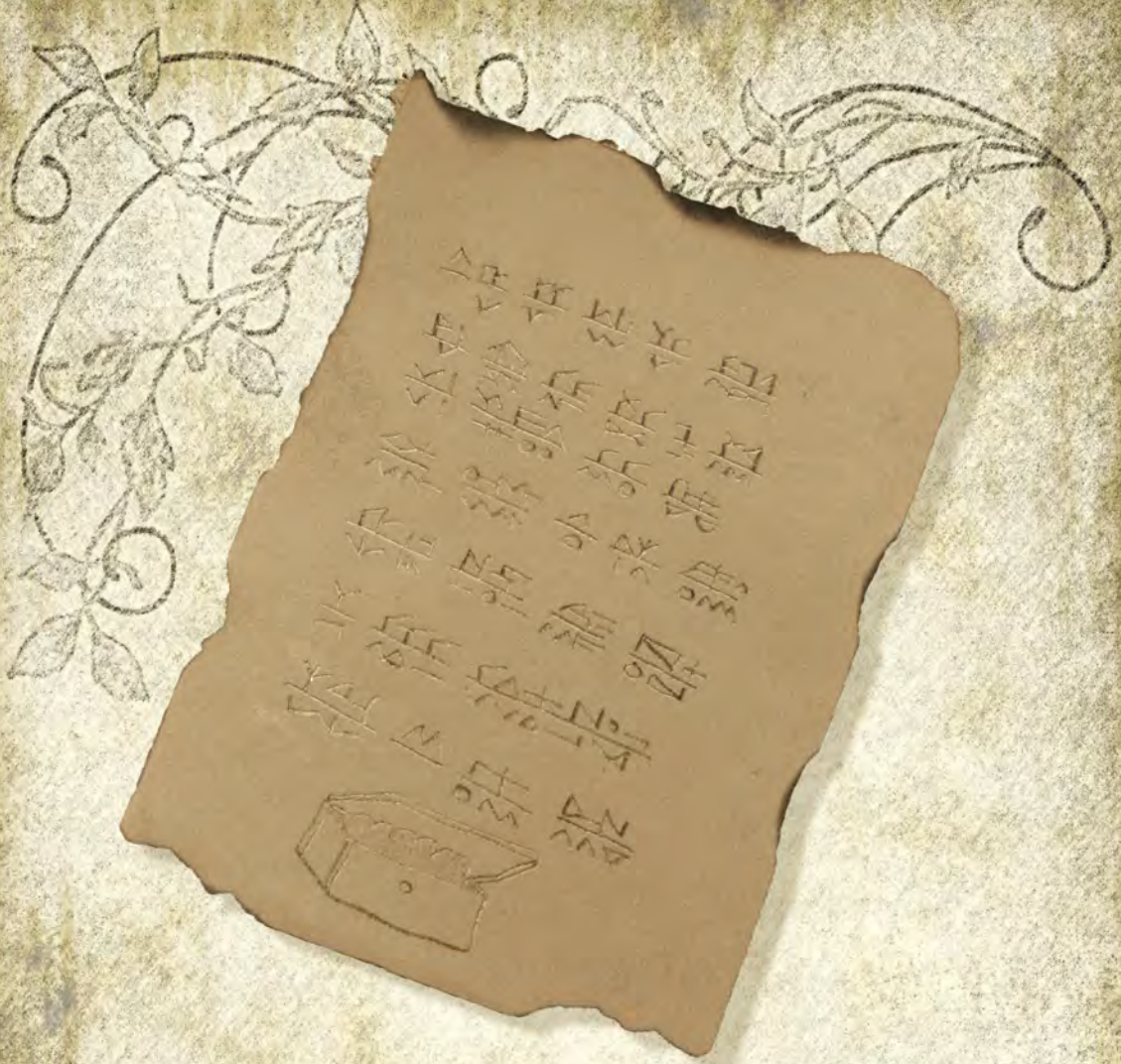




THE TALE OF  
✻  
**FRÉDÉRIC THE BRAVE**

As Told By  
✻  
Rick Wiley



**Dedicated to**

**My Adventurous Son**



**CHARLIE**



## Chapter 1 : The Poem

A mysterious poem written on old parchment was found in Maman's attic.

