



It was the first year of Kiruvere Ting, when king Lennart the Smiling ordered all salt to be taxed and that from every wagonload of salt, two bags should be given to him. And there was much anger about this tax, as salt is precious and not given away lightly.

There was a man named Indrek called the Handsome, who had went to Viking and fought in Miklagard for the Byzantine king there and gathered himself much riches and followers there. And one of his friends had died and left to Indrek his farm and all his fortune. But when Indrek the Handsome came back to Estonian lands he saw that the farm had passed to another – a young relative of the former owner named Andrus – and there was a dispute who would be the rightful owner.

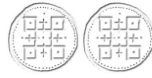
And Indrek brought his case before the king in Kiruvere Ting and the king decreed that they should fight a Holmgang like is custom with three shields each standing on their cloaks and both could hit three times and then had to wait the other to hit back three times. And both fought well and their mighty blows shattered shields and Indrek the Handsome had lost a single shield, but broken two from Andrus. But then Andrus slipped and stepped out of his cloak. As is custom he had lost the duel of Holmgang. But he and his friends did not agree with that and took up arms against Indrek and his men. And although king Lennart tried to keep peace there was a battle and dying men soon covered the Ting place.

And it happened that Indreks men were more skilled and better armed and Andrus fell and his men surrendered. Peace was quickly made, but king Lennart was very angry at this. And when salt merchants came to him to ask him to lift his tax, then he answered with anger and refused. And on the same year of Kiruvere Ting that a group of salt merchants defied the orders of king Lennart the Smiling and did not pay the taxes ordered by him. And they hired themselves a group of foreign warriors from Latgale and Livonia to protect themselves from the kings men. And among these was one cunning warrior Edvards called the Blacksmith.

And with the protection of these warriors, the salt merchants ordered their salt to be brought to the market, where it would be sold for much value and profit. But king Lennart heard of this and ordered his men to go forth, find this caravan of salt and to seize it in retribution. And the kings men and some others who went with them for loot and plunder marched out into the forest in small groups, as both the king and his generals underestimated the number of the caravan guards and the cunning of Edvards Blacksmith. Edvards did not send his men out in small groups, but kept them together and he had a plan to set an ambush to the kings men. And it happened as he had planned, as the small groups of kings men were easily slain by the Latvians one by one and ambushed in the forest and almost all were killed. And even the kings own bodyguards who were in the forest were killed after a hard fight. Edvards himself was badly wounded in this fight, but survived and did not die as some have said.

And the salt merchants got their salt to the market and made a huge profit despite the kings will. And the king was very angry about this, but could not do much and so the event was left as it was. And it was said that whenever he thought about this event, king Lennart did not smile, but frowned.





It was the second year of Kiruvere Ting, when king Lennart the Smiling had set his seat and rule at Kiruvere village and was the judge and arbiter there. And it happened that many brought their arguments and feuds before him as is the way of the land. There was a young woman, who had been courted by one warrior, but then left her for another woman who was now with child. And the abandoned girls' family had already made preparations and spend their wealth for the wedding, as is proper. King Lennart the Smiling heard both parties and decreed that the man must now wed both women, because oaths had been taken and honour had to be kept.

Other smaller cases and grievous happenings were also brought before the king, like the case of a poor woman whose linen was ruined by her neighbours pigs. And the woman was from Setumaa, far south from Kiruvere and it turned out that neither the king nor his court understood the woman at first. But there was a man who did and the case was presented. And king decreed that the neighbour who was a wealthy man, had to pay the woman a quarter of his own wheat harvest and also pay the king for judgment.

This happened on the same year of Kiruvere Ting, when foreign warriors, having heard from the wealth and riches of Kiruvere village, came to Kiruvere lands with war and plunder. And many who moved around the village and some merchants who travelled to the market fell to prey to these robbers. And king Lennart the Smiling heard about this and blew his horn and summoned his warriors, friends and vassals to war. And many came, such as Indrek the Handsome, who came from Rotelevik and Gytautas the Strong from Lithuania and many others. And Lennart, gathering an army moved away from the village to seek the robbers.

