

While Cam-Thoth-A watched this poison reaping, he noticed an unusual sight. Eight hunters were bringing up heavy crossbows with baskets of metal crossbow bolts to the top of the city walls.

“Where did you get those?” Cam-Thoth-A demanded knowing that this type of weapon was not proper to this dome culture.

“We are hippo hunters. After a dangerous hunt where two of our team died, a new comer invented these for use on the hunt. No hippo hunter has died while using these,” explained the hunter as he cranked up the weapon and loaded it with a metal bolt. “We can start hitting the bugs from 400 yards out. I think we can pierce their armor from 100 yards. Some of us will crank the cranequins of the crossbows while the better shots use the weapons on the enemy.”

The time of interrogation must come later. Right now the city people were in a fight for their lives. Cam-Thoth-A shouted, “Hemlock! Bring more jars to the outer walls!”

Every ten yards along the walls, rested a foot tall Hemlock jar with a wax seal for the top. With Cam-Thoth-A’s shout, the wax seals were removed and the wax with a Hemlock paste was tossed to the ground beyond the wall. All the javelin tips, spear tips, arrow tips, and crossbow bolt tips were dipped into the paste of the jars. More jars were brought from other parts of the city wall. The fresh paste clung to the tips and would enter wounds if the missile weapons successfully struck the Waspian. This presented another new defense made since the last invasion.

Cam-Thoth-A led the warriors at this section of the wall. He made sure the javelin throwers and the archers were positioned properly. He looked down behind the gate and saw the red flag ready for raising on the pole of life. He waved a red banner at the group on the ground, noting all appeared ready at the flagpole.

They all watched the monsters approach the city. When the gigantic bugs hit the poison fields in front of Thebes, five miles away, a cheer erupted from those on the walls. The cheer stiffened the morale of the wall defenders. The vision of thousands of massive bugs coming in a hundred yard column presented a terrifying aspect.

The buzzing of the enemy grew in volume as they reached the four mile mark. The stench of the creatures made it hard to breathe on the walls of Thebes. The sight of the giant mandibles cutting a hundred yard path through the plants tested the courage of the wall defenders. Several miles worth of the creatures moved toward the city. The smell of human fear appeared as strong as the stench of the Waspian. The humans were probably going to run in terror. Cam-Thoth-A doubted there were enough androids to stem the tide of invaders.

Suddenly, the horns of the Pharaoh blasted from the street behind the gates. First, came the chariots of Pharaoh’s elite force of warriors. Behind them raced the Pharaoh Jemin-A in all his glory. He rode a golden chariot pulled by four magnificent horses. He stood in armor of gold and held a Force lance of Ra in his hand. He pulled his steeds to the gate of the city. The horror of the monsters became forgotten in his glory.