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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING PRACTICE BRAILLE SAMPLE

### Seven

Braille the following passage using 8.5 by 11 inch braille paper. Use standard literary braille format and a 28-cell line, 25 lines per page. **To fully prepare for the Colorado Braille Competency Test, a braille writer should be used to transcribe this passage.**

- On the first page the title is shown on lines one and two, as shown in print above. Each following page should have the title Seven centered on line one. This becomes the running head.
  - Skip one line between the title and the first paragraph on page one. Do not skip a line between the shortened title (running head) and text on subsequent pages.
  - Do not skip a line between paragraphs.
  - Make maximum use of the 28 cell line. You are not required to hyphenate a word at the end of the line, but you must make maximum use of the 28 cell line to the extent possible with or without hyphenation. Failure to do so will be counted as one error each occurrence.
- \* **Print copy clarification:** The passage for this sample contains hyphens, dashes and italicizes.
- \***Simulated Braille clarification:** The APH font in Word is providing a space between paragraphs in the Simbraille. You should **not** have a space between paragraphs in your document.

Please prepare your braille sample based on the text on the following page. Once complete, please cross-check your braille passage with the simulated braille on the remaining pages of this document.

If you are in need of an embossed master copy of the passage to check your braille because you are a tactual braille reader, please be in touch with Tanni Anthony at [Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) This offer is only for approved Colorado candidates preparing to take the Colorado Braille Competency Test.

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## Seven

Temrane sat on the warm ground, his back straight, legs bent underneath him, eyes closed in prayer. It was said that in the Calli-kor one's worthiness was measured by the time it took to find the sacrifice. Cand-hoen's sacrifice had been waiting for him as soon as he walked into the woods. Temrane knew the people must have gasped when Cand-hoen walked out of the forest almost as soon as he walked in. He was truly a godly man. Temrane took a deep breath. *Let me be as holy.*

The day was balmy, a good omen; no clouds colored the blue sky. Lanyi, the sun god, wished him well in his service of Hoen.

His prayers finished, he stood and, without looking at the people gathered around the edge of the forest, walked forward. He vaguely heard the laments of the women, signifying the loss of a child as that child becomes a man. More clearly, he heard the prayers of the priests, especially Cand-hoen's, resonating through the still air.

The sounds of Corigo faded quickly as he went deeper into the forest. So, his worthiness did not match that of Cand-hoen's. He let the pang of disappointment abate. It was not to be expected, but only something to hope and work for. If Cand-hoen was once blessed, Temrane was twice blessed by Hoen: once in having Cand for a blood uncle and twice in serving under him and learning from him.

He had not gone far into the woods when he spotted a buck. The great animal stood proud and unafraid on the far side of a small stream. Antlers raised high above his head, his nose lifted, he sniffed the earthy-smelling air as though he sensed the presence of man. The running water had masked any slight sounds Temrane had made, but nothing could disguise his scent.

Temrane stepped out from the small bush that had covered him. The buck stared at him with warm, brown, fearless eyes. He did not run, but awaited whatever came as though he knew the boy in front of him was holy.

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Temrane reached into the quiver on his back and drew out an arrow. He dipped the tip of it into a bottle of mild poison. The poison would put the buck to sleep, but not kill it. The sacrifice must be made with a living animal.

The arrow whistled through the air and found its home in the fleshy hind part of the buck. He did not bound away as Temrane expected, but stood with intelligent eyes fixed upon the boy. In moments, the buck lay sleeping on the bank of the laughing stream, its nose gently resting in the water.

Temrane hurried across the stream and said a prayer over the animal, thanking Hoen for the sacrifice, thanking the buck for giving himself to such a high calling, asking forgiveness for whatever unworthiness still remained in him. Then, in the manner prescribed by the priests, he heaved the buck onto his shoulders. Water from its body cascaded down Temrane's back, chilling him.

It took him much longer to walk out of the forest than it did to walk into it. The buck was a heavy burden, awkward to carry. Temrane kept wondering if he had used enough poison. What would happen if the buck awoke while he still carried it? As his steps brought him closer to home and there was no movement from the buck, he began to wonder if he had used too much poison. It would not fare well for him to bring back a sacrifice that had already died. Temrane would then be disgraced and banished from the temple.

As he stepped away from the thicket of trees, he heard people gasp *What is it?* He thought? Had he perhaps been too long in the forest? Was he disgraced? His mind quickly ran over the steps of the Calli-kor. No, he had forgotten nothing. Hoen had to bless him and make him a man. He had proved himself worthy.

This passage is taken from: [The Falcon and the Serpent](#), Crossways Books, 1990, with permission of the author, Cheryl A. Smith.

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## Answer Key

The following SimBraille copy of the passage is for your use in correcting your work. Please note the following:

The use of APH Braille Font in Word, has left spaces between paragraphs that your document should not have.

We used Duxbury to produce a SimBraille copy and copied its spacing of words into lines. You will note in the first paragraph that the word Calli-kor was moved to the next line instead of putting part of the name and the hyphen at the end of the line, and the remainder on the next. It is highly recommended that we not hyphenate words any longer, So Duxbury has been programmed to accommodate that, moving it to the next line. In this case, we are transcribing a hyphenated name, and it is correct to move it to the next line, or break the name at the hyphen, and move the remainder to the next line. Either way is correct. If you hyphenate the name at the end of the line, you will note that your spacing will be different from the SimBraille example.









