

## Thermopylae

Zandelle

In 480BC the messengers were sent  
To ask the Greek lands to surrender  
The Persian king Xerxes had raised a massive force  
With which he would conquer all

King Leonidas felt his anger boil  
As he spoke for everyone in his land  
He would not bow down to any foreign king  
Then he threw them down a pit into death's awaiting hand

The king of Sparta gathered hundreds of his men  
And led them to Thermopylae  
To the one pass Xerxes would traverse  
Narrow passage between mountain and sea

Xerxes' army there soon faced the Grecian force  
But this advantage was undone by the pass  
The Greek defenders destroyed them as they came  
Each advancing Persian group was cut down to the last  
To the last

Victory seemed close at hand

For two days the Greeks succeeded holding their foes at bay  
Their fortunes did not last long, that night they were betrayed  
A Thessalian named Ephialtes showed Xerxes a different path  
Persians would soon surround them, ending their bloodbath

The Grecian armies were far outnumbered  
King Leonidas saw only one chance  
He sent back most of his brethren  
There he would make his final stand

The Spartan King's plan proved a success  
He gave the Greeks the time they would need  
With generator force they returned once more  
In northern Greece the Persians would bleed