

Ye Tale of Ye Veritable Dragon Slayer ©



Once upon a time, in a land not that far away, there was a very wise king. One day the king was surveying his land from atop of his castle. The land, which was called **Company**, was beautiful and stretched as far as the eye could see. This pleased the king as he had spent many years growing and expanding his land for the good of his subjects. The sun was shining and his subjects were happy, indeed the king had done a good job. However, today was different.

The king thought that he could see something on the horizon, he didn't know what it was but he could not shake off a strange feeling of impending doom. For weeks now, various travelers who had passed through

the land, along with soothsayers and oracles, had warned of hideous monsters, dragons from the land of **Y2K**. These were no ordinary dragons. They had been sent forth to wreak havoc on peaceful lands and bring them to their knees. They were also very clever dragons. They liked to strike when you least expected them, preferably while you were asleep. If fought they pretended to be dead only to rise again when no one was around. They were very very good at playing dead.

The king called together his chief ministers to formulate a plan of defense in the event that this was a **Y2K** dragon that the king had seen. The king's sorcerer and keeper of the magic terminal felt sure that his magic was stronger than the dragon's. After all he had successfully defeated lots of smaller virus dragons in the past. The knights of the golden coding pad beat their chests and took an oath to defeat this dragon with sword and shield. The keeper of the king's treasure informed the king that there was enough gold in the coffers to bribe the dragon to go away and destroy some one else's kingdom. Just then there was a tremendous roar and the sky turned black as an enormous dragon landed in the castle grounds. The king's subjects, fearing for their lives, fled to their own domains and buried their heads in any receptacle that came to hand, collectively known as **VIP**, *very important projects*.

The king found himself alone except for his chief ministers and the most ugly, evil looking foul smelling dragon that he had ever laid eyes on. Immediately, the king ordered his sorcerer, and keeper of the magic terminal, to take action. But the sorcerer had never come across such a large dragon as this one before, and although his magic was powerful it was no match for the dragon. The king then ordered the knights of the golden coding pad to dispatch the dragon with all due speed. But sadly the knights were too busy polishing their shields and cleaning their swords. As they had a lot of shields and swords, this took a very long time.

The king then sent out his treasurer to bribe the dragon to go away. The dragon would not go away but he said that, if the king would use his gold to feed him and pamper to his every need, he would not eat anyone or wreck the kingdom just yet. So the king sent for the best dragon feeders that he could buy who all happen to live in the land of **Committees**. The dragon feeders arrived with their neighbors from the land of **Management Consultants** and set about pampering and feeding the dragon and it cost the king much gold. Sure enough the dragon didn't eat anyone or wreck the kingdom but the king knew that while the dragon still lived that one day things could change, and the king didn't want to take that chance.

The king decided to put out a royal proclamation to all lands asking for dragon slayers to come and kill the king's dragon, and in return the king would offer all his treasures and the hand of his daughter. Needless to say, people came from far and wide. First to arrive were a band of very wise magicians from the land of **Computer Consultants** who spent much time casting spells, speaking in strange tongues and blowing different colored smoke at the dragon. At one point, it seemed that the dragon was dead, but just as the magicians were about to claim their prize, a small boy pointed out that the dragon was only sleeping. Along came witches, druids and high priests of all shapes and sizes, so many in fact that the king was not even sure what lands they had come from. Alas none had any lasting effect on the dragon.

Next to arrive was a vast army from the land of **Contract Programming**. There was much shouting and gnashing of teeth but after hours and hours of engagement, the dragon just yawned and continued to look disinterested. Then the sorcerers from the land of **Software Solutions** arrived in their flowing robes and pointy hats. *"We can kill your dragon"* they cried. *"With our magic potion we will simply change all two digit date fields to four digit fields and your dragon will disappear!"*

So the sorcerers secretly feed the dragon the potion, but it didn't disappear, it just seemed to go to sleep. *"It's dead, it's dead!"* cried the sorcerers and stepped forward to claim their prize. At which moment the dragon let out a resounding belch. *"Will no one rid me of this evil dragon!"* dispaired the king. The crowd of witches, sorcerers, soldiers, soothsayers, oracles and various onlookers fell silent. A handsome knight named George stepped forward. *"I will slay your dragon"* he said and with that he did mightily swing his sword and severed the dragons head from his body. The handsome knight then knelt by the dragons head and caste some powerful magic directly into the dying dragon's eyes at which point the dragon promptly disappeared forever.

Everyone wanted to know the knights secret but all the knight would only say that he was a champion dragon slayer of the band of knights known as **Parallel Technologies** who are from a long line of slayers from the kingdom of **Data Center Services** in the vast land of a **Fortune 25 Company**. That he and his fellow dragon slayers had great experience and knowledge of killing dragons, but more importantly, that they were the keepers of the secret of **how to tell when a dragon was really dead**. A secret so powerful that very few others have even heard of before. The knight offered his services to all in the crowd and stated that he would be delighted to use his secret for the good of all mankind. He then stepped forward to meet the king. *"Here is the hand of my daughter and all my treasure"* said the king.

The Knight replied *"Sire, I do not wish the hand of your daughter, beautiful though she is, nor will I hold you ransom for your treasures. Simply pay me for one swing of my sword. You see in our land of **Data Center Services** we slay many dragons and we have long lived by the rule that you should pay only for what you use. This rule has made us one of the largest, nicest groups of dragon slayers in all the land. And as we are part of a giant **Fortune 25 Company** kingdom, people know of our powers far and wide and can be assured of our success"*.

"George, you are truly a saint" said the king. With that the Knight took one gold coin and rode away into the sunset to slay another dragon.

Year 2000 was the **Year of The Dragon** in the Chinese Calendar.