

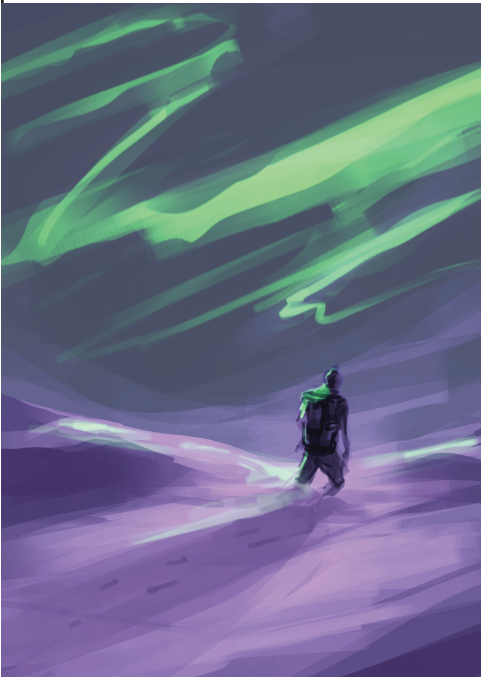
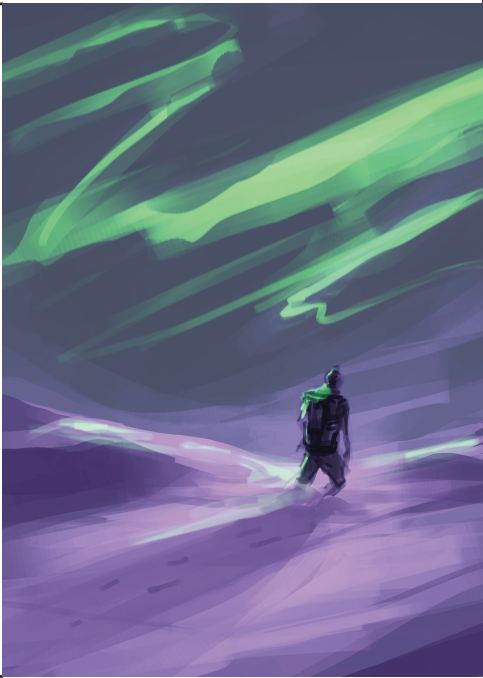
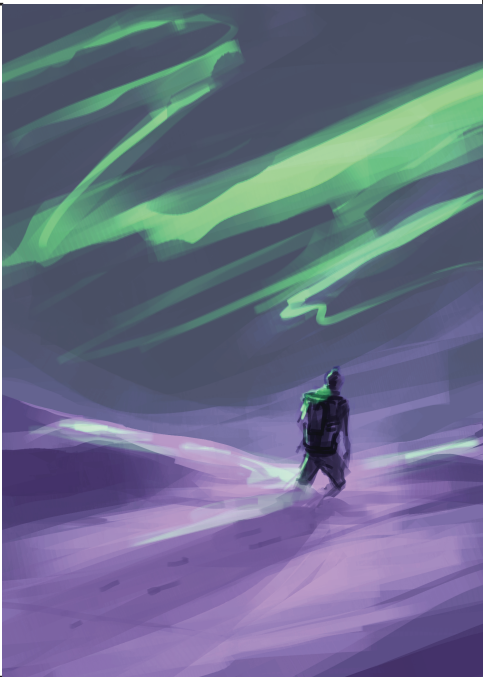


**"FROM ONE SIDE
OF THE
MOUNTAIN TO
ANOTHER,
EVERYTHING
SHIFTED. I
CHANGED. WHO,
THEN, AM I?"**

**"THE HAPPINESS
OF MY
CONQUEST WAS
MET WITH FEAR.
EVERYDAY, I TRY
TO JUSTIFY WHY
I AM HERE."**

**"I HAD A
NIGHTMARE THAT
THE MOUNTAIN
SWALLOWED ME
WHOLE. WHEN I
AWOKE, I
DESPERATELY
WANTED TO GO
BACK TO SLEEP."**

**"I TREK ON AND
ON. I FEEL AS
THOUGH THE
MOUNTAIN
BECOMES LARGER
WHILE I SHRINK.
SOON I WILL
DISAPPEAR."**



"I FEAR SNOW STORMS DURING THE DESCENT. IF I DIE, I DO NOT WANT TO BE THOUGHT OF AS REACHING HALF-WAY."

