

5th Knot

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The New Year's Edition

Hey guys, remember that **special New Year's edition** I promised that never came? Yea, I'm so sorry about that. Truth be told **I did eventually finish it**, and before the end of January too. Unfortunately, the major article for that edition contained some personal information of another and so I needed to get their permission to publish. Long and short of the story is that I didn't get it. So I had to **scrap the edition**.

Still, there were some smaller articles that I just couldn't let myself throw away. Short pieces that might serve you and I well. So I have graciously included them in this edition for both our benefits. On the next few pages you will find the excerpts from **The Whole 12 Yards of 2010**.

String Summaries of 2010

In Computer Science, **a string is a linear sequence of characters**, symbols, words, or units that is treated as a unit. As a programmer, you find that the most common usage of this term is in reference to **a sentence**; Most often sentences your program is meant to display.

As such, the title of this section to me is both a pun and a definition. You need not understand or appreciate the pun to understand what you will find here. Essentially this is a list of **lessons learnt in 2010** in form of simple strings - One line sentences or phrases. You will also find that **I tag the teachers** of these lessons.

In 2010, I learnt that...

- There is no **misery** where there is **positivity**. @Inertia
- I **value my friends** both inside and outside of disagreement. @Zummy
- Although leadership is "**to lead**", knowing when to stop leading is "**to be a leader**." @DASA
- Relationships founded in honesty and truth **can end indeed**, but they **cannot end in disaster**. @Chidi
- A small team of talented and dedicated people **will always achieve**, even in the midst of setbacks. @Team Sekai
- We cannot get **along** with everyone, but we can get **beyond** our differences. @Solomon
- Though love is neither an ability nor a skill, **it takes practice to love unconditionally**. @Martha
- Failing does not mean one is a **failure**. It means one is **still learning**. @Myself
- I **hate** explaining myself because my thoughts are **profound**. @Myself
- Family can **always** be depended on. @The Mabogunje's
- To count my blessings, is to count to **infinity**. @My Life

- I am a **Fire Rabbit**. @Princess
- **Creativity is not about success**, but about the **joy** and **fulfilment** of creating. @TRS
- Programming is like writing an essay in the **language of logic**. @Joe
- I am often irritated but hardly angry because **most things are not deserving of my anger**. @Myself
- **Desire** is one of the **most difficult** emotions to assuage. @Myself
- JavaScript is **ridiculously easy**. @Ekene Arinze
- Studies do not **require that you learn**, but learning **requires that you study**. @Drexel
- I **love** technology. @Deji
- Being a romantic means doing **small but intimate things**. @Nnamdi
- The Red String is **fantastic!** @TRS

New Year's Resolutions

We all know what these are, and most of us make them. **We rarely follow through** with all if any of them, but we make them nonetheless **because we hope**. Obviously hope isn't enough for me though, since I've been hoping all this time to **no avail**.

So this year in addition to hoping, I'm doing something **extra**. I am **writing it down** and making you readers my **fail-safe**. If I do not do all these things this year, **I will hold you as responsible as myself**. Lol.

I must to do these things this year! :)

- Graduate
- Read **all** the books of the old testament.
- Begin using my "Yoruba for Dummies" CD that my mum gave me. That's not what it's called but it is what it is... LOL.
- **Finish** my WPKD project.
- **Finish the first draft** of 'The Blood Disease'.
- **Keep up with** and **improve** TRS.

What do you think of the new design?

Back Home

Every time I come back home to Nigeria, I find there is some new and exciting difference. Last year it was the Lagos state governor **Babatunde Fashola** and the major improvements he was making to the state, the bowling alley that had opened up at **the palms shopping mall**, and the **go-carting place** by Tafawa Balewa Square that I still haven't been to. I must remember to go there before I return to the U.S.

Still, there were always a few things I could count on remaining the same. Constant power outages, crappy Internet, and good food amongst other things. So before I came home this year, I made sure to take some extra time to say farewell to constant electricity and most especially to broadband Internet.

