

## Go Kiburi on The Planet of the Apes

*by Bob High*

Go Kiburi, Go player extraordinaire from the 25th century, once paid a visit to the Planet of the Apes with his companion, Iki Jibiki. After a long, dusty walk from the spaceport, they were relieved to come upon a local saloon. The barroom was filled with assorted apes, baboons, gorillas and chimpanzees, all drinking and making monkey business. After fighting their way through to the bar, Go and Iki were astonished to find a couple of monkeys playing Go at the bar!

The bartender informed Go and Iki that on the Planet of the Apes, Go is played as a drinking game, with the loser buying the winner drinks, and with by-standers welcome to make side bets. In the game at hand, a brash baboon had just lost his second game, double-up, to a wily orangutan, and was buying his opponent two pints. They had agreed to another game, again at double stakes, and all the monkeys in the room were crowding around to make side bets - all but one small chimpanzee who remained nursing his drink in the corner.

Go and Iki stayed to watch the game, which the orangutan won, although not without showing the effects of his cumulative winnings. The stubborn baboon insisted on yet another round, again at double the stakes, but only after his opponent had downed the four pints he had just won.

After some consideration (and sampling the strength of the local brew), Iki turned to an amiable neighboring gorilla and placed a side bet on the baboon, figuring that the orangutan must have had one or two too many by then to hold his own. The chimp in the corner just chuckled and continued to nurse his drink. Go remained aloof from the betting. When the dust had settled, the orangutan had won once again, and the baboon finally retired defeated.

As they were trudging down the road away from the bar in search of an inn for the night, Iki remarked to Go, "Go, I thought the monkey chump was worth eight pints." Go replied, "Not always, Iki. But the one pint chimp is never wrong!"

## Go Kiburi and the Bees of Antares

*by Bob High*

On one of his many travels, Go Kiburi, the 25th century Go master, found himself accompanying a group of explorers on one of the first visits to the fifth planet of Antares, populated by a race of large, intelligent social insects (nicknamed "spelling bees" by their Terran visitors). Upon their arrival, Go Kiburi and his companions were invited to take part in an elaborate formal banquet. A range of exotic foods were placed before them, accompanied by dozens of small dishes with a variety of condiments. A place of honor was reserved for several pots of fine honey. When it came time for the Antarean version of tea, most of the explorers helped themselves liberally to the delicious honey; they were astonished, however, to see Go Kiburi reach into his robe and remove several packets of refined sugar, which he calmly emptied into his drink. Moments later, the party came to an abrupt end when those who had partaken of the honey were

seized and unceremoniously stung to death. After their hasty departure, Go Kiburi's traveling companion Iki Jibiki asked, "Go, how did you know that the honey was reserved for royalty, and that it would be a mortal offense to taste it?" "Don't be silly," said Go. "Any Go player worth his salt knows that there's death in the honey!"

## Go Kiburi and the Chief's Wraith

*by Bob High*

One evening, as Go Kiburi and Iki Jibiki were enjoying a game of blindfold four-dimensional go, there came a sudden sharp clap and a figure appeared, wreathed in foul smelling smoke. "I am the ghost of Chief Oki Dango," announced the figure. "Remember, Go, how you humiliated me when we played our san-jubango? I swore I would take revenge after my death, when I would be invulnerable to all your arts and skills, and now I've come to haunt you," he continued. "I will return every night for a week, and on the last night I will take you down to Hell with me!" the apparition finished, vanishing in a swirl of flames. Iki Jibiki was taken aback, but Go just chuckled and said, "Let's get on with our game." Four-dimensional go being a rather time (and space) consuming game, the two were still in the early opening, having occupied only 13 of the corners, when they retired for the night, so Iki was back the next day to continue. At midnight, the ghost appeared again, looking if anything larger and more menacing than the previous night. It repeated its threats, baring an inordinate number of fangs and constantly sharpening its claws against each other as it spoke. "Oki Dango always was an unstable character," Go remarked after the fiend had departed. Each evening that week, Go and Iki continued their game, and at precisely midnight the spirit would appear, each time larger, solidier and more threatening in demeanor. Iki became more and more nervous, but Go seemed perfectly calm. Finally, the seventh night arrived. Go had just completed his joseki in the further lower outer left corner of the board and was contemplating extending along one of the 32 edges when the monster arrived. "Now you are mine!" it snarled. But Go just smiled and waved his hand, and suddenly the creature vanished, to be replaced by a red-faced cook in a tall white cap, waving a wooden ladle and spluttering his anger.

