



THERE AND BACK AND BACK AND BACK

#### INTRODUCTION

IN THE BEGINNING WE HAD FERRANTI, AND WE HELD IT IN OUR HANDS AND IT WAS NOT GOOD.

TIME PASSED.

WE THEN HELD PHILIPS IN OUR HANDS AND IT WAS WARMER BUT IT FELL FROM GRACE AND IT WAS NOT GOOD.

TIME PASSED.

AND THEN WE BEHELD A TALL SWEDE WHO RODE A WHITE WHALE AND WE SUCCUMBED TO HIS CHARM, FOR IT WAS VERY WARM (FOR MARCH AT ANY RATE). WE JOURNEYED MANY MILES ACROSS DISTANT LANDS AND WIDE OCEANS AND WE SAW MANY OF HIS KIND AND IT SEEMED GOOD.

TIME WAS PASSING BUT WE SEEMED TO HAVE DIRECTION.

THE DIRECTION WAS MUNICH AND MEN WERE SENT AND THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN THE HOUSE OF OF SYNERTEK GMBH.

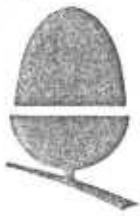
IN THE DIMLY LIT PORTACABIN IN THE SHADE OF THE MAGOG MOUNTAINS A TALE IS HERE TOLD. IT IS A TALE OF HIGH ADVENTURE OF MANY DISAPPOINTMENTS BUT ALSO OF GREAT DEEDS OF MANIC PROPORTIONS. THERE ARE MANY HERO'S IN OUR TALE BUT ALAS MANY VILLAINS AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH THE TWO. THE FAINT HEARTED SHOULD NOW MAYBE RETIRE FROM OUR SAGA AS THE TELLING OF OUR STORY IS NOT WITHOUT INCIDENT.

SO AS WE GATHER ROUND AROUND OUR LOG FIRE I SHALL BEGIN.

OUR STORY STARTS EONS AGO SOON AFTER OUR SETTLEMENT WAS FIRST INHABITED. A TIME OF ADVENTURE, OF DERRING-DO. OUR TALE CONCERNS TWO MEN, ONE TALL BUT RATHER CROTCHEY MAN LIABLE TO SMOKE TO MUCH AND WITH A GIRTH SEEN ONLY ON MEN WHO EAT AND DRINK TOO MUCH. THE OTHER MAN WAS SLIGHTLY SMALLER THAN THE FIRST, OF SLIGHT BUILD WITH A BALDING PATE AND INCLINED TO BE ZEALOUS IN HIS PURSUIT OF WORK. OUR STORY ALSO CONCERNS A LEPRECHAUN A LAPSED PILOT AND A NE'ER SAY DIE ENGINE MECHANIC.

NOW IT CAME TO PASS THAT A TALL SWEDE CAME TO THE MAGOG MOUNTAINS WITH TALES OF GREAT FORTUNE TO BE HAD. THIS TREASURE WOULD NOT BE EASY TO COME BY, BUT THE VALUE WOULD BE GREAT. MUCH TRAVELLING WOULD NEED TO BE DONE AND IT WOULD NOT EASY TO FIND THE WAY.

AND IT CAME TO PASS THAT THE TALL MAN AND THE SHORT MAN WOULD GO FROM THE MAGOG MOUNTAINS WITH ONLY THE BRIEFEST OF INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR DIRECTION. IT ONLY KNOWN THAT THEY SHOULD GO EASTWARDS, TO A CAMP INHABITED BY FRIENDS OF THE TALL SWEDE. HERE THEY WOULD FIND SHELTER, A WARM WELCOME



