

REMAINS OF REDEMPTION

Written by

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This sample is from an optional quest in the PC game Sands of Aura. It has been altered to read linearly as player choice often determines the flow of dialogue in game. Each scene is voiced and can be heard at these links. I was responsible for the writing, quest design and voice direction.

Scene one:

<https://youtu.be/0nDTR32EK10?si=nIPNiSKDZI4wWVvk8&t=1377>

Scene two:

https://youtu.be/GyGSG0gcoq8?si=t-rU6rNjU_P_BQ6T&t=758

Scene three:

https://youtu.be/pR_2S3hnVNw?si=hP0rvykThSOpv96C&t=580

EXT. FLARE FORGE - DAY

Above a grand structure, a great storm boils. Waves of sand shatter against a ridged coastline as bolts of lightning gleam against a mixture of ornate gold and steel. A small ship braves the storm, leaping from wave to wave atop a sea of sand. The ship dashes through an entrance of pillars toward a small dock, two Remnant Knights disembarks. One is mangled, his skin harsh and cracked. He is FELKER, THE DUNEFARING KNIGHT... He is a Once-Man, a survivor from before the Night Plague who managed to crawl out from the sea of sand before being completely corrupted by it. He is accompanied by a younger figure, an adolescent who has yet received their full status as Remnant Knight. They are the KNIGHT-TO-BE.

FELKER, THE DUNEFARING KNIGHT
Mhm... All this gold and
lattice-work...

FELKER, THE DUNEFARING KNIGHT glances up at the grand entrance.

FELKER, THE DUNEFARING KNIGHT (CONT'D)
Aye, walls speak plenty about the
folks who build them.

KNIGHT-TO-BE
Know anything about this place?

FELKER, THE DUNEFARING KNIGHT
Seemed to spring up overnight.
Doubled the Ferrum's weapons of
war. Men feared it would turn the
tide, but the Night Plague put an
end to that. There's magic here,
Knight...potent, ancient. Keep your
sense about you.

KNIGHT-TO-BE
What do you know about the Ferrum.

FELKER, THE DUNEFARING KNIGHT
Care little for those outside their
empire, though that's a trait
shared with men. Ferrum are the
eldest of Talamhel, far as I
know...and none knows a forge
better.

The KNIGHT-TO-BE leaves FELKER, THE DUNEFARING KNIGHT to guard the ship and makes their way up a grand staircase of gold.

Before the entrance to a long hallway they find ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL who brandishes her blade against some invisible barrier. A quiet rain falls inexplicably all around her. As the KNIGHT-TO-BE approaches they overhear her frustration.

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL
I know he is here! You will not
stop me!

This is not their first encounter. The KNIGHT-TO-BE recognizes her from the Ruins of Hurwell where she attacked them mistaking them for a graverobber. They thought they killed her...

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL (CONT'D)
I will find him! Hurwell will be
honored! For as long as it takes...
You there, Knight! Is this
barricade your doing?

KNIGHT-TO-BE
How are you... Didn't I defeat you
in Hurwell?

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL
A shame you couldn't do a proper
job of it.

KNIGHT-TO-BE
What are you talking about?

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL
Do not try my patience, Knight!
Admit what trick forestalls me!

There is a beat between them, our Knight peering down the clear hallway.

KNIGHT-TO-BE
There is nothing there.

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL
You will reveal what hinders me! I
am caught between two blades and
should I advance at one, the other
stabs me in the back.

KNIGHT-TO-BE
I don't have time for this.

ALAIRA,THE LADY OF HURWELL
 You are the very symbol of honor,
 are you not? A Knight loyal to
 their order, sworn to their duty?

KNIGHT-TO-BE
 I am.

ALAIRA,THE LADY OF HURWELL
 Then align with one as such.
 Hurwellian blood must return home.
 Tradition...demands it. Our blades
 have clashed once, but should you
 help me, I will ensure they do not
 cross again. If that is not enough
 motivation for you, then perhaps
 for your friend, the
 excommunicate...

KNIGHT-TO-BE
 Calder?

ALAIRA,THE LADY OF HURWELL
 Yes. From my place amongst the
 graves, I hear all footsteps which
 sound through the hallowed streets.
 If duty is not enough for you, I
 can provide information that would
 aid his plight.

KNIGHT-TO-BE
 Fine. What do you want?

ALAIRA,THE LADY OF HURWELL
 I must return to Hurwell
 immediately. The risk was immense
 even before I found myself barred
 from entry here. The bones of Duke
 Felmonte rest within this forge. Of
 this I am certain. I ask you return
 them to me...return them to Hurwell
 where they belong. I am not proud,
 offloading this duty to you, but
 given out history...I am at least
 assured of your capabilities.

KNIGHT-TO-BE
 Ok, I'll find them and return the
 bones of Duke Felmonte to Hurwell.