And it happened that when there were only few men-at-arms guarding the village, the foreign robbers attacked. And they took much loot and some beautiful young girls as prisoners with them. But this was heard and king Lennart soon arrived and chased the robbers away. These ran fast and made their way to a nearby mountain that is called the Tower Mountain and they made themselves a fortified camp there. And king Lennart the Smiling gathered his warriors and went to punish the robbers. He laid siege to the mountain and sent out his scouts to see and report of the enemy. And having found out what he needed, he blew his horn and ordered his men to storm the enemy camp. As the mountain is steep and rather high this was not easy and the robbers on the mountain threw arrows and rocks at the kings men. And so it happened that some were slain by arrows. But the defenders were outnumbered and soon they were surrounded at the mountaintop and skewered with spears. The bravest of them charged boldly into the ranks of kings army and thus managed to cut their way through, but had to leave their loot and prisoners behind.

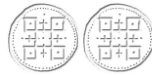
There was much rejoicing, but the king announced on the feast the same night that the surviving robbers will be hunted down and killed. The robbers also heard of this and prepared a wicked plan to ambush and kill king Lennart the Smiling.

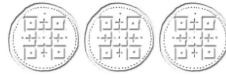
The kings army marched off at the following day with great splendour and honour. There went the most famous and renowned warriors and also many simple footmen. Most famous was Gytautas the Strong with his Lithuanians, who had sworn a brotherly oath to king Lennart. Many men were from Rävåla who

formed the main army with their king Lennart and some were from Rotelevik, but without their leader Indrek the Handsome, who had drunk too much mead the night before and could not march. King Lennart suspected the evil plan of the enemy and thus disguised himself with loaned armour and helm. The kings' cunning was such that he even changed his boots and leg wrappings to simple footwear so that he would not be recognized.

The enemy had set many traps and ambushes on the kings' way, but as they had no single leader and no united battle plan, they all fought for themselves and separately. The kings army moved in unison and in good order and so it was easy for them to slay the small bands of enemies, who repeatedly attacked, but could not find the king. In a rather strange way many times the army was helped by the commoners and camp-followers, who were taken along to serve and work for the army. It happened that many times these commoners warned the army of the approaching ambush and so foiled the enemy's plans time and again.

At the end of the day the enemies were all slain and their bodies lay scattered in the fields and forests. The king took his army back to the village where the victory was celebrated with all the glory as is proper.





This happened on the year of the third Kiruvere Ting that the rule of king Lennart the Smiling was challenged by the Edvards the Blacksmith. Even the very oldest do not remember why the two were enemies but few asked that when Edvards gathered to him a great host of warriors and set out to find and kill Lennart.

And there were warriors from every corner of the world; many came from Latvian tribes of Latgale, some from Semgale, some even from Livonian tribes. Even some Estonians mercenaries from Rävåla joined Edvards in his warpath. Also a band of Lithuanians lead by Taraila the Mighty came to seek fame and fortunes in the looming war.

Hearing this Lennart the Smiling blew his horn and called his warriors, friends and vassals to prepare for battle. Many came from Rävåla from the Lindanise fort, but also Indrek the Handsome came with his warriors from Rotelevik. Many came, but some were afraid of the great enemy host and did not answer their kings' call. Seeing that his own army was no match for the horde approaching, Lennart retreated from the Kiruvere village where his seat was and made his way to a nearby island called the Ant Island then. And as the waterway there is very shallow, the army could cross to the island by foot. Some were still so afraid of drowning that they threw their armour and weapons away before this crossing and some deserted their king as they did not believe in victory.

And Lennart ordered a closed encampment to be built on the island and his warriors felled trees and fortified their camp. Soon the war-horns of Edvards the Blacksmith were heard and his host laid siege to Kiruvere village. Finding out that his enemy had fled to the nearby island, Edvards ordered his army not to loot the village, called his generals and ordered the pursuit of Lennart. It was then that his rule and leadership was challenged by Taraila the Mighty from the Lithuanian host. As is the custom all men-at-arms had to cast their vote and elect the leader. And it turned out that most men still were loyal to Edvards, who did not permit the looting of the local villagers and craftsmen, like some of his host wished.