AND THAT THE PEOPLE THERE WOULD SHOW THEM THE WAY TO THE TREASURE. SO OUR TWO HAPLESS WANDERERS FOUND THEIR WAY ACROSS LAND AND SEA TO THE DISTANT REALM OF GERMANY. A LAND OF FOREBODING. THEY TOOK THE WELCOMING BLIZZARDS AS A PORTENT OF THINGS TO COME AND THEY GIRDED THEIR LOINS. A MEETING OF MANY PEOPLES TOOK PLACE WHEREUPON IT WAS DECIDED THAT OUR TWO HERO'S WOULD STRUGGLE WITH THE RIGOURS OF A LEXICON CREATED WITH MALEVOLENT DEVICIVENESS BY THE ITINERANT ENGINE MECHANIC. FOR FOURTEEN DAYS AND NIGHTS THEY GRAPPLED WITH SWEATED BROW BUT THE ANSWER CAME TO THEM, AND THEY WERE HAPPY. BUT HIS WAS SHORT LIVED. THE ENGINE MECHANIC HAD FOUND EXTRA PATHS FOR THEM TO FOLLOW AND THEY WERE DIRECTED INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY, BUT ALWAYS WITH THE PROMISE THAT THE WAY WOULD BE MADE CLEAR. THE WEATHER CHANGED ONLY FROM BLIZZARDS TO FOG AND RAIN.

OUR INTREPID HEROS THEN MARCHED FORWARD FOR MANY DAYS AND NIGHTS WITH ONLY OCCASIONAL NEWS FROM HOME, SOME GOOD BUT MOSTLY MIXED. AFTER FOUR WEEKS AN OASIS APPEARED AND THERE WAS A COUNCIL OF MANY GREAT AND SMALL PEOPLE. A POSITIVE WAY FORWARD WAS AGREED FOR OUR TRAVEL WEARY FOLK. MANY DECISIONS WERE TAKEN, TRYSTS WERE MADE, THOUGH SOME WERE TO BE BROKEN LATER BUT MAYBE THEY WILL BE REMADE IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME.

BUT OUR TALE CONTINUES AND THE AND THE WEATHER IMPROVED AND THE BLOSSOM ON THE TREES SEEMED TO FILL THE WANDERERS WITH RENEWED VIM AND VIGOUR. AND DESPITE ODD DAYS OF WIND AND RAIN ALL THINGS SEEMED TO SHOW PROMISE. AND THEY WERE JOINED IN THIS JOURNEY BY A NATIVE OF THIS FAR LAND AS HE WAS GOING TO THE SAME END. THERE WAS A BOND FORMED AND THEY EXCHANGED CONFIDENCES ABOUT THEIR PREVIOUS JOURNEYS AND OF THEIR CONFIDENCE OF COMPLETING THEIR PRESENT JOURNEY. AS THE SUN ROSE HIGHER AND WARMER THE THREE AGREED THEY WERE ON THE RIGHT ROAD, AND NO MATTER WHAT, THEY WOULD NOT BE DETRACTED.

AFTER TWO MORE WEEKS OF DETERMINED MARCHING THEY REALISED THEIR GOAL WAS IN SIGHT. AND THEY DECIDED THAT A PARTING OF THE WAYS WAS NEEDED. AND THE TALL ONE TOOK HIS LEAVE AND MADE A GREAT JOURNEY WESTWARD TO A LAND OF SUNSHINE AND HONEY BUT ALAS FALSE PROMISES, BUT THAT IS ANOTHER STORY AND WILL BE TOLD IN FULL WHEN THE SUN IS HIGH AND WE ARE SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS HERE OUR TALE TAKES A TURN ALONG A PATH FULL OF PITFALLS AND MISLEADING AVENUES. WHILST THE TALL ONE WAS AWAY HIS ERSTWHILE COMPANION WAS DISTRACTED FROM HIS PATH AND WHEN HE FINALLY REACHED HIS GOAL IT WAS NOT GOOD. THE PATH TAKEN IN GOOD FAITH BY THE THREE COMPANIONS LED THEM TO ANOTHER PROBLEM.

OUR TRAVELLERS HAD THOUGHT MISTAKINGLY THAT WHEN THE TREASURE WAS FOUND THEY COULD GO HOME AND THEY WOULD BE REGARDED, BUT ALAS THIS WAS NOT TO BE. A SECOND GREAT COUNCIL WAS CALLED IN THE SHADE OF THE MAGOG MOUNTAINS AND IT WAS DECIDED THAT OUR INTREPID COMPANIONS SHOULD RETRACE THEIR STEPS AND REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE TREASURE FOR IT WAS PLAIN THAT THE RICHES WOULD BE GREATER FROM A SMALLER TREASURE HAVING THE SAME CONTENTS.

