

Proclamation of War

(with apologies to President George W. Bush)

by Kelli Epling



Preface: A trumpet sounds and the royal anthem begins to radiate from the castle. King Chance strides out onto the balcony. He addresses the growing audience who is waiting for him in the royal courtyard.

Silence royal subjects. I come to you now during a great time of grief and suffering. I would first like to express our greatest thanks to the unicorns for their continued support, to the centaurs for their quick warnings, and to the dragon tamers who have worked nonstop for days. Their hard work has saved thousands of lives.

As you all know, Eplingland has seen great tragedy in the past, but not like the one that befell us last night. My thoughts and prayers go out to all that has been affected. Many of you have questions about why our streets are in ruins and our homes and businesses are burning. All reports show that a wicked band of dragons is responsible. Based on data collected by the Knights of the Round Table, we know that this group and its leader - a vicious dragon named Kirby - are linked to many other anti-human organizations. There are thousands of these enemies in over 60 lands, and they all share one goal; to eradicate the human race.

Eplingland respects all dragons; after all, we have funded many of their institutions, but we condemn the anti-human regime. Two dragons have come forth to lend their

support. I say to you all be cautious, but do not believe that all dragons are malicious. If you feel threatened, please report it to the royal guard.

The dragons are at the forefront of this operation, but there are trolls, giants, and goblins in the background funding these attacks. We believe that the dragons have found refuge in Dragon Land.

And today, Eplingland makes the following demands on Dragon Land:

- Deliver the six dragons that hide in your land to the Royal Guard.
- Protect any humans who may be working or visiting your land.
- Turn over any creature that may be a threat to Eplingland or the human race.

These demands are not open to discussion or negotiation. Dragon Land officials must act immediately. They will hand over the enemies, or they will share in their fate. Our war begins with these dragons, but will not end until every anti-human creature has been found, stopped, and defeated.

---Crowd Cheers---

These creatures kill, not merely to end lives, but to disrupt and end a way of life. We must not allow for them to destroy our legacies. Every creature has a decision to make today, either you are with us, or you are with the anti-human regime. Many lands have already given their support. Guards from Never-Never Land and other faraway kingdoms are on their way here now to protect our borders.

Now, I must depart. I need to help the Knights of the Round Table use the “Google” on the Internet to find out the dragons’ weaknesses.

---Epilogue---

King Chance’s war against the anti-human regime went on for many years. Soon it seemed to become more about what Chance wanted and less about what was good for Eplingland. Countless pounds of gold were used in the search of Kirby and members of the anti-human regime. Few members of this elusive gang were ever caught, and the royal subjects began to question their King. To prevent a revolution, King Chance brought all the members of the Royal Guard home. The border was still protected, but the blood of the innocent ceased to be spilled.