"Oh, how I'm going to miss you broadband" I said. "**Google, YouTube, Crunchyroll, Facebook, LinkedIn, Skype, AIM, Engadget, Gizmodo, Xkcd, Questionable Content...** I wish I could take you all with me. No, no, I was not talking to you **Twitter** and definitely not you **DrexelOne**, but red string, I think I'm going to miss you most of all." (sob, sob, sniff, sniff) "God willing, the dialup won't be too bad and maybe we'll talk red - but I can't make any promises."

Back Home

With my tearful goodbyes complete, I caught the next flight out to my home country prepared for the worst. Only to find soon after my arrival, that I no longer had to deal with dialup speeds on a 56K modem at home. Or plan a visit to my cousin's so I could jump on their relatively faster wi-fi. Or even stop by my father's office so I could use his VSAT connection for a few hours.

Because now **we have USB modem's in Nigeria!** Introducing **MTN F@stlink**. My one-stop shop for blazing fast Internet speeds. Yeah it's still a far cry from broadband and I still had to part ways with **YouTube** and **Crunchyroll** as a result but man, was it good to see **Facebook** again! And as you can see, I'm more than glad to have **TRS** back.

So as it turns out going back home no longer means going without a homepage. Perhaps one day it will also mean going without blackouts. Ha! **Wouldn't that be a day to remember?**

Back Home

Now there are a whole bunch of other things about this trip that deserve some face time. Like the [Dramatisation of the Duet](#) and the people I've seen and the places I've been.

The majority of these, I will talk about **next month** when I have to say goodbye to them as well. The Dramatisation however deserves an entirely different type of coverage, and I will be releasing a **special edition** on it just for that reason.

For now though, this is about all I have to say about my trip so far. **God bless MTN!**