AND IT CAME TO PASS THAT THEY SET OFF AGAIN AND BEFORE TWO WEEKS WERE PASSED THEY HAD ACCOMPLISHED THEIR MISSION. AND THEY WERE PLEASED. SOME WOULD OF COURSE SAY THAT THIS WAS THE END OF THE STORY. BUT AS ALL OLD AND VENERABLE EXPERIENCED TRAVELLERS KNOW A STORY IS LONG IN THE TELLING



AND IT CAN HAVE MANY ENDINGS. SOME WANDERERS MAY CONTRIBUTE FOR A SHORT TIME AND LEAVE THE STORY BUT SOME STAY TO THE END IN HOPEFULL ANTICIPATION THAT THERE IS A HAPPY ENDING. THIS IS SUCH A STORY.

ABOUT THIS TIME THE LEPRECHAUN REJOINS THE TALE, NOW LEPRECHAUNS AS WE KNOW ARE NORMALLY GENTLE, MILD FOLK WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO HELP FELLOW TRAVELLERS ON LIFES GREAT HIGHWAY. BUT IT MUST BE SAID THAT THEY HAVE A FIERY TEMPERAMENT, AND AS WE FOLK FROM THE MAGOG MOUNTAINS SAY, A RED RAG TO A LEPRECHAUN IS ENOUGH SAID.

NOW THE LEPRECHAUN AND HIS CLOSE ALLY IN LIFE THE LAPSED PILOT HAD FUNDED THIS GREAT ADVENTURE FROM THE BEGINNING. A PHILANTHROPIC GESTURE TO THE FOLK OF THE MAGOG MOUNTAINS IN THE HOPE THAT GREAT WEALTH AND HAPPINESS WOULD BE BESTOWED.

NOW IT CAME TO PASS THAT THE COST OF THE JOURNEY HAD RISEN FAR AND AWAY HIGHER THEN HAD BEEN PREDICTED. AND THE LEPRECHAUN AND THE PILOT WERE NOT HAPPY. AND THE RED RAG WAS SHOWN. AND THERE WERE MANY MEETINGS AND MUCH TRAVELLING AND MANY DECISIONS WERE MADE AND UNMADE. BUT THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE SOME CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE JOURNEY. THE TALL COMPANION AND THE SHORT ONE, THE LEPRECHAUN AND THE PILOT AND ANOTHER TRAVELLER WHO ONLY JOINED THE STORY IN ITS LATER STAGES DECIDED MANY THINGS. THESE THINGS MAY SOUND OBVIOUS TO US NOW AS WE SIT HERE RECOUNTING THE TALE. WITH CLEAR HEADS AND MINDS WE CAN ALL SAY WHICH IS OBVIOUS AND WHICH LESSONS MAY BE LEARNED.

BUT I SHALL TELL THEM ANYWAY IN THE HOPE THAT IF OTHER TRAVELLERS VENTURE FORTH FROM THE MAGOG MOUNTAINS IN FUTURE TIMES THEY WILL NOT TAKE ILL ROADS OR HEED THE ADVICE OF UNKNOWING TRAVELLERS THEY MAY MEET ON THE WAY. THEY SAID THAT THE TREASURE SHOULD BE BETTER RESEARCHED. AND THAT THE SIZE OF THIS TREASURE AND ITS VALUE BE KNOWN BEFORE THE TRAVELLERS EMBARK UPON THEIR JOURNEY TO FIND IT. AND THAT THE PEOPLE LEFT BEHIND AT THE MAGOG MOUNTAINS SHOULD SEND MESSGES TO THEM LEST THEY GET LOST, AND THAT THE TRAVELLERS SHOULD SEND MESSAGES TO THE MAGOG MOUNTAINS EQUALLY OFTEN. THE CARRIER OF THIS TREASURE SHOULD BE KNOWN BEFOREHAND SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM BRINGING IT BACK.

BUT THIS IS AS WE HAVE SAID EARLIER BUT PART OF A STORY. A STORY OF MANY ENDINGS AS IT IS WITH ALL GREAT STORIES, A STORY WHICH IS NOT YET AT IT'S FINAL CONCLUSION. BUT MY HOPE IS THAT I SHALL LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO RECOUNT THIS TALE IN ITS ENTIRITY WHEN IT IS DONE. HOWEVER THE SUN IS SETTING AND THE MOON WILL SOON BE RISING SO MAYBE WE SHOULD NOT TALK OF THESE MATTER FURTHER.