

Episode 1: Our Esteemed Employer

ANNOUNCER

A Paladin's Bargain is rated somewhere between PG-13 and R for fantasy violence and occasional strong language. Listener discretion is encouraged. Full transcripts of each episode can be found at our website www.paladinsbargain.com.

Episode one: Our Esteemed Employer. As we begin the story, a horse-drawn wagon slowly rolls up a hill toward Temple Pass. GOODMAN LARKSPUR, a merchant, drives the horses while providing a train of thought monologue about the region. In the back, ROWAN sleeps off a hangover while his business partner GARNETT watches the miles roll by.

ROWAN

What the...?

GARNETT

Good morning, sunshine!

ROWAN

Gods above and devils below, is he still talking?

GARNETT

Mmm-hmmm.

ROWAN

Did I miss anything?

GARNETT

Well, I'm up to speed on all the gossip for where we're heading. Apparently, the Guildmaster at Gauntlet Station has been "dipping his quill in the company inkpot." After that, our esteemed employer outlined all the family intrigues in the valley we passed through. What the baron's son did with that stable boy? Teaching him how to read? The scandal! He also provided a breathtaking description of all the local brewers and winemakers, with vintage notes!

ROWAN

Anything good?

GARNETT

Nah. It's all horse piss. But that led to a veritable treatise on soil and drainage conditions in the region! And that led to

an inventory of the local geographic landmarks in Common, Elvish, Dwarvish, and Gnomish!

ROWAN

Alright, there haven't been elves in this region for over a century and... wait, Gnomish? Are you messing with me?

GARNETT

Nope! Apparently, there's a Gnomish monastery two passes ahead. "At the base of what they call Heart's Pass - heart like your ticker, not like a stag."

ROWAN

Gods above and devils below! Remind me why we are doing this?

GARNETT

Because, Goodman Larkspur is paying us to protect his wagon on his way to Gauntlet Station. The place that we were heading to already for a little "discovery." So, the choices are: listen to our esteemed employer describe every rock, tree, and bird between here and the Gauntlet or walk the whole way because we can't afford anything else.

ROWAN

Oh, right. Money. Do you think he will ever stop long enough to realize he hired a washed up fighter and a rogue to protect his precious cargo?

GARNETT

You are not a washed up fighter. Besides, he took one look at my ears and my claws and said something about a DEI rating. I am equal opportunity!

ROWAN

Garnett, you are literally a cat burglar.

GARNETT

Sir Rowan, I am appalled! That is a terrible slur against all Tabaxi everywhere! You should apologize before I lodge a complaint with the thieves guild.

SFX: Something between a sneeze and a small explosion.

ROWAN

What the?!

DESPAIR

Excuse me.

GARNETT

Oh! And we picked up a new traveling companion: Rowan, meet Despair.

DESPAIR

Hi-i!

ROWAN

But! She's!

GARNETT

She is traveling with us.

ROWAN

But! The! Horns! And! The! Tail! She's!

GARNETT

She is heading to Gauntlet Station, and she has all the hallmarks of being a caster. I had the choice between adding a combat capable person or dealing with your hungover Human ass as my only backup. So, I need you to take your preconceived notions about Tieflings, and shove them up your bag of holding, alright? And besides, you've never had an issue with my tail, have you?

ROWAN

Gods above and...

GARNETT

And watch that oath? Pretty please?

ROWAN

What a world. So yes. Hello, um, Despair?

DESPAIR

Hi-i! It is good to meet you, Sir Robert!

ROWAN

Rowan.

DESPAIR

Roger! Miss Garnett has told me so much about you!

ROWAN

She... has?

GARNETT

I didn't say anything. Despair?

DESPAIR

Oops! It is just SO weird that you round-worlders can't communicate with your brains. You have to use all this clunky "verbal language."

ROWAN

You're new here?

DESPAIR

Oh yes! I incorporated on this plane about three days ago.

GARNETT

Honey, so you know: around here, reading people's minds without permission is a little rude.

DESPAIR

Oh! I am so sorry, Miss Garnett! I will try not to read your thoughts anymore, I promise.

ROWAN

Fat chance on that. (Grunts as Garnett elbows him in the ribs)

DESPAIR

Wait. That was out loud, right?

GARNETT

Mmm-hmmm. So, hey! Goodman Larkspur! Where are all these bandits we're supposed to protect you from?

