BERSERK vol. 17 by KENTARO MIURA

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ゴホホホホホ

*FX. WO00000

*FX. HYOOOOOOO

...THIS AIN'T GOOD.
CONVICTION ARC
BINDING CHAIN CHAPTER
THE UNSEEN
CAGED AND SWORDLESS... AND THE SHAPE I'M IN.

WHAT DO I DO?!

PROBLEM SOLVED, "ZLPA!" HERE I AM, "ZLPA!"

*FX: SHMP

*FX: WHMM WHMM

*FX: FWM

SWIFT HERO

ZU PUUU CK!!

HE'S STILL AROUND...

OH YEAH.
WHAT ABOUT "THANK YOU"?

HERE, ESCAPE WITH THESE KEYS.

WHAT WAS THAT?

I'VE COME TO RESCUE YOU, GUTS.

*FX: SWIP

GOOD LET ME OUT.

LOOK, DON'T THINK THAT JUST 'CAUSE YOU'VE SETTLED IN A GUY'S BAG YOU CAN...

WHAT, FOR EVERY LITTLE THING...?

EVEN GOOD FRIENDS SHOW COURTESY.

HEH, WAIT A MINUTLITE!

THEN I SHALL RETURN THESE. STEALING IS WRONG, AFTER ALL.

"VERY MUCH, O GREAT PUCK."

...THANK YOU VERY MUCH. O GREAT PUCK...
THANK YOU. VERY MUCH. O GREAT PIckett.

EMM... I CAN'T HEARRR YOUUU!!

"FX: WRING"

IF I MUST, I MUST. SUCH A BOTHER.

JUST PINCH AND TWIST.

FIRST AID FIRST.

*FX: WMM WMM WMM WMM

I'LL PUT THE HURT ON THIS GARBAGE!!

SACRIFICE.

SACRIFICE.

*SCREE

*FX: ZHAAAA ZHAAAA ZHAAAA
IF I DON'T HURRY, I'LL LOSE ANY CHANCE TO GET AWAY.

WHAT TO DO?

PERFECT. I'LL TAKE HER HOSTAGE IF I GOTTA.
WHAT HAVE WE BEEN HERE?

DEAR GOD.

PLEASE GUIDE ME...
YOU...!!

"GUNK

CHARMING, HUH...?

OH, MANNN.

FX WHUD
YOU WERE BADLY INJURED.
IF YOU PUSH YOURSELF,
YOU'LL REOPEN YOUR WOUNDS.

Y- YOU'RE....

THE BLACK SWORDSMAN IS--

LADY FARNESE, TROUBLE!

NOT QUITE UP TO SNIFF...
L-LADY FARNES...!!

How did you...?!

Just watch! I'll light her ass on fire. Who says only clergy can burn someone alive?

How 'bout cleanin' the way, pal?

You think you can escape in your condition?!

He'd do it, too...
"HINRRR... DESPICABLE...
TAKING A WOMAN HOSTAGE!!

WE'VE NO CHOICE!!
EVERY ONE STAND BACK!!

MUCH OBLIGED.

GIT.
HOW COULD YOU?! DON'T SWEAT IT!

QUICKLY!!

GATHER UP THE HORSES!!

A COLLOSAL BLUNDER FOR ME!!

WE CANNOT LET HIM ESCAPE THIS WAY!!
**FX: JERK**

THIS TIME YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR! SETTIN' HORSES ON FIRE! WHO DO YOU HAVE TO THANK FOR HAVIN' RUN THIS FAR?!

**FX SMEK SMEK**

SO LONG AS YOU...

I SWEAR.

YOU AIN'T HUMAN.

THEN APOLOGIZE TO THE HORSE!

SORRY, HORSE...
DON'T STRUGGLE! IF YOU FALL ON THESE ROCKS WITH YOUR HANDS AND FEET BOUND, YOU'RE DEAD.

OH, I'M FUCK.

DON'T WORRY, WE'RE NOT GONNA EAT'CHA OR NOTHIN'.

SHOES ON THE OTHER FOOT NOW.

IF YOU THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH... WITH TREATING ME, THE LEADER OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS, LIKE THIS....!!

LET ME OFF, YOU BASTARD!!

THERE'RE THINGS I NEED TO ASK YOU.

SORRY, BUT YOU'RE WITH ME FOR A BIT.

IF YOU KEEP YAPPIN', I'LL HAVE TO KNOCK YOU OUT AGAIN.

SHUT UP.
I'd rather fall and die than be subject to your will!

That this apostate could...!

...it's a disgrace!!

NOW YOU BETTER CALM DOWN SOME.
STOP MAKING A FOOL OF ME!

I`M SO SORRY, MISS. MY TEACHINGS HARDLY REACH HIM...

I`M OK. F***.

NOPE.

AIN`T THERE ANY LOVE IN THIS MAN?!

*FX: MUMBLED MUMBLED

*FX: FLAIL FLAIL FLAIL

WHAT`RE YOU DOIN`?

STOP MAKING A FOOL OF ME!!
...TO ELVES...

SHE DOESN'T PERCEIVE US.

WHEN IT COMES TO ME...

SHE DOESN'T SEE.

HUH?

SHE'S NOT TRYING TO.

*FX. BOADUMP BOADUMP

*FX. KRIKK

*FX. CHAK
CONVICTION ARC
BINDING CHAIN CHAPTER
THE UNSEEN: END
CONVICTION/ARC
BINDING CHAIN CHAPTER
NIGHT OF MIRACLES
WHAT WAS THAT...?!
POeSN'T

WHAT'S THAT
SUPPOSED TO
MEAN?

HMM...

HOMMM SHOULD I
EXPLAIN IT.

SOMETIMES
PEOPLE
DON'T
NOTICE AN
ELF RIGHT
IN FRONT
OF THEM
SINCE IT
DOESN'T
CAPTURE
THEIR
ATTEN-
TION.

BUT IF IT'S
SOMETHIN',
THEY DON'T
CARE ABOUT
THEY DON'T
REMEMBER,
DO THEY?

FOR INSTANCE...
WHEN HUMANS...
NOTICE
SOMETHIN',
IT STAYS IN
THEIR MEMORY.

THEY
CAN'T
EVEN
RECALL IT
HAPPENIN'!
FOR SOME REASON, LOTSA PRIESTS ARE LIKE THAT. NOT SO MUCH IN RURAL CHAPELS, BUT WHEN I GO IN BIG CATHEDRALS, I'M NOT SEEN TOO MUCH.

AND LIKE IN BIG CITIES.

WHY DOES HE KEEP MUMBLING TO HIMSELF?...

WHY, THOUGH?

THE OLD FORTUNE TELLER LADY FROM THE ENTERTAINER TROUPE SAID, UHHHH, WHAT WAS IT?...

OH YEAH, THOSE WHO CLING TO THE RIGID WORLD DON'T PERCEIVE ELVES.

I THINK...

*FX. CHIFF CHIFF CHIFF

TIME FOR SOME FUN!

*FX. HEHE HEHE HEHE

QUIT THAT...

...!!!

RIGID WORLD...

H Uh...
HERE THEY COME.

*FX: (effect of noticing something) *FX: ZZZ ZZZ

GUTS

TOUCHING MY BACK....

I KNOW.

*FX: WHOMMMM

MY MEN...?!
UH?!
WHAT?!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?!
WILL I LAST 'TIL MORNING...?!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?!
IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE.
...WHAT...?!
*TOUCH*

"FX: GRIN"

...!!

...!
YOU WON'T SEE THIS, PRAYIN' TO IDOLS.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, WATCH.

...AH!!

A MIRACLE ON EARTH.

GOD'S PUTTIN' ON A SHOW FOR US.
IF I KEEP SWINGIN' THIS, THE HORSE WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE IT!!

FX KRIK KRIK
FX TOUCH TOUCH

AGHH!

