

# CHAPTER XIV THUVIA

The chapter opens with Thuvia of Ptarth resigned to her fate in the east tower of Astok's palace, having found no escape. She muses over Astok's cowardice compared to the bravery of Carthoris, the Heliumite she truly admires. Outside her cell, Astok and Vas Kor argue about the assassination plan, showcasing Astok's lack of courage and the tension between them.

As Vas Kor moves to kill Thuvia, Carthoris dramatically intervenes, announcing himself in the name of Helium. A fierce battle ensues, revealing Carthoris's exceptional swordsmanship. The Heliumite's strategy traps Vas Kor and Astok, allowing Thuvia to secure their exit. Astok's attempt to lock them in fails, leading to a chase through the corridors.

Carthoris, Thuvia, and Kar Komak face resistance escaping but ultimately commandeer Astok's ship, Thuria. Their escape is marred by attacks from Dusarian forces, which Thuvia helps repel. Through cunning and combat, they narrowly evade capture, showcasing Carthoris's leadership and Thuvia's fierceness.

Mid-flight, they encounter a scene of battle involving Kulan Tith's forces overwhelmed by green Martians. Despite their dire situation, Carthoris decides to assist, risking everything. This act of selflessness impresses Kulan Tith, who recognizes Carthoris's honor.

The chapter culminates in a grand gesture of sacrifice from Kulan Tith, acknowledging the love between Carthoris and Thuvia. He relinquishes his claim on Thuvia, offering them his blessing. This marks a pivotal moment, turning rivalry into alliance and setting the stage for a united front against common enemies.

Throughout, the chapter weaves themes of honor, loyalty, and love, highlighting the complex relationships and societal expectations of Martian culture. The characters' actions reflect their internal struggles, ultimately leading to growth and resolution. The narrative maintains a brisk pace, blending action with emotional depth, encapsulating the essence of Martian honor and the power of love.