

### 3.

The sun was ruthlessly burning Egypt's face as the faces of the clocks were about to hit noon. Daniel hid his head beneath a spacious hat made of straw, moving along numerous stands with all sorts of useful and useless things lying upon the wooden surfaces.

"What are you looking for, Daniel?" Daniel heard Agrippa hiss.

"I'm checking if I can buy some excavation tools here. If not, I will acquire them in Algeria. Oh, here's the spatula."

It took about one hour for Daniel to find all the tools he needed and book their purchase. He couldn't buy them now because he had nothing to carry them in.

"I wonder, Daniel, where did you get all the money from? Did you turn every room upside down in the pursuit of all these thalers?"

"Kind of."

"But...when?"

"Never mind that, Cornelius. Now we'd better stop murmuring, people are starting to look at me in an odd way."

"I wonder why you keep calling me by my second name..."

"Shhh..." "Heinrich" sounds German."

"Oh..."

Daniel turned into a deserted side street and kept throwing wild looks behind his back with a paranoid frequency.

"Number 12, 14, 16, 18...No, that's the wrong alley, we need to look further..." Daniel muttered to himself while he was checking the numbers on wooden doors.

"Daniel, sorry to disturb you, but do we have a place to stay in for the night?"

“I’m working on it.” Daniel seemed to pay absolutely no attention to Agrippa’s words. He kept scanning every empty alley, the purpose known only to him.

*Half an hour later...*

“At last, I found it!” Daniel exclaimed and began to knock on the door rapidly.

“Alfred! Open up! It’s Daniel! Are you there, Alfred?!”

There was no response. Daniel put his ear closer to the lock but couldn’t distinguish any sound indicating the master’s presence. Minutes passed. Daniel attempted a few more times before giving up.

“He’s out. That’s not good.” Daniel rested on the cold wall trying to gather his thoughts.

“Are you sure he’s still living here, my friend?” Agrippa asked gently.

“No, I...no, he’s gotta be somewhere here in Egypt. It’s his paradise. Even death wouldn’t separate him from this place. But it’s getting dark and we still haven’t got a roof over our heads.”

“Can you think of something else, then?”

“I’m trying to...well, yes, there IS one more person who could give us a hand but...um...”

“But?”

“Well...he’s not the kind of person that usually welcomes guests...and we had an argument a couple of months ago so...”

“Daniel, you’re the one who needs to eat, drink, urinate and sleep. I’m just an old soul trapped in a decaying head.”

Daniel thought for a moment and agreed.

“Right, we’re going there but you **MUST KEEP DEAD QUIET.**”

“Will do.”

The night had already covered the Egyptian town with its silent cloak. Daniel crept through a sea of lanterns hanging before each of the houses. It was giving him the creeps, reminding him of the horrible events that had plagued his past, but he shook them and made his way to the very west of the town.

He knew perfectly well that the house he was looking for had no lantern attached, for the resident had no need for it. Daniel began to sweat. He was expecting something to happen with every step that put him closer to the massive dark door. He didn't have to wait long. Suddenly, a monstrous roar echoed somewhere to his side and soon Daniel felt himself being knocked down and immobilized by an immensely strong and big creature, its nose scanning him as if it wanted to extract the last scraps of Daniel's self-confidence.

"That's right, Touraz, rip his ear off! That's a good start!" A hoarse voice sounded.

"Ibrahim! Wait! It's me, Daniel!" Daniel thought he was going to suffer a heart attack. He was getting too old for this. "Touraz! Cut it out! Come here!"

The beast stopped its attack and returned obediently to its master, a tall, scary looking man with unkempt brown hair, fierce dark eyes and rough, scarred face which spoke of great experience and power. The man looked down at the faintly smiling Daniel, who slowly said:

"Long time no see, Ibrahim."

Ibrahim replied.

"Hello, Daniel. You're alive! I guess that means the second option, eh?"

*To be continued...*

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