身の丈を越す巨大な剣を背負い、つよい鉄の義手をつけた。全身黒ずくめの剣士、ガツと名乗るその男の行く所、血の雨が降り、死体の山が築かれる。危ういところをガツに助けられ、それ以来、彼につきまとわれるパンは、その恐るべき強さに舌を抜く方で、ガツの生きる世界が絶えず騒がれる。行く手を阻む悪霊たちの群れ。首の烙印が、ガツを復讐へと駆り立てるのか？

カバーデザイン/ZEN CORPORATION
タイトルデザイン/ADOX
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アタタタタ

YESSSSS!

YES...
THE BLACK SWORDSMAN
YOU FELL INTO MY TRAP, FOOL!!

THE ONLY ONE TRAPPED IS YOU, BITCH!

THIS IS YOUR LAST TASTE OF HEAVEN BEFORE I SEND YOU TO HELL!
OH, YOU MISSED!

DAMN!!
STOP SQUIRREL AROUND! HOW'M I SUPPOSED TO HIT YOU?

I FEEL SORRY FOR THAT ELF.

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

HEY! HERE COMES THE NEXT ONE!

NOT EVEN THE LORD MAYOR CAN LAY A HAND ON THE MEN OF KOKA CASTLE. BEST NOT TO GET INVOLVED.
I'M GONNA MESS UP YOUR SHOP A BIT.

HUH?

WHY DONCHA UNTIE ME?!

I'M GONNA STUFF THOSE WORDS RIGHT BACK DOWN YOUR THROAT! NOW STOP WIGGLIN'!

NO NO NO NO NO!

WAAAAAHHH!

I'LL GNAW RIGHT THROUGH YOUR ARTERIES!

BRING IT ON, FATHEAD!
BASTARD! WHO THE HELL--?!
THAT'S GONNA HURT...

YOU'RE ONE OF THE THUGS FROM KOKA CASTLE, AREN'T YOU?

Siggghh... Siggghh...

ALL RIGHT, THEN I SUPPOSE YOU CAN DELIVER A MESSAGE TO YOUR BOSS FOR ME?

ANSWER ME.

WH-AH- WHAT MESSAGE...?

YES... SIR...
THE BLACK SWORDS-MAN HAS COME.

THE BLACK SWORDS-MAN...

THAT'S ALL.

! BEHIND YOU!
IT WAS MUCH TOO BIG TO BE CALLED A SWORD.
MASSIVE, THICK, HEAVY AND FAR TOO ROUGH. INDEED, IT WAS LIKE A HEAP OF RAW IRON.

I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

Um...Um, excuse me! Hey!

Wait a second! Don't leave me here!

Awe, man!
You're supposed to follow it through to the end. Y'know!

Hey! Wait up!

Listen, if you're gonna save someone, you don't just leave 'em tied up like that.

Say, that's quite a sword you got there.

Or should I call it a slab?

Y'see I was in a troupe of travelling performers but we were attacked by those bums.

Since then I've been locked up in a mynah bird's cage and soaked in a wine bottle. It's a wonder I'm still alive. That's for sure!

I'm Puck. Nice to meetcha.

Oh, yeah.
Y'know, if I were you I'd get outta town fast.

I mean, if they catch you, they'll cut you to pieces.

Now that the Lord Mayor has a pact with them, even the town guards will--

Oww!

That hurt! What'd you do that for?!
DON'T TOUCH ME...

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU?! A PERSON SHOWS YOU A LITTLE CONCERN AND YOU RESPOND WITH THAT STUCK-UP ATTITUDE OF YOURS!

...I'LL SQUASH YOU.

SEE? I TOLD YA.
WELL... GONNA GO.
YER A STUBBORN BASTARD, Y'KNOW THAT?!

BASTARD!

YOU...

AIN'CHA EVEN GONNA MAKE A LITTLE NOISE?

HUh?

STOP!
M'Lord!

That's enough for now.

THAT STOCKPILE OF WEAPONS, IT BELONGS TO THIS MAN?

CRAZY BASTARD.

YES, LORD MAYOR. ENOUGH WEAPONS TO START HIS OWN WAR.

YOU! ARE YOU A MERCENARY?
Because you murdered those men...

A complete stranger to these parts... you've done a terrible thing.

...this town may very well be destroyed!

Do you have any idea what you've done?!

What?!

Enough!

You have no idea how horrible he is... the ruler of those men...

