

Dragon Tales

By

H. P. Lovelace

Disclaimer: The characters and events described in this book are fictional.

Any resemblance between the characters and any person, alive or dead, is purely coincidental.

The numerical usages, Biblical [1, 3 & 9] and Pagan [2, 5 & 7] and Mystical [6 & 13], are quite intentional.

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This reading material is of a mature nature. Reader discretion is advised.

Unrated Version: This is the version minus the training wheels. As a rule, there is no capitalization of words which have additional meanings specific to this book. You'll just have to put your thinking caps on and figure it out. Or ... you could just use the enclosed glossary.

Examples of words [including all of their implied tenses] which have additional meanings specific to this book are: army, associate, believer, book, collateral, change, chosen, church, crank, crimson, dead, death, devices, die, earth, embrace, family, first, glasses, grimm, hard, heads, hogs, hunger, infernal, kill, kiss, law, lurid, made, mafia, marine, military, mistress, mob, moll, moon, optical, pretend, pretense, prime, race, racial, rapture, readers, reaper, redemptive, reform, reformist, research, rook, saint, sanctified, sanctify, save, scan, secondary, scum, suit, tank, temptation, thug, thirst, thirsty, took, trooper, visor, way, whispers, zealot. Then, again, I also lie. Capish?

The Foreword

“As a Race, Dragons are the second oldest of God’s Children. As a Race, they are not possessed of the extreme malevolence and unbridled spite of The Nameless Ones. And ... they are not inclined to be genocidal racists like the demons. Time and time again, they have proven themselves to be the most enlighten of supernatural beings. Therefore, it is unfathomable and unconscionable that they would so openly and strongly encourage the Martian colonies of Earth to: secede from our terrestrial sponsorship and embark on an ill thought endeavor of self-determination which can only result in another bloody interstellar civil war. It is a war which the colonists will surely lose.”

---President Abraham Lincoln, an excerpt from his “Gettysburg Address” speech in December 1836 before the League of Nations meeting which was convened to officially abjure the Citizenry for its rejection of the revisions proposed by the Security Council to the Martian Armistice of 1909.

The Tree, Hydra, Hitler, and Zoe

The First Martian Race War, MRW 1, was the so-called “war to end all wars”. It was that genocidal in nature. Ten million people died. Seven major cities, including Mars City were nuked.

Hitler sends the head of Hydra, his deep-science research division, to audience with The Tree. A brilliant scientist by the name of Johann Schmidt. Now, Herr Schmidt is a member the Fuehrer’s inner circle. And he is ambitious. He and Hitler share a passion for Teutonic myth and an obsession with occult power [especially its Vampiric flavor].

Decades later, another Schmidt gains audience with The Tree ...

The gods come in many shapes and sizes. Likewise for supernatural beings. All gods are supernatural, but not all supernaturals are gods.

Yggdrasil. The “tree” of the world. Guardian of wisdom. And fate, also. A supernatural being, but not a god. It stands before Schmidt in the guise of a bearded old man, just like it did decades ago for her father. As great as her father was in the arena of science, Fraulein Schmidt’s abilities eclipse his. Zoe Schmidt’s ambitions also mirror his. A formidable combination, indeed. Her goal is no less than to harness the power of the gods. And, like her father before her, she intends to do it via The Tesseract, the jewel of Odin’s treasure room, that special gift from Odin’s Dragon mistress Ancient Mia.

“You have not seen this before, have you?”

“Not exactly,” Zoe responds, being coy and menacing at the same time.

The Tree frowns at her answer and then continues, per ROE that binds it. The boundless arrogance of mortals such as this woman, never amuses it. And, few mundane have chafed it more than this woman has in the brief time that they have conversed. It is supposed to be neural in all of its dealings, but it is a person and like all people it has its personal feelings. And it has never cared for evil, and this woman is as evil as her father was and as evil as it has ever dealt with, which speaks volumes about the nefariousness of all members of The Master Race.

“It’s not for the eyes of ordinary men ... or women.”

“Exactly.”

“Fool! You cannot control the power that you claim! You will burn!”

“I already have ... burned that is ... and yet here I stand having gained audience with you to hold that which you claim I have not the eyes to behold. Your bias is showing. Being worthy has nothing to do with being good of moral character, by the narrow definition that you share with the inferior races that you often align yourself with.”

“As you say, my bias is showing. ROE commands otherwise.” It pauses as it swallows the bitter pill that it must swallow. “How long do you wish to pawn the item?”

“For as long as I’m worthy.”

The Martian Race Wars, MRW 2

Boeing's Lightning-class heavy cruiser was of the type used by Earth Force [of the League of Nations] during the first two Martian Race Wars as its main capital ship.

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During the hostilities ... The Earth colonists of the Martian Outlands remained neutral, as if they were the Red Planet's version of Earth's Swiss. Likewise, the indigenous Martians sat this one out; leaving the warfare to humans.

Not so unbiased were the Nationalists, who wanted to maintain their ties with Earth. It was the Citizenry, those colonists of most independent spirit, who seceded from Earth—seeing the militaries of various Earth nations stationed on Mars as foreign occupying forces.

From 1904 to 1909, when the armistice was signed, the Citizenry fought the combined forces of the Nationalists and the Earth's militaries under the banner of the League of Nations.