

Spirits of Change

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Before

The world of the Cleon was on the edge of ruin. Despite the attempts created by the Guardians to halt the destruction of their world, it was time for it to fall. A haze of chaos spread over the entire world as panic forced its way into the residents. However, there was nothing to be done to save this world or its residents. This was the natural Way and Penellophe knew it. So, she acted in one last attempt to save her kind.

Penellophe returned to the core of their world, where she resided as their Chosen one. She had watched over her kind for centuries and knew the end was coming. She was prepared for what she was about to do. As her world was falling around her, she pulled on the energy of the core and split her own spirit into ten equal parts.

All parts were new beings of herself to ensure her kind would live on. All parts were equal and no different in spirit, as they were created from her own. However, not knowing where they would end up, she allowed for different armor to cover each spirit.

Each armor carried a different type of protection or skill set in order to ensure her kind could help each other survive. One had armor to protect them in water, a skill set allowing them to breathe underwater and navigate as if it was its home. Another armor was designed to protect against heat and the driest of lands. The third armor provided the spirit with knowledge, and the fourth armor with beauty. The fifth, supplied amazing speed and strength in any situation. Each of the five armors were given to two spirits, covering all ten.

In Penellope's last effort, she scattered her spirits, sending them beyond her world in hopes of them landing on a better one. What remained of her own spirit stayed with her world's core until it's power finally blinked out...

Zeminih

The ten spirits were split in half, equally split by their armor, one water, one air, one knowledge, one beauty, and one strength. The first half found its way to the world of the Zeminih.

The world of Zeminih was one of the oldest planets, adopting many of the old ways in ruling over their people. It was majorly involved in the War of the 7 Worlds and has been known for its elite armies. These armies consisted of the most skilled warriors, trained from birth to be the protectors of this world. The society was also well known for its wealth and outstanding cities. Even though they followed a lot of the old ways in ruling their people, they had outstandingly new technology that made their cities like nothing else. However, this wealth did not extend to every resident. Outside of the cities was where the majority of the population lived. Small towns that looked nothing like the elaborate beauty of the cities.

For most of the planet, the landscape was covered by mountains. The cities were carved into some of the mountains making them look like they were the work of gods. The rest of the lands had forested mountains, which were home to creatures one would never want to see. Within the mountains were rivers and lakes in which was their water source.

The five spirits landed just outside one of the major cities. Upon their arrival, they were met with a group of warriors who escorted them to the capital. The spirits were in awe of the city as they traveled through it. They all were given memories when they were created to help them understand and make decisions, but none of the memories compared to the advanced

technology of cities built into mountains. They were also in awe of the warriors who guided them. Even without looking at the beautiful weapons on their side, the warriors themselves were a weapon.

The spirits were taken to the King who ruled over the world. They explained to him how they came about and that they can supply special gifts to help the King and his city. They meant him or his world no harm and asked for a place for them to live and offer their gifts as payment. The King, of course, refused. Having believed his world was superior and needed no help or special gifts. The spirits warned him that their gifts would be needed to face upcoming challenges, but the King still denied them. He looked down on them, not caring about their unique gifts because he refused to believe his world needed help from outsiders.

The spirits were sent to live outside of the city, being watched by warriors and not allowed to leave. They lived among the townspeople who proved to be a lot more accepting than the king. But even then, only the spirits who proved to be helpful were accepted among the townspeople. The spirit of beauty was adored by the people, the spirit of strength helped to build new homes, and the spirit with water gifts helped their crops to flourish. But the townspeople were not completely unlike the King. They were unaccepting of the spirit of knowledge, believing they knew better. And they had no need for the spirit of air so they did not accept him. But the spirits still continued to help the townspeople, not blaming them for the beliefs they grew up with.

The King started to hear about their work and how they helped better the lives of the townspeople. He was not happy and he ordered the spirits to exile. They were sent to live in the forested mountains with the creatures. Even with their gifts, they were not able to survive among these beasts...