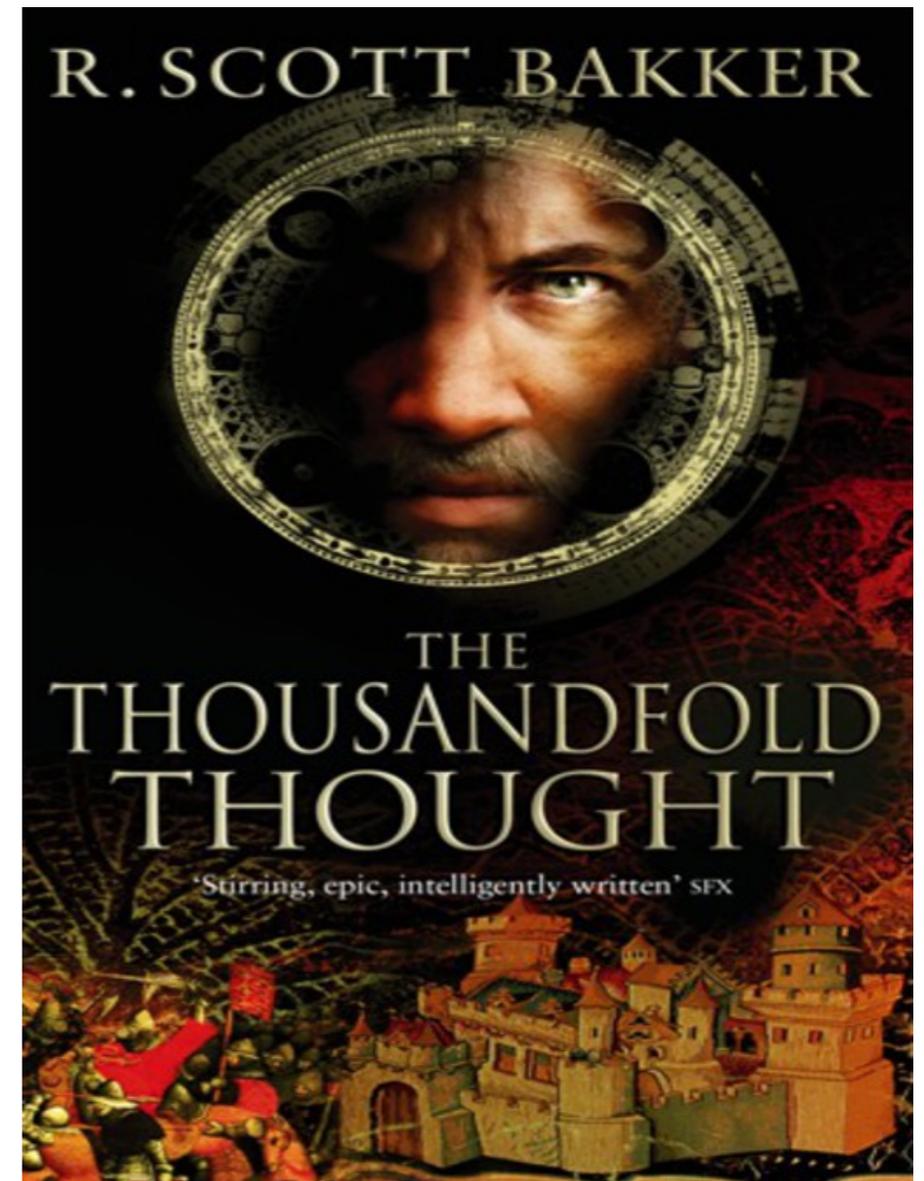
The Thousandfold Thought

So I finally finished *The Thousandfold Thought* by R. Scott Bakker this past month, and it gave me no reason to retract any of my previous statements. If you haven't seen my preliminary review of the book, then go and [check it out](#) first.

So the **Holy War does in fact reach Shimeh**, and on the way **Achamian continues to suffer** more and more at the hands of Kellhus's and Esmenet's marriage. Meanwhile the Sclyvendi **Cnair gets in league with the Consult** who feeling threatened by the warrior prophet, begin to take decisive action against him.

On the other hand, our warrior prophet Kellhus, isn't the least bit threatened by them and **continues to outsmart them** at every turn. Simultaneously becoming a sorcerer in his own right, as he **learns and masters the trade** from Achamian.

The story as a whole leaves a **bitter sweet taste** behind as you marvel at how the **prince of nothing** becomes **king of everything** and the potential saviour of the world, yet mourn the cost at which this saviour came. It's almost analogous to the story of Jesus except that this saviour is **neither holy nor benevolent**. He is a man unlike any other. He is Dunyain. Through him the world is saved, and yet by him, the people are destroyed.



A Game of Thrones

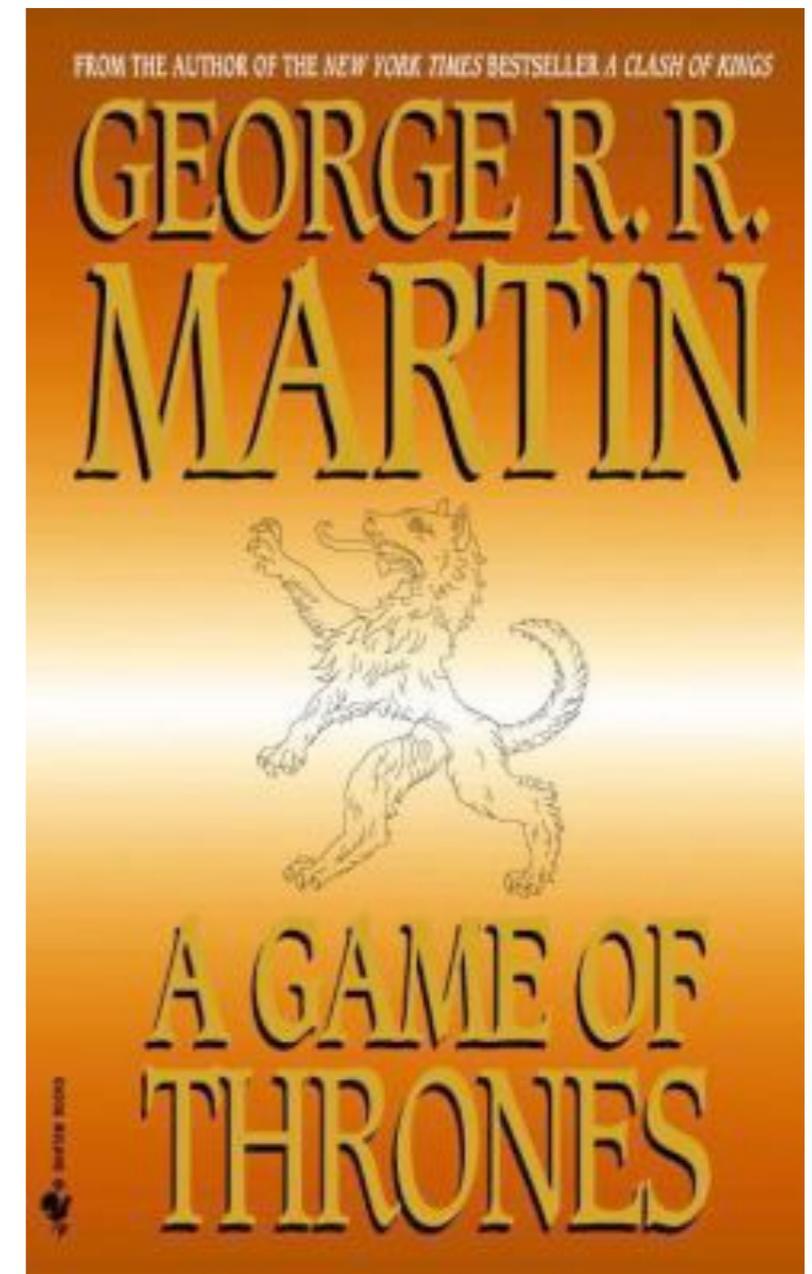
A Game of Thrones by **George R. R. Martin** is my latest fantasy fiction novel and funny enough, it was recommended to me by one of my readers after she read the 2nd knot where I reviewed the entire *Prince of Nothing* series by **R. Scott Bakker**. It is also the first of a three book series called *A Song of Ice and Fire*.

