

The Meadow

Or, a Tale of Life and Death

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Moonset.

The light flows thin through the midnight air from a misty milky
lamp

As blinking stars weave through the sky: a blanket of cool and
damp.

The humble mushrooms raise their heads to worship the silver
light

And bathe in beams and rays of gold, cutting the fabric of night.
“T-woo” says an owl who silently swoops through the tops of the
dew-dropped trees

The anonymous call rolls round the folds of hills, carried by the
hands of the breeze.

The dim glow of morning fills wispy clouds, interrupted by the
flash of a lark

The silhouettes of the trees now mark the horizon, standing
proud as the sky fades from dark.

Back to the burrow for the sleepy mole, as the nights ebbs gently
away

His whiskers, thin glints in the waning light, brush softly on his
bed of hay.

“Farewell” to the light, which, to the new day, yields;

The restful moon sinks gracefully down in front of the
dawn-drenched fields.

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Chapter 1

Cosmos

To understand the origin of understanding, we must first understand the origin of chaos.

This story begins a long time ago, at the very beginning of everything. I do not know how long ago this was, for time itself had not yet gained the meaning it has now. For time to have meaning, there must be change: change in position, in state, in form: for things which are to stop, and things which are not to begin. But at the beginning, nothing was not: there only was. Everything was in a state of undifferentiated unity.

An endless soup: matter and energy in a formless void, swirling, coalescing, inter-exchanging and transforming from one to the other. A cauldron of stuff, extending across the entirety of the baby *χόσμος*; a fine balance of creation and destruction so violently dynamic that its only prevailing feature is its absence of features. This formless state is the *χάος*. Though formless, it is

not nothing: it is everything. Everything that will ever be, could ever be, was in this $\chi\alpha\omega\varsigma$.

What came before the $\chi\alpha\omega\varsigma$ is not a matter of importance.