

VOYAGE

Of the Titans

Written and illustrated
By Hans Woodmen

Edited by Damion Selore and Monte Emerson

Dedicated to my wife, Carolyn.

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Author's Introduction

In times gone by most men are products of circumstance, who only act when it is the easiest or most socially accepted thing to do. But there are those who are not, there are those who have the power to choose and choose the harder way. These men reach as far as things are reachable. These men wander further than the road will ever go. These men do not fear truth they thirst for it, they don't fear pain they see a purpose in it. They are humble yet firm. They are truly free knowing integrity is who they are. They are not governed by fear, only by love and wisdom. They choose which path to take; they don't just see the road pass before them. Dro and Hann were two of these men and more, they were travelers and foreigners on the earth, when there was no where else to go they went and the powers of men or darkness could not stop them. Voyage is the story of their separation in the caves and their joyful reunion on the outside.

Hann and Dro awoke almost two years before our story unfolds in a system of extensive caves. They didn't understand their surroundings at first. They had no memory of the past; their sleep was as a perfect silent nothingness in the deep. Dro and Hann would have surely died if it had not been for two kind wise men named Morgan and Trivanian who saw in them great potential. They saw something powerful and important, an untapped resource in two of the most seemingly worthless people in the caves. They slowly taught the two to see and hear and feel. They gave them precious gifts of clothing, candles and paint brushes. The Wiseman's faith in the two made the miracle of two powerful personalities.

Both of them with their newly made friendship began to talk about their awakenings. They both told each other about the dreams they experienced as they began to awake. Both told each other about mighty wonders of blue skies and green fields and forests. Dro and Hann came to a realization that they had been given the same dreams. Hann then took a bold step and told Dro he wanted to leave and find these places. Dro was shocked as he assumed the caves were all that really existed. But, Hann asked Dro to come with him and Dro was persuaded. Then the two walked into the darkness not knowing what lay ahead.

Expedition is the name of the first part in this The Door Walker series. Expedition tells of Dro's and Hann's many adventures as they find new places and meet new people. *Expedition* was written by my good friend W. C. Stuart who did most all of the technical writing of the story and who's innovations and incites elegantly expressed the expedition, and by me Hans Woodmen. This book you now hold in your hand is called Voyage and has been written by me Hans Woodmen. The full name of the Voyage is *The Voyage of the Titans*. Just as the full name of Expedition is *The Expedition of the Magi*. Which name by the way is found no where in the official printed copy.

Dro and Hann met and converted some to their quest but most people ridiculed and fought against them. Their friends were Amid, Hev, Nog and the Magi including a girl who helped them named Canada. The young adventurers soon found out that the caves were controlled by a powerful man named Orfaciuse or the Over-Mind. They also learned he was holding them all captive. Dro decided to take one for the team and

joined the Over-Mind so he could secretly give his friends safe passage.

Orfaciuse has powerful means of persuasion however, and turns Dro against them. One day the caves fill with a strange mist and everyone seems to fall asleep. Hann and the others fight to stay awake; they learn the mist is generated by an evil stone made by the men of Orfaciuse. They find a way to dispel it and they meet Dro again. Dro risks everything and comes back to the group. He shows them the only way past the guards and they make their escape to the outer-rim of the caves. There they travel around trying to find the way out.

Hann decides to leave the group only for a short time and scout ahead. The others stay where they are for awhile and write so future adventurers can know the truth behind the dark secrets of the caves and their escape. They also wrote their philosophies and dreams for future posterity. That brings me and you, our observing party, not a mile below the surface, where Hann is walking across the outer-rim looking for the outside.

Hann has a dream where he learns about the Titans, a powerful group of Wizards who have holy stewardships on the outside. They take care of their subjects and in return the subjects give their stewards special gifts. The good Titans are fighting Orfaciuse and his dark allies. Hann had a vision in Expedition as he was in the caves of a certain counsel of good Titans that lived in the land around the caves and who their future apprentices would be. Here is a portion of what he learned about who they were and what they said to him.

1. "I am the Forest Titan. I make Life where I can."
2. "I am the Wind Titan. Only in the Mind's eye can I be seen."
3. "I am the Lightning Titan. I am the Water current that is Motivation."
4. "I am the Fire Titan. I am the Earth's core."
5. "I am the Spirit Titan. One tree is not a Forest."
6. "I am the Life Titan. The Winds of change, not even I can change."
7. "I am the Mind Titan. I prepare for the Lightning of inspiration."
8. "I am the Water Titan. Only by being what Fire is not can I gain its identity."
9. "I am the Earth Titan. A kind act is etched on the Spirits of all involved."

What untold mysteries lay beyond the caves? Will Hann find out how they Entered the caves and the meaning of their lives? Find out as you read the second act of their adventure.

For the sake of knowledge, you should know some of the ancient names of our characters have been altered for the English language. Here, is the original sounds to the best of my knowledge.

Orfaciuse - Oarphusis
Canada - Cinaati
Morgan - Morkaan
Trivanian - Trvenaan

A literal translation of a few names and words into English.

Han - Spiritual Home
Hann - Spiritual Home (longing for)
Orfaciuse - Overmind/Face on the tower
Orfanis - Face of the King.
Elose - Verifier/God of the Gate

~Additional Note~

This story means a great deal to me. The story, if truth be told is about Carolyn's and my love, but the commentary on that will remain confidential. It also has something to do with my friend WiL. Let me tell you something about W. C. Stuart's and my friendship. When we met he was a very smart scientific minded intellectual and I was somewhat ignorant to his standard. He was patient however and considered me a friend. I would visit him every day after school and we would talk for hours about all kinds of things. I learned more there than I did at school and he brought me up from being a kid who had started school in 9th grade to the somewhat intellectual I am now.

Yet Stuart says I taught him everything. The Stuart home is like a home to me and I will never in all eternity forget the kindness shown me there. Stuart and I began to talk about philosophy one day and we learned we had many of the same strange and generally uncommon ideas about it. So we soon delved deeper and conducted experiments which cannot all be rehearsed at this time but will be recorded in our history. From that we made a philosophical organization bent on finding all truth about certain magical subjects.

Around that time I had a reoccurring dream that began nearly five years ago from which I learned this story. My best friend W C Stuart and fellow writer had some pieces of the same dream that we shared with each other only he saw it from the perspective of Dro, where as I saw the more full version from the perspective of Hann.

I have come to learn for myself and found personal evidence that these events really did in fact unfold nearly 3000 years ago. Even though Hann and Dro have surely lived and died long ago their story lives on as an allegory of our day, the challenges and threats that they faced in the coming and previous chapters are as real now as they were then.

Yes we are not trapped in physical caves, but the caves and walls of our day are even more deceptive and dangerous. The Magi have returned but so has the Over-Mind. Many generations have past and his chess piece is played by a different player, one who has a much darker plan. We are the players of our time; do you want to know how to play? Or do you want to only be a spectator and let the game go ill. The first step is to read this book and learn what happened in the past so we may more fully

predict the future.

I believe these dreams came to us for a higher purpose, the reason of which is not yet entirely clear. I know I have learned a great deal, and perhaps these were only meant to be personal revelations but I know what we write is true. As crazy as this story sounds remember many crazy things have happened in history and crazier things will yet happen in the future. At the end of the last book you were told that the image of the Mind Titan has appeared as W. C. Stuart. I am not a Titan but I bear the ring of the Forest. And I write this book in the quest to “make Life where I can.”

I was told by the Magi in the caves that I would be a Magi one day and I don't know whether it is my destiny to be a Titan or not, all I know is that you have been prepared for the Lightning of inspiration and now this book is here in your hand to give life and hope to an awakened mind who may now only see a dreary wilderness.

Sincerely

Hans Woodmen

Chapter 1

The forbidden Lands and what Hann found there

Walking, the very act moves its traveler through space and time. It enlivens the mind and strengthens the body making its symbiot less and less a nothing with every step. For Hann, Walking seemed to be all there was to life at the moment. It was argues and long. Every rock seemed to stare at him as he passed. Thousands had lain before his eyes and disappeared behind him. They all started blurring together into one single memory. Hann's feet felt sore so he sat on a nearby stone to rest for a little bit. Pain will make me stronger He thought. Then Hann remembered how very weak he used to be, and smiled at how very strong he had become. At one time he clang to the wall for support, at others he walked clumsily about in the direction he leaned, but not now. His stride was long, and his feet were steady.

Hann was a skinny boy. His eyes glinted with an unquenchable hope, and there was no end to his curiosity of the world around him. A smudge of dirt could be seen on his face. He wore a single tan robe as was custom in the caves. Further in you could be punished for not wearing them, but out here in the wild outer-rim there was no one to see, or care. The caves were all he had ever known. He had awoken only two years before, with complete amnesia, which sleep he and his friends termed "the nothing". It seemed every one was headed for it; it wasn't just a freak accident on Hann's part like one might think, but a systematic process. When he had made friends they journeyed with him outwards which was against all social recommendations.

Though he had walked far, a dark sadness lingered with him. He had left his friends miles and countless passages behind him, all for the sake of scouting on. Hann's thoughts turned to his best friend Dro and the many good times with him. "I miss you Dro." Hann thought. "We will meet again soon, and I will lead us all out; Out to our blue skies and green fields." Hann looked around him in the darkness. He was alone and very much felt it. The utterly empty tunnel magnified the silence of his loneliness.

He arose and took a few steps on. Something grabbed his attention; it was a soft glow in the passage. He quickened his pace and made his way toward it. He finally saw its source, a strange spherical reflection. He approached the object and Hann soon saw himself reflected in it. It was an odd hat made of metal; slowly, he tried it on and it fit perfectly. A look of delight appeared on Hann's face. He took it off for a moment and wiped some dust from it with his robe and admired his reflection. The only other time he had ever seen it was in pools of water in the rocks.

He brushed away some other eight legged inhabitants and put it back on his head. He sat down on the ground and reached into his pocket. Hann found the usual things but no mushrooms. He had found a patch about a week ago but they were all gone now. He put eating out of his mind and sat there a little longer.

Being rested he traveled on. The caves were getting more and more rugged as the cavities passed by. The passages widened as Hann moved forward where Giant rocks filled black cathedrals of dark stone. One such grand hall had many stalactites on the ceiling and in the distance it looked as though great pillars stood between him and other halls. This must be the Rivanway Hann thought. The Rivanway was a huge connection of such rooms that stretched for miles and was a great source of travel among the Outer-rim Rangers. Hann had never before seen it but had heard tales of its existence.

The Outer-rim Rangers were dwellers of these parts and Hann had made friends with a few of them already.

Hann walked between two huge rocks the size of houses when suddenly he noticed a light on the ceiling coming from some place up ahead. He could hear faint whispers in that direction too. Hann made his way through the narrow way and came out from between the two large boulders. Below him in a room through a cavity in the floor lay the camp of some Rangers. A small fire in the center cast the reflection on the ceiling of the great cathedral that Hann had seen. Hann could see at least four of them sitting around and whispering among themselves. They had not seen him yet so Hann spoke.

"Hello there."

They all looked quickly and one stood.

"Are you a friend? Or are you a man of Orfaciuse?" He asked.

"I am a friend to the Rangers and a fellow adventurer. My name is Hann and I fight against Orfaciuse and his followers. Here is the sign." Hann made the sign that was part of their order and then looked for a way down.

Most of the Rangers believed there to be no way out. The rim dwellers had developed mythology and legend about the open aired lands but to most of them, it was nothing more than a hopeless dream. Hann found a stone stair case cut by erosion and climbed down. He walked into the gathering and gave his hand to the standing gentleman. The man spoke.

"This is Fanor, Tagol, Raneu and my name is Triamar."

"Nice to meet you, I am Hann as I have said."

"What is that relic on your head?" asked Fanor somewhat rudely.

"Its nothing of importance, it's just for fun." Hann replied. Hann knew most of the Rangers to be highly superstitious about almost everything. Hann sat down and they returned to telling stories of the outer lands as they always did, living in a hopeless fantasy.

"Is this part of the Rivanway?" Hann asked.

"Yes this is." Tagol told him.

Hann immediately noticed the heavenly smell of simmering lizard and mushroom coming from a small round caldron on the fire. His stomach gave a groan but he hoped the others didn't notice. He had nothing to contribute so he just planed on not eating at all.

"Have you anything to add to the stew Hann?" Raneu asked as he stirred it. Hann quickly raised his hand and shook his head.

"No, um I am okay, I am not hungry." He lied.

Hann sat and listened to their stories as Tagol being the story teller told them.

"King Enthnar of the Immortals rode a great bird to our world"

"What is a bird again?" Fanor asked.

"Oh a bird is a great and noble creature that flies above us, in the air, and is literally covered with small peaces of cloth I believe to help it sore fast and sure."

"I see."

"Once Enthnar arrived he saw that the earth was covered in clouds. So he fed his bird serpents until it became so large and strong it flew away carrying all the clouds in its talons. So Enthnar called his bird Horizon and as it flew into the darkness of the west it died. And all its feathers became living things. And to this day they drive the dispersed

clouds over the earth and are called dragons of the storm. And they obeyed the voice of Enthnar. And Man called him the God of storms.

Anyway he set up a kingdom and a tower on the earth. And there he made peace with our fathers who had come into the world by the way of the waters."

"...Waters?"

"Yes the water that drips from the rocks in the cave or even the river is nothing compared to the eternal waters of the outer place which are continuously flowing. Our ancestors came out of the ocean riding in eight whales holding the Titan stones for light. Then Enthnar gave the kingdom to our fathers and he and the other Immortals traveled north over the ice, back to the ever living Isles of the northern star."

All sat transfixed on these heavenly thoughts. Hann liked to indulge himself once in awhile upon these fantasies but knew he should be more concerned with actually getting to those places.

"Let me tell you a story now." Hann said. When all were looking at him he began. "I was deep in the caves about a year ago and I had the most amazing vision. I saw blue skies and Green fields. The blue sky is the absence of any roof and above and through it there are many lights and wonders. The green fields on the other hand are made of millions of living things I like to call plants.

They grow upward not from a floor but of what I call ground which is made up of dirt that is like sand or dust we find here only moister. So now I am on my way out of here because I know I was called to it by my vision. I believe the outer-rim is not far but is very close to what we seek." The Rangers stared at him for a moment and then burst into laughter!

"My dear boy" said Tagol

"I have hoped also in my younger years for that very thing but your story of the outer land is even crazier then what we have exaggerated it into. It's surely just a big cave and all that bird stuff is probably just figurative for moving fast or something like that."

Tagol was taken back when he saw that Hann had a very serious look on his face; the shining helmet only added even more commanding majesty to his appearance.

"These follies are delusions of youth," Tagol went on. "There is no way out of here the passage was sealed during the first rebellion."

"If that story is even true!" called out Triamar.

"Now, now you know that is a fact. We were all there. Remember?"

"...vaguely"

"There must be a way, it is not our fate that keeps us here." said Hann. "It is only our fear."

All sat quietly for a bit. Hann realized he had caused quite a stir in their minds. He never quite understood why this didn't work. The harder you tried to convince someone of the truth the more they rejected it. Like children pushing away healthy food or sick people turning down medicine. People always said Hann caused contention but to him it was just sound reason. He had found such plain truth in places everyone else overlooked or ignored. Perhaps it was just because of the level of his honest humility, but that possibility actually hadn't crossed his mind. Hann loved the truth and would search it out to his last breath.

Feeling he was no longer welcome and with no avail Hann said goodbye and left. He commenced Traveling on in the way he was headed before. He climbed back out of

that hole and walked on. Squeezing his way between some more boulders he came to the opposite edge of the Rivenway and the end of the room. It was a tall abrupt wall, with a small opening at the bottom. Hann ducked into it and made his way on through that passage which soon had enough clearance to afford him to stand, for which he was grateful. Time passed and Hann didn't know how long he had been walking. He just knew his legs were aching all over; he just wanted to go a little further. Becoming irresistibly weary Hann knelt down. The ground felt comfortable so he collapsed and fell asleep on the trail.

He opened his eyes and tried to remember what he had dreamt; hoping he might find some comfort in the memory of the night. He remembered with some disappointment he had simply dreamt of walking and seeing countless rocks passing by, and now he had to walk some more. Lately Hann noticed more and more memories were coming back to him. He half jumped as he thought he heard a voice in the dark cracks and in the passage. Then he realized it was his own mind replaying the voice he had heard right before his awakening. "Hann Hann Hann." To whom could that voice really belong? He wondered. It was clearly a woman's voice, and she seemed desperate to save him. Hann pulled himself to his feet and put one foot in front of the other. He realized all of a sudden that he was getting really hungry, as he heard the sad music of his belly, but there was nothing edible in sight and there hadn't been for a long time.

Hann walked forward and the passage he was traveling soon opened up into another large room. He quickly lost his appetite when he saw thousands of corpses hanging from the ceiling. He had seen one or two before but never this many. "And to think I was sleeping not far from here," Hann thought to himself as though the bodies posed some threat. Still their eerie eye sockets and skinny limbs put shivers up his spine. Hann could hear his heart pounding as he reasoned with himself. "They are just bodies," he thought. Yet something menacing hung thick in the air around them as though their very sight could pose a man with some evil. They hung by both hands, a rope for each wrist that went up through holes in the stone. Most were half rotten and some had fallen, Hann tried not to look up as he made his way across the great hall but would jump occasionally as a fallen body would come into view. A rotten hand here and a dead face there. Finally he made it into another passage. He stopped and leaned against a wall trying to calm himself down. Finally his heart went back to normal and he was very grateful he was beyond it. "I hope there is no more of those places," he thought.

Hann walked on. His mind reflected back to the words of Morgan in consolation. "This truth I give you. Not as the evening stars give I unto you. But as the morning sun shines in the east give I unto you. May this light always live in your heart and you shall never fall. Though cave wall and army stand between you and the gates of day, you shall not thirst. This is the truth; though your eyes may grow dim and your body lay in death, you shall see your father in the flesh." Hann reached into his pocket and pulled out his candle. He touched the wick and light burst upon it.

A crossing hallway appeared that went from side to side of Hann's previous direction. The passage he was following ended. Hann yawned looked upward into the tunnel ahead and there he saw a definite carved doorway, and through it lay many things shining and glittering in the dim cave light.

He ran to it and saw again something completely new and strange. This hall's

floor was covered in a sea of metal ornaments, not only for the head but what seemed would fit on every other part of the body. He saw many other metal hats just like his own. He picked up an arm piece and a metal plate for his chest, and started trying them all on. The hide straps were old and broke easily. Finally, frustrated, he threw them all back but he kept his hat. A look of astonishment covered His face as he saw mounds of the same stuff. "I wonder what Dro would say if he could see this." Hann said to himself. He continued to look around. The door frame was made of carved stone and was of much finer workmanship than he had seen for quite some time. An inscription glared down from the stone door post, crudely carved by hand with a rock.

*Kob Pear Run,
Hann Grin Mah.
Avita Abra Ta.*

Zar Dagne a Pethl

*Translation
Fellow Ranger don't advance past here,
This is the home of evil spirits and the dead.
If you enter they will kill you like our comrades.*

-In memory of Dagne and Pethl

Hann stared at it for a moment. He looked up the way over the piles of metal. It seemed to be brighter up that way and the air smelled sweeter too. "This was probably written by an Orfacian anyway," Hann thought. "If it is so evil than why is it so much brighter in there?" Hann shrugged his shoulders put out the candle and went into the corridor. He stepped up onto the piles of armor and started walking over it. The metal clothes made so much more noise than he had ever anticipated. It was hard to walk as well. Every thing he stepped on was varied in sturdiness. Some times he could get solid footing and then the next step his leg would sink into the mess. "Clunk! Cling! Bang!" and all kinds of scraping noises filled the cave. Hann tried to step as soft as possible but he was stumbling through it quit awkwardly. The racket just echoed louder and louder as things fell over, and he repeatedly lost his balance in the piles of metal.

"I suppose if this must be the land of the dead, then I am going to wake them all up." Hann said with a chuckle. "Well that might not be too funny if it really happened," he thought. Hann made his way onward slowly; nevertheless he surely moved forward. Then he glanced into a chest piece, and saw the reflection of someone standing right behind him. Hann jerked around and saw nothing but an empty passage save all the pieces of metal. "It can't have been anyone or I would have heard them." He thought. "Maybe it was simply a strange shadow or something."

He went clanking on till he came to a pile of this stuff like a small mountain. It almost completely filled the whole room. The only space left to crawl in was diagonal. Hann scaled, hugging the metal and sometimes accidentally sliding down to the wall or low ceiling. Every time this happened he would be half buried by junk coming down with him. He would then get up and struggling up and around natural pilasters protruding out of the cave wall. As he made his way sideways he had to watch not to

bump his head on the ceiling or low hanging stone. Hann finally found his way around to the other side where lay a giant slope of armor into the darkness. It was not comfortable to slide on since it was hard and had abrupt edges, so Hann attempted to let himself down nice and slow.

As he descended he began to slide. Hann flung his arms out in an attempt to catch himself but it was no use. He dug his feet into the slope and finally came to a stop. His hand was shaking slightly. Hann glanced downward and still saw no end to the darkness. He knew it was a ways off and not just a pit by the updraft hitting his face. He slowly came to the point where he could see the armor level out and the cave turn with it. He could hear a trickle and the air was becoming cooler. Hann slid along and he finally was able to stand up. He got goose bumps when suddenly he felt cool water on his feet. The armor was laying in some kind of stream. The metal glistened in the moisture and it cast sparkles on the ceiling. He made his way through it only to find another room full of the same kind of metal ornaments. Luckily this room was smaller and Hann hoped there was a foreseeable end to this awkward terrain. He continued to climb up over the piles of dry metal.

Hann looked into helmet and saw a face that was not his own looking straight up at him. Hann's heart took a leap. It was a man who's face was pail and grim. Hann frantically looked around but there was no one in sight. He looked back and in the reflection the face was still there looking up at him. Hann's heart began to pound relentlessly. He looked away, and started wondering if there was an invisible being with him. Hann Got up to run, and tripped. He fell down into the metal suits with a defining crash and lifted his head. A glance in the armor revealed a multitude of shadowy figures. Just ahead he saw a handle sticking up out of the junk. He reached for it for something to sturdy himself with but it quickly came free with a loud scrape revealing a rusted blade. Hann gazed at it for a while; ideas started turning in his head. His eyes quivered from the blade in his hand to the armor and visa versa. "What is a knife like this for?" He wondered. "This must be a sword like in the books of Elosee."

Hann arose with the sword in his hand and staggered forward. He stumbled through the armor using the blade to sturdy himself. The pieces of armor thinned out and he finally felt solid ground. The passages stretched on. There was armor strewn here and there but it became less and less as he walked farther into the cave. Occasional helmets and shields littered the halls. Hann was grateful to feel ordinary sturdy rock under his feet but still a nagging anxiety about what lay behind him remained. He came into a room that had a darker hue. It had no armor anywhere so he sat down on the floor. He still had the sword tightly clenched in his fist. Hann realized yet another obstacle lay between him and his friends.

The caves overflowed with perfect silence and Hann sat there for a long time. "I am so lonely I must be going crazy." Hann said, his light headed voice gave a clue to his weariness. His whispers seemed to fill the caverns with a soft echo of sadness. Looking up Hann saw the entrance to the armor rooms were filled with phantoms looking curiously in at him. For some reason he could see them now, and in that moment his anxieties about them seemed to wash away. They were pale and not all there. The spirits all wore armor shrouded under great cloaks; some had helmets while most did not.

"Hello?" The spirits gave no response in return.

One by one they slowly vanished. Hann was alone again. He wondered if what

just happened really happened or if he was just going crazy. Hann feeling so exhausted fell into the land of dreams. Music and singing filled his ears and he began to wonder whether he was awake or still sleeping. When he opened his eyes all was quiet and the floor lay spread out before him; hard and cool. Hann got up with a start and saw he must have sloughed the helmet off in the night, for it lay not a foot away from his head. Hann groped for it but did not find it. Hann was surprised when he realized his stomach didn't give him jabs of pain or even grumble anymore. Instead it simply lay in shriveled surrender. Hann got up on his elbows and knees; judging from his weakness he knew he needed food more than ever.

Hann looked into the helmet and saw his pale skinny face. Then he slipped it back on and got up. The Sword lay to his side but he couldn't think what he would need it for so he left it there. He again walked onward through the caves. These new caves where darker in color but lighter in actual luminosity. Hann wandered from room to room and down many tight passages wondering when the pain would stop. Hann came into a room with soft black sand. It felt cool on his feet and it reminded him of that sand cave long ago the Magi took them to. This sandy cave winded on like the bowels of a giant worm. Finally Hann came to the end, "no passage on? not another dead end." He cried. He sat down on a sandy mound in disappointment. Then Hann got an idea. He began digging away the sand at the back wall. After some time he had grains of sand between all his fingernails but to his relief a small hole began to appear. He continued burrowing until he was under the wall in a tight space. His breath was all around him but Hann was used to small spaces. He dug and dug until some sand trickled down over his hand. It was from a hole on the other side. He got really exited but it took a lot more time to clear it out enough to squeeze through. Once he got through it opened up to a whole new system of caverns only this time the light was even brighter. Hann got really exited, for he felt closer than ever.

Soon Day passed into night and all the caves grew slightly dimmer. This phenomenon happened in the other caves as well but not with such a great contrast. Hann didn't know what to think of it but he felt good about these new caves anyway. As he found some sand to sleep on, he sat down and looked around him. Something white appeared in the corner of his eye. Hann's heart gave an uneasy jump; he hoped it wasn't another phantom but what he saw was much worse. He looked to see a strange creature standing on all fours on a mound near by. It looked like a dog but this one was large muscular and pale as ice. It didn't resemble Nog's happy little dog at all. This one looked more like a monster.

Hann didn't dare move and hoped it would pass. Then it turned its head and Hann could see its deep red eyes looking straight at him. Their eyes locked and Hann's heart started pounding even harder. It howled and more white monsters began howling in response to the first. Then, one-by-one the others appeared from over the mound. Hann jumped up and started running for the closest passage. His helmet slipped off when he got up and it rolled down the mound. Hann started running. The dogs came barking and growling, after. Hann came to a hall, the dogs were too fast and were about to tear him to shreds. Frantically Hann saw a hole in the wall and stuffed himself in it. He scraped his legs getting into it, but it was better than being eaten. Luckily there were some large stones he pushed up against the entrance. The Dogs were just outside growling and barking fiercely. One forced his nuzzle in through the rocks attempting to bite a piece out of Hann's leg. His teeth were showing like white razors. Hann Picked

up one of the rocks and pounded him over the ridge of the nose. The dog whimpering while another one clawed trying to . Hann threw another stone to not much avail. A few more attempted to stick their heads in as Hann hit them with rocks. After awhile Hann was wondering if he could keep up his defense, when they gave up. All was quiet. Hann stayed snugly tucked away in his little hiding space tried to get some sleep in his uncomfortable position. Several hours later he finally dosed off.

Hann opened his eyes and the caves were a little lighter now. He wondered if the Dogs were just waiting outside. The cavity he was in didn't go anywhere, so he had to slip out sometime. After a while climbed out. Seeing that there were no dogs insight he ran swiftly with light steps down the hall and over the mounds of sand, as to keep from alerting the predators if they happenchance be anywhere around. Hann heard a howl in the distance behind him he ran into a new passage where there was no sand. His heart was racing but he didn't look back. He ran faster than he ever had before until he finally felt safe.

Chapter 2

To meet the Master

A room opened into Hann's view and in it was one of the strangest things he had ever seen. In the center of the room there stood a giant clear octagon. The frame of it was made of brass colored metal; a lot like most of the armor Hann had seen in the other caves. In the frames of the octagon there stood large glass sheets or some other kind of clear material. The entire octagon was quite large like a giant room. "What wonder is this?" Hann thought. He walked closer. Inside the octagon could be seen stairs up to what looked like a chair on a pedestal.

Hann looked around for some way in and saw a clear door with brass doorposts and hinges. He reached for the handle and opened it. He walked in and saw the green tile steps leading up to the black arm chair. "This must be the strangest thing I have seen yet." Hann thought.

There on the wall shone a bronze plaque. Hann walked to it and read it. It read

Saran Tan

Ram du Man

same as below

Translation

The Meta Machine

Created by the nine Titans

Amid Kymoore O.

Habnan Saro

F. Coab

Hawlid Daknab R. Japel

Mirgan Weag
Reu Irad Amanar

Hann saw that three names had been scratched out. He turned around and started up the steps that lead to the top of the pedestal. This place was marvelous. He stared at the vaulted glass until he got to the chair. He then turned around and sat down. This was the softest seat he had ever felt and it appeared that he was now sitting in the very center of this great glass octagon.

Hann remembered hearing the Magi talk about the nine Titans. This must be a special place Hann thought. He closed his eyes. Slowly a strange awareness sparked in the most remote part of his head. It grew and grew like a growing plant painting its way through his brain. It was amazing and weird at the same time. Hann liked it but wondered its source. He began to comprehend the things around him like the chair and his own body. He somehow knew the workings of his body through some sensory perception he had never experienced. The reach of his new sense extended to the pedestal and down the steps. He sensed the stuffing in the chair and the stone under the tile, as he also sensed his own blood, muscle and organs. His perception reached outwards through no effort on his own. It seemed like it should take profound effort but it did not. As it branched out and up and downwards a new level of feeling sprang forth filling his whole body as if with some flowing force. His perception was almost filling the entire octagon. Hann saw blue light and hearing a climax of unearthly sound like a strong wind, his skin began to tingle. His perception finally reached the glass and brass frame around him. And then, SNAP!

Hann felt as if he were flying backwards for a moment, he opened his eyes, but he was still in the glass octagon and everything was calm. "That was strange!" Hann thought. He arose out of the seat and began walking down the steps. Something was still wrong, he felt as light as a feather. Hann also noticed a strange energy around everything in all different colors. He felt powerful and attempting to use it he raised his hand and said "Open!" to the door. It flung open and he walked through in amazement.

Hann comprehended that he was weightless and fast. Hann couldn't contain himself, he smiled at this sudden liberation. He left the octagon and the room behind him and ran faster than any cave creature could follow. In his flight, Hann saw a strange river of purple energy trailing through the air, curiously he followed it. Soon he saw stone steps up to a door made of stone. He ran up to it and commanded it to open to reveal more stairs and another door but the second one was made of metal. He opened this one as well.

This led to a similar room with even another door. The next door was made of smooth wood, but before Hann could marvel at its exquisite nature, it opened with a rod of light that quickly widened into a passage of brightness. Standing there was a man of astounding stature and nobility. He was dressed in white robes and had a long grey beard; his countenance was truly striking. With eyes of stars he said "Come In" which to Hann sounded like a command. Hann stepped into the bright room.

He had never seen so much blindingly bright light in all his life. As Hann's eyes adjusted he saw shelves of books and a table in the center of the room. The ceiling was

painted like the expanse of blue with white clouds swirling around it. "Who are you?" Hann asked. "I am Amid Kymoore the Life Titan." Hann could hardly believe it! He was actually talking to a Titan?

"Have a seat please." The Titan said. And Hann did.

Amid seemed interested in his journeys and Hann was obliged to tell him all about them, but it seemed of little consequence to a Titan.

"Aren't you busy being a Titan and all? And I am but a humble servant."

"No not at all. It is very important to me, and I am here to hear you."

Amid Kymoore poured some tea and motioned for him to begin and Hann seemed at a loss of words for a moment. The silence was broken when the Titan asked "What is it you were and what are you becoming and what would you say you are now?"

"I was a nothing in the deepest reaches of the underworld." Hann answered

"A nothing were you? How did you escape?" Amid was intent to know more and beckoned Hann to go on.

"Some power reached for me and snatched me out of the swirling abyss. I know nothing of my life before that point only that I somehow had to my present state."

Amid cut some bread, "How can you say you were nothing? What does that mean?"

"Now as for the nothing that I was, no thought nor feeling can describe nor summon up its vision, for it is the absence of all these things. It is the utter death of intelligence; the separation of self from reality. Yet I must have existed for I had a body that I knew not of, and my spirit and mind must also have been somewhere. For as the magi teach all things that are eternal can neither be made nor unmade."

"Very astute of you Hann, How did you come to know this?" Amid probed for more intently listening.

"This reality dawned upon me as a pinprick. A single speck of something that told me I exist. It was truly scary, for the responsibility of life hit me with all its weight."

Hann looked to see if Amid was still interested, and as if Amid could read his mind he said,

"Tell me about this dream you had." Hann continued speaking.

"I gradually climbed the ladder of consciousness and came to a point where I had a dream. I saw a forest full of life. There was a light that shown through green canopy and for the first time I felt peace with existence. The forest and light again turned to darkness, as I suppose the Magi with candle in hand passed me again. They wandered the sleeper rooms looking for the slightest flinch of the awakened, that they might save a few. I sank back into my dark place but could never again ignore my existence, nor did I want to. Again I had a dream burst upon me. The light and forest appeared again to my great joy! This time I saw a house under a great tree with nine main branches. The door under two of its massive roots opened and an old lady invited me in."

Amid leaned over and looked more piercing than ever and asked, "Then what happened?"

"She took me in her arms like I was a long lost child and sat me in a chair. Light poured through a window and onto a table in front of me.

"Is this my home (*han*)?" I asked. And she said.

"No, your home (*han*) is inside you.

"Inside me?"

"Or in other words your memory is not lost forever, but only for a time as

probation. As you follow the path of truth you will be guided home by your heart."

"Path of truth?" I inquired again.

"Yes, this place you are in is only one of millions. Worlds go on and on forever, and you may make it to any one of these places you wish, as long as you fight the current the leads you to darkness.

"Current?" I asked.

"Yes, there will be a tendency to leave the right path and go further in to the caves. This is inspired by the liar. It is like a currant that pulls you and you must fight it. It is perpetuated by him and his host as well as wagging tongues of the ignorant. Never let your eyes waver from the goal but always fight this current and your heart will lead you to the light."

"Teach me more about the light," I pleaded.

"I would be delighted," she said.

She went on to tell me many wonderful things, all of which I can not recount for I hold them sacred. Amid was taken back by everything Hann had just told him "Very well then, you can hold your sacred things, what else did she say to you?" he asked in a pompous tone.

About now Hann began to detect Amid's change in mannerism. "She told me I was to restore the true Order of the Aryans." She told me many secrets about space and time. She also explained where I came from, where I was going and why I was on this earth. She also said the sun was the grand conduit to the higher worlds and that fire was sacred. She told me the most wonderful things about the outside world and even showed unto me flowers and trees in here garden. She told me the planets were filled with darkness and had negative forces upon the earth."

Amid in return noticed Hann's perception of him change "Nothing, never mind Hann, she probably didn't tell you very much really"

"This is just a small sample of what she told me, most of which I cannot repeat."

This irritated Amid but he kept it to himself. "What happened next, Hann?"

Hann seeing Amid's withdrawal thought he must have just been paranoid and continued with his story. "After that the vision faded and the light turned to darkness again. This time however I fought to keep the light and was almost in a state of perfect conciseness the whole time. I tried my hardest to go in the direction from which the light had come, when suddenly it came alive gain.

My vision focused and I saw two old men standing over me holding a single candle. The light of the candle was where the sun had been in my vision. They wore orange robes and looked down. I tried to move but could not. A startling fear burst upon me. They could do anything with me I thought. This lack of ability to move of which I speak made a blood fear grow deep in my veins. I felt out of control of the situation and wondered if I would ever be allowed to move again.

One of them spoke. "You are alive and awake. I am Morgan. I am your friend."

Suddenly my fear subsided and I felt at peace with them. I saw through the wilderness of my own energy and the energy emanating from the candle and the men. The other man who had not spoken bent down and picked me up. It was a strange sensation as he carried me. I felt the ups and downs of every footstep, and finally he let me down on soft sand."

Hann looked up to see if Amid was still interested. He was staring intently. He nodded his head and said,

"go on."

Hann tried to think how he could sum it up, so Amid wouldn't get bored.

"It took a long time to gain the strength to move. Finally I was able to scoot around on my belly. In that cave I met a friend He couldn't hear at all. With some help from the Magi he finally could." A look of interest on Amid's face caught Hann's attention.

"Why do you look at me so intently? Isn't this trivial knowledge boring you?" Han asked.

"Not at all Hann, this is indeed fascinating. Tell me more about Dro's hearing."

Hann continued with his story.

"When , he could hear so well, he heard the movements of the planets and the firing of his own nerves. He then told us his name. His name was Dro.

Later when the Magi felt we where ready they began to teach us. They gave us robes, candles and paint brushes and explained their uses, including rules associated with them. They let us rest between each lesson but the bulk of our days where spent being re-taught the things we needed to know. One of these times we were resting and I had another dream. This time I was standing in a great field. Clouds soared in the sky above me and the grass was all around me. When I awoke they taught Dro and I about our bodies and how to protect and take care of them.

Finally after a while, the Magi left for a time. Dro and I where left to our own devices. I was beginning to walk and so using the wall to steady myself I decided to explore a bit. I came to a place with many beautiful cave formations. It was amazing. The stalactites and stalagmites were like nothing else I'd ever seen before. When I returned, I told Dro all about the room I visited. When I was finished He told me about a dream he had with blue skies and green fields.