When trying times hit the King and his cities not long after, he sought help from the spirits, but soon realized they had not survived. Because of the King's denial to let the spirits live among them and refusal to accept them or see change, he could not be aided through trials his world faced.

They were plagued with an unknown disease and hit with a storm that caused flooding and landslides throughout their cities. The spirits warned the King upon their arrival of this and informed him that their gifts could have aided the King through these times, but the King had refused them in the beginning and led them to their death. After many millenials, the world of Zeminih perished.

Iliseeum

The other half of the spirits ended up in Iliseeum. This planet had also been around for many millennia but was more of a desert planet. The planet was seen as an outpost and pitstop for many travelers. It was home to many species from different worlds, but had never been able to flourish or grow throughout the years. It was ruled by a group of eight representatives from around the planet, who kept most of the cities in check and provided some protection for the residents.

The spirits landed on this planet in one of the cities that was a pitstop for travelers. They were easily unnoticed, considering this city was full of different species and kinds from all over. The spirits were able to talk with the people and learn about the planet. They stayed there for a few days, befriending many residents, before they headed to the capital.

As they traveled from city to city, through the desert, they were able to use the water spirit to stay hydrated, the air and strength spirits to aid their travels through the desert, the beauty spirit to talk with the residents in the cities, and the knowledge spirit to know their languages and guide them. While in the cities, the spirits would offer their gifts to the people as payment for food, shelter, and information. They soon realized that their gifts weren't needed when talking with the people; the residents were willing to talk with them and help them out whether they had something to offer in return or not. No one was scared by their presence or only wanted to use them for their gifts.

It took them a few weeks, but the spirits finally made it to the capital. Once there, they were able to meet with the representatives. The spirits told them of their situation, their gifts, and that they could offer aid to be able to live on their planet. The representatives told them that they could live freely on their planet without having to pay with their gifts. The spirits were grateful and warned the representatives of the trials their planet would face, when the time came the spirits would gladly aid them in the trials.

The spirits lived happily among the people of Iliseeum for years. They reproduced and created a life for themselves. They shared their gifts with the people, spreading knowledge across the planet. The cities were able to boost their crop systems, healthcare, education, and society structures with the help of the spirits.

When trying times hit Iliseeum, the spirits were there to help the planet face them. The representatives and the people gladly listened to the spirits and openly accepted change in order to survive the trials. When plague hit, the knowledge spirit had already prepared the healers with knowledge of how to create immunity from it and treat the ones who did get affected. When the storm formed, the water and air spirits helped guide the storms to their will, protecting the cities from the damage. The strength spirit aided in building areas to hold the water from the storm to create new water sources for the planet. And when jealousy and unrest spread throughout the planet, the beauty spirit was there to calm all minds.

The planet passed the trials and came out as no longer a poor desert society, but a land covered in lush forests, clear rivers and lakes, and green plains. It transformed into a haven for species of all types and was abundant in not only food and shelter resources, but knowledge in education and healthcare. It spread its knowledge and structure with other planets to help create more like it.

The people of Iliseeum were forever grateful to the spirits and their gifts, and were examples of the good that can come out of change.

Authors Note

Sci Fi and Fantasy has always been my favorite genre to read. Being able to escape reality and dream of other worlds is something that I will always enjoy doing. I was inspired by Octavia Butler, who wrote many sci-fi short stories which brought light to many problems seen throughout the world. Her stories allowed room for the reader to question norms and look at problems in a different way. I wanted to be able to do the same. I hope people who like to read stories would enjoy it as a story but I also wanted to display racism and bias in a way that doesn't just say "hey racism is a thing in America." I hoped to get the point across that if we are not willing to accept change and stop looking at people differently then we will not thrive. The first planet was not willing to accept "outsiders," they did not have equality for all of their people, and they were destroyed. The second planet accepted the spirits without requiring use of their gifts, and they ended up being better than before.