

Forgotten Fire

Tale of the Burning Sword

by
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CHARACTERS

SYNOMI (F)

Who in this tale portrays:

NELHANI, leader of the dryads of the Eldest Wood

GRYNEPH, a gryphon magician

AN OREAD

PHENRON, a great cat from the Cloud Mountains

SLYTHNOK, a young dragon

LYNISE (F)

Who in this tale portrays:

LAHALLA, a white wizard

AN OREAD

ILSYNVAY, a dryad wizard

CHOKARG, a goblin chief

J'SYI (M)

Who in this tale portrays:

OKAH, the dark enchanter

AN OREAD

TOHAN, high king of Edelsha

HOUSAR, a human of the plains

Total Roles: 3 (2 Female and 1 Male)

Production History

Forgotten Fire was first performed at the Little Theatre in Te Awamutu, New Zealand on April 18th, 19th, and 20th, 2005. It was directed by Emma and Louise Dobbs with the following cast:

SYNOMI	Bronwyn Emmett
LYNISE	Louise Dobbs
J'SYI	Emma Dobbs

Running Time

Approximately 30 minutes

Technical Requirements

There are no fixed technical requirements for Forgotten Fire; the sets, lights, costumes, and so on may be as simple or as complex as desired. One or two large trunks are recommended for use as minimal set pieces (see SETTING below). While most of the objects referred to in the script may be mimed, the suggested props are listed below.

Suggested Prop List

Sword

Silver rings (3)

Fake tree stump (in which sword may be inserted)

Red cloth

Dark ring

SETTING

A group of three traveling PLAYERS (of humankind) have arrived to share the Tale of the Burning Sword. The acting space contains various props and costume pieces used by the PLAYERS to portray their various roles. One or two large trunks, used to carry the PLAYERS' belongings from place to place, can also be seen. In addition to their role as storage devices, the trunks also function as minimal set pieces, providing the PLAYERS with physical objects to stand on top of, hide behind, or use in whatever other creative ways may aid in the telling of their tale. Before they start their story, the PLAYERS wander about checking the placement of their props and costumes and mingle with the audience until it is time to begin.

SYNOMI

Good friends, what tale shall we tell this day?

LYNISE

What about "The Tale of the Cat of Gringham Wood"?

SYNOMI

No, not that one. We have performed that for three duchesses in a row!

J'SYI

Aye, merry, and two lords before that. A well-loved tale indeed.

SYNOMI

Aye, and one I tire of playing. Cannot we play another?

LYNISE

What about "The Tale of the Desert Orb"?

J'SYI

We cannot, for we have broken the crystal orb. There can be no such tale without it.

LYNISE

Truly said, that I forgot. What think you then of "The Tale of the Knight and Two Dragons"?

SYNOMI

'Tis a tale too sad for so fine a day. What of something with a more joyful ending?

LYNISE

"The Tale of the Five Oreads and the Mine of Rown?"

SYNOMI and J'SYI

NO!!!

LYNISE

But never do we play that tale!

J'SYI

Aye, since no one but you does enjoy it.

SYNOMI

(Aside, to the audience)

It is a tale she herself did write and many wish that she had not. While Lynise may be an excellent player, she shall never be a great bard.

LYNISE

Synomi, what do you say to them?

SYNOMI

That you are a player of great renown.

LYNISE

Truly said! I thank you.

(She bows to the audience.)

SYNOMI

And they say to me that they would like to hear "The Tale of the Burning Sword."

(To the audience)

Is that not so?

J'SYI

(Aside, to the audience, with a gesture to LYNISE)

'Tis that or her tale.

SYNOMI

Shall we hear the tale?

(She encourages the audience to say "Aye!")

LYNISE

Very well, if that is what they shall have.

SYNOMI

Excellent!

(To the audience)

Lords and ladies, in the name of LIAMB the Light we bid you welcome! We are the Players of the High King who, by his will, travel to all regions of this, the fair land of Edelsha, to share our tales. I am Synomi, from the eastern plains.

(She bows.)

LYNISE

And I am Lynise, of the Westland.

(She bows.)

