

“FX: SHUDDER”

“SHIMMER”
YOUR PHYSICAL BODIES HAVE ADJUSTED TO THE FORMS OF YOUR ESSENTIAL ETHERAL BODIES.

WHILE YOU ARE HERE, MINOR WOUNDS AND NEW WOUNDS GENERALLY HEAL.

WHAT...

DESPITE IT BEING WINTER, IT FEELS WARM.

THIS IS A MYSTERIOUS PLACE, THOUGH. I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH A LARGE TREE BEFORE.

WHY, MINE TOO...

THE SCRATCHES AND BRUISES I HAD ARE GONE.

THAT IS VERY CONVENIENT.
THE ASTRAL WORLD HERE.

This forest is a slightly deeper astral domain of the interstice that one may yet enter physically.

Due to the cursed power of the brand, you exist primarily in the physical domain of the interstice, where the astral world is perceivable.

The interstice straddles the astral world and the physical world.

But you who are in the same layer reached it without any problem...

Be that as it may, so long as the mistress of the mansion does not invite approach, regular humans cannot visit here. Even to the eyes of those with strong extrasensory perception, at best it should appear to be a mirage.

In the physical world this tree rotted about two hundred years ago...

...the afterlife, you mean? We had a near-death experience without even knowing it.

The stronger the power of existence is in the physical world...

...but while it lived it was the focus of worship for all arboreal animists in this region.

...the longer and more splendid its shape will be fixed in the astral world.

Occasionally it takes on a monstrous form, though.

That explains all the flowers.
SO, CONTROLLING MATTER WITH THE POWER OF OUR MINDS BECOMES EASY.

THE MAJORITY OF MAGIC USERS HAVE ESTABLISHED THEIR RESIDENCES IN THIS LAYER OF THE INTERSTICE. THE LIMITATIONS OF THE MATERIAL WORLD ARE LONG FIXED IN A WEAKENED STATE HERE...

YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, WITCH APPRENTICE.

I AM SURE THAT IS THE REASON YOU ALL ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO STILL BE ALIVE.

FOR REAL? SOUR Goku!

IF YOU BECOME A GREAT MAGICIAN, YOU CAN EVEN FLY IN THE SKY.

OH, OKAY!

THE ELEMENTALS ARE SEEING YOU OFF.

THERE'S THOSE SPARKLES AGAIN.

I KNOW THIS PLACE IS SAFE, BUT YOU CAN'T BE CERTAIN ABOUT ANYTHING.

I APPRECIATE YOUR IDEA, BUT NOT ONCE HAS ANY GOOD COME OF LEAVIN' HER BEHIND.

MISTRESS, COULDN'T CASCA AT LEAST STAY HERE IN YOUR KEEPING?
...I WANT HER SOMEWHERE IN REACH OF MY SWORD.

THAT'S THE PATH YOU'VE CHOSEN.

YES.

I SUPPOSE THAT WILL ALSO BE YOUR PROTECTION FROM HELLFIRE.

NO... RATHER, I MIGHT GET IN THE WAY, BUT...

I-I CANNOT BE VERY USEFUL...

I... I AM!

ARE YOU PREPARED TOO, YOUNG LADY?
it'd be so much easier by myself.

sigh...

what a total nuisance.

well, i shall return.

leave it to me.

may the blessing of the spirits be upon you all.
A TOUCH OF UNCERTAINTY, THOUGH...

REALY...

WHAT BOLD CHILDREN.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING.

YOU WERE HERE, THEN.

ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW?

...BROUGHT YOU TO ASK A FAVOR OF ME?

STILL, THOUGH, WHAT STROKE OF FORTUNE...

OR...

...ARE YOU JUST USING HIM...?

IS IT FOR SOMEONE'S SAKE...?

PERHAPS PITY FOR A FELLOW SUFFERER?
I want to believe the heart of a man still remains within you.

Even if I don't do it myself...

...that one may also be a factor guided by the law of causality...

