

WAYFARER of the 29TH RING™ by D.H. DALE™

A MINIATURESTORY™ from STORIESWEARETELLING™ for the MINIATURELIBRARY™ of the SHORTSTORYAFICIONADO™

The SHORT STORY AFICIONADO™ PRESENTS



THE MINIATURE LIBRARY THE SHORT STORY AFICIONADO™

Image of an original watercolor by Anke Eissmann — 2009
Out of the Imagination and Mind's Eye of the Short Story Aficionado™

aBITof MYSTERY, ROMANCE and ADVENTURE™
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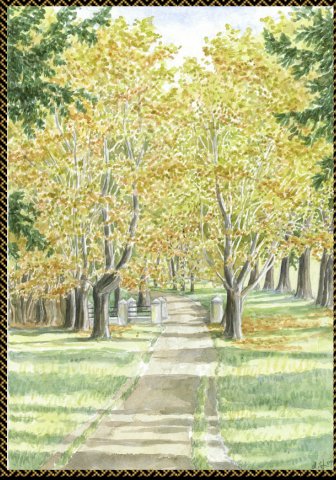
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Welcome to A STORY I'M TELLING™ from Far Beyond the Threshold of Imagination!

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Reader...

Spurred by the crisp coolness of any chosen Autumn afternoon...and before the violet blush of twilight fades to starlit night—hasten to find a comfortable easy chair...one where you may be warmed by the welcoming embers of a glowing hearth. From there, your imagination shall lift you up and whisk you down the narrow drive ahead—through the gateposts and beyond.



Once round the bend, you shall find yourself in a hitherto unseen quarter—as Far Beyond the Threshold of Imagination™ as you can ever hope to be!

It is there and then that you shall have the opportunity to reach out for one brief moment in time—to grasp the offer of an outstretched hand that is a Bit of Mystery,

Romance and Adventure.

D.H. DALE'S™ WAYFARER of the 29th RING™

A Miniature Story™ from Stories We Are Telling™
for the Miniature Library™ of the Short Story Aficionado™

FAR BEYOND the THRESHOLD of IMAGINATION™
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WAYFARER of the 29th RING™

Having Evolved into the Quintessential
MINIATURE STORY™
aBit of MYSTERY, ROMANCE and ADVENTURE™
is Dedicated to

My FAMILY
Then, Now and Always

My DARLING and DEVOTED WIFE
You of Starlit Nights Come and Gone

My LOVING and FAITHFUL DAUGHTER
You're the Best!

My BELOVED WIFE and ALLY
You in the Autumn Blush of All the Afternoons Yet to Come
having been the First to Cross Over the Threshold into the
MINIATURE LIBRARY™

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Welcome to A STORY I'M TELLING™ from Far Beyond the Threshold of Imagination!

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Reader...

Taste aBitof Mystery, Romance and Adventure! Wrap yourself in the cloak of imagination, and ascend ever higher into the enigmatic mist



clutching at the lavender and golden skirts of the Turta Mountains—the Sea of Pearl and Darhan Steppe becoming mere memories of fast fading and far-off vistas. Journey the veiled paths of east and west—crossing the threshold of The Archives at Ocher to ponder the mysteries therein and long concealed!

Shy of summits rising abruptly out of lush, carpeted valleys harboring Ancient and Towering Corridors of Jade...hold your breath for a moment, as you gaze out across the vast

Battle Plain of Uvus Nuur—at the kaleidoscopic and perplexing splendors that are Sunrise and Sunset at the Rim of the World!