LARKSPUR

Very funny, Mistress Garnett. As I was explaining to our new visitor here, the ne'er-do-wells tend to accost me after the pass we are approaching. Which is to say Silver Pass, or later Temple Pass.

ROWAN

Skip to the end...

LARKSPUR

When things got significantly worse twenty years back. Was it twenty years? Maybe twenty-five? Oh yes, it was thirty because

it was the same year our Magnolia had her second child,
Primrose.

ROWAN
And then?

LARKSPUR
It was then I decided, rather than roll the proverbial dice, it
made more economic sense to hire some muscular and preventative
help, such as yourselves.

ROWAN
Well, we're happy to be of service.

ROWAN
Ow.

GARNETT
Goblins! Up on the right!

GOBLIN #1
Stop where you are!

GARNETT
Larkspur, let's move!

LARKSPUR
What? Toward them?

GARNETT
We can't turn it around! Give me that. Hyah!

ROWAN
Ow.

DESPAIR
Wait, are we sure these are bad people?

GARNETT
They're shooting at us, that makes them bad people! Get behind
me and shield up. Larkspur, keep these crowbait horses moving!
And bend left, will you?!

DESPAIR
But if they're the bad people, that means I should.

GARNETT

Wait! Despair, get back!

DESPAIR
(casting Eldritch Blast in Infernal)

GARNETT
Called it! Caster!

DESPAIR
There's another archer in that tree!

ROWAN
They shot me.

GARNETT
It's not your first time. Ro? I need you to take your short rest another time. We have five...

SFX: Bowstring snap followed by a goblin scream and a thud.

GARNETT
Four goblins trying to rob our esteemed employer and I need...

SFX: Clink of an arrow hitting Garnett's armor.

GARNETT
Ow! I need your steel, soldier!

ROWAN
You need me?

GARNETT
YES!

ROWAN
She.. needs.. me.. (loud protracted wordless yell)

DESPAIR
Oh, wow! That was an epic jump! I didn't think Humans could run so... Oh! He stabbed that goblin in the... and up the... Oh. OH! That would HURT!

ROWAN
THAT'S THE IDEA!

ROWAN
There. Now. As I was saying: Ow.

GARNETT
Rowan!

GARNETT
We gotta get that arrow out of your shoulder. Ooh, that looks...
Rowan honey, look at me. I love you.

ROWAN
I love yo...

SFX: Interrupted by a squelch and snap as she pushes the arrow through and breaks off the head.

ROWAN
too?

GARNETT
OK, it's out. Let's get you back to the wagon.

ROWAN
Get me...

GARNETT
We drank the last potion back in Deepwater, hon.

ROWAN
My medallion.

GARNETT
Oh yes.

GARNETT
Here you go.

ROWAN
Thank you. O mickle is thy powerful grace. (1)

ROWAN
You would think that it would do something for the hangover too.

GARNETT
That, my dear, is between you and your gods. Do NOT get me involved.

DESPAIR

Wait, he can heal himself? He's a... Paladin?

GARNETT
Mmmm-hmmmm. Paladin.

ROWAN
Retired, not fallen, thank you.

DESPAIR
But you're obviously together.

GARNETT
Mmmm-hmmmm. Married.

ROWAN
See also, retired.

DESPAIR
And I'm from the Infernal Realms.

ROWAN
You are one of the reasons I drink, yes.

DESPAIR
Devils below and angels above.

ROWAN
What a world.

- I N T E R M I S S I O N -

ANNOUNCER
And now a word from our sponsor: Fuzzy Butts Warg Rescue.

MRS. WIGGLES.
I'm Mrs. Wiggles from Fuzzy Butts Warg Rescue. Just because it feels like spring, don't forget that our native "Smitty's Greater Brown Wargs" are shedding - they don't have the full waterproof protection of their summer coats. A wet warg is a cold warg, and cold wargs don't make good neighbors. If you're wet, they're wet. Bring them inside on these chilly spring nights - they enjoy a doghouse, outhouse, or wood shed to stay out of the weather.

Looking for your new best friend? Come down to Fuzzy Butts Warg Rescue in Silt Bottom Flats, 22 Mistwalkers Way, Friday to Tuesday from noon to 5.

Remember: the fuzzy butt you save today could be your own!

