

## The Gathering

### I

Branches bud, showing the first signs of spring. Hoof beats kick up dust from their riders and it settles upon them.

A mature Prince Edward followed by thirty men who are of another tribe pass through open forest. They eagerly trot their horses down a path through many trees. The way has been opened to attend a meeting at what appears the proper time.

A certain Indian who used to be a witch doctor of the Blackhanded warriors has awaited a certain day, only he did not yet know when it would arrive. It has been five years since a war was fought to protect Calington and its provinces, but has the time come for a gathering of the ones who learned to love in place of hate?

After much growth, with skills acquired, there has been preparing of the soul to call upon the Great One in all, but has fruition come? For when these people were broken, trapped in a reality smashed, their desires to build had not become honest enough to find out what could last. A firmness was needed in place of encountering lies where real in truth, all needs would be met to finally thrive.

Prince Edward had heard some progress reports from various tribes while on the move. He even checked in on some of these

braves who used to be members of the Blackhanded clan from time to time. We find him examining the thoughts which have his mind, *“Was it really the right moment to return to their old tribe? Could they be the kind of witnesses to bring a true picture of faith? Had reason truly focused them on the Great One, enough to make responsible choices for the difficulties they had to face? Truly, they have stayed the course. For in the substance of their search, birthed within a reality complete, it seems all has come to bloom.*

The Prince has some other thoughts on his ride, *“My own uncle, kind and gentle he was, yet he perished at their Blackhanded hands. Blood-thirsty men, not even eight years prior. Can I trust?*

*According to my brother Liam, I should forgive. At last, I know it! These people themselves were perishing from a lack of sight as once was I when my vision was not very bright.”*

Prince Edward turns as his horse breaks from the woods. *“Wait here! I do not want to come upon the others by surprise.”*

He alone encounters the village of Nomads. Riding ahead, he leaves behind the thirty who were with him with instruction to give him some time.

Children play while women tend to chores. Braves, who are not out hunting, wave with friendly smiles. He slows. Finally, his horse comes to a pause before a chief who is in full

ceremonial dress. Kelth stands as he gives command to a brave, “It is time. Send for Hinsee to come!”

“Yes, my chief.” He goes on His way.

“Prince Edward, how good to see you. I know you will be pleasantly surprised. You shall find the men are ready. They are now like trees bearing much good fruit and deeply rooted in love. They draw from the Spirit of life even though unseen dragon winds have tried to sway them many times.”

The Prince signals for his portion of the Blackhand to enter the village, “I see I am expected. What of their leader?”

“Come!” He turns and motions for the prince to follow.

Traveling a short distance, they encounter the large hut of meeting. Kelth and his royal friend enter to meet with the old tribal medicine man with a whisper, “Resting Wolf?”

“Prince Edward!” the old witch doctor responds after looking up from leading prayer. There are thirty more Blackhand from the old tribesmen of the North with him. All else look up from holding hands while silent in a circle of prayer.

Kelth notices his leader’s royal look, “Resting Wolf, the old witch doctor is determined to no longer be a threat.”

Prince Edward is pleased to see smiling faces full of joy. They tell of completed lives. It seems his many prayers have not gone unanswered.

Resting Wolf, who has studied scripture from the *Book of Life*, makes his attitude known, “I thought the time was about right for you to come. Something about the stillness in the air.”

Prince Edward observes all. Then speaks to Kelth with a thought upon his mind, “By living out his faith among you, I have determined that he has learned. All appears well.”

Stepping forward, he extends his hands to meet with him and Prince Edward to form a small circle of their own. It appears there will be peace. The three still their hearts ‘til no tension is felt between them. Prince Edward looks up and announces, “There is unity. It is time!”

Kelth nods his head as his son arrives, “Hinsee, I have made preparations for a trip.”

Hinsee looks at his father and they exchange a glance which tells all.

“I will watch over our people, father.”

“I know that by the Spirit you are much wiser than twelve. Should I not return, you will serve our people well...”

“You shall return, father! For, I will be praying for you.”

“And I you, my son.”

When Kelth takes leave of the hut, he sees Taheena, his wife, looking on. Tears are on her cheeks as she stands before him, “I will pray for you, husband! For I have heard from Cetchem that now is the Great One’s timing for you to go.”

Kelth holds Taheena’s hand and leads her. After a few steps, they stand alone, “I was just on my way to see you. Let us walk.”

His wife finds the first words, “It seems like just yesterday you returned with the witch doctor.”

“You know that my love will always be with you.”

“I know this shall be, even beyond time itself should you not return!”

They hold each other with a long embrace. Then looking into each other’s eyes, they part with a kiss.

