

The Tale of Yakbert

Chapter 1: The Quests

This story, like any decent story, begins and ends with a yak. Yakbert is a kind and gentle yak who had roamed the lands of Wealdsmere for ages. However, Yakbert didn't ramble these lands for pleasure or for leisure, he wandered them longingly in quest for three things. First, he sought love that only the most devoted and passionate partner could provide. Second, he desired the companionship of a human caretaker, for this would make his life in the world of humans easier. And lastly, after wandering in and out of the surrounding area for years, he desired to bring folks in from near and far, for he was certain that Wealdsmere was one of the greatest Baronies he had the pleasure of roaming.

Walking about the western side of Wealdsmere, Yakbert was filled with despair. You see, there's only so much wandering a yak can do by himself without being struck with sadness. Yet, just as he was ready to forget his quests entirely, he heard a familiar grunting sound; the grunting of a yak, to be precise! This sound is easily confused with the grunting of the local humans, but we'll not get into that now. He followed the sound for what seemed like ages until he stumbled upon a settlement of humans and, to his merriment, yaks. Overcome with joy, he tossed aside any thoughts of foreboding and, unbeknownst to him, walked into the middle of a war! Both sides of the battlefield assumed that the yak was thrown in as a distraction tactic, and decided to claim the yak for their leader.

Hours went by and poor Yakbert was distraught. The constant dragging of him to either side of the field left him wheezing and bruised. Nonetheless, he knew if he were to flee he might never find love, companionship, and happiness. He pressed on and allowed the two armies to fight over him, and at last the battle ended. One of the warriors on the winning side approached the yak and gently caressed his muzzle. It was love at first sight for them both. She told him her name, Ailionara, and inquired about his. After many grunts and snorts, Ailionara decided his name was either Yakturd or Akkbert, and thought Yakbert was a better suited name. She tied a rope around his neck and presented him to her Baroness, Kara. Her Excellency decided that the yak would serve the Barony best as a roast and sent him to a corral.

The festivities continued; there was more fighting, there was dancing, there was merriment. Yakbert, in a corral and unaware of his fate, felt at ease. He enjoyed himself, chomping on oats and hay and thinking of the woman who rubbed his muzzle. He decided that she would be his human companion, and with one part of his quest complete he settled in for a long nap.

Chapter 2: Love Found and Love Lost

Startled awake by the sound of hooves, Yakbert opened his eyes. Before him stood the most beautiful creature he had ever seen. Tall and muscular, white as snow, and with a tail that seemed to flow for days, Yakbert had found his true love. They frolicked around the corral, dancing with their hooves, nuzzling their muzzles together, and enjoying each other's company. Yakbert and Silver were in love, leaving Yakbert with one last quest to fulfill, but that quest could wait. For now, Yakbert would enjoy his time with Silver.

Silver is an intelligent creature. He is the unofficial representation of the Cavalry of the Sword Horse. He stands for honor, for pride, and for the merriment brought on by the intoxicatingly magic potions consumed in the wee hours of the night. Because of this he knew Yakbert's fate and decided to change it. Silver would use the companionship Yakbert created with Ailionara to prevent him from becoming roast. Silver made a distraction while Yakbert headed into Ailionara's tent. Silver convinced The Sword Horse to

hoist him up into the tower, so that he may entertain the masses with his sleek coat, and his innate ability to cause a raucous. Once he saw that Yakbert was safe, Silver planned to head back to the corral. However, it would seem other plans were being made.

Pendale's prize ram, Randy, had also seen Silver's beauty and lusted after him. He begged the members of Pendale to allow him to court Silver. They agreed and brought Randy with them to find the horse. It was at this time that Silver was being lifted up the side of the tower. Seeing Silver and assuming the worst, Randy was distraught. He bleated until he could bleat no more. Pendale came up with a plan. In order to allow Randy and Silver to get acquainted, they would share their magical potions with the owners of the horse until they all longed for their beds, and long for their beds they did.

With everyone else in bed, Pendale hoisted their rampant ram upon Silver as he hung from the tower. With no one to bring either of them down, they were stuck for the night. Silver hung his head dejectedly, as he reminisced on his wonderful afternoon with his love, Yakbert, and hoped to find a way back to him when the sun rose.

Chapter 3: The Betrayal

The sun cast a beautiful, resilient glow upon the encampment, waking all who slept. Ailionara, at first startled by the sight, sound, and smell of Yakbert in her tent, joyfully accepted his presence and went about her day. The sound of laughter filled her ears as she stepped outside. She giggled as she saw the reason for the laughter, and then noticed the look of betrayal and disgust upon Yakbert's furry face. She felt the bond between Yakbert and Silver, and decided to help. She wanted to bring down the horse and ram as soon as possible, but seeing that others were already carefully bringing them down, she tended to other obligations.

Yakbert was inconsolable, no matter how hard Ailionara tried to cheer him up. He would not eat, drink, or stand still. His grunts were heard for miles, until it was decided he was to be turned into roast immediately to end the torture upon the populous' ears. However, Her Excellency decided that Yakbert would not become roast. She saw the connection between her friend and the yak, and gifted Yakbert to Ailionara. You see, Kara was a gracious and intuitive Baroness, and knew that they needed each other.

This is the part of the story that I fear we will never know the complete truth, for this is the part of Yakbert's Tale where Yakbert was taken. As Ailionara was packing up her camp, she could not find him. She searched all morning, until Her Excellency noticed something moving around in the back of a wagon. Yakbert, tied and muzzled, was gazing melancholily at the ground. He had given up on his dreams of love, companionship, and happiness and accepted his lonely fate.