ANNOUNCER

We now return to: A Paladin's Bargain.

- R E T U R N -

ANNOUNCER

As the dust settles from the party's skirmish with the goblins, our heroes take stock of their situation.

LARKSPUR

Thank you for your service, all of you. If everyone else is unharmed, shall we resume our travel?

ROWAN

Our contract calls for wages plus discovery. Searching the bodies counts as discovery. G, you said there were six of them?

GARNETT

I think. There was the one in the road, the one in the tree, the one Despair zapped.

DESPAIR

Yay! Go Team Me!

GARNETT

And the two you dealt with.

ROWAN

I think I saw one run off that way.

ARTIE Here's number six!

DESPAIR

Ewww.

ROWAN

Alright! Hands up!

GARNETT

Ro, you just watched him kill a goblin. He's not a bad guy.

ROWAN

Doesn't prove anything. Too convenient.

ARTIE

Whoa, whoa! I'm friendly! See? Friend? Friend. No need for the pointy things.

DESPAIR

PUPPY!

ARTIE

We prefer the term Canadid.

GARNETT

Let Rowan interrogate our mysterious benefactor before you negotiate the ear scratches.

ROWAN

Stay back, Despair. You. What were you doing in there?

ARTIE

What were you doing out here?

ROWAN

We have the pointy things, friend. You first.

ARTIE

Fine. I was heading that - don't shoot! I'm just pointing! - Heading that way, towards Gauntlet Station, same as you. I've smelled you all for the last five miles and heard you for the last two. When the goblins attacked, I was closing to help. I saw this one trying to run away, so I helped.

ROWAN

What are your plans at Gauntlet Station?

ARTIE

What are your plans?

ROWAN

Pointy pointy.

ARTIE

Is he always like this?

GARNETT

Yes.

ROWAN

I'm old fashioned. I get a little tetchy after I get shot.

ARTIE

And I can smell your hangover from here, friend.

ROWAN

Would you be willing to tell me the truth?

ARTIE

Yes.

ROWAN

Who are you?

ARTIE

My name is Artemis. Folks call me Artie.

DESPAIR

Artemis? Isn't that a girl's name?

GARNETT

Despair? The nice Canadid says their name is Artie.

ARTIE

His.

GARNETT

(To Artie) Thank you. (To Despair) If he says his name is Artie, then his name is Artie.

ROWAN

What is your business at the Gauntlet?

ARTIE

My pack are some of the last free Canidae in the Westlands. Last new moon, slavers kidnapped two of our pack. I tracked them here.

ROWAN

That's a new spin on a fetch quest, eh?

GARNETT

Not funny, Ro.

ARTIE

There was nothing micro about that aggression, friend.

GARNETT

We wish you the best in your quest. I'm Garnett, this is Despair. The pointy man is Sir Rowan; and this is our esteemed employer, Goodman Larkspur.

LARKSPUR

Pleased to make your acquaintance, Artie.

ARTIE

As much of a pleasure as it can be with my hands still up.

GARNETT

It's alright, Ro.

ROWAN

Thanks for your help, Artie. I apologize for the joke at your pack's expense. If Larkspur is fine with it, I'm sure you're welcome to join us on the way to Gauntlet Station. We were going to move the bodies out of the road and loot, I mean, see if these goblins had any clues.

ARTIE

Good luck, the one I nabbed only had some copper and two electrum pieces.

GARNETT

Oh no.

ROWAN

SEE! I keep telling you, G! Electrum pieces are evil! The only time we ever find them is when we're sacking the people who attack us.

ARTIE

To be fair, have you "sacked" many good people to test this hypothesis?

ROWAN

Seriously! It's never platinum and it's rarely gold, but boy howdy, these green bastards have plenty of electrum in their pockets. But when we get back to town and I try to pay with electrum? Shopkeepers look at me like I dropped a dead goblin on the counter.

ARTIE

I mean, do you wash the coins first?

LARKSPUR

Are you almost finished with your numismatic alignment theory, Sir Rowan? If so, I hope we can return to the task for which I am paying you?

ROWAN

Almost. Hey G? Do those goblins have any marks on them?

GARNETT

This one's got a lot of holes on him. Are you cross training as a Barbarian?

ROWAN

In my many moments of leisure. I'm saying these two have black battle axes painted on their breastplates.