Are you telling me that those guards standing there are scarecrows?
NO ONE CAN KILL HIM... AT LEAST, NOT ANYONE HUMAN.

A WANDERING VAGRANT LIKE YOURSELF...!

I UNDERSTAND.

HE... THAT THING IS BEYOND HUMAN. IT'S SOMETHING HORRIBLE AND INCOMPREHENSIBLE. A CREATURE FROM THE VERY DEPTHS OF THE PIT...

HOW COULD YOU UNDERSTAND?!

I SEE. SO THAT'S WHY YOU MADE YOUR DIRTY DEAL WITH HIM.
I know it very well.

I passed them at the gates of the city.

A prison wagon full of women and children.

And I know that you continue to provide him with his meals.

I... I am the mayor!

It is my duty to protect this town!

Protect this town? Don't you mean protect yourself?
MY LORD!

YOU...

WAAH!

TORTURE HIM AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE, I DON'T CARE.

DO IT!

BUT DON'T KILL HIM!

WE STILL HAVE TO HAND HIM OVER TO KOKA CASTLE... ALIVE.
I’d best go to Koka Castle myself and beg for forgiveness.

Prepare my carriage immediately.

The Black Swordsman, you say?

Yes, Baron.
He dressed all in black and had a false arm made of iron... a real shady-looking guy.

His sword was so big it towered over him, and he split Dean in half with one stroke.

Him? Could it be...

I see.

That wretch, the Mayor, is waiting at the castle gate. He requests an audience with you about the recent incident.

What is it?

My lord.
It's been awhile, Mayor. How good of you to come.

Y-your lordship. I have come to ask for your forgiveness for this recent transgression.

This was the act of a vagrant who is unfamiliar with our ways.

There is no connection to any of the townsfolk.
AREN'T YOU, MAYOR?

UNLIKE BEFORE, YOU'RE NOW WORRIED ABOUT LOSING YOUR OWN LIFE, AREN'T YOU?

SO, PLEASE!

I-I'LL GIVE YOU DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF PRISONERS AND GOLD FROM NOW ON!

EH?

YOU LOOK TROUBLED.

AH...

AHHHHH!
ALL I WISH TO SEE ARE HUMANS WITHIN A FIERY APOCALYPSE TRYING TO ESCAPE.

GOLD... PRISONERS... I DON'T CARE ABOUT SUCH THINGS.

ALL I WISH TO HEAR IS THE SOUND OF SNAPING BONES CRUSHED UNDER THE HOOVES OF HORSES.

I DON'T EVEN NEED AN EXCUSE.

NONE AT ALL...
"My Lord..."

"My Lord!"

"Let me go!"

"Let go of me!"

"What are you doing?!"

"The Black Swordsman...?"
DAMN! I CAN'T MOVE...

WHERE AM I?

UWAAAAHH!
YOU AGAIN...
GET AWAY FROM ME!
WHAT'S WITH THAT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
YOU SCARED THE HELL OUTTA ME!

YOU... FROM THE TAVERN...

HEY! THIS WATER'S KINDA YELLOW... DON'T TELL ME IT'S...

-KAFF!-
-KAFF!-

HAVE A NIGHTMARE? WOW. THEY REALLY WORKED YOU OVER, DIDN'T THEY?

WELL, REST ASSURED. I GAVE THAT EGGHEAD GUARD A LITTLE SOMETHING TO SLEEP ON.
What'd you come here for?

I told you. You should'a listened to my advice...

Wow! Everywhere I look you're covered in wounds!

We elves have a strong sense of duty.

To repay a debt.

Don't you ever touch me...

Hmmm...

Now, let's see...

Don't touch me!
LOOK AT YOURSELF!
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO GIVE ME THAT KINDA ATTITUDE!
NOW BE QUIET AND LET ME HANDLE IT!

THE HELL?!
I AIN'T GONNA DO ANYTHING BAD TO YOU!

STOP...

...
WE ELVES GOT ALL SORTS OF POWERS.

OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT OUR TROUPE LEADER SAID BEFORE HE GOT HIS HEAD CUT OFF BY BANDITS.

WE CAN HEAL WOUNDS, WE CAN SENSE PEOPLE'S EMOTIONS, WE CAN EVEN MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY.
WHY'D YOU COME TO THIS TOWN, ANYHOW?

SAY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

...IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER...

GUTS...

THIS THING ON YOUR NECK THAT LOOKS LIKE A CREST OR SOMETHIN'?

HEY!

WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT'D I DO THIS TIME?!

BRAND...

IT'S THE BRAND.

WHO DID IT TO YOU? HUH?

WHY? HOW'D IT HAPPEN?

WHAT'S IT MEAN?

THE BRAND? WHAT'S THAT?
PRETTY SOON, HE'LL COME HERE TO KILL ME.

YOU TALK TOO MUCH, YOU KNOW THAT?

UH...

YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!

OH...

DOES THAT MEAN IT'S...

...THOSE GUYS FROM KOKA CASTLE?

...AS WELL AS BURN THIS WHOLE TOWN TO THE GROUND.
...you're planning to drag the townspeople into all this?!

You...you mean...

I don't care.

All I wanna do is find that bastard and kill him.

I don't care about anything else.
ANYONE WHO DIES BECAUSE THEY GET CAUGHT UP IN SOMEONE ELSE'S FIGHT IS A SMALL FRY WHO DOESN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO SURVIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

HIS... HIS EMOTIONS ARE POURING INTO ME!

MY CHEST IS BURNING...!!

IF SOMEONE CAN'T LIVE THEIR LIFE THE WAY THEY PLEASE, THEY MIGHT AS WELL DIE.
IT'S RAGE, SADNESS, AND FEAR!!

...IT'S ALL MIXED TOGETHER, SO DARK! AND, THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN DEEPER THAN THAT...

NO, IT'S NOT JUST THAT.

IS IT RAGE?

HA HA HA HA!

...WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU SAVED ME?

IN THAT CASE...
IDIOT! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

WHY WOULD ANYONE SAVE YOU?!

TO THINK I'D RISK MY LIFE FOR A LITTLE BUG!

BU--!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU LITTLE...?!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!
DAMN!

HEY!
WAIT!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...

GAUGH!

...HA HA!

...HA ...

...
Burn everything to the ground!

Charge!

TH-- that's not human!

...
UNDER THE CORPSES!

GAAGGH!

GUAUGH...
WH-WHAT THE HELL KIND OF CROSSBOW IS THAT?!
...He's so strong!

HAAAH!
SO YOU'RE THE "BLACK SWORDSMAN," THE ONE WHO'S BEEN HUNTING US APOSTLES.
I don’t know what you hope to accomplish...

...but to think that a mere mortal can oppose us...

...is pure folly!
HE DID IT!

M' LORD!
GUTS!

......

GUTS!

GUUGH!!!
IT'S FUTILE...

...NO MATTER HOW MANY BOLTS YOU SHOOT AT ME...

A MERE HUMAN LIKE YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY KILL ME!!

...!
I AM GOING TO EAT YOU ALIVE, BOOY!!

I AM GOING TO EAT YOU!!

WAAAAAHH!

IT... IT'S A MONSTER!

EEK!!
HE'S COMING--
HE'S COMING--
HE'S COMING--
HE'S COMING!!

AAAGG!

C'MON GUTS! LOOK UP...
UP!!

WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOING?!
MAAAUGH!
OH... STILL BREATHING, ARE WE?

BUT IT ALL ENDS HERE!

MOST HUMANS WOULD'VE HAD THEIR ORGANS CRUSHED BY THE FIRST BLOW AND BE QUITE DEAD BY NOW.
WEAK...

HOW PATHETIC HUMANS ARE!

OOH HH...

GUTS....!

YOU HUMANS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN FOOD.

FOOD SHOULD LEARN TO ACT LIKE FOOD AND--

?

NOTHING BUT MORSELS TO FILL OUR STOMACHS.
DON'T DIE ON ME YET.

EW! IT'S STILL ALIVE...
I FEEL SICK!

HEY!

IGH! STOP! STOP. PLEASE!!

MUST BE ROUGH, BEING UNKILLABLE AND ALL...
I'm gonna give you a little taste of what it's like.

But no matter how weak we are, even if we're being chopped to bits or stabbed to death, we still want to live.

Like you said, humans are weak.

We die easily.

Gyaahhh!
TH-THAT MARK! IT'S THE BRAND OF SACRIFICE!

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

YOU ARE--

WHERE ARE THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE GODHAND?

--THE GODHAND.

IT'S NOT FOR APOSTLES SUCH AS I TO KNOW!

I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE!

UGH!

TH-- THAT IS--
Take your time and savor it...

I... I'm telling you the truth...

As your body is slowly burned to ashes.

Gwaaaahh!
HELP ME--

I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

W-WAIT... PLEASE!