J'SYI

And I am J'Syi, from the desert's edge.

(He bows.)

LYNISE

(As a grand proclamation)

And now, "The Tale of the Burning Sword!"

J'SYI

A strange wonder indeed! It was in the days of Tohan, first of the high kings of Edelsha, that this wonder came to light. Embedded halfway up the blade in an ancient stump, this sword blazed endlessly with the fire of a deep and wild magic. Yet while the enchantment upon the sword burned fiercely, the sword itself remained unscathed.

SYNOMI

But to understand the sword's history we must first travel back to bygone ages when the great warriors who wielded the Burning Sword performed with it great acts of wonder and courage. In these times the servants of evil feared the sword greatly and called it Gihlan'Am'Soren, the "Light-of-Death," and so it was. So long as such heroes, noble and good, bore the sword they held back the growing darkness.

LYNISE

Yet those who guarded the sword as it passed from warrior to warrior carried within their hearts a secret dread. They knew that Gihlan'Am'Soren bore a two-edged blade and that evil, as well as good, could claim mastery of it. In time those fears proved true.

(J'SYI becomes OKAH, the dark enchanter.)

J'SYI

For there rose up in those days a dark enchanter who with cruel malice sought to take all Edelsha for his own.

LYNISE

The races of light fought hard against him, but the enchanter's power waxed mightily and he smote all who dared oppose him. The Burning Sword languished unused, no worthy warrior found to bear it, until the dark enchanter himself tore it from its sacred resting place.

(SYNOMI becomes NELHANI, leader of the dryads, and sits guarding the sword.)

SYNOMI

Nelhani, leader of the dryads, the forest people, guarded the sword in the silent shade of the Eldest Wood. Silent, for the Enchanter had slain many.

LYNISE

Now he returned to plague the woods with yet another act of evil.

SYNOMI

"What brings you here, Okah enchanter?"

J'SYI

"Nelhani, I knew you had not forgotten me."

SYNOMI

"I have neither forgotten you nor the deep wounds you have inflicted upon this land."

J'SYI

"You speak with a reproving tongue, Nelhani, but I am no longer your pupil. I have come for the sword."

SYNOMI

"Gihlan'Am'Soren deserves a more holy hand than yours."

J'SYI

"It shall serve me better than it ever has you. Where is your pupil, Lahalla?"

SYNOMI

"She finds herself elsewhere."

J'SYI

"The more fool be she to leave the sword unguarded."

(He crosses to take the sword, but SYNOMI slowly rises.)

SYNOMI

"Do you forget who taught you and Lahalla both?"

(J'SYI tries to attack SYNOMI but she holds him back with a gesture.)

J'SYI

"Do not think to try and stop me, Nelhani. My power now eclipses yours."

SYNOMI

"As Lahalla shall eclipse yours."

J'SYI

"It shall be long before she can ever hope to challenge me."

SYNOMI

"Yet she will."

J'SYI

"But not today."

(He "kills" SYNOMI and takes the sword.)

LYNISE

And so the dark enchanter acquired the prize he sought and with it rallied all the creatures of darkness to his cause.

(She becomes LAHALLA.)

J'SYI

The dryads grieved deeply over Nelhani's death, Lahalla her student most of all.

LYNISE

"You have taught me well, Nelhani. In your memory I make this oath to LIAMB: I shall wage war against the enchanter until he falls by my hand, or I fall by his."

J'SYI

As the years passed, the shadow cast by the dark enchanter grew long as he vanquished all those who refused to kneel before him.

SYNOMI

The tides of death and darkness flowed swiftly, yet Lahalla stood firm, anchored in the power of LIAMB the Light. She grew into a white wizard of great strength and wisdom and stood first among those who battled the enchanter.

LYNISE

LIAMB the Light blessed her courage and brought forth new warriors and heroes to stand at her side. Together they fought against the onslaught of the enchanter's evil. And so a great war erupted such as this land had never seen, before or since.

J'SYI

It was as if a tremendous storm ravaged the land and shook the very foundations of the world.

SYNOMI

That age reached its terrible climax when Lahalla at last confronted the dark enchanter high atop the mountains. The enchanter carried with him the sword, and upon one hand Lahalla wore three silver rings.