GARNETT

Let me roll this one. Ugh. Yes, on the double-headed axe. And did you really have to stick that in his...

ROWAN

Yes I did. He shot me.

GARNETT

Alright, my little psychopath. There. All done. Our five axe goblins plus Artie's runaway for a grand total of... six electrum, plus sixteen silver and fifty-seven copper pieces. Artie, this should even us out.

ARTIE

Thank you.

GARNETT

Despair, here's your split.

DESPAIR

My what?

GARNETT

You did just arrive, didn't you? If you share the risk, you share the reward.

DESPAIR

Oh! This is the best day ever! My family will be so happy with me! MY FIRST BLOOD MONEY!

ROWAN

Right. So yes Larkspur, we're ready to roll. Artie, if you've been tracking all the way from the Westlands, take my spot on the wagon and put your paws up for a bit. I'll scout ahead.

ARTIE

I won't say no.

LARKSPUR

Good hunting, Sir Rowan.

GARNETT

Remember to scream if you get shot!

ROWAN

Love you too!

SFX: Whip cracks and the wagon starts rolling.

GARNETT

So, Artie! Tell me a little more about yourself.

ARTIE

What would you like to know?

GARNETT

Well, to begin with, why did you pretend to go along with Rowan's truth spell?

ARTIE

You could tell?

GARNETT

Mmmm-hmmmm. For future reference, folks tend to get a little more glassy eyed and monotone when they're under the influence.

ARTIE

Noted, thank you. It was a gesture of goodwill. Anyway, you can't keep too many secrets when you live in a pack. I don't think he's going to ask about the magic ingredients in my auntie's aurochs stew. If I give that away, I may as well never go back. But while we're in that truth zone Miss Garnett, there is one thing I'd like to know.

GARNETT

Yes?

ARTIE

The only electrum coins came from the goblins that Rowan and I searched. Do you specifically carry around extra silver and swap them out to prevent him from complaining?

GARNETT

You saw me?

ARTIE

Mmm-hmmmm.

GARNETT

Not always, but yeah. I know he's on edge, so I wanted to relieve some stress encumbrance. That allowed him to calm down a bit and figure out his headache is probably due to Miss D up front more than last night's drinks.

ARTIE

Which is why he volunteered to go on ahead. You're a cool cat, Miss Garnett. I'm glad I'm on your side.

GARNETT

Why thank you, Artie. I think this could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

LARKSPUR

Oh ho! There's something I never thought I'd see. Observe, my young Tiefling friend: A Canadid and a Tabaxi sitting and chatting.

DESPAIR

Why is that special, Goodman Larkspur?

LARKSPUR

You know what they say: dogs and cats chatting together? Mass hysteria! (2)

DESPAIR

Miss Garnett, what is he talking about?

GARNETT

I have no idea.

- I N T E R M I S S I O N -

ANNOUNCER

And now a word from our sponsor: Hogglesbogger's Wonder Emporium.

THEODORA HOGGLESBOGGER

Introducing Hogglesbogger's Magic Mushroom repellant! Only 1 gold for a month's supply. Is your basement damp after the wet winter? Have gas spores set up camp around the wood bin? Avoid the embarrassment of accidental poisoning and hallucination with a weekly application of Hogglesbogger's Magic Mushroom repellant! Paint it on any damp and gloomy areas, and Gas Spores, Shriekers, and Violet Fungi will be 15% less likely to sprout. Available in pleasant ocean breeze, campfire, and bubblegum scents.

Stop by Hogglesbogger's Wonder Emporium, 5055 Enchanted Alley, Deepwater.

(Disclaimer voice) Magic Mushroom repellant is a non-magical chemical application. May explode under pressure. Do not mix with potions. Shows 15% reduction in sprouting in controlled laboratory tests of gas spores. Laboratory performance is not predictive of actual effects.

ANNOUNCER

We now return to: A Paladin's Bargain.

- R E T U R N -

ANNOUNCER

Larkspur's wagon continues up the mountain road toward Temple Pass while Garnett and Artie get to know one another.

GARNETT

You are kidding me!

ARTIE

Hand to heart. The fool not only insisted I stay with his son all summer "teaching him to hunt" but he paid me to do it. "My boy needs to learn how to become a man." Oh honey.

GARNETT

Did he ever figure it out?

