

Thak and Rako – Forged in the Desert

Rako, a quick-witted Kobold rogue, was on the run. After a failed heist in a distant city, he found himself lost in the vast, unforgiving Anauroch desert, his only companions the scorching sun and the endless dunes. With little food or water, he relied on his agility and cunning to survive, scavenging whatever he could find. It was in the heart of the desert, near an ancient, crumbled ruin, that Rako's luck took an unexpected turn.

Thak, a towering Bugbear barbarian, was out on his own mission. He had wandered into the desert seeking solitude, a place to reflect on his life and the brutal path he had chosen. Thak had always been a solitary figure, but something in the desert called to him, urging him to seek the wisdom of the old ruins. That's when he spotted Rako, slinking through the sand, his sharp eyes scanning the area for any sign of danger or opportunity.

At first, Rako assumed Thak was just another threat, a dangerous desert predator, and readied himself to flee. But Thak, weary from days of travel, was not the foe Rako expected. Instead of attacking, Thak offered Rako a flask of water, a simple act that sparked an unlikely bond. Thak had once been an outcast, too, and understood the value of kindness in such a harsh world.

Over the following days, Rako and Thak journeyed together through the desert, finding strength in each other's company. Rako's nimbleness and cleverness helped them avoid danger, while Thak's brute strength protected them from the deadly creatures that roamed the sands. The two traded stories, and Rako taught Thak a few tricks of his own, like how to pick locks or find hidden treasures in the sand. Thak, in turn, shared his strength, training Rako in hand-to-hand combat and survival skills.

Their bond grew stronger, a friendship forged in the heat of the desert, built on trust and mutual respect. Rako learned that Thak, despite his fierce appearance, was a gentle giant at heart, and Thak came to admire Rako's cunning and resourcefulness. Together, they left the Anauroch desert not only as survivors but as best friends, ready to face whatever challenges the world threw their way.

Leaving the desert and wandering among several nations, Rako and Thak soon discover 'racism'. Almost everyone is distrustful of Kobolds and fear/hate Bugbears. Rako finds out that in the kingdom of Kern, adventurers, regardless of race, are hired by all sorts of factions for all types of purposes. Feeling this may be a good place for employment, he sets out for Kern and convinces Thak to go along.

Along the way they meet others heading there, especially a young halfling girl named Ellie who has a soft spot for bugbears and joins up with them. As Ellie and Thak begin a close friendship, Rako felt an unusual feeling of jealousy, that he was losing his friend. He knew it was not true, but he could not shake the feeling of being left out.