With the agreement made, ALAIRA,THE LADY OF HURWELL returns
 to her vessel and the KNIGHT-TO-BE enters the FLARE FORGE
 proper.

INT. FLARE FORGE - DAY

After fighting through the Flare forge, the KNIGHT-TO-BE, discovers the bones of Duke Felmonte in the hands of a Hashara merchant. A deal is made. After finding a lost ledger for the merchant, the KNIGHT-TO-BE is given the bones of Duke Felmonte and told of a prison within the forge. There a spirit emerges from within an empty cell.

SPIRIT

So you carry my remains... Have you come to mock? To jeer the grand failure?

KNIGHT-TO-BE

Who are you?

SPIRIT

No one. Not anymore.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

Are you the duke of Hurwell?

FELMONTE, THE DUKE OF HURWELL

And before that, what was I? Does anyone remember?

KNIGHT-TO-BE

Alaira aims to lay you to rest. She sent me.

FELMONTE, THE DUKE OF HURWELL

She's figured out a part of it then, but still she refuses to see the truth.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

What do you mean?

FELMONTE, THE DUKE OF HURWELL

Enough is said in my attempt to keep her from entering this place. My sister must realize that her betrayal is larger than simple tradition.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

You were the one keeping her from entering?

FELMONTE, THE DUKE OF HURWELL

It does not matter where she buries my remains. They will not help her.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

Then why keep her from getting them?

FELMONTE, THE DUKE OF HURWELL

My captors would often tell me that I would soon be released. They did this because they knew that suffering becomes more intense when a reprieve is visible. When we were children at Hurwell, I watched from upper court windows as my sisters smiled and stumbled during their combat training outside.

A beat.

FELMONTE, THE DUKE OF HURWELL (CONT'D)

I want Alaira to feel what I feel... What I have felt my whole life.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

Alaira is your sister?

FELMONTE, THE DUKE OF HURWELL

For what little that means.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

About her betrayal?

FELMONTE, THE DUKE OF HURWELL

How I waited for them. They were all I had... My sisters... But in the end, she joined in the slaughtering of Hurwell, in the sacking of the city...her home. Now she hides behind her fealty to that monstrous king. Until she is ready to confront her shadow... Alaira will never break the curse.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

Curse?

FELMONTE, THE DUKE OF HURWELL

If she has yet to reveal her plight to you, neither will I.

The spirit fades away, leaving the KNIGHT-TO-BE looking into an empty cell.

EXT. RUINS OF HURWELL - DUSK

After returning to the Ruins of Hurwell, the KNIGHT-TO-BE finds ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL standing before a statue of an adolescent duke.

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL
You've returned. Do you have them?

The KNIGHT-TO-BE presents the remains of FELMONTE, THE DUKE OF HURWELL and gives them to ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL.

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL (CONT'D)
I...can't...

She takes a beat, shutting her eyes and lifting her chin to focusing on a wind that isn't there.

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL (CONT'D)
You have done Hurwell a great service, Knight. My family is again honored, our people served.

KNIGHT-TO-BE
And the information pertaining to Calder?

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL
I swore my word, Knight. Your friend Calder has become Renounced. There is no death for him, no pardon for his transgressions. His plight is such that for eternity he will wander the sands...forever contemplating his wrong-doing.

KNIGHT-TO-BE
Is there a way to help him.

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL
This path is a personal one, only he can find the way forward...

KNIGHT-TO-BE
So, you must be Renounced then...

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL
To long for such release, the means of escape just a blade away... I understand your friend's dilemma intimately.

A beat.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

I spoke with your brother...the
spirit of Felmonte.

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL

I lack the fortitude for games,
Knight.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

He said you betrayed him...that you
joined in slaughtering Hurwell's
court.

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL

But there are none alive who... No.
I will not endure such from you.
You have done me a service, Knight,
but I will not...

A beat.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

So you did betray him?

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL

I swore fealty to my king! I was in
his personal guard! Who was I to
deny orders?!

KNIGHT-TO-BE

He said you need to confront your
shadow.

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL

And what does he know of shadows?
Felmonte, the only true heir of
Hurwell... Aurella, the beauty
which beckoned from across the
land... It was fealty alone which
saved me from the indifference of
my house.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

He said the bones won't help you.

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL

The spoiled duke! Had he controlled
himself, had he sheathed his
passion over Aurella, none would
have suffered so! But he invaded
Paragon's Rest! He sought to bury
her in Hurwell! There would have
been no retaliation had he
swallowed his pride.

KNIGHT-TO-BE

I'm sorry. I thought you should know.

ALAIRA, THE LADY OF HURWELL

What could I have done?! One against an army. I will...bury him a hundred times if I have to! I will have reprieve from this! I will... I will...

Her words descend into a fit of anxious mumbling until all that remains is the weeping of rain which falls from nowhere.

END