"What in the world did you do, Go?" Iki marveled, after the irate figure finally faded away, muttering curses in a mixture of French and Italian. "There was never any problem, Iki," Go replied. "It's easy to change a chief's wraith into a chef's wrath, if you remember the 'i' stealing tesuji!"

## Go Kiburi Gets Rich

*by Bob High*

Go Kiburi had just won his second consecutive kadoban from his host, Chief Oki Dango. The Chief, losing patience, began cursing Go Kiburi and ended by saying, "If you're so smart, why aren't you rich?" Go, restraining himself from the obvious retort ("If you're so rich, why aren't you smart?"), smiled and said "In a year and a day I'll be as rich as you. And I'll do it the hard way - on the planet Earth!" Go and his partner Iki Jibiki promptly departed for the nearest chrono-synclastic infundibulum, which deposited them

on Earth, in the 20th century A.D. Go first traveled to the Arctic circle, where he introduced the Aleuts to a new physical form of ice, Ice Minus Nine (also known as kurtvonnegutene) with 40 oxygen and 80 hydrogen atoms in each rhombicosahedral molecule. Ice Minus Nine had the remarkable property of actually giving off heat -- warm ice! Before Iki could catch his breath, Go had amassed a sizable fortune selling ice to the Eskimos.

Next, Go traveled to Holland (which had the advantage of being a go-playing nation), and set up shop on one of the wharves, selling a purified form of sea-water - free of all chemical pollutants, plastics and petroleum byproducts - to the sea creatures. On behalf of their fishy cousins, the dolphins and porpoises would bring him pearls, gold and other buried treasure in exchange for the pure sea water (which Go called "Mer-rire", because it made the dolphins happy). He had a bit of competition from Bark Moon, an entrepreneurial young Dutch go player who set up shop on the next pier, but by constantly moving his shop next door to Moon's, Go was able to keep ahead of the game and vastly multiply his fortune.

Finally, Go traveled to the Sahara Desert, where he impressed the Tuareg nomads with his "soft sand" - each grain encased in a tiny force field. The sand didn't cling, or crunch, or grit between one's teeth. Since the force fields depended on Go's transmogrifier power pack, however, he didn't sell the nomads the marvelous sand; he leased it to them. And within a few months, Go had become the most powerful man around, and the owner of oil rights of enormous value. He had more than fulfilled his challenge to Oki Dango before the year was up. When they had finally left Earth behind, Iki spoke up and said, "Go, that was really a tour de force! How could you go from next to nothing to become one of the richest men on the planet within a year?"

"Well," said Go, "it's not hard making a killing selling ice to Eskimos if you know the ice dealing tesuji. And it wasn't hard staying ahead of the game selling sea water to fish; I just had to remember that my opponent's quay move was my own quay move. But I have to admit, when I started peddling sand in the Sahara, I was only able to gain all that power and influence because I really knew how to use the sand rents, eh?"

## Go Kiburi in the Middle Ages

*by Bob High*

On one occasion, Go Kiburi and his side-kick, Iki Jibiki, took a time trip back to the middle ages. In his researches of the history of Go, Go had run across a reference to an obscure order of monks living in the Carpathian Mountains who had learned the game of Go from descendants of the Mongols, and he was eager to confirm or debunk the tale. After considerable travail and adventure (Go and Iki had neglected to brush up on the proper temporal dialects, and were forced to impersonate a pilgrim who had taken a vow of silence and his deaf-mute servant), Go and Iki finally arrived at the monastery. Much to their dismay, however, they found the hall abandoned. A woman from a nearby village told them the monks had indeed engaged in "some strange ritual with black and white stones," but that they had all been wiped out by plague the previous year. All that is, but one hermit living in a cave far up in the mountains.

