

A FANTASY NOVEL

VIGNESH RAVICHANDRAN



# SCPTERS OF EMPYREA

A JOURNEY TO THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY



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This is purely a work of fiction.  
Names, characters, places, and few events are  
either the product of the author's imagination or used fictitiously  
and any resemblance to any actual person, living or dead, or  
locales is merely coincidental.

## Welcome Onboard

I am Vignesh Ravichandran, Author of "Scepters of Empyrea: A Journey to the Andromeda Galaxy". I am working as a Human Resource Professional in Chennai for the living. I got an idea of writing this novel when I experienced a weird nightmare before 7 years, and it felt like I was somewhere connected to it and later it began to dawn on me to convert this into a novel, and that's how this journey began.








This Journey is totally an imaginary one, any resemblance to any actual person, living or dead, or locales is merely coincidental.

For the Journey is concerned, I am going to be your tour host and will take you to the lovely places of Empyrea. In every destination, you will be entertained by different characters in wonderful landscapes. Just erase all your predictions and enjoy the journey in its flow.

Let's start our adventures journey.



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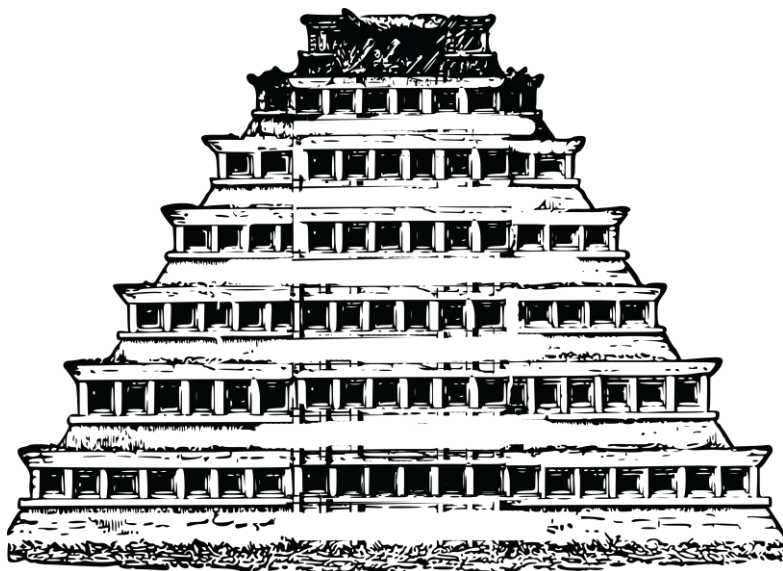


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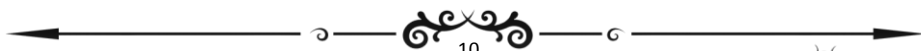
### *Journey 1: Adventures Step Pyramid*



In the sands of Saqqara stands one of its greatest legacies. It's the first monument of its kind ever built, the most significant piece of history of its civilization. The famous Step Pyramid, the oldest stone structure in the world, also known as the Pyramid of King Djoser. Constructed in a single century at the close of the prehistoric era.

Step Pyramid is the most impressive of all the pyramids. It is the mother of all pyramids. There are only less than 80 pyramids left in Egypt. These are considered as secret gateways that allow kings to pass through to the land of immortal life after they die. But now, through the evolution of time, these areas lie in ruins brought on by earthquakes and are falling apart. As time goes by, the pyramids continue to deteriorate turning into dust.

The archeological experts are trying to rescue these ancient treasures. Not letting time take things into its own hands, one determined archeologist named Hannah is obsessed with saving the step pyramid. Hannah is a 32-year-old American archeologist who has significant experience in the field of archeology, and she has explored many mysterious sites & relics. Some of Hannah's major discoveries include the Rosetta stone, the Acambaro figures, Gobekli-tepe, the Antikythera mechanism, and the Tomb of Sunken Skulls. She was also instrumental in deciphering the Mayan Calendar, Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Voynich Manuscripts.



Hannah's ultimate aim is to safeguard the antique items and its culture. But because of human interference and natural disasters; ancient monuments and other architectures are in ruins. To safeguard the ancient wonders, Hannah along with her friends formed a group and embarked on a rescue mission. The first initiative was to excavate the historical pyramids, and for that, they formed an archeological group named “Saving the Pyramids”. Different archeologists from various parts of the world were part of this initiative.

The journey of their ambitious restoration project began with the Step Pyramid. Above ground, the challenge was to repair the severely eroded steps and replace thousands of stones that were falling apart. These stones were the masterpieces of the Egyptian civilization and they were wholeheartedly committed to the quest for the Trinity.

For Hannah's team, things weren't easy. They couldn't use any industrial machinery because it caused too much vibration, so they did everything by hand. Boulder by a boulder the workers started replacing the fallen stones. After all the stones were in its place, Hannah found out that the apex of the pyramid seemed to be missing. Usually, when a pyramid is constructed, the capstone is the last thing to be placed on it. It was called “Pyramidion”. It was considered the most important part of the pyramid and was made of unique stones or sometimes even gold. Without a pyramidion, the step pyramid looked flat-topped and not pointed like other pyramids.

While excavating further, Hannah found a tiny piece of the pyramidion stuck to the top of a limestone block. She carefully unearthed it with her tools and stepped down from the step pyramid. She made her way to the caravan to examine this piece. She inspected it through her microscope. The pyramidion seemed like a magnetic black stone with some subtle inscriptions. Upon discovering this, Hannah assumed that the rest of the pyramidion might have some detailed inscription on it. She continued to run experiments and to her shock, she realized that the pyramidion had an electromagnetic energy. She then determined that the Egyptians had used this energy for lighting the inner pyramids. It soon began to dawn on her that the ancient Egyptians were more developed than we were.

Hannah and her team next began the biggest and most dangerous restoration job. Extending 30metres underground to the secret heart of the pyramid, the king's burial chamber was collapsing. Huge boulders had fallen from the roof threatening to crush this chamber.

Hannah's team members believed that the boulders could be lifted upwards, and could be taken out through the south entrance, which they believed would be much quicker. But Hannah had a different idea; the tunnel leading to the chamber was too fragile to handle the weight of any vehicle, so she opted for a longer route. Sorting all the debris by hand, they carried it one by one from the bottom of the burial chamber along the fragile maze of tunnels and headed towards the north entrance.

After all the boulders had been removed, Hannah's team uncovered what was hidden underneath. The coffin which contained the king's body still remained intact. It was made of 32 granite slabs. On the top of it was a giant circular stone plugging the hole and through that, they lowered the body of the king. They saw clues on the slabs, which directed them as to how those slabs needed to be placed to form a sarcophagus.

The sarcophagus chamber had been surrounded by four galleries, which was cut around the burial chamber and in all likelihood contained the funerary equipment of

the king. Some of the galleries were lined with fancy blue tiles and resembled the mats that were hung on the walls of the king's royal residence. Hannah & her team also found out that the burial chambers lead to many tunnels. These tunnels were mysterious in nature. Each tunnel had nearly five to six chambers in it. What started off as a rescue initiative had now become an exploration when they discovered amazing artifacts of crafted stones. They also found human remains and broken tombs of the pharaoh's wives and his daughters.

Hannah's team also found the historical artifacts and ornaments from Egyptian civilizations that belonged to the second and third dynasty. Some chambers had food stored for the king's afterlife while few other chambers were filled with gold ornaments like pendants, amulets, bracelets, earrings, studs, necklaces, collars, pectorals, malachite finger rings, scarabs, and ubat stones. Some chambers were beautifully decorated like a little royal palace with ceramic and granite so that the dead king wouldn't languish.

No one knew how many levels there were in these tunnels. With the help of tracker technology, complicated passages in the labyrinths were broken down. The King's crown, Queen's necklaces, and the painted limestone statue of King Djoser were found along with many other historical monuments.

Hannah's team also discovered the village which probably helped build these monuments 4500 years ago. While excavating it, they got numerous clues as to their way of life. They were well fed and decently housed. For building the pyramids, they were given meat and bread. The excavations even showed that the workers weren't slaves as we assumed they were, but were proud to serve the Pharaoh and even accompanied him on the journey to the afterlife.

Hannah's team found a few skulls that they now knew belonged to the helpers. Some skulls were abnormal and mysterious; they looked more elongated than a normal human skull. From the bread that was discovered, they found out that the Egyptians used antibiotics. But, none of these fascinating discoveries revealed the method that was used to build the pyramid.

Apart from all these, inside the step pyramid, Hannah's team found a very mysterious pathway, 45metres into the ground. Even then it did not end, the secret pathway led them to a junction and there were five different tunnels.

Hannah and her team members walked into the first tunnel, the walls in the tunnels were painted with Egyptian hieroglyphics. On their way, Hannah and her team members were discussing the hieroglyphics. And then suddenly Cummings one of the team member walked on a red colored rock and it went in like a button. Within a fraction of a second, an automated arrow appeared on the right side of the wall. Hannah grabbed Cummings shirt collar and pulled him back. The Automated arrow swerved past Cummings near his abdomen and missed him by an inch tearing just his shirt and because of its intensity went into the left side of the wall. It was so strong as to take 5lives at a time.