J'SYI

"Do not be a fool, Lahalla. Do you not see the blade I wield? It serves me. Do likewise and it shall go well with you."

LYNISE

"Your days draw to a swift end, enchanter! I fear not the stroke of Gihlan'Am'Soren, for I bear a charm of my own!"

(She raises the hand wearing the rings.)

"Witness the rings made deep in the forge of Shalamanar!"

SYNOMI

The rings shone fiercely, for they contained within them the light of the sun, the moon, and the stars. For a moment the rings blinded the dark enchanter, but his grim spirit did not so easily quail.

J'SYI

"Mere trinkets! I shall cleave them from your hand with the same sword I wrenched from the dying fingers of your master."

SYNOMI

For days the two foes wrested with each other, each summoning every ounce of power that dwelled within their being. In the end that power became so great that the fabric of the world itself cracked and both magicians perished.

J'SYI

The rings Lahalla wore were lost. It was the first of these that Tohan the high king would one day reclaim, but that is a tale for another day.

LYNISE

(Breaking the mood)

What do you mean another day? 'Tis a tale well worth the telling!

J'SYI

Aye, merry, it is, but –

LYNISE

Then let us tell it! 'Twill take but a moment.

(To the audience)

'Twas in the days before the high kings when Tohan, a great warrior among men, embarked upon a quest to find the first ring of Shalamanar.

SYNOMI

Lynise! How often must we tell you? You mustn't interrupt the tale at hand! We were speaking of the sword.

LYNISE

Aye, but surely we can spare a moment or two to tell the story of Tohan.

J'SYI

'Tis a tale of greater length than that! Come now, we must return to the sword.

LYNISE

Must we?

SYNOMI

Aye, we must.

LYNISE

Perchance we can tell more of Tohan later?

J'SYI

Aye, aye, perchance. Now, may we continue?

LYNISE

Very well. Now where did we leave off?

J'SYI

The rings Lahalla had worn were lost, and so on. Your part.

LYNISE

Ah, yes. But while the rings were lost, the sword Gihlan'Am'Soren was not. Gryneph, one of Lahalla's followers, found it atop the mountain where her master had waged her final battle.

(SYNOMI becomes GRYNEPH, a gryphon magician, and J'SYI places the sword for her to find.)

SYNOMI

"Gihlan'Am'Soren, you return to the light at last! But alas, now that my master Lahalla has perished, who shall I find to wield you?"

LYNISE

Gryneph took the sword and traveled deep into the western forests. She knew of no one who could safely protect the sword, for the bravest and strongest of Lahalla's followers had all been slain in the great war.

J'SYI

And though the enchanter had also perished, his minions still threatened to overwhelm the allies of Lahalla. So Gryneph devised a means to safeguard the sword from the dark forces who desired it.

SYNOMI

She took the sword to an ancient stump, the remains of a once great tree imbued with an ineffable magic. "Here, if anywhere," she decided, "may the sword find refuge."

LYNISE

With a mighty effort Gryneph plunged the sword deep into the stump and wove around it spells of fire.

(SYNOMI places the sword into a "stump" and wraps a bright red cloth around it.)

SYNOMI

"May the sword find sanctuary here, until the one arrives who can unlock this spell."

J'SYI

Gryneph placed upon the sword a prophecy, inscribed upon the stump in letters of gold.

SYNOMI

"Fire deep guards me well,
Heed these words to break this spell:
All eyes shall turn to the two-edged sword,
When from the north comes fearsome war.
When darkness does find trust in light,
Fear not, have faith, all shall be right.
Friendship lost and friendship broken,
Here lies the sword Gihlan'Am'Soren."

J'SYI

And so Gryneph left the sword and it was forgotten.

LYNISE

Centuries passed and the eternal conflict between good and evil continued. Each rose and fell, like the unalterable tides, until the course of time flowed to the days of Tohan and the high kings.

SYNOMI

With the finding of the first ring of Shalamanar, one of Lahalla's rings, Tohan brought peace and united all of Edelsha under his just rule.