"TWILIGHT APPROACHES. DARKNESS FILLS THE SKY. I FEEL MYSELF TAKEN OVER - WHETHER BY THE GROUND BENEATH ME OR BY THE SKY ABOVE, I DO NOT KNOW."

"I AM TRULY OVERCOME BY BEAUTY. IT MAKES ME STOP IN MY TRACKS. IT IS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY SADNESS THAT I CANNOT QUITE GRASP."

"LONELINESS TAKES OVER WHEN I REALISE SNOWFLAKES ARE JUST SNOWFLAKES. ROCKS ARE ONLY ROCKS. AND I AM BUT A MAN."

"MORNING SETTLES INTO THE SKY. THE SNOW SETTLES UPON ITSELF. THE MOUNTAIN REMAINS STATIC. I AM FILLED WITH UNEASE."

"I AM TO BE THE MOUNTAIN'S GREATEST CONQUEST. SHOULD THE TIME COME, I SHALL SURRENDER WITH NOTHING LEFT BEHIND." TO "I AM TO BE THE MOUNTAIN'S GREATEST CONQUEST. I SHALL SURRENDER WITH NOTHING LEFT BEHIND."

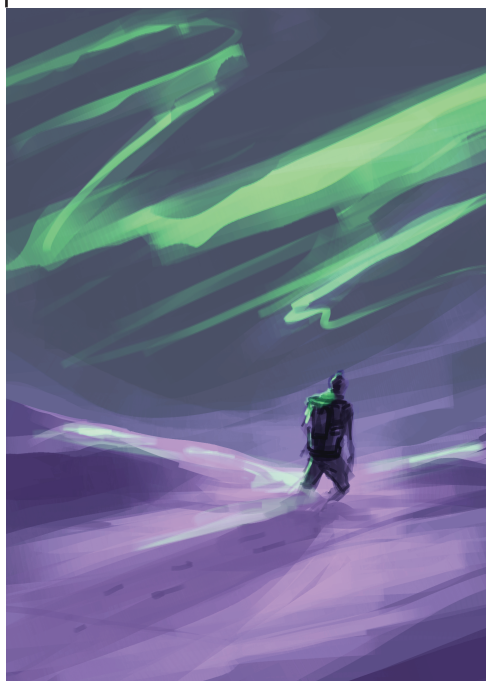
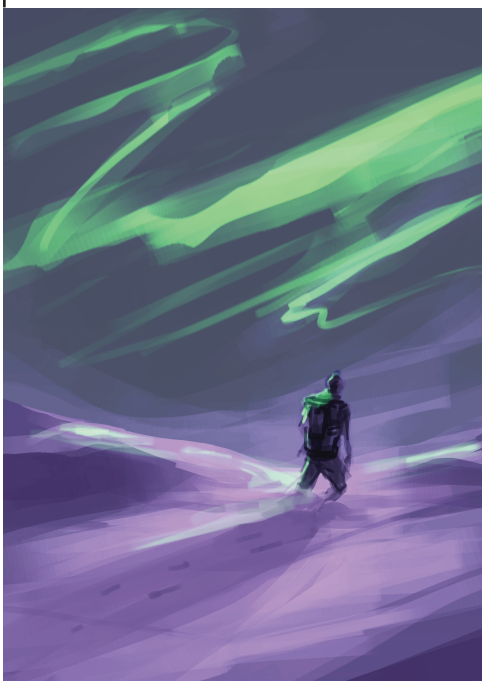
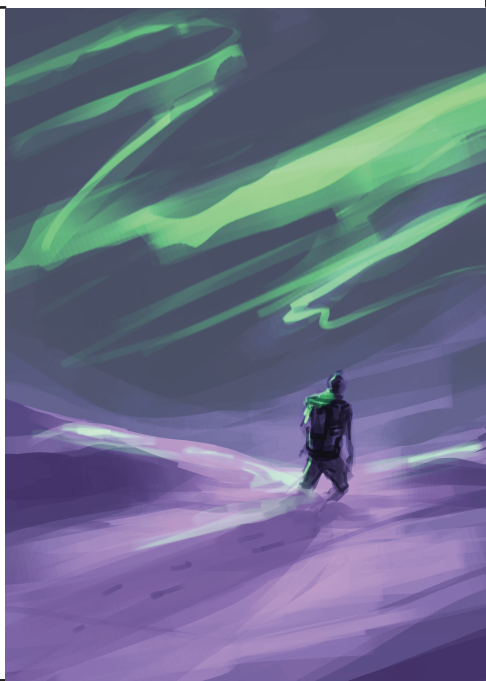
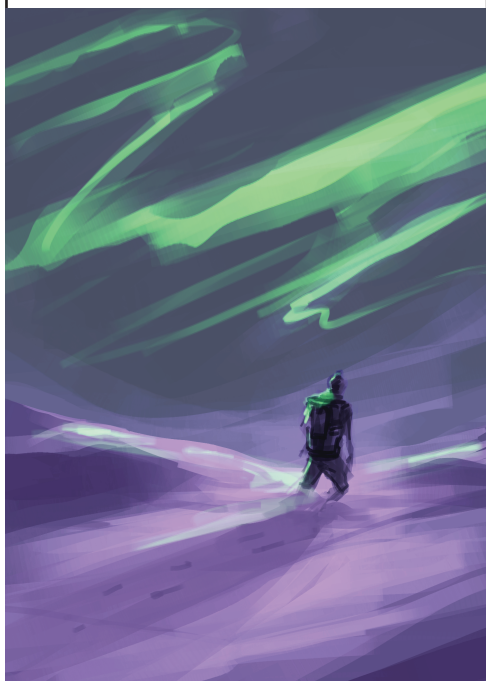
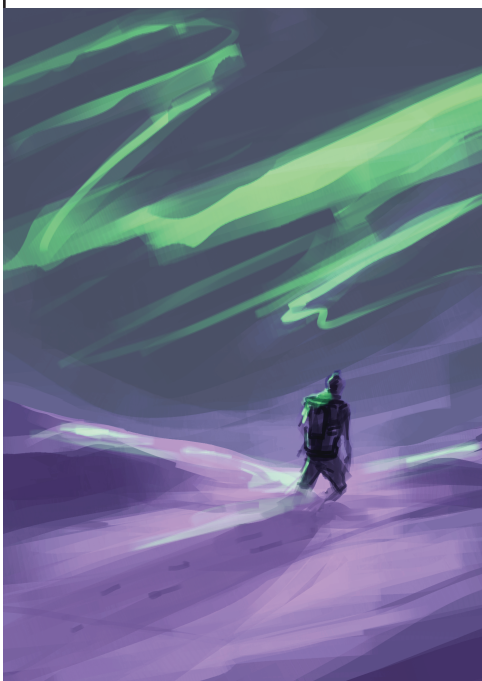
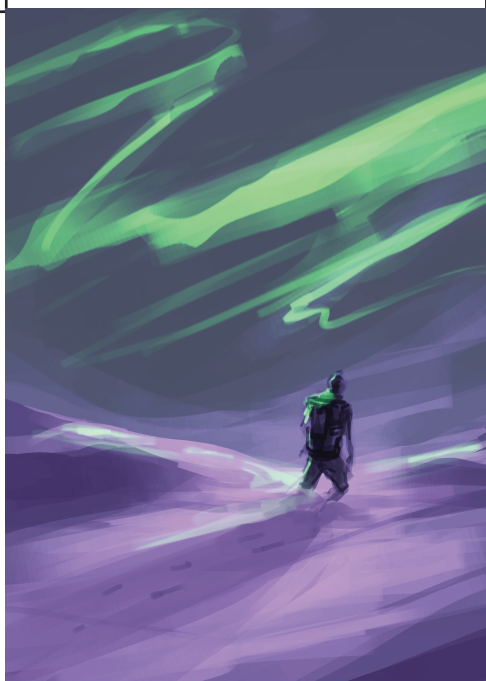
END

"MOUNTAINEERS DREAM ABOUT THE CRUNCH OF MOUNTAINTOP SNOW. A HEAVY CRUNCH AS YOUR WEIGHT HITS THE GROUND. A LIGHTER CRUNCH AS YOUR LATTER FOOT FOLLOWS. THIS MOUNTAIN HAD BEEN NO DIFFERENT."