Through the gates of stone  
only the very brave go  
To seek out a fortune  
left behind long ago

Follow the stream to where the  
dark water flows  
find a kindly old dragon  
of the treasure he knows

A wall of moss and stone  
lives a long snake of green chat  
with him a while  
he will tell what was seen

Look up in the trees something  
swings to and fro a frisky  
young dweller  
knows the last place to go

Your final climb may be long  
treacherous and steep  
but your reward in an old stump  
will be colorful and sweet.



## Chapter 2 : The Gate

Through the gates of stone  
only the very brave go  
To seek out a fortune  
left behind long ago

"Oh my", thought Frédéric,  
"This forest looks very dense."

A sign read "Adventure Lies Ahead".

"Oh yes, this must be the path I'm looking for!"

With his best bravery,  
he took a deep breath and stepped forward.



## Chapter 3 : The Stream

Follow the stream to where  
the dark water flows

Our brave fox follows the long grassy  
path and eventually comes to a murky  
torrent of running water.

"This seems to be the stream I must  
follow to find The Dragon", exclaims Frédéric.

The bank on his side is swampy and heavy of mud.  
There's no way he can walk through that.

He must get to the other side.

But alas, the water is too deep, and our hero must  
search for a way to traverse the raging stream.



## Chapter 4 : The Crossing

Follow the stream to where  
the dark water flows  
find a kindly old dragon  
of the treasure he knows

"If I try to swim across, I will be swept away by the current",  
ponders our wee fox.

Not to be deterred by a deep winding stream, Frédéric chops down  
a nearby tree to use as a bridge.

"I hope it's strong enough for crossing".

Our hero nimbly transverses the span and is soon on the other side.

"Now to find The Dragon!", Frédéric triumphantly declares.



## Chapter 5 : The Dragon

After crossing the stream, Frédéric hiked along the stream-side. He seemed to walk forever, so at last he sat down next to a small waterfall for a drink of water.

"RARRRR"

"Oh my, is that you Sir Dragon?"

After spouting a flame of bright red and yellow, the Dragon spoke. "Who are you that enters the Forest of Fortune?"

"I am Frédéric The Brave, good Sir Dragon, and I am looking for the lost treasure that dwells in this wood."

"Ah yes, legend spoke of a red-tailed warrior that could free us from this dark forest. We have been searching many years for the sweet confection to break this terrible spell.", the Dragon explained.

"That is horrible!", replied our hero, "I have a riddle map with me that can help me in my quest. It says that you could tell me more."

"Well", said the Dragon, "I only know that the treasure can be found at the top of one of the thousands of cliffs that are in our forest. I have been to every mountain top in this forest to no avail. But there are rumors of an elusive green snake that lives at the end of the water's path who keeps a mysterious secret. Should you find him, his secret may help you."

Thank you kindly Sir Dragon", replied Frédéric,  
"I will seek him out. Your hospitality has been most gracious!"



## Chapter 6 : The Wall

A wall of moss and stone  
lives a long snake of green

Frédéric The Brave treks to the end  
of the stream which disappears into a stone wall.

The day has been long, and the night is  
descending upon the forest.

He rests a moment and settles into camp  
at the top of the wall for the night.

The view of pine trees below is very peaceful, just the  
sound of frogs chirping in the last daylight.

Our little adventurer wonders if the snake of  
green Sir Dragon spoke about is close by.





## Chapter 7 : The Snake

A wall of moss and stone  
lives a long snake of green  
chat with him a while  
he will tell what was seen

Frédéric awakens to a mysterious sound.  
“SSSSSSSSSS”

To his surprise, a long green snake appears from the shadows.

“Ssoooo are you ssearching for the ssssecret tresssure?”

“Yes, Monsieur Serpent, I have been given a quest to recover  
the sweet reward that will free all the creatures  
of this land”, said Frédéric.

“I ssssee. When I was young I sssaawww magical monkeys living  
on a very sssteep mountain. Too ssssteep for me to reach.”

