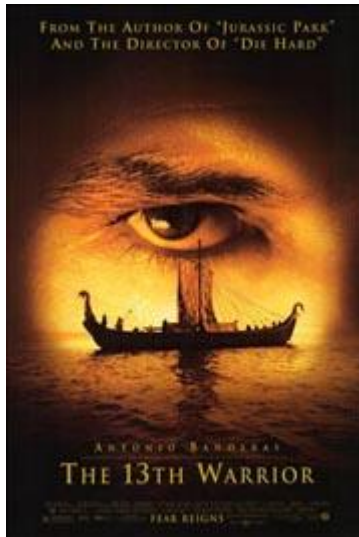


The 13th Warrior (Eaters of the Dead) – 1999



Set in 922 A.D., the movie follows the journey of Ahmad Ibn Fadlan (Antonio), an Arab courtier and poet who is banned from Baghdad by the Caliph after eyeing a nobleman's wife one too many times. Ibn (as he comes to be called by the Vikings) is sent as an ambassador to the land of the Tartars, in the unknown Northern regions of Europe. They come upon a camp of Vikings led by Buliwyf, a quietly fearsome and powerful warrior, and stay with them for a time. They discover that one of the Vikings, Herger, a happy and friendly fellow, understands Latin and acts as interpreter.

A ship arrives bearing Wolfgar, young son of Rothgar, a great king from the North. He reports to Buliwyf that their kingdom is under attack, menaced by an ancient evil that must not be named (the Wendols). They seek the aid of Buliwyf and his warriors. An oracle (the angel of death) is called in to read the bones. She says 13 men must go. Buliwyf and Herger are amongst those who declare they will go. But the oracle declares that the 13th warrior must be no Northman. The 13th warrior is Ibn.

Thus, this man, who has never known courage, joins 12 warriors who have never known fear; this man of peace who wandered into a land of war, fights an enemy that comes without warning and leaves without a trace; and in so doing, becomes something he never dreamed possible - one of them.

What follows is a series of fierce confrontations between the Vikings and the Wendols, who turn out to be a race of Neanderthal-type men who wear bear heads and eat their dead. Buliwyf and the others come to respect Ibn's intellectualism and deductive powers. Ibn soon realizes these fierce men are deeply spiritual and will fight to the death, as many of them do, for what they believe in. What they learn from each other, what Ibn learns about himself, and the bond they forge is the true story of this film.

Viking Prayer:

Lo, there do I see my father

Lo, there do I see my mother, my sisters and my brothers

Lo, there do I see the line of my people back to the beginning.

Lo, they do call to me. They bid me take my place among them in the halls of Valhalla

Where the brave may live forever.

Synopsis by Lisa (<http://www.banderas-mall.com/theatre/links/13thwarrior.html>)