Yes...
THE FATE CALLED ENCOUNTERS.

GOD BESTOWS UPON US FATE.
“ファノウ ミガツ サナオウ”
GET AWAY FROM HIM!!
GET AWAY ....!!

HA...

TAGK

TOK

HANNAH ...

HANNAH ....!!
GET AWAY FROM MY SISTERRRR!

FOOL, YOU'LL BE KILLED ....!!

*FX: SHNK SHNK

*FX: HAFF HAFF

...!!
COME ON NOW, HANNAH!!

UGH ...

H-HE GOT IT...!!
HORACE STABBED ONE WITH A PITCHFORK TRYING TO RESCUE HIS SISTER, AND THEN A WHOLE PACK GANGED UP AND BEAT HIM TO DEATH!!

TED WAS ATTACKED WHILE STANDING GUARD AT THE LIVESTOCK BARN, AND WHEN SHE RUSHED OVER TO SAVE HIM, HANNAH WAS RAPED!

OLD MAN MORGAN, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!!

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

MORGAN!!

WELL, WE WERE ATTACKED BY TROLLS IN THE FOREST...

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?!
ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF TED AND HORACE WAS MINCE-MEAT....!!

DAMN IT!! THEY DO SUCH VICIOUS THINGS....!!
AND TED AND HORACE WERE BEST FRIENDS.
THE THREE WERE BROUGHT UP LIKE SIBLINGS AND ALL.

WHAT CURSED TIMING. THEY WERE ONLY MARRIED FOUR DAYS AGO.

THEY DON'T THINK OF THIS VILLAGE AS MORE THAN A FOOD TROUGH!!

I REALIZE IT'S A TIME OF MOURNING, EVERYONE, BUT...

WHAT WAS THE END RESULT, MORGAN?

SO?

CHIEF.

...ARE THEM.

THOSE PEOPLE THERE...
WASSAP.

YOU ALL ARE...

WHO'S THAT BIG MAN?

YOU SEEM TO BE ON EXHIBIT.

HEH, ONE'S A CHILD!

THEY'RE FROM THE SPIRIT TREE FOREST...

LIFE OF THE PARTY.

ELVES...

THEY'RE ELVES!!

LOOK AT THAT....!
SO ONE OF THOSE TWO MUST BE...

DON'T SAY MEAN THINGS, EVIL AIR-HEAD!

NOOOOO!

IT'S NAZARIA!

...SHE MUST REALLY BE A WITCH!

THE HONORABLE WITCH IS RIGHT HERE...

NO... PEOPLE!

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' FOR?

I'LL SAY! I DON'T WANT 'EM BOWDOPPIN' ME WITH YOU!

THEM'S SOME RUSTY FOLKS.

HEELO.

NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL.

HELLO.
MORGAN, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS JEST?!

OH, MAN.

CAN'T BLAME 'EM.

MORGAN, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS JEST?!

IT'S NO JOKE...

MORGAN, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS JEST?!

IT'S ABSURD, USING MAGIC THAT WAY...

WHY NOT SHOW 'EM A SHOT OF MAGIC? TO HELP 'EM GET IT?

I CAN DO NO SUCH THING!

...TO SATISFY ONE'S OWN VANITY.

I TOLD YOU AS MUCH, VILLAGE CHIEF.
IT'S A PRIEST.

FATHER.

THIS HAS BECOME COMPLICATED.

WILL IT NOT RATHER RESULT IN THE NEEDLESS ADDITION OF VICTIMS?

RELYING ON DUBIOUS SUPERSTITIONS LIKE WITCHES WILL NOT RESOLVE OUR PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS ONE BIT.

THEY HAVE ELVES ALONG WITH THEM.

B-BUT, FATHER.

IT IS LIKELY A DEED BORN OF A SENSE OF GUILT AT BEING THE ONLY ONE TO SURVIVE, BUT ALSO EXCESSIVELY THOUGHT-LESS.

PERHAPS NOT...

AH, WELL...