Hannah and her teammates returned to the junction point and figured out that these five tunnels may be the labyrinths to keep the place secure. She ordered her assistant Marsh to bring the E46 from the caravan. E46 was a 3feet robot designed by Steve, the younger brother of Hannah.

Marsh bought the E46 to that place, and it was all set to explore the labyrinths.

Hi Professor, Me E46 is ready to go inside the tunnels. You are advised to follow me only after a gap of 20metres, said E46 and rolled its tiny wheels into the second tunnel.

I don't think this basic model will get us to the right place, mourned Jordan.

The tunnel was fragile and sloppy, E46 with its LED eyes guided Hannah's five member team into the tunnel. When E46 crossed the Red colored limestone block, the tunnel echoed with weird machinery sounds. Soon the walls released a sudden blue smoke and filled E46 in that blue colored smoke. Hannah and her team members couldn't see where the E46 was. When Hannah's team saw blue smoke they were filled with fear, E46 came out of the smoke melting and wheeled towards Hannah saying, Alert!! Alert!! 'This tunnel contains mysterious alchemical powders which can burn the human skin entirely. Let's move out of this tunnel.

Jordon!! E46 saved our life, hope you will find some solace and be more confident about it, said Hannah.

She not only has a great physique but also has some good ears, said Jordan to Marsh.

Hahaha!! Beware, her husband is an Interpol officer, replied Marsh.

E46 was ready to explore the third tunnel and wheeled into it. The third tunnel was so flat and not fragile, everything seemed to be normal. The team members walked relaxingly as E46 was there to guide them. E46 alerted the team when it noticed the same red colored limestone.

Alert!! Alert!! Hold on, let me check the path said E46 and crossed the red stone. Suddenly, the ground rose with hidden blades and smashed E46 at the ceiling. It was so powerful that the LED eyes of E46 popped out from its socket and rolled towards Hannah.

The team came out of the tunnel but had to continue to explore the next tunnel without E46. The brave five member team without fearing for their own lives entered the tunnel. It was dark and had a rotting meat smell. Marsh unable to bear the stench pushed Hannah to one side and vomited on the other side. Meanwhile, the torch fell off Hannah's hands and rolled down the ground.

Marsh!! If anything happens to my lucky torch you won't get your salary, shouted Hannah angrily and ran to grab it.

This smell makes me sick. Anyway, I haven't gotten even a single penny as salary from you for the past 2years, shouted Marsh.

The torch hit a boulder on the ground and stopped rolling, Hannah bent down and picked up the torch from the ground. While taking it, she heard an indistinct sound, and her hands started to shiver. She heard some swaying sound next to her head and saw few pale yellow strands of her hair flying on the ground.

Is that alright!! Shall we move on, asked Jordan and took a few steps ahead, Hannah abruptly shouted NO!! NO!! NO!! (Tunnel Echoed) Jordan stopped in his tracks and stared at Hannah. But Hannah was looking at Jordon's neck. Hannah touched his neck and took a drop of blood and showed it to Jordon. Jordon after seeing his blood fainted to the ground. Then Hannah told the mystery to her team members, this tunnel has the most dangerous trap than any other. This tunnel has been filled with razor-sharp invisible wires which are hanging exactly at neck level. They immediately got out of the tunnel and stood at the junction point to catch their breath.

Finally, Hannah and her team members went into the fifth tunnel, nothing seemed like a trap for a moment, Hannah led them upfront and others followed in a straight line, the team members were relieved and began to relax but then Hannah abruptly stopped in her tracks and dropped down defeated. The team members came forward and saw trouble up ahead. There was a deep pit about 40feet and it continued for 100metres. In the middle of the pit, there were some broken pillars, there was a gap of 3feet from every pillar and only one person could stand on those pillars at a time. Hannah and her team must walk on the pillars to cross over.

Hannah and her team members were not about to give up now so they mustered up the courage and moved ahead. One by one they walked on the pillars crossing the path, even one wrong move will give their death on the sharp rocky spikes down under, so they made their way slowly with extreme caution.

After three pillars, the rest were not spacious enough to walk and they could keep only one foot on it. The five member team panicked because of less space. Everyone had to walk at the same pace to avoid falling down. After crossing half the way, there were thousands of venomous snakes and black scorpions, if anyone fell, they would surely die.

When they crossed 75% of the way, space became narrower, now there was a place for only half foot, the five member team was praying and walking on each and every pillar. Soon the underground hollow of snakes and black scorpions ended and the team members relaxed. They crossed 85% of the way, the pillars gap extended to 4feet, the team members needed to spread their legs wide enough to walk on it, they were balancing themselves and walking like there were walking on a rope.

When they crossed 95% of the way, another pit appeared below, there were 20 feet of water and the pit itself was 40 feet. Hannah and her team members were puzzled and wary at the same time, soon the water bubbles appeared and something popped its head up in the water.

It could be anything, it's a beast for sure, let's walk fast, shouted Hannah and moved faster.

Within seconds, the water giant leaped out of the water towards the team, and tried catching them, it was a 10feet crocodile, it almost bit the legs of the team members. From the top, the team members could see its wide jaws with a double row of sharp teeth.

Swiftly, one by one they crossed the pit. The crocodile leaped one last time to catch hold off some flesh and it was Samantha who was about to make her way across. It opened its jaw to grab her but missed by a few inches but the action made Samantha nervous and she slipped sliding down the last pillar. Lucky for her Hannah who was on top caught hold of Samantha's left hand pulled her out before the giant got a taste of her.

After a long break, the team members resumed moving forward, it took another 5kilometers maze of fragile tunnels and voids for them to see the other four tunnels joining their path one by one.

The engineer who built this vault is so brilliant, blabbered sick Marsh who was falling behind from the team. He could hear the victorious celebrations of his teammates up front. But all of a sudden the place turned silent, Marsh panicked and ran towards

them shouting what happened. But no one replied. Everyone stood like statues. He went past Hannah in the front and asked what happened but Hannah just stood frozen her eyes alone fixed on something mysterious.

Is this some kind of joke? asked Marsh and saw the very same thing that got everyone transfixed. His jaw dropped and his face turned white. The team was now standing at the end of the tunnel and there was no way beyond that. All this struggle went in vain. Hannah didn't have the mind to leave the place, heartbroken she merely stared at the empty wall.

Hannah!! We tried our best, don't take this to heart, let's head back to our camp, said Cummings to convince her.

No!! There must be something behind this, said Hannah and touched the wall and rightly dry sand dropped off the wall.

Immediately the team sprang into action, took out their brushes and started cleaning the wall with extreme care. When the team finished cleaning the right side of the wall, it revealed the Egyptian hieroglyphics of a scorpion, a snake, and an ape. The left side of the wall showed them the hieroglyphics of an elephant, a crocodile-like a creature and an animal like a lion.

Hannah who was cleaning the center part revealed hieroglyphics of an 8feet tall unusual person sitting on a throne wearing a moon like a crown and he held a perplexed blackbird in his left arm. When the wall was fully cleaned, the team members were excited as this was the first they came across this type of hieroglyphics.

Hannah concentrated, she advanced towards the hieroglyphics and examined it very keenly. Raised her right hand and stretched it towards the person's moon like a crown, touched it and pressed it, the team members eyes grew wider in excitement when the moon in the crown went inside the wall like a button. Hannah before taking her hand looked at her team members and chuckled. She took her hand from it, the team expected something to happen, but nothing happened.

There was a long sigh of disappointment and everyone sat on the ground heartbroken.

If there was a button, surely it should have revealed something, but how it remained soundless, forlornly said Jordan.

Hannah!! What are we going to do now, asked Samantha.

Shall we order Pizza, said Marsh with a grin on his face.

Pizza!! Pizzaa!! Pizzaaa!! Piz za!! Piece Za!! The word echoed in Hannah's head, and she looked at Marsh.

What Hannah! I'm serious as I'm starving, replied Marsh.

Out of nowhere, Hannah's face lit up and she shouted, "Marsh!! You are so brilliant".

The team members didn't know what was happening and how to react to her and Marsh on the other hand just blinked and said, thanks Hannah, but will they deliver the pizza inside here??

I will get you a large cheese pizza when we get back, now get up we have serious work to do, said Hannah and helped the team to understand why she was behaving this way.



Team!! Listen, if there is a button in any machinery surely it will start something, if it's not working, there must be a defect, that's science. Likewise, this wall must have a defect, I feel some piece is missing in this wall. Let's search the defective place and the missing piece, said Hannah to the team members and everyone keenly examined the wall. They were intensely examining each and every craft in the wall.

While examining, Cummings found that the eye of the blackbird seemed to be missing, there was a hole in that place, he told the team and everyone started to look for it nearby. Hannah approached the wall and stared at the blackbird. While other team members were searching for the missing piece she inserted her left hand into her pant pocket and took something and kept it on her left palm. This was the tiny piece of Pyramidion that she had taken from the top of the step pyramid, that tiny black piece looked similar to the blackbird's eye. Hannah took the tiny piece with her right hand and went near the eye of the blackbird to insert it but before she could do anything, like a magnet the tiny piece launched itself into the hole.