"Fascinating" Amid interrupted. "It seems like you both had the same vision."

"Yes, we both had the same dream, and that's what I told him. I also told him I felt that we should find that place. At first he believed it was just a dream but after having a lengthy conversation I convinced him to come with me on my exploration to find the outside.

"And what of the Magi? Did they approve such a decision?"

"Yes, ."

"How much of this journey do you remember?" Amid asked."

"I remember every last moment of it, but I can't recount every little detail, or we would be here for a very long time. I can tell you the basic events though." Han answered.

"Very well Hann." Amid motioned with his hand as a gesture to continue.

"Among our travels, we came to a room where people where walking around like zombies and there was an Iron gate blocking our way.

We met a man named Hev who was not as brain dead and who also wanted a way out, so he joined us. We also met a man named Amid. Hev told us an awful story about how further ahead there was soup that would make you become like the rest of the people here. Dro and I wondered if we had taken it before we could remember. After our discussion we decided there must be another way around the gate.

While we were trying to find the way we met a girl who was sent by the Magi, her name was Canada and she showed us the way. After a long journey we found the soup rooms that Hev told us about. Dro nearly lost his mind from hunger. The soup smelled

sweet but because of what Hev told us about the soup we all bore our agony. These caves where much more dangerous and were patrolled by the Master of masters.

The Agents in those parts are the direct disciples of the Overmind himself. We knew little about the Overmind yet, nor did we know much of his minions who stood between us and freedom, but we soon became acquainted with their powers. We met a new magus named Eloise and his apprentice named Nogg. He and Eloise showed us the lava chasm and the guardians who kept it."

Hann thought of the dissension of Dro but decided to just leave that part out.

"We stayed with them for a while until the caves filled up with mist. We went out to find the cause and learned about an evil machine that produced the mist. We destroyed it using the items we got from the Dritsa and then turned our attention to crossing the lava chasm. We finally found a way over it and into the outer lands."

Amid Kymoore's eyes narrowed.

"Didn't Dro rebel against you? And only after he returned with new knowledge did he lead you over the lava?" He asked.

Hann was surprised about Amid's knowledge of them.

"yes that is right." Hann said, and then he continued.

"We were in the outer-rim then, and we made our way through many passages. Further ahead we found the frame of light through which Canada communed with me. As we traveled on I took a small stone flake from the frame which was afterward a seer stone to me, I never told the others about it though.

"What happened to that? Do you still have it?" Kymoore asked.

"No, I left it with Dro and the book." He doesn't know he has it though, I sewed it in the leather binding of the book."

Amid Kymoore's face cracked into a wide smile, and for a moment Hann felt uncomfortable about what he had revealed. Then he wiped that thought away remembering who it was he was talking to. Then Hann went on.

"We also met some rim dwellers who lived in the most ancient passages built by the Anu. We traveled together for a while and wrote our books but eventually I scouted on and left the others behind."

"Where did you leave them?" Kymoore asked pointedly.

"At the yellow tower." Hann said innocently.

"Why did you do it? Leave the others that is." Amid Kymoore asked. Hann stirred in the seat uncomfortably. "Didn't Canada instruct you to never leave the others?"

"Yes." Hann said bowing his head. "It just seemed like they were dragging their feet, it seemed like they didn't care about finding the outer lands anymore."

"They were losing faith. Dro was looking back, and you left them." Kymoore replied. Hann had never received a sharper rebuke. A feeling of regret and longing for his friends tore at His heart.

"Do you recognize this?" the Titan asked. Hann peered into his hand to see one of the magi candle that looked like Dro's. It was cut in half and sprinkled in blood.

"Yes." Hann said.

"I am very sorry I found the bodies of your friends not a day ago. I buried them myself." Hann couldn't believe it. He stood frozen in his position looking into the Titan's hands. Tears developed around eyes and then he cried out. Hann took the bloody candle from Amid's hand and cried onto it.

"My only true friend in the whole world. Oh Dear Dro and Amid why oh why did I ever leave you, I would have died in your places." Hann knelt on the ornate wooden floor, he fell backwards against the wall and in his place. His mind apparently soaking up all the memories Hann and his friends had shared. His world was spinning, how could he go on now?

"Did you find the book?" Hann asked.

"No, It must have been overlooked"

"Who would do this?" Hann sobbed.

"I haven't the slightest." Amid Kymoore said coolly. Hann just knelt there in tense agony for a time.

"Come now you can't stay there forever, would you like to eat something?" The voice of the Titan seemed cold and heartless but Hann was truly so hungry and he knew he could trust what a Titan would feed him. Maybe it was something to make him feel better but how could it ever be better. He thought. Hann stood up, slipping his friends candle in his own pocket, and went to the table where a sweet aroma of cave lizard came off the tastiest thing perhaps he had ever seen. Hann could hardly think of food, but he ate as much as he could.

"Why haven't you helped us till now?"

"I have my reasons. Besides, how can one grow without opposition?" At the moment this didn't seem to be an adequate answer for Hann.

"There is nothing here for you now, there are no friends to go back and show the way to. So leave the caves forever. I will tell you the way. So when Hann finished eating, He left following he directions that the Titan gave him.

Hann journeyed on with his head hanging low. Finally he was here at the very end. All the caves almost behind him, it was a bitter victory. The caves got so much brighter so fast that Hann kept stopping from time to time in order to adjust to the light.

Hann came to a point where the light was so bright he could see it burning through his eye lids like one single spot fixed in the redness. Hann reached out to it and all went dark. He retracted his hand and the light returned. All the light was coming from this one small hole in the cave wall. He felt it with his hand half expecting to be burned like the time he touched the frame long ago. It wasn't hot; it felt just like a key hole. It was a key hole that he could not look at directly but one that he could feel with his fingertips. It was from the keyhole that all the light was emanating. Hann put his ear up to it and could hear the wind of the expanse.

"I am so close and yet so far. I can hear the wind, but it is through a locked gate." Hann fell to the floor and sat there almost totally defeated. His mind molded over the conversation that he and the Life Titan had had.

"Why did Amid Kymoore O. smile about the seer stone if he already knew it had been stolen?" Hann wondered.

"And why did he send me this way if it was just a locked gate?" Hann was so confused he sat pondering for a while.

Hann heard some unearthly sound coming from through the key hole. He jumped and when he regained his calm he began to listen. It must have been the wind he thought. Then it came again even stranger and more melodic than before. It to passed and then abruptly came again.

"Hannn." It said.

So much for his calm, Hann's heart started racing. He thought it said his name.

Hann got up and squinted at the key hole. His eyes had adjusted and he could barely look at it now.

"Hannn." It came again.

"Who are you?"

In a much clearer and more distinct mans voice the voice said.

"I am Dug."

Shivers went strait up Hann's spine. Dug was one of the people Dro confessed to have murdered while in the service of the Overmind.

"Why have you come to me?" Hann asked.

"I have come to set you free." Dug said. "You are a prisoner here in this false world; contrived by the Overmind himself. If your will is more powerful than his then walk through this wall."

Hann summoned up all his desire and will to be free and stepped forward. Hann felt himself miraculously slip through the wall as if the rock was made instantly into air.

An intense light burst upon him, and Hann felt hot sand against his feet. He didn't dare open his eyes since the light coming through his lids was already blinding. He waited for what seemed like the light subsided a little and some more. An even more until he could open his eyes. Hann saw a very bright bleak world. The sky was grey and all Hann could see was an endless expanse of dark sand.

The darkest part of his vision was the towering mountain from which he had just come. He looked up into the sky and saw nothing but grayness. No stars or clouds just solid grey. Hann needed to cross this black desert, So during the night Hann ran and during the day he walked with his eyes closed. Hann was getting thirsty. His thirst became severe to the point that he thought he might die. Eventually Hann could see during the day as well so he ran on. The mountain he had left from had vanished and all he could see was a great black expanse in all directions. The desert was black and carried a gloom that hovered over the great void. It was bleak and desolate, the sand was desolate, and bare with only occasional black rocks scattered about the sandy wasteland.

"Where are the forests and fields, mountains and streams?" asked Hann, Perhaps on another world? He thought as he looked up at the grey sky void of any stars. Hann was determined to escape so he walked on. A grey sheet flowed on into what seemed like forever, like a blank peace of grey paper, no story and no memories. Why did everything go so wrong? It wasn't supposed to happen like this, this wasn't the story we wrote. Dro and I were supposed to run together out to our blue skies and green fields. We were supposed to find our pasts, our homes and live in happiness. We were supposed to have families; wives and children and teach them truth and become Magi.

This storm of thought was constantly before Hann.

Hann began to hear a voice coming at first as though from inside of his head but he couldn't understand it. It slowly grew louder and louder until it seemed to come from the very horizon. Soon it seemed to fill the entire earth as if it where spoken from heaven itself. The voice was unintelligible. It seemed to come like the waves in the ocean beating against the shore. Hann listened closer and soon he began to understand it.

"It is a lie" the voice said. Hann looked rather puzzled.

"Is this all the outside world is; Bizarreness and Nothingness?" Hann shouted up to the bleak sky.

"It is a lie" it said again "The world you are in is a lie!" Hann became even more confused than ever.

"How do I escape then?" Hann half said to himself sounding discouraged.

"Look and see." Hann looked up to the horizon where the voice seemed to be. He saw right before him a house made of glass he had not seen a moment before. And the strongest gust of wind he had ever felt swept past, blowing sand across his face. Hann recoiled and tried to cover his eyes to keep the sand out of them. There was a quiet tension in the air, Hann began to feel uneasy but regardless he must find out what it was all about. He walked up to it and grabbing the handle on the door he walked right in. The floor was smooth as marble and light came in all of the tall windows, but oddly enough, he couldn't predict what was inside even though it was glass, nor could he see back outside again. This was truly strange indeed. There, just ahead of Hann sitting on a bench in front of a strange musical instrument was no other than the Titan he had previously met and talked to but this time his robes were black, and his mantle dark. Hann and Amid's eyes locked and the Titan said.

"Is it not rude to walk into someone's house uninvited?" Hann paused. "Well?"

"Yes sir but how do I get out of this present reality which is nothing but a dessert?" Hann asked sincerely.

"You don't like my creation? You know of course, there is no way out." He said with a slight grin as to mock everything Hann knew he had seen and known. Hann stood there for a moment looking at Amid.

"You're lying; I know there are blue skies and green fields, forests and seas. I fought my way out of your mountain, if I can get out of there I can get out of here. I will ascend forever until my course is spent and I am taken home to the truth and to glory."

"No don't be stupid. We are both logical men, I am afraid there is no such thing."

"You're not the life Titan." Hann replied. Fire filled the old man's eyes. Hann had struck the wrong nerve indeed!

"Out!" He yelled but Hann stood his ground.

"You killed my brother! Hann shouted, his anger was finally overflowing; if you want me out you'll have to kill me also Amid Kymoore Orfaciuse!" The true name seemed to come to Hann's lips quite naturally. From his robes the old man pulled out a gleaming sword. It resembled the rusty sword Hann had found in the caves previously, but in better condition.

Orfacious pointed the blade directly at Hann's chest and slowly advanced. "Hann, remember this name well. You will remember in the afterlife that it is I, Amid Kymoore Orfacious executed you with your own sword. 'The oak blossom' Hann was not afraid to die for some strange reason. Perhaps it was because Dro was dead and the earth was not worth savoring. As the blade entered his breast Hann said to himself "This isn't real, it's a lie!" A flash of blue light filled the entire scene and Hann felt weightless floating through rivers of energy He could hear his own heart beat pounding in his ears. Hann was at peace with his last memories; being run through in defense of his honor gave him peace, Hann expected to return to his origins when suddenly a soft seat under him that seemed to have been there the whole time was noticed. Hann finally opened his eyes to the dark cave and the strange glass octagon. He had just been sitting there the whole time. Instantly upon arrival back to the real world he felt as weak as ever before. His hunger almost unbearable and he couldn't stop shaking. A fear gripped his heart as he had a hard time even moving his arms.

"That must all have been in my mind." Hann thought.

Chapter 3

The real world

When Hann first came to his senses his first reaction was to check his pocket for Dro's candle. It was gone. Perhaps the things Hann saw in the glass octagon never happened in the first place Hann thought. All he felt in the depths of the material was his own candle and brush. Frustration glassed over.

"That was all for nothing?" Then a hopeful Idea rose in his mind, maybe Dro is still alive! And I know the outside is not how Orfaciuse portrayed! I trust that Dug knew what I was going through. Now Hann was happy regardless of his bad situation.

Hann struggled just to rise from the seat. Propping himself up on his head, and elbows then staggering down the smooth stone steps with his bare feet, everything seemed clearer and more colorful even though he was in the shadow of the caves. He opened the door and rested there in the threshold for a time.

-Orfaciuse-

At that same moment that Hann came out of his trance, somewhere far away in a remote part of the mountain near the peak, the wrinkled eye of an old man opened and his pupils dilated in the darkness of his room He sloughed his covers to the side and stepped out of bed and placed his bare feet on the floor. The sudden sound of a popping ankle portrayed his old body as a rickety mass of bones. The old man arose from his bed and went to the window. The silvery moon the valleys and hills covered in aspen trees with pale moonlight. The trees and fields could be seen stretching off for miles below into the distance.

His room looked as though it were perched at the very top of the earth. Orfaciuse was parched from thirst, probably from his heavy breathing in his sleep. He picked up a pitcher and poured water into a small cup. When the cup was half full, he raised it up to his dry lips and took only a sip. Then he threw the cup down to the ground. It burst on the floor with a shatter.

"I can't believe that dirty little nothing slipped through my fingers! He was like sand in my fists on a windy day Or like walking a distance with water in hand" He stopped storming about the room and paused for a moment. A sadistic smile spread across his face making his wrinkles ever deeper.

"But wait! His mind couldn't help but wonder back to his friends who are awaiting his return." Amid's deep eyes stared into space.

"Where though? Where..." he stopped mid breath

“The Yellow tower.”

-Hann-

Hann staggered out of the cave with the giant octagon. He held the wall to steady himself. Hann’s realization of his weakness was awkward, for only a short while ago he seemed to be full of energy, and his arms were strong. He looked at his hand. Hann was disgusted. His whole body was withered and skinny. Hann needed to rest much more often these days as he traveled. Soon he came to a shaft. It was cold and wet. Seeing no where else to go Hann had no other choice but to climb. Slowly he inched his way up the cliff face; his back wedged against the opposite wall, he scraped and bumped his head as he went.

At the very top of the shaft Hann slipped into a crack and rested on the cool wet stone. All was dark and soon Hann was taken away in a dream. There in the blackness Hann saw a light. It was Dro looking here and there with his candle clenched in his forefinger. There was fear in his eyes and he seemed to have been running and searching for a long time. Dro panted for breath in the cold night air. Hann watched as Dro climbed across a skinny chasm.

The light revealed a trickle of sweat coming down face. Then silently, out from a vertical crack in the cave wall came the face of Orfaciuse.

“DRO Look out!” Hann shouted. Dro turned to face his enemy, and with a flash of light the Over Mind’s blade slashed through Dro’s candle narrowly missing his throat. The top end of the candle bounced down the thin chasm, and with the light of the candle went the scene.

Dro’s footsteps tore down the opposite passage, and Orfaciuse pursuing, stumbled on Dro’s candle holder falling on his face.

Hann heard Orfaciuse’s raspy mutter chastening himself. “I prophesied that Dro’s candle would be cut, but his death was my lie.” Hann awoke and stared at the ceiling, thinking about what he had just seen.

After Hann collected himself, he moved on. A few minutes of traveling he came out on the other side of the stone separation he had squeezed through and traveled on. Hann’s feet were tender and sore as he stepped on jagged rocks. Soon the caves became brighter. The light was so intense Hann couldn’t stand it! He had to stop and let his vision adjust. Every few minutes Hann would have a series of sneeze attacks. One such stop Hann was overcome with exhaustion, and laid his head on a rock and drifted off once again into his dreams.

When he had fallen asleep, a voice startled him though he didn’t wake from his dream. Rather Hann looked around to get a sense of where he was and saw he was looking up at clouds, and around him was what seemed to be the very top of the mountain. As Hann sat up he saw a giant circle engraved on a great granite stone floor. The engraving included many strange symbols etched in an array within the circle, and an altar stood in the middle of the engraving. There kneeling in the center of the circle was the Master of masters. The Over Mind stood over him at the altar.

Hann looked to his side and saw a throne carved in the stone, inlaid with gold, he also noticed eight wells in a circle, and wondered if water could be drawn from them. The Master spoke, “I found his friends Nog and Hev.”

“Well?”

“I throw them back behind the lava chasm.”

“Good, I will now give you all things you have desired of me.” Orfaciuse went and grabbed a seemingly lifeless body from the side of the circle that Hann had not yet noticed until that moment and dropped the body in the circle in front of the master. Hann noticed that at the side of the circle lay a large object under a black cloth. It was tall and its covering flapped in the wind. It seemed like it was a statue, but it was something not yet revealed so Hann made no assumptions as to what was under it.

Orfaciuse began to speak. “Here after, you shall be a God of wrath, and a prince of the Ogweam. This rite is designed to give you power that you may be held in reserve to fight in that great and last rebellion of our God, who is the Prince of this world.”

Orfaciuse motioned with his hand and a group of helpers came up the path in an assortment of robes and masks for a reenactment. One of them holding a scroll began to read the script.

“So Cain brought his vegetables and grains in abundance and Abel his brother brought one lamb. A fire came and consumed Abel’s lamb but not Cain’s plants, then Abel laughed.”

A helper pretending to be Able mocked another who was dressed like Cain.

“You have sacrificed to a God who doesn’t accept you.”

The reader read again.

“So Cain went into the woods to weep, and there he met Satan,

Another helper dressed like Satan spoke.

“Cain be not fooled by your father’s false Gods. God is as big as the universe yet small enough to dwell in a man’s heart, he is truth not trickery. I am the son of God so worship me.”

“Who is he?”

“He is the one who has taught me all things and has made me the Master of this world. If you worship me I will not deceive you the way your father was, telling you about some phantom in the west of space that no one can see. For behold is Adam not your father? If you serve me I will give you powers and make you my son. And I will make you rich, and you shall have power over men to do as you will unto them

“Good, now go and purchase some wool from your brother, that you may make an apron, and cover your nakedness. Then I will give you the secret priesthoods and powers.” Hann saw that Cain did, and he returned the next day.

“Good, you have done well; now swear to me by the throne of heaven, that has no top, and by your head that you will never tell the secrets that I will teach you. Now swear it!” Repeating after the actor the initiate did swear as Hann watched him, and learned all the magic spells and passwords of Satan.

“Now you are the holder of the first secret.”

The first Helper read aloud again to narrate.

“The next day Cain was plowing his field and the flock of Abel passed that part which Cain had ploughed in the ground, and it sorely grieved him. And he went to Abel to confront him. What is it between me and thee that thou sendest thy flock unto my crops to feed and thou givest me nothing?” And Abel answered saying,

“What is it that thou hast between thee and me that thou shouldst eat the flesh of my lambs, and wear their wool to cover your skin? If this greaves you, then put off the wool of my sheep with which thou hast clothed thyself.”

“Then Cain was angry and hastened and rose up, and took the iron part of his

plow share and smote Abel, and Abel died.”

Hann looked at the initiate who smirked grimly, Hann’s heart was pounding. A helper bearing a sword came to the Master’s side. The Master took the blade from off the pillow being held by the servant.

“This blade has been made from a plowshare as it was in the beginning” Orfaciuse said. He went on “this is a nothing. We need yet hate them. We need yet fear them; they are one yet many the Bulbaaldain.” Orfaciuse pulled a rock from his robe pocket and placed it in the circle. “Through blood take power in your kingdom and let the Ogweam guide the fearful as he guides you.

All will hate you and you shall be a stranger and wanderer in the earth. Soul and body shall be inseparably connected with the stone that I placed before you, one through all generations lest your blood also be spilt, by the severing off of your head, and the casting of your Titan stone into the salty depths of the sea. Otherwise immortal, even if your body is destroyed you shall live on in your stone, ever to corrupt the children of men.

When Hann saw this, he realized that he was seeing a perversion of what the Magi had taught him, and began to fear greatly. The rite continued.

“Master of masters, make the sign. And he made the sign. Now do you Swear by your hand and head that you will fight the sons of Seth as you are now a son of Cain, and will ever strive to dethrone Adam, as he has rejected us, and swear to ever fight for the Kingdom of Satan until at last the evil one is crowned in heaven?” The initiate said
“Yes.”

“Then Take this sacrifice, and slay him according to the power you have received!”

Then the Master of masters muttered something the likes of which carried a gloomy and foul chill that was unintelligible, and quickly sacrificed the boy, blood filled the cracks in the stone floor. Hann buried his face in his hands but nothing could stop the reality of the vision. Then, the Master of masters let out a bloody scream! Hann looked up only to see the master clawing at his own face blood dripping through his fingers.

Finally the Master of masters fell to the ground as though he were dead. Orfaciuse walked to him and lifted him in his arms and placed him in a coffin in front of the altar. The Over Mind then scooped up some of the boy’s blood in the cracks with a chalice, and poured it into the master’s mouth. Then he touched the masters face and wiped the blood on his finger on the downward horns of the alter, the rest of the boy’s blood poured down little gutters and off the side of the mountain.

Orfaciuse also picked up the small round rock which somehow now emanated a pale light and placed it in the hand of the scarred man at the altar.

“Fear hath born you! Sorry I forgot to tell you the effects of giving you what you wanted but I hate you faceless, nameless and pastless.” Suddenly the Masters eye’s opened and a sinister smile spread across his face squeezing blood from his new desecrated face.

His eyes looked up from under his long greasy hair. Hann looked up also to see what he was looking at, there freshly appearing out of the clouds was the single light of Mars shining in the night sky. “I am the Master of the first great secret!” he laughed aloud.

Then Orfaciuse began to talk again.

“Behold now the Father of the abyss will be revealed to you,” he gestured toward

the object under the black cloth, and as the helpers prepared to reveal the object, Hann felt just a little uneasy about what he was about to see.

The black cloth fell and Hann saw a grotesque bird idol made of stone. The fowl had its head backwards to its body and bright Onyx stones were fastened in its eye sockets.

“This is the God of the primeval darkness, the sucker of light. Thus we see the true meaning of life. There is no good or evil, just power and the cunning to gain it. Right and wrong was an illusion of the Angels to keep us in bondage. Now swear by crossing your heart that you will never divulge the murders of your brethren in the order.”

After nameless did this the helpers came and clothed him in robes with a square hat and gave him a red sash.

“The Hat is a symbol of the square earth as it was in the world of the mind. It is called the hat of the four winds. The cut string coming from its center is a symbol of its umbilical cord, and the string of energy attaching your spirit to your body which is now severed for you. They all began chanting an incantation.

Hann began to shout at them to see if they could hear him, but they could not. He had had about enough of this horrible scene of evil. Then he heard a voice.

“The slain live on in the spirit but those who save their life will be separated from glory and live in corruption.” Hann could hear faceless starting to groan,

“Am I my brother’s keeper? I don’t know where my brother is.” Faceless yelled.

“Then why is your brother’s blood crying up from the ground against you?”

“I have died and the boy lives on? I hate him, I HATE HIM!” it yelled breathing irregularly.

“Your former stewardship is turned backwards like it was for Cain of old.”

The helper representing the devil suddenly yelled looking around in confusion, looking for the source of the voice.

“You are wrong for I shall surely win and sit in the congregation of the north and be elevated above the stars. Then all your supporters will be cast out and my sons the severed branches shall be saved!” Then a helper came to the altar with a book, the initiate put his hand on the book and with the other switched the severed string from one side of his hat to the other.

One of the agents suddenly ran over and grabbing the stone started to run away with it.

“Give it to me.” Nameless yelled. Hann watched as the helper was about to give it to him and then changed his mind. The helper started running faster. He flew with all speed back into the caverns attempting to escape with the stone. Nameless soon ran after him. Hann’s vision followed them as he chased him through the caves. Finally Nameless caught him by the back of his shirt and pulled him to the ground.

They struggled for a moment as nameless grabbed his throat. Several violent jerks and the helper was dead. Faceless removed the mask to see what he had done. Nameless stared into the lifeless face. Faceless and nameless started to sob. “My brother,” he cried.

He pulled the stone from his brother’s stiff hands, then he realized he loved the stone more. Hann could see the delight and lust in his eyes. Then suddenly that look turned to something that looked kind of like the blank look on a nothing’s face. “I am Pastless.”

Hann opened his eyes with a feeling of disgust at the pit of his stomach. He couldn't seem to wipe the dream from his mind as he walked on though the narrowing passage. This place opened up into a much bigger and more rugged place. The caves became so bright so fast that Hann felt on with his eyes tightly shut and the brighter it got the more excited Hann became.

He couldn't be far now! Hann crawled on and on as fast as he could, scraping his hands and knees on the stone. The vision was now far from Hann's mind as he traveled through this passage of light. Hann stopped and let his eyes slowly dilate beyond what He had ever asked of them. This took about a day or so to make out the shadows hiding in the shining whiteness.

This hurt badly but Hann's excitement was beyond the concern of pain. The shadows soon grew darker until Hann could see the cave around him save one hole in the wall wear a blinding pale blue light shone through. Hann climbed over the shadows and rocks to the opening and looked through. Some unseen force rustled the skinny boy's hair and Hann felt it on his cheek. It was so bright that at first Hann couldn't quite tell what he was looking at.

Then it unfolded like a progressing symphony. Hann saw not a cave but a stretched out horizon, a slope disappearing into forests reflecting blue light from the bright sky. The part of the sky Hann could see was filled with lights stretching out into forever. Hann's eyes drank in the beauty and could not even blink. Hann's mouth hang open and the wind wrapped its arms around him.

The very sound of the expanse testified to the reality of the moment. Hann slowly made his way out of the opening into the open air. Hann immediately felt powerful as he stood in the midst of the real world and he felt his robe flowing in the open air around him.

These must be the stars and the really bright spot must be the moon Hann thought. I better get as far as I can before the sun gets here. So Hann started making his way down the slope.

Chapter 4

From Pufurvenhurbum to Kymoore

Hann came down the mountain and approached one of the magnificent trees he had heard so much about. He could hear the rustling of thousands of the little leaves, and felt the rough skin of the tree and gazed up at the towering branches. It looked so majestic and alive. Hann took a seat underneath it and closed his eyes covering them with his hands as day seemed to be approaching.

Hann could hear many high chirping sounds made by something but he just wasn't sure what. A soft breeze made a melody through the woods and Hann admired the singularity of just where he was. The place he had always dreamed of, the outside.

Hann again felt the breeze blow against him. He thought back to the teachings of the Magi and rituals of the dritsa. Hann could still almost hear Morgan's voice.

"The force of the air, or the wind, is from the four parts of the spherical earth. And they have names and homelands."

Hann thought upon the concept of homelands. Ironically enough his home's name was the same as the Overmind's middle name. The Magi had told him he was from the land of Kymoore.

Hann took his hands off his eyes and arose. His sight filled with bright red light from his lids, his hands stretched out before him, and started stepping in the direction the wind seemed to be pushing him. Hann could see the light and shadow flickering as he walked through the woods. Hann stepped carefully as the ground was uneven in places. He felt the grass tickling his legs. Hann smiled, he had never even touched a plant before, but now he was in a world of them.

Hann broke a branch with his leg protruding from somewhere. He felt ahead and his hands came upon a dry prostrate tree. As Hann touched the log a question arose in his mind. "Do trees die?" He wondered.

Hann walked all day with his eyes shut and only stumbled a few times, as he walked the land slowly dropped in elevation. The night finally came and when it was dark enough Hann opened his eyes.

The world came flooding into his view and he saw trees and bushes. He was standing on the edge of a grassy field. Hann ran through it and lay in it, it was one of the most fun things he had ever done.

"I wish Dro could see this!" Hann looked back at the mountain; it looked like a tall black pinnacle sticking out of the trees. "I don't believe Dro is dead I know he is not." Hann said back at the tower as if to Orfaciuse himself.

"I cant believe I left him in that awful mountain." Hann thought. "Even so it is better to go on now." Hann looked away from the towering volcano and ran through the woods in the way he had been traveling. Hann was getting hungry, he looked around and there under a tree he saw a big orange mushroom. He reached for it then Hann's hand retracted. A bad feeling stopped him, he had never seen an orange mushroom so he thought better of it.

Hann was so hungry he felt like he might die. He staggered on looking for anything that might be edible. He climbed around several large rocks half in the ground. There under the tall strait trees with needles instead of leaves were several wholesome looking mushrooms.

He raced toward them. They were brownish on top and white everywhere else. As Hann feasted on them the horizon grew brighter and the moon peaked over the distant mountains. Hann could look directly at it now. It was marvelous and bright, he examined the mountains and spots on its surface. He wondered if anyone lived there.

Hann walked on through a part of the woods made of pine. He was growing very thirsty. Tonight there were many more strange noises, but Hann had no idea what they were nor did they concern him much. Hann saw a lot on the ground, sticks, stones, and logs here and there. the shadows of the moon stretched through the woods. Hann found a soft place under a pin, but Hann found it much to prickly. So he went to a much brighter place under an aspen.

Hann fell asleep but was awoken by the increasing light. He sat up, the moon was gone but the whole sky was becoming bluer. He was determined to keep his eyes open as long as humanly possible so He traveled on in the early morning. Hann came to

the top of a hill and looked out over the vast valley that was the biggest thing he had ever seen.

Below him in the near meadow Hann saw a herd of strange animals. He hid behind the rock he had been standing on his heart beating fast. "Are those things dangerous?" Hann wondered.

Hann came out from his hiding spot and walked closer as they all ran away. "They are scared of me" Hann realized. Things were getting much brighter and more colorful. The fields were becoming golden and the trees more green, the sky was also becoming bright and Hann supposed the sun was about to rise.

Hann walked on trying to keep his eyes open. The forest opened up into a giant meadow that rolled on and on, a light of wonder filled his eyes as he saw his blue skies and green fields and they were bigger and more beautiful than he had ever imagined! He looked back at Pufurvenhurbum; it still loomed over the land and dwarfed the surrounding mountains.

Hann turned around and walked through the field. Then a line of brightness appeared on the hills moving its way across the field toward him, and to his astonishment he could look at it without all that much difficulty. Then it came over him and he squinted to see and occasionally sneezed but he was loving it. Hann slowly adapted and walked for several hours.

He hadn't seen any water since he left the cave and was becoming increasingly faint. Hann walked and came to a place where the grass stopped and the ground became strangely dark. He took a step into it and his foot sunk and slid a little in the soft wet ground. It was mud. Hann looked up, there was a plain of mud that went on for miles and miles. Hann had never seen so far and wondered what caused this phenomenon.

Hann walked through the muddy dried lake bed for several miles, sometimes seeing the skeletons of fish. The mud came up and stuck in-between his toes. The ground was so sticky at places it was hard to walk. Other places the ground had dried enough to walk on top. Hann came to a place where a large pond still lay. He scooped up some in his hand and drank. Pure sweet water went down his throat. Hann looked up across the calm water, then drank again.

Hann just lay there for a time, drank again and then arose.

He saw something wiggling around in the water, Hann slowly reached, then snatched it out of the water. It was a salamander. This water lizard was green and had eyes unlike the blind white ones in the caves. Hann killed it and put it in his pocket for later.

This Pond was quite enormous and went on for miles. Hann began his journey around it. He came to a jungle of tall reeds but Hann just made his way through it.

Finally the elevation rose, the reeds stopped and Hann felt normal dry dirt.

Hann's feet and ankles were covered in dry mud as he arrived at a natural stream bed with a little trickle. He ran to it excitedly, he had never seen a stream save subterranean ones. Hann washed his feet off and continued on. Things were still bright but Hann was now almost totally accustomed to the light of day.

The sun started getting in Hann's eyes as it came down on the other side of the sky as it was with its course. So Hann shielded his eyes with his arm and focused on the ground as he walked.

He watched as numerous rocks and shrubs past before his gaze. He occasionally would spot a bug he had never seen before but his determination to get to where ever he

was going drove him on.

The light seemed to become progressively angled until the very rocks seemed to be facing the horizon as though they were watching a new day leave. The light subsided and Hann looked up only to see the most amazing thing. The whole sky looked as though it were on fire with the red glare of the setting sun. Soon the sky turned dark blue and the stars began to appear.

So far the stars were Hann's favorite thing about the outside. He probably liked them because they raised the most questions and if you knew Hann you would understand this was inherently harmonious with his very soul. Questions filled his mind, how vast is the upper world? He wondered. "Surely it goes on forever," he told himself.

Then Hann remembered something told him in a dream long ago. "Worlds go on forever."

Hann walked until he could see millions of stars. Surprisingly he had got so used to daylight that the night became allusive. Hann pulled his candle out and touched the wick but nothing happened. Hann looked puzzled beyond belief. He tried to light it again but nothing happened.

Frustrated he tried again, still nothing. Then he saw it, the faintest clear energy around the string. "I guess the energy is not bright enough to see out here." Hann thought

Hann put the candle safely back in his pocket and went on in the darkness. He found a boulder with a low overhang and dozed off to sleep under it. Hann awoke suddenly to the cry of some far off animal. The moon was high in the sky and Hann feeling hungry, ate the salamander and went back to sleep. In the night Hann dreamed of the caves and being with Dro and the others.

When he awoke he was brought back to the exciting reality of the outside. Still something lingered back in the caves, probably the association of his friends. Hann rolled over to see a beautiful little purple flower. He stared at it for a time then arose. "Well the reality is that this is loads more interesting then Orfaciuse's version of the outside," he thought. Hann wanted to get as far as he could today and explore as much as possible. He also wanted to find Kymoore and learn what he could about the real world dwellers, also about his past if possible.

Hann started running, the sun had already risen and he wanted to make good time to see all the world had to offer. A warm breeze came across Hann's face and some hills lay before him in the distance. They didn't seem to be all that far away but the more Hann ran the hills didn't seem to be getting any closer.

Hann was starving for food again, "I have never needed food this often before." He thought. Hann came across the path of the stream again, so he sat down and looked to see if anything were alive in it, just then he looked up on the opposite hill to see a little furry animal. Hann reached to his side and picked up a small rock.

He slowly arose and watched it for a moment, their eyes met and stayed locked. Hann suddenly hurtled the stone as fast as he could toward the little critter. It landed next to it and kicking up a cloud of dust. The creature went scurrying over the hill. Hann chased it only to get to the top of the hill and see nothing. "That little thing was much faster than any cave animal." Hann realized.

He walked back to the stream and looked in it for awhile, then started walking along the stream. Hann smiled at the sound of the trickling water. He could look at

the day light sky now and wondered what the clouds were made of. They must be really big Hann thought. He looked down from the sky and saw that the hills had gotten a lot closer.

Excitedly he ran and ran until he had to sit on a rock to catch his breath and rub his chest. The sun was on its way back down the other side of the sky now and the shadows were again appearing. Hann was now at the very foot of the hills, he looked back at the dark mountain, it was much smaller yet it still was so big it seemed to watch over the whole land.

As Hann climbed the hill the trees began to become taller and taller again. The sun disappeared as Hann was in the shadow of the hills, sometimes it was so steep He used his hands to climb. He came over the summit in time to see the last purple of the sunset. He was now in a dense forest, so Hann found a comfortable place and fell asleep.

He woke up in the night again to what sounded like the howling of a dog, Hann looked up to see the moon but there was something different, the moon had gotten smaller. Hann was confused, was part of it gone? Hann stared at it for a time, then fell asleep again.

Hann dreamt that he looked toward Pufurvenhurbum and his vision zoomed up upon it. It became strangely clear so Hann could see all the people in that mountain, some gathered in congregations and others wandering alone. All the people save a few were slowly moving in word and in the center they moved no more but became silent, still and dead.

Hann awoke, the sky was light but the sun was not quite raised. He got up stretched and started walking. He came to a very old and wise looking tree. Its roots were knurled all over the ground like huge veins and the trunk was wide and strong with branches covering the area with a green canopy. Hann found a vine going up the side so he decided he would try and climb it.

Hann had never climbed one but he felt the tree wouldn't mind so he started. I wish Dro could be here Hann thought. Hann could feel the energy of the tree as he climbed it. It was more difficult than Hann thought it would be but finally he inched his way to where he could grab and climb up the tall branches.

When Hann came to the furthest he could go he looked around and could only see forest in all directions save the dark mountain sticking out of the foliage. He climbed back down finding the last part the most difficult, He then walked away from the tree and the rising sun. Hann stepped out into a long clearing and saw that the plants didn't grow there in two long lines.

Hann was tempted to follow it but did not. He continued over it and back into the woods on the other side. Hann walked into the late evening and then finding a little stream he went to sleep. Hann dreamt about walking through endless caves looking for something but he couldn't remember what. Then he opened his eyes to a soft green glow as the sun shone through the leaves of the forest.

Birds were chirping and the sound of the stream filled the woods. Hann almost didn't remember where he was for a moment, then he remembered. This is amazing He thought, "the forest so green the leaves so clean, such a place I have never before seen."