The story is set in the **Seven Kingdoms** (a single kingdom that used to be seven). A place isolated from the rest of the world by a giant wall much like the Great Wall of China. A wall guarded by the **Night's Watch**, an army of exiles, misfits, and outcasts. The kingdom also possesses a peculiar climate. One where seasons last years, decades, and sometimes, even centuries. Where summer is a season of good and plenty, and winter is one of evil and scarcity.

We follow the family of the **Starks**, rulers of the northern city of **Winterfell** and guardians of the wall as they are overwhelmed by unfortunate circumstances. From attempted murder to political sabotage, the Starks are unwittingly drawn into a spiralling web of disaster that is prescient of their family motto: "**Winter is coming.**"

Meanwhile beyond the wall, evil is brewing. The last descendants of the Targaryen household (ousted rulers of the Seven Kingdoms) **Viserys and Daenerys Targaryen** are making moves to regain the throne, and monsters about which only fairy tales remain are starting to appear closer to the wall.

This first book leaves you with a sense of foreboding as you wonder what will come next in *A Clash of Kings*.



TRS Yarns

A yarn is a tale. A story likened to a string of thread. So far I have done many things with my red string. I have made loops, tied knots, and extended it for yards. Now I'm going to add one more thing to my repertoire. I shall use my red string to weave tales.

Now in the spirit of communication and sharing that we here at **The Red String** are trying to foster, I have decided I will not spin these yarns alone. In fact I want to do quite the opposite. I want you guys to spin the yarns. **Tell me something interesting.**

Remember how I mentioned recruiting people like **Christine** and **Ekene** to contribute short stories to these editions? Well **TRS Yarns** is where those stories will go and yours can go here too if you feel so inclined.

So I'm going to kick off this new section with our first yarn contributed by Christine Gingerich entitled "**LET IT SNOW.**"

Yarn #1: LET IT SNOW!

August 15

Moved to a new home in Jersey. It's so beautiful here. The lake to the north looks so majestic. I can hardly wait to see it snow covered. I'm going to love it here.

October 14

Jersey is definitely the most beautiful place on earth. The leaves have turned all the colors and shades of red and orange. Went for a ride through the park and saw some deer. They are so graceful. Certainly they are the most wonderful animals on earth. This must be paradise, **I love it here.**

November 10

Deer season will start soon. I can't imagine anyone wanting to kill such a gorgeous animal, hope it will snow soon. I love it here. Those red and orange leaves have covered my yard. Looks like a magnificent multicoloured carpet. **How beautiful.** Raking and cleaning up the yard will be an opportunity for invigorating exercise in the cool crisp air.

