

"THE HOLY MANKHAMID SENT A DOZEN MISSIONARIES TO THE **NORTHERN** LANDS, HOPING TO SPREAD HIS TEACHINGS TO THE **UNGODLY** PEOPLE THERE.



"BUT AFTER MANY MONTHS OF WAITING, HE HAD HEARD BACK FROM NONE OF THEM.

"BEING BRAVE OF HEART, HE SET OUT **HIMSELF** TO DISCOVER THEIR FATES.



"BUT WHEN HE GOT TO THE RIVER DRAA, WHICH DIVIDED THE SOUTH FROM THE NORTH, THERE WAS NO FERRYMAN WAITING THERE.



"HE **COMMANDED** ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES TO SWIM OUT AND RETRIEVE A DISCARDED VESSEL, BUT WHEN THE MAN WAS BARELY HALFWAY ACROSS THE RIVER...

"...THE PREVIOUSLY CALM WATERS **BUBBLED** AND **SURGED**."



AND THE HEAD OF AN **ENORMOUS SERPENT** EMERGED.





ESSAOUIRA,  
MOROCCO

THE HOLY  
MAN SUNK TO HIS  
KNEES AND PRAYED TO  
HIS **GOD** TO SAVE  
THEM ALL.

"LEAVE ME BE!"  
THE MONSTER ROARED  
AT HIM, IN AN INHUMAN AND  
UNEARTHLY VOICE. "DO NOT  
**ANGER** ME. FOR MY  
**LOVE** IS GONE."



THE HOLY  
MAN STOOD UP  
AND PROMISED THAT  
**HE** WOULD NEVER  
BOTHER THE BEAST,  
AS LONG AS HE  
LIVED.

BUT THAT  
HE COULD MAKE  
NO PROMISES FOR  
THE GENERATIONS  
YET TO COME.



"THEN THAT  
IS FAIR. FOR THEY  
WILL LIVE OR **PERISH**  
BY THEIR OWN ACTIONS,"  
THE MONSTER SAID  
IN REPLY.

KHAMID WENT ON  
TO ESTABLISH MISSIONS  
IN ALL OF THE NORTHERN  
TERRITORIES AND NEVER  
AGAIN WAS THREATENED  
BY THE RIVER  
BEAST.

AND THAT IS  
HOW WE KNOW  
MONSTERS CAN  
**LOVE**.

AND THAT  
THEY CAN ALSO  
**KEEP THEIR  
WORD**.











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MY FIRST THOUGHT  
IS OF ALEC.

WHY ISN'T HE  
BESIDE ME?



UURGH...

redcap keep.  
the morning  
after.

THEN I REMEMBER.

REMEMBER  
WHAT I DID.

WHAT I  
DREW.

I HAVE TO GET OUT  
OF HERE...UNDO MY  
TERRIBLE MISTAKE.



BUT FIRST--**SOMEBODY**  
HAS A PROMISE TO KEEP.

THORN?



I'M  
HERE...

NO NEED TAE  
SHOUT. I'M AWAKE,  
ALREADY!