Hann walked a ways and then he saw a place that looked strangely familiar. He walked further and there it was a house built under the magnificent roots of a giant tree. A stone path led up to the wooden door and vines almost totally covered the front

window. It all looked strangely overgrown but this was the place from Hann's dream that inspired him to go on this life altering quest.

It was where he met the old lady that told him so much. Hann couldn't wait to meet her again! He ran forward and reached for the brass door knob.

Chapter 5

A stranger and foreigner

Han gripped the handle and pulled the door open with a rusty creaking sound. The little wooden cottage was filled with cobwebs and light shone dimly through the tainted windows that were wavy with age. Han walked in with wide eyes, it didn't look like this last time he was here! His very foot steps left prints in the dust. There was the little bed in the corner and the table with two chairs. An onion plant had grown out of one of the shelves and the broom lay in the corner that had become the home of several spiders.

Han sat down on one of the chairs to soak up the reality of the situation. Was she really gone he wondered. "I came all this way to see her. Surely I am a stranger on the earth with no home (han) nor whether to go." Han placed a hand on his heart and cried out. "I will probably never see her again!" He thought. The sun light moved across the floor as He sat there.

Suddenly he heard a bell; Han looked up to see a clock on the shelf over the fire place. Carved with flowers, an all seeing eye and a man holding a candle. On the base read an inscription, it said "*Time is never stopping! Each second is a second closer to death! Each second is a second closer to meeting our God!*" He stared at it for a moment, and realizing she must have gone across the river of death he cried like a child.

Han arose after a while to clean the house. He lovingly caught each spider and let them out in the yard. He took the broom and swept the dust out the door, and cleared away the cob weds. Hann pulled the Onion plant out of the shelf and put it in a pot for latter. He found a tight wooden basin for washing and went to the stream to fill it up.

As Han approached the water he saw a deer drinking. He didn't want to scar this one so he just watched it. "What an amazing creature!" He thought. The animal finally looked up and than softly trotted away. Han proceeded to get water and walk back to the house.

He took the bedding off the bed and began washing it. He found some soap on one of the shelves, the only reason he knew what it was because Ellose had some. He

finally took it out of the water and rung it out best he could. Then he took it outside to dry. There was a rope tied between two trees for the purpose of hanging cloths, so he put the blanket and sheet up.

Han went back inside to look for some food. He found a knife and cut a piece of the onion off, and began to eat it. It didn't taste quite like Han expected! It was kind of hot and spicy, but Han ate it anyway. It made his belly grumble so he looked for some more food to offset it. He found some old bread but it was hard as a rock. So He went outside and gathered some greens from around the forest. The garden was overgrown with milk weed, but Han found some stuff around he thought might be good. He also found an apple tree in the back yard. Han had never even seen an apple but they looked good to him. He went back in and ate what he had found.

The sun was going down through the trees and evening was fast coming. Han saw a few books on the mantel piece. He touched them with his finger as he read the titles. "History of Kymoore" Han got really excited at the name of this one. It was the land he was from, was he in the land already? He wondered. "The Book of the Magi" Han also looked at this one in interest. "Book of Enthnar" Enthnar was the name of the immortal king he heard tales about. He fanned the pages of each book but the light was soon fading.

Han walked out and felt the bedding but it was still damp. So he went back in. Han lay on the bed thinking about the old lady and where his adventures had taken him, then he remembered her words.

"You may make it to anyone of these places you wish, as long as you fight the current that leads you to darkness." He had truly wished to make it here and he had. He had fought the darkness with all his heart and he was now here under the tree of nine branches. What other places do I wish to go? Han wondered. With that thought he drifted off to sleep.

Han walked out into the bright morning sun. He took the bedding off the line and put it in its place. He then ate an apple for breakfast. The birds were chirping and singing sweetly and the light shone through bright green leaves. This was heaven save the lack of association. Han looked west again and his feet itched for exploration.

Han looked back at the house he had loved and then decided he must leave and find his past and future. I can come back if I need to he thought.

He apparently figured he better keep walking west because that is what he did. It wasn't a mile before He ran into what looked like a small octagonal Meta machine covered in vines made of glass like the one in the mountain. Han was weary of it at first, but then tried to open the door only to find it was locked. He wiped one of the windows with his hand and peered inside, surely enough there was an armchair on a pedestal.

Han kept on his journey until he came to an open field where there were hundreds of tall plants all in organized rows. On the other side he came to a walking path and decided to take it. There ahead was a woman walking in the opposite direction with a donkey at her side. She was wearing a blue dress and had her head and face covered. She stopped suddenly as she noticed him, a look of surprise in her eyes. Han was already nervous as this was the first person he had seen out in the real world.

The woman suddenly said "Han?" Han took a slight step back.

"You know me? Who are you?"

"Don't you recognize my voice?" She asked. Han suddenly did, it was the voice of Canada.

"Canada" Han said in amazement. Excitement filled Han's heart then his smile dimmed a little as a feeling of guilt swept over him for not obeying one of her orders. "Canada, Canada please forgive me." Han said as he fell to the earth in a bow. Han felt a soft hand lift him from the dust.

"All is forgiven." She smiled, Han looked up into the very eyes of mercy.

"Where is the old lady in the house under the tree?" Han asked.

"She has passed the way and joined the world of spirits. I am so sorry you didn't make it in time." Then feeling faint Han became dizzy and the ground suddenly hit him. Some hours past, the voice of Canada rang out sounding somehow distant

"Han are you alright?" All was black. Han's memory flashed, he heard the voice of Canada in the caves saying "Han remember no matter what, never leave the group or something really bad will happen. Han don't leave Dro alone he needs you." These memories filled Han's sleep. Blurry light began to appear as he opened his eyes, then they focused to see the face of Canada smiling down at him in the candle light.

This was the first time He had seen her face since the caves. Her hair looked blue in the caves but now Han noticed it was a really dark brown and her eyes bright blue. The sun had gone down and Canada had brought Han back to her father's house. Han marveled at the new fire. Canada's Father was also at his side

"Are you awake Han?" he said. Han looked it was Morgan's long bearded face looking back at him. Han looked into his eyes

"you are Canada's father?" Morgan gave a little chuckle of confirmation.

"You must eat Han" he said as he began to spoon feed him.

"Where are we?" Han asked between mouthfuls.

"The city of Tr Mizream the capital of the land of Kymoore," Morgan said.

"Oh good, I made it to where the wind sent me." Han sat up enough to look out the window by his bed. He saw gardens and a wall but beyond it were many buildings. Han stared at them absolutely fascinated he had never seen anything quite like it. He looked down again at his covers,

"what is wrong?" Morgan asked.

"It is my fault she is gone. I wasn't worthy to meet her." Canada gave him a caring look.

"Don't say that. It's not your fault she died, and you can't blame yourself. It was just her time to go and you just weren't meant to meet her again in this life." Canada's voice was soft to his ears.

Canada sat down on the side of the bed and took her eyes off Han's, then just looked out the window also.

"I have still messed-up everything with the group" Han said. Morgan looked contemplative, Canada turned to him and said

"It will all be okay."

Han arose from the bed no longer feeling tired.

"Canada?" He asked. "I know I couldn't of left the others at the time of the window but why couldn't they have seen the window like I did? And why couldn't we all have gone through it?"

Canada looked lovingly yet sad at Han and said.

"They didn't have the faith you did. They couldn't have seen it. And even if they could, they would have rejected it and the outside and went back into the caves."

This made Han sad to, he somehow knew she spoke the truth. Han began to pace

thinking how he might save his friends. Morgan came and put his hand on his shoulder stopping him.

“Han” Morgan said "there is nothing we can do about it right now but there are other things to attend to. We must give you new robes since you have escaped into a new life in the real world. Come with me.” Han followed him down the hall and Canada waved as he left the room. “Go in this room and wash yourself, there is a bath prepared for you, and put on these undergarments.” Han took them; they were softer and finer than any cloth he had ever felt.

“They are for wearing under your other clothes. Morgan said with a smile. Han did as he was asked, he got in the warm bath only he had never washed himself before. He soon got the idea though and the water turned dark brown from years of dirt and mud. When he was finished he felt unbelievably better. He then put on the garments and soon came back out in the hall wearing them.

Then they both went into a room painted purple. There was a table in the center covered in many strange objects. Morgan placed his old sackcloth robes on the floor and said “This is the grave from which you have come and in the World of the mind you have come to the room of creation. What color is your world?” Morgan asked.

“Green?” Han said.

“Green cannot be your color for it is the color of the world on which you now live.”

“Oh, purple then.” Han replied.

“It is good.” Morgan said. Morgan asked him many more questions and then said “this represents the world of your mind,”

“The world of my mind?”

“Yes, the place in the Meta that is just yours and none can find unless you invite them.” Morgan then presented him with beautiful orange silk robes, sandals and a green turban.

"That great white desert in the evil Meta machine must have been the Over Mind's world" Han contemplated to himself,

“Han do you wish to learn more truth?” Morgan asked.

“Yes!”

“Very well, let us begin.” Han and Morgan talked far into the night about the mysteries of God and when Han lay his head to his pillow he had many things to think about. Han had asked Morgan about his past but Morgan couldn't tell him all that much, mostly just that his sir name was Salah, Dro's was Wil, Amid's was Azekah and Nog's was Jabesh. He didn't know about Hev though.

Han thought of all these things as he drifted off to sleep. Han awoke to a servant of the house bringing him breakfast. Han ate and went to sit in the garden. In a few minutes Morgan came in the gate from the city. Han arose and asked Morgan to teach him more.

“Come with me,” he said. Morgan showed Han the library full of scrolls, books and wooden pallets. Han had never seen so many works. A huge grin covered his face! “If you wish to use the Meta machine in the woods here is the key.” Morgan opened a wooden box on the table inside of which was a metal key.

“Morgan how will I find the place again, for I was brought here unconscious.”

“It is simple enough, here is a map. You Just go east down this road until you come to the tower and then turn south and you will come to the same place where she picked you up.”

“Okay.”

“Lunch will be ready in only a few hours. But you must excuse me, have fun.” Han started educating himself. One scroll especially caught his eye. The ribbon around it was red and said *the history of the voyage and the sixteen stones*. He untied it, unrolled it and started reading.

In the days of the sun tower our fathers traveled into the wilderness that had never before been seen by man, that God would not confuse their language. And it happened that our fathers came to the first body of water and they passed over on ships.

They afterward came to another body of water and by this water was a great mountain from which God spoke to his people and gave our fathers the sixteen stones to be a medium of light. Then as they arrived in the land of mans first habitation Kymoore being in the north part between the ice lands and the place of civilization, they placed the stones into a vessel in the Temple.

And it happened that in three generations there were fifteen princes including the king's two brothers and a well beloved nephew. So they said “let us divide them up for our inheritances.” And it happened that when they found the stones had power eight of them became jealous and could not withstand them.

There was also a crazy man in the land and he sought out the eight men who had fallen under temptation and he taught them the old ways of darkness, and the eight who were faithful became wise men in the land and fought with the other eight having power from God.

Many years past and there was a king named Ethen named after the immortal from the city of light that was named Enthnar. And it happened that Ethen was wicked in his days and his son Morom was also wicked and Morom had a brother who was disowned by his father and was named Orfaciuse. When Orfaciuse saw that the kingdom was to be given to his brother he was very angry and took his secret band of men over the inland sea into the dark mountain.

Now it was in those days that the kings wear coroneted on the very top of the same mountain making their way through the caves to prove their nobility and courage. Thus Orfaciuse thought to stop his brother from being king. But Morom knowing his brother had a trap for him was afraid to go into the mountain and instead resolved in making a siege against all who were in it.

In those days many were superstitious of Orfaciuse and said he was a powerful sorcerer. Now the time of the battle grew close at hand and Orfaciuse looked down from the top of his mountain in malice. What can I do to shake Kymoore forever? What can I do to lengthen the shadows and bring famine in the land of the north? Then the power of the mountain came into him and he saw with a piercing eye Kymoore's weakness.

Kymoore was a shipping country, trading goods with the south west east and its own people in the north by way of the shipping lanes through the sea. He also saw that all of the farms and gardens that made Tr Mizream and all the cities round about so lush was canals, levees and channels from the same pure sea because this giant body of water was not salty like the outer oceans.

He saw it with his eye that could now see for hundreds of miles through land and water. There was a place in the north that had a deep valley below the level of the sea

and only a thin hill blocked the water from flowing freely through the valleys into the outer ocean draining the great lake. And it happened that Marom waged war against the mountain on the 36th day of Gabat where Orfaciuse and his followers had fled.

As they got into their war ships and transports the sea was full of more than a thousand sails like clouds in the sky. Just then the entire lake as far as the eye could see began to lower rapidly. Tumultuous currents flowed to the north and some of the ships could not fight the tide. Other ships were beached in the harbor and on emerging islands.

In only one day a great bridge of land went all the way from Tr Mizream to the foot of the mountain. Morom's men cowered beneath the face of Orfaciuse's power. Soon all the men were gathered in arms and marching over land to Pufurvenhurbum. Then seeing Orfaciuse's little army run back into the cave from which they came, Morom's army took courage and chased them into the mountains mouth which soon closed with the army still inside. Thus we see Orfaciuse captured the army of Marom in the mount and now our young men are surely not.

Han soaked up everything the scroll had to say, then feeling hungry he went down to lunch. Lunch was fresh hot bread with butter and soup. Afterward he took the map and key and walked the several miles to the Meta machine. Han walked past the stone tower and back through the woods only this time in majestic robes. The light shone threw the trees and Han enjoyed the outside more than ever. He came to the overgrown brass door, then reaching in his pocket he pulled out the key and slid it into the lock. Han heard the bolt switch and pushed it open.

Chapter 6

The Meta machine

Han stepped into the octagon. The vines covering the outside made a dark green glow that filled the room. There where brown leafs scattered on the floor and it looked as though the room had been waiting ages untouched by man. Han stepped up onto the pedestal and looked at the old empty arm chair. He had a seat and looked up at the canopy of glass and vines through which green sun beams shone.

Somehow this machine felt good and wholesome in comparison with the last one he had encountered. There were no names anywhere giving credit to the creators of it. Han closed his eyes. *~ I found myself in a purple room whose walls never seemed to stop flowing looking out a window of light at numerous galaxies. I turned around to see a man at a desk with a long thin face twirling a pen in his long fingers. "Are you ready to further organize your world that it does not go to waste?" he asked. "Yes" I said firmly. Then he told me to step through the window.*

So I stepped into the space and suddenly found myself far from the room. I looked around; all was blank and unorganized. All kinds of elements were floating around me in dark clouds that went on and on for hundreds of thousands of miles. I said let there be glory and there was. The glory seemed to fill the creation and I heard a soft distant song sung by the very materials around me.

Then I said "Let there be a center of concentrated metal." And it was so. And I said "Let there be a layer of molten rock and above that a spongy layer of rock that there may be a world of caves below the surface." And it happened as I watched it happen, then I felt powerful and I saw that my world was very big. "Let there be a solid crust that will separate the cave world from the outside save one passage that will be in the largest mountain lest any man get lost in it."

And I called the underworld Magalaya and the top world called I Atara. And I took some of the rock floating in space and made satellites to orbit the world, I also made a sun. I then saw that the element water covered the whole of my world, so I divided them and made an atmosphere and I also made the continents appear on the face of Atara and the lakes appear in the bowels of Magalaya.

I stood on the tallest mountain which I had made and looked out across the plains of water and land. Then I opened the portal with my hammer and a voice asked "what do you want?" And I said "I want plants animals and insects to cover the face of my world and fish in the deep." Then he said "Come in." So I stepped into the fissure. Han found himself in a strange place filled with life. There were strange bugs and flying jellyfish around him in the woods.

Han followed a small cobblestone path on the edge of which were benches and flowers. There was a yellow house with a large front window and smoke coming from the chimney. A one step porch and a flower bed lay in the front. Han walked up to it and stepped up onto the porch, knocked on the wooden door and waited.

A tall man with a blue robe a long white beard and a pair of reading spectacles opened the door. Han immediately recognized him it was Trivanian a magi from the caves.

Trivanian smiled down at him and invited him in. He gestured for Han to sit with him in the living room. His chairs wear nice red cushioned chairs with carved and finished wooden arm rests. There were tapestries hanging from the walls and an ornately designed carpet on the floor.

"So Han, you finally made your way out of those infernal caves aye?" Trivanian said pleasantly.

"Oh yeah I did." Trivanian pointed at the table and a glass of tea immediately appeared.

"Trivanian I was wondering how to get plants and animals for my world."

"Oh wonderful! Well you came to just the place" said Trivanian. Come and see." Trivanian arose and motioned for Han to do the same. He threw on a wizard's hat and opened the front door, briskly skipping down the steps and into the sunlight. Han followed trying to keep up. The two of them walked down a long dirt road passing many houses hidden in the trees.

"Han do you understand the origin and final destiny of Meta animals?"

"No I don't think so sir." Han replied.

"Well then we must tell you. See understanding them is to understand all things including yourself. Let me explain. There are three parts to you, The Mind, Spirit and

Body. The mind must always come first, then the spirit and then the body. So it is with all things, humans, animals, even worlds.”

“Really?” Han said.

“Yes. Since the Meta is the world of the mind these animals are intelligences which is to say just formations of self and thought, but here in the Meta they are as real as you or me. When you are more powerful you may one day make for them spiritual bodies and then physical, this being the essence and destiny of good men.”

“But, Trivanian isn’t that Gods job?” Han asked.

“Yes it is.” He said with a smile then went on.

“Han once you were Intelligence and so was I, and then we were given spirit bodies by our Father and then in due time given physical bodies on an earth that went through the very same process.”

“So my world can become a real world?” Han asked excitedly.

“Yes.” Trivanian said. Han just thought for a moment.

“Will God make it for me?”

“Why would God make a world that he didn’t invent?” Trivanian said.

“Ah I don’t know.”

“That is because he doesn’t, it would be theft.”

“But he gave me my knowledge?”

“Yes but he also wants to encourage us and lets us grow and become self sufficient.” Han looked up only to see a huge marble building before them, with two brass pillars. It was the most beautiful building Han had ever seen. A light shone from it as if glory filled it's halls. “There is something you should know about Intelligences Han. At first when they are being gathered again Intelligences don’t imagine themselves to be anywhere in particular. That state is called the meta in-between land. We are going to find out the names of your Intelligences.”

“My Intelligences?”

“Yes. Your Intelligences have coexisted with you through all Eternity and yet they are the offspring of your thought. Once you know their names you may call them home to your world. For they were scattered and lost when you lost your memory.”

“So they have been on my world before?”

“Yes, but your world has died and been recreated.” Han thought of these things as the two of them came up to the marble steps. They walked past the arched gate and a man sitting on a stool in a priest’s hat smiled at them. Han and Trivanian were ushered down quiet and bright halls. To Han’s amazement he hadn’t yet seen a single book.

They brought the both of them into a room with many blue curtains. A smiling man in white asked Han what he wanted to know.

“I want to know the names of my Intelligences,” he said.

“Come in.” The man showed him into a sectioned location made of cloth.

“Remember” he said, “This is the world of thought so it works like thoughts do. The Meta really doesn’t actually exist, it is only as real as your thoughts are. Now here is the name.” The man said the longest name Han had ever heard.

“Now go call them and they will come,” he said with a smile. When the two of them emerged Han was beaming with anticipation. Trivanian was happy for Han but his eye’s suddenly became gloomy like a stormy day.

“Trivanian?” Han said.

“Han there is something I must tell you and warn you about. Han right now I am

in the bowels of Pufurvenhurbum. I have been here the whole time trying to find new adventurers.”

“But how did you come to the Meta without a machine?”

“That my friend is a gift of the Magi. But this is not what I intended to say, I want to warn you of the impending danger that hangs over Kymoore like an ominous cloud of darkness.” Just then Han thought he heard a distant clap of thunder, Trivanian went on.

“The people are wholly taken up in dark oaths of murder and sorcery. Even now Orfaciuse has a standing army ready to crush any resistance if necessary. Not a day ago all the nothings began to wake up, not really wake up unfortunately, they are being controlled like zombies. Even now I am hiding in the crack of one of the empty altar rooms and if they find me they will kill me.” A look of horror was on Han’s face.

“But aren’t the bodies that get up and walk to the sand room controlled in the same way?”

“Yes Han but they aren’t going to the sand room, they are lining up like an army and helpers are giving them crudely made weapons.”

“But Trivanian doesn’t the Over Mind have an agent army on the outer-rim already?”

“Yes he does but I don’t know what his plan truly is. Han if I never see you again in this life fare well and be loyal always to the truth and to your future wife.” Han opened the portal again. He turned and looked into Trivanian’s star lit eyes.

“You have helped and taught Dro and I so much. I will greatly miss you if you go.” Han said.

“I know Han.”

“Bye and peace be with you.”

“God be with you also Han.” Trivanian said with a solemn smile. *~ I stepped in and found my throat was somewhat dry at the thought of Trivanian’s peril but I found myself atop the same mountain again. Then I commenced in singing the name. And sure enough when I was through there was a shout of praise from all the life beyond the universe of my thought. I called the plants and great trees and the seeds began to appear. Then I called for the animals of the sea, and there wear animals in the sea.*

The small organisms, and those thoughts gave rise to new thoughts and fishes appeared and then great monsters and sea serpents. I called the animals of the air and land. Birds and dragons, horses and lizards, and all kinds of beasts and small creatures appeared in their order according to the thoughts giving rise to new thoughts, evolving into new creatures with similarities to the old ones, thus is the progression of Intelligence.

And they covered every continent and filled every ocean. I called the cave animals and plants. Mushrooms and animals with feelers instead of eyes, and all kinds of bugs and organisms filled the caves. I looked over my whole world and wondered how it had gotten to be so wonderful. Trees now covered the mountains and the fields were full of grass.

I looked west around my earth looking at all the strange animals and places. Then I looked to an isle of the sea with a great bay, so I erected a great tall tower in the middle of it that was white and shone brightly in the sun. Then I gazed around the world some more going northward and saw a continent that was surrounded by rocks sticking out of the ocean.

And I saw that they were infested with dragons. I turned west and saw a large isle of the sea that had smoking mountains caused by a great fire in that part of the cave world. I then looked west some more and found a continent with a giant lake in the center. I turned south again and saw two continents, so I said let there be a path thrown up out of the deep to connect the continents. And it happened.

Han opened his eyes to see the inside of the old Meta machine. He sat there for a few minutes thinking about all the things he had learned. The sun was still shining through the green vines at about the exact same angle, and Han marveled that little or no time had past. He got up and slowly walked down the steps. Leafs crackled under the weight of his sandals as he walked past the sun rays toward the door.

Han shut it behind him and turned the lock. A warm breeze swept through the woods and Han set off back toward the house of Morgan. As he came to the road a herd of goats were going by being herded by a gentleman in black robes. Han nodded politely as he went by and the man did in return, it still felt weird to see people in the outside world.

Han continued down the dusty road, as he came to the stone tower by the intersection a whole throng of cavalry rode by. Han looked intently examining their shining helmets and spears as they passed. They kicked up a huge cloud of dust and Han continued on to Morgan's house in their wake. As he walked he thought of all the things that had happened to him in the Meta, just then he heard the sound of a flute coming over the stone wall by the road.

Han listened to it as he walked by and as it slowly faded off behind him. Han came to the house and walked through the court yard to the sitting room. Just as Han went to sit down Canada came into the room, so he stood again. "Good day," he said.

"Oh hello Han, would you like to escort me to the market today?" she asked.

"Yes, sure," He said quickly. Canada had always been a leader to them in the caves so it was kind of weird thinking of spending time with her. The two of them set back off through the court yard but this time turned left toward the town. In the market there were hundreds of people like in the soup rooms. But all of them were individuals and wore all different kinds of clothes.

All the women had their faces covered including Canada, There were all kinds of materials food and supplies of all kinds. It was more than Han had ever seen, and all was colorful! Canada was weighing vegetables as Han looked at the booth next to them. There was a group of men in black robes looking at a board with pine cones scattered around on it. The man behind the board looked up and to Han's surprise had big misty white spots in his pupils.

Han told Canada about the man and she said "That just means he's blind Han."

"But, he looked straight at me, right into my eyes,"

"hmm, interesting," Canada said. Han offered to carry the bag of produce but with a smile Canada said, "No, that's okay." They got back home and Han spent the rest of the day mostly hanging out and helping around the house, but there were servants that did most of that. Around dinner Morgan explained that the prince wanted to give more political power to the counsel of Titans fearing another war with Orfaciuse. "Isn't that a good thing?" Han asked.

"No, Han, the 'counsel of the Titans' are evil Titans who have made it into political power through the secret oaths of their society. This counsel has other members but we call it that because a good number of them are false Titans." Morgan said.

“I see,” Han replied. “But how can people permit that evil to be in their organizations,” Han asked. Morgan smiled,

“Well Han there are people who look nice on the outside and deceive. There are also many who love money more than their integrity. Evil men pollute the education systems and the military slowly but surely making their way all the way to the top.

After dinner Han wandered to on top of the house. Morgan was up there looking at the stars. “Won’t you join me Han?”

“Yes, of course” he said. The sky went on as if forever into eternity.

“I love the universe, I love to see just some of the infinite worlds God’s hands have made,” Morgan said. Han sat down next to him.

“Morgan, the lady under the tree told me in my dream that if I fought the current that led me to darkness I could go to any of these worlds that I wished.” Morgan gave him an impressive look.

“I don’t think you ever told me that part of the dream before,” the Magi said.

“Well, do you think I really can?” Han asked. “I mean how would I get all the way up there? They look so far away.”

“They are further than you think. But all good things are possible.” Morgan’s eyes glanced at him with a reassuring look. “If she said it I believe it.” Han just looked up at the galaxy that spanned the sky. It was awhile before either of them spoke again, then Morgan broke the silence.

“It is written that in the second age God took a whole city into the heavens and gave them power and glory. And it is said that from time to time the pure in heart are taken from this bitter fight and brought to join them.” Han got a hopeful look at this thought. Morgan looked at him but his eyes were affixed to the sky. Just then Han saw a bright streak crossing the expanse and the shooting star broke into three pieces as it approached the horizon.

“Han, one day soon our civilization will fall to war and bloodshed. The statues in great halls will crumble into dust and the said immortal names of the kings will fade and blow away. Then great tempests and earthquakes will cover the last ruins of our great cities. And I prophesy to you that it will yet be said of this land that it was never inhabited, save by savages and surely there wear no cities here.” When Morgan was finished there was a curious look on Han’s face at the prophecy. Then Morgan smiled and continued looking at the stars.

The next morning Han arose from his soft bed and immediately felt at his stomach. It was strange how much more often he had been getting hungry since being in the outside world. The servants of the house had made breakfast and kept it warm for him who had apparently slept longer than expected. Han was resolved to go and spend more time in the Meta machine today. So he got dressed in his robes and left the house in the direction to the machine. Almost nobody seemed to be out on the road and Han jogged quite quickly being anxious.

He got to the edge of the farmer’s field and looking both ways again headed into the woods. Han reached into his pocket pulled out the key and pushed the door open. It was just as he left it, Han walked up the steps turned around and sat down. His eyelids closed and he was taken at once to a different state of mind.

~ I found myself on the tall mountain by the sea and I looked out over my whole world. I realized I had power according to the concentration and power of my mind and all things in this world loved me. I jumped off the mountain and feeling powerful

skipped across the ocean my foot only occasionally coming down to barely skim the surface of the water.

I soon found myself on the isle of the north and with one leap I passed the tall mountain range filled with clouds. And I came down and lay under four small mountains on a soft mossy rock. I wondered what the future of my world might hold and ran and played for what seemed like days but I knew not a moment would pass in real time as the mind must go so much faster than the physical. I cast up great mountains and named all my favorite places.

Then Han opened his eyes and admired the sun beams coming threw the glass. He headed back and as he walked the dirt road he noticed dark clouds coming from the west over the trees and distant buildings. By the time Han got home the stormy clouds were almost to the sun. Han heard the distant booming sound of thunder. It scared him at first then he became fascinated by it. He climbed up one of the servants ladders to the top of the wall to get a good look.

Han saw a distant lightning, his eyes wide at what he was seeing, then a moment later a boom of thunder. A warm summer breeze was getting stronger, and here, and there drops were appearing on the top of the wall. "Come in or you'll get wet," Han heard one of the savants voices ring out. After it had rained on him for awhile Han decided it best to go in so he did.

Han stayed in and read the rest of the day listening to the rain on the window sill. Han read genealogies and how there once was serpents that covered the land, and drove the people south. Han also looked at maps; the continent they were on was covered with cities save the north that was covered in ice and snow. There was also a continent to the south but it was apparently still wilderness covered in wild animals and jungle.

The very most southern parts of the northern continent that got narrower as it went, and was covered most densely with cities. The exploring spirit started itching at Han's feet again and the only thing restraining him was the water falling from the sky. Han ate dinner and retired as the cloudy sky darkened. He had some nightmares where he saw the blank expressions of possessed nothings. He awoke but went back to bed praying Trivanian would be okay.

Soon he was again fast asleep. Han awoke in the bright morning and went down and ate breakfast with Morgan before he headed to work at the school. As the day rolled on he decided he wanted to explore the city by himself before he went to the Meta machine. The clouds had broken up and the city streets were filled with people. As Han walked he looked at all the shops and the great palaces.

Then looking up a bustling street Han thought he saw the blind man in black robes a ways off walking in his direction. He looked again to see only crowds of ordinary people. Then Han saw just a woman, her face covered, wearing black robes walking toward him. Han watched her for some reason only to see her trip as she walked past a booth with a bag of wheat on the ground.

A square board came tumbling out of her sleeve pocket and Han rushed to help her. For a moment some others did the same but suddenly backed away. Han could clearly see the symbols written on the board now in some strange language and recognized it as the same kind of board that the blind man had pine cones on. He picked it up and handed it to her. She grabbed it quickly and put it back in her sleeve then without a word swiftly hurried away as though she was late for something.

Han looked up, the blind man was there and walking towards him. Han's heart

began to pound. There was no mistake it was him and he was looking straight at Him. The crowd parted mysteriously and the man came to Han who was still kneeling on the ground and reached his sinister looking hand for his face. All was silent except the crying of a baby somewhere in the crowd.

Han arose to shake his hand, an audible gasp from the crowd. A broad smirk appeared on the old man's face. "Give me your world," came his distorted voice. Han took a step back, a serious look on his face. Then a series of whispers filled the crowd. "No," Han declared boldly. A look of rage filled the man's white eyes, he grabbed Han's left wrist while pulling out a jagged knife.

Han immediately hit the hand off his arm and bringing his hand back grabbed the wrist of the knife hand and pulled the man while shifting his body weight to his left leg. The man fell and hit his head on a nearby wooden booth and howled in pain while grabbing his head. Han looked up to see two younger looking men in black robes running toward him. Han jumped up onto one of the booths and started jumping from booth to booth till he was behind the crowd then jumping to the ground continued running with all his speed.

The two men pushed their way through the multitude and started chasing him. A lama pulling a cart got in the way so Han hurtled the hitch and kept on running. Finally he ducked into a crowd breathing hard, Han thought he had lost them. Han looked up to see what every one was staring at, he saw they were listening to a talk being given by an elderly gentleman in a purple robe and a green turban. So Han started listening to what he was saying.

To Han's surprise it was about what Morgan had told him, that if they did not mend their ways their civilization would be destroyed. For God cannot look on wickedness with the least degree of allowance. Han looked through the people to see the two men who were chasing him walking back bewildered as to where he had gone.

Han stared after them for a moment then a man shouted out from the crowd, "How can you know that is true, it's ridiculous, can you tell God what to do?" Han looked around to see who said it and saw a man wearing orange attire. He went on, "Are you threatening our city? And who is to say that the upstanding members of government are going to be punished by God, and that the holy Titans who make our laws are evil?"

"I can say it," Han blurted out.

"You can, can you?"

"Yes," Han went on. "This is a good man you speak against, and who is to say the Titans in the government aren't evil? Is Orfaciuse not evil?" The man started laughing at Han.

"Don't bring up that old wives-tale again. There was a disagreement once and many men died but there is no evidence Orfaciuse still has prisoners." Han tried to cut in but was interrupted.

"He has been sympathetic and cooperative, and I challenge any man to say otherwise." Han walked up to one of the steps and turned around.

"I say otherwise." The man tried to interrupt but Han continued. "I was in the army, I was at that battle. My name is Salah. I was a prisoner in that mountain till not a week ago. Only my ingenuity and determination freed me. My skin is red because I am not used to the sunlight." Han finished and looked out over the crowd.

"This man is a liar!" The man in orange shouted. Suddenly Han saw that a group of people in black robes took notice of the commotion. Han jumped off the step

and shoved his way past several people. He went down a back alley behind the stand. He heard someone behind him say

“he went that way.” So Han ran even faster. He came out to another city street and ran in the direction of the house. As Han approached the house he decided to go to the Meta machine instead he walked the familiar road past the tower and through the field.

When Han got to the machine it was different. All the branches and vines had been cut off to reveal a glassy shell, and spirals had been painted all over it in what to Han looked like blood. Han slowly walked up to it. The door had been pried open. Inside the floor had been cleared and the shadow of red spirals covered the stone floor. Han stepped in to get a better look.

“Who would do this?” Han said to himself, then looking up there shone a fresh new bronze plaque that said the exact same thing the other one in the mountain did.

The Meta Machine
Created by the nine Titans

Amid Kymoore O.

Habnan Saro

F. Coab

Hawlid Daknab R. Japel

Mirgan Weag

Reu Irad Amanar

Han looked up to see two people in black robes through the glass. He bolted out of the door and started running as they noticed him. Han wasn't sure where he was going he was just running for his life. Trees flew by him, he came to a stream and just ran through it. His sandals squeaked as he ran up the opposite slope. The forest opened up to a grassy meadow and Han ran into the sunlight. Half way to the other side Han looked back behind him.

They were on his tail as he feared, coming out into the yellow grass. Han changed his direction down hill toward a small pond with a stone cliff on the other side. Han dived in, and swam to the opposite shore. Then reaching for the rock Han climbed up a crack in the stone. One of the men started wading through the water at him and the other went to go around. Han was hyperventilating as he reached the top. He started staggering on only to see something very frightening staring back at him. Was it a man or a creature?

It had long legs that it perched itself between two trees with and a smile that went from one side of his face to the other. The monster dropped and landed on the ground. Han was petrified! Behind him he heard the steps of one of the men who were chasing him. The monster jumped over Han's head and landed on the man behind him. Han heard a blood curdling scream as the beast through the man in the air and off the cliff with a splash!

Then the long legged monster grabbed Han around the waist, Han closed his eyes. Then to his surprise he felt wind soaring by his face, he opened his eyes. The monster

was carrying him as he leaped through the woods. Han wondered what on earth this thing could possibly be doing with him. Soon Han stopped worrying and just enjoyed the passing scenery. The creature started running up hill and when they came to the top he set Him down on the grass. "Who are you?" Han asked as he was on his back looking up at him.

"Me? I am the Titan of the Forest." He said with a smile.

"Nice to meet you sir, I have never met a Titan before." Han said.

"You will meet many more." The Titan said looking into Han's eyes with his penetrating yellow stare.

Chapter 7

From the top of one hill to another

Han sat up out of the grass and the giant Titan seemed to just start growing gradually shorter, until an ordinary man stood before him. Han stood up being slightly dizzy from the ride. The Forest Titan standing before him was a skinny type of man and had a mustache with brown hair and striking blue eyes. He was wearing a pair of turquoise robes and said,

"Sorry for not introducing myself properly till now but my name is Elred."

"Oh hi, I am Han. By the way how did you know to save me?" Han asked.

"Morgan told me to come get you, and said you would probably be at the Meta machine." Elred said.

"Why did he tell you to pick me up?" Han replied.

"Orfaciuse's armies are literally at the gates of the city and Morgan wanted me to make sure you were alright. You are our only physical evidence of Orfaciuse's prisoners and you are important in many more ways." Han looked off into the valley below but all seemed to be calm.

"Come Han, Morgan has asked me to bring you to your old house."

"I have a house?" Han asked.

"Yeah, this way," Elred said as he started walking along the hills rim. Han followed closely behind. They walked through some wooded areas and over some mossy rocks till they came to the end of the hill where the ruins of a stone house stood. The oak front doors were off the hinges and sun shone threw the holes in the roof. Clovers and weeds grew out of the cracks in the floor and one of the pillars was broken and fallen. As they came to the middle of the front room Han asked, "Is this really my house?"

"Yes" Elred said sympathetically. "It fell into ruin after your parents died."

"I had parents?" Han asked. Han fell to his knees and picked one of the clovers.

"Forgive me Mother and Father, I didn't mean to leave you." Han sat there awhile and soaked in his surroundings. There was silence for a while and then Elred spoke.

"Come look at this Han."

Elred walked with long strides to the west window under the stone stairs. Han

got up and followed him to it.

"Look," he pointed. Han looked to see a strange hill in the distance. It had a circle of pillars, and resting upon them was a cloud. The cloud looked glorious somehow and the pillars themselves had a magical look to them. There was a valley and a short hill in-between them and it. Han was mystified.

"why does that cloud act that way and simply rest on the pillars?" Han asked.

"It is the ship of the Titans." Elred said with a look of anticipation.