LYNISE

The tale of how he came by the ring spread to every corner of Edelsha, and it was a tale all rejoiced to hear!

(She looks at SYNOMI and J'SYI.)

SYNOMI and J'SYI

NO!!!

LYNISE

You said perchance we could tell of Tohan later.

J'SYI

Aye, much later.

SYNOMI

And not until we finish the tale of the sword!

(To the audience)

And now you understand from whence came the fire with which burned the sword.

J'SYI

A group of oreads, the mountain people, discovered the Burning Sword one day as they passed through the forest, journeying from their home in the west to visit High King Tohan.

(SYNOMI, LYNISE, and J'SYI all become oreads.)

LYNISE

"Halt, good friends, what wonder have we here?"

SYNOMI

"'Tis a miraculous sight indeed! The sword burns, but does not melt."

J'SYI

"Fabulous, no doubt."

(LYNISE reads the inscription on the stump.)

SYNOMI

"And a sword well wrought."

LYNISE

"Friends, pray read the inscription. 'Tis Gihlan'Am'Soren!"

J'SYI

"The lost blade returns to us at last."

SYNOMI

"Aye, but the sword bears with it a strange enchantment. I do not think it is ours to claim. The prophecy here must first be fulfilled."

J'SYI

"Then what shall we do?"

LYNISE

"We should bring news of this wonder to the high king. Let him ponder the matter."

(J'SYI becomes the HIGH KING TOHAN. He wears one of the three rings upon one hand.)

SYNOMI

The oreads all agreed to this and continued their journey east. When they reached the eastern plains, they sent one of their number to greet High King Tohan.

(LYNISE bows before J'SYI.)

LYNISE

"Your Majesty, in the name of the oreads of the west I bring you most excellent greetings."

J'SYI

"And greetings to you, my friend, you are ever welcome here. May LIAMB the Light forever bless your people and all the works of your hands. But tell me, what tidings do you bear from the west? How fares Thraymen, your king?"

LYNISE

"King Thraymen rules his share of Edelsha with justice and mercy. He pledges to you his loyalty and allegiance and hopes to see you soon in either your halls or his."

J'SYI

"That does me good to hear. What other news have you to share?"

LYNISE

"News, good king, of mystery and wonder."

SYNOMI

So the oread told the high king of what they had witnessed in the forest and all they knew of the Burning Sword.

J'SYI

"This is marvelous indeed! I heartily thank you for bringing this wonder to my attention."

LYNISE

"You are most welcome, my gracious lord. May your wise men discern the truth behind the sword and its prophetic words."

SYNOMI

But it would not be any of the great and wise who would at last unravel this enigma.

J'SYI

Years passed and the reign of Tohan continued without great incident. In the midst of these peaceful times dwelt an aged dryad master of the white arts and her two young pupils.

(LYNISE becomes ILSYNVAY, a dryad wizard.)

SYNOMI

Since the beginning of Tohan's reign Ilsynvay had resided in his court as the master wizard. All who came to her she taught and guided well.

LYNISE

Among all her pupils two stood high above the rest.

(SYNOMI becomes PHENRON, a young panther.)

SYNOMI

The first was Phenron Sirrin, a young panther from the Cloud Mountains.

(J'SYI becomes HOUSAR.)

J'SYI

The second was Housar, a human of the plains.

SYNOMI

Naturally gifted, they each gained mastery over even the more difficult spells of the light. But though in mind Housar worked in the service of the light, his soul carried within it troubled ripples, a fact that did not escape the wise eyes of Ilsynvay.

LYNISE

"Housar, come before me."

(J'SYI kneels before LYNISE.)

J'SYI

"Yes, my master?"

LYNISE

"Your studies progress most rapidly, Housar, and you serve both the king and I with great distinction. You have the makings of a worthy magician."

J'SYI

"You bestow greater praise upon me than I deem I do deserve."

LYNISE

"Yet for all your prowess in magic, I perceive that a disturbed spirit still dwells within you. I charge you, tell me the cause of your unrest."

J'SYI

"You have been a great teacher to me, and for all I have learned from you I most humbly thank you. Yet there are greater powers which I desire to master."