...HAVE THE POWER TO DEFEAT THOSE EVIL BEASTS?

DO YOU THINK SUCH THINGS...

N-NO...!

EVEN SO, MORGAN, MAKING A CHILD LIKE HER WEAR A WITCH'S GETUP...
WITH THAT GETUP, ARE YOU PEOPLE TRAVELING PERFORMERS? DID MORGAN APPEAL TO YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY?

NO WONDER... PRETENDING TO BE WITCHES AND PRACTICING DUBIOUS DIVINATION MUST BE YOUR FORTE.

I KNOW IT. LITTLE GIRLS DON'T LOOK LIKE THE REAL THING.

PERFORMERS... MAKES SENSE...

BUT THOSE EVIL BEASTS ARE NOT THE SORT OF THING YOU CAN DEAL WITH. LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE.

HOWEVER, IT WOULD NOT BE WISE TO STICK YOUR NOSES INTO THIS. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE ON A PLEASURE JAUNT OR WHAT...

ALL WE CAN DO IS PRAY AND ENDURE.

THIS IS A TEST GIVEN BY GOD TO THIS VILLAGE.

B-BUT, FATHER.

AFTER A CLOSE LOOK, DOESN'T THAT BIG MAN LOOK QUITE POWERFUL? WE ARE SHORT HANDED RIGHT NOW, SO TO TURN THEM AWAY WOULD...

NONE OF THAT!
Lady Farnese?
I-I will handle this...

It's just gettin' stupid now.

Whoa, whoa, we're here to help and they turn us away?

Yeah, let's just go home 'n' leave 'em be.

You mustn't! We secularized ourselves of our own accord!
If we are not careful, a search warrant may be issued by the Holy See regarding the Albion Incident!

Yes, but...

Girl...

He might understand if I drop the name of the Court Supreme.

Were this the holy city, you would hardly escape being burned at the stake.

Even if that getup is for acting, you mustn't assume such an appearance.
Symbols of apostasy and wickedness.

Witches and the like...

...are nothing but...

Olahang!
Hey! What're you doing?!

Out of there, now!

She's insane with this girl?

Sorry.

AGYA!

Cursed...!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
YOU SEE HOW IT IS.

COULD WE HAVE A PLACE TO STAY FOR THE NIGHT?

LONG JOURNEYS WITH THE SICK AND KIDS’ REALLY TIRING.

NAY!

THIS IS NO TIME FOR—

SHE’S A PILGRIM, PRAYING TO REGAIN HER HEALTH.
...show charity to pilgrims.

...for what happens.

I'm not responsible...

It's customary that the church...

Look at that sword!!

We owe you one.

Amazing!!!

That left arm...

Is it real...?
SIGNIFICANT NATURE THIS ENCOUNTER WITH YOUR OWN EYES...

PREPARE LODGING FOR THEM, CHIEF.

LET'S GO, IT'S BAD TO HOLD UP A FUNERAL.

...THE SIGNIFICANT NATURE THIS ENCOUNTER WILL BEAR FOR YOU.

GO AND WITNESS WITH YOUR OWN EYES...
FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER
AMBITION AND REFLECTION

BERSERK

野望と追憶
PLEASE TIE THIS AROUND YOUR FINGER.

EVENONE...

WHY THIS?

HAIR? YOURS?

THAT'S TELEPATHY.

SO THAT WE CAN USE THOUGHT TRANSFERRENCE.

THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE? SOUNDS FAKE TO ME.
WHO'S A MONKEY, YOU DIRTY LITTLE ...?!

LIKE CURSING SOMEONE WITH A NAIL OR HAIR?

THOUGHT FEEBLE-MINDED MONKEY

THIS MAKES USE OF A TECHNIQUE CALLED CONTAGIOUS MAGIC, IN WHICH A PART OF THE SUBJECT IS USED EACH TIME THE SPELL IS CAST.