Kelth encounters Cetchem, “I want you to stay behind and assist Hinsee in the affairs of the tribe. I trust your counsel will be important in keeping balance among our people.”

Cetchem grasps his shoulder and nods his head, “I understand.”

After a wave of goodbye to the other elders, Kelth approaches his horse and mounts up next to Prince Edward who leads the others before the Nomad Chief. Where passing through the now sixty braves, they come together by Resting Wolf. The three lead the way. Resting Wolf rides on the prince’s right with Kelth on his other side as they continue on their way.

Kelth inquires, “Will your brother Prince Liam be joining us on this trip?”

“He doth not know. He only said that he will be keeping us in prayer and see if he is to follow.”

Resting Wolf becomes involved, “The main thing is that the Great One is with us.”

Prince Edward looks over, “Yes! You have learned much during your stay with the Nomads. Do you have anything else you wish to share?”

“When born into this world, we’re not spared its pain. We knew not all the answers to questions when they came. It was

hard to find one's way through life when God had no name. As without meaning, there was no purpose in living unfulfilled and what I held onto only wasted time within my mind.

Though in the start, I lacked wisdom, not perceiving what was real. Yet I question, could all have been mine sooner if I had known His difference? I wonder.”

Prince Edward responds, “Why do you look at me?”

“I am certain that I would have had fulfillment from the start, but then again, I have been sharpened to know focus by The New Spirit from inside my heart. There was a need to have His light as it caused me to discover who brought forth life. Yet, now crafted by His brightness, I have grown to root within my soul in a soil deeper than that of the old man I had known.”

Kelth, considering what was said, states, “I am in agreement with you, Resting Wolf. Prince Edward, your visits have helped him to learn the ways of Calington, too.”

“Yes, watching our Blackhanded witch doctor come to a rest from his old ways has been a long journey, one that has truly blessed us in its coming. For even upon my arrival, I was still not sure ‘til his eyes told all.”

Kelth continues, “Watching him change his view from his other kingdom has taught me well. Everything perceived as real was not necessarily true. I was locked away inside myself, which kept me from entering into true conversation with others, too. I felt alone. Mere expressions left me grasping at straws as there was no wisdom to endure an off-balanced growth that

definitely leaves one not stable at all. Although, in making friends, love has taught us all.”

Resting Wolf quickly responds, “I have known emptiness of soul when known as Howling Wolf. Not having vision of light left me caught in the incompleteness of the lower realm. Brokenness had me confused, but now I want to only choose to walk on a path that is true. I know you, my friend. You have helped me to where beholding eyes in the brilliance of truth has sustained me on level ground. The kind without abuse.”

Kelth speaks in revelation, “We all know who the Great One is. We were raised within the steadiness of His loving touch as He made us honest within ourselves. I know His light and with desires fulfilled, there is room for life when we look beyond the hills.”

Prince Edward joins in, “I know that when things do not quite line up within our Lord’s kingdom for me, distractions get in my way. For, I was confused into making poor choices, which darkened my understanding from the beginning. Yet now, I can identify how others lack passion without purpose for real life.”

Kelth answers as the maturing prince looks on, “Me and my not so little one look forward to meeting with His passion even more. It took time to understand, but our thirsts have been quenched by feeling Him through long prayers.

Prince Edward, you and your brother have taught me much. Perhaps on this journey, we will all learn more deeply than before as there is always a need to encourage each other by answering His call.”

“It is only because of the circumstances that surrounded our royal father that we have been prepared. Liam and I had to be well-taught. It took patient time to turn our wills towards God through his example of prayer. It is now a crest upon our shield which yields the gift of self-control. For in knowing to trust God to be there to teach and hold, we are caught within His inner voice before, knowing his embrace. He has been there in all that we might face.”

Kelth becomes serious, “It takes real faith to know that God is the only one who can bring about change. I have feared coming apart many a time in turning over my control to the sword of His tongue. Yet, I learned to slow my pace ‘til I knew His steady peace could heal. Now, instead of getting in His way and becoming lost, God has been my faithful guide, complete in love at any cost.”

Prince Edward has a final word, “I am discovered not to camp out on just one plateau of truth anymore. In continuing to discover on my climb up His Mountain of life, it is always known that there is more to The Great One than meets the eye.

His love outshines the sun where deep reality burns away this world. No longer doth it have me bound to its evils. The higher I climb, I want no part of returning to places that were unkind.

I have seen His glimmers of light burn away darkness within my mind as spirits meet their end. Now, there is nothing to find but peace. The word of our Lord’s sword has done this. Cutting with friction that leads to light, He exposes by well-placed verse and prayer against what hides.