Hannah zealously pressed the moon in the crown, the moon went inside the wall, and soon the team members heard the machinery sounds and the wall rose up like a shutter. They were all so excited for what they were about to witness.

It unveiled a vast empty area, Hannah and her team members entered the place filled with dread, it was dark and the surface seemed stony. They heard a sudden noise of water droplets. They realized then that water was present everywhere on the ground and it glittered like silver water in the torchlight.

Hannah, Cummings, and Jordon went ahead, Marsh and Samantha followed them but were way back. Suddenly Marsh felt the water droplets on him and looked upwards towards the ceiling. His eyes locked on it and a drop of water fell on him, it streamed down his cheeks and before it could roll off his face and hit the ground, he caught it in his hand. For a minute, he couldn't believe his own eyes and when he closed and reopened his fists, he heard his heart hammering wildly, he blinked again and saw the water droplet as though he wanted to make sure of what he saw and ran shouting.

Marsh!! Marsh!! What happened, asked Samantha and came running towards him.

The water droplets!! The water droplets!! Marsh stammered.

Meanwhile, Hannah's eyes were feasting on something magnificent. Her eyes glittered and her face lit up. It was an irregular short waterfall 25feet in height, 10feet in breadth and the shiny waterfall seemed like it emitted silver.

It looks glorious!! said Cummings and Jordon to Hannah.

Hannah laughed delightedly but something else caught her attention which was her boots, she bent and touched it, surprisingly the running groundwater didn't make her boots wet.

This is such a mystery!! How come my boots aren't wet, asked Hannah to her team members, soon they checked theirs and theirs weren't wet too.

When Marsh and Samantha came running shouting water!! Water!!, Hannah stretched her left hand and went near the waterfall, she felt the water in her hand, surprisingly her hands did not get wet, instead, the water floated on her hands. Hannah was thrilled and joined both her hands reveling in that glorious feeling.

It's not the water!! It's Mercury!! Shouted Marsh with delight.



Yes!! It is, said Cumming seeing Hannah's hands.

Ancient Egyptians believed it weakened the evil spirits, said Hannah.

Hannah walked slowly towards the fall and stretched her hands once again, but this time she did not feel the mercury in her hands, she stretched her hands full and went even closer with almost half her body into the waterfall almost as though she was about to take a shower.

Hannah!! It's not the time to take a shower, shouted Jordon.

But as soon as Hannah got in completely she chanced upon a secret pathway and shouted to everyone, hey guys, this fall has a secret pathway, get in here soon and let's not delay. Soon the other team members followed her with a disbelieving look on their faces. The secret pathway led them into a secret chamber.

Hannah entered the secret chamber, it was dark, and nothing could be seen without a torch. Her own boots were echoing in the chamber. She moved the torch here and there to the corners of the chamber. She couldn't see a thing. It looked like an empty chamber in the dazzling torchlight. But at the north corner, she saw some metal shining. Hannah went and checked it, it was a lever covered with dust, and she cleaned the dust and started spinning it. It was tight & firm, but Hannah tried harder and with all might, she rotated the lever, soon she heard a machinery sound 10metres away from her, it was from the upper ceiling of the chamber, about a square foot was opened.

The opened ceiling brought the Sun's rays into the chamber, displaying 4 feet circular monument type structure. Hannah went to it and found that it was a mirror disc polished with bronze or copper, and it has been attached to a handle. The disc could be rotated to either side. Hannah got rid of the cobwebs and rotated the mirror, and soon the sun rays started to fall on the mirror. Once the sun rays fell on the mirror, it reflected onto the other mirrors in the chamber, and at once the darkened chamber dazzled with brightness.

Mesmerized by the magnificence of the chamber, Hannah couldn't believe her own eyes. The chamber had been decorated with limestone blocks, ceramics, granites and contained a five pointed star-filled ceiling and it was designed in such a way that the glasses inside the chamber would reflect when it came in contact with either the sunlight or moonlight. The security arrangements for this chamber was higher compared to the other chambers, but it consisted only of one single box. It almost looked like a treasure box, 2 to 3 feet in length and breadth, the box was decorated and platted as a triangular pyramid filled with gold.

Samantha went to take the box, but Hannah stopped her abruptly. Her fellow member without rationalizing this got angry, but Hannah stopped her for a reason. As the chamber's security was high, she guessed there could be many hidden traps inside for safeguarding the box.

Hannah and her team retreated to the entrance, standing at the entrance of the chamber, they slowly let a long bamboo stick inside to check for any possible mishaps. Hannah touched the box with the bamboo stick, and as soon as the stick touched the box, it broke into pieces. They were shocked and for a second had no clue as to what had happened. However, Hannah felt this strong power, and she let go of the remaining stick of her hands. The team members started blurting out their perceptions.

Some said it was a curse, and others said that the stick was not strong enough, while few assumed that there were ghosts inside the chamber.

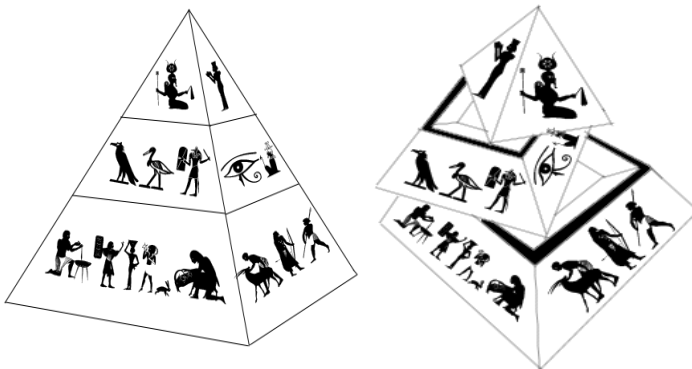
This time they let a much stronger stick inside the chamber and touched the box. They were also wise to record everything for their own safety and for revealing the mystery. When Hannah touched the box, once again the stick broke into pieces. Though they couldn't see what happened with their bare eyes, the camera had captured what they wanted to know.

They replayed and saw the stick breaking into pieces and everyone was amazed at what they saw. When the stick touched the box, a force came and attacked it from both sides of the wall. They reduced the video pace and watched it in slow motion. It was not a curse, it was not weak sticks, and definitely not a ghost. It was a trap!! Once the stick touched the box, an automated gigantic axe came from both sides of the wall and broke the stick into pieces. It was frightening to think what could have happened if it had been a person instead of the stick, he would have been sliced right in the middle.

After what they saw, her peers thanked Hannah for saving their lives. Hannah was focused and said, it's not the time to thank me but it's the time for us to think. They began to get into action again. Hannah used another stick now to touch the gaps where the gigantic axe came from. Surprisingly, there was no reaction from the axe, and then Hannah touched the other parts of the chamber, again there was no reaction. So, the team concluded that the trap was only for the box. The physicist quickly calculated the speed and power of that gigantic axe. After they were through with their calculations, the civil engineers were brought to the pyramid and they nailed the gap of the gigantic axe with steel. They were very particular not to touch the box in the process.

After the nailing was done, Hannah let another stick into the chamber and touched the box, this time the gigantic axe didn't react and it was finally safe for them to get close. Hannah went inside the chamber first and tried opening the box, but she couldn't, it was locked. So she lifted the box and took it to her caravan to examine it.

After she was done, the real beauty of the box came to light. What Hannah saw in front of her was more valuable than just a treasure box. It was an ancient Egyptian trinket box. It had three layers embossed with Egyptian hieroglyphics.



Experimenting further, she figured out a way to open the box. But, it seemed each layer had a separate key. The locks for the first two layers looked like they needed the diamond shaped keys and the bottom layer lock seemed to need a narrowly shaped

key. Hannah had no idea about the keys. She continued exploring ways to open the box. She did not use any external instruments which could damage the box and was more interested to know what was inside.

The next day morning, the secret to the box was revealed by a hieroglyphic stone found in the same chamber. With the codes on the stone, Hannah was able to decipher it. The stone was crafted with an Egyptian king sitting on his throne and holding this triangular trinket box on his left hand and pointing his right hand's first finger towards the box, and the box shone in the lights of two different types of crowns with different colors on both sides, there was a red light on the left and a white light on the right.

Hannah using all her experience started to decipher it. She started from the lightning crowns and finally completed the crafting quest at the king's hand. Those crowns were the crowns which belonged to the ancient Upper and Lower Egypt. Ancient Egypt was divided into two regions. To the north, was Lower Egypt where the Nile stretched out with its several branches to form the Nile Delta. To the south was Upper Egypt, stretching to Syene. The two kingdoms of Upper and Lower Egypt were united only in 3000 BC, until that time, each maintained its own regalia, the Hedjet or White Crown for Upper Egypt and the Deshret or Red Crown for Lower Egypt. These two crowns were decorated with a stone respective to its color. Those decorated stones have been removed from the crowns when Upper and Lower Egypt got united and Pschent was made, which is a double crown, each half representing the sovereignty of one of the kingdoms.

Hannah concluded that those stones were the diamond shaped keys. One was in red and the other in white. Hannah knew that these two keys had to be kept on that diamond design and needed to be pushed inside. But the narrowly shaped keyhole had to be pressed from inside. She decided that the narrowly shaped key has to have some bend in it, exactly like a hook, by that it could be inserted into the lock and pressed from inside. By deciphering the craft, Hannah found the third key may be the first finger of the king which can be flexible and bent enough to open or press from inside.