LYNISE

"Tell me."

J'SYI

"I wish to follow the path of the wizard Lahalla."

LYNISE

"The white wizard, do not forget that. And careful should be he who seeks to be accounted among the great, lest he do so for naught but his own glory."

J'SYI

"I have served LIAMB always."

LYNISE

"And well, that I do not doubt. Patience, my pupil, lest your skill outpace your wisdom. Do not seek power for its own sake."

J'SYI

"Will you teach me of Lahalla's wizardry?"

LYNISE

"What do you wish to learn?"

J'SYI

"The making of the rings of Shalamanar."

LYNISE

"Such skills are still beyond you. Moreover I cannot, for even I do not possess such knowledge. Go now, your studies await."

SYNOMI

Housar departed obediently, but the shadow continued to gnaw at him. He spent the remainder of the day in quiet study and waited for nightfall.

LYNISE

While the fortress slept, Housar cast a deep, unearthly slumber over the chambers of the high king. He took the ring of Shalamanar and left in its place a cunning imitation which he hoped would deceive the king.

J'SYI

"Once I understand the art of the ring's making, I shall return the ring to its master."

LYNISE

Or so he promised himself. Housar departed the king's chambers as stealthily as he had come, thinking his mission accomplished. But he had not thought of his fellow pupil, Phenron. Most nights the great cat slept as soundly as the mountain stones, but tonight a vague uneasiness had seeped into her mind and left her restless. As Housar crept through the fortress, making his escape, Phenron prowled the passageways in a vain search for sleep. It was to both their surprise when they met suddenly in the moonlit corridors.

SYNOMI

"Who goes there?"

J'SYI

"It is I, Housar. Who are you?"

SYNOMI

"It is only I, Phenron. You gave me a great start, friend Housar! I did not think to meet any but the watchmen. Does sleep elude you as well?"

J'SYI

"What? Oh yes, of course."

SYNOMI

"I thought as much. Shall we walk together then?"

J'SYI

"Many thanks, Phenron, but no. I shall see you in the morning."
(He starts to leave.)

SYNOMI

"A moment, friend Housar. What troubles you?"

J'SYI

(Quickly)
"Nothing, I assure you. I simply desire solitude."

SYNOMI

"Housar, wait."

(She places a hand on J'SYI's arm.)

"What have you done? You bear something that you should not."

LYNISE

Housar tried to flee, but Phenron held him still. For a moment the two stood still as statues in the moonlight. While Housar had pursued spells of power, Phenron had devoted herself to magic of a more subtle nature. Her scorching yellow eyes pierced into Housar's mind and found the thoughts he could not hide.

SYNOMI

"Traitor, you have betrayed your king!"

(She lets out a long, feline yowl.)

LYNISE

Phenron's cry broke Housar's spell and woke the king, but it was Ilsynvay who reached the pair first.

(She studies J'SYI intently for a moment and then holds out her hand.)

"The ring."

(J'SYI gives it to her.)

"What did you hope to gain by this?"

(J'SYI is silent.)

"Speak!"

(More silence)

"Very well, we shall speak of this in the morning, and you shall explain yourself to the king. Go."

J'SYI

Housar departed willingly and returned to his chambers.

SYNOMI

But Phenron followed, disturbed by what had occurred. "Friend Housar..."

J'SYI

"Leave me, Phenron."

SYNOMI

"Please, I did not mean – "

J'SYI

"I am best left alone."

SYNOMI

"Housar..."

J'SYI

"Go."

SYNOMI

"As you wish. I shall see you in the morning."

LYNISE

Still uneasy, Phenron could not sleep and continued to wander the corridors until dawn.

J'SYI

Housar did not sleep either. As soon as all was again still, he fled the Fortress and went north to the Wild Mountains.

(He becomes TOHAN.)

SYNOMI

Phenron and Ilsynvay discovered his absence the next day when they were both summoned before the king.

J'SYI

"It grieves me to see one so noble fall so speedily. His deed was rash, but not so foul we could not forgive."

LYNISE

"I bear the responsibility for his actions, my lord, for I was his master."