HEY! STRUGGLE AND YOU'LL FALL OFF!

*VANN
*WHISHK

*FX HAHN HAH

*BOUMP
"FX. SHNK SHNK SHNK SHNK"

"WHY?!"

I'VE GOT TOLD QUESTIONS, YOU.

QUESTIONS ...?

I CAN'T HAVE YOU BUSTIN' YOUR HEAD ON A ROCK. ...!!
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHY YOU PEOPLE...

...FOLLOW ME AROUND.

I'VE NOTHING TO SAY TO AN APOSTATE LIKE YOU!!

IN YOUR DREAMS!!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO MESS WITH THEM RIGHT NOW!

WILD DOGS.

WANT ME TO TALK TO 'EM?

FX WHINE

FX HAHHHH

FX ZZMM

FX RARF RARF

FX WHINE

FX KRIK KRIK

FX WHINE

FX KRIK

AHH...

...AH.
CAN'T HAPPEN?

SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

NO WAY...

*FX. GRARRRR

THAT'S WHY...

...IT'S CALLED A MIRACLE.

*FX GROWW

*FX SNARL
IF YOU'RE SO SPIRITUAL, YOU COULD AT LEAST GIMME ONE OF THOSE LINES...

WHY SHY AWAY AT THE GOOD PART?

...LIKE "DEAR GOD."

"GRRRRR" "GRAHH" "GRAHH"
I'VE HAD MY FILL OF MIRACLES.

ENOUGH TO MAKE ME PUKE.
CONVICTION ARC

BINDING CHAIN CHAPTER

PAST AND FUTURE

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I CAN'T PROCESS ANYTHING.
...AND NOT EVEN WORDS OF PRAYER COME TO MIND.

ONLY THAT I'M FILLED WITH FEAR...
"FX: PLOD PLOD"

"FX: STAGGER"

FROM THIS NIGHTMARE......!!

MUST ESCAPE......!!

"FX: HRRHRHRR"

...I'M SAVED!!

IF I CAN RIDE THAT...

ALLOW ME TO MOUNT YOU, THEN RUN!! QUICKLY...!!

I ORDER YOU!!
I MOUNT...

...THE WOMAN.

NOOOOOOOO!
IF YOU DON'T WANNA DIE, QUIT WANDERIN' AROUND.

ALRIGHT ...

A...

FIGHTIN' SO RECKLESSLY ...

HE'S OPENED HIS WOUNDS AGAIN.

BUT THERE'S AN UNSTOPPABLE, TERRIBLE RAGE SWIRLIN' INSIDE GUTS, MORE SO THAN USUAL... WHY...?
WHAT WAS THAT...?!
I DON'T CARE IF MY ARM'S TORN OFF.

I WON'T BOTHER TO SHIELD MY WOUNDS.

...THIS VIVID SENTIMENT...

THANKS TO YOU ALL'S STUPID TRICKS...

...REMEMBERED AFTER SO LONG...

...THIS FEELING THAT STARTED IT ALL.
THANK YOU.

IT'S THE WORST I EVER FEEL.
YOU’LL ALL KEEP DYING UNTIL THE DAY BREAKS.
SOMEHOW...

SPLATTERED WITH THE BLOOD OF HIS PREY, THE IMAGE TOUCHED ME.

AS HE SAT BENEATH THE BRIGHTENING SKY, PANTING LIKE A BEAST...

...ALMOST LIKE A PAINTING ADORNING A BASILICA.

IT WAS BOTH SOLEMN AND BEAUTIFUL...
...sought to escape, shivering in fear...

I merely...

...but not even the name I've invoked a countless thousand times...

Not once could I call upon my lord. I avow myself a woman of god...

...I...
...I WAS TINY, WRETCHED, AND POWERLESS.

IN THE SHADE OF THE MORNING SKY...

CONVICTION ARC
BINDING CHAIN CHAPTER
MORNING OF TRUTH

断罪篇
縛鎖(ばくさ)の章 真実の朝
POWERLESS?

...THEN WITHOUT SIN?

ARE THE POWERLESS...

DON'T DELUDE YOURSELF WITH FAIR WORDS.

DON'T LIE, DON'T DECEIVE.
DARK, DARK...

... DESIRE.

IT EXISTS WITHIN YOU.

YET YOU CANNOT REVEAL IT.

NO...

YOU FELT IT THEN.

WHILE YOU THRASHED THAT MAN'S STEEL PHYSIQUE.

THEN.

BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR INNER VOICE.

EVEN PLUGGING YOUR EARS IS FUTILE.

YOU KNOW YOU FELT IT.

THIS MORBID LUST.

IT SWELLS WITHIN YOU.
YOU WERE CONSTANTLY PLEASURING EVEN WITHIN THAT PAIN.

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS!!

NO...

...A WAVE OF PLEASURE FILLED YOU.

AND THEN...

...AS THE BLOOD TRICKLED FROM HIS UNFLINCHING FORM...

THAT IS NOT ALL.

YOU WERE CONSTANTLY DISCOVERING PLEASURE, EVEN WITHIN THAT PAIN.

WHEN YOU LASHED YOURSELF, FEIGNING INTROSPECTION,
THAT'S NOT TRUE, I...!!

THERE IS NOTHING AT ALL INSIDE YOU. WHAT THINGS YOU CAN BOAST OF TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS ARE TRIFLING. YOU'RE AN INSIGNIFICANT WOMAN, BECAUSE YOU FEAR KNOWING YOU'RE NOTHING. YOU'RE JUST DRUNK ON GOD'S AUTHORITY.

JUST SUCH A DARK, DARK DESIRE.

ALL THAT EXISTS WITHIN YOU IS DESIRE. YOU WANT TO DEFILE AND BE DEFILED. YOURSELF AND OTHERS, BODY AND SOUL.
INSIDE HERE...

GIVE YOURSELF TO IT. FOR YOU, IT'S THE ONLY SURE THING.

ONLY THIS ACHEING IS TRUTH.

YOU'RE TOO FAR FROM GOD.

...THERE IS NO GOD.
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

GLÜTS, SHE'S--

YEAH, BEEN POSSESSED.
LIFT IT UP.

WHAT STRENGTH....!

GUTS!!

LIFT THE SWORD UP SLOWLY.
THIS PLEASURE.

SAVOR IT WITH ME.

NOW...

SPLIT ME OPEN SLOWLY.
HELL WITH IT. I'LL KNOCK HER OUT AGAIN...!!

*FX: BISH BISH BISH

*FX: DROP

*HEAVE
HNN...

IF YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL, THEN GET THE HELL OFF ME.

LOOK.

HN!

HN!

HN!
CAN YOU STAND?

*FX. STP STP

*FX. SCOOT

*FX. FLUTT

KILL HIM.

FOR THE SAKE OF MY HONOR. HERE. IMMEDIATELY.

YOU WILL KILL...

THAT MAN.

KILL HIM!!
...but is not our duty in the first place to apprehend him? To forfeit that for momentary feelings...

I don't know what happened...

That would be, well, unwise in any case.

SKRITCH

Lady Farnese, please calm down.

It doesn't matter... kill him!!

You saw it, commander. His superhuman strength.

I would only die in vain.

To be honest, that is not possible for me.

OUCH.

*WHAP*

*FX: STARE

Oh, nosebleed.

COMMANDER

Ah.

*FX: TMP
...you have caused her to cry.

My Commander.

Don't look at me.

Again...

You just heard the situation.

And here I will ask your pardon for now.

If you would be willing to overlook things...

I guess I owe you one, then.

Whatever.

Heh!

...yes.

WELL.
NICE DRAW STYLE.

JUST AS I EXPECTED.

YOU AS WELL.

IT WAS JUST A GRAZE, TOO.
HELL OF AN EXIT.

...H-Hey!

SO ON THAT NOTE, UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN! I'VE DONE WHAT I MEANT TO DO.