FURTHER, FOR THOSE WHO LACK TRAINING IN THE CONCRETE VISUALIZATION OF IMAGES, THOUGHTS, BEFORE THEY ARE GIVEN FORM VIA LETTERS AND WORDS, ARE VAGUE AND INCONSTANT.

WITH THOSE HAIRS ATTACHED TO YOU, YOUR OD FIeldS ARE SUBCONSCIOUSLY ADHERED TO MINE.

TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, EVERY HUMAN IS CAPABLE OF DIRECTLY EXCHANGING THOUGHTS. JUST FOR THAT, IT IS NECESSARY TO CONNECT THEIR OD... THEIR SPIRITUAL MAGNETISM.

UNTIL YOU ARE ACCLIMATED, PLEASE SOUND OUT THE WORDS DISTINCTLY IN YOUR MIND. IF YOU MASTER THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE, THE COMMUNICATION OF INTENT FAR BEYOND THAT OF NORMAL CONVERSATION BECOMES POSSIBLE.
...IN REGARDS TO THIS TROLL SLAYING...

JUST WITH YOU? ANYONE ELSE?

AND SO...

"AHEM...

...I WANT EVERYONE TO ABIDE BY MY INSTRUCTIONS.

COME AGAIN?!

NATURALLY

BEING THE MAGIC USER, I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GRASP THE ENTIRE PROGRESS OF THE BATTLE AND CONVEY IT TO EVERYONE.

WHO'S GONNA BE WRAPPED AROUND THE FINGER OF SOME LITTLE GOODY-GOODY LIKE YOU?!

IT MAKES THE MOST SENSE.

TH-THAT AIN'T FUNNY!! JUST 'CAUSE YOU CAN USE A LITTLE MAGIC, YOU'RE GONNA ACT LIKE OUR LEADER?!
When it comes to trolls, a witch is a specialist...

She has a point.

Fine by me. The brute slayin' was her job in the first place.

*Fx: salute!*

Desertion means the first squad, sub-private mongkichi!

Goddamn soniya bitch!

*Fx: dash*

Sub-private!

*Colonel*

Tak

Sallute your c.o.!

*Fx: wham*

What is his problem?

He wanted some say in this.
GUTS AND THE OTHERS SURE GOT COAXED INTO IT BY THAT PISSHAT SHRIMP QUICK ENOUGH.

STILL, THAT WITCH APPRENTICE JUST JOINED US AND SHE GETS TO CALL THE SHOTS.

DAMNIT, NO MATTER WHAT I DO, A ONE-HANDED SWORD GRIP THROWS ME OFF BALANCE.

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS YOUR TURN TO PLAY SUPERIOR TO THIS LITTLE GIRL EVEN MORE HAYSEED THAN YOU, SUDDENLY YOU'RE TREATED LIKE A MONKEY. WHAT'S MORE, SHE STEALS ALL THE GLORY, AND YOU'RE STILL LEFT IN THE CELLAR... THAT MUST STING.

WHAT HARD WORK. SWORD PRACTICE, SON?

QUIET, YOU! NO COMMENTING ON PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS!

IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE ALONE, THOUGH.

OLD MAN.

NEARLY ALL THE FISH IN THIS RIVER'VE BEEN CALIGHT.

BUT NO USE.

I THOUGHT I'D GET SOME FISH FOR YOU ALL'S DINNER ...

HMMMM.

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN', THEN?

WELL, POTATO SOUP WILL HAVE TO DO.
I bet you can't get much out of the fields even without the trolls.

You can't even see the sun half the day in this ravine.

This sure is one shabby village, though.

But now it's as you see.

...Before my grandfather's time, seems this village flourished as a logging town on the old highway.

Before the new highway was built...

I have high hopes for you all.

Nevertheless, we won't just lay down and die, eh?

No problem. I'm a military man.
GOT A CONTRACT WITH GLITS. THAT HE'LL TEACH ME THE SWORD!

THAT SWORDSMAN'S A STRONG FALLOW.

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A KNIGHT-ERRANT JOURNEY!

N... NO, I'M NOT!