The rafters creaked and something fell with a whoosh. They both looked over to see what hit the floor behind them. A man in a heavy brown dirty robe was bowed before them. He was balding and had long thin grey hair; a small beardless man. He looked up, his eyes were totally black and he had a menacing almost toothless smile. Han's heart began to beat.

To Han he looked kind of frail but suddenly with a high pitched scream he dashed toward Elred in a fit of rag. Elred ran toward him also and grabbed the man's arms as his long finger nails strained to reach his neck. The forest Titan went to stomp kick him in the kneecap but he raised his leg in a shin block, pulling one of his hands free smacked the other out of Elred's grip. Elred flew back several feet as the mysterious man palmed him in the chest. Han arose to confront him but Elred yelled, "No Han, stay out of this!" Elred raised his arms to block several punches then shifting his stance Elred threw a straight punch at his head.

The man cross blocked Elred's right arm with his right hand then made a swift chop at his neck. Elred half blocked it with his left hand and staggered backward two steps. The man more crazed than ever leaped forward and grabbed Elred in a grapple around his neck. The forest Titan grabbed in return. The man kned Elred in the stomach, then raising his leg again for a second go Elred pulled him sideways with all his might. The forest Titan screamed as the man stumbled and his lone finger nails dug into his neck. Han watched as the two men threw each other around. Feeling he should do something Han looked around for something to fight with. Elred finally kicked him in the knee and threw him to the floor. The man rolled a few times and came back to his feet. "Who are you?" Han shouted. The Man smiled slightly.

"I am Clay," he said in a breathy voice.

"He is the clay Titan Han," Elred confirmed. The man looked angrier than ever, a strange darkness gathered around him. Han nervously looked back at Elred who now suddenly resembled a tall frog like monster. The Forest Titan picked the Clay Titan up by his neck with his long slender toes and threw him across the room sending him sailing through one of the already broken windows.

"Han hide up stairs," the Forest Titan whispered. Han started for the stone stair case as he heard a crash behind him. Not looking back Han jumped two steps at a time. As Han reached the balcony everything became strangely silent. Han peeked over the edge of the banister to see the Clay Titan whispering something into the ear of the motionless and bloody Forest Titan.

Clay finished what he was saying with what sounded like the name Nog. The Forest Titan's eyes flew open and looked straight upwards as though he were looking into Han's eyes on the balcony who was now looking down into his. "My apprentice," Elred said with a tear rolling down his misshapen Titan face. The thin haired Clay Titan looked up, Han pulled his head back hoping he hadn't been seen his heart pounding.

Han slowly walked into the room across from him, was the Forest Titan dead he

thought. Old moth eaten curtains hung in front of a single person bed. Han parted the veil and walked through. Sunlight poured in from the window. Han looked out the window, to see part of the roof was only a few feet below him. It didn't look stable so Han searched for an alternate escape. There were now steps coming up the staircase. Han then changed his mind and jumped out the window.

He took one step, two steps on the roof. Then he slipped and fell through as he feared. Han luckily fell onto something soft but was now in complete darkness save the hole in the roof. Han's eyes adjusted and he got up off the bags and hid behind some barrels as he was apparently in a storage room. Han heard the creeping steps of Clay on the roof. Han's breath was so loud he thought it would give him away and he couldn't seem to breathe softer.

Suddenly the disfigured man dropped into the dark room landing skillfully on the bags of grain. Han suddenly put his hands over his mouth. "Where are you Salah? You know, I am your friend," Clay said unconvincingly, then went on. "I am here to show you the truth; your own mind is crying it so loudly I can taste it." His voice suddenly sounded craving and sadistic. "Remember how innocent you once were?"

Han's memories seemed to literally scream out as if they were leaking out of his very eyes as the Clay Titan said this. Next his voice changed as if he were in a trance. "Once Dro asked you, 'if you want to get out so badly why convince me to come with you? Why not go and not waste any more time.'" Then it was as if Han was listening to himself as he heard the next part. "Simple. It's what I ought to have done, in my logic."

Han wished Dro could be with him. "You must have been so honorable to start with. What happened? Now you have messed everything up for yourself and your friends that they are surely no more. I was your father's good friend. Your mother literally grieved herself to death after they knew you weren't coming back."

Han felt himself drifting as though he were in a sea of memories, all memories of unfulfilled promises and expectations; they sailed before his view even if he shut his eyes. Fighting it Han cut through the mist and came back to consciousness to hear Clay say "What a pity, everything you fought and died for is this day undone."

Han couldn't stand it anymore. "If you were my parent's friend then how could you let their house fall into ruin?" A big smile appeared on Clay's face as he turned toward Han's voice. "If Morgan truly loved you then why did he do the same?" Suddenly the storage room door flew open and the shape of a man stood in the light. Han stood to run to him.

The Clay Titan suddenly leaped for Han and the man in the door advanced also. Han felt Clay's long finger nails slip around his neck. The man stopped in the ray of light made by the hole in the roof holding a shining sword. Han now saw that it was Morgan who must have just arrived and found the Forest Titan's body.

"I know you and the Titans want the Salah boy for some reason." The Clay Titan said frantically. "So back off or I'll kill him."

"Morgan" Han called out "He is the Titan of broken promises." Morgan looked from Han to Clay who had a look of uneasiness at this saying. Morgan gripped his sword and advanced with a charge. The Clay Titan let Han's neck go as the sword found its way into Clay's gut. He grabbed Morgan's arm putting his fingernails deep in his wrist. Morgan let go of the sword and staggered back. Clay finding he was pinned to one of the barrels grabbed the sword.

Han heard a high pitched scream as smoke rose from the hand Clay had on the hilt but he managed to pull it out of himself anyway and throw it. The sword spun through the air and landed by Han. The Clay Titan with a cruel laugh picked Morgan up by the throat, with the burnt hand still sizzling and melting onto Morgan's neck. Han picked the sword up. He looked up to see Clay had dragged Morgan back out into the main room. Han ran out to save him.

The Clay Titan was bowed over him darkness gathering around him as though he was ready to literally drink his prey dry. Han ran up and before the old Clay Titan could turn around Han thrust the blade into his back. Pulling it out with a snap that was clearly his back breaking, Han then raised it and bringing it back down cut into his long thin hair and through his neck slicing his head clean off. The wrinkled distorted head hit the ground and blood poured down his front and sprinkled the floor. Han rushed to see if Morgan was okay. He was seemingly unscathed and was breathing.

A strange light illuminated a purple silk pouch on Clay's body. Han untied the pouch and took it off his belt, opening it up he saw a light and poked his finger in at it. As he touched it he saw a vision that lasted only a blink of an eye. He saw a numberless army in front of the dark mountain. Han being slightly shaken but further curious stuck his hand in the pouch again and pulled out a molten stone that emanated a white light.

Suddenly Han heard a gurgling sound coming from the head at his feet. The mouth of the severed head started trying to say something and Han bowed down to listen to him.

"I have been executed for my sins but I fear my soul is lost forever," he said as Han read his bloody lips.

"What was your real name?" Han asked.

"Morgan Weag," his lips said then his eyes lost all character and just stared. Han could hardly believe that he had just killed someone. Han ran over to Elred to see if he was alive but to Han's sorrow the Forest Titan was truly dead. His heart was stopped and there was no breath in him. Han searched him for a similar stone but he didn't find any. So Han took the stone and pouch and put Morgan on his back. Han carried him out into the daylight and down the stone steps.

He looked off the hill into the distance. Smoke rose in a dark loom from somewhere in the valley. Han thought he should head west to the pillars Elred had shown him, so he walked into the woods.

Han heard a song that seemed to fill the woods with sweet sadness. It was the most beautiful melody he had ever heard. Han realized that the music was coming from the very trees around him. A strange light started filling the woods and Han thought he saw a man in white robes walk between two trees and look back at him. It looked like it was Elred but he couldn't tell. For a moment the tree's song became stronger and it seemed to filled the whole forest.

Morgan was getting really heavy so Han sat him down on the side of the hill. The leaves blew around him and Han looked again to see if he could see the man. Yet there was nothing but silent sadness.

Han knew Morgan needed help, he grabbed him from behind under the arms and dragged him walking backwards. Han's heart stung with the killing he had just committed. He called out to the only person that he thought might hear him.

"Elred I didn't want to kill the Clay Titan I just wanted to protect Morgan." Han cried out. In his mind he heard a soft reply, not of his own but what seemed to come

from Elred himself.

“Han you did the right thing and don’t you ever forget that. The Clay Titan was evil and received justice but you must know as long as the stone remains so does his essence and spirit upon the earth and will forever until in times to come it is cleansed by the depths of the ocean floor.”

Han thought this last part might have come from his guilt of having the stone.

“Elred where is your stone?”

“It is on a distant moon that I visited nearly a thousand years ago. If you make it to the moon of four roads walk west from the pillars to the tallest mountain where my stone is. I go now to my true love and my God, farewell.” All unmortal presence seemed to leave him and Han wondered if he had just imagined it or not. He was left alone in the woods with Morgan to tend to. Han hurried and dragged him down the hill as fast as he could.

It was slow going and he had to stop and rest every few feet. Morgan was heavier than Han had thought. The urgency of Morgan's condition hastened him on and Han struggled with the exhaustion in his chest. He dragged him past and around trees and brush.

He started hearing a whisper from his pocket. He couldn’t make it out at first but then Han understood the voice. “Han you have me in your pocket. Do you realize the power I can give you?” Han kept up his dragging of Morgan and ignored the whisper. “Han you can be Weag you can have his powers. Han you are Weag like I am, deep inside, you just have to find me.”

Han came to a large river at the bottom between the two big hills. Han looked to his left and saw a bridge down a little ways. He hurried and dragged Morgan to it. Pulling Morgan across it Han came to a meadow on the other side. Morgan was getting staggeringly heavy! Han thought maybe he could go get help from the people at the pillars. He wasn't sure if there was anyone there but it was worth a try. Han looked up at the ancient pillars on the hill past the smaller hill in front of him. Something about that strange glorious cloud intimidated him. It looked even more amazing from here. He almost left Morgan to get help and then thought better of it. This was a road way after all. Han reached down and with new resolution picked Morgan's body up, he started up the opposite hill. As Han finally reached the top, he was breathing hard but thought he could get Morgan the rest of the way now.

The next hill west had the set of pillars in a circle and the low cloud over it that Elred had called the ship of the Titans. From here Han could see for miles and miles over the valley. Most of which was covered in city. Han looked out past the pillared hill to the left, he saw an expanse of water that looked as though it went on forever. He could also see the harbor and the light towers on the top of which stood statues. Han stood for a moment catching his breath then dragged Morgan back down the other side of the hill. He then started up the grassy slope to the pillars.

As Han reached the top he collapsed with exhaustion. People were standing around under the pillars and came running to help. Morgan was taken and Han just sat there breathing hard. “I could take away your pain and weakness,” came the whisper. Han reached in his pocket and pulled out the stone it wasn’t shining like it had before.

It looked rather ordinary at the moment but the feeling of a cool darkness emanated onto his hand. “Well how long is it going to take you to accept my gift?” The whisper asked. “You don’t have to use my powers wrong you can use them to do good.”

Han got up and ran back down the hill.

"Are you alright young man?" One of the robed figures called out as Han ran off.

Feeling lighter now he ran around the other hill to the bridge and the river. Han stepped onto the wooden bridge his foot steps suddenly echoing on the boards. "What are you doing?" The stone asked nervously.

Han picked it out of his pocket and without a word chucked it into the river. The voice gave a shriek of horror as it plummeted into the water. Then feeling relieved Han walked back to the hill of pillars. Han marveled as he walked back up the hill how the cloud was literally just perched on the pillars and was closer than Han had ever seen one. The people standing under the pillars came down the steps to greet him like a homebound traveler. They showed Him up the steps into the shade of the mysterious nimbus.

Chapter 8

Han's wildest dreams begin

Han sat on the steps of the stone pillared platform to catch his breath and looked off into the valley. A considerable amount of smoke now rose from the streets of Tr Mizream. He felt a soft hand rest on his shoulder. "Han Salah oh how we have all waited to meet you." Han looked up into the face of a kind looking man with a brown beard and Hazel eyes. Blue robes flowed around him in deep grace.

He helped Han to his feet and walked with him onto the patio of the pillars. There were many in flowing robes engaged in friendly conversation, in the center of the circle was a round looking altar. All fell quiet as Han walked in their midst. A man with little hair on his head and none on his face approached him in pure white array. His eyes were bright like fire and Han realized he must be in his Titan form though more human looking than the last Titan he met.

The Titan in white spoke, "Han this is Barak the Lightning Titan," Gesturing at the man in blue at Han's side. "This is Nebo the Titan of the Earth," he pointed to a short but strong looking man in red, then turning to a tall man in green said "This is Bensiden the Water Titan and I am Luz the Titan of Fire. These four men were commanding in greatness and appearance.

"Welcome to the hill of Gilgal," Nebo said in a deep voice. Then Barak put his hand on Han shoulder again and said

"I believe you have met my apprentice." Standing there was Canada. They briefly said hello and Luz introduced his apprentice who was a bright looking young man who had long blond hair and said his name was Jerubbaal. Han immediately recognized him though he had never met Jerubbaal, Han remembered him from the dream he had had long ago in the caves about the Titans. Then Nebo introduced his apprentice who was a young lady with stormy eyes and blond hair.

"I am Merica" she said with a nod and a shake.

"She is the sister of Jerubbaal" Nebo added. Han noticed that Bensiden the Water Titan didn't seem to have an apprentice for some reason, but Han didn't want to ask. He remembered that Amid was the water apprentice in his dream long ago. He

also remembered that the position of the lightning apprentice was filled by Hev in his dream but things seemed to have changed and Canada was his apprentice now.

The list

Luz - the **Fire** Titan
Barak - the **Lightning** Titan
Nebo - the **Earth** Titan
Bensiden - the **Water** Titan
Canada - *Barak's Apprentice*
Jerubbaal - *Luz's Apprentice*
Merica - *Nebo's Apprentice*

All the other people in the circle didn't introduce themselves but stood around the group of Titans. Han looked over at a corner of the patio where Morgan lay. Han noticed that there were carvings in the stone and Morgan lay in a circle of the carving as four women with their heads covered, in white robes sat around him with incense and herbs administering to him. They waited and soon one of the women approached them to let them know Morgan would be alright. Morgan slowly awoke and got up putting a hand on his forehead. Morgan walked and seemed to have recovered from his limpness.

"Han how are you?" Morgan asked.

"Um, I am fine just a little exhausted. But how are you?"

"I'll be fine." Morgan replied. "They gave me some medicine." Morgan went on, "Han, me and some of these other Magi are going on a mission to recover some important relics from the city."

"I want to come," Han injected.

"No you mustn't it's too dangerous, stay here with the Titans," Morgan said. Han felt disappointed he wasn't able to help but kept quiet. "Luz I am so very sorry about Elred," Morgan said to the Titan,

"I feel I am a little responsible."

"Don't feel that way, without him Han would be dead."

"Thank you Luz I hope we will meet again soon." Han wondered what made him so important a Titan would say something like that about him, the Forest Titan was surely more important than he was in his mind; maybe he was just being nice. The Magi and Titan shook hands and Morgan turned around and said "Bye" as he walked to the edge of the patio and down the steps followed by all the others save the Titan's and their apprentices.

The Sun was going down now and it shone in their eyes under the cloud, casting shadows of the pillars and cloud down the hill eastward. "Jerubbaal go with Nebo, Barak, and Bensiden to recover the body of Elred," Luz directed.

"Yes Master," he answered and the four of them set off down the hill.

"Luz I was wondering, why does this cloud just sit here right above our heads as though it were resting on these pillars?" A big smile came to Luz's face,

"You will see." As the sun set the sky became blood red against the rising smoke. Han started to hear the thunder of many horses down below the hill. Him, Canada and Merica walked to the edge of the patio and looked down below. A Calvary galloped at full speed on the road past the hill. Han recognized them as the same army he had seen before save there were less of them now and some looked wounded. "The Calvary of Kymoore," Canada said, "They must have surrendered the city to Orfaciuse."

Soon after the army had past the three Titan's and apprentice came walking up the hill bearing the Forest Titan's body on a stretcher made of ropes and two sticks. They came onto the patio and brought the long legged Titan to the Alter and placed him on it. His legs were so long they went off the edge of the altar and rested on the stone floor.

Han looked into his resting face that was perfectly still and death like. Han saw a drop land on the dead Titan's face, then another on his neck. Han started feeling drops himself, he stretched out his hands and looked up at the cloud right above their heads, just then it started raining on the center of the patio. Han looked at the other Titans in a questioning kind of way but it looked as though they thought this was entirely normal.

Han heard a strange noise and looking up he saw a huge batch of water like a waterfall! He jumped back in alarm but the others didn't budge. Suddenly a huge bubbling pillar rested over the altar and towered up into the cloud. Han had never seen water do anything like that. Suddenly Elred's body rose up being entirely submersed in the pillar. One by one the Titans and apprentices stepped into the pillar and rose through it up into the cloud. Until all that was left was Luz and Canada. "Han would you like to come with us?"

"I would like to go where ever Canada is because she is my master, but where is it that you are going?"

"Into the outer lands or in other words up there." Luz pointed out from under the cloud to where the evening stars were appearing.

"You would let me come with you?" Han said in amazement.

"We more than would let you, the truth is we need you," Luz said.

"But what about Dro? I can't leave him.," Han said. Then Canada said,

"Han this is the only way to help him. You will be able to contact him through the Meta and we are coming back soon." Han bowed and said

"oh thank you, I have always wanted to go to other worlds."

"Good, step in here," Luz said with a smile. Han stepped into the column of water and felt a strong current pushing him upwards. He rose into the mist of the cloud then the water opened up into what looked like a huge glass aquarium with a ceiling covered in green algae. Han felt the pressure in his ears; he looked down at the doors he came through then looking around he saw just outside the glass was the thick fog.

Han looked around him as he floated upwards; the aquarium seemed to be filled with moving things. Clear things and dark swimming things, something huge started swimming toward him. Han couldn't quite make it out as the water made his eyes blurry, just then a huge fish that was five times his size simply swam past.

Han's heart was pounding as the fish was big enough to swallow him. Han noticed that Canada swam past him. Han was loving just looking around at all the swimming things but now he had run out of breath so he started swimming to the ceiling. There was an open door in the green ceiling and as Han poked his head out of the water to catch his breath Nebo's strong hands helped him out and onto the metal floor of a huge bluish looking hall.

Chapter 9

Ascension to the outer lands

Han was soaked as they pulled him out onto the smooth floor. The water wasn't so bad but now he was freezing. Bensiden threw a blanket on Han to help dry him off, while Han admired the smooth walls and the vaulted ceiling of this bluish elongated hall. Above him by the ceiling was a cable and a strange piece of machinery that looked like a metal arm with pinchers. There were three nice finished wooden doors to both sides and at one end of the hall.

The opposite wall at the other end of the hall seemed to be made of glass with a brass door, on the other side of which to Han's astonishment looked like a forest or garden with trees and plants. He even saw a deer look at them then run into the trees. Han stood up. Luz's wet head popped out of the water next and they helped him out, then Berek slid the plate back over the hatch to conceal the pool.

Han noticed that there were several similar square hatches in the floor just like the hatch they just closed. Every one started walking to the dark wooden door at the end of the hall, and Han just followed not entirely knowing what was going on. As Han walked through the doors he saw a great huge room that was triangular in shape, the two walls facing outwards were made of glass and the floor of some kind of smooth metal.

At the end of the room where the two outer walls almost converged stood a golden alter on which was a strange round device and by which was an armchair. Behind the glass was nothing but thick cloud. Luz sat down in the chair and let out a sigh. "Ben is the water tank closed?"

"Yes Luz."

"Good," the Fire Titan said. He lifted his hand and Jerubbaal hurried to the altar, picked up what Han now recognized as a funny helmet with holes in it and placed it on Luz's head. Jerubbaal strapped Luz to the chair with a leather buckle and stepped back as he seemed to go entirely limp. All of a sudden a mysterious Wind filled the room drying and blowing Luz's few white hairs around and caressing Han's face and robes. He heard a soft voice blowing in his ear tickling his wet eardrum,

"Hello Han, so you made it to Kymoore as I instructed." Han had almost forgotten about the Wind leading him and supposing he had imagined it. Han felt a little heavier for a moment like the floor was lifting but he looked around and all was still the same.

"A yeah," Han said to the breeze, "Are you a Titan?" Han whispered,

"Yes I am, I am the Wind Titan but I lost my body many hundreds of years before you were even born." Han suddenly got a shiver up his spine,

"doesn't that mean you are dead?"

"Yes."

"Why weren't you made to go over the river of death?"

"Because of my stone that I am connected to on the earth, that is a gift of the Titans." Han looked up at the giant triangular windows to see the dark mist blowing off the surface of the ship as blown by a mighty wind. Han could now see a clear dark sky speckled in bright stars.

He walked to the window and to his shock far below them was nothing but a stretching plain of thick clouds casting shadows by the light of the high moon. Han now knew why he was progressively feeling heavier, they were going up, and they were going up fast.

Nebo lit a lantern lighting the faces of the people in the room and shimmering on the golden altar. “Han I will show you to your room.” Nebo started walking to the wooden door and Han followed him. They walked through the main hall and to the glass wall of the forest. Nebo opened the brass door and Han walked onto the forest path. The plants seemed to be humming and singing a beautiful but distant sounding melody as though they were longing for the Forest’s return.

Han heard the chirping of insects and even saw a cat like animal with a long, poofy tail climbing a tree. Han saw that the garden was in a big glass dome and past the dome was the bright night sky. On the very top of the glass dome seemed to be a protrusion or a room resting on the very top of the glass with a hall or stair case going to the back of the ship.

Nebo and Han walked along the path past trees and vines to a door on the other side of the dome. This opened up to a nice finished wooden hall with paintings of ancient heroes in brass frames. The first set of doors were right in front of them and were double doors of exquisite workmanship with carvings of two fruit trees and a shining triangle in the sky. They then turned the corner to the left into a hall with a window at the end and then took an immediate right to another hall with doorways on the left.

Then Nebo opened the second door and said, “This will be your room; you should feel comfortable in it. By the way the double doors you saw as we came in are off limits for now because the room inside is very special but will be shown you in due time.

When you wake up feel free to come back to the front of the ship. Also if you are hungry the kitchen is the room on the left off the main hall. Oh and by the way if we are in the outer lands and you are going to the bathroom make sure the wind lever is pulled so the excrement doesn’t get away. Good night.” Han was thoroughly confused by this last statement but Nebo walked back down the hall and the light of his lantern turned around the corner.

Han closed the door and looked around at his room, it was really nice and clean. There was a huge soft bed and a metal wash basin with a wooden door on the top of it. There was a water pump and some wooden boxes to put his things in and a small room with a wooden door. Han looked inside; it was a miniature restroom with a lever on the wall that read, *Air Lever*.

Han closed the door again and jumped on his bed. His lids grew heavy from all the things that had just happened throughout the day and fell into the restful land of dreams.

Chapter 10

Dro and the secret fire

Darkness, Have you ever seen pitch black darkness? A dark that is so deep you

seem to be completely swallowed in it? This is the darkness Dro faced the night his candle fell down the bottomless chasm. *“This chasm deep where dark things creep and sometimes sleep in jagged cracks of ice, holdeth the grave of a once and many mighty men.*

In times to come its springs revealed merely a crack in this hill’s cliff side edge, Let its cathedrals sing the story of the day spring lighted upon its deep and windy ledge, where has the dark mountain fled? It is gone it is surely gone, Samuel sang. The dark lord is thrown from his kingdom like an abominable branch and the mighty glories of his tower are in pieces on the long and out stretched hill tops.

Now oh nations of the earth the light of the sun passes by day and the moon by night giving light downward deep down into the crack of this lighted chasm, where once Dro lost his candle and received the greater light. This rocky mouth shall know the season’s holidays and passing reasons preached by the stars above.”

But Dro knew no more of this song than a babe does of politics. For to him the mountain was still solid as rock and the darkness still as overwhelming as the ocean floor. Dro felt around trying to make it as far as possible from his attackers, than Dro heard a voice in his head. “Light that shines in darkness,” Dro looked around and saw nothing but blackness,

“Where?” Dro whispered to the voice.

“Light that shines in darkness,” the voice repeated. Dro looked around again, “I don’t see it.”

“You don’t see yourself?” The voice asked.

“I am the light that shines?” Dro asked.

“You are the preparer for the Lightning of inspiration. You rain understanding upon the earth like a summer storm does before the skies are lit with the light of knowledge. You know there is an outside, you know Orfaciuse is real, that is why he tried to kill you, because there is no hope of tricking you to become a nothing again. Now that you know the truth you may have this precious gift.”

“What is it?” Dro asked excitedly.

“The Secret Fire. It is a conduit that is opened inside you. Just as the Sun receives its light from heaven you receive secret light from the Sun. It is a light that shines in darkness and the darkness knows it not.”

Suddenly the caves around Dro slowly but surely grew brighter and brighter until there was a blinding light all around him.

“This is fabulous!” Dro exclaimed.

“Who are you?”

“The Wind in your heart,” The voice said and then bade him farewell for now. Dro walked through the caves exploring for his friends, the caves that now around him were as bright as day. Dro found a giant cathedral like cave where down on the cave floor stood hundreds of chained prisoners. Dro saw that they must be outer-rim rangers.

He also saw that all the agents in the room took notice of the bright light and covered their faces with shrouds and veils shrieking with disgust. All the prisoners turned their heads to Dro and raised their hands to the blinding light. Dro saw a fire lit on a ledge behind them that now was nothing in comparison to his own countenance.

The agents must have been showing the rangers a shadow show that was now ruined by his light. The men of Orfaciuse drew their knives and rushed to meet Dro in a

fight but as his light increased the chains on the prisoners were loosened and the room erupted in a riot! The agents disappeared in the angry crowd and Dro walked through the crowd with a smile of pure satisfaction on his face that made a path before him.

The cry of distant dragons and dogs filled the far off tunnels as the light most surely was reflected into unknown paths. The rangers escaped in all directions and Dro was left alone in the cathedral of stone standing over the bodies of the mangled agents. Here he again for the first time in a long time could hear the far off planets and fabric of reality.

Dro heard the wind over the mountains and the sound of birds and running water. He knew of the outside not only from his heart but he was now listening to it. Dro kept on looking for what came of his friends. He traveled around and soon came back to the yellow tower which was a giant sulfurous pillar in the caves. Huddling under it was Amid scraped and bruised.

Dro went to pick him up but Amid fought and scrambled away. "Amid it is me Dro," Amid looked shocked and confused. As Dro walked toward him again he saw two bright white figures of a man in Amid's pupils and finally Amid's eyes dilated to the light, "Master," Amid exclaimed falling to his knees. Dro walked over to him and raised him from the ground,

"I am not your Master I am your friend." Amid stared at him for a moment then seemed to be pacified.

"Amid where is Hev and Nog?"

"Hev and Nog, who are they again?" Dro looked at Amid in horror.

"I think I have forgotten something." Amid continued with a semi blank expression.

"Amid you have to remember. Do you remember our quest?"

"No. I can't say that I do."

"There is an out side world and we are trying to get there."

"Oh yeah. I knew that part."

"And we are fighting against Orfaciuse,"

"Yes I hate the over mind."

"Don't let him have control over you he is the one who made you forget your friends." Amid breathed in and his eyes went wide.

"I remember now, they took them away," the last part ending in a shriek. Amid looked into Dro's eyes and said,

"You are the Mind Titan and I, I am the future" his voice trailing off.

"The future what," Dro insisted but Amid hit the ground as limp as a wheat bag. A sound came pounding the cavern walls like an approaching army. Dro lifted the body and entered a tunnel in the side of the Yellow Tower. The passage spiraled upward for a long time then emptied into a carved out square room. Dro placed Amid on the ground and began to draw in the dirt until the caves became quiet again.

As Dro drew in the dust he began to understand that the Secret Fire was more than just a light within him but it was now teaching him things. He could see the structure of the elements around him and understood that the universe was a system of order. Dro looked at Amid and saw what was wrong within him but didn't yet know what to make of it, he also saw that Amid was to be the Titan of Water.

Dro listened to the caves around him to find the breathing of Hev and Nog. Dro's heart fell into his stomach as he heard the faint breathing of Nog and Hev far past the low

hum of the magma chasm, the chasm he had sacrificed everything to get them across. Dro heard Nog's voice and strained to hear what he was saying past all the other sounds.

"Surely we are not supposed to search for truth let us just sit back and let it come to us. No worries we were supposed to come back here to see that innocence is not to question the world. We need to go further in to find who we really are." Then Dro heard Hev's voice,

"I think the real truth is all about adventure, it wasn't as adventurous on the outer-rim and what is so important about going further out in the caves anyway. Dro and Han were crazy hoots and believed in false spirits and evil magic."

Dro was infuriated at the false doctrine and philosophies of men that Nog and Hev had so easily fallen back into. Dro lifted his voice by the power of the light and glory and said in a voice that filled the caves and made the whole mountain shake,

"You two warriors of truth how could you have been so deceived?" His voice seemed to echo across reality itself. Then Dro heard the two bow in shame and slither off into forgotten paths. Dro looked back at Amid, It was back down to him Han and Amid like in the beginning. Dro drew a circle in the dust and placed Amid in it, after a time Amid opened his eyes, sat up and said "I remember."

"Who are you then?" Dro asked.

"I am the Water in the seas. I cradle ships in my arms. I am a vessel and holder of the spirit of Mer. I return again and again according to my season. I teach the wise to fight with all the weapons of the just and how to mold the craft of every arrow."

When Amid was finished he was sitting cross-legged with a very solemn look about him.

Dro listened to every sound around him, far above him he heard the distant voice of the counsel of agents chanting to the throne of the spiral ear. Dro heard them say "high one, high one behold a sun has appeared inside Pufurvenhurbum by the yellow tower and is threatening to destroy thy great machine of nothing and free the prisoners! Do something your highness!"

Dro listened to see if he could hear Han. He heard the outside so clear it was so much louder than the caves. Dro heard the war on the outside that the Magi told them about. Men arguing about the kingship of a country called Kymoore, The sound of books burning and of men being but to death, giving their last testaments.

The sound of horse men riding to a much nosier south filled with the sounds of business and the growing fear of the north. "I heard Orfaciuse raised that whole army who attacked the mountain from the dead." Dro heard one merchant say. And another

"The necromancer of the north will come south once he's done with Kymoore. Dro was intrigued by the gossip but where is Han Dro thought. Then a familiar breath that of Morgan's waiting in a prison cell, to be burned. Dro's heart yearned to be with him. Where is Trivanian Dro thought his ears scanning the country side frantically. Then Dro gasped as he heard not his breath but Trivanian's head being carried on a spear across the muddy plain by an army of nothings. "Amid I just learned something awful. Trivanian has past away into the land of the dead." Amid still looked solemn.

"He will come forth in the resurrection," Amid replied. Dro listened to the movements of space but space was so big he couldn't listen to it all. "Dro" Amid said.

"Yes Amid?"

"I think I need to go find and save Nog and Hev."

"Amid it is no use, I can hear them they have been thrown behind the chasm and without me it is impossible to get them back, we will just have to come back for them in a

future expedition, they have also forgotten the quest.” Amid looked devastated then got a new look of resolution.

“I need to find my own way out.”

“But Amid, Canada told us to stay together,” Dro said.

“No I feel this is what I should do,” Amid replied and crawled off back down the tunnel. Dro could not help but have deja vu of the first time this happened in the cave of sand nearly two years ago. Dro sat there hoping Amid would change his mind when suddenly he heard the bloody scream of the Overmind far above him. Then he climbed higher up the tower.

-Orfaciuse-

Low sun light filled the bedroom, his long curtains blew in the breeze. Another unearthly light glowed from under the threshold of his door.

“I should have strangled that boy when he first came to my service. I hate him!” Orfaciuse spat. “He was going to be my heir. But he throw it all away, what a fool.”

“He will still have your kingdom.” A Low voice said from a shadow at the window.

Orfaciuse looked up. A great rock bird was suddenly sitting on the window sill. It had deep red eyes and with closer examination was rotting and dead. It looked menacing in the red light of the sun with a long crooked neck like a vulture. Orfaciuse’s heart was pounding out of control now. “You are my Ogweam aren’t you?” Orfaciuse said, having a hard time controlling his breathing.

“Yes, that is who I am.”

The Overmind screamed as the bird swooped in and sunk its talons into his back.

-Weab-

Weab was one of the outer-rim rangers, Dro had saved out of the crowd. He ran for his life fearing more agents might be coming. He and his friends had been delivered by the strange shining man. Many thoughts went through his mind as he ran. The moment the light burst forth the agents had been trying to tell them that there was no way out, yet as they said it, that man with the light in his face appeared suddenly. Weab came to a river he had been to before. It flowed yonder into an unknown land.

Then, gaining courage, Weab thought, “it would be better for my body to be a carcass on the brook of the real world than to be filled with breath in here.” Weab took his leap of faith into the cool swift black water. Being swept away in a torrent of blackness he was the only ranger with the faith to jump.

Weab shivered as the dark cool water of the river swept him down a dark tunnel no ranger had ever ventured. Weab winced as rocks occasionally scraped his legs going past. This persisted until Weab was tired bloody and scraped up.

Thoughts were constantly at him whether he would live or die. Suddenly all hope was shattered as he saw an approaching water fall. “This will surely be my end.” he thought, at least I wasn’t caught and tortured by the Overmind. Weab closed his eyes as he was swept over the edge, not wanting to know how far he would fall until his end. He fell and fell as suspended in space, but the miracle of it all was that he never hit the bottom in fact he was never quite sure what really happened.

All he knew was that he awoke on the brook of his greatest fantasy. The light was

overwhelming, and he saw the lightened wings of an orange and black butterfly on the brook of the real world.

-Everyone else-

The dark tower suddenly emitted a light like a burning torch, as if the sun itself had rested on its high peak. All men turned in amazement and far off lands were left in shadow. Morgan looked out his prison cell and muttered, "the sign of the king." In that moment the prisoners rose in rebellion and the riders turned about, and charged into the north from whence they came shouting

"long live the king!"

And in that very hour a battle commenced like Tr Mizriam had never seen. Merchants on mountain roads said to themselves the age of the Sun tower has returned and the wish of our fathers in building a tower to heaven has been done.

"And so we see the land of Eden is the world of the day, and the north countries of the sea kings is that of the night."

Chapter 11

The Titan ship and its many rooms

Han soared around light as a feather in his dreams free of touching anything. Han opened his eyes and at first didn't realize where he was. Han's heart dropped as he didn't feel anything under him and he realized he was looking at the ceiling that was not three feet from his face. Looking around he found it very hard to turn himself around with nothing to grab onto.

Han reached up and was barely able to touch the ceiling with the tip of his middle finger sending him turning downward very slowly. Just below him he saw his blue blanket stationary in the air. Han reached for it and pulled on it. But it simply came to him not getting him much closer to the floor. This was all very strange and unexpected!

"Why didn't Luz tell me about this?" Han thought. Han then curled up in a ball and turning slightly kicking the ceiling sending him swiftly to the floor, but to Han's dismay walking wasn't quite the same. He had to hold onto the bed post not to go floating off again. Han now understood why there were railings everywhere. He felt hungry but there was still a night sky filled with stars out the window.

He didn't feel tired at all though as if he had slept a long night through and was waking in the morning. Han pushed off his bed post to the door, flying horizontally he reached his hand out and laid hold on the brass handle. He pulled the door open and floated into the hall, then grabbing the hand rail and proceeded on. This is actually a lot of fun Han thought to himself.

Han opened the door to the forest. He saw the top of the trees being blown as if from a mighty wind. The night sky glimmered with the brightest stars he had ever seen. Han glided from tree to tree and used his arms to propel himself forward. He glided through the woods and finally lay hold on the railing on the other side. He proceeded

into the main hall where he saw Bensiden floating along. The Water Titan invited him into the dining room and Han had the morning meal with him and Nebo. The eating room was large but not as big as the great hall, its metallic ceiling sloped outward. Breakfast was fruit bread and gravy sort of stuff that was in metal containers with a straw on the top.

“Is it still night out?” Han asked.

“Oh no,” Bensiden said with a chuckle “We are in the great space above the blue sky, where there is nothing to breathe.” Han marveled for a moment about this, then started eating again. Everyone began to drift in after a little while. Jerubbaal and Merica came in then Canada and Luz.

“Hey Han, I thought you would sleep in for sure, with all that excitement and all.” Canada said.

“no I guess not. But how is time to be reckoned out here?”

“Oh by the space clock up there.” Han looked up to see a clock with eight rotating rings on the outside. Each had a name. In the inner circle was a period of darkness and a larger period of light.

“What is that dark spot?”

“That’s when we should be sleeping,” Canada replied. After they all visited Luz showed Han into the front triangular glass room. From there they peered down upon a bright blue moon of deserts seas and swirling clouds.

“Where are we Luz?”

“That beautiful orb you are looking at Han is the earth that is your home.” Han soared to the glass and stared in pure awe at the creation of God for what might have been hours. Then came the soft voice of Canada.