YOU TOO, LITTLE ONE.

FAREWELL FOR NOW.

HEH!

HE'S TRICKY.

...THAT FARNESE PERSON.

BUT Y'KNOW.

SHE SEEMS KINDA SAD.
It's like...

She's bound up on all sides.

Speakin' of which, we forgot to ask why they're tryin' to catch you.

From dead spirits to priests—what a pain.

I'm the one who's bound up, moron! Now I've got even more to worry about.

What was it...?

...and that image I got from gits before.

I must kill him.

Commander!

Please wait!

Must seal his lips.

Must kill him, must kill him.
IF HE'S ALLOWED TO LIVE...

IF HE...

THEN I...

CONVICTION ARC
BINDING CHAIN CHAPTER
MORNING OF TRUTH: END
THE PEOPLE SAW IT IN THEIR SLEEP.

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
REVELATIONS, PART 1
Each night an utter darkness fully enveloped their world.

Each event occurred individually yet converged upon one idea.

There were the corpses of both family and neighbor...

There was a kingdom of villages dying out from a plague, routed by an army of mammoth beasts.

There was a city devastated by earthquake, towns swallowed by raging torrents.

There was a sun obscured by black smoke and hobs of starving, warring folk.
A single, shining hawk, sundering the thick darkness, alighting upon the bloodstained land.

Then, amidst such discord, they caught sight of it.

They believed instinctively: this was their "desired."
WESTERN MIDLAND
WHAT A DREADFUL SIGHT.

ALL THAT REMAINS ARE BARE MOUNTAINS.

DURING TIMES OF WAR, THE STONE AND LUMBER IN THIS AREA WAS CUT AND QUARRIED EN MASSE TO BUILD FORTS AND THE LIKE.

I DO LOOK FORWARD TO SOME STRONG DRINK AT THE INN THIS EVENING, LORD LABAN.

HEH.

BUT STILL... THIS RAIN.
I do not know... they seem to be coming from the town ahead.

Whatever the case, why this large crowd...?

Please forgive me, oh god.

That was rash of me.

Broaarr!
IT'S A LANDSLIDE!!
The ground was loosened by the rain!!

ALL FORCES HALT!!

EXCELLENCY!!

HEAVENS!!
Your excellency, for mere peasants, to personally...

ARRGH...
Very well, then!! Hop to it!! Follow General Laban!!

FOLLOW ME!!

WHEN...

HEY! HANG ON!

HANN...

THERE-- YOU'RE SAFE, NOW...
WHAT IN...?

I'LL RETURN SOON. PUT THE WOUNDED IN THE COVERED WAGON, AND TREAT THE PEASANTS TO SOMETHING WARM.

...MEANING WHAT? EXCELLENCY, WHERE ARE...?! ADJUTANT, TAKE CARE OF THIS MESS. SHOULD YOU FINISH THE WORK BEFORE I RETURN, HAVE ALL FORCES STAND BY...AND KEEP THE PEASANTS HERE, TOO.

I'M BORROWING THIS.

EXCELLENCY!

...DON'T TELL ME...

THIS IS...
SO, RATS ARE THE ONLY THINGS LEFT.
AS I FEARED...

THE PLAGUE, THEN.

CONFOUNDED RATS.

NOW THAT THEIR FOOD SUPPLY'S SWOLLEN, THEY'VE GOT BIG AND FAT.

THEY COME FROM THE DEVIL.

THEY DONE BROUGHT THIS PLAGUE HERE.

GIT!

GIT!

“FX: SQUEEK EEP EEP” “FX: WHACK WHACK”

GRIM LITTLE REAPERS.

IT'S SINCE THESE RATS STARTED GROWIN' IN NUMBERS SO MUCH THAT THE PLAGUE SPREAD THROUGH THIS TOWN.

BUT THEY CAME TO THE TOWN BECAUSE PEOPLE LEFT THE HILLS BALD AND TOOK AWAY THEIR FOOD AND HOMES.

MAYHAPS WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.

...WELL, I SAY THAT.
I DON'T CARE TO DESERT THIS TOWN AT MY AGE. MY WHOLE FAMILY'S DEAD ANYWAYS.

YOU WON'T LEAVE THE TOWN OLD ONE?

WAVING YOUR SWORD AROUND WILL DO NO GOOD IN THESE PARTS.

YOU'D BEST BE OFF NOW BEFORE DEATH HAUNTS YOU TOO, SIR KNIGHT.

I'VE SEEN THE SAME KIND OF SPECTACLE THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM.

IT ISN'T JUST THIS TOWN.

SUCH A DARK SHADOW NOW COVERS ALL OF MIDLAND—NO, IT'S NOT JUST LIMITED TO THIS KINGDOM.

MERCENARY BANDS TURNED ROBBERS. PLAGUE. FAMINE.

IS THIS THE PRICE OF A HUNDRED YEARS OF WAR?
YET, OVER SEVEN TENTHS OF THE MILITARY HAVE SPENT TWO YEARS... SEARCHING FOR A CRIMINAL WE'RE NOT EVEN CERTAIN STILL LIVES.

IT'S VEXING... A TIME LIKE THIS IS PRECISELY WHEN THE ENTIRE KINGDOM'S EFFORTS MUST BE DEVOTED TO REBUILDING.

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED THAT DAY TWO YEARS AGO?

THE STATE HIS MAJESTY IS IN... WHAT IS IT?

SURELY THEY ARE A MADMAN'S...

THOSE EYES...

...BUT THIS KINGDOM-WIDE DESOLATION IS A FACT.

ALAS...

TO SAY THIS CRISIS WILL DECIDE ALL OUR FATES IS NO EXAGGERATION.

THE SEARCH HAS EXCEEDED ITS PURPOSE.
IF IT WAS...  A DARKNESS THAT COVERS THE WORLD...

THEN...

THAT HAWK OF LIGHT...

I SUPPOSE THAT WAS A REVELATION...
IF THE DREAM IS A REVELATION, WHAT DOES THAT PART SIGNIFY?

TO ME, AT LEAST, WHAT A HAWK SYMBOLIZES ...

--NO.

FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF MIDLAND...

...THERE'S BUT ONE AND NO OTHER!!

SO YOU'VE COME, ADJUTANT. AS YOU SEE, WE MUST ALSO BLOCKADE THIS TOWN AT ONCE...

IT IS ANOTHER STORY FOR THE HEAD OF OUR KINGDOM.

HOWEVER, THAT IS...

YOU JEST, EXCELLENCY. I HAVE HAD MY FILL OF SEEING PEOPLE DROP FROM THE PLAGUE.

YOU DON'T LOOK WELL. BUT IT'S NO SURPRISE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.
...has succumbed to illness.

His Royal Majesty...

A message rider just came from Windham.

...say what?
AYE! TELL ME THE DETAILS ALONG THE WAY.
RIGHT, WE MUST REGROUP.

FX: CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP

FX: CHEE CHEE KEK KEK CHEE CHEE

FX: SKITTER SKITTER SKITTER

FX: ZOMMMM
FX: ZOMMMM
FX: ZMM
*FX: RUMMABLE

CHARLOTTE.

...CHARLO...
SUMMON HIS KIN.

PLEASE HURRY.

COURT DOCTOR.

*FX: MURMUR

*FX: OHHH

*FX: GCHAK

*FX: BIAM

IT IS UPON US.

AT LONG LAST...

HER MAJESTY QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S...

THE BIRTH OF A NEW QUEEN.
What about former Home Minister Foss?

Financial Minister Yugo.

Home Minister Gustav.

Then those in candidacy are...

But consider her disposition. There is hardly a chance she will not appoint a regent.

Every rumor says that this mediator of the former conservatives has seemingly become dispossessed of his powers.

In the few years since the Queen's assassination incident, the honorable Foss has not fallen under any faction, as if he has feigned retirement.