“I happen to be a very good climber Monsieur Serpent, I’m sure  
that I can ascend it.”, replied Frédéric.

“You must sssseek the tree sswinger. In his land such  
a mountain is rumored to exist. Go Eassst.”

Frédéric shared a morning cup of tea with the snake of green.  
Afterward, he joyously headed in the direction  
where the sun had risen.



## Chapter 8 : Lost?

Look up in the trees  
something swings to and fro  
a frisky young dweller  
knows the last place to go

Frédéric walked East as instructed by the green snake.

When the sun rose high in the sky,  
it became impossible to determine what direction he was headed.  
The foliage was thick and difficult to cut his way through.

The resourceful fox took a break to check his bearings  
and review his map.

"I fear I may be lost.", Frédéric ponders.  
"I don't see a tall mountain. I don't see or hear anything that could  
resemble a tree swinger."

"I know that the sun rises in the East, so  
I must be on the right path."

"Did the snake send me in the wrong direction?"



## Chapter 9 : The Magical Monkey

As Frédéric looks over his map, there is a rustle in the tree next to him. He looks up.

"Nothing but the wind", he concludes and goes back to studying his map.

"HELLO THERE TRAVELER!"

Frédéric is very startled. He turns around to see a black and white monkey skurry down the tree trunk. "Where did you come from?", asked the puzzled fox.

"I am a magical monkey", the creature explained, "I can turn invisible to hide from enemies. You don't look like an enemy, you look LOST!"

"Not anymore!", a grateful Frédéric replied. "A green snake said if I traveled East I could find a magical tree dweller, and you must be he. I need to ask you if you know about a mountain that your brethren used to live on long ago."

"Why yes! Since you are friends with the green snake I will show you."

The monkey started to glow and the earth shook. As Frédéric looked up he could see they were standing at the base of a large mountain.

"This mountain", the monkey explained, "remains hidden to those who might hurt us. I am the only monkey left after we suffered a fatal battle at the hands of The Dark One"

"Thank you, great Monkey. I must climb to the peak on a very important quest."

"Be careful Frédéric The Brave, the path to the very top is more difficult than any monkey was able to climb!"



## Chapter 10 : The Ascent

Your final climb may be long  
treacherous and steep  
but your reward in an old stump  
will be colorful and sweet

Frédéric The Brave has come to his final test:  
find a way to the peak of the biggest mountain he has ever seen.

Maman told him that foxes are very nimble and athletic,  
so Frédéric knows that he can do it. He carefully examines  
the rocks above and chooses the safest path as he climbs.  
One wrong move could cost him dearly.

The trek ahead is slow and tedious, but he knows that he must persevere.  
To keep his mind off the danger, Frédéric sings  
a silly song as he ascends:



quick little fox now don't be late  
there's donuts and pie and a three-layer cake  
rubber ducky's go 'quack' and cows go 'moo'  
let's hope they don't end up in Maman's stew



Finally, our climber has climbed his last rock.  
For a moment he rests and admires how far he has come.

"Now where is that tree stump?", Frédéric ponders.



## Chapter 11 : The Treasure

The air at the top of the grand mountain  
is brisk and cool.

A glint of light catches our hero's eye.

Lo and behold, inside an old fallen  
tree is a wooden box.

Its radiant warm glow lights up the inside of the log.

Within the old container,  
Frédéric finds shimmering sweets that look very delicious.

"At last!", our brave fox cries, "I have found the treasure!"

"But this fortune is not just for me."

"There is one last thing I must do."



## Chapter 12 : Spoils for All

Frédéric hurried down  
the slopes of the mountain and gathered his new friends.

"Here is our treasure!  
Partake of the spoils I have found, for it  
will free you from The Dark One's spell.

Now you can live without chains and travel  
anywhere you want.

In fact, you can all come to visit me and my family  
anytime you wish"

Fortune smiles upon those who do so  
with kindness and bravery.

✻ and ✻

Treasure is best when shared with those who need it most.

Thus our wee fox's adventure comes to an end.

**FIN**  
(The End)

[ 12 ]