While all this was happening, on the other side of the globe, the main sponsors of the rescue initiative, a Miami based architectural company, was making arrangements for these precious monuments of the Egyptian culture to be displayed in the museum in Miami for the arrival of the New Year and as a fund to the development of Autistic children. So, the plan was that all these precious monuments including the undiscovered trinket box of Egyptian culture would be moved to the Miami special museum.

But Hannah and her teammates were not quite done with their exploration. The 5kilometre maze which helped them discover the secret chamber revealed many other secrets and additional chambers in that maze. After a few more experiments the real mystery revealed that the chambers found in the maze weren't ordinary, they were mastabas. Mastabas were ancient Egyptian tombs that consisted of an underground burial chamber with rooms above it. Hannah knew the step pyramid was initially started as mastabas, and then it got expanded into a series of stages that resulted in its present appearance as a pyramid consisting of 6 distinct steps.

Hannah's team started to analyze the chambers one by one, as an added benefit they found a library used in the old Egyptian kingdom, they guessed it might be

approximately belonging to the 3rd dynasty and that it would be the library of king Djoser, because this step pyramid was built for the purpose of burying king Djoser. Djoser was the first king of the 3rd Dynasty (ca. 2667 to 2648 BC) of the Old Egyptian Kingdom. Imhotep, the vizier of King Djoser built the step pyramid during 27th century BC.

While examining the library, Hannah found a tiny antique papyrus scroll letter, which was used as delivery messages or notes to tie on pigeon legs. Hannah unrolled the scroll, the words were written in the ancient Egyptian language. Hannah knew 16 ancient languages including Tamizh, Sanskrit, Sumerian, Hurrian, Akkadian, Arabic, Ebalite, Elamite, Hittite, Luwian, Ugaritic, Greek, Egyptian, Chinese, Phoenician, and Hebrew. With her knowledge, she started reading the scroll.

The message in the papyrus letter was,

“We are more thankful to your father for saving our Kemet, for sure we will keep the key of Empyrea safe and help you in finding the”

The papyrus ended with these words. By reading the papyrus, Hannah concluded it was an incomplete reply letter to someone. Hannah knew the Egyptian word Kemet referred to the ancient name of Egypt, but she didn't know what Empyrea referred to. Her curiosity got the better of her and she became more interested in finding the remaining part of the papyrus and started searching for Empyrea in the library to figure out what it stood for.



## *Journey 2: Lord of Love & Peace*



Hannah was more interested in the name ‘Empyrea’ and started searching for it. She rummaged scroll after scroll, but as there wasn’t any alphabetical order or any other order maintained in the library, she found it extremely difficult to find the answer. Instead of Empyrea, she stumbled upon the scrolls of Aethiopia, Nataska, Lankapuri, and Hastinapura, and those were considered the most important scrolls because they belonged to the years before Christ was born. But all that mattered to Hannah was Empyrea, so, without wasting another minute with these newly found scrolls, she continued her search.

On an individual rack, she discovered a bunch of scrolls about Empyrea housed in the earthen jars. Some were good, but some were partially damaged. She started reading the scrolls one by one.

“A deadly disease affected our Kemet and even as a pharaoh, I wasn’t able to help my remetch en kernet”, Hannah read the 1st line of the Egyptian papyrus, and assumed it was the scroll written by the king himself.

(From the words of the King)

A deadly disease affected our Kemet. People died every day, the disease started with a deformity of the hands and legs and this deformity spread to other parts of the body and eventually people led to death by bleeding from their nose and ears. The number of deaths increased consistently, none of the medicines worked. Young children were the most affected and infants died within a few days. As I saw so many people die, I grew desperate, and my chancellors hadn’t the faintest idea to help our countrymen. My medical chancellors experimented with many herbs like acacia, coriander,

fenugreek, caraway, henna, and many other country herbs but to no avail. It seemed like there just wasn't a cure.

At that time, a bizarre man came to our Kemet riding on a horse with a horn. He looked evil, green skinned, elongated forehead, dreadlocks, and a long beard. He was wearing something made out of wolf skin and held a strange bladed scepter in his hand. One look at him and we immediately pinned the reason for the disease on him and so, the first thing we did was to drive him away from our black land.

In the meantime, preventive measures for stopping the disease spreading were in full swing. The dead ones were buried near the river. The people who were affected were wrapped in strips of linen and dropped in the river. We had no other choice but to save them from their misery and the remaining from getting affected. Even with all this, the disease continued to strike and spread rapidly turning worse than before. People died to get sudden epilepsy. The newborn babies, born with the disease had to go through the same treatment along with the mother, wrapped and buried inside the same hole. It was a dreadful sight.

One child with a deformity on her right leg was one of my chancellor's kid, and her name was Cleopatra. She was the most beautiful girl in our Kemet and she is a very special child because she was born at the time when all the planets in the universe stood at the straight line. Now her mother could not bear to leave her and wouldn't let us wrap her. But my chancellor loved the Kemet more than his child. So, he somehow managed to control his wife, wrapped his beautiful girl and dropped her in the river. All this to control the disease and for love, he had for the Kemet.

The next day even before the sunrise, I went to take in what was left off my Kemet and to address the ones affected. At that time, I saw my chancellor's wife uncontrollably wailing, unable to forget what had happened to her girl.

It's was a miserable sight to see my people suffer and die like this. And, while seeing the hawks and vultures hovering in the sky, I feared the death rate will increase. They were waiting for their meat by making that low keek keek sound as if screaming food!! food!!

I assumed the greenish elongated skull man would be the reason for these sudden weird happenings, so I ordered my men to find and kill him. But all of sudden, from nowhere, this greenish elongated skull man walked into our Kemet. The rising orange fury sun at his back silhouetted him like he was coming out from it. Every one of them was fuming with anger, and all they wanted was him gone forever. So, they approached him with spears, maces and daggers, the weapons targeting his elongated skull. Even the women raced to kill him. There was heated competition because I added 5000 gold coins as a reward for the one who could slay him and get his head rolling.

But all of a sudden, the atmosphere changed, a sweet breeze swept the place. The hawks and vultures took off and replaced by butterflies & white pigeons. There was calmness among the people as well, they saw a group of silhouettes coming out from the sun and immediately they dropped their weapons and ran towards the skull man filled with love on their faces.

The reason was, it turned out that the skull man miraculously brought back all the people who had been thrown into the river. The surprising part was they no longer suffered from the deadly disease. They had been completely cured and looked like a new leaf. My chancellor's child, Cleopatra eagerly came running towards her mother,

her deformity is completely cured, she jumped and hugged her mother with full of love & affection.

My countrymen immediately reported the incident and narrated what had happened. When we threw the people in the river, the elongated skull man saw them drowning and rescued every person, unwrapped them and treated them with some medicines that he had made. On hearing this, one of my chancellors said it was his devious plan to make the people sick so that he could steal the gold on the pretext of saving their lives. But, the ones who were saved and restored back to their normal lives objected stating, “Doubting such a person is equal to doubting God.”

At once, one of the chancellors rudely demanded, ‘If you are truly a god, why don’t you bring down rain to our black land. It’s been over a decade now since the last rainfall in our Kemet. The land had become dry without water. At one point in time, our “black land” was a fertile land on the banks of the Nile. We used this land to grow crops. This was the only land in our Kemet that could be farmed because a new layer of rich black silt would be deposited every year after the Nile flood. On the other side was the “red land” which was the barren desert. But now without the rainfall, there wasn’t any difference between the red land and the black land.

The skull man with a smile on his face calmly but firmly held onto his scepter and looked at the sky, he expelled a breeze blowing towards the sky, and had a contented look as though he had delivered the needed. But there was no sign of any rain. The sun continued to beat down. My chancellors started to mock and poke fun at him. Soon the rest of the people joined in too laughing at the elongated skull man. But the laughing didn’t last for long. A thunderous noise broke the laughing, and there was silence and along with it came the surprise. All of us looked towards the sky witnessing the miracle right in front of our eyes. Our Kemet was pounded by the dark clouds hovering above, and huge pelts of raindrops fell on us. Soon, all of us were drenched, and our black land experienced rain like never before.

Everyone was awestruck, and they didn’t have words to express their joy after witnessing such a miracle. The kids jumped up and down dancing in the rain, and everyone else joined them. After almost ten years, I saw my people reveling in the rain. Without wasting another moment, I stepped down from the stairs and went towards the elongated skull man and bowed down before him asking for forgiveness. Moved by my gesture, he simply smiled and lifted me up. He introduced himself as Osiris Mysterio, The Emperor of Empyrea, and said the babies of Nataska requested him to help out the people who were suffering in Kemet.

Back to the present, Hannah was voraciously reading the scroll about Nataska, that she found earlier during his search for Empyrea.

Nataska was an interstellar cloud placed outside our galaxy in the Milky Way. Nataska was the birthplace of the stars and the place of time portal. There were different types of Nataska outside our galaxy. At present, it is referred to as Nebula.