"BEDS ARE OVERRATED. SNOW CAN BE JUST AS SOFT, ALBEIT COLD. EACH NIGHT, I MISS MY BED LESS AND LESS AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SHARE A BED WITH THE SNOW COVERED GROUND."

"MY GOGGLES FROSTED OVER YET AGAIN. I REMOVED THEM AND CLEAN THEM QUICKLY, BUT I'M NEVER FAST ENOUGH - ON CUE, SHROUDS OF SNOW FORM ON MY EYELIDS..."





**"I'VE ALWAYS BEEN
FASCINATED BY MY
BREATH IN THE COLD. I
ALLOWED MYSELF A
FEW UNMASKED
BREATHS TO WATCH THE
VAPOUR WAFT AWAY,
BEFORE THE COLD
NECESSITATED THAT I**



**"THE WINDS
BELLOW ACROSS
THE LAND. I
MYSELF SHAKE
AND QUIVER
BEFORE I FALL
ASLEEP."**



**"ON CERTAIN
MORNINGS, THE SKIES
FILL WITH COLOUR.
THEY SWELL AND
FORM TOGETHER. I
TRUGDE ON WITH
WHITENESS AT MY
FEET."**



**"WHEN CLIMBING
I GIVE UP MY
BODY. WHEN
DESCENDING, I
TAKE BACK A
STRANGER."**



**"THE AIR I BREATHE
BECOMES TANGIBLE.
THE SNOW BECOMES
MY OWN WEIGHT. THE
MOUNTAIN
POSSESSES ME AT
MANY TURNS AND
TWISTS."**



**"THE FIRST TIME I FELT
SNOW I WAS JUST FIVE
YEARS OF AGE. I COULD
NOT HELP BUT SIMPLY
FEEL IT. THIRTY YEARS
LATER AND I STILL
FEEL IT IN THE SAME
WAY."**



**"I STAND JUST
BEFORE THE
BEAUTY'S BASE. I
LOOK UP TOWARDS
THE MOUNTAIN. I
DO NOT STIR."**



**"THE WINDS' HOWLS AND
THE TREES' RUSTLES
BECKONED ME TO GO
BACK UP. I DECIDED TO
NOT TAKE HEED TO
NATURE'S CALL AND
SPEND MY LIFE IN
CIVILISATION'S
SILENCE."**

END

**"THAT WAS THE PEAK.
THAT WAS MY PEAK. I
STRIPPED DOWN TO MY
BAREST AND BECOME
ONE WITH THE SNOW - I
WANT TO BE
IMMORTALISED AS I
WANT TO BE
REMEMBERED."**

END



**"I LOOKED UP AT THE
FRESHLY CONQUERED
SUMMIT AND HAD A
BITTERSWEET MOMENT. I
HAD CLIMBED DOZENS OF
MOUNTAINS; I WAS NO
STRANGER TO THE FEELING.
STILL, THIS ONE WAS...
DIFFERENT. I'D REACHED
THE SKY. NOW WHAT?"**



**"HAVING TO WORK
HARD TO REACH THE
TOP AND THEN WALK
YOURSELF DOWN TO
THE BOTTOM. IT'S
HUMBLING,
HUMILIATING. ALMOST
ABSURD."**



**"I DROPPED ONE OF
MY HIKING CANES
INTO A CREVICE.
THERE NEEDED TO
BE MORE OF A
CHALLENGE TO THIS
JOURNEY."**



**"I WROTE A LOT BACK
THEN. I WROTE ABOUT
MYSELF, MY FUTURE AND
ITS CULMINATION, HOW IT
WILL ALL COME TOGETHER
IN THE END. NOW THOUGH,
I CANNOT HELP BUT FEEL
THAT THE BEST IS BEHIND
ME."**



**"I'D ALWAYS
CONSIDERED WRITING
AS AN ALTERNATIVE
CAREER CHOICE. IF I
CAN SURMOUNT
MOUNTAINS, PERHAPS I
MAY ALSO CLIMB A
BESTSELLER LIST."**



**"WHEN I WAS YOUNG,
THERE WAS A SINGLE,
ANCIENT OAK IN OUR
YARD. IT WAS MY FIRST
CONQUEST, AS WELL AS
MY FIRST FALL - STILL
HAVE THE SCARS TO
SHOW FOR IT."**