“Han you have been here for quite awhile. Don’t you want to see the other parts of the ship?” Han took another brief look and tore his eyes from the earth and looked back at Canada.

“No one would ever believe me if I were to go back into the caves. They would call me a blind fool.” Canada smiled at Han but said nothing. Then Han went on.

“Oh but what wonders lay on the horizons of eternity. Endless adventure. And to think only a week ago I had never felt the wind on my face, I had never heard the rushing of the brook or the singing of birds. I had never felt the sun upon my back or seen the stars. But now I am gazing at the entire earth flying through the midst of heaven.”

Canada looked at Han and said,

“This is what I always wanted to tell you about Han. And to think most people will never see what you have seen in their whole life. Awoken from the darkest night you let the truth grow in you and what have you found?”

“I have found.” Han thought for a moment. “I have found that I am a stranger on the earth. Sometimes I wonder where I really belong. Canada I can’t even remember what my parents were like. I don’t know what my house looked like in all its splendor. I will never again hear her tell me a story. I don’t know the songs she sung me and I can’t even recall the smell of home. I can’t feel my fathers embrace. When I look back for my past all I feel is the cold emptiness of nothing.”

Canada drifted over and hugged him. He wiped his face on his sleeve. Then Luz came and placing his hand on Han’s shoulder and said.

“Shall we show you the Library?” Han nodded. The wind began to blow and

they headed for the door. They flew through the forest and went up the stairs from the bedrooms and oak doors. Up there was another set of handsome doors that said, ***Seek the power to give an acceptable offering of knowledge to the Son of Man.***

Luz opened the door and invited Han in. The room they were in was filled to the top with books. It was wonderful and Han felt he had just received a precious gift to be allowed to read so much. There in the center of the room stood a pedestal with a blue book that caught Han's eye.

It said ***The Galaxy of Aocicinori.***

"What's this Luz?" Han asked.

"This book talks about the network of galaxies to which we are connected, but only one man will God permit to see it before the end and he will be blessed. One day after he lives and dies your story will be known among men."

"My story? Why me?"

"You play a bigger roll in the grand story than you will ever know until the judgment, when you are brought to the bar of God with shining robes of glory."

Han began to read. He read and didn't stop until supper time. The things Han seemed to love the most were about outer space.

The symbolism of Magesism - by Cuthani

Chapter 8 - All planets are divided, with one side dark and the other light, one side north and the other south. Thus it is with our mortal minds also. Meditative circles are symbols of power and are always divided. The Titans chose the moon of Uranus not only for its distance but also for its magical properties. The dark and light sides of Uranus and its moons are the same as its north and south sides because it rotates on its side with its north ever pointing at the Sun.

Thus it is the ever sleeping planet showing forth its wonders in due seasons. The Sun's axis is sideways to the grand key just as Uranus's axis is side ways to the Sun. Thus she herself is a possible medium of the heavenly light.

In ages past it has lit up as the brightest of all stars and through the power of the Wind Water and life Titans the life moon grew yellow white and purple flowers. The Life moon was endowed with life even though the moon is usually dark and cool. It is cold enough to turn hydrogen hard as metallic ice.

The Galaxy of Aocicinori - We know that Aocicinori is a neighboring star system. But none have yet seen it. The Grand Key is the dwelling of immortal beings. It is the portal and source of light to our world and Aocicinori also. The energy it gives is actually from a higher order of worlds where the Beloved creator dwells.

The light and power that comes from this greatest of all planets goes through the medium and that gives light to all the stars you can see in heaven and also to our own sun. Our sun gives life to our planet and the fire in portions to men. By this system God also looks down upon all lower orders.

The History of Awaiamana - In the early days All lands were one. Two satellites circled our planet besides the moon. Their power and motion served as the earth's wings in bearing her forth from the World of Light. Our father Michael originally put high towers like torches on the earth. Ages passed and finally the earth was married to the sun who has given her light ever since.

When the time had waxed late the Gods made Adam and placed him in the garden they had made. And it was in the first age after Adam had left the garden that God placed stewardships upon man for their enjoyment and power and taught them the skills of the earth. One day Adam's son made a sword out of his plowshare and used it to murder his brother.

He was cursed from his gift and stewardship, being made to wander on the earth forever through the corrupted power of his Titan stone. Then man saw that through love you were sealed to your gift and through hate you were separated from it. On one hand your spirit would have power influence your stewardship and on the other your body though dead would remain on the earth as long as your Titan stone would endure.

The great Titans of the past were taken to the outer lands with Enoch. Soon the great deluge covered the earth in water and a new age was born. The earth however cleansed would again see a dark shadow in the land. The land in those days was divided and the more part of the earth was taken into heaven. In the third age men worshiped the evil Titans as gods and even built temples in their names.

Seeing the shadow cover the new lands the good Titans put their stones safely in the west across the sea. Men again harnessing the Titan powers and built three towers one greater than the last but the third was never completed because the pure language was taken from the house of the wicked. A good branch of people lead by God came up from the third tower and inhabited the land in the west.

Then in time their posterity became wicked and eight of the sixteen Titans among them became evil. With the Titan stones no longer safe in the west the good Titans sought counsel as to wear they should put the stones of their stewardships. A great Titan king put all his power into a ship that would bear them hence into the land of stars.

It being completed the good Titans of the earth left, and placed their stones upon an altar deep in space on a remote moon of Uranus called the Life Moon. Back on the earth a royal family feud in the west started a war. Orfaciuse took his secret society and inhabited a mountain full of caves that was the tower of the first age. There Morom the prince waged battle on him, but with his craftiness Orfaciuse captured his whole army in the darkness. One in days to come will unlock again the secret fire behind his very gates. Thus the chosen people will inhabit the gates of their enemies and all men will know the truth.

Han looked up. The Fire Titan sat cross-legged in the air reading a book. Luz looked down at him as he flipped his book closed and said. "It is about time for dinner." He elegantly kicked off the shelf and glided back to where the book went in the room. "After supper we should visit awhile then go to sleep. But I will show you the observatory tomorrow." Luz looked back at Han who was looking longingly.

"Oh please show me tonight after dinner." The fire Titan looked at him for a moment then said

"Well hmm okay I guess I will."

"Oh thank you, I am so excited." Han replied. Together Han and the Fire Titan flew down to the dinning room. The room was full of cheery conversation and Han was greeted by all the friendly faces.

"Wow Han you were reading for a long time." Jerubbaal said. Over dinner

Canada asked him what he had learned from his reading but there was almost too much to relate in one sitting. After everyone was done for awhile Luz asked Han if he was ready to go look at space. Han jumped up and almost floated to the ceiling. It was strange to be weightless and Han was still rather clumsy!

But they made their way up the long staircase to the top of the forest dome. There was a round room with a smaller glass dome for the entire roof and walls. In the middle of the room was a chair and a large rotatable telescope. The floor was covered in a silver plated round grid with lines and numbers inlaid with jade. "So what would you like to see first Han?"

"Um... Jupiter." Luz nodded and started turning cranks and levers as the giant telescope began to turn and move along the glass. Then Luz stopped and carefully adjusted it, looking into it he turned even smaller knobs ever so slightly. Finally he turned to Han and said it's ready. Han walked up and looked into the eye piece. He saw a large round planet with swirls and lines all up and down it. "It is amazing! Just like in the drawings. Luz what is that little round dark spot in the middle of it?"

"That is the shadow of Tili one of its moons." Han marveled at it for awhile.

"How big is it really, is it really bigger than the earth?" A smile caressed Luz's face.

"It is hundreds of times bigger. That small shadow on its atmosphere is probably bigger than the earth. If you were to ride the fastest horse at top speed or fly on eagles wings you would not even make it across what you now see, in your entire life time or your children's, children's life time for that matter." Han looked at Luz in amazement. "Is it bigger than the Sun?"

"not even close. The Sun might look small from earth but it is many times bigger than even Jupiter, that is how far we are from it, and Jupiter that you now see is even further."

"If it is even further how did you ever get to the moon of Uranus to hide your Titan stones?"

"With the combined powers of the Titans and with the help of God we put unearthly powers into this very ship, but the missing key is the living Mind Titan who only can access this power by becoming one with the ship through the Meta. That is why our Titan stones are safe on the Life moon. Han Let me show you something even bigger and more distant."

Hans eyebrows raised a little in interest. Luz turned all kinds of cranks and knobs as the mighty telescope circled around the room. Soon he had fine tuned it and took his eye from the glass with a smile. "Han this thing you are going to look at is called a nebula, it is a cloud of gas far in the depths. Far beyond the planets of our star." Han stepped up and put his eye to the glass.

The sight took his breath away. It indeed was a dark purple cloud surrounded by concourses of stars. Han saw many other things also but the time grew late and they drifted their own ways to bed.

Chapter 12

The long and disturbing dream

Han curled up in his blanket floating lazily in the air and drifted off to sleep.

Han's Dream.

The Over mind stood on a ledge dangling as a puppet to give a sermon. The Talons of the Ogweam vulture sank deep into his back and it played with him as a child does a doll. "The outer-rim has rejected me, therefore eat the flesh of every man you find there, for it will give you power to utterly destroy Kymoore. My brothers you will enjoy equally in the riches of the kingdom once I am king.

My men have went before your face, the path is clear and nothing stands between you and victory. Nothing stands between you and the blood of them who sent you. Now is the hour of our revenge!" After the sermon the army moved in droves past the bridge over the lava chasm.

Han was then taken to the room of counsel in Kymoore were the senate of the king meets. Han saw that the chairs were filled with evil men Titans and agents. "What are we going to do about the fire that came out of the mountain? You all know, that is the sign of the king." Another arose,

"Let us kill the steward Morom and his son the prince. If that be the sign let it be our king that rises, The" he put his hand over his mouth and whispered something and every one did the like also. A trumpet sounded and Han looked up.

"All stand for the prince!" The entire senate rose with smirks on their faces. Then as the prince arrived a senator in a black robe approached him. The prince smiled then the smile turned to a gurgling frown as he fell to his knees. The man swung his hand knocking the prince's crown from his head and his guards did nothing but watch.

Another scene opened and Han saw a darkness seep out of the mountain as a numberless army covered the hills. They had crude metal clubs and blades. Many of them had iron breast plates but others were naked and most had no more than a cave lizard or dog skin on. They appeared black because they were covered in mud to protect their pale skin.

They were the army of Orfaciuse and Morom combined as if raised from the dead. The watch men looked out into the east with dread and terror. This army was large enough to surround the entire mountain with ranks thousands of men thick. It was a day of gloom and the sun was hid behind the clouds. To Han's horror he saw Trivanian's head on a stick. Han looked up to the only source of light that was a fire like the sun on the tip of the mountain.

Orfaciuse had attempted to cover it with a storm cloud but it illuminated the entire gloom as an eye filled with fire ready to burst forth into a day spring of glory. Han desired more than anything to see Dro and know whether he was yet alive but his vision constrained him and Han could only see what it desired to show him.

Han was swept away in the vision again to the main street of Tr Mizream, where

the city had erupted into open rebellion against the servants of Orfaciuse. On one side of the street stood thousands of citizens waving flags and throwing rocks at the black cloaks.

On the other side marched the men, Orfaciuse had already sent to occupy the city. The magi school was behind enemy lines and had already been lit on fire. Han saw the black cloaks throwing their books, calendars, and board games in huge piles to burn. What Han gathered from the screaming, was that the mountain lit up right as the school was ignited. "The school is gone but the Magi are still alive in the prison, should we not save them?" One yelled.

"If just one of you dirt lickers steps out of line we will execute them all!" Han heard a soldier yell. Suddenly all the rebels went crazy and charged screaming into the ranks of the soldiers beating them with sticks. By the time they got to the prison there was already a pile of dead Magi with cut beards and bags over their heads. The citizens of Kymoore broke into the dungeon bashing the guards heads with clubs.

The remaining magi came out of the prison, then Han saw Morgan, he was so happy he was still alive. Morgan looked up and his face dropped, Han knew something must be wrong. Han looked and saw at the end of the street was three figures in dark black cloaks, standing erect and commanding. One raised his hand and the sky suddenly darkened, the whole riot stopped and looked up in shock. The center one pulled a sword out of his cloak as though he had it sheathed in his own stomach.

Fear filled the hearts of the whole crowd as the third raised his hands. Ice shards sharp as knives suddenly came from the sky cutting them down like bugs. The crowd started running in every direction falling here and there as bloody ice flew in every direction. Lightning burst from no where putting everyone in shock and striking others.

Han looked up, the one with the sword was gone. He looked around to see him here and there slaying people as though he could disappear and reappear at will. Morgan was fighting off the ice knives with a broken stick and yelling, "retreat! You can't win this battle, get out before you die!" Then an ice shard flew past Morgan's guard and he fell to the ground.

"No!" Han called, he came to his side and looked into his face, he was luckily still alive. Han looked out over the road to see it filled with bodies. Who ever lived was gone, and the street was silent. The ice shards were gone and the only sound was that of burning. Han saw that the flame on the books had spread to the bodies, and the whole road was smoking, and everyone lay in puddles of watered down blood.

Han saw the chariots of the senators rolling over their books and smoldering bodies. The head of the prince on the end of a pike.

Han was swept away in the vision again back to the plains in front of the mountain where one, then many horse men appeared on the hill overlooking the valley. It was the cavalry that went south and had turned around as the fire appeared, to fight for the king.

Their commander rode before them and said, "My men my friends, we will not live to see another sunrise over the hill tops. We will not live to see this summer turn to winter or that winter turn to spring. My men we will surely die this day. We know that the good Titans became so though love and the evil by hate. Let our spirits become as the Titans of old, never leaving this battle field until the day be won, our Titan stoned the very stones upon which our blood is shed. This day we kill our fathers and our older brothers who served with Morom but we do not kill them in hate but in love!"

Then the sound of the horn echoed over the hill tops and the army advanced into the valley. They rode in glory with bright swords flashing, they rode to their doom. The men of the king were out numbered a thousand to one yet they rode with the wind towards certain death. Han stood above them in his vision. Just then Han looked up to see a miracle. The light in the cloud burst forth upon them as bright as the sun. Suddenly the army of Orfaciuse shrieked in pain and fell to the earth as they were instantly blinded by the light.

The men of the king marveled upon the mercies of God as they plowed through the black army unabated as a farmer plows their own fields who are not threatened by little weeds that need plucking in the summer sun. Han suddenly felt a great swelling of sorrow for the nothing army. He was once one of them. Why was he given a chance and they were not? Only if I had awoken and taught more of them. Han felt as though a part of him was dieing as he watched the slaughter of the ignorant.

Han could not bear to watch the vision anymore his heart burning with helplessness. Why is reality so cruel? Han turned around to see the dark Titan's chariots appear on the hill. The commander looking up and seeing them also, ran back up the hill towards them, several miles back past the dead to kill those who were responsible for so much. As he ran he knocked his bow with an arrow.

When he was in rang he shot a swift arrow that hit and sunk into the chest of one of the senators. As he ran he shot another and another but none fell to the ground. As he came to them he unsheathed his already bloody sword. Then one of the senators reached forth and grabbed it by the blade and with inhuman strength took it from him.

The robed senator grasped and squeezed him by the neck lifting him from the ground. The general suddenly breathed in the smell of warm rotting flesh. The Titan with the commander in his right hand pulled out from his pocket his dark glowing stone that seemed to emanate a heavy cloud that sunk to the hem of his robs. "You have been a dark Titan all along?" the commander choked with shock. Then with his last ounce of strength he snatched the cold stone out of the Titan's hand and shoved it into his own mouth.

The senator shocked loosened his grip on the commander for only a moment but in that moment he swallowed it. The dark Titan threw him to the hard ground and said. "I will cut it out of your stomach." Then the dark figure standing over him took his knife and plunged it into his lower rib. But as the light of life was leaving him his last thought gave him joy, "my blood shall touch his stone. Let it cry to the heavens against him."

Han saw the Titan on the hill was more furious than ever. Thunder clouds formed over the battle field and it began to lightning and hail over their heads. Soon the valley was filled with muddy and bloody rivers of white pebbles. The clouds covered the light and the army of Orfaciuse opened their eyes and were thirsty for blood. The men of the King were soon overcome and disappeared in the black ranks as a stone does cast into a marsh.

Then Han saw one solitary flag of Kymoore with the seven stars upon it blowing in the wind and caught on a tree branch in the wilderness. "Kymoore is taken! Behold the land of the north is overcome, who will stand against Orfaciuse now?" Was the lament of many. And Han saw three undead wraths standing on the hill with their faces covered.

"So these are the nameless ones," he thought.

Han was then taken to a castle hall in the south where Morom the steward sat eating supper. Knock, knock, went the door. "What is it?" Morom muttered. The door creaked open,

"sir the Magi Elose is here to see you." Elose then stepped into the spacious room. Han was delighted to see him and to especially know he was safe.

"I thought I told all you magi that I didn't believe in your ridiculous lore." Han realized he didn't really like Morom all that much. Elose spoke up,

"Well you see I was on the high road coming here when I turned around to see the view, but what caught my eye was the fact that smoke was rising from Tr Mizream, and an innumerable host stood in ranks in the plain that used to be part of the sea." Morom fumbled his spoon that went tinkling across the floor.

"And how on earth am I supposed to believe you. For all I know you just wanted to spoil my appetite for the fun of it."

"My humble apology sir. I just thought your majesty ought to know, I came as quickly as I could."

"You may leave."

Han was carried away in another vision with a great dislike for Morom. What a big snob he thought! Han's desire brought him back to Morgan's side. Night had fallen and the streets lay quiet.

"Get up Morgan it is all clear." Han said though he knew he could not hear him. Then Morgan turned over and lifted himself to his feet and started limping through the puddles of blood and over scattered pages of torn books. Han walked by Morgan's side all the way to the edge of the city and up the country lanes. Finally as the sky began to light up again in the early morning Morgan limped up the Titan pillar hill and sat on the steps all alone.

The wind blew through his thin white hair and Han felt so bad that they had left him there all alone. "Oh ye wicked nation, how could ye be so depraved? In two generations you will be destroyed unless you repent and return to the true and living God." As Han watched Morgan say this he felt the sadness and love in this great Magi's voice and he knew everything he had ever told him was true.

"Is that so?" A chilling voice rang out behind them. Morgan arose like a giant and said.

"As I live it is so." Han looked and to his shock a figure made of shadow stood before them.

"You will not turn and join the true Titans will you? You are just like the rest of your kind who are dead save Elose which will be shortly changed." The Dark Titan said. His voice was cold as ice and his mantle as pitch darkness.

"You are wrong there is another living Magi. Now I command you to leave this holy ground!" The shadow then moved and brooded down the steps. Then it stopped at the bottom of the stone foundation and said.

"Make me." Then Morgan took a small sword out of his robes and flung the leather sheath. The darkness turned around and pulled a real sword out of the shadow. Han's heart started to race and he prayed that Morgan would live. Han half disbelieved what was happening until the swords clashed in furious combat. It was then that Han realized that this was not just a shadow or dark spirit but a tangible being. They fought and fought, in morning's first pale light. Then in one fateful stroke Morgan stumbled

backwards onto the steps with the shadow Titan's sword in his chest.

The cackling of the Titan was drowned by the emotion of the moment. Han heard perfect silence as he knelt by Morgan's side. No, no Han thought, this can't be happening Morgan you can't die you have taught me so much. If it wasn't for you I would still be a nothing. I would still be a nothing.

Han cried in agony over the last breaths of the great Magi. Then Morgan looked up as though into Han's very eyes and Han heard his voice in his head.

"Thank you Han for being my greatest student. Let your candle shine bright forever." Then he closed his eyes and died.

Han was overcome with grief and awoke in the night. He looked over at the clock on the wall and it said that it was still the time to sleep, but he could not forget what he had seen.

As he thought of it, he knew the truth of his vision. He looked over to see Sun light on the edge of his window sill. Han pushed off his bed post with his foot and glided to his window and pressed his face to it. The Sun floated suspended in space among the stars.

Han could remember the very first thing Morgan had ever said to him, "You are alive and awake, I am Morgan I am your friend." He remembered when Morgan and Trivanian had taught them about the caves and given them precious gifts. The more Han thought of all he had seen the dryer his throat became and the more tears bunched up and got in his eyes.

Then Han tried to go back to sleep suspended in the air. As Han fell back into his dreams he found that all night he was taunted by shadow and depression. The darkness Titan that killed Morgan seemed to haunt his dreams and all night Han struggled not to be swallowed by its dreariness. In the morning Han lay awake in the air thinking about the events of the night, when some knocks came to the door. He bade them come in as he kicked the ceiling and flipped around up right.

Canada came in and said. "You look terrible."

"I do?"

"oh, no, I mean, were you up all night?"

"No I just had a really bad dream." Then it suddenly occurred to Han that Canada's father was dead, and he didn't know how to tell her. He quickly turned around so Canada wouldn't see the worry on his face.

"Are you okay Han?" "If I don't tell her now she might hate me later..." Han thought. "But it is so sudden."

"What happened in your dream?" She inquired. Han turned around. Canada reached for him saying, "your hand, its shaking." Han looked down at it and instantly lost all measure of courage in himself.

"I saw a dark cloud brooding in the north. The army of Orfaciuse took all of Kymoore." "Do you think it is a true dream?"

"I know that it is." Han said. Canada started looking into space. "Oh Father in Heaven may my father be okay." The last thing that Canada said seemed to tear at his very heart. Then as a tear came out he tried to hide his face.

"Han are? Han what's wrong?" "I, I saw your father, and he is dead." Canada stepped back with a look of disbelief, and Han went on. "He died well, with honor and nobility." Canada covered her red face with her hands and quickly glided out. Han was

left feeling quit terrible. He looked up to see Barak hovering in the door.

“That was a noble thing you did. Most people would not have told her the truth.”
“Yeah,” Han said.

A dark cloud hung over him and it felt to Han for a moment as if he were falling back into the abyss. Feeling totally out of control he had a blood fear that he might never make it back into consciousness. Darkness surrounded him for a time and it seemed his only source of light was his very aura that was being quickly choked into death. Han began to talk to the darkness.

“Who are you? Are you the one who killed Morgan?”

“I am the shadow deep in the earth. My dominion is so dark that no eye can pierce its depths. Once in the darkness no man can return to the feeble light of day. For he will ever after emanate gloom”

“You lie, for I know of an eye that can see you. And the whole of space is filled with light.”

“Who?”

“The flaming and all seeing eye of God.” Han replied

“If that be so where is it’s light now?”

“Its piercing light is invisible to the unworthy but is real and fills the immensity of space.” Then something, something so deep and inconceivable. A single speck of light in the vacuous abyss of shadow. Han looked and saw that he was the light or that he was it’s conduit, and he grew steadily brighter and brighter.

A warmness grew inside him and he felt a love deeper and more happy than he could possibly have imagined. An intelligence sprouted within him that was wiser than the age of the earth and life suddenly didn’t seem so dismal.

“I feel something, it is burning.” The shadow Titan shrieked in pain. Soon the darkness was filled with a bright whiteness and the presence seemed to melt away.

As Han slumped in the air in unconsciousness Barak called out his name. He flew into the room and seeing Han had fainted, he grabbed him by the robe and tried to shake him awake. Han just flopped around like a floating wet rag. Barak then took him and rushed to the front room where he knew Luz would be.

Chapter 13

Of the city of light!

"I was in the greatest darkness I had ever known. Then a light grew within me, springing forth as a fountain from my very pores. The darkness was my fear, clouding my mind from understanding myself. The light is my perfect knowledge, the secret fire that is the source of light in my world. I then opened my eyes, not my physical ones but my spiritual, and saw a new place.

I couldn’t believe that I had achieved the spiritual consciousness without the aid of a machine. I then understood that unlike the mind, spirit sight was a gift from God and not achieved through any human craft. I saw that I was on a ship sailing in the sea. I looked over the waves at the most beautiful golden city shimmering in the light of a

white planet with a ring brighter than the sun."

The city itself shone like a burning fire reflected in the water. The men around him on the ship were fair and strong in robes of glory. The captain had long white hair and his eyes shone like the blue stars. His Mantel was not only striking but made Orfaciuse's visage look weak. He had a golden crown of carved leaves and vines. In the front of the crown shone a green star from which sprang the vines, and was made of pure Emerald.

The ship sailed into a long canal passing forests and green pastures on the way to the flaming city of light. Soon the city's mighty pinnacles towered above them in the stars. One great tower stood in the center above the rest like a giant candle, it had the appearance and shone as of white gold in the light of the greatest planet. "Han." A deep voice said. Han turned around to see a glorious being in pure white robes.

"Yes? Here am I."

"This great city you see before you is the city of light. It was taken up to heaven many thousands of years ago, before your ancestors came across the deep, before the dark lord tried to make a tower to heaven. Even before the continents of the earth were divided, before the north turned to ice. Before the great flood this people became so righteous that they were given all things, made immortal and taken into heaven with their whole country under their feet. Look."

Han looked and to his amazement the ship had sailed right up to the gate. The channel gate made of sparkling sapphires and inlaid trees made of gold opened and the ship sailed into the light on the other side. The city inside the wall was bright and amazing to Han's mortal eyes.

Han stared with his mouth open at the city around him. "Han." The glorious messenger went on. "The most incredible thing about the city is not what you can see with your eyes but what you can feel with your heart."

"What is that?" Han asked.

"All who here dwell love one another so much they are willing to give all they have to each other. In life there was no poor among them and they were the people who had one heart in all things." The ship came up to a stone deck and docked next to it. The angel led Han off the ship and walked with him up the streets made of what looked like gold. To each side of them lay houses, covered in vines.

-Canada-

"Canada, don't despair over your father he was just, and has surely found a place among his fathers of old, in the halls of Titans and kings." Luz's soft voice rang out in comfort. "It is okay to miss him but to despair with fear is to reject the gift that is within you." Canada was crying to Luz when Barak flew in with Han's limp body. Canada lost her breath for a moment but Luz could not have had a bigger smile. "Fear not Barak Han is only sleeping."

"But I just talked to him a moment ago." Canada said in concern.

"He is only sleeping." Luz repeated in a quieter voice. Canada walked up to him and looked into his face.

"How did he fall asleep?" Canada asked.

"His spirit left his body." Canada looked at Luz in shock. "Fear not Canada,

Han is very much alive. The veil of unbelief and fear is being lifted from his mind forever as he receives true knowledge. I see you wonder how this is done. The Spirit Titan who is in us may quicken us to see far off places. But what saves Han from death even now is the energy that holds our spirit to our body just as our mind is held to it. Which is a thin cord of power that attaches him to his temporary shell and at this time extends of into space where he is.”

“Luz Tell me more about the spirit Titan.” Barak looked at Luz but Luz simply smiled back.

“In the Beginning all of Father’s children were given stewardships. With them they helped beautify the earth and unfold the heavens. Then as they descended one by one to mortality they were given similar responsibilities. To fulfill their missions, extended life became necessary. But there was one who was different. His stewardship prevented him from being born until his mission was finished. He will be born in the very last day.”

“But what is his stewardship?” Canada asked.

“It is to teach and testify of all truth to the end. Then he will be born the last of all men. And in that day the earth shall die”

“Will the earth really die?” Canada asked again.

“Canada look out this window. Do you see any immortal stars?”

“No.”

“If you see an immortal planet or star you will never again forget it in all the eternity’s to come. For it is so beautiful and its light is so pure it will change you forever. Canada, don’t worry, for the earth is just like us and will live again in immortality.” Luz took Han’s floating body and brought him to the center of the large triangle room then pushed him down to the floor. He then lit a candle with his finger and drifted down to his side.

Barak then left the two of them next to Han and drifted out of the room. “This fire is a small portion of my light, for I am a holder of the secret fire. It is the same light that now burns in his heart. It is become inherently a part of him and this fire is our link to him. Will you reach forth and raise him from the floor?” Canada lifted her arm and put her hand in his, and immediately he opened his eyes and sat up with a smile as though it had all just been a game.

Canada was so happy he was alright. They started laughing and after a minute she noticed that she was still holding tightly onto his hand. Canada hadn’t expressed it to him but she felt that Han was somehow a link to her father. Because he was one of the few people who knew him so well and it would have been too much to lose them together.

Although she realized she was always a little cool toward him. Han looked at Canada and suddenly realized she was holding his hand. His heart started to pound and he tried to look at random places in the room. This made Han happy yet nervous. He had always liked Canada but she had always seemed to be his leader, and he was never quite confident on how to act around her.

But now she was crying, smiling and holding his hand. Just after a few awkward minutes Luz announced the miracle to the rest of the crew and Han went to the dining room because he was over due for breakfast!

A little later Han was back in the library trying to soak up a life time of knowledge. Nebo sat in the air with a giant book almost the size of a chest and Merica was whispering

to Canada about something.

Han was getting weary of reading for a moment and decided to take a rest. He put the book down and saw Jerubbaal sitting in the air by him. "So Jerubbaal are you and Merica from Kymoore too?"

"No actually we are from far across the eastern sea. From the land of northern Israel born into the tribe of Zebulun and our father is Ammuel." Han and Jerubbaal talked for awhile until Bensiden came to Jerubbaal and reminded him it was time for a lesson. They headed off to the woods and Han continued reading. After a few hours Han was left alone in the library reading one last paragraph before dinner about the dividing of the continents.

He closed the book and hovered up to the shelf to put it away. He flew to the door and into the hall. Han looked left and right at the windows at the ends of the hall. There was a long box under the window to his left and he had wondered the other day what it might be. Han jerked at the railing and sent himself flying to it. As he hovered to it he saw there was a window on the top of the box.

Han peered in curiously to see the perfectly calm and preserved face of Elred in the pale moon light. "His apprentice was going to be someone his great grand son Ellose found in the caves."

Han whipped around to see Luz floating in the air.

"You mean Nog?" Han replied.

"Yes. Han tell me about your dreams. Is there anything you think I ought to know about them?"

"Ah I, You are a Titan how would my dreams be important to you? I am sure you know much more than I do on any subject!"

"Han don't underestimate your gift. And don't underestimate your place in the grand drama of things."

"Well I had a dream when I was still in the mountain about the future Titans, but it doesn't seem to be coming true."

"What did you see?"

"I saw Nog as the forest Titan, Hev as the lighting Titan, Amid as the water Titan and Dro as the Mind." A wise smile came to the face of Luz and Han was not quite sure what he was thinking.

"What else have you seen in vision?"

"I saw Kymoore being defeated and the pain and torture of the Magi." A solemn look was on the aged face in front of him.

"Have you seen the City of Light?"

"Yes, how did you know?"

"I saw the light in your half open eyes as you slept. Tell me about it if you wish to."

"I found myself sailing on a ship by the side of a messenger of light that I could not recognize or even see. We sailed into the most magnificent city with banner laden towers and flower covered walls. The messenger showed me to a giant Temple and invited me in. Inside was a large white assembly room with the ceiling painted like the sky, I saw many men in counsel. As we walked in I saw in the center top podium stood a man of such beauty majesty and glory I should have died in my natural body, the light that emanating from just his flaming eyes hot as stars illuminated the whole room.

His face was as fair and young as a man of only twenty years. He stood and

looked right at me. His eyes seemed to look directly into mine. It seemed he was the first to be able to see me save the spirit that was with me. “Welcome Han Salah son of Boula. His voice filled the temple and seemed to echo through the very immensity of space.

“I am Enoch son of Jared. This day you have received the secret flame. Your candle is no longer necessary for this light within you is the light of truth. Always cherish it for it is more precious than anything earthly. It is the power and light of the sun and life of the earth.”

After this I saw the light of the candle and was again brought back into my body.”

“I see.” Luz replied with a smile.

“Han did you know that in order to get to the life moon we need the Mind Titan who is the navigator of the ship?”

“You mean we need Dro to get to where we are going?” “Well we need his mind. And you are the only one who knows him well enough to find him.”

“How am I supposed to do that?”

“We have a meta machine onboard.”

“we do?”

“Yes I will show it to you when we are ready to depart into the deep.”

Then they both went down to dinner together. The dining room was buzzing with conversation about all the things they had learned. After dinner Han headed back to his room. On the way he stopped to think by Elred’s coffin. “Han, what’s up?” Han looked over to see Jerubbaal.

“Nothing really.”

“I see, you know it is kind of strange Han,” Jerubbaal suddenly seemed to lose the words to say. “What is strange Jerub?”

“I don’t know it is just that I have worked for my whole life to become the apprentice of the Fire Titan, and now that I am I don’t really feel ready to take his place.”

“I think you are.”

“Well maybe.” Jerubbaal looked down into the face of Elred.

“Han do you know why the Titan’s brought you on this mission?”

“No, why?”

“I don’t know Han I just thought you might. It is just that once every Titan generation they take their apprentices to the life moon to become Titans, but whose apprentice are you?”

“I don’t think I am meant to be a Titan Jerubbaal. But I think I might have come because of my connection to Dro.”

“Then who will be the next water Titan or will there be a next?”

“What do you mean by that Jerub? I am sure there will be a next of everything.”

“You are probably right, I just have a feeling this is a death mission and Luz knows it.”

“How is that? The evil Titans can’t create anything good, therefore they cant make a ship like this one.”

“They don’t need to Han. They don’t need to survive in space, they are already dead.”

“I am sure that Luz knows what he is doing Jerubbaal and if death is our fate then death it shall be.” Jerubbaal looked at Han.

“Thank you Han, I have only known you for a few days but I can tell you are a

friend. Good night.”

“Goodnight Jerubbaal.” Han replied. He sat there for a moment and then went to bed himself.

Chapter 14

Han’s birth Anniversary

The next day Han awoke to the sun coming through his window. He floated to the door and headed over to breakfast. As Han came through the door the room exploded in song. “Happy birth anniversary,” everyone sang. Han just floated there in shock.

“For me,” He asked.

“Yeah,” Nebo replied in a soft voice.

“But how did you know this was my birth anniversary when I didn’t even know?”

“Canada told us.” Barak replied.

“Oh.” Han had a contemplative face at this, then Nebo said

“Well come eat your feast.”

“Okay.” Han said with a huge smile. After the festivities Bensiden came to Han and said,

“Today I am going to teach you to fly one of the little ships. Sound fun?”

“Little ships?”

“Oh that is right you have never even seen them. Well we better get an early start.”

“Okay.” Han said with wonder. After breakfast Nebo headed off back though the forest and Han and Bensiden stood in the great bluish hall.

“Bensiden, where does Nebo always go? I mean I hardly even see him. And that is saying something in a place this size.”

“He goes to the room of assembly but you are not allowed to go there yet.”

“Where do you usually go?”

“I am usually in the water dome swimming among my fish. Hey Han look up there.” Han looked up to see the same giant mechanical arm he had seen when he was very first pulled out of the hatch from the water room. It suddenly began to move and pick something up off the shelf beyond where Han could see.

“How does it move?” Han asked.

“It is powered by pressurized Oxygen from the Wind Titan’s tunnels.” The arm came back clutching onto a strange looking blue metal pod with pointed extensions.

“Is that one of the little ships?” Han asked.

“Yes.”

“How do you see out of it?”

“You will see.” Ben replied. The arm rested it on the floor in front of them. Then grabbing only the top part, it pulled the top off, opening it like a giant lid.

“Well hop on in.” Bensiden said with a smile. Han stepped up into it and found a place perfectly shaped for one person to lay down with outstretched arms and legs. Han laid in it and suddenly the arm started moving the lid over him to close the ship

again. The last crack of light disappeared and the lid was sealed leaving Han inside. Han felt a breeze on his face and heard the voice of the Wind again.

“Hello Han it is me again. Are you scared?”

“Not really I just don’t know how I am supposed to see, or even fly this thing for that matter.”

“Do you remember how you meditate when you are in the Meta machines.”

“Yeah.”

“It is just like that. These boats work though the Meta, but are made to focus your knowledge to what is around you.” Han thought of this as he closed his eyes and meditated. His Mind’s eye searched through many dark tunnels until he ascended into a high state of consciousness. There before him was the main Hall all around him as if he were laying in mid air with no ship around him.

Then he perceived the boat’s boundaries and dimensions as though he could comprehend the solid mass with perfect clarity. Then the Wind whispered, “good.” into his ear. The arm came down and picked him up. To Han’s astonishment he could feel the metal fingers around him as though he was the ship. Then he comprehended his body was inside of himself and that he now was the ship of living metal.

The arm lifted him over and let him through the floor into the water. They let go and he drifted down through the water tank surrounded by concourses of fish. Han felt a current pushing him to the bottom. He came to the doors that had just opened and bursting through a thin layer of ice he drifted outside to under the ship. The ice and water he had knocked into space immediately sped back into the closing doors as sucked by a powerful force.

Han looked around himself to see numberless stars, the crescent planet earth hung in the sky and the sun also shone in Han’s view. “How do I control this thing?” Han thought loudly.

“By thinking it forward,” replied Bensiden’s voice in his head. Han tried this and found himself speeding off making the Titan ship become very small behind him. Han turned around his heart beating. Han had gone far enough that he didn’t see the ship for a moment.

“Bensiden can you hear me?”

“Yes Han don’t worry we won’t lose you.” Suddenly Han saw another pod like himself fly from the direction of the ship to his side.