Never one to miss an opportunity (particularly one he had come thousands of miles and many centuries for), Go turned around and began to climb the mountain again. After some searching, he and Iki discovered the hermit, living alone in a small, drafty cave. To Go's delight, the hermit actually had a Go set with him, and they settled down to a couple of games.

As they descended the mountain that evening, Iki said to Go, "I guess that monk was very lucky to escape the plague that wiped out the rest of the monastery." "Luck had nothing to do with it, Iki," Go replied. "He simply knew enough to pray away from sickness!"

## Go Kiburi Receives His Just Reward

*by Bob High*

On another occasion, Go Kiburi was selected as a candidate for the title of "Most Distinguished Citizen of the Terran Realm." After numerous rounds of examination and selection, only two candidates remained: Go Kiburi, the Go Master, and Mother Mary May, the founder of a religious order dedicated to service and charity. Witness after witness testified to Mother Mary's selflessness and altruism, describing her more than once as "a true saint," and "someone who lives only for others." On his own behalf, Go Kiburi simply stated that he had never found it possible - or necessary - to transcend his personal identity, desires and attachments, even over the Go board.

Nevertheless, after a brief conference, the judges conferred the title on Go Kiburi. Go turned to Mother Mary and said, "I'm sorry, but I guess it's just a case of 'I have an "I", and you have none!'"

## Go Kiburi Rides Again

*by Bob High*

Go Kiburi and his companion, Iki Jibiki, once visited the remarkable planet of Veldt, which is inhabited exclusively by giant carnivores (even the plants eat meat!) Mounted four apiece on the backs of lions, which on Veldt have been domesticated as beasts of burden and transport, in place of horses, dromedaries and the like, Go, Iki and a group of their friends set off to explore.

While touring a particularly spectacular but remote portion of the planet, Go and Iki and their party were set upon by a band of giant wolves; surrounded and cut off from any retreat, one lion and its riders attempted to break through the pack of wolves, but was quickly run down and devoured. Two brave volunteers from a second mount remained behind while their companions, on their lightened steed, made another attempt, but without luck; the wolves were still too many and too fast for the lion, and ran it down without difficulty. Finally, Go Kiburi insisted that they take the two who had remained behind on their own mount and attempt to escape; much to the surprise of everyone except Go, their lion put on a tremendous burst of speed, and far outdistanced the wolves.

"That was certainly noble of you, Go," said Iki, when they were safe again. "Taking on the weight of those extra two riders could have spelled certain death for us!"

"Nonsense!" snorted Go. "Anyone knows that on the third lion, four die, but six live!"

## Go Kiburi On Safari

*by Bob High*

Go Kiburi, the 25th century go master, and his constant companion Iki Jibiki, decided to visit the planet Veldt, which is populated exclusively by giant carnivores. Go and Iki set out with some friends on safari riding on the backs of giant domesticated lions. On Veldt, the king beasts take the place of horses, dromedaries, etc., as beasts of burden and transport. Although the party numbered an even dozen, the mounts were enormous that only two were need to carry them all.

As the twelve adventurers entered a spectacular but remote valley, they were attacked by a pack of giant ravenous wolves. After a hurried conference, two of Go's friends dismounted, allowing their four companions to make a run for it on their lightened steed, but in vain. The wolves easily ran down and devoured both beast and riders.

Go, riding with the other half dozen, then insisted that the two climb on with them. Despite the extra weight, their mount put on a miraculous burst of speed, outdistancing the predators and carrying the party to safety.

"That was close!" exclaimed Iki Jibiki, "It was courageous of you to offer to try and save your friends, Go, but I was sure we were all wolf meat!" "Nonsense - it was our only chance," replied Go, "Any go player worth his salt knows that on the second lion, eight live and six die!"