And thus the army of Edvards started the crossing to the Ant Island. And some say because of his insolence he was ordered so, but others say that seeking glory and loot he went freely himself, it was so that Taraila and his warriors crossed the waterway in advance of the others. And like true warriors they did not cast away their armour and helmets in the fear of drowning, but boldly swam with all the heavy weaponry and chain to the island and set out to find the elusive enemy. And Edvards warned his warriors that Lennart was known for his cunning and ordered that all those on the island should be killed, so that his enemy could not escape in a false clothing or armour like he was known to do.

But Lennart had to buy time for his encampment to be finished and so he called forth from his warriors, that some should go and delay the enemy until the palisade was complete. And at first none stepped forth, as this was a dangerous mission. But then Andrus the Crooked-Hand stepped forth and volunteered for the mission. And he set out from the army and made his way to the end of the island where Edvards army was crossing the water. And it happened that many camp-followers and others crossed the water together with the attacking army. And as strange as it may sound, these were the

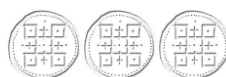
first to move inland on the island where they were challenged and stopped by Andrus who was determined not to let anyone pass till he still drew breath.

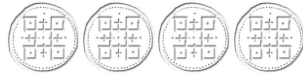
And thus he was at his post when the Lithuanian band charged and begun battle. Although he was outnumbered, Andrus challenged the enemy and withdrew between the trees where he could delay the enemy longer. And it was Taraila himself along with another famous Lithuanian warrior Ragnaras who charged ahead and were first to cross swords with Andrus. And it happened that Taraila, eager for glory jumped too far, slipped and fell within reach of Andrus' sword. And from this peril his friend Ragnaras saved him, as otherwise Taraila would have surely perished. And although he fought well, Andrus soon fell under the Lithuanian swords and his bones were left to bleach among the trees at Ant Island. Many camp-followers and others came then and put flowers and fresh leaves to his grave as his bravery was seen by many.

But Edwards host was soon at the defenders heels and battle-horns were blown on both sides. As is the custom both armies taunted and insulted the other before closing in for the battle. And it happened that Lennart the Smiling had always preferred a two-handed battleaxe as his weapon and did not cover himself with a shield as it was common. As he had fewer men, he sent his own bodyguards to the shield-wall and was left alone. Seeing this Edwards the Blacksmith grabbed a javelin from his own bodyguards and threw it at his enemy. And his aim was straight and his hand steady and the javelin hit Lennart to the chest pierced his armour and he fell to the ground. Much confusion followed and thinking that his enemies are beaten Edwards' own bodyguards scattered in search of loot. And it happened that one of Lennarts men, Lauri, also called the Crow, found Edwards unguarded and attacked him with a spear. Having just struck down his enemy, Edwards himself was struck and he too fell to the ground, having been skewered by the spear. And thus it happened that both armies lost their kings and the battle was now in confusion and disarray.

Some of Edwards' host, especially those from Estonian tribes, were loyal only to him and without their king did not want to fight against the Estonian defenders. And they deserted their banner and joined the defenders in their encampment. But the others still wanted to siege the encampment and the battle continued. And it happened that Priit, called the Boatman, yelled for his friend Lauri the Crow, the same who had struck down Edwards the Blacksmith, to strike with a spear through a bush in front of him. And although he didn't understand why, Lauri did what was told. And it happened that Taraila the Mighty was just passing on the other side of that bush and he was struck by spear and he fell too. Now three kings lay dead and the confusion was even greater. There was much bloody and fierce fighting and without leadership most of the attackers were scattered and slain. But others managed to get inside the encampment and fortified themselves there. And so it happened that the defenders had to siege their own camp to win their enemies. And again the shields clashed and broke under axes and swords drew blood and spears pierced men and armour alike. Finally the last of the Latvians and Lithuanians were slain and their bones piled on the ashes of the palisade.

And from this event the Ant Island is now sometimes called the Island of Three Kings or Kings Island as Lennart the Smiling, Edwards the Blacksmith and Taraila the Mighty are buried there. And alongside them many great and renowned warriors still lay there their bones scattered among the trees.