“Han there are quite of few things you have to know about these boats. First of all I will show you as fast as you are allowed to accelerate because if you go too fast too quickly you can actually kill yourself. Next thing you have to know are those numbers you see in front of you is your speed in comparison to your target planet and the distance to the closest object in the direction you are moving.”

Han suddenly realized there was numbers in front of him he didn’t notice until Bensiden had brought it up. “Remember Han if you so much as nick something in these pods your dead in an instant and your grave shall be the immensity of space.”

They flew all around and Han became quite good at piloting them. Han soon learned it was hard to tell in which direction one was going out there seeing that the scenery didn’t change. Han was following the Water Titan when he apparently turned around and bolted back past him going very fast. Han turned around also and saw him fly back the other way even faster. “Where are you going?” Han asked. “I am not going anywhere; I just slowed down a little.”

Han then realized that it was hard to tell not only in which direction you were going but also at what speed because of the vastness of space. Your only bearing was measured by what was closest to you and if you were close to nothing you had no idea about relative speed or direction. And even if you were close to something you might ask in which direction is that object going? Han found space in that way delightfully confusing.

I am so little and insignificant in compared with space, Han thought. Finally Han and Bensiden were flying side by side again and he led Han back to the ship. The hardest part was fine tuning their speed with the ship again and flying through the open door back into the thick water. The ship floated to the top and the arm picked them up one by one and set them back on the floor. Han opened his eyes and stopped meditating. It was all dark, then a crack of light appeared and the lid was removed. Han sat up and climbed back out of the pod.

Chapter 15

The House of WiL

Han went up to the library after supper. Nebo was again sitting up by the shelf reading the same giant book. Han looked up at him. There was a metal door above Nebo's head in the ceiling of the library. Han had noticed it before but had forgotten to ask about it. "Nebo what does that hatch up there go to?" Nebo raised his spectacles and smiled.

"That is the Fire room."

"Oh." Han replied. Han sat down and started reading but every so often he would glance up at the hatch wondering what that room might be like. Luz hovered in and said

"ah there you are Han." Han looked up.

"Han tomorrow we are going to be coming close to the earth again and since we now know who the future Mind Titan is I have decided we are going to go back down and get the heirlooms of the house of WiL."

"Why do we need Dro's heirlooms?" Han asked.

"Well they are some of what Morgan went back for and because we need an object that is determined to find its master and thus will be in the same place as Dro in the Meta."

"Items have desires and determinations to fulfill their purpose?"

"Why of course, all things have intelligence and thus exist in the Meta. The meta has not the bonds of space and time, so therefore if they have a desire to be with him they will be."

"But how will having the physical objects help us find the Meta objects?"

"Well that is simple they are the same thing and are therefore in the same place aren't they?" Han thought about this for a while knowing it didn't make any sense on a physical level whatsoever, but kind of did in the mental, the mental being so much more allusive, yet it must be organized enough that it works hand in hand with the physical he thought.

The next day after breakfast every one went into the front room with the giant triangle windows. Luz placed the Meta helmet on and went deep into some strange trance. The earth was now stretched out below them with deserts, seas and swirling clouds. Everyone started grabbing handles on the floor and pulling out foldable seats. Han did so as well.

There were strange straps on them which Barak showed Han how to get into. Once everyone was strapped down tight the ship began to point its nose toward the earth, until all Han could see through the giant windows were the clouds and mountains far below. Slowly Han began to feel the strange sensation that he was being pulled forward, then his stomach leaped as he felt like he and the entire ship was falling. It seemed to become faster and faster as he felt heavier and heavier.

The glass in the windows also began to glow until they looked red hot, but all Han felt on his face was a cool breeze. "Are you scared?" Han heard the familiar voice of the wind say.

"No not really. Just how is the ship going to stop?"

"Don't worry, it just will." Han admired how far away they still were. He used to think the clouds were so high he could barely comprehend it, but now it looked as though they literally hugged the smooth surface with a shadow that showed the thinnest height. A soft and faint sound slowly turned into roaring so loud Han could barely think.

The entire ship began to vibrate and Han wondered if the glass would melt because it grew to look white with heat. The descent took several hours but Han kept his eyes wide open the entire time. As they approached the stratus the clouds seemed to be getting bigger and bigger very fast. Han suddenly felt sick like he needed to throw up. He kept it down for awhile thinking of nothing else.

Slowly the windows cooled down and the ship plummeted into the soft clouds. Han suddenly felt a lot better. He looked up just in time to see the grand view of Kymoore fly into view as the ship came out of the misty blanket. He could see the entire divided inland sea of the north called Olarani and its thick land bridge like two small puddles below him. Han also saw the largest mountain with its dark peak pointing up at them the peak of Pufurvenhurbum.

The other inland sea of the north that was to the west of Kymoore could also be spotted in the distance. Han marveled to see over all the mountains with all its rivers and valleys and hidden places. Han looked over the east and could almost see over the furthest hill tops and wondered what lay on the other side. The ship started turning its nose up to the horizon and Luz looked to the west and the ship obeyed. They gradually got lower and lower as they soared over the forests, hills and cities. In about an hour they flew past the shores and started over the sea in the west called Batala.

Their gradual descent finally put them soaring only yards above the waves. Han's heart jumped with surprise as the ship suddenly started submersing itself. At first it was only a rumbling sound below, then the water was crashing up onto the window as they became level with the sea. Suddenly the water got higher and higher on the glass until they were totally under the waves then the commotion ended, and a soft blue shimmer filled the room from the light above.

Barak came around and helped Han get his straps off as everyone was getting up and stretching after the long and loud journey from the outer lands. As Han got up and

stretched his stiff legs he could barely believe what he had just witnessed, a journey from space to under sea. The ship soared along under the waves, past many fish and whales. Bensiden suddenly said “look a shadow comes from the shores of the harbor.” Luz looked calm and said,

“Take Han and Canada to the surface, then deal with the enemy.” Luz looked at Han, “Han Canada will show you to Dro’s house, be careful and get the artifacts back safely.” Han nodded and followed Bensiden and Canada out of the room to the hatch in the hall. They pulled it back and peered into the water.

Bensiden gave them both ear plugs and explained they were pretty deep and he didn’t want the pressure to hurt their tender ear tissue. Then he jumped into the water first and suddenly changed under its ripples before Hans very eyes. His skin became grayish blue and many tentacles burst out from under him. He waved his webbed arms and shot through the water.

Han was in shock, his Titan form was even stranger then Elred’s. Canada jumped in next and then Han. The sound of the water filled his ears and he looked around for his bearing. He saw one of Ben’s giant tentacles wrap around his legs and pull him and Canada swiftly through the tank and out into the sea. The ship suddenly bolted off leaving them in the blue depths. The Water Titan started pulling them to the surface, Han looked back and saw a little way off a whale was being attacked by a strange black creature kind of like Bensiden.

Ben seemed to be quite effected as he also noticed this. Suddenly he let them go and waved for them to continue swimming up for oxygen, which Han was very much needing.

Han and Canada swam up hand in hand until they came to the surface and got air. Han noticed they were practically in the harbor of Kymoore. He dipped his head in the water again to make out what was happening with the Water Titan. He saw him and the other Titan like creature in a desperate fight over the whale. “What do we do now? Ben is down there fighting something.” Han said.

“We need to get to the shore. That’s the Death Titan down there.” Canada replied. Han and Canada started swimming at full speed toward the shore by the harbor. Han glanced up at the pillared hill to his right in the distance. It looked the same save there was no cloud. They both crawled up into the woods soaking wet. “Come, we have to get to the house of WiL.” Canada led the way through the dense forest. They came out onto one of the stone streets of the city. They both ran hand in hand past many houses up the hill.

This was the part of the city up on the hill and there were many terraces and gardens. “Where is everyone?” Han gasped.

“They are down in the main city for the festival.” Han looked down one of the long streets to see banners and crowds in the main street.

“What for, weren’t they just taken over?”

“Yeah, but I think it is to appease their new ruler.”

Just then there was a loud shout,

“Ever rule the Titans, ever rule King Orfanis!” Canada and Han quickly made their way up a long winding country lane as the sun was beginning to set behind the

trees. Suddenly there was a big cracking sound of a log in the shady forest. Canada started running as fast as she could pulling Han's arm. "Hurry Han" she called.

He took a look ahead and saw the great walled house they were going to. They were both aware now that something was jumping through the dark trees after them. The clouds seemed to be suddenly dark overhead and it started to hail, small at first but by the time they were nearly in the gate the ice balls were threatening to knock them out if hit. They ran through the courtyard and into the old house. Han turned around and latched the door behind them.

It was silent and dark in the musty ruins, but safe from the weather. The floor and posts were old and creaky and many spiders had made a home in the tapestries and furniture.

Canada said "I think they are in the basement." So they both crept down the dusty stone stairs. They both made their way past many objects in the dark. Canada suddenly said "Oh good here it is!"

"What?" Han inquired. Suddenly there was a cranking sound from a piece of machinery and a dim light started brightening the room from the table. Canada was rotating a metal handle on a strange wooden box with a rope that led to the light. "What is that?" Han asked.

"A light machine Dro's father made, he was a brilliant scientist." Han looked around the basement. There were pens and ink bottles, and many diagrams about the body and earth. He picked up a funny looking cylinder with a switch on the side. "Careful Han that's a lightning weapon, point that small metal ball away from you." Han placed the cylinder in his pocket and kept looking around. "Han that chest right there is what we are looking for."

Han looked down at the box on the floor, it had a crest on it with a banner that said "***The House of Wil***". Canada stopped turning the machine and grabbed the other side of the chest. The light went dim as they climbed the steep stairs into the hall. Suddenly there was a loud thump as if someone was trying to break down the door. "Hurry Han to the tower stairs," Canada called.

Han turned and started up the spiral stairs. With one more loud crash the door behind them flew off its hinges. Standing in the doorway stood a thing tall and lanky. Han could only see the dark shape of its inhuman body. They hurried up the stairs and into the next hall. Everything suddenly got cold as ice as they ran down the next hall with the chest in hand.

Han looked back to see the evil creature crawl through one of the windows and look at them with its reflective grey eyes. It reared up in the hall and pointed at them, suddenly hundreds of icy knives flew through the window at them. Han reached into his pocket with his free hand, pulled out the cylinder and flipped the switch. Electricity filled the room with blinding light blowing the ice into peaces.

Canada was now leading as they headed up the final tower stair case. They were turning the corner as Han looked back to see the sinister Titan's face under a mat of thin greasy hair. Holding out the lightning maker he fired it into his face. They both heard

agonizing screams as they came to the top patio of the tower. Han looked into the now star filled sky to see if any help might come.

A strange speeding cloud was heading straight for them. As it came right over them a long squid like tentacle flew down and wrapped around the chest Han and Canada were holding. It suddenly retracted pulling them fast into the cloud as they both held on for dear life, and into the water.

There before them floated the majestic Water Titan with all his tentacles and webbed hands smiling back at them.

Han noticed a big gash on Bensiden's side and hoped he was okay. Canada and Han swam up to the hatch for breath and Bensiden brought the chest up with him. Han felt a feeling of relief as Canada and he climbed sopping wet onto that smooth metal floor together. Luz brought the chest to the front room while Nebo and Barak helped the now normal wounded Bensiden to the door on the other side of the hall where Han had never been.

Han followed Luz who had the chest. Han was impressed that Luz could carry it all by himself. Luz set it down on the floor in the front room. Han then helped him open it. It was half full of water as well as the other objects. There was a golden goblet, a wet book that looked like family history or a journal.

"Jerubbaal," Luz called out. Jerub came running up.

"Yes?"

"Take this book to the Wind and tell her to dry it out very carefully."

He nodded and headed off toward the door, with it in hand.

Han looked in the chest again. There was two white marble stones at the end of silver bows.

"What are these?" Han asked.

"Don't touch, or look too closely at them Han. If you look in them for what you do not you will surely die."

Han turned his gaze at this warning. He looked out of the corner of his eye at the other contents. There was a Magi calendar / glass bead game made of the most precious stones. It also had two chains connected to another plate beneath it. In the middle of each chain was an onyx stone. Han marveled at the strange contents. There was also a white bundle of cloth or something. Han also saw a sword on the bottom.

Luz pored the remaining water out and then closed the lid. Barak came in and the two of them started carrying it off. Luz looked back at Han and said,

"Thank you." a sincere look in his eye. "You can head to bed if you'd like. Goodnight." Then the two departed.

Han headed back through the forest to his room, to go to bed. He laid down on his bed knowing he would be weightless in the morning. The ship really started ascending as Han drifted off to sleep.

Chapter 16

the dark city

Dro sat in the yellow tower still meditating. No man in the mountain had yet attempted to enter and disturb him. His light still burned bright within him, but had subsided to the eyes of men. He arose and decided to again go forth and find the open minded. As he walked forth in the caves he saw the ravages of the nothing army who rampaged through the halls killing who ever they found and leaving broken poles and torn banners. There was not much left of their victims, mostly just scattered bones. Dro walked on to find where the fled rim rangers had gone.

He came to a little labyrinth of holes where many were hiding. "Go away." They called.

"What brings this attitude?" Dro asked.

"Last time you tried to save us an army came and brutally killed many of our kinsmen."

"Yes, but don't you realize that army was heading to Kymoore, if we follow their track it will lead us strait outside."

"That is just a story to get us lost," one yelled. Dro looked down into one of the holes where a young child was with his mother. Women were rare in the caves but were occasionally among the rangers. Dro saw that the child had been wounded from the attack and would most likely die. Dro stepped down into the hole and lifted the child in his arms.

And before the eyes of the Rangers healed the child. And when he was done he let him down and the boy was fine. Then all the rangers cheered and said they would listen to his words. So he taught them about all his journeys. And after he was done for the day he slept in their camp.

-Han-

Han Awoke in the morning drifting in the air. He floated out into the hall and saw Barak coming down from the observatory. "Han come here." Han followed the lightning Titan up the stairs to the observatory. "Look in the telescope." He said gently. There before him was a glorious red nebula with a huge tail and arms. As Han stared deeply into it, his eyes drinking the sight suddenly he heard something inside his head like a whisper.

Han glanced over at Barak but he was just smiling at him. Han looked back at the nebula. The whisper grew louder until Han heard many voices in different languages. He started hearing voices he could understand. Han realized the power of the nebula was to tell many possible futures. He heard Dro's voice, "Amid wake up," and then he even heard his own. He heard himself scream

"No!" "Canada!" He heard himself say "I love you." and many other things he heard. Finally Han looked away and all the voices were quieted.

"Did you hear the voices Han?" He nodded but didn't say anything being overcome in deep thought.

"I just thought you ought to know what the Nebula had for you." As Barak headed down to the front of the ship Han walked over to look at Elred. His face was still peaceful in the star light with the tied buds of flowers on his chest. "So this was Ellose's

great grand father aye?, I hope I see him again,” Han thought. Han wondered how many greats that might be. Elred had told him he visited the life moon a thousand years ago. He headed down to breakfast after a little bit and they related their adventure to the crew. Han told the part about the lightning maker as he was trying to eat a big green fruit.

“It sounds like you two met the Hail Titan,” Nebo said.

“Yes it was a close call, we didn’t think they would be so watchful,” said Bensiden. Barak flew in and said

“Han I think it is time to find Dro.” Han jumped up with excitement and they both headed to the front room. Barak invited Han to sit in front of the altar. Han had a seat and started fastening the straps. When he was done the Lightning Titan handed him the funny helmet and Han put it on.

Luz handed him a book, that said *History of WiL* on it and he closed his eyes and began to meditate. Han found himself standing in space, looking over an expanse of water at a dark black city. He began to fly over the water to the city wall. He skipped with ease on the waves and jumped up onto the stone of the wall. Han climbed and climbed up the bricks until he came to the top and let himself down into one of the streets.

He saw bums and dirty people lying all over. There was trash and rotting things everywhere he looked. Han made his way out into the main road and saw nothing but wandering people in shadow. Han walked for a long time looking for Dro, peering into many faces to no avail. Then a ways off he saw a light coming from some part of the city so he ran toward it.

Han jumped over tons of trash and sleeping people. As he ran the city became brighter and more people were awake. Then finally he came to the center of the light and there standing before him was Dro in robes of light. They both came to each other and Dro’s eyes lit up as he saw Han. Then, they both embraced and Han said “My brother and friend, I missed your association!” And Dro said

“I too, Han!”

“Come Dro, I must tell you many things. I made it out; I saw our blue skies and green fields.”

“I heard them also Han.”

“Dro I also saw so much more, I traveled with the Titans into the sky above the blue firmament and I have seen the expanse of space and stars. But Dro that is not all, what I came to tell you is that you are the Mind Titan and that you and only you can guide our ship through time and space to Uranus where we must go.”

“I hear your words Han and they bring me great awe that I have such a part to play, but how shall I guide your ship?”

“I am not sure actually, but let us go out of this city together and find out how.” Suddenly several helpers came out of the crowd to see the commotion. When they saw Han and Dro they yelled commands to seize them. Many Helpers came from all sides. Han grabbed one by his orange robe and flipped him into a wall. All stopped to assess the situation then yelled and charged.

Dro Jumped and kicked the first one in the face sending him into the crowd, Han

started punching and throwing them as they came. One in black robes suddenly came out of the crowd holding a long spiral pole. Dro spoke words of power saying,

“I am the hidden flame of Aocicinori.” Instantly there was a blinding flash and all the servants of the dark fell to the ground.

“Okay Han, let us take the high road of the servants, it is fastest.” So Han and Dro flew up to the top of the houses and buildings toward a bridged path that went over the city. They skipped over shingles and scaled walls until they had made it to the masters’ highway. Dro hopped up first and gave Han a hand. They began to run to the edge of the city on this road when they heard the siren of the over mind, calling all helpers to arms.

Dro and Han ran all the faster but none of the servants ever caught up with them not even on their spider creatures so fast was their flight. As they came to the edge of the city, there in the distance Han could see the Titan ship. Han and Dro jumped off the side of the wall and into the water. They swam for a bit through the dark water lit up by Dro’s light, until the ship came down resting into the sea and they swam into her liquid belly.

To Han’s surprise there was no fish or squid in the tank. As they came up through the hatch there was no one to greet them, the ship shone with a eerie light and all was silent. Han looked at the glass wall of the forest dome but all he saw was darkness. Curious he strode over to open the door but it wouldn’t budge. Han turned around, the door into the front room mysteriously opened of its own accord emanating a strange blue light. Dro and Han walked through it to see that strange blue energy behind the giant triangular windows.

Han walked up to the altar with the helmet resting upon it. “This is strange,” Han said.

“What is strange Han?”

“This helmet is the Meta machine I am using to be here, but now it is a Meta machine inside the Meta.” Suddenly it dawned in Han’s mind what they had to do.

“Dro I got it, I guess you have to put this Meta machine on and guide the ship through the Meta of the Meta. I don’t know if that makes any sense.”

“ah yes, It makes sense to me Han.” Dro sat down in the chair and put the straps on and Han handed him the helmet. Dro placed it on his head and closed his eyes. Han stood there and watch Dro for awhile; he noticed that there was a book on the altar now so he opened it. On its pages were many moving pictures of roaming beasts over black sandy deserts. He closed it again and read the cover which said, “***The World of Dro WiL***” smiling Han closed it again.

Han opened his eyes as though he had dozed off and there before him was a giant bluish planet sitting in space. Han quickly looked around for Dro but he was not there. Han was now again in the seat with the Meta helmet on his head with the Titan crew all around him. “Han you did it!” He heard the voice of Canada say. Han was happy though the sight of the new planet had a strain of sorrow in it for Dro was now gone and he didn’t know when he would see his best friend again.

Han removed the helmet, the straps, and got up. Barak, Nebo and Bensiden were patting him on the back for a job well done and Luz was returning to the chair to guide the ship on.

-Dro-

Dro opened his eyes in the dim cave. He sat up and noticed all the other rangers were fast asleep save the night watch. He sat there thinking about his Meta dream until the others started stirring. Then he told them of all the wonders he had learned in the night. "I saw myself in a dark city that represented the worldliness of men. I and my friend Han escaped after fighting off many enemies. We came to great water that symbolized the sea that separates man from the truth. Then we were saved by a ship that bore us forth deep into space."

"What is space?" One asked.

"Space is the world above the sky, and the sky is the open air above the caves. Once we were in space I could control the ship and I flew it past many planets. I saw worlds many times bigger than even the earth we are on. The first was a little smaller though; it was red and covered in rocks and ice. Next, many times further I saw a giant sphere unimaginably big with swirling clouds and storms.

Then the one after that was almost as big save it was smooth and had giant rings going around it. Then, the last I came to was as blue as a sapphire, smaller than the last two but still a lot bigger than the earth we are on. I then was sucked back here into my body.

It seemed like I was gone for years and life times, but here I am and it is only the morning." All sat transfixed at Dro's amazing story. Dro looked at the floor sadly. "I wonder when I shall see him again." One ranger stood up and said,

"What do you say? Should we not follow Dro light bringer to the caves end?" It seemed to be unanimous as all said,

"Yes!"

Everyone got their provisions ready to follow Dro out into the real world. Dro looked over the whole camp and he couldn't believe someone had finally listened to him. They began the long hike out down the tunnel the army took. As they traveled it slowly grew brighter and brighter. Dro periodically sent scouts ahead to make sure the coast was clear as they traveled on. The way winded and sometimes they had to stop and examine the tunnels before they knew which way the army went.

One day they came into a passage that was so bright that some of the rangers turned back saying that they would go blind if they went that way, but Dro and the rest of the caravan went on. The next day they found a passage that was even brighter and a good number turned back. Dro climbed around having a hard time figuring out which way to go because it was too bright to see the nothing's tracks.

Finally he strained his eyes and found them though. The day after that Dro stepped into a cave so bright he couldn't open his eyes, but he could clearly hear the wind howling not far ahead. He was so excited but to his dismay all the rangers save three called him a blind fool who was about to fall off the edge of the world and turned back. The last three rangers were the most hearty and adventurous of them all, their names were Banami, Daluba and Taamer.

Climbing around with their eyes closed they came to the most bright place they had ever been and they felt the Wind upon their faces. Dro was in heaven, he was so happy. Suddenly Daluba said, "Banami, Taamer this is really scary, we felt so much more secure in the caves, besides we will never to be able to see out here, let's go back!"

"What? Are you fools serious?" Dro asked pointedly.

"Yeah," they all said in a voice of fear. Dro could not believe it, as he listened to

them scurry back into their hole in the ground. "I would never throw this away if I were blind all my days!" Dro thought to himself. He started feeling his way down the rocky hill. He felt plants and grass between the rocks and heard beetles fly through the air. Dro felt the rough pillar of a tree with pure fascination. He sat in its shade and realized he was already beginning to make out shapes around him.

Dro closed his eyes and tried to rest. Soon he opened them again, to his surprise he could see the bright night around him perfectly. The sky was blazing with thousand of lights and the trees were crowned with shimmering leaves, casting long shadows down the mountain side. Dro arose and looked over the mountain tops. His heart filled with rapture and joy as he saw he truly was free.

Dro walked down hill through the forest. He saw flowers and stones, and many amazing things. "I should go back and tell the others," Dro thought. Dro climbed back up the way he came and found the cavity he had crawled out from. It looked uninviting but he climbed down in it anyway. He could see where the light was coming in from the hole but the rest was as pitch black as ever. "I don't remember it being this dark," he thought.

Dro traveled in calling the names of his ranger friends. He crawled long and hard in total blackness. "Banami," he called. Then he heard some whispers.

"Hey look, here comes Dro," one said. "Hey fool, over here." Dro looked to the sound of the voice.

"Look, he has become blind!"

"You will never believe what I found out there," Dro said.

"Blindness?" one called as they laughed.

"No you don't understand, I can see out there, but it is so much brighter than in here."

"Whatever, we don't believe you, you are obviously blind."

"But only if you could see what I saw. I saw tons of life, I saw towering trees and a sky full of stars, I saw grass and bugs, I-" Dro was interrupted by rude laughter. Suddenly someone pushed him over hard onto his elbow. "You didn't see that." The cave again filled with laughter. Dro turned and started crawling the way he had come, filing down the same rocks he had come up.

Once or twice his heart dropped as he misjudged a stone or couldn't find a certain spot. "Whatever I do I can't afford to get lost in here," Dro thought. Finally he looked up and saw the blue light pouring in from the night sky.

He climbed out into the open air again and looked out over the valleys. Relieved Dro said a prayer of thanksgiving in his heart. "I can't believe me and Han have actually made it out," Dro thought. Two years had past since they were in the sand cave and now their greatest dreams were beginning to be realized. "Thank you, thank you Father in heaven, thank you for saving my soul from the pit."

Chapter 17

The Life station

Han stood there transfixed looking at this new planet. It was massive like a giant, and blue like the sky, a shining orb hanging in space. Han stood there for quite some time. "It will probably take quite a few hours for us to get where we are going Han," Nebo said, Han turned.

"Where are we going by the way?"

"First to the life moon outpost and then to the Temple."

"There is actually people living out here?"

"Only the guardians of the moon and the priests."

Han thought about this as he floated into the forest dome. Han had spent too much time in the library to properly enjoy the forest dome, so he decided to just stay in there for a while. As Han flew past the trees he saw Jerubbaal sitting on a strange white log. "What is that you are sitting on?" Han asked.

"Oh this, this is a tusk from a giant hairy elephant."

"Really," Han said in excitement. He had only seen them in paintings but never in real life. He reached down and felt the smooth ivory. Han went on and saw a butterfly soaring upside down and a three dimensional spider's web. There were also other kinds of animals in the forest. Little critters and even some gazelle that liked to jump around in the trees with zero gravity.

As Han jumped through the forest further he came to Elred's cottage. He had seen its roof before but never been to it. It was small and square with a thatched roof. It stood next to the edge of the forest by the wall of glass. Han open the door and looked inside. There was a table and bed, a little wood burning stove stood in the corner.

There was a brass basin floating just above the table and herbs were still tied to the rafters. Han came back out into the forest with a solemn look on his face. Han lay down in the air and stared up through the branches at the stars. Han reached up and grabbed a low branch; he pulled himself up into the tree. Soaring through the branches he came to the very top of the tree.

Then pushing off the last branch he glided up to the very top of the glass dome. He felt so peaceful there he drifted off to sleep. He awoke again as a bright star came into view. "Wow I have never seen that star," thought Han. "Maybe the planet we are by is just closer to it than earth." Han kicked off the glass and floated back down to the ground.

"Han," the voice of the wind said.

"Yes?" Han responded.

"Would you like to see the wind tunnels of the ship?"

"Yeah," Han said. Then the wind guided him to a place in the forest where there stood a box coming out of the ground with a lid on it. Han was suddenly lifted off the ground and the lid opened. Han plummeted down into it, the first tunnel going vertical came to other tunnels going horizontal. He was swept at high speeds down and through them.

The Tunnels were made of a strange bluish metal like the main hall was, and Han could see by some ambient light coming from somewhere. Han flew around a labyrinth of these passages until he came out in a giant upside down triangular room with a window on the far side. As Han floated in the center of the room he could see a brownish moon through the window. It had strange lines on its surface going north and south. "Do you know what moon that is Han?"

"No, I don't."

“It is the Life Moon, where we hid our Titan Stones in ages past.” Han felt so peaceful looking at it from the wind room. Soon the breeze carried him off back down the tunnel and up to the forest hatch again. Han stayed in the woods until supper and afterwards went to the library. Han loved to read but he was becoming weary of it day in and day out and really wished something new and exciting would happen.

Han laid down over his bed and fell asleep in the soft light of the blue planet. He awoke peacefully as he had dreamed of soft music. But something had changed; his room was now full of green light. Han looked out his window to see, many giant greenish forest domes with that one bright star shining through them. Han quickly flew out of his door to go see what was going on. As he flew through the forest he saw the ship was surrounded by a floating city of them!

The Green domes shone bright in the star light. Han also saw the blue planet with all its little moons half behind one of them. As Han came into the main hall he saw a strange tall man in long flowing blue robes talking to Luz and Barak. Han froze.

The tall man turned and looked at Han with a mysterious smile. “This is Han Salah. Han this is Ganahulenari King of the life moon,” Luz introduced. Han immediately bowed; he had never met a King before. Barak opened the door to the water tank and lifted it off with ease. The Water acted different in space, it bulged and protruded. Luz and the King climbed into it and started swimming down to the hatch on the bottom.

“Barak what is this place?” Han asked.

“It is the life station. Come and have breakfast and then we will go check it out.” Han agreed with that idea and they closed the hatch again and went into the eating room. Han ate as fast as he could so he could go see this new place. After they were done eating, Barak took Han to the hatch and they jumped into the cold water. It was always a shock when Han jumped in, and heard his ears submersed. They dived to the bottom and into a tube that sucked them through, then up into a new water sparkling with green light.

Han popped his head out of the water gasping for breath and rubbing the liquid out of his eyes. As his ears drained he heard the most beautiful music as a tinkling of chimes and singing. The voices sounded like young women. Han opened his eyes and saw he was in a forest pond with a dark rocky shore. Tall trees stood all around him. Barak climbed up upon one of the rocks soaking wet, “come Han, into the forest.” Han swam up out of the water and glided to the shore gently kicking the water. He shivered as all his cloths clung to his body.

Then Han saw another tall man in flowing white robes come to him with a towel. “Thanks!” Han said as the man handed it to him. Han began to follow the man through the woods to the sound of the beautiful music. After a little walk they came to marble steps leading up into another dome in which stood a glittering white city.

The sight took Han’s breath away, the ivory spires shone in the light of the star on one side and the great blue planet on the other. At the top of the steps stood Merica, Jerubbaal and Canada. “Hey Han, come check this out,” came the voice of Jerubbaal. Han, Barak and the other man came up the steps into the entrance of the city dome.

Then the man who had brought the towels spoke. “Follow me my friends, I will show you to the house of the King. Then they glided bare foot down the hill past many houses and finally to a smooth stone path into the white city. It seemed many people had gathered together and took much interest in the group, whispering one to another.

Han realized that they probably hadn't seen any outsiders save the Titans whenever they might come. Han also noticed, that they all seemed to be at least a foot and a half taller than any of them with a rather long skinny build.

They came to one of the large towers, and the servant they were following kicked the ground and went sailing up to a high balcony. So they all followed flying up after him. He opened the doors and took them into a elegantly decorated hall with marble floors and polished wood pillars. There were two hallways leading off side to side and one going straight up. He then brought them to the left side into a sitting room with cushy couches and pillows on the floor.

They all sat and the man made his leave. "Why were those people starring at us? Don't the Titans come here often?" Han asked.

"No, the Titans haven't visited this city in their life times." Came the voice of Barak. Then Merica said,

"Remember how we needed Dro and all that?"

"Yeah."

"Well the last Mind Titan left six hundred years before we did." She smiled.

"Oh, I see." Han replied curiously. Luz and the King came into the room from the top commanding complete attention. They all arose into the air and the King came and sat among them. They talked about all kinds of things and several men came and offered the King and the others things to eat. Han had just ate breakfast but he wouldn't pass up an offer seeing as he was getting hungrier and hungrier these days being out of the caves.

"You know the evil one has built a great ship to bear his wraiths forth into space, and that they left not a year after you." The king said.

"But we only left a few days ago" Han thought, but he kept this to himself.

"Yes I know I have seen it," replied Luz. Han looked shocked at this new news but didn't dare say anything, he just listened. Then the King went on,

"It appears that even the outer lands are no longer safe for the Titan stones, we must hide them elsewhere."

"There is no where else your majesty. If we threw them out of the world past the paths of the planets and into the darkness they would be lost forever. And if we bring them to the city of light wince no traveler returns no Titan will ever be remade and it would be the same."

"I have an idea." Barak said. "Why don't we take a single particle from each stone, for the Titans are imprinted on each particle, then we can cast the rest of the stones into the blue giant where even the wraiths would be torn apart by the wind and storms."

"Then what would we do with the remaining particles Barak?" The King asked.

"We would incase them in other stones that the wraiths could not recognize, and bring them back to Earth."

"That is brilliant." The King replied, with a somewhat impressed tone. Then the King turned to the others, "As for you four apprentices, you may also come to the counsel this evening. Meantime feel free to wander around my kingdom. Excuse me Luz, Barak." The King nodded and projected himself up a shaft with his long legs. Han and the others glided out of the room and back to the outside. "Hey Canada lets go check out the dome over there, it looks like there is a mountain in it." Han said. Then Han looked back to see a smile on her face.

“Sure that sounds fun Han.” Han barely realized that he was being very casual with her.

“Me and Jerubbaal are going over there.” Merica said to Canada.

“Okay, we’ll see you.” Canada said. So they floated over to the entrance. Han saw there was a mountain and that another dome on the top of this one had another mountain from which many streams came. So Han and Canada started jumping up the mountain under the stars. “Canada, what is that bright star I keep seeing that gives so much light to this place?”

“That’s the sun Han,” she said with a chuckle.

“No way! It is so far away,” Han said. Han sat there in the air a moment in pure amazement. Then Canada said “come on lets keep on going,” so they continued climbing for a long while having lots of fun. The most common plant on the mountains was a thick vine with millions of large green leaves that grew up along the dome walls also. They glided over the top of them and jumped over streams and rocks. As they came up and skipped over the snow they came to the mountain's summit.

They had also come to the roof of the green dome where the water poured down from the higher dome. On the top of the mountain was a circle of pillars with a fire cup in the center, with a bright flame in it. The water poured down and filled a small aqueduct on top of the pillars and poured down in waterfalls filling the grooves in the circle and down the steps onto the mountain.

A kind old fire priest stood there with a long white beard, he smiled at them and said. “I see you are both wearing the sash of the Yazna, have you come here to be married?” Han didn’t know what to say and Canada said,

“Not today, I don’t think.”

“Oh that is a shame you two are so cute together.” Han and Canada didn’t dare look at one another but they both knew they were blushing.

“Would you sing a song for us though?” Canada asked.

“Yes,” then he began to fill the echoes of the dome with a praise to God in the original graceful language. He sung of the stars and galaxies Gods power has framed and of the everlasting spirit of glory that told loved ones they were bound forever. After the priest had ended his beautiful song he smiled at them, and they headed back down the mountain. Han and Canada explored the Forest together and talked a lot. Han would occasionally catch the gaze of Canada that made his heart burn with excitement just to be with her.

He wished their walk would last forever but too soon they were back at the pond to swim into the ship. Han came up into the hall sopping wet as Nebo helped him out, then Han reached out to help Canada but she took Nebo’s hand and got out with the other. Han felt hurt but he hid it figuring maybe she just thought it wasn’t proper or something like that. Han was shaken out of deep thought as Nebo said, “Han do you want to come with me, I think it is time to show you that forbidden room. What do you say?” Han smiled and said,

“Yeah.”

He followed Nebo through the woods and they came to the big double doors with the two trees and the shining triangle.

“Han go put on these clothes without removing the underclothing Morgan gave you and come right back with your candle.” Nebo handed him a bundle of white cloths and Han went to his room to put them on. There was only a pair of white pants a plain

white shirt and some socks of the same color. Han came back with his Candle in hand, some strange excitement was starting to kindle inside him. As Nebo opened the door Han saw the inside was very white.

Han walked in to see rows of chairs and an altar at the front, and behind which was white curtains. Everything was white and Han immediately felt very special like a calm power lay in his bosom. He felt more at home than ever, and knew he recognized this place. The floor was soft on his clothed feet with a white carpet. "Han please sit right here up front." Han sat down on the soft white cushioned chair.

This room with the altar and curtains was the most powerful and magical place he had ever been. Nebo was in white robes and stood up front to officiate. "Han you probably don't remember but you have received all the ordinances of this house before you went into the mountain, so we are going to refresh your mind. Han saw a depiction of the creation of the world and of Adam his father.

He was clothed in white robes of power and a hat of glory and given many special things. "Han you may now place your candle in the Candelabra," Nebo said. Han walked over and placed it in the empty spot. Nebo lit it and said, "This represents the light of God that shines with in us the holders of the Flame. Now whenever you meet with the magi in this holy place your candle will help light the Temple. Han prayed and burnt incense at the altar.

Finally Nebo took him to the room behind the curtain and Han felt so peaceful there he never wanted to leave. It was the most beautiful room Han had ever seen. This room represents the kingdom of our Father, the source of the flame which is the glory of the Sun," Nebo explained. Han sat there for a long while listening to the distant sounds of eternity.

"I wish Canada could be here with me," Han said to Nebo.

"That is a good wish Han and soon it will be so." This brought comfort to Han's mind somehow although he didn't really understand the significance of that thought. Han and Nebo came back out of the sanctuary and Han felt he could face the world with a whole new light now. Han sat down in his room and looked out his window. He was so excited with all the things he had just learned, and he was full of power and light.

He couldn't help thinking of the similarities between the evil rite he had seen in his dream and the experience he just had. But the spirit was distinctly different from the twisted evil counterfeit of the Overmind and the experience he had just experienced, that was meaningful, beautiful and full of goodness. The evil one always attempts to copy Gods perfect ways with corruption, Han realized. Han put his new robes in his trunk as nicely folded as possible and went to supper.

Everyone was there and the room was buzzing with conversation. "How was your walk Jerub and Merica?" Han asked.

"It was awesome we found a cave and met some of the citizens. How was yours?"