J'SYI

"I hold you guiltless in this matter, Ilsynvay. You could not have perceived all the thoughts of his heart. But I would speak with Phenron Sirrin."

(SYNOMI kneels before J'SYI.)

SYNOMI

"I am your subject, my king."

J'SYI

"You have done a great service unto to me and most humbly I thank you for it. In gratitude I offer you a boon. Whatever you ask, it shall be yours."

SYNOMI

"Then if it please my king, grant me this: Whatever may unfold in the days to come, let the life of Housar be spared."

J'SYI

"He has done nothing yet to require such a boon, but I shall honor your request. You are a true friend, Phenron Sirrin, and do your clan great credit. Again, I thank you."

LYNISE

Phenron deeply mourned the loss of her friend and prayed that LIAMB would one day return Housar to them. Yet it would be long ere further news of Housar reached any ear in Edelsha.

(J'SYI becomes HOUSAR.)

J'SYI

Housar dwelt deep in the Wild Mountains for many years and devoted himself to the mastery of the dark arts, determined to forge for himself great rings of power as Lahalla had done. Having once felt the tremendous force of the ring, he craved beyond all things to know that power again.

LYNISE

For great indeed was the power of the ring and there lies a wondrous tale indeed! In Tohan's quest for the first ring...

(She breaks off as J'SYI and SYNOMI give her the look of death.)

Housar toiled long over the making of his own ring, but instead of creating a work of the light, Housar shaped a ring of darkness that acted as a beacon unto all things evil.

SYNOMI

As Housar's soul grew more and more twisted, he sought out such creatures and enlisted their aid. Slowly he began to build an evil army, bent on seizing the king's ring once more, this time forever.

J'SYI

When Housar decided the time had come he called unto him his two greatest servants: Slythnok the dragon, and Chokarg, chief of goblins.

(SYNOMI becomes SLYTHNOK and LYNISE becomes CHOKARG.)

"Now, my minions, it begins! The hour of which we have often spoke is nigh. Are you prepared?"

SYNOMI

"All my dragon kin are gathered and wait for your word. We shall see vengeance done!"

J'SYI

"The high king I give to you, Slythnok. Do as you please, once I possess the ring. And you, Chokarg?"

LYNISE

"My goblin legions wait to spill upon the plains of Edelsha. Everything in our path we shall ravage until all is as black as death."

J'SYI

"You have done well, my servants, and well shall I reward you. With one swift stroke we shall crush the high king's fortress and upon its rubble I shall found a new kingdom in blood. Let the hordes march forth!"

LYNISE

Forward marched the goblins from their dark holes. Like a black tide they swept onto the plains, bringing devastation everywhere they went.

SYNOMI

The harsh cries of the dragons echoed like thunder in every valley as their flames poured out onto Edelsha's fertile fields.

J'SYI

Speedily did the high king summon his own army, but Housar and his followers were armed with surprise and soon besieged the fortress of the high king.

SYNOMI

The hills around the fortress burned night and day with dragon flame and the river ran with the blood of all races.

(SYNOMI becomes PHENRON, LYNISE becomes ILSYNVAY, and J'SYI becomes TOHAN.)

Inside the fortress, High King Tohan took counsel with the wise Ilsynvay.

J'SYI

"What is to be done, my friend? Valiantly do all my people wage war against these infidels, but they took us unaware and came in great numbers. We are hard beset."

LYNISE

"Do you recall the wonder once told to you of the Burning Sword?"

J'SYI

"Aye, I remember it. A prophecy lay upon the sword, as I recall."

LYNISE

"A prophecy of great war from the north."

J'SYI

"That much, it seems, has been fulfilled. But one sword..."

LYNISE

"No sword in any tale possessed greater might than Gihlan'Am'Soren. Let it be sought, and let us pray the enchantment upon it may be broken."

SYNOMI

"I shall seek the sword, my lord, if it would please you."

J'SYI

"What say you to this, Ilsynvay? You are her master. I shall not send her without your consent."

LYNISE

"If this quest is her desire, I shall not say no."

J'SYI

"Go then, Phenron, with all our hopes upon you. May LIAMB guide you well."