WAIT...!

EEEEEE....

...!

\[\text{UUNNHHH!}\]
BERSERK...
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE US!

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE!
OH, WELL.

MAYBE WOLVES ATE HIM OR SOMETHING.

THAT'S FUNNY. I WAS SURE HE WAS GOING IN THIS DIRECTION.

HOW COULD I LOSE HIM IF THIS IS THE ONLY PATH?
GUTS!

YOU AGAIN!

HEY! HOW YA DOIN'?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? DID WOLVES ATTACK YOU? L'H OH, THOSE WOUNDS FROM BEFORE ARE OPENING UP AGAIN.

FOR SOME REASON, EVERY TIME WE MEET, YOU'RE ALL TORN UP.

WANT ME TO HEAL YOU AGAIN?

HEY, BUG!

THE NAME'S PUCK. TRY NOT TO FORGET IT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

...IT'S INTERESTING! ALL THIS MONSTER STUFF.

IS THIS MORE OF THAT ELVEN SENSE OF DUTY?

IT'S THE KIND OF THING YOU ONLY HEAR ABOUT IN MYTHS OR EPIC POEMS BUT YOU'RE IT! THE REAL DEAL!

...THE THING IS...

WELL...
WHATCHA DO THAT FOR?!

BLAH!

Nah, I figured if I hung around you, I'd get to see all sorts of neat things...

GLUG GLUG

I don't like elves, and I don't like you.

Sorry, but I'm in no mood to keep any pets.

Who said I wanted to be your pet?!

AND ONE MORE THING...
IT PISSES ME OFF WHEN I SEE WEAKLINGS.
I FEEL LIKE I WANNA CRUSH THEM.

...BUT WHY?
BU...

BECAUSE YOU'RE WEAK.

MAKES ME WANNA SQUASH 'EM.

THEY CAN'T DO A THING ON THEIR OWN. ALL THEY EVER DO IS TALK AND BUZ Around PEOPLE LIKE FLIES.
YOU BASTARD!
THE RAIN'S PRETTY HEAVY.
NEED A RIDE?
SORRY, I'M NO GOOD WITH PRIESTS.

IT'S NO TROUBLE. THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH ROOM FOR ANOTHER PERSON IN HERE.

NOPE. LEAVE ME BE.

HA HA! IT'S BETTER THAN CATCHING A COLD though, YES?

I'M TELLING YOU THIS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
A legion of them.

I'm being pursued by evil spirits.

But, don't worry, my friend, I have God on my side. Not to mention a lucky spirit.

Wahahaha! That's quite an affliction.
CMON, GET ON, GET ON.

WHAT DO I CARE IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO THEM?

WELL, WHY NOT?

OH!
SO YOU GOT NO RIGHT TO COMPLAIN THIS TIME!

I WAS HERE FIRST.

WHAT?
Um...

......

It's homemade wine.

It'll warm you up.

Have some, if you'd like.

Oh! Me too! Me too!
THOSE AWFUL WOUNDS... WHAT HAPPENED?

THAT CAN'T BE TRUE, CAN IT?

Hey, hey! Don't frighten my daughter too much.

By the way...

Like I said, evil spirits are after me.

...Is that some sort of sword?
BY THE LOOKS OF IT, YOU APPEAR TO BE A MERCENARY.

IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE?

NAH, I USE IT FOR MY COOKING.

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD CUT A HORSE IN HALF WITH THAT THING.

WHY NOT JUST OPEN UP A ROADSIDE GRILL, YOU CAN EARN A BETTER LIVING THAT WAY, YOU BUM.

LIVE BY THE SWORD, DIE BY THE SWORD.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH RESPECT FOR THAT PROFESSION—KILLING OTHER PEOPLE FOR A LIVING.

WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

HMMPH! THAT'S WHY I DON'T LIKE PRIESTS.

PLEASE, DON'T SAY THAT.
My nephew also chose to live by the sword and left home as soon as he could.

He could have enjoyed the simple pleasures of life. How foolish of him!

Five years ago, he lost his life on a battlefield, just some lowly soldier with no name.

... What's wrong with that?
HE DIED DOING WHAT HE WANTED, NO MATTER WHAT, RIGHT?

I BET HE WAS HAPPY.

NOTHING COMES AFTER THAT, NOTHING AT ALL.

OF COURSE, ONCE YOU DIE, THAT'S IT.
Well, I'm gonna try to get a little sleep now.