Or perhaps I should say resolutely...

Good grief... they move keenly even before the sun finishes setting.

What situation our kingdom is now placed in?!

When you can go several leagues from Windham and the dead lie in piles—no, even here below this castle.

Don't they understand...

They're all so busy with self-preservation schemes...
Are the deaths of subjects nothing more than statistics?

The Hawk will come again.

The Hawk...

Everyone in Windham...

--No, perhaps everyone in Midland saw the wondrous dream of the hawk of light.

That wondrous dream...

...the hawk.
THE WILL OF GOD.

NOT THAT ONE SUCH AS I COULD TRULY COMPREHEND...

THEY SAID IT WAS A GOOD Omen SIGNIFYING THE APPEARANCE OF ONE WHO WILL SAVE PEOPLE FROM EVERY CALAMITY NOW WIELDING ITS MENACE.

...AFTER THE PEOPLE Began TO TALK OF THE DREAM.

BUT HIS MAJESTY’S FALLING ILL HAPPENED...

BUT THAT THE DREAM HAPPENED IS THE ONLY UNMISTAKABLE REALITY.

IT’S A STRANGE THOUGHT--

A MIRACLE HAS SURELY OCCURRED.

LORD OWEN.

WHAT IS THE MATTER?

PLEASE, OPEN THIS DOOR. YOUR HIGHNESS.
Even before that, she had not set one foot outside the palace in the past two years.

You see, the princess has confined herself in her chambers for a whole five days now...

She will only allow one person in, her favorite handmaid... We are presently trying to persuade her, but...

Your Highness.

Highness...
A single tiny girl is made to bear the burden of everything.

Reporting, Your Highness. A carriage has been prepared. Please hurry and come to the inner sanctuary.

His Majesty is on the verge of death.

He mumbles your Highness' name in...

...or anything.

Such a man isn't my father...

No! Highness!

Don't torment me anymore.

Hurry up and get it over with...

Don't keep this torture going forever.
ALMOST AS IF I'M FREEZING.

IT'S COLD...

MAGNIFICENT CASTLE WALLS.

BUT I CANNOT DEFEND AGAINST THE COLD THIS WAY.

STONE WALLS MERELY AUGMENT THE COLD.

SOMEONE LIGHT A FIRE...

THE KING ON HIS THRONE.
ON HIS THRON.

WITH THESE MEN AND THESE WALLS, MY CASTLE SHALL NOT WAVE.

I SHALL FREEZE TO DEATH AT THIS RATE...

...BUT FOR NOW, A FIRE.
ENOUSH AL-REAI/Y

FIRE! SOMEONE 
BRING FIRE!!

ENOUGH ALREADY!!
I HAVE NO NEED
OF SOLDIERS 
NOW!!

WHAT I
WISH FOR...
WARMTH...

OHH, THAT'S
IT!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
?!

WHAT ...
?!

MOVE ASIDE
.....!!

MOVE
!!

ON HIS
THRONE.

THE KING
ON HIS
THRONE.

MY
DESIRED
IS--
THAT'S MY... i o-oOER AWAyyy.

HAWK... A HAWK?!

STOP GET AWAY!!

...PRE-CIOUS... THAT'S MY...

SHE'S THE KING'S LIFE...!!

G-GET AWAYY.

*FX: WOOOSH

ゴ"オオオオオオオオ...!!
Perhaps I sought to

on his throne.

from this prison

called a

madness.

A solitary man.

Perhaps after

perhaps it is so.

As a rescuer to

liberate me.

...after you...
FATHER...!!
SAVE ME, LORD GRIFFITH!!

...AFTER SO LONG...

HIS MAJESTY HAS PASSED...

...WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO WINDHAM NOW...?
AND TO MIDLAND...

THE MOUNTAINS ARE MOVING.

AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
A BAND OF THREE HUNDRED MERCENARIES...!!
JUST ONE MAN AGAINST...!!
NO WAY...!!

LI-LI-LI-
UNBELIEVABLE!!

B-BLAME THE BOSS!!
HE WAS SO HUNG UP ON GETTING FAMOUS...!!
I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THIS GUY ON!!
I...I KNEW IT!!

THE LEGEND WAS REAL!

HE'S THE GOD OF THE BATTLEFIELD...

TH-THE IMMORTAL...ZO--
...scoured battlefields, sitting on piles of corpses that I've made?

FX: CAWWWW CAWWWW CAWWWW

JUST HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I...
I GUESS SEEKING AMONG MAN REALLY IS USELESS.

WANDERING FOR THREE HUNDRED YEARS.

BUT SOMEHOW THEY'RE NO GOOD...

I'VE STOOD BEFORE THE APOSTLES SO MANY TIMES...

THEY CANNOT SATISFY ME.

...THERE REALLY ARE NONE BUT YOU, WRETCH.

THE RUMORS SAY HE'S CUT DOWN SEVERAL APOSTLES...

HE MUST NOW BE SOMEWHERE, CREEPING ABOUT IN THE NIGHT.

THE BRANDED SWORDSMAN.

OH, YES. THAT MAN.
In any event...

*FX: CAWW CAWW CAWW

*FX: FLAP FLAP

...my desired is just one thing...
WHAT'S THIS...?!

WHA...

THE DUSK BETWEEN DREAM AND CONSCIOUSNESS.

WHAT YOU SOUGHT WERE NOT WORDS.

IMMORTAL.

YOU MEAN--

YOU'RE--

WHY ?!
...ONE THING.

I SEEK ONLY...

THE STRONG!!

DEFINITELY.

ONLY THE ABSOLUTE STRONGEST!!
*FX: CAWWW CAWWW CAWWW

*FX: PULSE

... DREAM.

WAS THAT A DREAM THEN...?!

*FX: BLOP BLOP
WHEN THE SKY FALLS AT THE HOLY GROUND WHERE BLIND SHEEP GATHER AND ERECT A PILLAR OF FIRE...

THE DESIRED...

...IT WILL COME.

...WILL COME.
NO GOOD, THIS PLACE'S THE SAME.

THERE'S NO FOOD OR ANYTHING LEFT.

AND THE CHURCH IS FILLED WITH DEAD BODIES.

EVERY HOUSE'S EMPTY.

THANKS TO THE PLAGUE, EVERY PLACE LOOKS THE SAME.

YOU AIN'T SLEPT IN TWO DAYS NOW.

INSIDE THERE'S SWARMIN' WITH SPECTERS.

WHY DON'TCHA GO REST ON THAT HILL?

THE ANCIENTS USED THAT PLACE TO ENSHRINE ELVES, SO THE INCUBI SHOULDN'T LIKE IT ENOUGH TO COME NEAR. PROB'LY.

NOW I CAN'T EVEN GET DECENT SLEEP IN THE DAYTIME.
WHAT THE...?
STOP!!!

STOP!!

STOP...
"FX: HAHH HAHH"

"FX: SPRLLL"

DID THE INCUBI DO THAT?
YOU DID IT.
JUST NOW.

...D...
...OAN...

...GER...
...YOU TRYIN' TO PULL?!

WHAT'RE...

HURRY...

DAN...

GER...

HURRY...

...AT THE HOLY GROUND...

...BLIND SHEEP...

GATHER AND...

...WHEN THE SKY FALLS...

...A PILLAR OF FIRE...

ERECT...

QUICKLY...

HURRY...
DANGER...?

HOLD ON.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HER...?!

NO!!

*FX: BATHUMP BATHUMP

*FX: VMM VMM VMM

*FX: HNNN HNNN

CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
REVELATIONS 3: END
FX: HAHHHH

SNOW...

GENTLY FROM THE SKY

SNOW FALLS

FX: SPIN SPIN SPIN

SPIRIT OF WINTER
TRY TO CATCH IT, SEE HOW WON-DROUS!

IT DANCES LIGHTLY DOWN

HEY!