(Hannah continued the scroll of Empyrea)

The babies of Nataska were none other than the stars. I realized his power and gave him the respect he rightfully deserved and invited him to the palace. He gracefully accepted and honored me by accompanying me to the palace.



I requested him to teach us the medical treatments for curing the disease. He chuckled and said that he had already passed on his medical kit to our people. When I heard Mysterio saying the word, “our people” than “your people” I truly believed him to be our savior, our God.

I was exuberant and to celebrate this joyous occasion I hosted a grand feast in my palace, and the people of my Kemet prepared a wide variety of fruits, veggies, meats, fishes and tastier desserts and beverages.

Mysterio took in everything but only helped himself to the bread, milk, and honey and said, “I am a vegetarian. I believe we don’t have the right to take another life”. At that moment, I truly felt Mysterio was the greatest ascetic and a symbol of peace and kindness, a benevolent and soulful person.

As the days went by, we were in for many more surprises and in awe of Mysterio’s speeches and his attitude. We saw ‘the lord of love,’ in him. In spite of his sheer magnetism, he was still humble and genuine.

Next day, he began to teach us some harvesting techniques for a better and healthier life. He also gave us some seeds to harvest in our fields, which was most useful for many medical treatments. After this, he suddenly announced that he had to leave the Kemet, everyone gathered to send him off. Mysterio kissed Cleopatra on her forehead and started to set off. After mounting his horned horse, he invited us for a friendly visit to Empyrea. The white horse began a slow trot and then started galloping, out came the wings from its body, and it flew up into the sky. Such a lovely sight to behold and then we realized it was not an ordinary horse, it’s a Pegasus.

We had no idea about Empyrea, and in our excitement didn’t ask him where it was but my hope was that I would see him again. The sun rose and set, the moon waxed and waned, and the tide flowed and ebbed. Seasons changed, seeds germinated, plants bloomed and withered, animals migrated and reproduced as passion and purpose gave way to the rhythm of life, but we still couldn’t find Empyrea.

One day, Mysterio returned to our Kemet in a chariot for taking us to Empyrea, the chariot was tied to 10 lovely Pegasus’s.

I along with Imhotep and other chancellors began our journey to Empyrea. Emperor Mysterio asked Cleopatra to join with us, so we took her with us for the trip to Empyrea. We were highly excited about the journey ahead, the Pegasus’s trotted and then started galloping and slowly lifted upwards, for the first time we experienced flying in the sky, we had a shiver run to our spines but it was thrilling, and it was an incredible feeling.

The journey to Empyrea was incredible. Every moment was eventful. When we started, we assumed Empyrea would be somewhere close by to our Kemet. Instead, Mysterio took us out of the earth, so at once we believed that it would be on another planet in our galaxy, but that was not the case. We entered a black hole, and he took us out of the galaxy. We traveled against the cold infinity of stars gliding in an interstellar space. At one point, we crossed the Nataska (nebula) too, I had heard about Nataska, but that was the first time I saw it so close. Some of it looked like eagles, some like pelicans, some like crabs, some like the word omega, a few like a rose and some others stood like pillars.



My chancellors on the other side noticed different shapes, somewhere in the shape of an eye, some rectangular, few others spider shaped and some ring shaped. Cleopatra was counting the interstellar clouds one by one, but she was more scared of Dark horse Nataska, it looked terrifying, even my chancellors and I were on edge literally biting our nails out of fear, because Dark horse Nataska was known to be the darkest empire filled with evil people.

At last, we entered the Andromeda galaxy, and it looked majestic. Witnessing the sheer beauty of it, I told Mysterio that it was rightly named Andromeda. Mysterio was curious as he didn't know much about Andromeda, he requested me to tell me about it. My grandfather used to tell these stories in my childhood, so I started narrating and began with Princess Andromeda.

Andromeda was the daughter of Cepheus and Cassiopeia, the king and queen of Aethiopia. Her mother Cassiopeia boasted that her daughter was more beautiful than the Nereids, the nymph-daughters of the sea god. To punish the queen Cassiopeia for her arrogance, Poseidon, the brother of Zeus and god of the sea sent a sea monster named Cetus to destroy the coast of Aethiopia including the kingdom of the vain queen. The desperate king consulted the oracle of Apollo, who announced that no respite would be found until the king sacrifices his daughter Andromeda to the monster. Andromeda was chained to rock on the coast at the port city of Jaffa. But, Andromeda was rescued by traveler Perseus. He approached Cetus the sea monster invisible by wearing the Hade's helm and killed it. He set Andromeda free and married her. After that, they blissfully set sail around the world. They had seven sons and two daughters. After Andromeda's death, the goddess placed her among the constellations in the northern sky, as the constellation Andromeda.

Once I was done with the story, I said to Mysterio that I didn't quite believe these stories, but I loved it for the fantasy. Mysterio smiled and asked me why I did not believe it? I said, well, for one, there is nothing called as a monster especially in the sea, and two, I don't believe the story of people turning as a god in the real world, it just couldn't happen. Mysterio merely chuckled and went to the other side of the chariot, his chuckle seemed like there was something more to it and like he was hiding something from me.

Soon we entered the planet called Vathura. It was the fourth planet from the Sun in the Andromeda galaxy. The Planet Vathura is home to millions of species. Over 90% of Vathura's surface was covered with water, and the remaining consisted of continents and islands which together had many lakes and other sources of water that contributed to the hydrosphere. Vathura's poles were mostly covered with ice. Everything was nearly the same as that on earth. Even the sun and the moon looked the same, but the difference was the sun did not seem to rise in the east. It rose in the west and set in the east. The reason being planet Vathura did not revolve anti-clockwise, it rotated clockwise. And the daily hours weren't 12hours in a day, and 12 hours in the night like earth, planet Vathura had 13hours during the day and 14hours at night.

The Pegasus chariot drifted over a spectacular vista, on the sapphire seas and unfamiliar continents of Vathura. Flying over a landscape of massive cliffs and towering masses carpeted to Empyrea, great scarves of cloud swirled around the mesa tops, and the primeval landscape looked vast and forbidding.

Mysterio shouted, "get ready to see the miracle". The things we saw were indescribable. The Empyreia was a small continent which was a little larger than an island. Once we entered Empyreia, the blue whales in the lovely Empyrean ocean welcomed us by showering water and dolphins made mind-blowing breaching moves in the dazzling blue Empyrean Ocean.

Empyreia by itself was like a fairy-tale garden, an ocean of flowers and exotic trees. Its beaches were covered with soft golden sands. While talking about the beaches, cannot miss out on its sea's and oceans. The Gulf of Empyreia had stunning color variations. It was the place where the Empyrean Ocean and the Zambia Sea came together. Though the oceans did blend they displayed distinct colors, it was truly an astounding environmental display seeing different blues.

If the oceans weren't surprising enough, the rivers were another sight to behold. The river that flowed all over Empyreia was the river Isis. It was 1100 feet deep, and the major attraction of this river was its purity, it was so clear that it seemed like boats were not flowing on water, and looked more like they were flying in the air.

Empyreia had two stunning temples, and these temples were built for the sun and the moon of Empyreia, which were considered as their gods. The sun was called as Emra and the moon as Emla in their language. Both the temples faced each other but from different sides of the Empyreia. Emra was situated on the western side and Emla on the eastern side of the Empyreia.

One special thing to note about these temples were that they had been carved out of a single rock. These beautifully carved temples marked the Empyrean architecture. When the sun rose, it looked like it came out of Emra temple like a gorgeous butterfly coming out from its larva and it set behind Emla temple like a honey bee sucking the flower.

Both these aesthetic scenes made us feel like we were in heaven, it was truly paradise.

At that time, it was the season of flowers in Empyreia, the whole of Empyreia was filled with lovely Emplica flowers, it was a deep red and brown cosmos. The pungent smell of the flower Emplica had a cocoa odor. It was used for many medical treatments. I got to know that even Mysterio used this same flower for saving the people of our Kemet. The specialty of this flower was that it bloomed only once in 5000years and that surprised us.