ARTIE

That he was never getting any heirs from that branch of the family tree? No.

GARNETT

The deaf will hear and the blind will see more than a man who's convinced himself to be right. This one time, I was working a second story job in Sunbreak. Right in the middle of it, the lord of the house walks into the room in his night clothes, sees me with my hand in his safe, and just stares at me.

ARTIE

What did you do?

GARNETT

Besides almost stain his rug? No joke and no fooling, I said, "Meow?"

ARTIE

What did he do?

GARNETT

Pakhet take my nine, I swear he shrugged, turned around, and went back to bed.

ARTIE

No way!

GARNETT

Oh! As he was leaving, he said, "I told you it was the cat." To this day, Rowan thinks I'm pulling his tail, but it happened.

ARTIE

That is a critical success if I have ever heard one. So, you don't have to answer if you don't want to. You tell Rowan about your adventures? How do you work that, exactly?

GARNETT

Do you mean a Paladin and a Rogue or a Human and a Tabaxi?

ARTIE

Yes? Both? But mainly your dramatically different jobs? Married? With no arguments about where the gold comes from?

GARNETT

I wouldn't say "no" arguments, but we get through it. Even before I met him, I always swore: no matter if it's a pocket or a big job, it would only be from cruel people. Not saying evil or chaotic, but cruel.

ARTIE

I can respect that.

GARNETT

Of course, lucky for me, the world is a cruel place, so it's not too much extra work. The harder part is pretending we aren't together when we get to a closed-minded town. If you ever hear me saying, "Sir Rowan" it means there are eyes on us.

ARTIE

Oh, that's rough. Why do you keep pretending?

GARNETT

Dangerous places are where the money's at, but folks in dangerous places don't have time for the nuances of inter-racial romance.

ARTIE

You're not wrong.

GARNETT

You have to understand: He quit his order so we could be together. And the order's view of things doesn't really resemble consensus reality. So between his crash course in the real world and his flaming battle stress, he's a little (looking for the word)

ARTIE

Fragile?

GARNETT

Yeah. But you know, relationships are always complicated.

ARTIE

That is an understatement. So now what?

GARNETT

Now, we do the jobs we can and try to raise enough gold to go somewhere less complicated.

ARTIE

It does seem like Gauntlet Station attracts a lot of that kind of attention - both the shiny kind and the complicated kind. I mean, I live in the sticks in the Westlands and our stories mention this area, and they have for generations.

LARKSPUR

Here we are, friends. Temple Pass, gateway to the Gauntlet valley.

DESPAIR
Wow!

GARNETT
That is an amazing view, Goodman Larkspur.

ARTIE
I'll say! So good to have the sun in my face again.

LARKSPUR
Despair, that's the Aurgelmir range back there. Some of the highest mountains anywhere in the world. And right there, you see that round-topped one at the far end? They call that one (mysteriously) "The Skull of Ymir."

DESPAIR
Wow! But wait, is it?

LARKSPUR
Is it what, dear?

DESPAIR
That's not the actual skull of Ymir, is it?

LARKSPUR
Well, there are people who believe it is.

DESPAIR
I got to meet Ymir the Giant once. My family was on a planar holiday on Jotunheim and he had a head when I met him.

LARKSPUR
Oh! Oh my. Um. You're probably right, Despair. That's not his actual skull over there.

DESPAIR
That's good. Oh. Ummm. Excuse me for a moment, Goodman.

DESPAIR
Miss Garnett?

GARNETT
Yes, honey?

DESPAIR
I'm sorry to interrupt you and Artie. I need to ask: How much is a "heebie-jeeby" worth?

GARNETT
What? Where did you hear that?

DESPAIR
Welllll... I may have accidentally overheard what Goodman Larkspur was thinking. He said I gave him the heebie-jeebies and I don't want to be ungrateful.)

GARNETT
I think this is one of those learning opportunities, about the importance of staying out of other people's heads.

ARTIE
Wait up, here comes Rowan.

ARTIE
What is he doing?

DESPAIR
Well, he's waving his arms and he's buzzing? Is it a swarm? Is there a swarm of killer bees coming? Murder hornets?

ROWAN
If we're going to be a security detail, could you try to pay attention now and then? Please?

GARNETT
You didn't scream.

ROWAN
I didn't get shot. I did find a bit of a surprise ahead.