SYNOMI

In the dark of night Phenron left the fortress, passed through the mountains, and came to the Arine Forest. There she followed the directions given to Tohan by the oreads who had first found the sword.

(J'SYI becomes HOUSAR.)

J'SYI

But her flight from the fortress had not gone altogether unnoticed.

LYNISE

Around the fortress Housar had woven an intricate web of spells. He felt one strand break with Phenron's passing and followed her. When she came before the sword he understood her purpose and revealed himself.

J'SYI

"Well met, Phenron. I did not expect to see you again."

SYNOMI

"Housar."

J'SYI

"Not 'friend Housar'? So you used to call me."

SYNOMI

"It pleases me to see you again."

J'SYI

"You do not look pleased. Have I done you wrong?"

SYNOMI

"You wage war against us."

J'SYI

"Against the king, not you. Never would I harm you."

SYNOMI

"Then cease your attack. Your king has done you no harm!"

J'SYI

"*Your* king, Phenron. I am my own master now and bear a ring of my own."

LYNISE

Housar raised his hand and Phenron saw the foul work twisted around his finger.

J'SYI

"Do you not like it? I understand. You seek a work more fair. There it lies, the Burning Sword. A two-edged blade, do not forget."

SYNOMI

"Have you come to take the sword for yourself?"

J'SYI

"Phenron, you surprise me, where is your trust?"

SYNOMI

"You have betrayed our trust."

J'SYI

"I desire the ring, that is all. Tell the king to yield it to me and all shall be well."

SYNOMI

"I cannot."

J'SYI

"Then Edelsha burns. If you return to the fortress I cannot answer for your fate."

SYNOMI

"I must return, with the sword."

J'SYI

"To use against me, is that not so? Who betrays whom, Phenron?"

SYNOMI

"I do not seek your life."

J'SYI

"Nor I yours, but it makes no difference, for the enchantment upon the sword bars us both from its possession."

SYNOMI

"Then, friend Housar, we must break it."

J'SYI

"Friends still? I thought you held me a traitor."

SYNOMI

"Amends may yet be made. Give me your hand."

(She holds out one hand. J'SYI hesitates for a moment, but takes it.)

"Together shall we fulfill this prophecy."

LYNISE

Phenron and Housar each grasped the hilt of the sword with one hand, and with the other they unwove the spell of fire.

(SYNOMI and J'SYI both grasp the hilt of the sword with one hand and unwind the cloth with the other. J'SYI is left holding the cloth and draws out the sword.)

J'SYI

"You trust me still?"

SYNOMI

"Yes. Return to us, friend Housar."

J'SYI

"I shall return. With the sword in hand the ring shall be mine."

SYNOMI

"You would betray even me? I gave you my trust!"

J'SYI

"I have never deserved it. Farewell, my friend."

SYNOMI

Phenron cursed herself for a fool, for she had allowed the sword to fall into evil hands!

LYNISE

Or so she thought. But Gryneph had embedded one final element into her spell. Housar reveled in his triumph, but only for a moment. With sudden dread he realized that the spell of fire had not been fully extinguished.

(With a cry J'SYI drops both the sword and the cloth. SYNOMI quickly picks up the sword and points it at J'SYI. He kneels.)

J'SYI

"Strike true, Phenron. The high king would do no less. I would rather meet my death at your hands than his."

SYNOMI

"Friend Housar, return home."

J'SYI

"I cannot. End it here."

(Pause)

SYNOMI

"No. I could never harm you, you who once were my truest friend. Go in peace."

LYNISE

And so Housar fled north again, journeying far beyond the reach of any mortal story. He has not been heard of since.

(J'SYI becomes TOHAN.)

SYNOMI

Phenron returned to the fortress and with the aid of the sword vanquished Housar's army. She grieved long and hard for her friend, knowing this time there would be no further meeting.

LYNISE

When the battle was won, Phenron presented the sword to the high king.

(SYNOMI kneels before J'SYI and offers him the sword.)

J'SYI

"Well done, Phenron. All Edelsha owes you a great thanks."