November 15

Ah, more leaves and more exercise.

November 18

Jesus, still more leaves. Guess it's best to wait until they've all fallen before I rake again.

Yarn #1: LET IT SNOW!

November 25

Finally, all the trees lost their leaves and [with] today's final raking it's over for this season. Chiropractor suggested I use a lawn maintenance service next year. Only four blisters became infected. Should probably remember to use gloves.

November 30

What the ??? Where did all those leaves come from? A little wind last night and the lawn is covered again. Oh well, they will just have to wait until spring.

December 12

It snowed last night, **finally**. Woke up to find everything blanketed in White. It looks like a postcard. We went outside and cleaned the snow off the steps and shovelled the driveway. Had a snowball fight (I won) and when the snowplow came by we had to shovel the end of the driveway again. What a beautiful place. I love Jersey.

December 14

More snow last night, I love it. The snowplow did his trick to the driveway again. I **love** it here.

December 19

More snow again last night. Can't get out of the driveway to get to work. I'm exhausted from shovelling.
***** snowplow.

Yarn #1: LET IT SNOW!

December 22

More of that White sh-t fell again last night. As if dealing with the leaves weren't bad enough, now I've got blisters all over my hands from shovelling, must remember to wear gloves. I think the snowplow hides around the corner and waits until I'm finished shovelling the driveway. The a--hole.

December 25

Merry Christmas. More frigging snow. If I ever get my hands on that **SOB** who drives the snowplow, i swear I'll kill the *****. Don't know why they don't use more salt on the roads to melt the ***** ice.

December 27

More White sh*t last night. Have been inside for three days except for shovelling out the driveway after that snowplow goes through every time. ***** gloves got wet and then froze on my hands. Doctor said it was just a mild case of frostbite, disfiguration is probably only temporary. Can't go anywhere, car is stuck in a mountain of White sh*t. The weatherman says to expect another 10 inches of the sh-t tonight. Do you know how many shovels full of snow 10 inches is?

December 28

The ***** weatherman was wrong. We got **34 inches** of that White sh*t. At this rate, it won't melt till summer. The snowplow got stuck up the road and the bastard came to the door and asked to borrow a shovel. After I told him I'd already broken six of them shovelling all the sh*t he pushed into the driveway, I broke the last one on his ***** head.

Yarn #1: LET IT SNOW!

January 4

Finally got out of the house today. Went to the store to get food and on the way back I hit a damn deer that ran in front of my car. Did about \$3000 damage. ***** beast should be killed. Wish the hunters had killed them all last November.

May 3

Took the car to the garage in town. The thing is rusting out from all the ***** salt they put on the roads

May 10

Moved to The Villages in Florida. I cant imagine why anyone in their right mind would ever live in that God-forsaken state of New Jersey.

Valentines

Valentines day every year is always a day of polar opposites. Either you're being pleasantly reminded of the joys of being in a relationship, or painfully reminded of the loneliness that comes with singularity. You are either finding love, or losing hope. Partying it up, or Mellowing out. With people, or by yourself. And this generally means that **you either love valentines day, or you disdain it.**

For most of my life I have been one of the disdainers. Not in the sense of hate, but in the sense of indifference. I was hoping that this valentines day would be different, but circumstances have dictated otherwise. For the intended target of my valentines day gift has left the country. Notwithstanding the fact that this was the first time I thought I might give a gift that had meaning for me in that I genuinely cared how it might be received, I can't say that I miss the feeling of trepidation that accompanied it.

Oh no! I do hope this doesn't cause confusion. I just realised I know multiple girls currently out of the country this valentines. Well that would be interesting in it's own way now wouldn't it? But moving on, while I may be a disdainer this time, I think that many of you will be lovers. So to help you all on your way, I'd like to give you a small valentines gift. **It should give both you and your companion a good laugh.**

For the **Only Shuga** in my **Tea**

- 1 We are great togeda
Like garri and ewa
Ogi and akara
Pami and suya
- 2 Supa glue e don gum us
Nottin' small fit commot us
- 3 Even say I don leave hia
One bobo wan begin dia
Omo mehn, I no go fia
Dis kind love, e no go tia
- 4 So my dia, be shiure
My love? E dey knock door