**"MANY PEOPLE
TRY TO IMAGINE
THIS JOURNEY,
BUT I HAVE
ALREADY LOST
IT."**

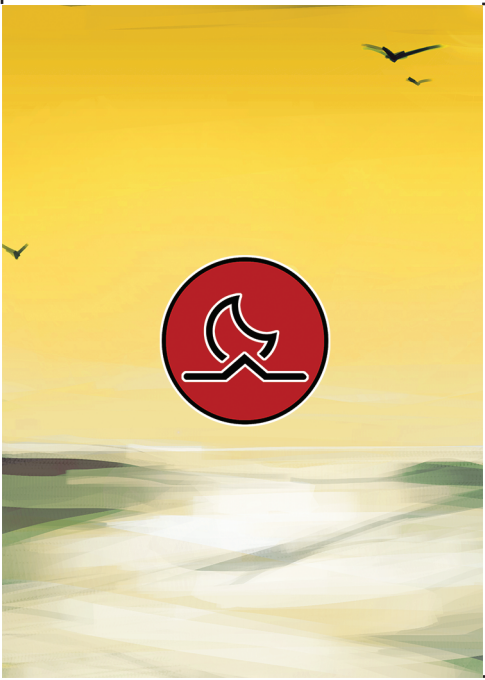
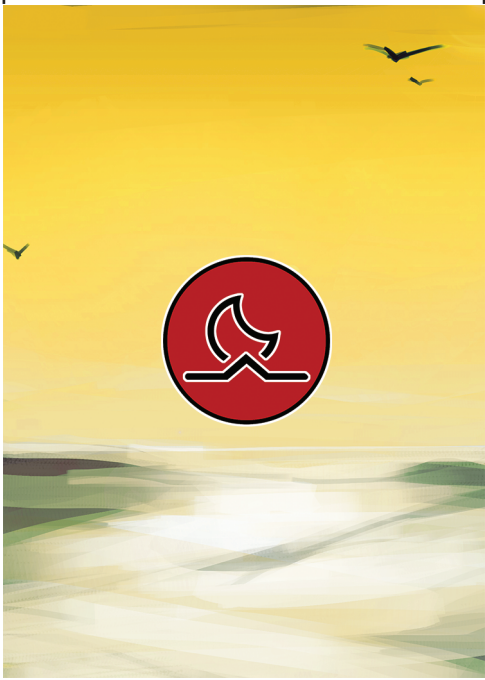
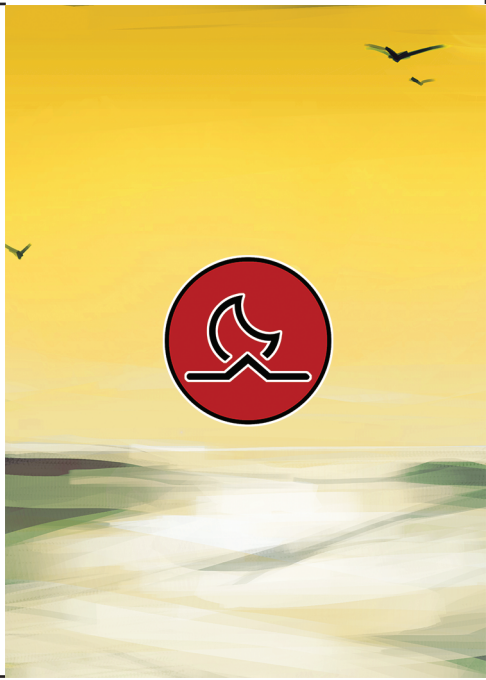
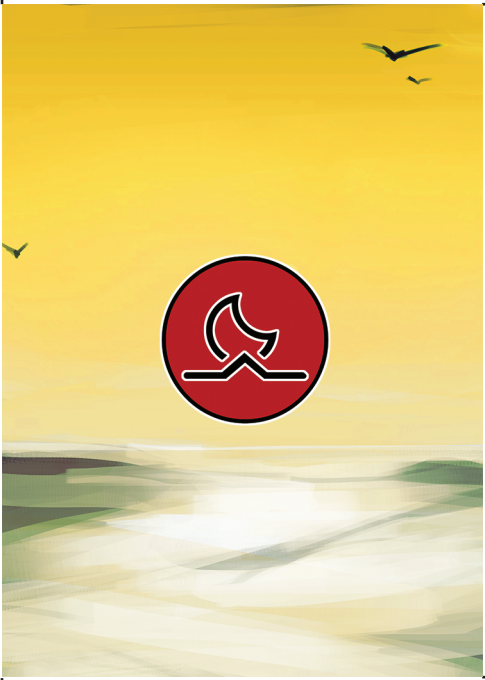