This happened on the fourth year of Kiruvere Ting, when a new king was elected to lead warriors and his name was Lennart the Smirking, who was a distant cousin twice-removed from his mothers side to the late king Lennart the Smiling. He did all he could to establish himself as powerful as his namesake and so he threw a great feast at the Ting where all sorts of foreign and expensive food and drink was available and also entertainment with music and dance. Besides that at the feast a wondrous entertainment was shown, where a great tale was told by friends of the king from Latvia called Ugunzime and animated with shapes and shadows. Indeed that tale was as alive for the viewers and all were amazed. And late into the night much feasting and cheering took place.

And all went well until few younger warriors got too drunk and offended everyone with their rude behaviour at the feast. This was not tolerated by friends of the king and they challenged the drunkards to a duel. And there were Martinš and Peteris and others who stood up demanded satisfaction.

The day after the duel took place and as the drunkards did not apologize nor pay for their offence, they were fought by Martinš and Peteris who won and threw down their opponents. And all cheered as this was good and well.

But then troubling news reached the king as a great warband comprised of warriors from many Latvian tribes had come to plunder and raze the lands of Kiruvere. Leading these men was one Eidis the Horrible, a mighty warrior, who everyone knew here and abroad. And the king learned that these raiders had landed by ship on a nearby island, but he did not know where. So he gathered his warriors and also many of his guests came with him.

There was kings' old friend Indrek the Beautiful from Rotelevik, Ragnaras the Lithuanian and also Taraila, son of Taraila the Mighty, who had come to seek knowledge of his father's death at last year's Kiruvere ting. And he learned that his father had travelled with Edvards the Blacksmith and that he had fought against king Lennart the Smiling, but had fallen. And those who told him the story led him to believe that his father had been betrayed by the Latvians and had been sent to his death too far ahead of the army. Taraila, son of Taraila, was very angry at this and learning of the campaign against Latvian raiders, he swore his sword to the new king Lennart the Smirking and went with him.

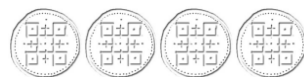
And king Lennart ordered his army to ships, but as there were not enough ships to carry them all, his army went in two divisions to the island. And this island, known as the Island of Three Kings, is long and narrow, but wild and overgrown with trees and infested with many dangers and perils. As they set on the island the kings men had to travel in great difficulty through the forest there and they suffered greatly. Luckily soon the rest of the army arrived and together they searched the island to find the raiders of Eidis the Horrible. But try as they might, they could not find the enemy.

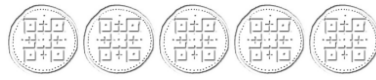
So the army divided again, with part of the warriors rowing on a ship near the coastline and others marching through the island. And a boatman called Priit found the raiders camp and signalled to the rest of the army. Eidis the Horrible had found a good place for his camp and had felled trees and built a palisade for defence. And the kings' men had great difficulty climbing the steep hill and breaching the palisade. A great battle took place and many died on that hill. Heroically the kings' men stormed the camp and fiercely the raiders fought back. Several times the kings men almost breached the palisade

and as many times they were pushed back by the defenders. But finally the kings men stormed the camp and slaughtered all in it. As it is common in such matters plunder and prize was gathered and many warriors ran off from the kings banner and only few remained.

As it turned out, Eidis the Horrible himself was not present in the camp, but had raided nearby and returned now with his crew and some plunder. And he saw what had happened, but also saw that there was no order in kings army anymore. So although he had fewer men, he charged and retook his camp in a surprise attack. And the kings men scattered and great many lost their lives or were wounded. King Lennart blew his horn and gathered all he could muster around his banner and there were only a few left. The kings army was now cut off from their ships and on the other side of the raiders camp. Many of the kings men lost heart and escaped shamefully abandoning their king and fleeing, leaving their plunder as well as their honour behind. And kings friend Indrek the Beautiful was wounded and carried away by his men to the ship. But some stood and reformed the shield-wall with their king. And kings friends were also there, Ragnaras and Taraila, son of Taraila. With fierceness and honour the kings army now charged and with equal fierceness and honour they were met by the raiders. Much blood was spilled and many men lost their lives. And swords cut flesh and bone alike, shields shattered and spears glistened with blood. But when the battle ended, the kings men stood victorious and had won the day. Eidis the Horrible, seeing as the battle went against him, took to ship, but did not flee. He rather fell back in good order, with remnants of his crew in a shield-wall and hacked down everyone who charged him. And as the kings men were exhausted by the day, he managed to escape to a nearby ship. But as the ship was small and Eidis' men too many, they threw their armour and weapons to the boat and swam after it, holding a rope. And although this made the ship go very slow, no one followed as the battle had drained all strength and blood-lust from everyone.