IT FALLS DOWN LIKE FLUFF

SHWAP

UWONK!!

FX: TWEET TWEET BUBBLE

I CAUGHT SOMETHING NEAT!

YES!

A CHESTNUT-HEAD GOBLIN...

BLOWING LOTS OF BUBBLES, SPIRIT OF WINTER...

FLINCH
YO.

YOU GOT A BIT TALLER, DIDN'T YOU?
GOOD WORK, THANKS.

WELCOME HOME, ERICA.
YOU LOOK A LOT STRONGER.

GUTS!!

DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.

SORRY, RICKERT.

WHERE IN THE WORLD AND WHY...?!

NO WORD FROM YOU IN TWO YEARS...!!

GUTS, YOU'RE ALIVE!!

BEFORE THAT...

IS SHE...

IS CASCA SAFE?
WHAT'S THAT
SUPPOSED
TO MEAN,
RICKERT?!

GLITS...

WHAT'S THAT MEAN...

CASCA'S

NOT HERE...

WHAT'S WRONG?

CASCA'S...
WHERE THE HELL...?!

WHY NOT?! SINCE WHEN...?

IT'S MY FAULT!!

I DID IT!!

IT HAPPENED ABOUT A MONTH AGO...

IT'S BECAUSE I WENT AND TOOK HER OUTSIDE...!!
ERICA COULDN'T STAND SEEING IT, SO SHE TOOK HER ALONG TO GO PICK FRUIT...

CASCA HAD LIVED IN THE CAVE FOR SO LONG SHE WAS PRETTY SICK OF IT... LATELY SHE'D GOTTEN WHERE SHE WOULDN'T EVEN EAT MUCH.

AND YET HERE YOU ARE...

YOU KNOW FULL WELL HOW CASCA IS NOW!!

I LOOKED FOR HER UNTIL THE SUN WENT DOWN, BUT I COULDN'T FIND HER...

BEFORE I KNEW IT, SHE WAS GONE.

WHY AREN'T YOU OUT LOOKING FOR HER?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

BUT RICKERT...

STUPID STUPID STUPID!!

STUPID GUTS!!
What about what you did?!

What's the big idea?!

And then you went off somewhere for two years!!

You went and left her here....!!

You don't even know how Rickert feels!!

...Rickert...

...came back to us.

But...

He went to look for her as much as he could!!

He did go look for her!! Again and again this past month!!
...Back home to us.

He came...

*FX: GREE

There's a reason I can't leave.

*FX: SNIFF

I can't even sleep. Too much noise.
GODO...

I hear you can't throw a rock without hitting a dead body down there.

Wipe that stupid look off your face.

So what's so weird about seein' a half-dead old man or two?

Just when I thought I'd have a quiet, peaceful death...

...the noisy idiot had to come back.

So.

Lemme see the sword and hand.

Enough of the long-winded speech.

Well, you get to be here at my death. I guess God's been nice to you.

Nothin' so special as all that. It's just old age, old age...
BLADE NICKS, BLOOD RUST, BENDS... SHOULDN'T BE THIS WAY EVEN AFTER TEN YEARS.

YOU REALLY MAKE A BLACKSMITH CRY, Y'KNOW THAT? THIS'S GONNA TAKE MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE ELBOW GREASE.

YOU CAN'T STAY SANE FOREVER, FIGHTIN' THAT WAY.

I'M GUESSIN' YOU SWING AND SHOOT TOO OFTEN TO EAT OR SLEEP.
HEH, YOUR FACE LOOKS EVEN MORE...

...TENSE NOW THAN IT DID BEFORE.

...YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO STAND UP, HUH?

...I GUESS I HAD SOME CLUE WHAT IT COULD'VE BEEN.

AFTE... WARDS, WHEN THAT MONSTER CAME CALLIN'...

SO YOU'RE WAGIN' WAR AGAINST THINGS LIKE THAT. I CAN'T EVEN SAY FOR SURE IF THAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS THAT HAPPENED TO YOU ALL.

...WHEN RICKERT ROLLED IN HERE WITH THE TWO OF YOU BLUSTED UP...

TWO YEARS AGO...

...BUT WORSE, YOU DO IT FOR RETALIATION, FOR REVENGE.

FROM WAR...

FROM HATRED.

LISTEN... WHY NOT RUN AWAY?
...WHAT?

THE MORE YOU SHARPEN, THE MORE IT RUSTS, SO YOU SHARPEN IT AGAIN. IN THE END ALL THAT'S LEFT IS A PILE OF RUST AND SCRAPS.

EVEN MORE THAN A BLOOD-RUSTED SWORD, VENGEANCE IS SOMETHIN' YOU SOAK AND SHARPEN IN BLOOD.

YOU SINK THE BLADE CALLED YOUR HEART DEEP INTO BLOOD IN ORDER TO FIX THE NICKS CALLED SORROW.

IT'S THE RAMBLINGS OF A DYING OLD MAN.

IT'S THE PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T LOOK SORROW IN THE EYE WITHOUT WAVERIN' RUN OFF TO.

THE THING ABOUT HATRED...

...RUNNIN' ALL THROUGH IT.

DAMN CRACKS CALLED FEAR...

YOU TELLIN' ME TO BECOME A BLACKSMITH OR SOMETHIN'? 

YOU'VE GOT SOME HUGE NICKS IN YOUR HEART...

AH, C'MON.

IT AIN'T LIKE YOU TO LECTURE.

I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU IF YOU WANTED TO.
YOU DON'T KNOW...

YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE WITH NOTHING LEFT BEHIND TO REGRET—YOU DON'T GET IT...!!

IN THIS COZY PLACE...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

...UNDERSTANDS...

...THAT...

NO ONE...

NO HUMAN...
UNFAIRLY NOONS WAS LEFT WITHOUT... IF UNPERSTANDING ANYTHING...!!

WITHOUT... UNDERSTANDING ANYTHING...!!

LIKE BUGS!!

SUDDENLY...

NONE OF IT MADE ANY SENSE...

THEY DIED...!!

NO ONE WAS LEFT!!

...IRREPLACEABLE.

TO ME THEY WERE...

BUT STILL...

IN AN INSTANT...

THEY COULDN'T HAVE DONE SOMETHING IF THEY'D LIVED...

THEY WERE...

...ALL YOUNG.

YOU WENT ALONE.

YOU ABANDONED THOSE IRREPLACEABLE THINGS.

ON THAT DAY TWO YEARS AGO, IN YOUR HOPELESS SUFFERING, YOU LEFT THE LAST IRREPLACEABLE THINGS YOU HAD...

...AND WENT AWAY BY YOURSELF.
YET YOU COULDN'T BEAR TO IMMERSE YOURSELF TOGETHER IN SORROW WITH THEM...

YOU WERE RIGHT BESIDE THOSE IRREPLACEABLE THINGS...

...YOU RAN AWAY SO THAT YOUR OWN MALICE COULD BURN INSIDE YOU.

SO INSTEAD...

AM I WRONG?
Do you have any place talking about revenge for your friends...

...when you're the one who went off, abandoning that girl here?

Do you have any place criticizing Rickert, who you left here?

...and rely on fighting.

...you go and choose yourself...

...and rely on fighting.

...you go and choose yourself.

...and rely on fighting.

At the critical moment...

You're like a drawn sword on the battlefield.

One with countless nicks, soaked in blood and rusting.

A sword that's begun to break.

...with a lethal crack in it.
BERSERK
CONVICTION ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
A FEEBLE FLAME
WHAT'RE THESE...

THEY'RE GRAVES.

WE DID THIS ALL THE TIME IN THE FIELD, DIDN'T WE?

AND IT'S NOT LIKE EVERYBODY'S UNDERNEATH HERE, BUT MAYBE IT'S SOME CONSOLATION...