WAYFARER of the 29th RING™

by

D.H. DALE™

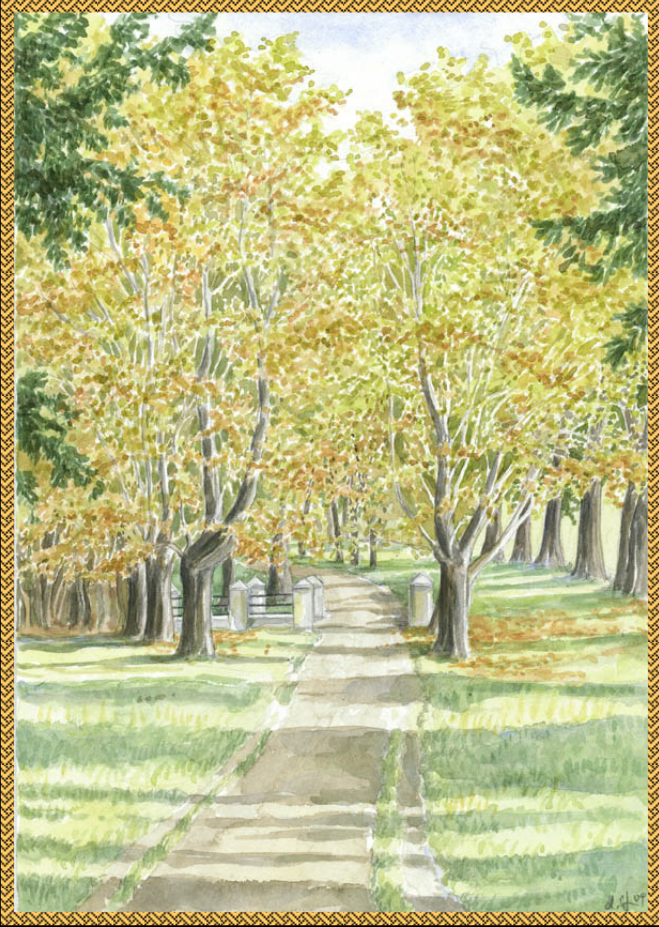
KNOLL on the BATTLE PLAIN of UVUS NUUR
WAYFARER and SAVIOR the HADASAN STALLION™

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FAR BEYOND the THRESHOLD of IMAGINATION™
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WHILE HONOR be PRESERVED —
if THERE is GLORY
in DEATH and DISABILITY, I SEE it NOT!

WRAPPING ITS WARMING RAYS about the weary traveler and his faithful mount—the soon to be brilliantly roiling sun illumines the way ahead in clairvoyant radiance.

This early warmth is the natural succession to sunrise, which falls on the heels of the *Lavender Wave of Morning*™—twilight's cooling mist.

The morning haze sits like a heavy fog, enveloping the grand congregation of mighty trees that are the *Ancient and Towering Corridors of Jade*™—all pointing some three hundred feet or more straight up toward the heavens *In the Land of Granger's Birth*™.

And then *Sunrise at the Rim of the World*™ begins its daily diffusion—the only exemptions being the *Crimson Jade*™ canopies that are the loftiest and most interwoven.

THOUGHTS of the PAST

HAVING SPENT MANY WEEKS on track, trail and road, the wizened warrior and his battle scarred stallion are about to push on toward what *Wayfarer*-anticipates will be journey's end—and perhaps a final respite from fields of casualty and honor.

This, if all goes according to plan!

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It is *Wayfarer's*™ thoughts of bloody and terrible afternoons that are never far from the former *Jaguarasquar's*™ mind – and which he often finds descending upon him like a mosaic curtain stitched with memories of bittersweet days gone by.

Lord Granger's™ ultimate destination is his ancestral home in the land of lavender and Amethystine folk – at *Hope's Amethyst*™!

However, before he can turn south, he has important business to attend to in the lands of the *Ocherine*™ headship.

It is there in the north that *Wayfarer*™ may find himself in some jeopardy – and he is planning for that eventuality!

OF THOSE BITTERSWEET BLOOMS

SAPPHIRE BLUE IS THE BRIGHT CARPET of exquisite blossoms that stretches as far as the eye can see amongst a random grove of stalwart trees.

The velvety smoothness of these blooms undulates and washes like a silent and commanding wave across the broad meadow – where those who are *The Best and Finest of Us*™ conduct honor's fiercest and most selfless defense in the preservation of honor for all soldiers.



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Sorrowfully, shadowy scarlet and crimson become those once bright blooms where cleaved and broken bodies fall—a soldier's lifeblood spilling out upon the landscape in *Indiscriminate Patterns and Pools of Pain and Terrible Hurt*¹.

These earthy and shallow reservoirs of what was mere moments before the confirmation of a living man—are now fleetingly filled with a surreal mix of lifeless claret and burgundy red, that shall soon seep away into an unrepentant and surly earth.

What fades away from the warming rays of the daily sun is the only remaining evidence of that finite and well-timed flow to and from the beating heart and lungs of a soldier's birthright—now cut off brutally and suddenly in a breathless instant, and for eternity!

"While honor be preserved—if there is glory upon this fatal field, I see it not! I do not seek glory!"