"It was fun," Canada said. "Han and I went up the mountain to the pillar circle and met the fire priest there."

"You didn't elope did you?" Bensiden said with a chuckle.

"No," Canada glared at him with a smile. Luz stood up in front of the room

"Everyone listen up, after we end eating we are all going to go to the assembly together. We have only until the eleventh hour to be in our seats." Han looked up to see they had a little more than an hour left, so they all scarfed down their food. After they were done, one by one they jumped into the water and the Water Titan made a

strong current pulling them swiftly up into the forest pond.

A precession of helping people with towels stood on the shore. Then they were all blown by the wind to the shining towers. They were shown into a giant circular room with many chairs and steps. They were all given numbers and they all sat in their assigned seats. Han was two seats away from Canada, Oh well he thought, It's better I listen anyway.

The Titans and princes talked in length about many things from the movement of the planets to the Titan stones. They all agreed on Barak's Idea and Han was very tired when he finally came back to his room.

Bensiden had announced that they were leaving to the Temple of the Titans after the meeting and Han noticed that the Titans went to the front room.

Han sat there in the air yawning when he felt the ship moving. He looked out the window to see the life station moving away with all her forests and green domes.

Chapter 18

The Temple of the Titans

Han went to sleep and when he awoke there was still empty space out his window. He drifted out into the hall and into the forest. Han saw another grayish brown moon they were passing in the distance out of the forest dome. He also looked forward and to the left side of the dome was the side of the giant blue planet that was now much bigger than before. He excitedly flew into the main hall and on into the front room to get a better view.

There it was practically filling the whole view was blue. Han could now see white streaks and several giant long clouds far down in its atmosphere. "What are those?" Han pointed, suddenly seeing huge grey lines extending beyond the boundaries of the planet and stretching far into blackness.

"That is where we are going Han," Bensiden said who was standing next to the meditating Luz.

"Those are the nine large and two small rings of the planet."

"Rings, you mean it has rings like Saturn?"

"Yes Han but much smaller."

"Bensiden, how are we going there? Aren't they just lots of floating ice and rocks?"

"Yes, but there is one big rock in particular called the Temple of the Titans."

"Oh I see." Han floated there awhile just staring at the amazing view. Then his stomach rumbled and so he went to breakfast. Canada and Merica came in and sat across from Him.

"Good morning Han," they both said.

"You guys have got to go see the view in the front room."

“Really?”

“Yeah it’s awesome.” After breakfast they all headed out into the front of the ship and talked while watching the view. Jerubbaal came in after a while too. The rings where so close now they stretched out before them. The planet filled the top left side of the room. The ship was flying into the rings at an angle so the planet was to the side of them.

“Look at all those little moons everyone,” Merica said. Han looked and saw many little dots and rocks stationary against the blueness of the planet.

“Bensiden look at that huge asteroid in the outermost belt.” Jerub said.

“Yes Jerubbaal that is the Temple.” Everyone turned to look at it excitedly. The ship had lowered itself between the first and second ring along side the Temple Asteroid to the right. “We are still many miles away from it, it is very large and we are commencing to slow down so it might take us a while to get there.” Everyone soon felt the ship slowing down feeling themselves being pulled forward. They all stood and watched and as the great rock steadily grew larger and larger.

All of a sudden Han felt Canada’s hand griping his. Han’s heart was beating but he liked it all the more. They all watched and talked for about an hour as they watched the Temple fill the right side glass. Han’s hand was kind of sweaty but that was okay, Canada didn’t seem to be planning on letting go. Soon the ship was along side the great rock and Han saw a cave in the side of it. “Look a cave.” Han said. Ben just smiled and they all looked in amazement as the ship drifted into it.

The ship turned its nose down the tunnel and proceeded into the shadow and through huge passages. Han saw a blue tint on some rocks but to his astonishment couldn’t see at all in the darkness beyond. “Why is this cave so dark?” Han asked.

“Your eyes have become to adjusted to light.” Barak whispered right behind him.

“Look,” Merica said. Han looked ahead to see a reflection of the ship and cave behind them like in some strange liquid.

“What is that Barak?” Han whispered.

“The beginning of the atmosphere,” he said

The ship flew through it and into the air. Suddenly there was ambient sound all around them. Ahead in the darkness Han could see a warm light coming from a squarely carved passage. Soon the ship was flying into it. It opened up to a large round cave with a short pillar circle in the center. The Ship started hovering over it then Han saw the wall begin to go up as the ship lowered down to it.

Everyone felt the ship abruptly stop with a soft closing sound. Then Luz opened his eyes and removed the helmet. He turned in his chair and said “Wow we got quite the turn out.” He smiled looking at the whole crew behind him. “Well, lets go.” Everyone started leaving to the main hall at Luz’s command and Han felt Canada’s hand finally leave his but she turned back and smiled at him.

Han’s heart was pounding and he didn’t really know what to do, he had never felt anything like what he felt about Canada. Then he to began to leave with the group. Bensiden lifted the lid and all began to get in the water and swim to the bottom. Han loved the water and got into the cool refreshing liquid and listened to the sound in his ears. He swam to the bottom and saw that in this pillar circle stairs came up to meet the bottom of the tank.

He stepped out of the water and onto the stone steps, wet and cold. Han made his way down the stairs and out of the circle with the wet precession of people. Han

looked ahead to see a huge carved passage in the wall. They all began walking to it. Han marveled at the huge arched passage as they came into it. It was lit with many torches and as they walked down it, they came to a pair of large iron doors.

Han had seen a pair of doors not a whole lot different from the pair they were at once in Pufurvenhurbum. Luz put his hand on it and said a long word Han didn't understand. Suddenly it made a clank sound and began to open. They all walked into a stone room full of light on the other side. This room was a giant octagon and had huge pillars in the corners like a giant Titan circle.

The floor was inlaid with all kinds of metal stone and marble designs. Han saw a huge bronze set of doors on the far side of the room and smaller doors in each wall. He also looked up while they walked to see a blue light high on one of the walls to the right and noticed it was coming through a pyramid shaped window on the very top of the arched ceiling. Han looked back down to see a man sitting behind a wooden table in front of them to the right side.

He had a medium sized brown beard and a broad smile. Han saw he was wearing priest's robes and had a bright countenance.

"Titans and apprentices, welcome to the ancient Asteroid Temple of the Titans. Come and I will show you to your rooms." The man showed each person where they would stay the night and also told them where they might find the library and gardens.

After settling down in his room Han thought he would go look around, he went across the large octagon room to the door of the library and opened it. He walked in and to his astonishment he saw more books than he had ever seen in all his life. They lined the shelves and the shelves went on and on. This room was bigger than a cathedral and it was filled with books. Han walked over and picked one out of its place and opened it.

It was about windmills. This library must have a book about everything Han thought. Han sat down on a chair and began to read. He soon found he was drowsy and too tired to read properly. So he put the book back onto the shelf and looked around. A bright passage in the left wall opened up to the garden. Han walked through it and found himself by a mossy well with vines growing all over the place. He saw pillars and ledges covered in it.

Just above him on a green leafed incline was a fruit tree spreading forth its branches. Han walked to it and saw a strange blue fruit. He looked around and saw many more trees all around with various kinds of fruit on them.

"That is a blue pomegranate tree." Someone said. Han looked to see a servant of the Temple standing there. "It is the fruit that represents oxygen. And the red pomegranate is the fruit that represents Iron." Han didn't understand the servant saying but didn't ask.

He walked through the garden until he came to an opening where he saw Barak and Canada. Barak sat on a grey rock and Canada knelt on the grass.

"I am ready to become a Titan, Master, I am sure of it." She said.

"I don't know Canada, let me meditate on it. Because I feel we should wait a little longer." Han didn't mean to listen in, so he casually walked out into the clearing as though he hadn't heard anything. "Hello Han, how do you like this place?" Barak asked.

"It is awesome, I like it a lot," Han said. He just began to wander on, Canada said something to Barak and came to catch up with him.

“Can I come walk with you?” Canada asked with a smile.

“Yes of course!” Canada and Han began to walk together through the garden and to admire the beauty around them. Han felt happy and nervous around Canada these days and he loved just to look at her. He was afraid she would notice, but she didn’t seem to. His heart would go crazy when she looked into his eyes, which she often did.

After they had walked and talked for a while they went back to have some lunch. Han and Canada sat at different tables and Han realized he hated being away from her. Luz stood up and announced that a ceremony would proceed after the meal and that everyone should go put their Temple robes on after they were done. Han went to his new room and opened his bag. He pulled the robes out and put them on, thinking about what each part meant.

He felt majestic and powerful as he wore them. He glided out of his room and into the stone hall. He saw Merica and Jerubbaal coming towards him dressed likewise. They went into the giant octagonal hall, everyone was there and waiting with smiles on their faces. Han joined the others, he felt so peaceful in this beautiful temple.

A ceremony then commenced and soon the officiator said, “the Titans will now go up into the higher temple and all others will wait and pray.” Han saw Luz, Bensiden, Barak and Nebo walk up to the large doors with a few others he didn’t know from the Temple. They passed into a tall passage of light and the doors closed behind them. The Hall was left silent and Han prayed toward the Holy place with the others.

Han listened as he prayed and soon heard a soft melody like the sound of eternity itself. Peace and joy burned in his heart and he wished all people could experience what he was experiencing. The door opened again and all looked up. Luz stood there, “Jerubbaal, come.” Jerubbaal arose and walked to him, Luz took him by the shoulder and guided him into the light and the door closed again.

After a long while Jerubbaal came forth again with a broad smile. His whole countenance had changed and he looked powerful and bright. Nebo appeared in the passage and called for Merica and she went next. They all continued praying and pondering.

Without warning there came a bang at the door, then another shaking the hall. Han arose and looked at the door behind them from which the disturbance came. Many priests and temple workers came running out into the hall. Finally BANG! The stone doors swung open and Han saw a deep blackness in the hoods of three wraiths he had seen before.

The Temple warriors ran forward in their green turbans bearing swords. One by one they fell under the swift powerful strokes of the dark Titans. Lightning shot into the crowd and dust filled the air as part of the walls and pillars came crashing in. Han was so infuriated he ran forward. The bright door to the upper Temple opened, sending a shining ray into the dusty darkness.

Han heard the shriek of the evil Titans and saw the good Titans run past him bearing flaming bright swords. In all the commotion Han felt Canada’s hand touch his shoulder. She was beckoning him back from the danger. Suddenly a lightning bolt struck a pillar over head that sent rock shooting everywhere. Han pushed Canada out of the way just before a huge chunk would have killed her. Then slam something struck him in the head. Han staggered and fell in Canada’s arms as he had trouble keeping his eyes open. His head stung and seared with pain as Canada’s shaking hand wiped his blood away. Han and Canada’s eyes met. “How bad is it?” Han asked.

“You will be okay” Canada replied as she held him behind a large stone. Han drifted off and then snapped awake again. “Canada we have to get out of here” Han whispered. The both of them snuck through the shrapnel as the fighting continued. Han felt dizzy but ran on. Then out of the dusty haze Han and Canada saw it. It was the lifeless body of Barak.

“Oh, no, Teacher,” Canada exclaimed kneeling with a hand over her mouth. Tears welled up in her eyes as she turned him over and saw his staring eyes. Han stood at Canada’s side for a moment looking around as he heard the fight continue down one of the halls.

“Canada we have to go.” Han whispered. Canada suddenly arose and ran back the way they came. “Canada?” Han ran after her as she ran up the steps. “What are you doing?”

“Saving us all,” she snapped. Han watched as she ran through the doors of light into the upper Temple. Han paused for a moment not knowing if they were aloud to enter that sacred place. Then the door suddenly closed sealing the light from him, leaving Han in the darkness. Han fell to his knees, “Father in heaven, please spare her. I love her.”

After a moment Han pulled on the door handle, it cracked open pouring light upon Han’s bowed head. Then He entered. The door closed behind him.

He was suddenly in the most beautiful room he could possibly imagine. Every bit of it spoke of eternity. It was white and bright and the feeling Han now had was the greatest feeling of peace he had ever felt.

He looked around for Canada but didn’t see her in this first room. Han walked down the hall filled with white curtains to a room with an altar in the center of it. There Canada lay on the floor as though she had fallen. Han came to her and lifted her limp body up in his arms. Han looked around him, this room felt the most powerful of them all with an eternal unseen power emanating from every bit of it. Han saw the Lightning stone on the altar. He was worried about grabbing it at first but than a feeling of peace came over him. Han picked it up and slipped it in his pocket. He hoisted Canada up in his arms. She was considerably lighter than her father.

Han carried her out, back to the first room and back out the doors of light that closed behind them. Han ran through the dusty haze dodging fallen pillars with Canada in his arms. Without notice Han looked up to see a figure step out of the darkness. The hood had fallen and to Hans’s horror it looked like the personage of Orfaciuse himself.

The dark wraith lifted his bloody sword to cut Him and Canada in two. Han opened his mouth and to his astonishment a word of power he had never before heard uttered forth through the very fabric of space. The dark Titan dropped his sword and fell to the ground screaming in pain. Han ran on leaving the dark thing on the floor.

Finally Han reached the ship on the pillars. The bottom hatch opened and Han carried the lifeless Canada up the stairs. As he reached the top, a friendly tentacle helped Han and Canada into the ship. Han swam up and climbed onto the metal floor and Bensiden brought Canada out into the hall. “Bring her into the medical room” Luz commanded as he ran into the front room.

Han followed Ben who was now in his human form carrying Canada. Han watched as Bensiden placed Canada on a bed in the room. Han rushed to her side. “She can’t be dead,” Han said. “She is alive isn’t she.”

“She is alive.” Bensiden nodded. Han held her hand and looked out the window

at the cave walls soaring by as Luz sped out of the Temple. Han looked back at Canada and then looked out the window again. The stone asteroid fell away and the ship soared into space, the rings stretched on around the blue giant. And the Titan ship flew up above them.

Chapter 19

Into the darkness and back out again

Hann sat and simply stared into Canada's lifeless face. A feeling of helplessness burned in his heart. She was so beautiful. Hour after hour he watched for life in her peaceful face. The door opened but Hann didn't look to see who it was.

"Hann," came the voice of Luz, "how is she?"

"I don't know but I think," Hann paused for a moment, "I love her Luz."

"I know you do." Luz's eyes sparkled with a bitter sweet expression. "I am happy you two are okay, both of you are fortunate to be alive."

"Luz is anyone dead besides Barak?" Luz nodded. Hann had never seen this side of Luz, but it didn't seem to detract from his nobility. After a bit Luz continued to speak.

"Nebo has passed away also." Hann looked back at Canada's pretty face.

"Luz is there any way we can wake her up?"

"I believe there is Hann. Listen Hann, go get your candle from the sanctuary."

"Yes sir."

"Go get it and come right back here." Hann arose, took one more look at Canada's face and hurried out. Hann soared through the forest dome. He came to the sacred place and removed it from the candelabra. He then hurried out again. On his way back through the forest he saw Merica sitting on the ivory tusk, crying with Jerubbaal. Hann wanted to go to them but hurried back to Canada's side. Luz had pulled up the night stand and placed a candle holder on it.

"Hann put your candle in the holder and sit here." Hann did so and looked at Luz for further instruction. "Hann, this represents the Secret Fire which burns within you. This is actually the greatest kind of Meta machine for the flame will let you go to another's world if they let you in." Hann nodded, he held Canada's hand and meditated into the flame.

Hann looked around and found himself in a forest. It was the most green forest he had ever seen. The sun shone through the branches and a mossy stream ran through it. The forest was so pretty Hann later wrote a poem about it. It goes thus.

***This forest green I have never seen
How lovely the trees lean
How ever so green the leaves so clean
It is a pity it has never been seen***

Hann then turning around noticed something familiar about it. It couldn't be, he had been here before. This place was the plain of life where he had first seen the green light of the candle, all those many years ago.

Hann looked out with his piercing eyes and saw it in the middle of the vast forest, he saw a tall black mountain. Oh no don't be in there Canada, He thought.

"you know she is." Came a soft voice in his head. He ran through the trees toward Pufurvenhurbum praying for her.

Then there in the woods he thought he saw her. "Canada!" Hann called as he ran. A clear phantom of Canada stood there looking around. "Canada, Canada!" Hann called. She looked around as though she didn't know where the voice was coming from, and then faded away.

Hann stood there in the woods alone, His heart pounding. He suddenly realized how strange and surrealistic this was. The same thing happened to me, in the caves. Hann remembered first seeing that plain of life and hearing Canada's voice, "Hann, Hann, Hann!" Hann now knew what he had to do. He ran and ran as fast as he could to the mountain.

He climbed the slope and coming to a hole in the rock he climbed inside. As the passages led deeper and deeper it grew darker and darker.

Hann blinked his eyes in the darkness but all that lay before him was pitch black wall. He placed his hands somewhere in front of him and felt the grain of the stone. "Hidden Light shine forth!" As Hann said these words a light around him grew and grew until He saw the passage around him.

Hann ran and ran. He looked around through all the passages looking for her, but Hann saw no one. The caves lay silent and empty. He ran faster than any cave creature could go in search of her.

Hann came to a great hall of the ancient peoples who once lived in the caves. Illuminating the stone arches around him all was silent. He went on as fast as he could project himself forward.

"Canada I am coming for you!" Hann shouted at the top of his lungs. "Because I love you."

He pushed forward with even more determination. The scenery grew steadily more red as he came closer and closer to the lava chasm. Soon he stood on a cliff edge looking down into its glowing light. Han peered up and down it for any sign of the bridge, but there was none.

Feeling more determined than ever, he walked back a few paces, turned around and ran toward it. He made one giant leap and flew out over the molten rock. Sure burning death lay below and the rising heat was excruciating, but Hann flew sure and straight over the lava and landed on the other side.

Hann walked as fast as he could through familiar caverns and shafts. He ran through the empty soup rooms leading to the Iron gate. He found the gate open and slipped through it. The halls of wandering people were void of its wanderers. Truly it seemed Hann was alone.

He hurried on knowing Canada was not far away. He ran down straight smooth cut passages with many rooms with bed like altars. Hann went through the halls looking in every room hoping to see Canada. But she was nowhere to be found.

A thought like a knife in his chest pierced him. Perhaps she has gone to the sand room to sink and die. Hann arose from his fear and flew faster than he had ever gone to

the pit of the tower. Looking down He saw one solitary body of a young girl slowly sinking into the black sand.

“No, I love you.” Hann called as he flew down to where she sank. Her head was about to disappear into darkness but Hann reached down and lifted her out pulling her to shore. Her thin naked body lay on the stone as though she were dead. Hann tried not to look at her nakedness as he lifted her lovingly in his arms and carried her to the cave of the Magi. As He approached the cave with the soft floor he saw the light of a single candle shining. Hann set her lifeless body on the floor and looked around. The candle stood lit on a rock and next to it were clothes nicely folded.

Hann took the clothes and put them on Canada. He then began to try and awaken her mind. He took the candle from the stone and held it in front of her sleeping face.

“Canada wake up, please wake up!”

-Canada-
Nothing.

Nothing, The very thought is something. For if you think you are experiencing it you are not experiencing it at all. Nothing is beyond self, for self is not only something, it is a fractal of creation to a thing that has non.

*

Something. Something, so far and allusive. A single spark of thought. It being the only thing, her mind centered on it, and its walls were the walls of her thought. As this burning pain completely enveloped her. Her nature was employed to stop it.

Then another pinprick of light appeared and her thought was separated. Should I accept or reject this new thing? As her mind gave birth to this thought she became aware of self. This thing has given rise to a new thing so I will keep "I" and "It" and try to master them.

Then as she tried to expand out of her first thing it over flowed into the empty space and filled here ambient mind with space and darkness. This as painful as the previous thought was. She was relived as she saw the cool expanding existence. At this point she became aware of a third element that had been with her since the first thought, the realization of change.

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Suddenly she was sensing with a new sense. She saw a light moving from one horizon of her sense to the other. Her eyes opened and she saw an image of endless detail and beauty. On her left she saw a burning light. In front and above her she saw a rock reflecting the light of the first light. And to her right stood a personage with a glowing countenance, with vesture that shone like the stars.

“You are alive and awake. I am Morgan, I am your friend.”

He could barely believe what he had just said. He had just called himself Morgan, but it seemed right somehow. She smiled and Hann smiled back in pure delight. She had finely awoken! Hann let her rest and look around for a bit. He saw that her eyes had turned bright grey in her sleep

“Do you know the meaning of the lights you behold?” Hann asked

“The first is the morning sun rising in the east. The second is the moon worshipping the Sun for he is the Most High. And the third is the evening star ever pointing the way to the shining light whom you are.” Canada said naturally.

“Whom are you?” Hann asked.

“I am Nau (Night Fall) a worthy pilgrim, who has traversed the abyss to come to you.”

“Whom do you put your trust in?”

“God the Father the Supreme creator of the Universe,” Nau replied again.

“Where are you from?” Hann asked, Nau thought for a moment.

“The west, though I have fallen into the north. Lead me east, south and West again that I might walk with you. And we shall go east together.” Nau replied

Hann reached down and lifted her to her feet. She couldn’t stand on her own but Hann held her, as he led her around the room, ceremonially putting her in the west. Nau smiled in happiness.

“The light you see is the light of your new life, that shines in your eyes. You have come into this world of life with nothing. In poverty and wondering you come with only the knowledge of your existence. You have come by the door with three distinct truths to knock with. That which you seek, ask and find with.

“Will you teach me?” Nau asked

“If you have ears to hear, eyes to see and a heart to feel. I shall teach you for I have come through the caves and across flaming chasm to save you from the darkness.

“Why have you come for someone such as me?”

“Because I Love you,” Hann said

Nau looked at Hann for a moment in speechlessness. Their eyes met and they both stared at each other for a long time. Then Canada looked away.

“Forgive me Nau for I have looked at you in love, yet you are not yet mine.” Hann said. Then he found another cloth on the stone and made her a veil out of it. Hann then took her hand and led her to the alter in the east, that was the stone table with the candle on it.

She knelt. Nau was beautiful and chaste and Hann’s joy extended on and on forever. The light of the secret fire suddenly filled the cave with glory. And Hann taught Nau about the secrets of the universe. He also gave her a sash that was a symbol of faith, hope, charity and love.

“Rest now and I shall come to you again in the morning,” He said. Hann arose and walked out of the room.

After Nau awoke Hann came back to teach her again. Hann gave her a candle and a paintbrush and explained what they were for and how they should be used. Saying,

“the candle symbolizes the light within you that is a spark of the hidden light, and the paintbrush symbolizes your power of creation.

Hann then told her about how her robes were a symbol of her mental planet. He also explained what the robes were for. He also told her about how worlds go on forever. That she must always seek for truth and ascend forever, letting her path be guided by virtue. And that if she did so, she would finally come and be exalted in the Celestial kingdom.

Hann let her rest and think about the things she had learned and received, and on the morrow he came again. Nau desired to walk, so they spent the day practicing. Hann remembered when he was first learning to walk long ago.

Hann told Nau about her body and how she should never do anything to hurt it. After a long while she could walk pretty well and she asked Hann when they would go see other places.

“Soon,” Hann said. “after you become stronger.” There was a pause and Hann said, “tell me about your dreams Nau.” Her eyes lit up with excitement and she began.

“I found myself in a place where there was no ceiling and life was everywhere in all kinds of shapes and sizes. And I heard my name. Morgan, will we go to these places?”

“We will.” Hann said.

“And I also had another dream where I was in an eternal expanse and there was many lights and spheres of light. That was the most beautiful thing I saw.”

“The first place you saw was the forest, and the second was space that I have told you about.” Nau sat in wonder at her visions. “Nau I love you.”

“I love you to.”

After a time of Nau practicing her new skills Hann said, “Come it is time to go.” He took her by the hand and helped her through the caves.

They walked for the better part of the day past countless sleeping rooms. Finally they came to the passage that looked into the cavern of death with the sand and a giant

dark pillar.

Fear crept into Nau's eyes.

"What is this place Morgan?"

"It is the pit of death, from which you were resurrected."

"Let us go and leave this behind us." Nau said

Then they walked on. After an hour or so they stopped to rest for a bit.

"Morgan tell me, why do you love me?"

"Before I met you in the caves, I knew you. And I have always loved you."

Canada got a confused look about her.

"What's wrong? Don't you believe me?" Hann asked. She sighed and said, "I don't know?"

"Well don't you want to hear about it?"

"You can tell me if you really want to." She said

Hann was sad she didn't seem interested in their love or past adventures. The desire for her to know made him go on.

"At first I was here in these dreadful caves and you saved me, because you loved me from before I could remember."

A dreadful feeling came over him as he said those words. "Had Canada tried to tell him about their life before? Had he not paid attention or not had the faith to listen?" Hann wondered. He looked at Canada who was still looking confused. But he went on.

"Then I escaped and I met you on the road to the city of Tr Mizream, and you knew me. Then after that we went with the Titans on an adventure into outer space. Than you fell into darkness and I came to save you and here I am."

Hann looked at her but her expression was no better.

"Isn't that a wonderful story Canada? We have always loved each other." Hann said. Than she frowned,

"isn't it good enough that we are together now? She asked.

Hann realized it was just to much for her, she couldn't believe it. The world was a much broader place than she new and many more marvelous things were going on than she could possibly imagine.

"I will always love you." He said simply. She smiled and Hann supposed that would have to do for now. Was this poetic justice? Was it the balancing of the universe. Either way Hann was sure it would be okay in the end.

They got up and continued to walk. The hall emptied into a larger cavern and they found themselves on a balcony. Below them stood the Iron curtain tightly shut. Hann and Nau climbed down into the room.

"How will we continue?" She asked

"Come I know a way," Hann said. "You are the one who showed me this passage."

"I am?"

"Yeah."

The two of them climbed through the tight spaces and over thin shafts lit by Hann's light. Finally they climbed down into the soup rooms. The day was far spent so Hann found a nice secluded cave for Nau, and then went out to rest in another place. In the morning Nau came out and they walked on toward the cave of Elose.

"Morgan a pain is growing in my stomach, what should I do?"

“Come when we get to the cave of Elose I will give you something to eat.”

They walked most of the day and as they came to the round room of Elose Hann set out immediately to find some mushrooms lizards and water trickles. He found some soon enough and made Nau some soup. She ate it gratefully.

“Thank you Hann,” she said. Hann looked at her in astonishment.

“That is what you used to call me.”

“I just remembered.”

“What else do you remember?” Hann asked.

“I remember you calling my name as I ran through doors of light.”

“Do you remember what I called you?” Hann asked.

“Yes, but I would like to hear you say it.”

“Canada.” Hann said.

She smiled at him. And they stayed there talking and drinking soup for the rest of the day. Then they met up outside of the cave in the morning and traveled on. They walked around and took the high road over the chasm. Hann looked ahead and saw a strange gathering blackness. It materialized into a walking black robe. Hann held up his hand and said by the power of the secret fire I dismiss you. A light burst forth in the caves brighter than ever before filling every tunnel with light. The dark cloak screeched in pain and fled jumping down into a crack and Hann and Canada went on.

Soon they were walking down steps into the outer-rim and through carved arches. They traveled a ways through many passages until the evening was come.

“We should be close to the window now.” Hann said.

“What window?”

“You shall see.”

“Hann, I just wanted to tell you that my life has been amazing and magical for these past few days. Thank you for saving me.” Hann nodded in appreciation.

“I would be forever lost without you Canada.” Hann said.

Hann and Canada Walked and Walked. Finally Hann recognized the cave they were in to be the one by the Window. They looked around and there before them was the long tunnel leading to it like the gaping mouth of a worm. Canada took Hann’s hand and he led her down the passage. It grew brighter and brighter as they came around the bend. Then Canada saw the strange stone frame through which shone a light so bright she could not look directly at it. On the frame were the carvings of an ancient race. Then Hann stepped over the bottom of it into the light and Canada followed him holding his hand.

Hann stepped out onto white sand. Canada couldn’t see yet but Hann looked out across the vast desert. This was different from Orfaciuse’s world but yet similar.

“What had changed since he was in there” he wondered.

Desert or not they had to go some where so Hann led Canada on. They walked and walked. At least the sky seemed normal, clouds soared past and the sun slowly set.

The stars appeared one by one and finally Canada could see. She was shocked and scared. As she looked at the vast wilderness she huddled down hugging herself.

“What is wrong?” Hann asked.

“It is so big.” She replied.

Hann knelt down and comforted her and after a time she arose. As they began to walk she slowly grew accustomed to the idea of the outside.

They journeyed long, leaving miles of foot prints behind them. Then Hann saw

it, the great chasm ahead. There was not only a chasm, but in the distance he saw many floating lands. This was the most bizarre thing Hann had witnessed. If this was Canada's world, did she come up with this strange idea about the outside world? Hann slowly approached the crack. Surely enough it looked bottomless. "maybe we could jump." Hann thought. "This is the meta after all." This seemed logical but at the same time Hann knew some Meta consequences were dramatic. He also knew that Canada had all power here, but just didn't know or understand it. However it was the only way to go.

"Canada, we are going to jump."

"No." She snapped.

"But Canada please it is the only way. Remember this is not the real world."

Canada gave him a skeptical look. After some time Hann begged and she consented.

"Canada I love you, I know that this is not the real world. Come with me."

They both clasped hands and Hann smiled at his true love. Then they both ran and jumped.

"This is not real." Canada thought

They both found themselves flying through time and space surrounded by endless blue energy. Suddenly they opened their eyes and she was on a bed looking up at him. Her grey eyes shone with emotion as some of her memories came back to her.

Hann wasn't sure what she would say. Then a huge smile appeared on her face and she jumped up and hugged him so tight he couldn't breathe.

"I love you Hann!"

"I love you too Canada."

She let go and sat down on the bed with a smile.

Luz was there, slightly chuckling.

"Luz you will never believe what happened in the Meta," Canada said.

"Oh, I think I will," he said with a smile. "Come it is time for dinner."

Chapter 20

The Great Battle

Han and Canada sat at the dining room table with Bensiden and Luz, Merica and Jerubbaal were also there. All seemed quiet in reverence of the passing of their friends. Han drank out of his container thinking of all that had unfolded.

"Luz where have we gone," Han asked

"To the depths of space, away from the planet so we may not be found."

"Why have we come all this way and fought through all these hardships? Will it come to nothing?" Han asked.

"No Han it will definitely come to something."

Han looked up at the clock and saw time was growing late in the year and also the day. He arose and was about to leave to bed.

"Wait Han," Came the voice of Bensiden. "What should we do?"

“We should fight.”

Han left and as he floated to the forest dome he grasped the door handle and heard the dinning room door open behind him. Han looked back to see who it was and saw Canada standing in the light of the door way in beautiful robes.

“Han, don’t let it end so fast.”

“It will never end Canada.”

“Promise me you won’t die when we go back.”

“I cannot promise things I don’t know.”

Han thought he saw a tear escape Canada’s eye into the air floating upwards as he turned his back and flew into the forest. He darted by trees and bushes as he kicked branches sending him toward his room. Han looked out the window in his room, as he got there and saw the endless expanse of stars. He thought about all the amazing things that had happened in his life knowing he might be toward the end, and soon he was asleep.

Han awoke instantly being wide awake. He looked out his window to see a brown moon passing in the distance. He arose and hurried to the front of the ship to see where they were. He opened the doors and went into the big triangular room. Large and blue was the crescent of Uranus in the window.

“Are we going back?” Han asked

“Yes, but this is the closest the main ship can go and still be safe,” replied Bensiden.

“Wind prepare the small ships.” Luz called into the air. “Han,” Luz turned and looked at him. “See that little planet in the distance over there to the left of Uranus?”

“Yes sir.”

“That is the Life moon, when you get in the small ship head there.”

“Yes I will.” Han said looking into his care worn eyes.

“Come with me Han,” announced a voice from the very air around him.

Han followed the breeze into the main hall where the small ships had been lowered by the mechanical arms. Canada stood there looking into his eyes. She started crying as she got up into her metal pod.

“Han, I love you.”

“I love you too.” Han said. “Canada wait, I want to know something before we die.” Canada looked at him. “I want to know what my real first name is.”

“Only you can figure that out my love.” With that Canada laid down into her place and the pod began to close.

“Bye Canada.”

“Farwell Han.”

Han lay down and the pod sealed itself over the top of him leaving him in darkness. Suddenly Han was aware of everything around him.

Canada’s ship lifted off the ground and Bensiden moved the metal plate from off the water room. Han also saw Merica, Jerubbaal and Luz getting in ships. Canada disappeared into the water and Han lifted off the ground turning himself vertical and hovered to the hatch. Bensiden also had a ship lowered and as Han disappeared under the water he also saw an extra ship after that being lowered.

Han sank down through the water until he came out of the thick liquid into the vacuum of space. Seeing Canada soaring away Han sped after her towered the shining moon in the distance. The Giant blue orb shone in windy majesty below them as they

danced in the sky.

Canada and Han spun around each other like a two love fish flying through the expanse of heaven. Then they stopped dancing and flew side by side in perfect harmony faster and faster past Uranus. Han kept his eye fixed on the small moon steadily sailing towered it, hours and hours past as they flew faster and faster.

As Han saw the life moon growing bigger and bigger, a tug came to his heart as he thought this trip might be his last. After a while the moon was finally drawing near and Canada was still at his side with the others close behind.

There floating in space was two giant sheets of metal connected by a tube, orbiting the moon.

“What is that?” Han asked.

“I don’t know but I feel an evil emanating from its presence. It is most likely the dark Titan ship,” said Luz in his mind.

Han looked in the distance along the horizon of the life moon and saw the life station in distress. Flashes of light sparked from it like a great battle was commencing around it. Just before it in space hung the great asteroid Han recognized as the Temple.

“How did it get here and why is it here?” Han thought.

“We shall all see in the end,” responded Bensiden.

Flashes of light came from around the great stone as well. As they approached at a tremendous speed they saw a battle of many fast moving specks like a war of small flies. They all flew down into the midst of the chaos in a battle formation. Han’s blood was pumping and the adrenalin was coming on.

Han saw there were oval pods and small flying pyramids.

“The oval pods are the Dark Titans and the pyramids are the warriors of the life station.” Luz called out to every one.

Then suddenly! They were in it and they all split up into various directions. Han could not believe the utter and complete silence that filled this battle of explosions and implosions that went on without a sound. It was almost eerie how people were dieing without even the sound of their scream to echo in space.

Han started chasing one of the ovals. He shot off one of his metal bars at it but the metal oval turned abruptly. Han followed it as he saw the brown moon pass in the background.

Then the oval flipped over and came right at him. Han dodged to the side and barely missed being hit.

Han flipped over also, and chased him. The dark Titan headed for the giant asteroid. The little piece of metal sparkled against the dark rock. Han was getting the hang of what he was doing, although his heart was still beating almost uncontrollably.

The oval swooped up over the top of the massive stone and Han followed. As they came up onto the top of the stone it was a high speed chase through jagged mountains and valleys. Han almost crashed into the stone many times but he managed to stay calm and loose as they dodged through crevasses and past spires of stone.

Han then centered the ship in his mind and let another metal spike fly. It missed and was lost into the stone as the evil Titan flew up and all the way around and behind him. Han half panicked and ripped off to the right, flying around another mountain

with only yards to spare between him and an immediate death.

He came around again to see the oval being chased by a small group of triangles. The oval turned around and unloaded his bars into the team imploding two of them. Han was furious and sped off after him again.

Han saw Merica's ship then following him. They were flying low and He was looking down upon them. Han let a bar go soaring in front of the oval which barely missed but seemed to catch him off guard. Then in one awful and fateful moment the Titan veered off sending Merica right into the side of a mountain. Han screamed "NO!" As her mangled ship came shooting out the other side and plummeted into another peak.

Han lay there in his ship in utter disbelief; he had just witnessed Merica's death. Then he sped after the evil pod. They sped around several mountains then he shot a bar right into the evil Titan's ship that silently imploded.

Han turned back toward the main battle. All the movement was starting to get to him and he was suddenly dizzy. A moment later as he moved back he suddenly threw up all over the inside of his pod. Then the wind sucked it away as quickly as it had come.

A trickle of sweat beaded off his face as he shook it.

"What happened, Han we heard you scream," asked Jerubbaal.

"It is Merica she has, she past away." Han said.

"No." Jerubbaal cried. "Which one did it?"

"I killed the one." Han replied.

Han could hear Jerubbaal crying out loud. Han rushed into the battle again.

Han found one chasing Bensiden and shot several at it. Ben did a maneuver out of his clutches and thanked Han helping him chase it. The battle moved slowly in front of the dark Titan station that looked like huge sheets of metal. It was tense and everyone was dodging each other. Then the battle moved all around the metal station. Han and Bensiden followed one of the ovals right over the surface of the metal.

Han looked down and in a split second a piece of metal flew off the surface of the station and destroyed Bensiden's ship. Han flew there in absolute shock, then he moved abruptly as many more pieces of the station fired into the crowd, blowing up triangles left and right.

Han's anger grew as he thought of all the kind and good warriors of the life station that were dieing, and also of his friend Bensiden the Water Titan. Then Han flipped around and looked back at a sight he could hardly believe. Jerubbaal's ship was headed at full speed directly at the metal station.