DESPAIR
What did you find, Sir Ronald?

ROWAN
Rowan.

DESPAIR
Roland!

ROWAN

AND there's a dead orc under a tree up ahead.

ARTIE

That's not a huge surprise, Sir Rowan. By nightfall these hills will be swarming with orcs. (3)

DESPAIR

A swarm of orcs?

ROWAN

Yes, I am quite certain this area has a high rate of encounters. But one: orcs don't abandon their dead, and two: have you ever seen an orc wearing a bright yellow cloak?

GARNETT

Yellow? With their coal black skin? It'd look like a gigantic bee!

DESPAIR

ORC BEES? I KNEW IT! Where are they?

ARTIE

Wait. Would that make them "borcs"?

ROWAN

Up, past that turn in the road, there's a wide spot with a weird tree and a dead orc. My job is done. If you are finished mocking me, I'm going to have a seat and ride.

GARNETT

Thank you for taking care of us, sweetie. Artie - you know what this means?

ARTIE

Loot the body?

GARNETT

Only if you get there first!

ROWAN

Get back here! That woman is going to be the death of me.

DESPAIR

Goodman Larkspur, when I was coming here, the books in our library said this was the place to go for adventure. What's so special about Gauntlet Station?

ROWAN

Maybe keep your commentary to the last century or two?

LARKSPUR

So pragmatic. Before the Station was built, the entire valley was wild lands. Then adventurers discovered that by traversing this valley and taking Heart's Pass, one could save two weeks traveling between Deepwater and Hightower. But traveling through was a very dangerous proposition. The forest and caves were full of all sorts of beasties ready to murder and steal. And that's how we get to where we are: Temple Pass and the Order of the Silver Circle.

ROWAN

I grew up with my Gran telling stories about the Silver Circle.

LARKSPUR

Indeed. Forgive me, Sir Rowan, I may have drifted outside of that rather restrictive century limitation. In any case, the Order of the Silver Circle was created by Siegfried Silverhand.

ROWAN

Gran always said it was Sigmund.

LARKSPUR

He was Siegfried, trust me. The Order would escort wagons from pass to pass for only one silver coin each.

DESPAIR

Oh! So that's how he got the name Silverhand?

ROWAN

Oh! This is the best part! On Springsong Eve, Siegfried was leading a caravan and boom! the axle on a wagon snapped. At the same time, a band of orcs attacked!

DESPAIR

Oh no! Was he captured and tortured?

ROWAN

He refused to abandon the wagon and ordered they would make a stand. But then an orc he was fighting cut off his left hand.

Siggie must have had some ranks in Barbarian because he cauterized the stump with a torch and kept fighting all night.

LARKSPUR

When news reached the Southern Capital, the Queen commissioned a fortified station to be built at the site of the battle.

ROWAN

She also knighted him and ordered her smiths and artificers to create a prosthetic hand for him. Silver, of course.

LARKSPUR

It was a short step from calling the redoubt "Siegfried's Gauntlet" and later "Gauntlet Station." The journey between the passes became "running the gauntlet."

DESPAIR

Earlier, you called this Temple Pass. Is it Temple or Silver Pass?

LARKSPUR

Names change, my dear. Originally, this was Krusk Pass, as a warning indicating the orcs beyond. When the Order began, it became Silver Pass. But after the Order died out, the locals forgot much of the details and started calling it Temple Pass.

ROWAN

The forest sounded so much bigger in the stories.

LARKSPUR

It was bigger. There are remnants and patches here and there. You can see what they call the Boar Forest in the distance. But when the Order began, it was said that a squirrel could go from Heart's Pass to Silver Pass without once touching the ground.

DESPAIR

So what changed?

SFX: Screams in the distance.

ROWAN

Garnett! Dammit! I'm going up. Despair, you stay with Larkspur and the wagon. If anyone else comes near, blast them!

DESPAIR

Will do, Sir Robin!

ROWAN

Gah! I am officially too old for this.

- O U T -

References

- (1) "O mickle is thy powerful grace." adapted from
Romeo and Juliet, Act 2, Scene 3, by William Shakespeare.
Public domain
- (2) "Dogs and cats chatting together" parody of Ghostbusters
Copyright 1984, Columbia Pictures Industries Inc.
- (3) "By nightfall these hills..." parody of Lord of the Rings:
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