

## **FREEDOM**

Freedom is the ability of the conscience to think and act ACCORDING to the will of the person. The state of freedom define the situation, Circumstances or conditions of Those Who are not enslaved, or subject, or imposed on the desire of others in a coercive manner. In other words, what to choose Whether Allows someone wants to have something or not do, Makes him free, but Also responsible for His actions to the extent That I Understands the Consequences of them.

## **THE GREAT ADVENTURE OF JOHN AND THE STONE MASK**

Today is November 4, 2017, my name is John Forge, two years ago, I was an archaeologist, and this is my story of how I abandoned the archeology.

It was a rainy Tuesday, the Professor Jonathan called me at 14:30, saying he had something very important to teach, so I prepared backpack, I put my explorer hat, and pulled my car. It was 15:03 when I got to his office, I found him photographing something like a stone mask.

When he saw me, the professor taught me, what was effectively a stone mask, that would be a thousand years old at least, Jonathan told me that the mask was found in northern Syria, near a village called Serjilla.

At that moment, I saw something in the back of the mask, a message written in an almost unrecognizable language. The professor also noticed the message and told me that there was already a small group of archaeologists settled in Serjilla, who wanted study more detail the new settlement. I was amazed, because at that moment, the teacher handed me a ticket without speaking, I understood that should go to Serjilla. Before I left, the teacher gave me the mask, saying that it was a gift. The plane was leaving in a week, so I took a couple of days off before the suitcase ready.

I spent those six days in all my environment libraries trying find information about the mask, but all I found were legends that no sense.

The day came to leave, so I grabbed my suitcase, my explorer hat and mask stone and I embarked on an unknown adventure. When I arrived at airport, I had to wait half an hour because the flight was delayed a bit. When mounting on the plane I began to observe the mask to fall asleep.

I landed at the airport of Aleppo, and a guy who knew the professor, named Ahmad took me to Serjilla. We camped about 7 kilometers from Serjilla because it was very late, and Ahmad was very cautious looters hiding in the wilds at night. At daybreak, we reached the camp was in Serjilla. Serjilla was a very old village, and almost in ruins, but I found a beautiful place, full of relics and places you amazed by how well it was preserved despite all the years they had.

Upon arrival Ahmad introduced me to much of the team, which consisted of a total of 7 people, two girls, one swarthy looks and short hair and a blonde look with long hair and five men, two of whom were armed and robust appearance. Ahmad began introducing to one of the girls called Amelie, a French girl with blond hair, who looked strong and serious personality, she looked at me as if could read my thoughts.

Then I met Valentina, a brunette, friendly and joking girl, she came from Mexico. few seconds later a man with beard and very muscular, he approached me in gesture of shaking hands. He called Rick and was armed with a large rifle slung on his shoulder. Rick walked me to where the rest was. There was a boy brown appearance with a scar on his face, standing guard, which was bigger than Rick. He is Mohamed. Rick told me before he opened his mouth to ask. He looked like a serious guy, and inexpressive face. The three missing were in a hole that was in middle of the village. Suddenly a man came out of the hole, asking my name, and I quickly replied, prompting a smile on the face of the unknown.

He was a man in early thirties, he was also quite thin, and had blond hair. My name is Luke. Answered. He told me that he was in charge of the archaeological exploration in this area, and he was very happy to me to join in their group. When I finished talking to Luke, Ahmad said he had to go now, and he said it was a pleasure to meet me. I hugged him, and from that moment, never again heard from him. That night Valentina led me to a tent, which was going to sleep now, so I took off my shirt and left side even with my hat. Before sleeping, I lit a candle and I looked at the mask until I fell asleep. The next day, Luke woke me, and introduced me to the other two men were missing me to know; Andrew, a tall, dark and with knob who came from Spain and Aldous, a bald, one eyed man from Germany.

They were very dirty because they threw many hours digging into the hole.

That morning, I taught Luke mask gave me Professor Jonathan, and Luke, surprised, told him that mask had found him in that hole, also he said that he had sent the teacher to the stand in a safe place, because was priceless, as it was only for the moment, not quite understand why the teacher had given me. I was a little astonished at that time, and began to ponder the reasons why the teacher had given me no more, until I remembered that day the teacher seemed a little nervous when I called. I thought that they were following, because the mask could be very valuable on the black market and wanted take off, but I saw very unlikely, since the existence of the mask was virtually unknown.

I decided help Andrew and Aldeus to dig into the hole, to clear my mind looking if there was something that had relation with the mask. When I came down, first thing I thought was how dark it was all until Andrew lit a torch. Suddenly, my eyes began to capture some silhouettes on the walls, seeing a lot of stone statues that seemed Egyptian, but it was not known clearly, since everything was full of dirt and dust. Aldeus accompanied me to the end of the hole, where there was a wall with a hole where the mask was before Luke sacase. Aldeus gave me a shovel and started digging three for four hours. When it was evening, we left the hole and went each to our tents ready to sleep, but my conscience just kept telling me over and over again, "called the professor" "called the professor" until I gathered enough courage to do it . I went to the tents of Amelie, and asked if had a phone. She pointed to the table on her right. I thanked him and picked up the phone ready to call the teacher. When I called, he did not answer, so I figured he was sleeping.

Luke suddenly started calling me loudly. It was like crazy looking for Andrew and Aldeus because they had disappeared from the camp, and had last been with me. I explained to Luke that I knew nothing, until he began to hear sounds of gunfire. Mohamed came running with Valentina and Amelie. He told to run, as far possible, because a group of looters came over here and looked like they had captured Andrew and Aldeus. Mohamed Rick shouted at him to go with us, but this was ignored. When Mohamed went to help Rick, we rush us out of there.