ARE YOU A FOLLOWER OF THAT BLACK SWORDSMAN?

WHY'RE YOU TRAVELING WITH THEM, SON?

Though officially you're the lowest student in my school of elf dimension style.

A difficult, incorrigible disciple, mind you.

FX SWIP

FX: VYNN

HE AIN'T JUST STRONG! HE'S A BEAST!

YOU THINK?

SWINGING THAT GIGANTIC SWORD AROUND...

THAT SWORDSMAN'S A STRONG FELLOW.

HE'S A MONSTER THAT EATS MONSTERS!

ACTUALLY, I CAN'T EVEN TELL WHO'S THE REAL BEAST.

EVEN NOW I GET CHILLS DOWN MY SPINE WHEN I WATCH HIM FIGHT UNDER THE MOONLIGHT.
I GUESS...

WELL...

NAH, I DON'T LIKE THAT WORD.

ADMIRE?

YOU SURE ADMIRE HIM.

I'M USIN' HIM!

......

...THAT'S WHERE MY SIGHTS ARE SET FOR NOW.

YOU GOT FAMILY?

AND PERHAPS FOR NOW I'M HIS WARD. YOU'D SAY ALREADY DEEP INTO THE DARK THIS THUNDER IS.

REALLY NOW...

YOU'RE A STRANGER. WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?!

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?!

FEH!

WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY THINKIN', LETTIN' YOU RUN AROUND LOOKIN' FOR A WITCH AT YOUR AGE?!

WHAT ABOUT YOU THEN, HUH?...

...AREN'T YOUR PARENTS WORRIED ABOUT YOU?

WELL, YES, BUT...
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?!

YOU DIDN'T TALK BACK AT ALL!

THEY'RE ALL HEARTLESS.

EVEN IF SHE'S NO GOOD, YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TO BRING BACK A WITCH, AND THEY TREAT YOU LIKE SOME KINDA BLOWHARD!

AND WHAT'S WITH THOSE VILLAGERS?

*FX. VNN VYNN

THIS IS WHERE MY FAMILY SLEEPS, ANYWAY.

NO USE CLINGIN' TO THIS SHABBY VILLAGE, IS THERE?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL RUN AWAY FROM HOME, Y'KNOW?

*FX. HEH HEH HEH

GUESS THAT'S TRUE.

IT'S TOO LATE IN LIFE FOR THAT.

BESIDES, EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE ENTRUSTED THEIR FATE TO THIS OLD CODGER. I'VE GOT NO COMPLAINTS.

NO, A FAMINE BEFORE THAT.

DID THE TROLLS GET 'EM?
...one more time before I die.

I got to see her...

Dream?

Rather, I'm thankful. I mean, here I am this age and my dream was fulfilled.

Looking for witches, catching elves... I'd ditch my chores and run around the mountains and forests at the drop of a hat.

It's probably true for all boys, but when I was young I loved to daydream.

...and set sail alone on the high sea from Vritannis...

Like you said, I imagined that some day I'd sneak away from this tiny village...

...my mother fell ill.

...until...
I had probably gone there to find a witch to save Mother from her illness.

I don’t well remember what happened then, but before I knew it I was wandering around deep in the forest.

...I arrived at that place.

Then, half in a dream...

Next thing I knew, I was old.

After that, I helped out with work and stopped going into the forest.

...But she’d grown remarkably old.

The medicine I brought back saved Mother from the brink of death...
UNCHANGED, AS SHE USED TO BE...

THAT ALONE WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.

DEEP INSIDE THAT FOREST...

SHE WAITED FOR ME, THOUGH.

A LONG TIME'S PASSED, AND AFTER SO MUCH NORMAL LIVING, MY MEMORY'S GROWN VAGUE.

BUT IT ALWAYS STAYED STUCK IN MY HEART.

THE ONE ADVENTURE I HAD.

WHETHER OR NOT IT REALLY HAPPENED...

