

## *A Stalking Horse ©*

*On narrow plain, an arrow's flight apart,  
Two mighty armies stood in hot sunlight,  
And twixt them rode a paladin with heart,  
Upon a great warhorse as black as night.*

*And he was royal scion of Sultan's seed—  
A fearsome cavalier some called The Hawk,  
His steed, a thoroughbred of Arabian breed,  
With magnificent form, began to stalk,*

*And to and fro they stalked the rock-strewn field,  
And dared any Christian knight to come and fight,  
And as he brandished scimitar and shield,  
He hurled at foes insults and boasts of might.*

*A knight then ventured forth to test his fate,  
And as they fought the Christians watched enrapt,  
And while all eyes were locked on their man's state,  
The foe attacked behind, thus sprang their trap.*

*The battle raged across the plain all day,  
And Christians were defeated in due course,  
Yet some who fought with valor got away,  
And lived to warn, "Beware a stalking horse".*

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