"Jerubbaal, No! What are you doing?" Han screamed.

Without a word or response Han lost another of his friends, as he watched Jerubbaal fly into the station and out the other side imploding it all after him. Han saw the smashed pod and the shrapnel fly down toward the moon. The force of the air pressure inside ripped the entire station into itself and out the hole.

"Thus passes Jerubbaal great warrior Titan and friend, into the world of spirits," said Luz.

Han looked around for Canada but didn't see her. His heart dropped for a moment.

"Luz where is Canada?"

"She is fine." He said. "I told her to go down to the moon where it is safe. But we have the wind Titan with us."

Han looked over into the battle and saw another pod flying among the other ships

that was the extra one he had seen. He and Luz then flew into the fray again shooting at the two remaining evil pods. The wind pod let out a shot and one of the oval pods imploded, flying by within feet of Han's ship.

It must have barely scraped his oxygen shield because the entire ship started vibrating so violent and fast it made a horrible hum and blood appeared out of his nose and ears. Soon everything turned dark and Han felt himself flying off uncontrollably.

When Han came to, he saw the surface of the life moon fast approaching. He turned the ship up and landed on a rocky plain under the stars. Suddenly the ship unsealed itself. Han jumped in fear of the cold atmosphereless moon. He didn't die though, the oxygen of the ship remained around him like his own atmosphere. Curiously he got out of the ship and looked around. He walked and walked wondering what had come of the others. He walked around like a warm cloud of air melting dry ice under his feet. As he came up over the hill he saw Canada's open pod in the distance. Excited he ran toward it. There wasn't as much gravity here as there was on earth, so running was kind of difficult, bouncing mostly.

Han looked up as he went, to see if he could see anything of the battle but the sky looked calm and peaceful, being filled with stars.

He came to the open pod but it was cold and empty. Then Han looked down on the ground around the pod. He saw footprints wandering off over another way so he followed them.

Chapter 21

The rising light

Han walked and walked over the expanse of empty wilderness ever following Canada's foot-steps. There were rocky places where her steps were hard to make out but he always found them again and went on, hours past as he tracked her. The trail turned steep but climbing the hill was almost effortless with the low gravity.

Han looked up and finally saw a half circle of pillars around an altar of unhewn stones. And there kneeling at them was Canada surrounded by a cloud of heat and air. Han walked up to the altar also.

Canada Looked up with a broad smile. Han smiled at her also. Then he knelt too and they clasped hands making their clouds come together. The sound of Canada's breath suddenly joined his in the silence.

"Canada I can hear you now!" Han said with a smile.

"Yes I can hear you too!" She said.

They sat there a long while just looking at each other like young lovers often do. Until Canada looked down and saw something on the ground that impressed her.

"What is it?" Han asked.

"That stone there, that's, the Life Stone!"

"Pick it up." Han said

"Okay."

Canada reached for it. The ice covering it melted off as the cloud of air engulfed

it. Her hand picked it up and she brought it back to the altar. She set it down upon the other stones and then put her left hand upon it. Han put his left hand upon hers and they clasped their right hands over the top. Han looked into Canada's eyes and she looked into his, and they experienced a moment of true eternal love. Then something amazing began to happen.

A light as bright and warm as the sun itself burst over the horizon. It was Uranus but it was now like the sun. In the light of morning, everywhere the light went air spread over the surface of the moon and green moss began to appear on all the stones around them.

"What is happening?" Han yelled over the sound of the wind all around them.

"The Life Moon is awakening!" Canada called with a sound of joy in her voice.

Atmosphere and clouds appeared in the sky and flowers bloomed, covering the ground in a symphony of life. The sky became blue and the ground became green and it seemed like time elapsed in only a moment.

Then all was calm and they both arose to see what had happened. A great field of flowers had appeared speckled with rocks and butterflies flew among them.

Han and Canada sat in the grass together admiring this new world.

"Canada," Han looked into her eyes. "Will you marry me?"

"I will, And we shall create many children together."

Then Han's joy was full and he kissed her lips for only a moment, but it was a perfect moment.

Now I would like to just end the story here but the story does not end here. So I must tell on.

A dark storm cloud was seen on the horizon and Canada and Han watched it approaching.

"Lets go Canada."

"Okay."

They ran to the south away from it. Running was still somewhat difficult but they pushed forward leaping over rocks and flowers. Then in the distance ahead of them they saw it. It was the Titan ship laying flat on a mesa, for all the domes had vanished off it and the front window also.

Han looked behind them to see the storm cloud over head and even more terrifying yet, a dark cloak coming over the hill.

"Canada go for the ship."

Canada looked and saw what Han saw.

"I want to stay with you."

Then not a moment later the dark robed figure stopped. Standing before them, he produced a wand from inside his robes and lifted it toward Canada. Han then quickly stood in front of her and said that same word of power he didn't even know, that he had said in the Temple. The robed figure fell back and couldn't even keep a hold on his wand. He then fell to the ground and grasping his wand he quickly flew away.

He and Canada climbed up the hill looking around. To the side of the mesa was a shimmering lake down below.

“That must be where the water went.” Han thought

They both walked right up to the top and into the forest. They walked past the large old trees and came to the center where something was different. Elred’s sarcophagus was in the center of the grove lying peacefully in the light of Uranus. On the top of the coffin lay a golden compass for telling the directions, so Han picked it up.

As Han looked into the restful face of his friend he remembered something Elred had said to him, when he asked where his Titan stone was.

“It is on a distant moon that I visited nearly a thousand years ago. If you make it to the moon of four roads walk west from the pillars to the tallest mountain where my stone is.”

“Canada, I must go somewhere Elred instructed me to.”

As Han said this they both saw and heard Luz’s ship coming down and landing below the mesa by the lake.

“Can’t I come with you?” Canada asked.

“I think I should go alone.” Han said.

Just then they heard Luz coming up the hill. They both forgot what they were talking about for a moment to see if Luz was alright.

His little balding head full of white hair came up as he climbed onto the platform. He stood up and his beady eyes looked at the two of them standing there. A huge smile came upon his face and he began to chuckle.

“You two did it. You brought life to the life moon.”

“Luz, Elred told me to go somewhere once I came to the moon of roads. Is this the moon of roads and if so where are the roads.”

“Yes my boy this is that moon and the roads have only now appeared because of what you two have done.”

“Should I go now?” Han asked.

“Yes, you should. And don’t you worry Canada he will be right back.”

With that Han walked down the hill and headed back up to where the pillars were. He walked up the hill and across the fields. He finally came to the pillars and then looked at the compass he had found. He saw the spindle pointing north and so he walked West right on the line.

He walked past many hills and across many fields. As the bright Uranus sank in the sky he rested under the stars using a rock as a pillow. Han had a dream of flying his pod ship through the depths of space.

He marveled at the vastness of the expanse. He traveled for days, months and what seemed like years. He flew and flew; one planet could be seen in the far distance. This one was deeper blue than the other and had visible storms like eyes looking at him. He flew on into the deep.

This dream just seemed to keep going and going, with no end. He flew by random objects far in space. An asteroid here and a small planet there, until he saw nothing for quite some time. He saw what looked like the dark Titan station but he flew by in a flash and it was gone. Finally it seemed an age past and he flew past countless shards of ice in the blackness. Beyond this he saw nothing for longer than he could recon or remember. Life and memory became one endless blur of meditation. Stars past and finally a red nebula filled his whole view. It was before his face for ages and he came ever closer. Han began to hear the voices again. He heard so much he couldn’t recall it all. Time didn’t seem to matter or even exist anymore in his mind. Then he

slowly entered the hot ionized hydrogen. As he flew into the redness he came to where the clouds became increasingly thick. He saw something long and slender flying or swimming around in it. "Surely nothing could live in here" Han thought. Then it turned around and starred at his pod with one large eye. It was massive; its eye was about ten times bigger than his ship. Suddenly Han could see something. It was wisdom and understanding in this strange monster bathed in red light.

As Han awoke it was still dark but Han walked on through the night and as the shining planet arose he saw the mountain in the distance.

As he came to it he noticed it resembled a large hill. He started to climb it stepping up the rocks like a stare case. As he came to the top he noticed a slight indent in which stood stone ruins.

Han walked down to the front door that faced the only gap out of the small indent it was in, looking over the plains below. Han walked in and saw a main room with some stairs going up to the single room above. Han walked up them and found himself in a small lookout room. To the side of the main window stood a stone table, on it was a sword and a metal box. Han opened the box and saw the Forest stone inside. It resembled the Life stone; it was round semi clear and emanated a soft white light.

A dark cloud seemed to overshadow the house. Han took it and put it in his pocket. Then lifting the sword he looked out the window to the yard bellow. Just as he feared the black robed figure was approaching the front door.

Han waited until he heard him down stairs and then leaped out the window. Since the gravity was much less he landed with ease and began to run through the dip and down the hill.

As Han leaped down the slope he felt like the presence was behind him. He turned around to see the cloaked image freakily near, almost all the way down the hill at him. It pulled out it's wand again and pointed it at him. Han tried to jump out of the way but what ever it was stung into his leg.

The cloaked figure came down closer. Han leaped up in his last hope for survival and swung his sword, cutting the wand clean in two. The Dark Titan shrieked in pain and retreated up the hill.

Han turned back around and made his way down.

Chapter 22

The fields of flowers and the Temple reborn

Han grabbed his stinging leg but it only hurt worse. He made it down the hill and through the plains until it was almost unbearable. Han sat down in the grass and lifted his robes to examine the damage.

A giant purple spot of infection looked like it was slowly spreading. He was also dizzy from the excruciating sting.

"Someone help me!" Han called out, but no answer came to his plea.

After a bit, scenes from his memory danced before him.

“Dro, Canada, anyone? I suppose this is the end of all my adventures, I shall sit here helpless and watch my life fade away. Dear Father in Heaven it has been marvelous!”

- Dro -

Dro walked across the desert plain where the great in-land sea had once stood. He saw the stars and heard the wind blowing through the trees and across the plain. He could not believe what he was actually seeing. Dro danced and skipped along towards Kymoore.

The sun rose and he had to close his eyes for a bit, but he strained them to see and as the evening came on he could keep his eyes open in the brightness. It was night fall and he walked on across the flats of dirt.

A dark long pile of something lay ahead to his left. It was long and black and had things like polls sticking out of it, like a long low hill. Dro went to see what it was. As he approached a feeling like he shouldn't be there grew in his stomach. As he got closer he saw that it was human bodies, thousands of them. What kind of horror is this he thought. He turned his head and walked on trying to remove the scene from his head.

He walked up over the hills into a large forest of beautiful trees, still thinking about what he had seen. As he walked into a beautiful opening he saw the falling leaves and the trickling stream in the morning light. “Thank you Hann for awakening me, to such an amazing reality.” Dro thought.

Dro finally came to a huge tree and under its roots was tucked a small house. This must be the place Han dreamed about. He thought. Suddenly the door creaked open and Dro stepped back in anxiety. A man stepped out dressed in green robes.

“Fear not Dro, it is me, Elose.”

Dro came closer and saw the friendly face of his fellow Magi. The two embraced and walked into the small cottage together.

“I have been expecting you Dro.” Elose said as he poured him a bowl of tea.

“How did you know I was coming?”

“I knew Hann had come out without you, so I knowing how you two are, knew you weren't far behind. I must now teach you the laws of this place, just like we taught you the laws of the old.”

Dro listened intently and lived with Elose in the cottage for some time. They ate mushrooms, herbs, and Elose would leave once in a while to buy wheat and beans. They also had a goat for cheese and milk.

Over time Elose taught Dro all the ways of the Magi. He showed him their calendar and many rites and finally he made Dro a real magus, with all the powers and blessings.

The Overmind was up to something sinister in those days for Dro and Elose climbed up to the top of their tree to see the pinnacle of the dark tower. They saw two giant pieces of floating metal that were attached, ascending into the sky.

“I heard there is a rumor being passed around that Orfaciuse has killed all the senators but they didn't really die.” Elose said.

“Really,” Dro responded in interest.

“Yes, and now they have all went missing. If I didn't know better I would say if it be true, they are all on that ship to thwart the voyage of the Titans.”

Several years passed and Dro went into town for work. All the people had become corrupt around him, worshiping the Dark Titans and calling them gods. Eventually they even made idols of them and called Orfaciuse the dragon god on earth, and prayed toward the Mountain. Time went on and Dro missed Han very much.

Every night Dro went out and looked into the night sky and said, "Han just give me a sign you are still out there."

"Don't you worry Dro, he will be back." The fast turning grey haired Eloise said with a smile.

One night Dro walked outside and looked into the sky to see a new star. It was more than just a star it shone like a distant sun, out shining the moon in brightness. Dro remembered the star diagram Eloise had shown him and the star fit perfectly and he saw the pattern within it. This must be the life star of the Titans. Dro thought. This must mean Han is still alive.

Eloise was gone on a trip so Dro wrote down all of what he saw. Coming out the next night to get a good look at it he heard something as though reported on the wind. Dro listened carefully and heard something again, it sounded like something echoing through space itself. Then the third time he understood.

"Dro this is Han, please help me. Help me, I am dieing in a distant place."

Dro looked up at the light and said. "By the power of that secret light that shines in the sky, be ye healed my brother."

- Han -

All the pain vaporized in a moment with a single strain of light from Uranus. Han looked down in amazement and saw no purple spot was left at all. Han thanked God for his deliverance and arose. He began to walk on, through the plains of white, yellow and purple flowers. All was well! He was delivered; he knew the truth and was even in love. Life doesn't become much better than that, without being taken up to heaven itself.

Han looked up into the north and saw a bright floating island in the sky, slowly descending onto the moon. Han turned and began to follow it.

He walked and walked.

Walking is an important act sending its traveler through time and space. He walked past countless flowers. The mountain had disappeared in the distance and now there was only fields of flowers in every direction as far as the eye could see.

Han looked up at the long descending star and aligned himself with it, ever walking to it. It seemed like forever as the flowers passed before him. The island in the sky finally settled over the horizon where he could not see it. A huge gust of wind came from over the horizon and blew hard and steady, making waves over the sea of colors. It also made a beautiful blizzard of flower petals and then calmed.

After a few days Han saw the giant mountain many times bigger than the forest Titan's hill. It was the great asteroid they had fought around. It was the Temple of the Titans.

Han Jumped up it with ease in the low gravity, soaring up its face kicking off its smooth stone. Han landed at the mouth of the cave in its side, and walked in.

Chapter 23

The Door of Eternity

Han walked through the caves, past the pillars and passages, finally coming to the pillar circle with the stair case in the center. He walked on and came to the large double doors that were somehow perfectly repaired. They opened and He walked into the giant octagonal room.

He walked up to the doors into the higher Temple that had stayed fixed in place during the attack. All was peaceful now and there wasn't a sign of any damage now. The large golden doors had an inscription on the top that read,

Door of Eternity

Han went to them but they didn't open. So he knelt down on the step and prayed for a time. Hours past and Han thought he heard the soft music of the universe.

"Hann are you alright," appeared the voice of Canada.

He turned around to see Canada standing there in her beautiful white Temple clothing. Luz the Fire Priest was also standing there in his white robes.

"Yes, I am fine." Hann said with a broad smile.

The two of them held hands and Luz led them to the Door of Eternity. It was unsealed and opened. The light that shone from it was so bright all they could see was bright whiteness. Han and Canada hand in hand walked into the light.

- Dro and Weab -

One day Dro walked to the edge of the trees at the top of the hill to look off in the distance toward the dark mountain. Then suddenly he saw a man dancing and singing, coming out of the wilderness. The man was dressed in animal skins of leather and fur. He had messy hair and a wild look in his eyes.

It is better to be dead in the new.
It is worse to be alive in the old.
The man who seeks for truth must be very, very bold.

The flowers are blooming
The Sun is very hot
The mountain is cold and dreary and that is saying a lot.

The moon rises in the night
The stars go on and on
The fire in the mountain is an amazing story telling song.

"Hello there. What is your name?" Dro called.
The man looked at him and with a burst of excitement he ran up and fell to his

knees. Dro raised him with his hand and looked into his eyes.

“I am Weab.” The man said. “You are the one who saved me in the caves. You are the one who is the holder of the light.”

With that they both embraced and Dro led him back to the house to give him something to eat and drink and a place to lay his head.

To Be Continued

The following excerpts are essays and discourses written by Hans Woodman in relation to his philosophy and dream.

Gratitude

By Hans Woodman

My fellow brothers in Veritanism, my talk today is on gratitude. This subject came to my mind when my brother and I were hiking in the mountains after Kung Fu camp. The mountains Baldy, Bellnap and others were towering over us in majesty and terrible beauty. The forest was all around us and all kinds of flowers and life we saw.

After a bit me and Adam ran out of water. We felt the first effects of heat exhaustion coming on. We were dehydrated, hot and dizzy. We began to go back as fast as we could but water was more than 12 miles away.

We made it to the top of the saddle between Baldy and a mountain covered in amazing rock

pillars. There we were on the top of the world looking down over the millions of trees and rolling hills that made up the remaining 6 miles.

I admonished Adam to push on and not pass out or anything. He then turned to me and said. "This hike brings new meaning to Hann. He was in the same situation, when he came out of the mountain as we are, except we know where to find water, we have a car to go back to and he didn't. We have a home to go back to and he didn't. He was a complete wonderer and yet he was completely thankful just to see what we see every day."

It is true, no man would at that moment trade spots with him. He had nothing yet he had obtained everything. Dro and Hann gave everything just to see what we take for granted every day.

Both of us teared up at the thought. We were in the most beautiful place on earth. Some of the tallest mountains in Utah surrounded us. Forest and plants filled the place with life. Hann had done so much just to see what we saw so easily.

When Hann was in the caves Canada gave him a single piece of life or a branch from a tree. Hann prized this gift above all material things and now we were surrounded by countless trees with hundreds of branches.

Veritans remember and never forget Veritanism is a movement of thanksgiving. As my brother and I made it back we sat in the shade and sipped our water slowly and ate Vienna sausages with mustard on bread. Then I thought this about Hann again. This would have been a kingly meal to him surviving off cave lizards, salamanders and mushrooms.

Then Adam and I talked about how after Hann left the caves and desserts, how he saw things we only dream of on the voyage with the Titans. "He deserved it more than anyone," I said. "Because he sacrificed everything in the attainment of knowledge."

Then we talked about how there are people who are born in the outside world but always take it for granted. They live in a disconnected society but never leave. They live and die never knowing how great the gift they have is. Likewise our ancient ancestors lived a much richer life always hearing the stream, dancing and singing around the fire. Being connected with every movement of weather. Yet we have even a greater chance to feel the magic and power of the forest as we have the chance to escape our light minded society and see these things in light of a new yet older world.

Adam said. "It is amazing how the knowledge of Hann has come to you. It seems like we are almost unworthy to have it." Then I said. "Yes we are, but since Hann ascended greater than we, it has become his right and privilege to reveal it to us. And none can take that right from him for he is the teacher.

Then Adam picked up a piece of shale from the hill side and said holding back tears, "Only if Hann could see this. That the walls of his prison are in peaces on the hill tops." Then I responded, "He has seen it Adam, he has."

In conclusion I say to all Veritans and all the ends of the earth. Read Expedition and Voyage of the Titans and this time through think of it in the contexts of all you have and have been given. Be grateful for all the bounty of the earth and please do not take it for granted. The Veritans are a grateful people. And because we have so much we must give.

Your brother Hans

The Titans discourse

By Hans Woodman

"I am the Forest Titan. I make Life where I can."

Life is a song that never ends with many strange and marvelous melodies. Life is a weave with many harmonious patterns of power. This Titan holds the magic of the Forest, the falling leaves, of the driven snow and the coming of leaves and flowers again. He holds the key to the heart of life.

He walks through the forest with a garment of power about him. He is the king on the mountain throne. In ages past he hunted a white stag who would give him a chase but when the eyes of the two met they had perfect love and honor for one another. He is a mighty hunter and a perfect tracker, silent are his feet and perfect his smell.

His rangers are as the Aryans of old, Masters of the bow and lovers of music. Their mountain home lay deep in the shadows of a joyful forest, and few are they who come and see their glory. This Titan gains energy from all the life around him that freely gives it to their master, for he takes care of and protects them.

He is a mighty Wizard for he knows how to use the energy to work many miracles, and is a scholar in all the symbols of the trees. The Forest Titan of Forest Titans has green skin as the canopy of leaves and antlers like a mighty stag. He is the master of bards who tell tales and sing songs, that the many countries through which they travel might have truth abounding in their hearts and long ever for the magic of the woods.

The servants of this Titan have said. "Look hard and you might see a tree spirit. Or listen, for they make strange songs, be silent and have ears to hear for all things have life even the rocks around us.

Meditate in the forest and listen to the wind in the trees and you might learn of its ways.

"I am the Wind Titan. Only in the Mind's eye can I be seen."

Wind changes many things yet it is invisible. One can imagine its many hands picking things up and throwing them into the sky but none know what it truly looks like save The Mind Titan. Wind is the messenger of the Titans bringing tidings to far off places and wise men. As they hear its voice the world changes around them.

The Wind is constantly moving, bringing the seasons, rain and sunshine. Where it came from and to where it will go is impossible to know but to the Mind Titan. It carries travelers over waves and birds through the clouds. The powerful Magi of the past wore cloaks of feathers to help them move from world to world for the wind is master of all secret portals.

As Han and Dro came out into the sunshine of the day though blind at first knew beyond doubt they were free for they felt the breeze upon their faces. In ancient times powerful men went to the top of their towers to speak into the wind and the wind would bring it to the ears of the gods. Wind blows out little flames and makes large fires bigger.

Constantly moving she spines giant whirlwinds and soft breezes. In ages past their were four for each side of the earth and the effects of their stones are still felt upon the earth, constantly pushing against each other. As a storm gathers green on the horizon and the Wind is silent in the air.

Gather your family and go underground that the tempest might pass over you. For the evil Titans use the wind to their advantage to the sorrow of her who ever moves it.

The servants of this Titan have said. "Go and enjoy the breeze in your hair and see what the Winds of change will bring you, or maybe even where it might sweep you to, perhaps the edge of the earth or to another world."

"I am the Lightning Titan. I am the Water current that is Motivation."

The Lightning Titan is not the water, yet he moves people like the waves of the sea. He fills them with inspiration to movement, that they are not stagnant like a rotting pond. He flows through water like a stinging tongue, exiting its living energies. He is the glory of the planets for angels truly have countenances as lightning, who bring inspiration to men.

If a man is walking in the dark forest and a flash of lightning strikes, he is lighted for a moment and can move on a few steps. Likewise, in ancient times the masters of the mind would call "come, come out and see the storm!" Then the village would come to watch for the light of the lightning breathed from the dragons of the sky. And the man of the wood would joy in the life of the forest and sorrow only a little in the sacrifice for it.

As man has walking on the edge of the meadow he has seen the light strike the lone tree making the light of fire. First came the discovery of water, than lightning down from heaven bestowing fire on man. Thus the round was complete making fire's reflection. This is why a scarred tree is his symbol. A tree is scarred but a forest is saved!

The servants of this Titan have said, "If a storm is coming nigh, travel along it and receive its inspiration. Thus we see the mind Titan is preparation, the Lightning inspiration, the fire is revelation, and the water swims through and basks in them all."

"I am the Fire Titan. I am the Earth's core."

The Fire Titan is the earths core because the Fire Titan is the messenger of the Hidden Fire that is in her heart. The Hidden Fire is pure intelligence and light giving all knowledge. Each Man is a

vessel or carrier of it. He is given the flame at his birth, then he carries it as a lantern through his mortality. Once he dies it is given back to the earth, than the earth gives it to another.

The flame gives intelligence, so a man may gain the memories and knowledge of another through it, if it is unlocked. The Fire Titan is the holder of the Key, the Key to the Earth's heart. In ages gone, the Fire Titan has manifest the fire's past lives to its bearers by way of the green candle. The Earth's heart burns with a burning heat that is the essence of the Fire Titan, yet the source of all of it, is the Sun.

The Sun is the father of the Fire, and the Earth its Mother, thus they are husband and wife bound in eternal love. So we see there is a spark that shines within you giving you intelligence and teaching you right from wrong. The Fire must pass from life to life, into the earth and out of the earth again and again until it has experienced all things, than it shines forth as a conduit of light from the heavenly spheres. The carrier of the hidden Fire and a Holder of the Secret Fire is different.

I have already talked about the carriers of it, that is all mankind, but I will now tell you about the Holders of it. The Holder's heart is made into a conduit as the center of the earth, shining forth into a day spring of everlasting light and knowledge. The righteous immortals and Wizards in Ages past have been Holders of it. So we see the Fire Titan is the Titan of this fire and the Key bearer to unlock it secrets. He is the high priest of the Fire Temple. The Fire Temples where Pillar circles manifest the secrets of the stars and in the center stands the fire alter that is a symbol of the heavenly light.

The servants of this Titan have said. "Sit by the camp fire at night, look at the glowing on the trees around, and look at the passing stars. Feed the fire all night and while looking into it meditate upon your collective ancestral memories, and your true nature will unfold before your eyes like a book ready to be read. In meeting the Magi stand around the fire, themselves being the pillars, looking into the fire that is the symbol of Gods Celestial light, that is the center of all things.

"I am the Spirit Titan. One tree is not a Forest."

The Forest is a place were all kinds of life live in harmony and walkers walk together. The Spirit teaches us we were not meant to walk the road of life alone. Like the bee we are made to work together. Life is hard but worth it. We work all the days of our lives in the field of the Earth and when the day is done we come together.

Sad is the man who works alone and who has no friend or family to talk to at the end of the day. The perfect city of light is a place where people are one, constantly communicating and rejoicing with one another in intelligence. The energy of man is housed in the belly and as men clasp hands in fellow ship they transmit energy to each other in the covenant of fellowship.

The Spirit stone is in the center of the Titan circle and communicates with all. He is no one color, he is as many colors as the stars above. Titans make stones to prolonging life. But the Spirit Titan's stone is made to keep him from being born until his mission is done. When God subdues all evil powers, then the alter in the center of the circle will be broken and the Spirit Titan shall come forth.

We shall know him for he shall be sitting under the lone tree of the earth on a grassy hill playing a flute, that that tree might not be alone. And behold the whole earth shall then be a forest. The servants of this Titan have said, "prepare now for the person you want to be. Remember perfect honesty and love is a requirement to remain in that day."

"I am the Life Titan. The Winds of change, not even I can change."

Life always adapts to the changes of the earth and sky carried by the winds. Life's memories carry

with it a record of disaster and gloom. Floods that cover the earth, fires that burn the forest and earth quakes that rend mountains.

And yet life is always renewed in a constant springing of color and perseverance. Age after age it finds joy in opposition and blooms again more powerful than before. Life runs in the heart and all creation rejoices. Creation is amazing! Life is good and should be savored with celebration! This Titan in all Ages past has had a halo of blue light in her hair.

She is beautiful above all and her hand is gentle upon delicate things. She flies down from the midst of heaven riding a white swan of glory to lead the seekers of truth. The over mind has always envied her powers most and cursed himself when he could not obtain them. For she has a gentle and precious understanding only the true and humble may know. She is the master of the life moon that goes around Uranus. Every time a life Titan is made the star of the magi lights up and the moon gains life again, of purple, yellow and white flowers.

The servants of this Titan have said. "don't rush yourself, just do the best within you. And like the slow tortes you will come to the end at last and find a new beginning."

"I am the Mind Titan. I prepare for the Lightning of inspiration."

The Mind Titan is the teacher of understanding, showing men to where they might look for truth. He is a translator of languages bringing men into understanding one with another. He holds the key to detecting the wind and knowing truth from afar.

Long ago he made many Meta machines knowing all the workings of the human brain. He is the guider of the Titan ship, and without him it could not go as fast as the light of the sun. He was awoken as the pain of a pin prick as Han the Magi a point of light. He is best at hearing as Han is at seeing. He is a master of physical sciences and can teach people practical things. He is a portal of understanding for people to look upon the doings of nature.

He prepares people for sudden inspiration. The evil Mind Titan is the Overmind, who makes people ignorant for personal gain where the good Mind Titan enlightens people who love him as their Teacher and Magi.

The servants of this Titan have said. "Practice and work even if it is hard at first. For people love to do what they are good at, and once you have mastered a principle, power and joy shall flow unto you.

"I am the Water Titan. Only by being what Fire is not can I gain its identity."

The water is not fire, yet it reflects its light as an eye sparkling and shimmering in the night. Water is the wisdom at the bottom of the well brought up unto light. Wisdom can only be received by light, and the sacrifice of an eye is the life of truth.

Only by the roots of the forest can this Water be gained, guarded by giants for ages remained. This water flows into the sea, and is freely given as wisdom to the giant fishes always hiding from the faces of man. In life he was poisoned, pierced and hung to a tree, yet birds fed him. So often time he will return to earth looking like an old man in a hat.

Yet the Titan of Titans still looks down in order. Water is the final grave of the dead. The evil Titan of death is the opposite of this Titan. Water is the grave yet the Water Titan's power is to bear him up with fire and the Spirit. This Titan is the master of those who live according to God in the spirit.

His armies shall break forth in the last days as a forest of spears and a consuming wave upon the evil shores of the wicked! A spear this Titan bears that never misses, for his path is sure. He wisps

on the unsettled waves for a sea king he is forever! He may move the waters and no one knoweth for the ocean is a mystery to them. Wings on his helm he wears for wind is his friend. He hath the tools to navigate the stars and sail among holy places.

His tower hath an ever burning torch upon it that it may guide men unto him. It pointed to the west that men may sail east again. But if men sail to the immortal west they must follow the most cherished western star, out of his bay and follow it continually until it lead them out of this world, on the road of the Gods. There await shining white shores that darkness never sees and a city with many towers. In the sky shines the greatest of all burning planets, with a ring ever shining in the reflection of sea over which the water bears up stormy ships as countless as clouds.

This Titan's servants have said, "if a wise man looketh at the reflection of the flame, in the water of the well, he might see a truth, what mighty secret to tell!"

"I am the Earth Titan. A kind act is etched on the Spirits of all involved."

The stones and clay of the Earth is the medium upon which things are recorded. If you draw a symbol in the sand the symbol will remain in its memory even after it blows away. The blood that beats in your heart is made of Iron and like the sand will remember the writings on the tables of your heart and therefore ultimately will be carried with you throughout Eternity.

The Evil Clay Titan is opposite of this Titan, for he is the Titan of broken promises. As man digs clay out of the river beds each good particle has promise of becoming a masterpiece of Literature, the holder of a family crest or pottery. As a pot is rejected and thrown back to the ground it cannot fulfill it's purpose being broken, unless a caring potter picks it up, crushes it into small pieces and puts it back into his unorganized matter, to be made a new creation.

In ancient days people made baskets out of reeds by the river. One day there was a boy who had an old dying mother who needed water to cool her fever. So this wise lad took a basket and administer mud to it, so it could hold water. His mother lived and one day was walking to the river to get more water. Suddenly she stumbled just a little and dropped it into the blazing fire.

Disappointed she told her son she had ruined his invention. "That is okay, I will make another one," he said. He went down to the river and when he came back everyone was staring at something strange. It was his old basket that was now a hard bowl. So we see the Earth is made solid by fire for the purpose of holding water. As the fire swells within her it spews upon the earth making great mountains and the rivers cut great valleys. Truly the earth is our home!

The servants of this Titan have said. "Remember it is never worth it to offend your brother. After you have lost people in your life by this means you are never quit whole again. Perform kind acts unceasingly! When someone comforts you, helps you, or gives you something, even if it is small think of the gratitude that swells up in your heart. That is the greatest kind of power, and when someone does something for you just think how much Gods hands have done and do them for another.

Planets of correlating powers

The Forest is Mars

The Wind is Uranus

Lightning is Jupitar

Fire is the Sun

Spirit is Mercury

The Life is Venus
The Mind is Saturn
The Water is Neptune
Earth is the Earth

The Stones

“The Forest stone is round brown and rough like a grinding stone, on its upper side is a faint grey mark. The Wind stone is green like jade and has the symbol of a swift ship in its markings. The Lightning stone is light brown, flat and oval with the shape of a tree in it.

The Fire stone is round and white, smaller than the rest yet bright. The Spirit stone is the Altar of every ring. The Life stone is misshapen, and brown like an ordinary rock. The Mind stone is a round onyx with two wisps etched into its invisible surface. The Water stone is flat and grey like a rock of a river bed, but has a square of white strand on the bottom.

The Earth stone is round save a point on one side, and a single stare on its peak.”

A floor Plan of the Ship

Hans Woodman

Lecture on the Hidden Flame

By Hans Woodman

The Hidden Flame is the Light of the World. It is invisible to the unworthy. It is that inner light that illuminates our minds, and life could not exist without it!

The Hidden Flame is the power and intelligence given to the suns in space. The Hidden Fire is the Glory that comes from God's throne through the grand mediums of his flaming sight to our sun, and from our sun to us. The Hidden flame is given to the elect but the unworthy live in darkness, not physical darkness but in ignorance of their inner light. The Secret Fire is pure intelligence and it is the light within us.

All men have a portion of this light save those who have sinned against it. In its illumination the children of men enjoy a part of its intelligence. Teaching them about wrong from right, and about nature and the existence of a higher state. It sometimes helps us to remember our existence from back before the faintest glimmer of memory in the night of forgetfulness. Not fully aloud to part the curtains of our memory but giving us little hints to past glory and civilization.

The Secret Fire connects our spirit's thoughts to our brain and those who have lost it are controlled by the chemicals in their bodies alone, thus becoming a creature controlled by circumstance and ultimately a nothing in thought. There are those that through honest seeking have gained a greater portion and even better yet there are those wise men in ages past who have received so great a light that they have become a conduit of it, making their hearts like a Sun within them receiving an infinite portion, springing up unto all wisdom.

The Secret Fire is like a torch passed from one carrier to another. There are many flames on the earth at a time and God is their source. Some people remember as it were another's memories from long ago. These memories are not always a past life but simply the knowledge of a past bearer, preserved in the Flame. Thus some inspired story tellers have told true stories often times unawares. When one dies and his spirit is separated from his physical body, his mantel and calling as it wear falls on another. This is the passing of the Flame, that a new soul who comes into the world is endowed with light and gifts from his predecessors.

The Sun has been called in ages past the "All Seeing Eye." This is a true statement, for God surely looks from his throne into his giant crystal glass planet and from it to the conduit through our sun and through all other suns upon our lower and all other lower kingdoms. For God's eye is piercing and glorious! In an attempt to copy God the evil one has taught dark lords of the earth to make false towers and seer stones, deceiving men to worship the false eyes of men. Yet the Sun has always risen ever shedding the Hidden Fire on the righteous.

Hans

11 Principles of Veritanism

By Hans Woodman

1. We are the Seekers of truth. We know the attainment of knowledge is the purpose of life, leading us to perfect love and joy. We know there is a force of creativity called Wickle. We also know about the absence thereof called Boy, which is the road to ignorance and nothingness. Thus Eternal Ascension is the attaining of higher states leading us to Wickle.
2. We know in order to truly gain anything of worth one must make a sacrifice of equal value. Likewise if something is gotten unjustly it will be emptiness unto them and an infinite cost at the judgment.
3. We know, we and all things including the earth were first made or born Mentally, second Spiritually and third Physically. We know that death and resurrection is necessary in all three of these areas for perfection.
4. We know there are an infinite amount of Worlds, Dimensions and plains of existence, in which there is abounding life. We also know of an in-between land that is a fissure separating the Dimensions. Things often go there as a result of natural law, keeping the galaxy in balance. If one goes there they will be sorted according to it's will.
5. We know the Secret fire is the Light of the World. It is invisible to the unworthy. It is that

inner light that illuminates our minds, and life could not exist without it! We know it comes through the sun from the eye of God.

6. We know Time is simply the gaining of intelligence. Time is one as truth is one. There are many reckonings of it according to the intelligence of the measurer. There is God's Time, angel's time, prophet's time and man's time.
7. We know walkers come from all forms of life and energy. They also come in all shapes, sizes and colors, and sometimes mistaken for spirits.
8. We know there is differing states of mind, in which we gain so much capacity and understanding. It has been reckoned by brain percentage, for instance any state below three percent generally means we are unconscious. Most mundane people however never go above State 6. We know State 26 is when super natural things are possible by merely thinking about them. State 76 however is the point at which inter dimensional travel is accomplished.
9. We know the Meta is the world of the mind. Anything anyone has ever thought is there. It is endless, one mind may reach another through it. If anything exists here physically or spiritually it first existed there for its creator first thought of it. We also know the Dream world is a state of the Meta that is the Plain of unconscious thought. The Dream world is most important for developing friendships.
10. We know negativity makes unwanted things a reality according to the creative power of the mind. Fear and anxiety are the meta tools of evil. They have the power to make self fulfilling problems. Faith and positive thinking however make good a reality in our imperfect world. Thus the fulfillment of a perfect world depends on our continuing labor.
11. We know Magi are the wise men of the mental order. Their threefold mission is to learn truth, teach truth, and write truth. We also know there are Titans who are the leaders of the physical order. They are stewards over natural things, gaining power through their Titan stones as they care for and love their subjects.

Hans Woodman