DON'T TALK ABOUT THE GOOD OL' DEPRESSIN' DAYS!!

NOW'S A TIME FOR THE YOUNG!!

ENOUGH WITH THE CRAPPY STORY!!

*FX: LUNGE

DON'T LUMP YOURSELF WITH ME WHEN I'M CARRYIN' OUT MY GOALS!!

YOU GREW ANCIENT IN THIS RUSTIC LITTLE VILLAGE HOLDIN' ON TO YOUR PRETTY LITTLE DREAM!!
IF I GOTTA LISTEN TO ANY MORE OF YOUR STORIES, MY OWN AMBITION'S GONNA GROW MOLD!

SEE YA!

BOLT

THAT BOY...

HE SEEMS TO HAVE QUITE A HIGH OPINION OF YOU.

OH.

YOU WERE THERE.
I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE.
...this is the only place to set up.

so yeah...

...if the villagers hold up, it will probably be here.

when the trolls attack...

...i have to stay level headed about this.

anyway...

...this church was built...

...this place where...

but...

BSMP
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, BRATS?! THAT'S DANGEROUS!

YOU TWO...

WITCHES AND TROLLS ARE THE SAME!

GO AWAY, WITCH!

THE PRIEST TOLD US...

Hey, Schierke! Blow 'em away with magic!

GO BACK TO THE FOREST!
INSPECTING THE AREA?

NICE TIMING. THANKS!
...no worse than an army. They didn’t raze the place.

Well...

The whole place’s been ransacked good.

*FX bow

...at the cemetery.

Thank you very much for being a quick wit.

Uhh...

I think lying so casually to get into...

...the village could come back to haunt us.

However...

I’d say the old lady trained her well.
NOT JUST TO THAT PRIEST.

WASN'T THERE SOMETHIN' YOU WANTED TO SAY TO THAT PRIEST? THAT SLANT-EYES DAVE'S NASTY!

BACK THERE...

YOU TELL 'EM, GIRL.

I THINK...

...THAT ALL OF THEM ARE MISTAKEN.

...THAT EVERY HUMAN IN THIS WORLD...

AMBITION AND REFLECTION: END
...A SHRINE TO THE SPIRITS OF THIS LAND.

THIS HILL UPON WHICH THIS CHURCH IS BUILT...

...THE SACRED PLACES OF THE SPIRIT FAITH WHERE THEY WERE BUILT.

...IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL BY WHICH TO DISPLAY ITS OWN POLITICAL POWER.

THE CURRENT DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SEE...

PEOPLE INVoke THE NAME OF GOD WHEN GOING TO WAR.

THEY INVoke THE NAME OF GOD WHEN SEEKING SALVATION.

OVER AND OVER, NEVER Tiring.
LONG AGO, MY MISTRESS LIVED IN A HUMAN HABITATION IN THIS VICINITY.

YOU MEAN YOU WITCHES ARE INCLUDED IN THAT?

SHE SAYS SHE WOULD GO AROUND TO THE NEEDY VILLAGES...

CONVEYING THE SPIRITS' VOICES TO PEOPLE, TEACHING ABOUT EACH SEASON'S WEATHER, AND HEALING THEIR SICK.

WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE SAVED BY MY MISTRESS' MAGIC?

AS IF THEY HAD MADE A COMPLETE TURNAROUND, PEOPLE OSTRACIZED HER AND DROVE HER INTO THAT FOREST.

BUT WHEN THE HOLY SEES' SPHERE OF INFLUENCE SPREAD THROUGH THIS REGION, THEY BEGAN BUILDING CHURCHES IN VILLAGES.

...IN THE VERY ONES THEY ARE TRYING TO FORGET.

WHEN THE KEY THAT SAVES THEM MAY BE HIDDEN...
SINCE THEN MY MISTRESS HAS LIVED THERE...

AND NOW...

...AS IF AVOIDING PEOPLE'S EYES AND HIDING.

I CANNOT FORGIVE THEM.