IT'S NOWHERE NEAR THE RIGHT NUMBER, BUT I MADE THEM AS PRACTICE.

IN THE TIME I'VE GONE ON HATING, RICKERT'S DONE THIS...

TWO YEARS... PLENTY OF TIME FOR A PERSON TO CHANGE.

HE FOUND A NEW WAY TO LIVE...

...THROUGH THAT VIGOROUS STRENGTH OF HIS.

FUNERALS TO ACCEPT THE DEATH OF HIS COMRADES.
I have you to thank for that.

Y-yeah, really. Thanks to you, both Guts and Casca narrowly escaped dying then.

What a shocker!

Still, though, I'm amazed. That the boy from back then would turn out to be Guts' friend.

Or somethin' like that?

All lies within the causal current --

*FX: snug snug

Me too, me too!

I guess it's like we're all tied together by a red thread of destiny.

Then later on I'll stake my life on treatin' you!

By the way, you been cured of your fear 'a elves yet?

Ah... no... not yet...

Ah... no... don't bother...
I know that you're anxious...

But rest well tonight.

They look pretty abused, so we'll get them to where you can head out soon.

There's a lot to talk about, but for now we'll hurry and repair your sword and hand.

No evil spirit's gonna be able to sneak in here easily! Yeah!

This is definitely somewhere elves lived!

It's the same as it was.
I got impatient too...

I'm the one who's sorry...

What about me?

You'll be clinging with me.

Huh?

Rickert...

About earlier, uh...

But...

No, no...

I'm sorry...

Hey! What am I, a babysitter?

You got a problem?

I've been here...

These two years...

Realized some important things...

Good night.

Good night. See ya again, Rickert.

Alright, then.

......
NO CHANCES ARE...

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SLEEP IN THE DARK WITHOUT A SWORD.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT THE REST OF MY LIFE...

IT'S NO USE. EVEN THOUGH I KNOW I'M SAFE...
"...YOU RAN AWAY SO THAT YOUR OWN MALICE COULDN'T BURN WITHIN YOU."

"SO INSTEAD..."

"YOU WERE RIGHT BESIDE THOSE IRREPLACEABLE THINGS..."

"YOU WENT ALONE."

"YET YOU COULDN'T BEAR TO IMMERSE YOURSELF TOGETHER IN SORROW WITH THEM."
I CAN'T RUN...!!

I DIDN'T RUN AWAY...!!

...SEARED INTO MY RIGHT EYE...!!

NOT FROM THE LAST THING...
BUT I CAN NEVER ATONE FOR THIS DARK FLAME!!!

...FEAR...MALICE, I DON'T KNOW...POSSIBLY IT'S BOTH...

"HAAH HAAH..."AND MY ENEMIES WITH IT.

...ALL I CAN DO IS BURN MYSELF...

...IF I CAN'T ATONE, IF I CAN'T ESCAPE...
IT WILL STILL THIRST.

THE BLOOD MUST FLOW.

SO KEEP KILLING.

ALWAYS.

ALL ALONE.

FOREVER.

CASCA...

...IN A STATE LIKE THAT?!

WHAT CAN I SAY NOW WHEN I LEFT HER...

I'VE GOT NO RIGHT TALKING ABOUT REVENGE FOR MY COMRADES WHEN I ABANDONED CASCA...

...MAYBE WHAT GODO SAID IS RIGHT, THOUGH.

ABANDONED THE BAND OF THE HAWK ITSELF.
Y’mean former Raiders captain.

I don’t know if it was for some dream or what, but he left on his own.

He wasn’t here when things were at their worst for us. Think I can call someone like that a comrade?

You’ve already separated yourself.

There’s no obligation for you to go that far.

...if you don’t...

She...

Take her with you. Even if you have to drag her this time.
...Your own battles, right?

You fight...

You have to go.

Even if it's alone...

You have to go.
...I haven't had that right.

Ever since then...

Long ago...

...this war myself.

I started...

But at least it's not like anyone forced me to do it.

It's definitely different from what I had wished for then.

BUT...

I declared this war myself.
WHAT'S BURNING ME AIN'T JUST THIS BLACK FLAME.
THE CAMPFIRE FROM THOSE DAYS...

...STILL BURNS IN MY CHEST.
...All that barely kept me from being consumed by the Black Flame...?!}

...That's right.

Wasn't this last feeble flame left to me...
DID I GO AND DO IT AGAIN...?

WHAT’VE I DONE?

AGAIN.

AGAIN!!

...BEFORE I EVEN NOTICED IT AGAIN?!

YOU MEAN...

DID I LOSE SOMETHING...

WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING I’D THROWN IT FROM THE PALM OF MY HAND...!!

...WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING!!
...GATHER AND BLIND SHEEP...

...A PILLAR OF FIRE... ERRECT...

...AT THE HOLY GROUND...

...WHEN THE SKY FALLS...

NOT YET...

NO...

...BLOWN OUT... THE FLAME...

IT'S NOT YET!!

NOT YET!!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!

THIS TIME I SWEAR ...!!!
I’LL NEVER...

...LOSE HER AGAIN.
CONVICTION/ARC
BIRTH CEREMONY CHAPTER
TO HOLY GROUND, PART 1
H-Hi, Weren't you asleep?

Well, I was.

But at that rate I woulda been eaten.

Can I help with anything? I don't look it, but I'm handy.

No... I'm fine.

Huh? For what?

I really am grateful for you.

Your shoulders're stiff. My elf dust does wonders.

Uh... No thanks...

*FX SSSMP*  
*FX, STALK*  

*FX FLINCH*  
*FX, STALK STALK STALK*
IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT SHE HAD SO MUCH FUN TODAY.

SINCE MASTER GODO FELL ILL... AND THEN SINCE CASCA WENT MISSING, ERICA HASN'T LAUGHED ONCE.

WHEN GUTS RUSHED OUT OF HERE, I HAD THIS OMINOUSLY BAD FEELING.

NOT AT ALL. WELL, KIDS ARE SPECIALLY GOOD AT ENJOYIN' THEMSELVES.

OF COURSE, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER HE WOULD SURVIVE AND I'D GET TO SEE HIM AGAIN...

...WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER HE'D NO LONGER BE THE GUTS I KNEW...

"FX NYAHAAH"

NAHHH

THEN THERE'S GUTS.

EH?

BUT...

I ALSO...
But he looked furious and got worried about Casca.

He came back, though—and of course some small things had changed...

The way I used to know him...

So Guts is still Guts.

I'm sure...

You had more than a little to do with that.

And I think...

The reason Guts can still laugh...

You said it with such a straight face!
EVERY DAMN TIME HE SHOWS UP, HE DRAGS SOME OTHER WEIRD THING IN WITH HIM.

S-STOP, THAT’S ABSURD!! LET ME DO--

SHAD-DUP!!

DRESSED LIKE THAT... WHAT’RE YOU DOING?!

THERE’S STUFF I’VE GOT TO DO, WHILE I’VE STILL GOT THE STRENGTH TO STAND.

ERICA’S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
But I happened to pass by right when she'd been burned out of her house and was cryin', so on a whim I brought her home and raised her. It wasn't like me at all...

She's an orphan who lost her family in the war, not that that's rare these days...

Feel pretty, well, human.

It let me, who'd known nothin' but steel since the day I was born...

...Master...

It's good to fall forward alone.

Sure enough, when it's time to die...

*EX BOFF
...IT'S SURE TO BE REBORN.

...IF YOU RETURN IT TO THE FIRE...

...EVEN IF IT RUSTS AND DULLS... 

...HAS GOOD STEEL THAT NEVER RUSTS LEFT OVER IN THE WICK.

TELL THIS TO THAT FOOL.