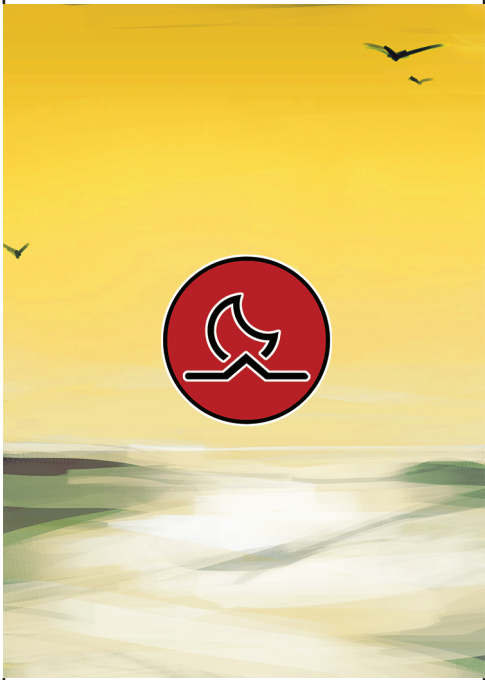
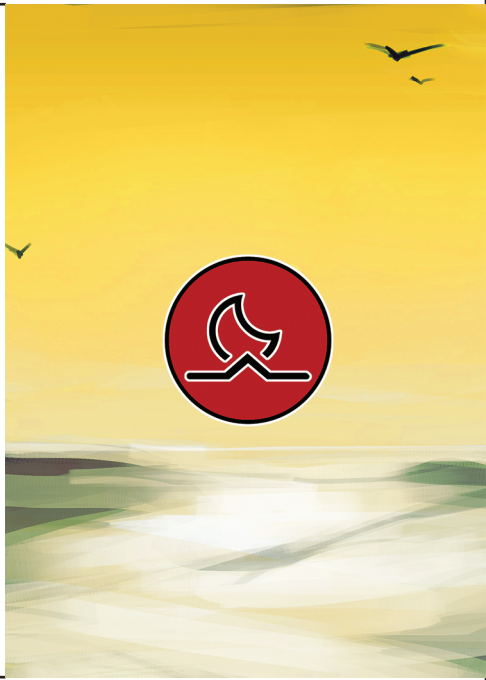
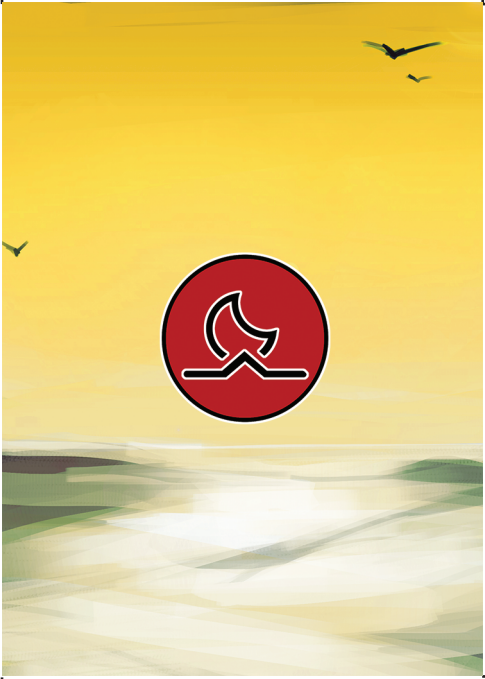
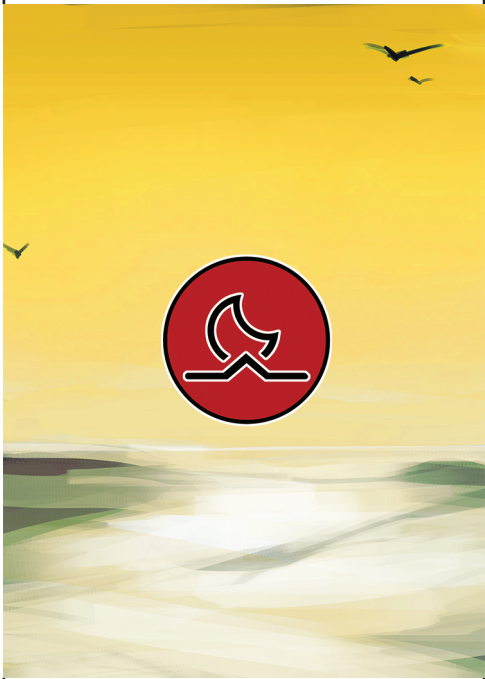
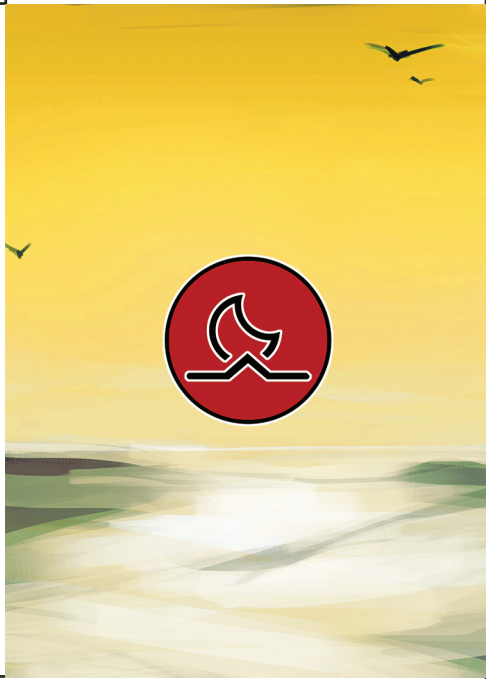