You could... catch a cold!
CAN'T HELP BUT SMILE...

HEE HEE

HEE...

WHA- WHY ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT ME?
YOU CANNOT RUN FROM US!
YOU CANNOT RUN!
WAAAAAAAGHHHH!

...!

HEEY! WHAT HAPPENED?!

HEEY!

WHAT... WHAT IS THAT THING?!
They're evil spirits that give people nightmares and feed off their fear.

It's an incubus!

Evil spirits? You mean what you said before was true?

Why did it come after you?

You're sayin' you believe in god but not in evil spirits?

They won't even give me time to sleep.
This thing summons them.

Because of this...

Because of... the brand?
Incubi are born of the mixed blood and sexual fluids of those who died filled with hatred and malice...

...which means that somewhere around here, there must be some corpses of bandits or the like who died violently.
CORPSES THAT THE DEMONS WILL POSSESS AND USE TO ATTACK.

WHOAH! WHOAH!

KYAA!!
STUPID GIRL! DON'T GET OUT OF THE CARRIAGE!

BUT...!

UH...!
EEYAAA...

Looks like this must've been some old battlefield!
WE BETTER GET OUTTA HERE!

IT'S NO USE! YOU CAN'T KILL SOMETHING THAT'S ALREADY DEAD!

IF YOU WANNA GO, GO BY YOURSELF.

BUT WHY?!

COMES WITH THE TERRITORY.

THERE'S TOO MANY... YOU'RE GONNA GET KILLED!

IT'S POINTLESS!
It doesn't matter if his opponents are living or dead...

Eek!

Waaaang!!

WOW!

Ah...

...Ahhh!

What happened, old man?!
LIWAAUGH!! GUTS!

SHUT UP!! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUS--
GUTS!

...!

GUTS...

GUGGH!

WATCH OUT!

UWUWUSH!!!
I GUESS IT'S ALL OVER.
...YOUR FAULT.

IT WASN'T...

HA HA HA HA HA!

HEH HEH...

HA HA... YEAH, THAT'S TRUE.

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
LIKE I SAID, ANYONE WHO GETS KILLED 'CAUSE THEY GOT CAUGHT UP IN SOMEONE ELSE'S FIGHT IS A SMALL FRY.

IF THEY CAN'T LIVE THEIR LIFE FREELY, THEY'RE BETTER OFF DEAD.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

THOSE TWO DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM A "WALKING DISASTER" LIKE ME.

...YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WALK.

IF YOU'RE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT CRUSHING THE ANTS BENEATH YOU...
WE ARE ALWAYS WATCHING YOU.

WHEREVER YOU GO, WE WILL FIND YOU.

HA HA HA!

WHAT'S THAT?!

IT'S USELESS! YOU CANNOT RUN FROM US!

HEE HEE HEE!

YOUR BLOOD, YOUR FLESH, YOUR BONES...

AND YOUR HEART. WE WANT YOUR HEART.

YOUR EARS...

YOUR EYES...

YOU BELONG TO ME.

YOU ARE OURS.

HEE HEE HEE...

HEE HEE HEE...

WE ARE ALWAYS WATCHING YOU.
YES, SO LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT BRAND.
WHEREVER YOU ARE, YOU BELONG TO US.

YOU CANNOT RUN FROM US.

SHUT UP...

SO LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT BRAND...

YOUR ANGER, YOUR SADNESS, YOUR PAIN...

SHUT UP!

ALL OF THEM BELONG TO US!

SHUT UP!

EVEN YOUR FEAR...
Guts lives in a world of fear. This is the world...
IT'S A LIE!

THE ACCUSED IS THEREFORE SENTENCED TO IMMEDIATE EXECUTION.

THE INQUISITION HEREBY FINDS THE ACCUSED GUILTY OF MAKING A PACT WITH THE DEVIL AND ENGAGING IN HERESY MOST FOUL.

VERDICT!
THE GUARDIANS OF DESIRE, PART ONE
THE EXECUTION IS COMPLETE.

WELL DONE, DAHL.

I'M WONDERING IF... IF WE'RE NOT OVERDOING IT A BIT?

AS HERETICS...

I DON'T CARE. ARREST ANYONE WHO LOOKS LIKE A SPY OR A DRIFTER.

IT BE BEFORE HIS HOLINESS INTERVENES?

BUT, THIS IS THE FIFTH ONE THIS MONTH.
It is my sacred duty to protect this kingdom from any accursed heretics.