"DON'T TURN OUT LIKE ME."
**GCHAK**

**GSHUNK**

**WOW.**

**GOOD STUFF!**

**YEAH. IT'S LIGHTER THAN IT LOOKS, AND FEELS GOOD.**

**HOW'S YOUR NEW ARMOR? THE MASTER HAD IT READY FOR WHEN YOU CAME BACK.**

**EVEN IF YOU DON'T PUT 'EM ALL TOGETHER AT ONCE, YOU'LL GET THE HANG OF 'EM SOON ENOUGH.**

**I'VE ALSO GOT THESE NEW WEAPONS I INVENTED THAT USE GUNPOWDER, AND A NEW MODEL REPEATING BOWSIN.**
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW OF ANYWHERE CALLED HOLY GROUND AROUND HERE?

OR ELSE, HOW TO SAY IT SOME PLACE WHERE SHEEP... SHEPHERDS ARE CROWDED TOGETHER...

WAS THERE SOMEPLACE LIKE THAT?

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IT'S REFERRED TO AS THE TOWER OF CONVICTION.

MAYBE THAT'S THE PLACE?

FROM WHAT I HEARD, HERETICS ARE MIXED IN WITH THE REFUGEES, AND AN INQUISITOR WILL BE DISPATCHED BY THE HOLY SEE BEFORE LONG.

AND I DON'T KNOW ABOUT SHEPHERDS, BUT I HEAR RIGHT NOW THAT PLACE IS OVERFLOWING WITH REFUGEES FROM THE PLAGUE.

BY THE WAY, GUTS--YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR CASCA, BUT DO YOU KNOW HOW? SEARCHING RANDOMLY COULD TAKE FOREVER...

COMING TO THINK OF IT, IF YOU FOLLOW THE HIGH ROAD NORTHEAST FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS, THERE'S AN OLD MONASTERY CALLED ST. ALBION TEMPLE.
...IT'S GOING TO BE A WITCH TRIAL.

IN HER STATE I DON'T THINK SHE CAN MAKE IT THAT FAR AWAY... AND FIRST OF ALL THERE'S NO BASIS...

I THINK THE CHANCES OF CASCA BEING THERE ARE SLIM.

THERE'S A BASIS.

...IT'S GRASPING AT STRAWS...

BUT FOR NOW I HAVE TO BELIEVE IT.

WHAT KINDA WOMAN'S THIS CASCA?

FOR HIM TO MAKE THIS FACE...

BUT A LOT'S HAPPENED...

S'BEYOND ME...
Then be sure to come back here.

Take care... of Casca.

Okay... I'm off.

Guts.

Godo.

I'll count on you again once I come back.

You're a good blacksmith.

Worthless fool.

Daddy, you've got to get some rest!

So you say!
"FX: WISHH"

THAT’S HOW IT IS WITH THAT FOOL.

GEEZ.
OFF HE GOES WITHOUT EVEN A LOOK BACK.

HEH!

WELL, IT’S A LOT BETTER THAN GETTIN’ ALL GLOOMY.

BUT YOU HAVEN’T EVEN GOT TIME TO STOP AND ACKNOWLEDGE IT.

THIS MIGHT BE OUR FINAL PARTING.

IT REALLY IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL...

HE TURNS AND STARTS RUNNING TOWARDS SOMETHING ONE WAY WITHOUT NOTICING SOME OTHER THING, AND NICKS HIMSELF.

LIVING AND DYING.

BEYOND OUR CONTROL.
It seems it's not just plague and famine that produced this huge number of refugees. This feels like the migration of nations.

At present, it's uncertain whether the prominent nobles in the royal city, Windham, or even the next queen, Princess Charlotte, seemingly debilitated by grief over the king's death, are alive or dead.

According to information delivered by the Holy See a bit ago, several days prior a large Kushan military host from the far east crossed the mountain range and invaded Midland.

Is this the time for such a Carefree Inquisition? Are not the Kushan an old enemy of our religion? But...if that is the case, would not it mean big trouble? The Albion Monastery we are headed towards is under direct control of the Holy See, but nevertheless it is near the Midland border.

That goes to show... misery loves company.

Until then we may simply remain silent and undertake the mission given to us.

If anything about the situation changes, subsequent reports should arrive from the Holy See.
LADY FARNSE IS IN A WORSE MOOD THAN USUAL.

JUST WHAT ON EARTH IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

DO YOU SUPPOSE IT IS BECAUSE SHE WAS RELIEVED OF THE DUTY OF ARRESTING THE BLACK SWORDSMAN?

...YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE CAPTURED THE BLACK SWORDSMAN, YET YOU LET HIM SLIP AWAY.

AFTER SPENDING TWO WHOLE YEARS...

WHAT'S MORE, YOU SUFFERED CASUALTIES ATTEMPTING TO CAPTURE BUT ONE MAN.

AND NOT JUST ONE OR TWO LOSSES.

THEY ARE A SYMBOL OF THE AUTHORITY, SO TO SPEAK...OF THE HOLY SEE, GOD'S EARTHLY MOUTHPIECE.

THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS ARE DIFFERENT FROM ORDINARY HEATHEN FORCES.

YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND.

SOMETIMES THERE CAN BE LOSSES IN BATTLE...

YES, BUT--

MY HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS ARE IN A FASHION YET AN ARMY!

WE MEAN ITS EXISTENCE IS HIGHLY CEREMONIAL.

MIND YOUR TONGUE!

WHAT INSOLENCE!

THEN YOU MEAN WE ARE JUST AN ORNAMENTATION...

NO...

BASED ON YOUR FATHER'S GOOD WORD, WE WERE SOMEHOW ABLE TO SETTLE THE MATTER AMICABLY...

BUT THERE WERE NO SMALL NUMBER WHO STATED THAT THEY WERE THROUGH GIVING DONATIONS TO THE HOLY SEE.

FORTUNATELY, YOU YOURSELF ARE OF THE WORLD-REKOWNED VAND/MION FAMILY, WHICH BOASTS OF GREAT FORTUNES.

N nearly all sons of high nobles from several countries!

I WONDER IF you REALIZE WHAT TYPE OF MARTYRS they WERE who DIED ON your LAST MISSION.
...PERHAPS THERE IS SOME MARGIN FOR CONSIDERATION.

...AND FINERY IS ALL WELL AND GOOD...

WHILE IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT THE LEADER OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS IS TRADITIONALLY A MAIDEN...

HAVING READ THE WRITTEN REPORT REGARDING THAT MATTER, THE MIRACLE RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT HAS NEED FOR YOU TO INVESTIGATE SOMETHING.

IT ISN'T AS IF THE BLACK SWORDSMAN HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY CONFIRMED TO BE THE SAME THING AS THE HAWK OF DARKNESS DESCRIBED IN THE REVELATIONS.

...WE'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO SUSPEND IT.

IN ANY CASE, THE PROPOSAL OF THE TASK OF ARRESTING THE BLACK SWORDSMAN WAS YOURS PERSONALLY, WITH CONSEQUENCES OF THIS NATURE...

WE WILL DECLARE A NEW MISSION TO YOU AT A LATER TIME.

REALITY SEEN THROUGH ONE'S OWN EYES IS BETTER THAN THE CONFINES OF CONJECTURE.

MIRACLE BECOMING REALITY IS WHAT FIRST BESTOWS POWER.

AND CONTROLLING THE RECOGNITION OF THAT POWER IS OUR OBLIGATION.

TRULY, WE MUST HURRY TO ESTABLISH A DISCOURSE REGARDING THIS "HAWK OF LIGHT" DREAM, OF WHICH WE HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED REPORTS FROM EACH LAND OF OUR RELIGION. MANY EVEN WITHIN THE HOLY SEE ITSELF HAVE REPORTED EXPERIENCING IT.

AT ANY RATE, THIS IS NO TIME FOR THE BLACK SWORDSMAN.
I'VE SEEN NO SUCH THING...

MIRACLES, THE HAWK OF LIGHT...

MIRACLES...

D-DON'T THINK OF IT!!