### *Journey 3: Regions of Empyrea*

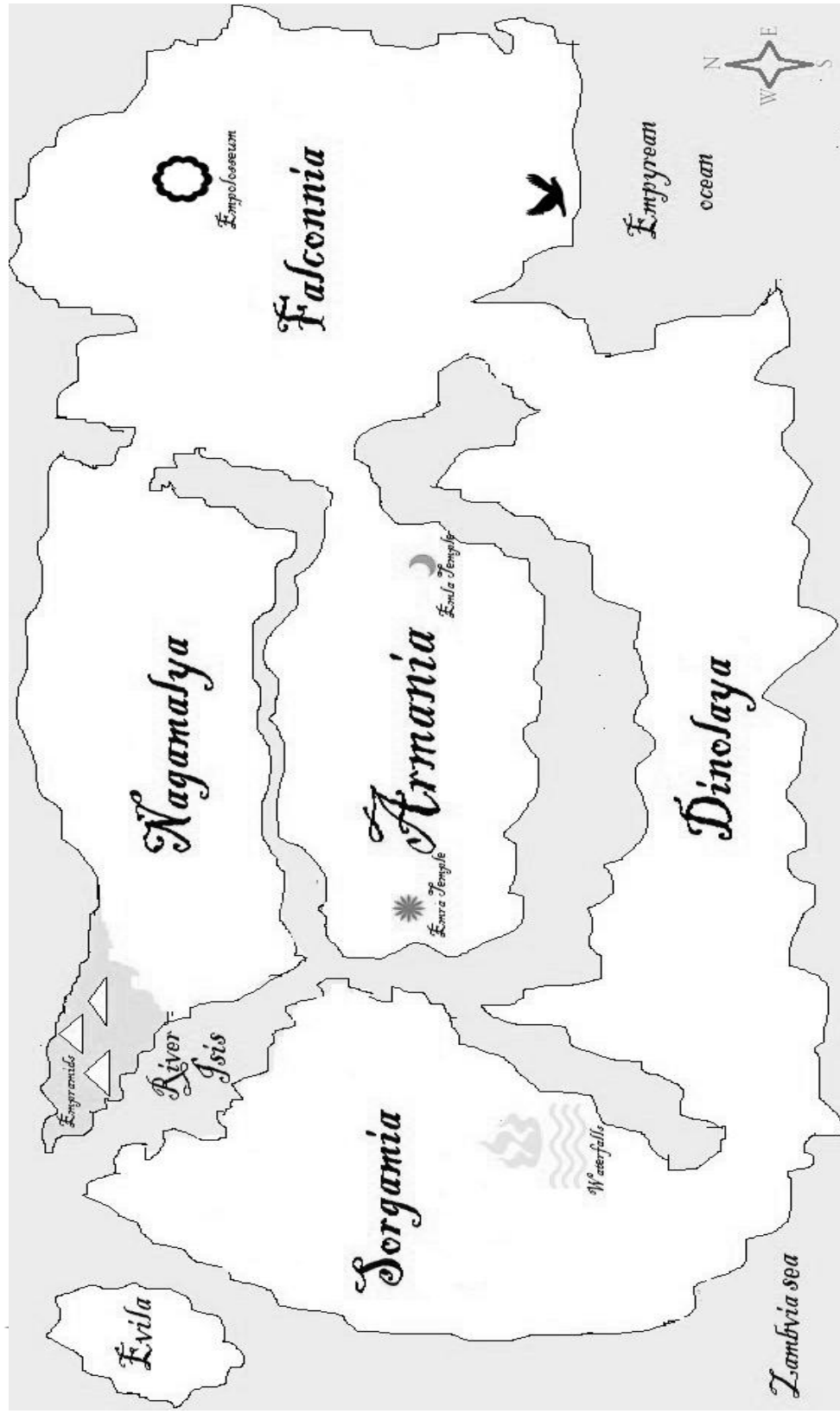


The Emperor Mysterio's family welcomed us in the coasts along with the chancellors of Empyrea. They all greeted us with the same love and reverence like Mysterio. Once our chariot landed in Empyrea, Mysterio introduced his family to us. He began with his elder brother Tyrant Seth, who had a son named Pitheceus Babi and a daughter named Kraity Wadjet. And then, Osiris Mysterio introduced his son named Horus Osiris. He also introduced some of his chancellors to us. Except Mysterio and his family, everyone was speaking in Empii, the official language of Empyrea.

Meanwhile, Cleo was playing with one of the Pegasus which was tied to the chariot, and she was softly touching the wings of it. Seeing this, Mysterio went up to her and asked if she needed a ride on the Pegasus, without any hesitation, Cleo nodded her head saying yes but she was afraid to ride alone. Mysterio unchained a lovely white Pegasus from the chariot, lifted the girl and made her sit on the Pegasus. He also accompanied her on the same Pegasus and invited every one of us to join in for a good ride over Empyrea.

Excitedly all of us went ahead for the ride picking up Pegasus for ourselves. The trip started along the coasts of Empyrea and moved into the lovely intricate places. It





seemed like we were in heaven. Empyreia had it all undoubtedly securing this place: the most enchanting one in the entire universe.

But that thought was short lived when we went deeper exploring other parts of Empyreia, and we had reached the netherworld. It wasn't placid as the rest of the place. There were vicious creatures, and merciless people led their lives ruthlessly in those parts.

The river Isis divided Empyreia into five parts. We began our journey from the southern part of Empyreia which was known as "Dinolaya." It was a ruggedly barren surface.

As we entered Dinolaya, we noticed that several of the tree trunks are leafless just as thick as the other trees, but gray and bare.

Suddenly a large leaf flew near my Pegasus, I caught it and examined. I was amazed because it looked majestic and reflected my own image on it. In excitement, I shouted at others to check the leaf. But the people next to me was not paying attention. With confused eyes, they were staring something else another side.

All of a sudden, there was a trumpeting noise that echoed throughout the place. Cleo twisted herself and looked at one of the gray tree trunks. Riveted, she slowly stood up on the flying Pegasus, as if to get closer to it. She raised her head, looking up the length of the trunk. She looked higher. And higher. And higher. Cleo's jaw dropped, her head fell all the way back, and she looked even higher, above the tree line. Then she realized that's no tree trunk. That's a leg of a dinosaur. The ground shook as they walk, their bellowing filled the air.

From above, leaves and little branches showered on Cleo. Utter amazement fills her face, then her mouth breaks into a giant smile then a laugh. She simply can't believe her eyes. Her laugh becomes raucous and euphoric.

A long necked dinosaur cranes down to peer at laughing Cleo. The huge head stops inches away from Cleo. Cleo, awestruck, stares and then let out a long, sharp, Wowwwwwwwwwwwww - a combination of a laugh and a shout of joy.

We were surrounded by the herd of grazing long necked massive dinosaurs. They stand on their hind legs to get at high palm trees, then drop gracefully down on all fours to chew. In the ground, baby dinosaurs scamper around the adults, eating leaves that drop from the larger animals. Some other were drinking water in the river Isis by lowering their long heads, meeting their own reflections in the still water.

Osiris looked like a proud parent showing off the kid and introduced the long necked dinosaur as Apatosaurus. The trumpeting noise was nothing but that of Apatosaurus, the tall and long-necked dinosaurs.

We flew in the middle of thousand moving long necks and petrified at the sight of the dinosaurs but Cleo was laughing out loud, she was indeed taking in everything, both the good and the bad in her stride and enjoying every second of the ride.

Before leaving the herd, we turned and looked at it again. It's beautiful, the whole herd of dinosaurs crosses the river, maybe a hundred that we see in a quick glance alone.

Then suddenly Mysterio excitedly shouted; Cleo! Look what we have here. Cleo's eyes expanded in her extreme amazement, her eyes shined and her face crinkled into lines of joy when she saw the flock of flying dinosaurs Quetzalcoatluses riding by our side.



These were the 8feet flying dinosaurs, it looked like a bird with iridescent green plumage and red underparts and had an impressive wingspan of 15 to 25 feet.

But what was strange about them was their body proportions, they had ridiculously long legs, necks, and beaks.

The Pegasus slowly flew down, and once we landed, the Compsognathus surrounded us. These were the tiny dinosaurs that looked like our cats with just 2.5 feet in height.

Cleo was so naughty and daring after getting down from the Pegasus because she ran and plunked herself on a Triceratop. Now, these were massive dinosaurs, 26–30 feet in length and 12–15 feet in height, they weighed anywhere between 6–12 tonnes and they had a huge head with two large horns, there was a smaller horn on the beaked snout, another one on the bony frill which was above its neck.

The triceratopses were moving towards the river for their water intake, Cleo was enjoying her ride giving moving commands to the dinosaurs as if she were on a horse. The joyous ride came to an abrupt standstill when the ground began to shake violently, we could hear the ground beneath cracking, it was almost like an earthquake, and the sound became louder. Cleo fell down as the triceratops shook its body vehemently and darted towards the river. I carried the child and moved toward shelter, after a few seconds what we saw was a nightmare. We saw an enormous foot crossing our way, and that was the foot of Tyrannosaurus, the giant dinosaur, it was humungous and said to be the cruelest dinosaur, it would go to any lengths to devour its prey, and rightly earned its name as the king of dinosaurs.

We covered most of the places of Dinolaya and learned that the dinosaurs were the dominant terrestrial vertebrates. They were in huge numbers with many varieties. We staggered in disbelief that these creatures still lived in Empyreia. These were said to be more violent, but the surprising part was the dinosaurs we saw in Dinolaya were calmer. The Emperor Mysterio's brother Tyrant Seth ruled Dinolaya with his army, dinomen.



Dinomen were vigorous and muscular hunchbacks with rough dino skin, and like some dinosaurs, they even had sails on their back, and some had tails like that of the dinosaurs. Their five finger claws were sharper than iron blades and looked bizarre. Their language was dink, which did not sound like a language, it was more of a roar.

They weighed over 700kg, and their weaponry consisted of bizarre axes, javelins and a flat bow with high accuracy against human-sized targets nearly up to 10 meters. These weird people along with their bizarre weapons made Cleo hold my hands tightly.

