

## Warrior's Quest

It was a bright and sunny morning in the kingdom of heroes. Famous throughout the land for producing the strongest and wisest of men. Suddenly the busiest and loudest place in the kingdom, the market place, went quiet. Coming through the street was a man. Clad in leather and iron armor and a longsword dragging behind him, he silently walked through the streets up to the gates of the castle.

He entered the castle with his shoulders hunched and walked into the throne room. He knelt before the king. "My lord..." He said. "Your armies in the northern mountains are losing to the savage barbarians who have invaded your land. They are too strong and agile for your men." "I see" the king said. "If you are here, than what happened to the others?" The man replied "When we mounted a retreat back they followed us. They came out of nowhere and showed no mercy. I alone escaped." The king rose from the throne and walked to the window.

After thinking for a few minutes he walked back towards the still kneeling man. "Well," he said "I think I know what you now must do. My generals have informed me that there is a base at the foot of the mountain to the east. It is heavily guarded so a full scale attack would be overwhelmed. So it will be better to have a one-man stealth mission. I think you will be the right man for the job." "I accept the challenge." the man replied. "Good, now go into the armory and pick out a suit and a dagger. Next go to the stables and pick out a black stallion" the king ordered. "Yes sir, but why do I need to go to this base?" the man asked. "Tonight there is going to be a rider bringing a map of their next target. You must change the map so that they may meet their doom. Also I had all but forgotten. The code you must give to the rider is waterfall" the king said. "It shall be done your lordship" the man replied then rose to go to the armory and stables. Once he had selected his horse, suit (dark green and the uniform of the barbarians), black pants and dagger he mounted his horse and rode off towards the mountain.

He rode through the woods until he saw the lone rider. "Hello, I was sent out to relieve you. Do you have the map?" the man asked the rider. "Yes" the rider replied, "but what is the code?" "Waterfall" the man replied." "Very good" the lone rider said as he handed the man the scroll. The rider rode off. "Now to change it." the man uttered to himself after the rider left. He laid the map out on a stump and took out his quill. Once the map had been modified he rode off again. As he approached the barbarian's camp he dismounted and tied his horse to a nearby tree. He spoke to two guards at what looked like the main entrance. "I'm here to deliver a map to the general" the man told them. They nodded to each other and let him pass.

He walked until he found a large white tent in the center of the camp. He entered the tent and saw a large man sitting at a table. "Are you the general?" The man asked slightly intimidated. "Indeed I am" the general said in a deep voice. "I have the map for the next attack." the man said as he took the map out of his jacket and handed it to the general. "Was there any problems with your ride over?" the general asked. "No, no problems." the man replied. "You are dismissed" the general stated as he unrolls the map and laid it on the table.

The man walked out of the camp. He mounted his horse and rode off. As the sun rose over the mountains he rode back into the city. Dismounting at the stables and letting the stable boys handle the horse. He walked into the throne room. "My lord" he said triumphantly. "I have modified the map specifically so that they may meet their doom when they set out. " You have done well my son." the king said smiling. "I would be honored if you were to serve in my court." "Thank you sire."

On a moonless night the barbarians set out for the last time. The maps directions brought them to the cliff of bones where they could not see the edge and fell from the cliff. With their largest army gone the barbarians were defeated two months later. The man was very popular with everyone in the kingdom and lived a long and happy life. The barbarians were never heard from again.