I do this all for the good of my subjects.

Yes, my Lord.

The peaceful existence of my subjects is my utmost desire, my utmost pleasure.

I will not let anyone interfere with that.
Anyone caught sympathizing with a heretic will not go unpunished, even children! You’ll be thrown into the dungeon!
Hand that over to me, will ya?

Why you... WHA--?!
YOUR EXCELLENCY!
...BASTARD!

YOU...

ハリガ

アッ
Y-you! Who are you?!
WHO IN GOD'S NAME...?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING JUST STANDING THERE?!
AFTER HIM, QUICKLY!

...HOW AMUSING.

THE BLACK SWORDS-MAN...

A DECLARATION OF WAR, PERHAPS?
By decree of the Inquisition, you are hereby placed under arrest for conspiring with heretics!
IF YOU RESIST, YOUR LIFE WILL BE FORFEIT.
What kind of sword is that?!

Massive, thick, heavy, and far too rough.

It was much too big to be called a sword.

Indeed, it was like a heap of raw iron.

D-don't just stand there! Charge!
HE'S INHUMAN!

HE'S SLICING OUR ARMOR IN HALF WITH IT!

WH-WHAT AN INCREDIBLE SWORD!

EEK!!

UWAAHH!!
GUTS! ABOVE YOU!

M-MY EYES!

WHOA!
YOU... YOU'RE STILL HERE?

HEY! I SAVED YOUR LIFE! I DID, DIDN'T I?!
LOOKS LIKE YOU OWE ME ONE NOW!
THAT'S QUITE A SWORD YOU'VE GOT THERE, LITTLE MAN...

HE'S HUGE.

WHOA!

......
LET'S SEE HOW THAT SWORD OF YOURS FARES...

...WHEN I PUT IT TO THE TEST AGAINST THIS WAR HAMMER!
HEH HEH HEH...
WHAT'S WRONG?
THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN.
...IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN BAGGAGE!

SEE, IT'S NOT JUST A QUESTION OF SIZE. IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE YOUR WEAPON...
C-- CAPTAIN!

Couldn't agree more.

Uggghhh...

Ah ahhhh!
LORD ZONDARK!

YOU MISERABLE CUR!
THERE'S NO END TO 'EM.

DAWNB!
WH- WHAT IN THE HELL?!

OVER HERE, QUICKLY!

EEEEEEE! IT'S SMOKY!

YOU THERE!

UGH!
AH! WAIT FOR ME!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? HURRY UP!

WHO, US?

HE'S STILL HERE!

FIND HIM! WHERE?

DON'T LET THE BASTARD ESCAPE...

FIND HIM!

KILL HIM...

KILL HIM!
You never know when you might be accused of heresy, or by whom.

It's because everyone's suspicious.

In this town, people are a thing to be feared.

... ... ...

... ...

And they're not just afraid of strangers. Acquaintances, neighbors, friends, even family...
I suppose if somebody were to accuse you of being a heretic, you'd have a hard time explaining all this.

Quite a collection.

Heh heh... nothing of that sort. Just a has-been physician, that's all I am.

You know, I saw you at the execution grounds today.

Heh heh heh...

Who are you? Why did you help me?
Is it... revenge?

Do you have some sort of grudge against the count?

I'm the one who's askin' the questions, not you.

Guts...
YOU OKAY, MISTER? THAT'S HORRIBLE! WHY'D YOU HAVE TO KICK HIM LIKE THAT?!

...I WANT YOU TO KILL HIM.

HEH...

HEH HEH...

I COULDN'T AFFORD TO LET THEM CAPTURE YOU BACK THERE...
I WANT YOU TO CUT HIM INTO LITTLE PIECES...

...THAT DEMON!
HE THAT ACCURSED COUNT... HE--HE'S NOT EVEN HUMAN.

HE'S A DEMON!

THAT FIEND CUT THEM UP PIECE BY PIECE... AND ATE THEM!

LOOK AT ME... THESE LEGS... THIS FACE!

HEH... HEH HEH... YOU DON'T BELIEVE MY STORY, DO YOU?
RATHER, I KNOW WHAT HE IS.

NO...

I BELIEVE YOU.

....... 

WHEEZES...

WHEEZES...

.......
There's something I want to show you...

Why do I have a feeling it's gonna be something awful again?!

Here ...

A secret door...
THIS IS IT.

THIS IS...
THE GUARDIANS OF DESIRE, PART ONE: END

...A BEHELIT!