After this thrilling encounter, Emperor Mysterio took us to “Sorgamia,” the western part of Empyrea. In their language Empii, it stood for heaven, and it derived its name because of the beauty it encompassed. Huddling into the exuberant verdure of Sorgamia, the beautiful waterfalls inland was paradise, and it stood at 265ft in height. The waterfall resembled the ones in the fairy tales. The water broke into tiny droplets forming a mist and fell like soft silk. The sun’s rays played along adding an unbelievable shade of peace and beauty. While our eyes feasted on everything magnificent, we wanted more.

The cold water sprayed on us while the Pegasus chariot flew near the waterfalls. It was such a tremendous feeling to witness the fall with murky clouds surrounding us. We felt like we were in heaven.

Once the Pegasus chariot crossed the waterfall, it closed its wings and out came the feet. We loved the natural environment of Sorgamia. Pegasus stepped into the lovely forest of Sorgamia. The trees were huge and filled with exotic flowers. Gorgeous butterflies were everywhere, and cute little birds welcomed us with their sweet humming voices. It was so peaceful.

A few minutes later the leaves and flowers fell on us like a welcoming shower. We looked up trying to understand where did that come from and to our surprise saw gorillas, chimpanzees, baboons, and orangutans jumping from one tree to another. Mysterio said they were on their way to their camp.

When we were engrossed in the beauty of Sorgamia, suddenly a group of dark-colored people who looked like headhunters surrounded our Pegasus chariot with their Spears and arrows. They were peculiar with dark black skin, wearing a lot of seashell ornaments, they wore them on their ears as studs, on their neck like a chain, on the head like a cap and like bracelets on their forearms. Their attire was the wooly mammoth’s and wooly rhino’s skin.

Looking at them, the chancellors’ and my heart skipped a beat but the hunters slowly bowed down and showed their respect. They were descendants of the headhunters. But they were no longer called headhunters because of Mysterio’s leadership. They were Vathura’s ancestors called the Vathroos. They had been living in Empyrea for thousands of years now. The language which they spoke was different from Empii. Their language was vathrian. The vathroos invited us for lunch in their camp and we gladly accepted their invitation.



Pitheceus Babi, the nephew of Mysterio ruled Sorgamia. We had a grand welcome with ritualistic drum beats. After entering the camp, we were offered wooden thrones to relax. Meanwhile, all the vathroos in the camp gathered near the cauldron, ignited the fire and surrounded it forming a circle, joined their hands and danced to the music of



bone flutes and drums. Mysterio said it's their way of worship. These people take their food only after a pyrolatry, the fire worship to their sun god, Emra.

After their worship, they served the food to their king, not to Emperor Mysterio but to his nephew "Pitheceus Babi" and later to every one of us. The food was different. They tend to use less fresh meat and more spices in their dishes. There was grilled meat, tasty succotash, soups, smoked fishes and they also baked and squashed corn, peanuts, avocados and bananas into a smoothie which was tastier and healthier.

After that delicious feast, we started our trip to the northern part of the Emyrea. But, this time we weren't flying, we sailed in the pure river Isis in the boats. The river Isis was so majestic, more than majestic I would say it's so mysterious because it also had the marine creatures like breaching blue whales, dazzling dolphins, and shiny stingrays. And, with the purity of it, we didn't look like sailing, it looked like we were flying in the magical boats. Cleo leaned in the boat and got enthralled by seeing the lovely aquatics in the visible river. All the way she was playing in the river with her hands and enjoyed her ride.

Soon, we reached the Northern part of Emyrea known as "Nagamalya". We again on boarded in the Pegasus chariot and started our tour. The region is small in size but had many different types of terrain, ranging from bare rock to rainforest. Nagamalya is the home for the critically endangered venomous snakes. It is believed that the region would have the population of 4,30,000 snakes, each of those snakes was of different color and size. We witnessed a snake for our every 5step.

The great Pythons and anacondas hanging on the trees were swaying with their heads merely a foot above our heads. My chancellors with mixed feelings asked about the gigantic Titanoboa, then Mysterio showed one of its kind stretched out on a warm ledge in the afternoon sun, admiring its beautiful new coat. Its new coat was splendid, it was darting its big blunt-nosed head along the ground and twisting the fifty feet of its body into fantastic knots and curves licking its lips thinking of dinner to come.

They will be very quick to strike after it changes its skin, warned Mysterio and turned the Pegasus chariot towards west.

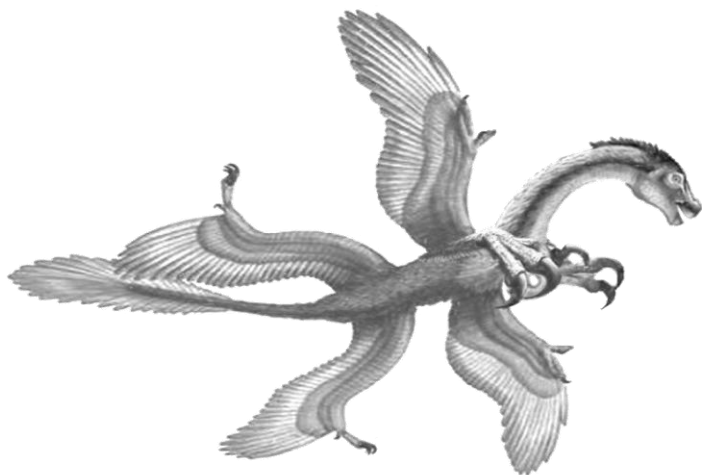
At the west of Nagamalya, the Pegasus chariot flew over endless sand dunes, and then in the distance, we saw them, the new tombs which were more different from our Mastabas(Tombs), they rose out of the sea of sand in distinctive steps. The people in Emyrea believed that to be the stairway to heaven for the dead ones to achieve the afterlife. They called it, "Empramids".

Later when we entered the rainforest, our eyes were locked into the group of bizarre humanlike 7feet tall snakes which had two hands and two legs, our hands started shivering. Later, Mysterio introduced them by saying their name as Nagas. They aren't the snakes. They were the people living in Nagamalya along with snakes. Their skin tones were like those of the snakes, and even they had the same elliptical snake pupils. Same like snakes they were of different color tones and patterns, and also at a specific period, they shed their skin like the snakes. The language they spoke was not intelligible, it was Nagali. These people worshipped the snakes as their god.



The Emperor Mysterio's niece "Kraity Wadjet" ruled Nagamalya. Speaking about her appearance, she was stunning to look at, she wore a golden five headed serpent ornament crown over her head and was ruling Nagamalya by lying on a giant pink colored snake on the banks of river Isis.

Our next stop was the place with massive sculpture, the Falconnia. When we were about to enter Falconnia, we saw a group of unique birds flying in the sky alongside us. They were said as falcon birds They are a mix of white and red colors, and they could grow more than 6feet in height with an impressive wingspan of 15 to 20feet.



The heaviest among them weighed more than 6000 kilograms, it had four wings and a feathered tail, and the first two wings could spread up to 15 to 20 feet and the next two up to 3 to 4 feet. They had large sharp claws with a meter length and had an average neck & legs.

The Pegasus chariot halted before the massive 90feet height gigantic sculpture, which stood in the coasts of Falconnia. Emperor Mysterio explained about that contain my excitement and at, this eastern part of the Emphyrea was "Falconnia", and the name falconnia was derived because of this gigantic rock present here. This huge cluster of rock forms resembles a falcon, where one rock was the wing, the other the head, and one other the tail and all together it looks like a sculpture of the massive falcon bird, but it was not a sculpture. It was just nature's gift, said Mysterio.

I was stunned looking at the massive sculpture examining each part of it. I couldn't contain my excitement and blurted, 'Nature's beauty needs to be admired', but I didn't get any response. When I turned back the troop was nowhere to be seen.

Suddenly the plants behind me swayed and I heard a rustling sound, I latched onto the sheathe on my hip tightly and turned slowly.

Whaaamm!! Abruptly a Phorusrhacid appeared in front of me. It was the clade of a large carnivorous flightless bird. It was nearly 3 meters in height and its head was 71cm long with a wicked and curved 45cm beak. Its powerful beaks were capable of crushing the skulls of their prey or puncturing them through the bones. These were capable of

running at unbelievable speeds and could split the skull of smaller animals with their beak.

Its eyes locked into mine and I took my sword from the sheathe and swung it towards the Phorusrhacid but it easily bent its head, caught the sword with its beak and threw it the other side. I slowly retreated to escape from my predator but I had nowhere to run and was left with only the falcon rock to turn to. I felt the predator nearing me and was counting the minutes sure of feeling its sharp beak on my head.

At that very moment, I heard someone roar right behind me and it was a relief to see the same fear that I experienced moments ago on my predator's face. What I saw was an enormous shadow of a four-legged body to my right and guessed it must be standing on the wing part of the falcon rock above me. The four-legged body lunged forward and chased my predator down, it was a saber tooth tiger, 8feet in length, its sharp curved tooth missed tearing the flesh of the Phorusrhacid in a feather gap.

I was thanking my lucky stars that the tiger did not see me and indeed saved me. I slowly escaped from that place and found my troop. When I spotted them, Mysterio was helping Cleo to sit on a 10feet massive wooly Rhinoceros. Terror stricken, I rushed there and tried lifting Cleo from the rhino but she hesitated to get down and continued to play on the Rhino by holding its horn.