This, the father, son and brother cries out in honorific agony to his fellows—lying as he is, mortally wounded—amidst a meadow that shall now become some vast and all but forgotten place. This, where bright flowers shall once again take root—and only for its beauty be reclaimed by the *Terrestrial Architect*™ on behalf of the *Designers*™.

The ILLUSION of GLORY

LET ME BE CRYSTAL CLEAR, *Mr. and Mrs. Politician*™—there is nothing glorious about being struck down on the battlefield. Any such so called

¹Indiscriminate Patterns and Pools of Pain and Terrible Hurt™ — Calming Shadows Amidst Twisted Cruelty™ is an image of an original watercolor by Anke Eissmann - 2009, out of the Imagination and Mind's Eye of the Short Story Aficionado™.

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glory attributed to wartime death, disability and illness is an illusion!

It is nothing more nor less than a chimera conjured up within the minds of those who have never been near any field of honor—or near the utter and complete brutality present on a crimson meadow, dune, hill or ridge.

These conjurers are mere political patriots!

It is they who seek to use war to further their personal careers, and the aims of some courtly group—those goals and objectives directly associated with seeking, gaining and keeping political, economic and military power—that yields wealth and control—close to their vests!

ANATOMY of a WOUND

A WOUND OR INJURY EXACTED, is one fiercely inflicted upon individual soldiers by javelin, axe, sword and arrow—or by all of these!

Such is grossly unclean, leaving little hope of recovery for the fallen—whose torsos, appendages and bones are cleaved, punctured and shattered!

If a wounded soldier does not promptly die from the violent trauma inflicted upon him, he most often succumbs not long after from shock and a copious discharge of blood—both inside and outside of the body.

Additionally, an ailing soldier suffers greatly when forced to involuntarily yield to amoebic dysentery and infection—the latter being viral, bacterial, parasitic or fungal.

Is this in any way, shape or form glorious!

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No, of course it isn't!

Never, *Mr. and Mrs. Politician*™!

WHO SACRIFICES!

IT IS A VICIOUS and unsavory business, this thing called war! Yet, is war not also merely a game derived and drawn from some petty argument over sovereignty?

Yes! Yes, of course it is – and nothing more!

And though it is the aristocratic politicians who seem to gaily and daily play the game of strategy – it is the ordinary person who gets caught up in the *operations and tactics* of it all.

It is ordinary men who *risk and sacrifice their lives and limbs, sight, hearing and physical and mental health* on the fields of casualty and honor

These are the fatal fields whose risks and sacrifices have the potential for glorifying only the grand strategists!

It is these "great thinkers" who are virtually never actually present when arrows and javelins penetrate flesh and internal organs – and when axes and swords blind and separate limbs and heads from unwilling bodies!

WHO SURVIVES?

ALONG HIS WANDERED WAY, the still formidable *Lord Granger*™ takes advantage of every opportunity to observe many a farmer, laborer, artisan, beggar and vagabond as they go about their individual daily lives.


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Some he sees that bear the obvious outer scars of war, such as loss of limb and sight. For others, *Wayfarer's*™ military experience, personal compassion and eye for detail lead him to discern subtle and often inner impairments of hearing—as well as those intensely camouflaged debilitations of general physical health—and even more severely hidden mental infirmities.

Regardless! Whilst honor remains intact, a mind and body is often terribly altered—this, far in advance of a former soldier resuming the long road of his lifetime remaining.

Lord Granger™ is often intrigued by those he meets drifting like nomads between and among the countries of the east and west, north and south—especially from the known and unknown lands of the south. For they are the ones who also ride great *Hadasan*™ stallions—and sometimes even mares as well. 

Like *Wayfarer*™, some of these travelers are former professional soldiers who served and made personal sacrifices on behalf of some distant liege lord and land.

Likewise he sometimes comes upon those rare *No-blessars*™ and *Rugae*™ who are required by their fraternal orders—as well as by society as a whole—to serve in the ranks of *The Best and Finest of Us*™, before they become counselors and eventually lord counselors.

DEAR MR. and MRS. READER™ —
WATCH for ADVENTURE XII.

YOUR STORYTELLER in MINIATURE™ ...

D.H. DALE™

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CALMING SHADOWS AMIDST TWISTED CRUELTY
INDISCRIMINATE PATTERNS and POOLS of PAIN and TERRIBLE HURT™

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SUNRISE and SUNSET at the RIM of the WORLD
In the LAND of GRANGER'S BIRTH

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YOURS in MINIATURE... The SHORT STORY AFICIONADO™



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