IF NOT FOR MY MISTRESS' COMMAND, WHO WOULD BOTHER WITH SUCH A PLACE?

...ALMOST AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED...
THEN CALL IT QUITS.

...THERE'S NO NEED TO ENDANGER YOURSELF FOR THAT NASTY BUNCH.

IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT...

AH...

ALL THE MORE REASON.

THAT OLD LADY'S GONNA DIE SOON, TOO.
"WHAT A FOOL'S ERRAND, JUST KIDDIN' AROUND."

"SOMEONE TELLS YOU TO DO SOMETHIN' YOU DON'T WANT TO DO, BUT YOU DO IT ANYWAY..."

"...INSINCERE PERSON!!"

"WHAT AN ILL-MANNERED...

"...COULD NOT BE MY FATE!! NEVER!!"

"SOMEONE LIKE HIM..."
BE STILL.

DON'T MOVE.

YAAA! YAAA!

BUT SCHIERKE SAID TO DO SO...

THAT THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE SENDS IMAGES...

THOUGH I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND...

LADY FARNES, IS IT NOT MEANINGLESS TO TIE THE HAIR ON CASCA WHEN SHE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WORDS?

...NO, THIS WHOLE JOURNEY IN THE FIRST PLACE... EVEN NOW IS SOMETHING I REALLY SHOULD STOP...

TO BE HONEST, I THINK THIS TROLL SLAYING...

"FX: FLINCH"

CASCA!!

ENOUGH. AH!

"FX: LUNGE"

YEAH!
It's one thing I couldn't do...

But she has changed.

Perhaps it's for the best.
SPIRITS OF WIND...

BLOWING ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE...

...FETTERED TO NOTHING...

THEY ARE WHAT IS MOST ALIEN TO ME.

IT IS IRONIC.
"They're here."
THE TROLLS!!

TO THE CHURCH!!

LADY FARNES

SERPICO

TELEPATHY?

NO WAY!!

WAS THAT... ?!

Hey!

H...

*FX: CAWWWW CAWWWW*
A HUNDRED... NO, MORE OF THOSE DAMN THINGS!!

WHAT'S WITH THESE NUMBERS ?!

TROLLS ...!!!

OH, RIGHT ....!! FIRST THE HORN !!

H-HEY!! IF WE DON'T FLEE SOON, WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!!

...SO THIS TIME THEY MEAN TO EAT EVERY-THING!!

THEY'VE RUN OUT OF THINGS TO STEAL...
IT'S A HUGE PACK OF TROLLS!!

EVENYONE TO THE CHURCH!!

ANYWAY, LET US GO TO THE CHURCH. ALL THE VILLAGERS ARE GATHERING THERE.

WE DID, TOO.

I GOT THAT THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE ALREADY! SURE IS HANDY!

CREepy, Though!

"FX DSSH"

AHH
NOOO!!

TROLLS!!

*HYNN

*FX GRRR

*WHISSSS.
SPIRITS... SPIRITS...

IMAGE... IMAGE...

YES...

IT FELT LIKE THIS.

GHH!

AGHH!

WHOA! HERE THEY COME!

SERPICO!!

REMEMBER SCHIERKE'S WORDS!!

OK... THAT'S RIGHT.
I AM DEPENDING UPON YOU, SPIRITS!!
This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun!
Desperate to find a sanctuary where his lover, Casca, will be safe from the demons drawn to her Brand of Sacrifice, Guts the Black Swordsman pushes his motley band of followers onward toward fairy Puck’s homeland, Elfheim. With new allies who make their home in a mystically guarded woodland paradise, Guts’ goal seems within reach, but danger lurks in the shadows of even the most dazzling utopias, and even fairy witchery may not protect Guts and his companions from an army of marauding, murderous trolls!

Created by Kentaro Miura, Berserk is a runaway manga locomotive, a crashing colossus of teeth-rattling action, spine-chilling horror, and taboo-breaking humor that fires the boilers of its devoted devotees and just fires the rest. Ashes to ashes!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.