

IT WAS SOMETIME LATER THAT THEY ARRIVED AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST. THEY RODE BENEATH THE CANOPY OF TREES AND THEIR HORSES ENJOYED THE SHAPE. AFTER A WHILE THEY DECIDED TO DISMOUNT TO REST THE HORSES AND TO WALK FOR A WHILE. THEY GAZED AT THE HUGE TREES AND WONDERED HOW LONG THEY HAD TAKEN TO GROW TO THIS SIZE. COULD THIS FOREST HAVE BEEN PLANNED BY PEOPLE OR WAS IT A NATURAL PHENOMENON? AFTER A WHILE THEY REMOUNTED THEIR HORSES AND RODE ON AT A STEADY PACE. THEY TALKED OF MANY THINGS AND SOMETIMES THEY SANG. OCCASIONALLY THEY RODE FOR A WHILE IN SILENCE. THERE WAS MUCH ABOUT WHICH TO THINK. WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE TOWN THEY WOULD BE ASKED FOR NEWS OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING ELSEWHERE. YET MOSTLY THEY WOULD BE ASKED TO WRITE DOCUMENTS! IT WAS LATE IN THE AFTERNOON WHEN THEY LEFT THE FOREST. THE EDGE OF THE FOREST WAS NOT A SUDDEN EVENT. IT WAS GRADUAL. GRADUALLY THE TREES HAD BECOME LESS DENSE, THEN THERE WERE FEW, AND THEN THERE WAS OPEN COUNTRYSIDE.