We had been running about twenty minutes when suddenly a light blinded us. It was the focus of a car, and a man started speaking in Arabic. At that moment I was quite

stunned, until a man, bandaged our eyes, and pushed us to the four in what appeared be a car.

After an hour we were taken to what appeared be a basement, where we removed the blindfolds. And they began to check. They started by Luke.

When they saw that he had nothing over, they put the blindfold back and threw him to ground. After Amelie recorded. They took a knife he carried in his boot, leaving blindfolded beside Luke. The next record was Valentina, but she had nothing, like the rest blindfolded and thrown to ground. Finally I registered my. My conscience was clear, because if what they wanted was the mask, they never find, because while digging with Andrew and Aldeus I hid in the hole. When they finished checking, they took my hat, blindfolded me, and I pushed with my colleagues. Suddenly, they began to hear few steps, someone who was down some stairs. when the footsteps ceased, a deep voice, he began to speak. My name is Ibrahim, was first thing he said.

All I remember is the conversation that went behind the mask of stone that the teacher had given me. He said if wanted get out of here had to confess the location of the mask. When Ibrahim was to leave the room, my conscience forced me to ask: What have you done with Professor Jonathan? And with Andrew and Aldeus? And with Mohamed and Rick?

But Ibrahim closed the door and didn't answer me.

The four were locked up for several days, in absolute silence and total darkness, until someone entered the room and took us. We again get into a car and driven to a place where seems that he forced people to work until death. They took the bandages, and they dropped their hands. A dark haired, bald man with a beard who greeted us, was Ibrahim. Seemed that Ibrahim was a mafioso, and also trafficked in slaves. A thin man gave us a peak, and told us we had to chop until there was at least 100 kilograms of coal. In the distance I thought I saw Andrew and Aldeus, very dirty by de coal. Valentina was very happy to see them, and was the first time I saw him smile since she caught us. Andrew told us everything that happened, Mohamed was wounded in the leg and was in a nursing recovering, yet Rick was cornered. It was a very sad news for all, and destroyed us all.

After three weeks of hard and intense work, already knew all workers who had been captured by Ibrahim. Turns that Ibrahim was the leader of a dangerous mafia, calling itself "Ibrahim's team" that smuggled weapons, human and drugs. One night, while we were going to the barracks to sleep, Luke stopped me and said he had a plan to escape from there, because he was sick he was forced to work to extreme limits, wanted run away and be with his family, so the next morning, as all shared the same thought, decided that night, the 130 person who was in that field, would flee, breaking a fence because they could not skip because of their height so high. They decided break a part of a fence that was where there were no cameras.

When it was six o'clock, I took advantage, and got into a tent where the checkpoint that was responsible for the alarms were, and disconnect all cables that could, hoping that when flee, alarms not work.

At half past ten p.m., when the guards were changing, all took advantage that coal were covered and could camouflage in the dark. Andrew and Aldeus, dug a small hole under a fence, and a shear Luke had stolen from the tool shed made a small hole in the fence. We got out all persons before the guards realized, but the problem would be like guideall.

Until a couple of guys who were from a nearby village, they knew how get by the stars. They were guys who had never known freedom, guys who despite his young age were in the labor camp since childhood. Seemed that was not the first time he escaped, and that meant that the team would know Ibrahim reach the village. When we arrived, the villagers were shocked to see that all those who were slaves had escaped, but concerned that Ibrahim reached the village ready to attack.

After a reflection time, they began to hear near the village the sound of cars Ibrahim. We all hid, but Ibrahim's henchmen were ready to shoot anyone until the older man in whole village left home to plead for the lives of your friends and family.

At that moment I realized that everyone was living under a dictatorship which ruled Ibrahim, and prepared to leave. I stood front of the man and told the soldiers that if wanted be billionaires, save their families and be free from the dictatorship of Ibrahim, could be, because I offered them that opportunity, the opportunity to deliver the mask to change leaving Ibrahim, to which all agreed, because Ibrahim was forced to do dishonorable things and they were, what they needed was the money to

save their families. Luke agreed to accompany to the camp where we were with the men of Ibrahim. Upon arrival at camp, I went down the hole, and gave them the mask, but they had to make me a promise before anything and Ibrahim was delivered to the authorities, to which his men agreed without question.

After handing the mask, they were gone away never to meet Ibrahim. Luke and I got ready to take the car that was in the camp and go to Al-Bara, nearest city to notify the authorities of the location of Ibrahim.

On the trip in the car meanwhile, Luke asked me, why don't we get rid of Ibrahim, as he was a bad person, to which I replied that a bad person is entitled to a fair trial, bad it is, and that it would be trial by the Syrian authorities.

When we arrived at Al-Bara, we communicate to the authorities and after hearing our story they sent a patrol to arrest Ibrahim.

Thanks to this, Ibrahim was arrested and imprisoned, stopping the slave trade and freeing the 130 people who were in the town. After that, they found Mohamed in perfect condition in the camp had fled from the hospital after recovering, and as he had nowhere to go, he stayed there until we came to collect our things. After telling our story to Mohamed, we decided each go back to our country and take a vacation.

Amelie, returned to France with his family and two months later married his partner and had a daughter.

Valentina and Andrew fell love and went to live in Mexico.

Rick had the funeral she deserved, with his friends and loved ones.

Mohamed came to live with me, so he got a place to live.

Luke archeology was left, because with the money obtained from interviews about the kidnapping, he did not need to work again, so he devoted himself to spend the rest of his days to be with his family.

Aldeus returned to Germany with his wife and became professor in a prestigious university called Akkon-Hochschule

Professor Jonathan was alive and well, and he helped me write my story.

And I dedicated myself to writing, so you know this story and how freed from slavery to a part of Syria.