SYNOMI

"I have but performed the service due my lawful king. In token of that service I present to you the sword Gihlan'Am'Soren."

(She gives J'SYI the sword.)

J'SYI

"I accept your gift most gratefully."

(He touches SYNOMI once on each shoulder with the sword.)

"Rise, Sir Phenron Serrin, and may you always serve your maker as valiantly as you have this day."

LYNISE

Thus did peace return to Edelsha. Tohan wielded Gihlan'Am'Soren with a hand of mercy and justice, and wherever evil dared to surface he soon struck it out.

SYNOMI

Phenron continued to study the white arts under Ilsynvay, and as the years passed she too became a great teacher.

J'SYI

Tohan continued to reign for many long and prosperous years, years filled with great and glorious adventures. But alas, those tales we must leave for another day.

LYNISE

But what of the tale of Tohan and the first ring? May we not tell that at least before we end?

(SYNOMI and J'SYI look at each other and smile.)

J'SYI

Aye, merry...

SYNOMI

...we may indeed.

(J'SYI and SYNOMI proceed to say the following as quickly as possible, darting back and forth across the stage, leaving LYNISE no opportunity to interject.)

J'SYI

Years ago...

SYNOMI

...a great warrior named Tohan...

...swore an oath to regain... J'SYI

...the first ring of Shalamanar. SYNOMI

With the aid of Jeyal... J'SYI

...one of the dryads... SYNOMI

...Tohan traveled to the gates of Ha'rak'mel... J'SYI

...beyond which dwelt goblins... SYNOMI

...ruled by an unnamed evil. J'SYI

When Tohan and Jeyal... SYNOMI

...entered the gates... J'SYI

...they were made prisoner... SYNOMI

...by the goblins within. J'SYI

Yet they knew their quest was not in vain... SYNOMI

...for it was the unnamed evil... J'SYI

...who ruled the goblins... SYNOMI

...that wielded the first ring! J'SYI

So when Tohan and Jeyal...
...escaped their prison...
...they came to the cavern...
...where dwelt...
...the evil lord.
When Tohan challenged it for the ring...
...its power overwhelmed him...
...and were it not for Jeyal...
...he would have been destroyed.
But when Jeyal bid that great evil...
...to take his life...
...instead of Tohan's...
...the full power of the ring awoke...
...unleashed by Jeyal's sacrifice...
...and both he and the evil lord perished.

SYNOMI

J'SYI

SYNOMI

J'SYI

SYNOMI

J'SYI

SYNOMI

J'SYI

SYNOMI

J'SYI

SYNOMI

J'SYI

SYNOMI

J'SYI

SYNOMI

And so Tohan... J'SYI

...claimed the first ring of Shalamanar... SYNOMI

...and with its power... J'SYI

...became the first... SYNOMI

...of the high kings of Edelsha. J'SYI

He united the races of light... SYNOMI

...and ruled fairly and justly... J'SYI

...with his queen by his side... SYNOMI

...while all Edelsha... J'SYI

...flourished... SYNOMI

...in peace. J'SYI and SYNOMI

(SYNOMI and J'SYI bow. LYNISE looks back and forth at them for a few moments, confused.)

The end. LYNISE

(She bows.)

FINIS

Pronunciation Guide

ARINE:	Ahr - een
CHOKARG:	Choh - kahrg
EDELSHA:	E - dell - shaw
GIHLAN'AM'SOREN:	Gih - lahn - am - sore - n
GRYNEPH:	Grin - eff
HA'RAK'MEL:	Hah - rock - mell
HOUSAR:	House - are
ILSYNVAY:	Ill - sin - vay
JEYAL:	J - all
J'SYI:	Jih - sigh
LAHALLA:	La - hall - ah
LIAMB:	Lie - amb
LYNISE:	Lynn - eese
NELHANI:	Nell - hah - knee
OKAH:	Oh - kah
PHENRON:	Fen - ron
SHALAMANAR:	Shall - ah - man - are
SIRRIN:	Seer - in
SLYTHNOK:	Slith - knock
SYNOMI:	Sin - oh - me
THRAYMEN:	Thray - men
TOHAN:	Toe - hahn