Chapter 4: The Hunt

Wealdsmere was furious over the theft. They took it as an act of war, and intended to fight back for Yakbert. That is fight back for Yakbert once they found out who yak-napped him. They traveled all around the Kingdom of An Tir in search for their beloved animal, and when that didn't lead to his whereabouts, they traveled to the lands of Artemisia. They said he was spotted at Hell's Gate, in the Barony of Sentinel's Keep. This lead Baroness Kara to proudly stand before the members of Artemisia and Wealdsmere alike, and beg the King of Artemisia to see the truth. The truth that the Yak-Thief was indeed a member of his populous. Why else would Yakbert be at Hell's Gate? But reason was not seen, and war was presented. If Artemisia would not investigate the whereabouts of Yakbert, war was to be

had.

Again, they traveled to Artemisia in search of Yakbert, this time to Raptor War in the Barony of Arn Hold. No trace of a yak was to be found, but a certain ram was spotted in the wee hours of the morning. Kara, and Ailionora decided to “borrow” Randy the Rampant Ram, in hopes it would bring forth the Yak-Thief. Rumors spread down to Raptor War that the identity of the Yak-Thief was known, one Brynjolfr Fjallgiersson. It was also said that the Yak-Thief himself would be at Border War to prove that Wealdsmere was not worthy enough for the likes of Yakbert.

It is not known what conditions Yakbert was forced to live in during his stay in Artemisia. We could only assume that they were not favorable.

Chapter 5: Border War: The Battle for Yakbert

We met upon the shores of Lake Coeur D’Alene in the early fall. The breeze rolling off the lake left a chill unlike any other. The mist rose and war was at hand. Pendale agreed to side with Wealdsmere in exchange for the return of their ram. Many warriors fought bravely and with great honor, but it was the children who won The Battle for Yakbert and turned over Brynjolfr Fjallgiersson to their Excellencies. Yakbert was returned and there was much rejoicing. (Randy wasn’t returned just yet. It was decided by Baroness Kara that a worthier offer be made.)

You’d think that this would be where Yakbert’s Tale ends, wouldn’t you? Yes, he was reunited with Ailionora and completed his second quest, but I will not lie to you, Yakbert still pines for Silver. His heart aches to be with his love. After the war was over, both sides knew their differences and let go of them. They celebrated the return of Yakbert, and felt closer because of it. Even Yakbert felt a bit of joy at the thought of his yak-napping bringing people together in celebration, as that is part of his third quest. But he knew that if he couldn’t be with Silver, he would never be happy again.

Chapter 6: Randy the Rampant Ram

Let us divert from the Tale of Yakbert for a moment and into the Saga of Randy the Rampant Ram. The night that Silver was hoisted up the tower, Randy was the most joyful ram that ever lived. He spent the evening delightfully upon Silver’s backside conversing with the beautiful horse. Randy, being on Silver’s rump, did not realize that Silver could not hear him. Silver, having spent the entire evening explaining to Randy that he was in love with Yakbert and that he could not love another, did not realize that Randy could not hear him either.

The war came to an end, and it was decided that Randy was to accompany Silver home to Artemisia. Unfortunately, Yakbert was nowhere to be found and was therefore unable to protest the union. Months passed, and Randy’s randy behavior started to wear on Silver. He decided to embrace the courtship with the Rampant Ram and lose all hope in seeing Yakbert again. It is then that Randy is “borrowed” by Her Excellency and Ailionora, leaving Silver brokenhearted once more. However, with Randy to use as a bribe, Her Excellency convinced Pendale’s forces to assist Wealdsmere at Border War.

Back to our current timeline in the story; Yakbert has been returned. As the days grew shorter Yakbert tried to find happiness. He had Ailionora, Wealdsmere, and all the oats he could ever desire, so why couldn’t he be happy? He decided that the only way was to confront Randy, and after much grunting and bleating, Randy and Yakbert came to an agreement. They would both court Silver, and allow

Silver to choose his mate.

Their friendship grew over the long winter and Randy and Yakbert became the closest of friends. Harvest Protector began, and Pendale presented Her Excellency with a worthy offering in exchange for Randy. As the ram was returned to Pendale, Yakbert bid him farewell.

Chapter 7: (To Be Determined)

(It is at Celtic Revolt that we will be able to put an end to this tale. Yakbert, Randy, and Silver will be in attendance. Will Randy woo Silver with his wool? Or will Yakbert sweep Silver off his hooves with his sultry horns? Only time will tell. Join us at Celtic Revolt as the last chapter in The Tale of Yakbert unfolds.)



Event Website:

http://www.antir.sca.org/Upcoming/?Event_ID=3971

Facebook Event Page:

https://www.facebook.com/events/243797446066554/?active_tab=discussion

Schedule:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IPp_I7kEWUWuB7y4bEsCw9Wtwsx_h0w6N7FRuEoG5pl/edit?usp=sharing

Events, Games, Scenarios, and More:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1d_WNIs94CQZuCVvbdUX662JUnLIL-zUk5aczhJfjcv0/edit?usp=sharing

Celtic Revolt 2017 Class List:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P4nVxEJzu8iplckAWHjL0aQc97FN2xL1Gs6uw_xJ7Vo/edit?usp=sharing

The Tale of Yakbert:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VoUuM36dLDBHadHhC0hsZ09S9FfiCjEhheRkusObbrE/edit?usp=sharing>