

TRAVELS WITH USULUSS - GREECE

ESCAPE FROM KOLONOTRONES PRISON

During our stay in Nafplion, the romantic port city in the Peloponnese and the first capital of the new-born Greece, Usuluss seriously suggested to climb up the Fortress of Palamidi. I looked at her in utter disbelief and told her that this place is built at a great altitude on a hilltop overlooking the town and the wide land and seascape around



it and that there are no less than 999 high steps of stairs to get up there. So, I friendly but firmly made it very clear that there is absolutely no way in the world that I will go up there in this heat. I do not know if it is her charm or intelligence which makes Usuluss so persuasive but not much later we were on our way up.

As I expected, Usuluss hopped up the stairs with great ease and agility while overtaking humanoids of all ages as I was struggling behind her. At the ticket office almost all the way up she was nowhere to be seen. The lady selling the tickets asked me if I was 65 so I told her that I perhaps will be in a few weeks if I survive this. She noticed the state of what was left of me and said she had a surprise for me so out of sheer compassion she gave me the 50% reduction for the over 65 on the ticket. At least my financial future looks bright.

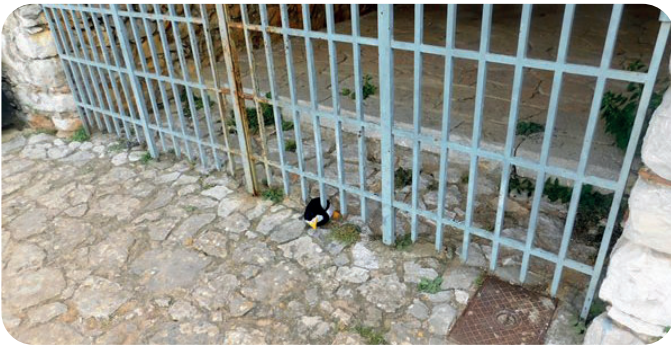
Not being able to find Usuluss I asked one of the guards if he might have seen a rather elegant and distinguished Penguin hopping about. He reluctantly admitted that he had and that he was very sorry to



inform me that a Penguin of that very description has been arrested for entering the premises without a valid ticket and that the suspect has been incarcerated and is now in the Kolonotrones prison within the compounds of the fortress awaiting to be prosecuted. When I asked him what the outcome of the trial could be he had no idea because there is very little jurisprudence on Penguins that illegally enter forts in Nafplion. He also jokingly remarked that the suspect is probably not into politics because she did not say "I firmly deny all allegations."



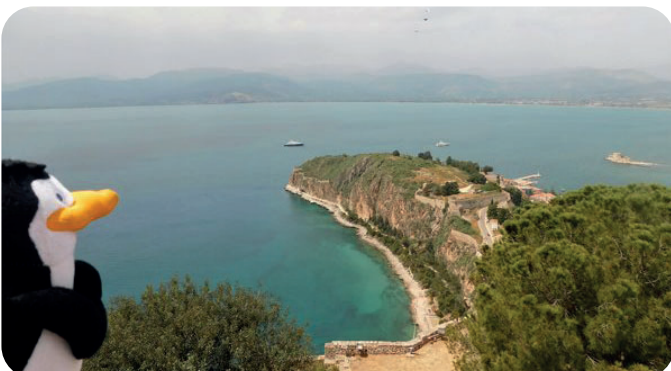
When I went to see Usuluss during the visiting hours she was as relaxed and self-assured as ever and told me not to worry about a thing because she would be out of the slammer in no time. Surely the guards would allow me to give her some fish so I suggested bringing her some special fish to help her escape. A swordfish would not get through security, a sawfish is too conspicuous and to my knowledge pneumatic hammer head sharks do not exist but I could bring her a mackerel with an iron file hidden inside. She casually waved all this away because she said that she had a much better plot figured out. On her way to prison she already checked out the eventual escape route and possible hiding spots. In jail she closely



observed the routine and behaviour of the guards through the bars. After a while she suddenly, with great skill and perfect timing, escaped from under the iron bars of her penguinentiary. She hid inside pre-planned spots a few times to let the guards pass by and was indeed in no time outside the legal jurisdiction of the guards.



The news about this sensational and daring escape soon spread around Nafplion, Greece and beyond. The infamous movie producer Harvey Schweinstein even contacted her with the idea of making a movie out of it, naming it either "Escape from Kolonotronas", "The 999 Steps" or "The Great Escape". Usuluss told him that there was already a movie called "The Great Escape" so this would be a form of plagiarism and that he has enough worries on his plate already.



Usuluss kindly rejected his generous offer. Becoming a celebrity is the very last thing Usuluss desires. As Sir Arthur Conan Doyle said: "Celebrity is the last refuge of the idiot". She once starred in the movie "Where Penguins Dare" with Richard Birdton as a co-star and she has no desire to work with human actors again. In her opinion the only thing that exceeds their vanity is their stupidity. She did however have a suggestion for Harvey about making another movie starring Clint Eastwood called "Dirty Harvey".



Once we were back to earth again we treated ourselves to some well-deserved rewards. Usuluss had a bowl of the finest fish soup and I replenished my exhausted corpse with a few litres of cold ale. The next days I was only aching between the top of my skull and the end of my toes. The rest was fine, just like Usuluss.

To be continued...
Albertus Innocentus

