In the beginning, there was only darkness. There was not yet the land or the sea, but only a darkness which engulfed the entire being of existence. These are the accounts of the men of old, from the legendary age of lost prosperity.

For reasons unknown, it is said that the darkness began to shrink. In the time that followed, the Gods emerged from its depths. First was Hailos, who created a vast and deep sea. Next was Tayden, who raised the land from beneath the waves. Renoa followed, creating the grass and trees, and then Archella, who created the animals.

The Gods were very pleased with their creations, and they continued to work. Hailos used his skill to spawn streams and rivers. Tayden used his strength to raise mountains. Renoa used her knowledge to grow great forests and grasslands, and Archella used her artistry to create diverse animals to fill the new landscape.

All the while, the darkness continued to shrink, until one day another figure emerged. She was more beautiful than the deepest secrets of Hailos’ sea, more enchanting than Tayden’s most dramatic peaks, and more sophisticated and complex than all the life created by Renoa and Archella. This made the original four jealous, and they shunned the new goddess, named Vray.

Vray wanted to please the other Gods, so she pondered for a long time what her creation should be. She wanted to make something which would benefit from the others’ creations, but would share her own qualities as well. Her solution was the creation of man.

Man required Hailos’ sea and rivers for travel and water. He required Tayden’s land for clay and shelter. He required Renoa and Archella’s plants and animals for agriculture, food, and clothing. Vray also gave man intellect, so that he could appreciate the gifts of the other Gods. This pleased the others, but still they did not accept Vray.

For centuries the balance between the creations of the Gods remained intact. The seas advanced and receded with the tides. The plants and animals grew and died with the seasons of the land. Man consumed what he needed, but nothing more. This period of tranquility fostered peace among the Gods, and finally the original four accepted Vray.

Eventually, however, things began to change. Man had used his intellect to advance science and technology, and he forgot to appreciate the creations of the Gods. He polluted the sea with the waste of unnecessary goods. He scarred the land to dig for minerals and ore. He destroyed forests to build cities, and killed animals for sport. This angered the original four Gods, and Vray was once again banished from their counsel.

As man continued to commit travesties, tensions among the Gods grew greater. Hailos threatened to drown man by raising the sea. Tayden threatened to destroy him with earthquakes and volcanos. Renoa threatened to poison him with plants, and Archella threatened to create new predators to devour him. But Vray believed in the will of man, and believed that he would grow wise and change his ways.

Despite Vray’s assurances, the other Gods did not have confidence in man. They devised an attack, with the intent of forever removing man from the world. They filled the next century with cataclysmic disasters, but Vray always stepped in to save man from desolation.

Vray began to grow tired as she defended man from the other Gods. The constant barrage of attacks was exhausting. She knew that she could not sustain her protection forever. With the last of her energy, Vray created a light so intense, it was unbearable for the other Gods to look at. They retreated back to the darkness, where they have remained ever since.

Vray continues to watch over man, always prepared to defend against the others. She is a reminder to us all to respect the gifts we have been given, and she is a symbol of hope for all of mankind.