The darkness that enveloped Falconnia didn't stop with these creatures, and there were some heinous people living with curved upper teeth like saber-tooth tigers and with thick folded muscular skin like those of the rhinos. They were called 'Rhinorios,' each of them looked weird carrying a trident, a three pronged spear. Raila was the language spoken by these people.

Mysterio's son, Horus ruled Falconnia. He was similar to his father in his mannerisms and attitude showing the same love and reverence.

No one knew how to react to the situation. Cleo was a little frightened, but she remained very inquisitive and excited.

Later we picked Falcon birds and moved to Armania,

The central part of Empyrea was "Armania." It was the place, where the emperor's castle was built. The river Isis surrounded Armania, almost entirely separated from the other lands. Only a narrow causeway preserved a link to the banks of Falconnia.

The castle was right in the middle of the forest. The falcons slowly flew down and showed us the playful elks which were seen everywhere in the woods. Though they stood tall all of 8feet, though massive, they were a sight to behold with their lovely antlers and body structure. There were different types of deer, moose, and antelopes, each one more peculiar and attractive with different antlers.

Near the river, Cleo spotted a mystical golden light in the woods and forced the Falcon to stop and got down. Mist swirled throughout the place, she stepped on to the majestic green grass and suddenly felt a golden light on her face. To her surprise, she saw two unique magpie birds with shiny blue and red feathers flying before her. Cleo's eyes widened because it was breathtaking.

When Cleo went near them they chirped and directed her to the woods where the dazzling light shone. As she walked, the flowers began to blossom and welcomed her. Seeing this, the squirrels, butterflies, rabbits, beavers, and birds emerged from the forest and fell in step alongside her. We all stared in amazement but Empyrea had more for us. The Magpies took Cleo to a giant tree, she stood beneath that giant tree and faced a majestic white elk with lovely antlers nourishing itself in the glittering pond. The air around the White elk shimmered with a golden light. The elk raised its head and saw Cleo, her face lit up in the same golden light and her eyes shone.

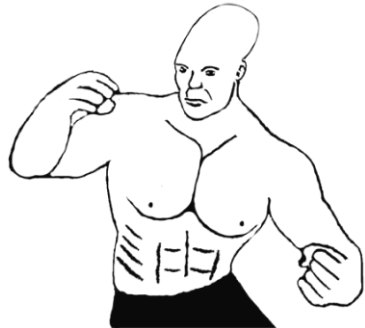
As the tiny golden fishes let her in the pond her small feet gradually took her near to the elk. The golden light brightened when Cleo stroked the elk's neck. At Cleo's touch, the elk felt goosebumps and shook showering Cleo in the process. She laughed with love and went near it again. She was not even as tall as its foot. The elk bent its head down allowing Cleo to touch its antlers. When she tightly held onto the antlers, the elk raised its head and lifted her some feet above the ground and started moving out of the pond. She was delighted and laughed removing her hands from the antlers and fell on the ground below and continued to laugh.

The elk came to her and licked her face. Soon the other animals surrounded her and played with her. Cleo had a lovely time with them but it was interrupted by a bestial bawl of a mammoth. The elk darted back into the forest and the other animals scattered in all directions.

The mammoths and mastodons were the creatures that thrived along with moose in the forest. They could be fiercely aggressive and was known to trample even one or two rhinoceros to death at the same time. They seemingly had the capacity to display bouts of rage and had even engaged in activities that had been interpreted as vindictive and razing.

Emperor Mysterio fed the mammoths with bananas and made Cleo ride one of the mammoths. She felt a little shiver because it was more than 14feet in height and weighed more than 10000kg. Mysterio was so careful with Cleo and took every one of us for a small ride on it.

We went along the banks of the river Isis on mammoths and mastodons. We saw some greenish people like Mysterio living there along the banks of the river Isis. They were called Empyreans, and they looked very much humanlike, the only obvious difference was their greenish skin and the elongated skull. Then we went inside the castle. It was set up with towers and spires and was spectacularly sited on a high point over the Isis River. It was about 570 meters in length and an average



of 130 meters in width. It was a vast and imposing building with tall and diversely colored roofs, towers and myriad windows and balconies adorned with stone carvings. There was a warm air heating system for the entire building, and the running river water on every floor was spectacular. Every castle in the world was unique in some way, no two are the same, but this one even though it was rather outside earth and humble compared to some, it was probably the only one that stood majestically

integrated on the island covered with the loveliest garden we have ever seen. The garden had majestic golden statues of Elks and unicorns, along with the dolphin fountains.

Mysterio led us to the hall of the first court. His chancellors stood and welcomed all of us. The hall was filled with paintings and crafts. The side of the hall was painted with the sun and the moon shining together, and the rays of both fell on a person sitting on an unusual throne wearing a crown. Soon Osiris Mysterio wore a crown which was similar to our white crown of Upper Egypt, but with the addition of two curling Phorusrhacid feathers on each side. Mysterio made his way towards a lovely throne, the likes of which I had never seen before in my life.

The throne which was placed in the hall of the first court was about 6 feet long and 4 feet wide. The legs and crossbars were covered with gold inlaid and enriched with numerous diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. In the middle of each bar, there was a large ruby with four emeralds around it. The underside of the canopy was covered with diamonds and pearls, with a fringe of pearls all around. Above the canopy, which is a quadrangular-shaped dome, there was a phoenix bird on the throne with an elevated tail made of blue sapphire and other colored stones. The body was made of gold inlaid with precious stones, having a large ruby in front of the breast. On both sides of the bird, there was a large bouquet of the same height as that of the bird consisting of many kinds of flowers made again of gold inlaid with precious stones. Mysterio's brother tyrant Seth and their children also had similar thrones but it was not as pretty as his, this was simply majestic, and everyone I'm positive would crave to possess it.

The other primary element of Empyreia was Emra and Emla, each group of people worshipped, Emra (sun), and Emla (moon) as their major gods and worshipped their part creatures as sub gods like Nagas, who worship snake.

When I spoke to Mysterio, he narrated the story of Empyreia,

100years ago, our planet Vathura was also like your planet Emrath(earth) with ordinary people, creatures, and reptiles. Though Vathura had many ruthless reptiles and mysterious creatures, the people had an enjoyable life here. And moreover Vathura hadn't been covered with 90% of the water before, there was only 60% of water. The difference of 30% had continents and islands but what happened to those continents and the people has been a mystery to all of us.

During spring, unexpectedly an asteroid struck our planet Vathura. The stroke was on the mainland Lukriya which was 1400miles away from Empyreia. The asteroid hit us with the speed of 4500miles per hour. It destroyed nearly everything in Vathura. After this, on Lukriya's land, instantly the pressure rose, and we had a gigantic volcano erupt all around our planet Vathura. 80% of the people, creatures and other species that lived in Vathura were buried in its heat. It didn't stop with that. The impact was disastrous. Within hours, thousands of boulders rained down like meteors, there were earthquakes and tsunami's battled the coasts of Vathura.

Many continents broke into pieces and sunk into the sea. The continents Lukriya and Zambvia were nowhere to be seen. The only land left in Vathura was Empyreia, and even that was shattered in pieces. The meteors that dropped into the sea changed its color to pink by emitting some gases. It raised the sea temperature as well, the plants and the creatures in the sea died, some buried in its heat and some floated dead. Within a few days, the sea water evaporated and came pouring in as acid rain. Some of our



people managed to escape from that rain. Others didn't get a chance to hide from the rain. The effects of the acid rain added a lot of complications to the people's body. Not only did the existing people suffer but newborn babies were affected too.

The changes that we witnessed were alarming and dreadful. On one end, the ones who escaped started to give birth as normal Emphyreans like humans in your Emrath, but on the other hand, the people affected turned wild as the apes and other creatures. We named them as Nagas, Rhinorios, and Dinomen. These changes made them wild just like the bizarre creatures. Except the Emphyreans, everyone else started to assail one another. It was a bloody rampage. The wild creatures were preying on Emphyreans and on the other hand the Nagas, Rhinorios, and Dinomen attacked each other. They turned cannibals. Emphyrea was the only land left over in Vathura, but it also started to annihilate. The rest of us gathered and started to pray to Emra & Emla by offering a sacrificial fire. We prayed for peace, we built temples and believed we would be saved and guided on the right path.

One beautiful day, Emra and Emla blessed one of our Emphyrean families with spectacular powers to rescue many lives and help the people affected by the meteor strike. Emra and Emla gifted each one of the family members with a scepter, which had many special powers. They were blessed for the purpose to rule Emphyrea peacefully and save it from danger. That family consisted of two brothers and their children. The younger brother was made the emperor of Emphyrea, and the elder brother and their children were made to rule each part of Emphyrea. That family was none other than mine. From that blessed day, we brothers and our children have been maintaining peace in Emphyrea. Our aim is to spread peace to all people. We did make huge attempts to discover the root cause for the people's sudden transformation and tried to cure it but in vain. Nature had her own vicious way, and her decision was final, said Mysterio and completed his narration.

We saw Mysterio helping the people of Emphyrea to evolve beyond cannibalism and to learn farming skills. I prided myself that I had the privilege of knowing Mysterio, a true God and cherished our friendship.



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