A Hermeneutics Exercise: Read **first, then draw.**

You are an artist who lives on a planet in another galaxy. You work for a company that has sent people to scout our earth. The scouts’ camera is broken, and you have a HUGE briefing with the investors of this project in 45 minutes. They want pictures! To save the project and keep your jobs, your colleagues on the alien planet (earth) must describe their findings to you so that you can create the visual for the investors. Your first task is to draw the following creature of which you have never seen because your planet doesn’t have any of them.

This is what the explorer tells you:

It’s a medium sized creature. It has wings that run the entire length of its body. They are the color of the earth, sea, and sky at the same time. The creature has plates on its back like those of a dragon. Those plates run the entire length of the creature’s back until they reach the hindquarters. They glimmer green like that of the sea.

Beginning at the hindquarter starts a waterfall full of eyes. Each eye is round and wide. Like the wings of the creature, these eyes contain the colors of the earth. Each eye contains an iris. An egg-like socket surrounds each of the irises. There are hundreds of eyes, running in rows. They never blink, but stare in the direction upon which they are fixed to the creature’s frame.

At the end of the rows of eyes are pincers, like the claws of a crab. The pincers all remain open, as if ready to attack. The creatures have so many of these crablike claws that I could not count them all.

Its mouth was sharp. As I watched, this beast pounced upon its prey. It pierced its prey with its pointed mouth before swallowing it without chewing. When it called out, its voice was shrill and piercing, like a banshee. It spoke a single word continually in a language that was very foreign to us, nothing like the English at all.

Its head was small and ovoid. A bright cornelian blue helmet covered it head from the forehead to the back of the creature’s neck. On the very top it wore a dozen-spiked crown. Each spike was topped with a small cornelian bead. On either side of the helmet, I could see the creature’s piercing eyes. Weirdly, the creature could look either east & west, or north & south at all at one tie. It turned its head rapidly in those directions, ever watchful of me.

When I approached, this beast lifted all those eyes to look at me all at one. Never blinking, the rows of eyes spread themselves like wide arms trying to stop me from approaching any closer. Then the creature swaggered about, as if daring me to take another step forward.

Its legs were like the young limbs of an oak tree, sure and sturdy. At the end of each was a food with four long toes. Each toe ended with a sharp talon. The creature used these talons to scratch intently at the ground. Out the back of each leg stuck a small scimitar that the creature used for defense when an enemy approached.

It is a beautifully fierce creature!