

Lessons of the Water

(“This story was taken from the collection of short stories by Alfred the Wise. These stories are believed to be allegories. While some of the information in this story may be true, more than likely most of it is highly exaggerated. The reader is advised to remember that no information remains of the time before The Tragedy.”)

“Grandpaaa! Grandpaaa! Where are you?” The voice echoed through out the house.

“I’m in the sun room little one.” I answered back with a smile on my face.

My grandson came running in through the kitchen into the sun room where I was letting my old bones soak up some well needed sun light. It was becoming harder and harder to get around these days. Old age tends to do that to you.

“Grandpa, we were studying geography today in school. Bernda said his grandpa had told him at one time the world was once covered in water. The teacher told him that wasn’t correct. But when we asked her she said no one knew exactly what it use to be like, that there was no written What was the word she said? Hast... Hister.. “

“You mean historical?” I prompted

“Yea, that’s what she said that there was no ... historical records from before the Tragedy, so no one knows what it was like.”

“Well that is mostly true, but I know of it. My parents passed down the story to me. Just as their parents had passed it down from their parents and so on for several generations.”

“Wow! Can you tell me the story?”

“Well I don’t know?” I said mischievously.

“Pleaseeeeee! Grandpa.”

“OK but you must sit quietly until I am done with the story. So just sit down in your chair there and I will tell you the story my parents told me.”

Back before the Tragedy the world was not covered by water but a large portion of the world was. Three fourths of the world was water. There were large oceans, medium seas, small lakes, tiny ponds, large rivers, small streams, puddles, and more. The waters

of the time before the Tragedy were amazing and there are even more amazing stories of what they say it was like before even the people of the Tragedy were born. What I do know I will tell you. The large bodies of water called oceans were bordered by beaches of sand. Sand is actually rocks like you pick out of the planting area that have been worn down and smoothed down to be so small you almost can't see them. There were lots of beaches and they even came in different colors. There were red sand, white sand, yellow sand; which was the most common; brown sand, and even black sand. Now I don't know about the rest but I was told the black sand came from volcanoes and was considered to be very unique to the people before the Tragedy.

“Grandpa if almost all the world was covered in water how did the people move around?”

“Well they had machines that could travel on top of water, machines that could move through the air, and they say they even had machines that could move through and under the water.”

“What were these machines like?”

“Some were small but some were huge, larger than anything we have today.”

“Even bigger than the Ancient One?”

“Yes, even bigger than the Ancient One. There were some machines that were big enough that people lived on them like we do on the land, so big that the Ancient One would look like a small burrower.”

“Now where was I...?”

The oceans were filled with thousands and thousands of plants and creatures. They said that under the water the ocean was like a multicolored arch of rain and enough creatures in one spot to feed our family for weeks. There were small creatures that could hide in a water plant. Creatures that looked like the plants they lived in. Creatures that were poisonous. Creatures that sang. Creatures that were blind. Creatures that were intelligent. Creatures that could swallow the Master whole and not realize it, creatures that ate only plants and so much more.

“Could swallow Master whole...?”

“Yes but I was told they ate only little tiny creatures smaller than a prickly fruit and water plants.”

“Did all the water creatures die? Did any survive?”

“Only one creature survived but that is a whole other story. Didn't I say something about not interrupting?”

“Oops, I’m sorry Grandpa.”

“That’s OK little one I was only teasing. Asking questions is a good thing. The more you question the more you can learn; if you listen as well as questions.”

“What about the other water besides oceans?”

Well there were seas and lakes. They were smaller bodies of water but they contained life as well; fish, plants and other creatures. Rivers and streams were moving water that moved from one spot to another crossing some times large areas of land. There were many creatures living in them as well.

They say there were creatures that ate waste out of water, some that ate other water creatures, some that could walk on land and some who lived on land and water.

There was a lot of water, more than enough for everyone, but the people from before the Tragedy were greedy, careless, and indifferent people. Not our ancestors, we had not yet changed as of that time. The people of the time before the Tragedy considered us to be nothing more than dumb, small minded creatures they would keep as pets or on display in cages. The people from before the Tragedy were a large race. They had lots of amazing machines and some believe they could do magic. But, the people were not very smart even for intelligent race. The people from before The Tragedy had killed many species of creatures from over eating or destruction of their homes. They dumped their waste in the water and never thought about it. They would even test their killing machines in the waters forever destroying everything in the area. Oh in the end some of them tried to correct their mistakes but by that time it was too late. It is like trying to put the evening meal back together again after you have eaten it. It was just not possible. The water they had was amazing but they wasted and didn’t take care of it like we do so they lost it all.

“Is that why we must always be careful of water, why the Place of Life Giving is surrounded by so many protectors?”

“Yes that is the very reason. If we don’t protect what we have left and be very careful of it we would all die from thirst.”

He was silent for some time thinking over what I had just told him. I would tell him the story many more times before I would have to complete the cycle but I hoped it stuck with him and he passed it on to his kids when the time was right or we could easily repeat the same mistake the people from before The Tragedy had.

“Kit... Kit...”

“Your mother is calling; you go see what she wants but remember what I told you today it is very important to remember it, OK?”

“Yes Grandpa!”

I reached forward and ruffled his fur and noticed he was starting to grow his adult fur. As he ran out of the room to find out what chore his mom had in store for him I couldn't help wondering if I had enough time left, had I waited too long, had I gotten through to him; I guess I will never know I just hope it did.

“How fast they grow, how fast.”

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