**"I LOOK UPON WHAT I
HAVE CONQUERED. I
LOOK FROM ABOVE AND
BELOW ME. I AM
SUSPENDED IN SPACE
AND TIME - THE
MOUNTAIN HAS BECOME
MY BACKGROUND."**



**"WHAT IS LIFE WITHOUT
A MISSION? I DESPAIR AT
THE TIME THAT IS YET TO
BE WASTED. WASTED
AND WASHED
AWAY...SNOW MELTING
AT THIS MOUNTAIN'S
BASE."**





**"A MOUNTAIN CAN'T
DISAPPEAR, AND
NEITHER CAN WHAT I
HAVE DONE. WHEN I
LOOK BACK, HOW
CAN I EVER LOOK
FORWARD AGAIN?"**



**"I HAVE FINALLY
REACHED THE
BOTTOM. MY NEXT
MISSION SHALL BE
TO NOT GO BACK
UP."**

END

**"AS I ARRIVE TO
THE BOTTOM I
LOOK BACK UP. MY
MIND GIVES IN TO
STAGNATION. MY
BEST IS BEHIND
ME"**

END

**"I DREAMT OF
YOU LAST NIGHT.
YOU WERE
STILL IN MY
VISION WHEN I
AWOKE."**



**"MY CLIMBING
PARTNER ABSENT
MINDEDLY HUMMED
'BLUE MOON'. ONCE,
THAT WAS MY
SONG. NO... IT HAD
BEEN OUR SONG."**



**"THE SUN SHONE
THROUGH THE CLOUDS.
I HID MY FACE AWAY
FROM IT. I OFTEN
WONDER HOW WE
WOULD REACT TO
EACH OTHER."**



**"I CAME HERE FOR MANY
REASONS. YOU WERE
NOT ONE OF THEM. OR AT
LEAST I CONVINCED
MYSELF YOU WEREN'T.
YOU PUSHED ME HARD,
AFTER ALL, OVER MY
LIMITS. JUST LIKE I DO
TO MYSELF NOW."**



**"REMEMBER THAT TIME
WHEN WE WERE WALKING
ON THE PROMENADE. YOU
SAID IT WOULD BE NICE TO
GO AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE.
SO HIGH THAT YOU WOULD
BE CLOSER TO WHATEVER IS
OUT THERE. SO HIGH YOU
WOULD NEVER COME
DOWN."**



**"I REMEMBER YOU
AND THIS GIVES ME
SOMETHING NEW
WITHIN MY JOURNEY.
YOUR SWEET
LAVENDER
SMELL...WAS IT
LAVENDER?"**



