

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

## **Chapter 1 (Part 1)**

The Chentish people live a hard, bitter life; Chental is a barren rock in the middle of the Qorlean Sea, and its people have struggled to find their path in this modern world of qaa-powered streetlamps and steam-driven turbines. Once a band of proud conquerors, sending out regular raids against the Shorefolk, the Chent have in recent years turned to mercenarism. Their skills as sell-swords are highly prized, and their courage and determination in the face of overwhelming odds can be best summarized in one of their beloved folks songs, "Bid Me Not." Sung as a call/response between the Chentish men and women, this song is traditionally performed before any warband leaves the isle; it speaks of their belief in an afterlife, and demonstrates how death in valorous battle is the highest possible virture for a Chentish man-at-arms.

MenWomen  
Bid me not go down my dear  
Into the Summerlands I will bid you go my dear  
If the Summerland doth call  
Bid me instead to stay my dear  
To stay and hold your hand  
But I will sing your life my dear  
As you join that storied hall  
Bid me not embark my dear  
Towards those misty shores I will bid you sail my dear  
Through mists, 'cross oceans blue  
Bid me instead to stay my dear  
And I shall die no more  
But I will sing your life my dear  
So that your course bears true  
Bid me not depart my dear  
Into the deepening night I'll bid you not to stay my dear  
For such is not our way  
Bid me instead to stay my dear  
By your side, and in the light  
But I will sing your life my dear  
To light you on the way

Posted by Ancient of Days in The Gift of the Golden Blade at 12:56