And so it transpired that the new king, Lennart the Smirking, won a great victory and many tales of bravery and honour were told about that day. But the king knew that Eidis the Horrible had survived and would return for vengeance.





This happened on the fifth year of Kiruvere Ting when the powerful and better gathered to discuss things as is the custom. And there was king Lennart with his people and Indrek the Beautiful with his people from Rotelevik and many others. But as king Lennart had often been away on distant lands and Kiruvere needed laws all year around, he had given his seat to others to hold and didn't want to take it again. And so it happened, that on that year there was no one king nor one seat of power in Kiruvere, but several powerful men sat as equal and ruled together. But to keep order and explain the law, one of them, namely Andrus the Easterngoer, was chosen as the keeper of the law. And king Lennart took his warriors and people and set his camp on a nearby hill, where his people worked and made much wealth.

As is usual for years, the Ting gathered many others, betters, commoners, merchants and craftsmen alike. Many came from afar, such as Taraila son of Taraila from Lihtuania and Martinš from Latgale. And there was a market and many people went to Kiruvere. And in the evenings they gathered and danced and played music. And warriors who accompanied the powerful gathered and played wargames and showed their skills. As has been a custom for years, there was a great feast, where many wonderous foods and drinks were had and dancers and musicians entertained all. And there people sang and were happy.

But not all were happy, but wanted strife and quarrel. And it happened, that some betters from Latgale were not content with their spot in the Ting, but demanded more and wanted to take from others with force. The lawmakers of Kiruvere intervened and tried to make peace, but there could be none, as Latgale men were angry. But as there were few of them and many of those with Kiruvere betters, they retreated to the nearby forests and swamps and sent word to their homes, that they should come with war to Kiruvere. And men came from Latgale and Livonia and from many other lands. And leading them was none other than Eidis the Horrible, who had sworn revenge for his defeat. And warriors came from many tribes and they came with ships.

But Kiruvere men also gathered their warriors and fighting men and they were also many. And Taraila son of Taraila came to their aid. And so the men of Kiruvere wanted to kill off all those enemies who were hiding nearby, before help could arrive, as then they would have had more men, but with help the armies would have been of equal number. The enemy was cunning and hid in the woods and could not be forced to do battle as the Kiruvere malewa marched on the roads. And the enemy was sighted many times, but could not be caught.

And so the Kiruvere army was hidden in the woods to wait until the enemy reinforcements arrive, as then the enemy would be bold enough to come out and take the battle on open ground as honour and custom demands. And so it went and the enemy charged into the Kiruvere village to plunder and raid. And Kiruvere men went against them boldly and locked their shields. Two armies marched towards each other and the air was filled with arrows and javelins. And Taraila son of Taraila could not wait and charged out from the ranks and others charged after him and the line broke. And the battle was brutal and many brave men died. But as their lines were broken the Kiruvere men were pressed back and retreated. And Taraila son of Taraila was badly wounded, but his people saved him and he was taken away from the battle, as many with him died. And Kiruvere malewa fell one by one. Such as Great-

Vahur, who was known for his size and strength and killed three before he was felled by a spear. And also Lauri who was known as the Crow fell that day.

Lennart the Smirking and others saw that the battle went against them and they started to retreat back to a narrow place where the enemy could be held at bay and could be struck. But the enemy started to raid and plunder the village and so some of Kiruvere men got away. And Eidis the Horrible got his revenge and great plunder and some slaves and went home happy. And as it happens, that the common people suffered and were plundered, while the betters kept themselves safe to prepare and to have revenge.