IT'S NOTHING!

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

THERE'S NO WAY THAT WAS REALITY...!!
RIGHT NOW JUST FOCUS ON THE DUTY OF GUARDING THE INQUISITOR!

DON'T THINK OF IT! IT'S AN ILLUSION, IT DIDN'T EXIST!

I...

...COULDN'T HAVE...

JUST SO LONG AS I CARRY OUT MY FAITH! THAT PROMISES PEACE IN MY HEART...

EVEN IF GOD DOES NOT EXPRESS ANY MIRACLES THROUGH ME...

...FROM GOD: YOU'RE TOO FAR...

I...

THAT'S NOT TRUE...

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE TO GUARD HIM? IT WOULD BE DISPRITING EVEN WERE IT NOT LADY FARNESI.

LOOKS LIKE IT IS NOT JUST RELEASE FROM THAT DUTY...

...BUT STILL, A NEW MISSION.
CLEAR THE WAY!

NO MISTAKIN' IT, THAT'S THE INQUISITOR'S WAGON.

A HUGE WHITE CARRIAGE ARMORED WITH STEEL PLATE.

DAMN IT! WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE?!

THAT'S ONE HUGE CARRIAGE.

SHHH!

DON'T GO SHOOTIN' YOUR MOUTH OFF!

B-BLOODY SCRIPTURE MOZGUS!!

SEE THOSE FOUR RED WHEELS HOISTED ABOVE THE CARRIAGE?

IT AIN'T JUST ANY INQUISITOR EITHER.

THAT'S THE TOKEN OF "BLOODY SCRIPTURE MOZGUS."

THAT...!!
What's more, they say that once you're in his grasp, a single mole can make you a witch or heretic.

He's the most famous and feared Inquisitor the world over.

Those numbers are just like war. No less than five hundred people have been put to death under his judgement, and many times that number have lost their lives during torture.

The wheel, impaling, stake burning, water torture ...

I'm sure he's the target of lots of spite and malice.

For that alone ...
ENEMY ATTACK ?!
DIIIE, MOZGUS!!

MY DAUGHTER!!

MY SON...!!

THIS IS FOR MY MURDERED FAMILY!!

YOU'LL PAY!!
THE REFUGEES BAR US FROM APPROACHING!!

THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH OUR FLANK!!

"FX. OHHHHHH"

"FX. THUD THUMP"

"FX BTAM"

MOZ-GUS!!

GET OUT HERE!!
WH- WHAT'RE THESE GUYS?!?

*FX: SHNK

*FX: BLCH BLCH

WHO...?!

*FX: GREE

WHAT A NOISY AFFAIR.

GRACIOUS.
THE LORD DOETH REVERENCE.
FATHER MOZGUS!!
ARE YOU UNINJURED?!

MISS FARNES.

I WAS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO ALLOW AN ATTACK!!
NO, NO.
YOU NEED NOT BE SO HUMBLE.
PLEASE, RAISE YOUR HEADS.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT IS A BLESSING THAT NONE FROM THE HOLY SEE BECAME CASUALTIES. THAT IS GOD'S DIVINE PROTECTION.

OUR HOLY FATHER IS MAGNANIMOUS TOWARDS HIS OWN.

...BUT FATHER MOZGUS, WHO ARE THESE?

YOU ARE MOST GRACIOUS.

WE SHALL ENDEAVOR EARNESTLY FROM HERE ON.

AHH.
...they are very useful to me in this time of crisis.

with wills of iron long cultivated by strict discipline and duty...

these are my devoted torturers.

now, line the party of attackers up here.

dammit!!

lemme go!!

...seem most reliable.

...dubious...

so, i would hear the reason you attacked me.

revenge!!

but i was following god's doctrine, in that i passed judgement fairly.

it is certainly a misfortune that such a thing happened.

...you burned all the remaining villagers to death!! women and children--no one was left!!

you accused our village of being a refuge for heretics, and while the men were working away from home...
WHAT WAS FAIR ABOUT IT?! ALL WE DID WAS SUGGEST THAT WE TEMPORARILY SUSPEND OUR OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH SINCE OUR FOOD STORES HAD HIT ROCK BOTTOM FROM THE FAMINE!!

AND YOU ARBITRARILY— IT'S DIVINE PUNISHMENT!! GOD'S WRATH... IS UPON YOU!!

YOU DARE SPEAK OF PUNISHMENT?!!
YOU MISGUIDED FOOL!!!
NONE OF YOU HAVE ANY PLACE PRESUMING TO BE GOD'S MOUTHPIECE!!

NO ONE ON EARTH BEHINDS WE OF THE HOLY SEE!!

*SILENCE

...DOST THOU FEEL IS APPROPRIATE FOR THESE?

WHAT MANNER OF ACTION...

AYE!

...USUALLY WARRANT BURNING, OR BREAKING ON THE WHEEL.

THOSE WHO WOULD PLOT TO MURDER A PRIEST...

MISS FARNESER.
AND WE ARE
PRESSED FOR TIME
AND CANNOT WASTE IT
ON INVOLVEMENT
WITH THEM...

MOREOVER,
THEY ARE
FLAGRANT
DELICTORS.
THEY HAVE NO
DEFENSE.

CATEGORICALLY
ANSWERED!
JUST WHAT I
WILL EXPECT
FROM THE GLORIOUS
LEADER OF THE
HOLY IRON
CHAIN KNIGHTS.
SPLendid INSIGHT.

*FX SNAP

I AM
GRATE-
FUL...

*CLAP CLAP

BY MY
AUTHORITY I
PASS SUMMARY
JUDGMENT
UPON THEM
HERE.

ALL OF THE
ACCUSED ARE
CONDEMNED TO
DEATH BY THE
WHEEL.

THE
SENTENCE.

FORGIVE
MEEE!!

I'M
GONNA
KILL
YOU!!

N-NO!
HAVE
MERCY...!!

GO TO
HELL!!

L-
LOAD OF
CRAP!!
ATROCIous...

N-NEXT.

...!!

UWAH!!

*FX: THUD

H-HELP ME....!!

*FX: WHUMP
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'LL GET INVOLVED TOO!

EH... AIEE!!

W-WAIT! SHE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS, HE JUST...

ARE YOU IN LEAGUE WITH HIM TOO?!

SHUT UP!!

GIRL!!

COME HERE!!

HELP...
My name's Luca. Are you okay?

Ah!

You don't go for revenge if you're not ready to die! Wimp!

C'mon! Have mercy....!!

What's she, crazy?

*FX: Gyahhh

When I think I'm going to the same place they are, it makes me want to head back to my own plague-ridden village.

*FX: Aieeee

Still, this is so gruesome it's making me sick!
COME ON! THIS WAY.

STARING AT IT WILL JUST MAKE YOU ILL.

HOW LONG'RE YOU GONNA STAND THERE?

COME ON!
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!

1. I know all about it.
2. I know it all too well.
3. How he's a monster that eats human flesh.
4. I passed them at the gates of the city.
5. And I know that you continue to provide him with his meals.
6. A prison wagon full of women and children.
7. Protect this town? Don't you mean protect myself?
8. I... I am the mayor!
9. It is my duty to protect this town!
Renegade devil-slayer Guts, the Black Swordsman, may be the bane of the demonic realm, but the citizenry of Midland, the kingdom he formerly served, aren’t exactly members of his fan club, either. When the hell-er-than-thou Knights of the Holy Iron Chain capture Guts and decide to whip (literally) some repentance into him, Guts develops a few ideas of his own...like taking the Iron Chain’s leader hostage and showing her that when Hell comes calling, the only thing worth praying for is a sword!

Created by Kentaro Miura, Berserk is an out-of-control manga flashfire, a searing epic of blazing action, blasphemous horror, and black humor that has left scorched earth and toasted readers in its fiery wake. Burn, baby, burn!

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