

A detailed illustration of an elderly man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a blue robe and brown boots, sitting on a stone ledge. Behind him is a large, brown dragon with its mouth open, showing sharp teeth. The background features a mountainous landscape with snow-capped peaks under a cloudy sky.

*Eddie Motion*  
and  
*The Knight's Quest*

*Suzanne de Malplaquet*

Cover by Jim Cooper

**Eddie Motion**

**and**

**The Knight's Quest**

**By**

**Suzanne de Malplaquet**

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## Foreword

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 Suzanne de Malplaquet ne Masefield, the author of this wonderful book died from the progressive and cruel condition Motor Neuron Disease. Like everything she did in her life she fought this dreadful illness with ferocity, fortitude, stubborn determination and huge bravery until the very end.

Suzanne initially wrote *Eddie Motion and The Knight's Quest*; the second in her *Eddie Motion* series, prior to her MND diagnosis and over the following eighteen months we worked together to fine tune and edit the manuscript. Sadly Suzanne died before she was able to finish this work and during the final weeks of her life, as her health began to decline more rapidly she asked me to complete the final amendments on her behalf. I have been honoured to do so; not only as her sister but as her best friend and staunchest fan.

Suzanne had a multitude of talents and a deep sense of empathy and caring and through her work she helped and enhanced so many people's lives in a positive, empowering and life affirming way and her passing leaves a big hole in many people's hearts and lives, especially her families.

Suzanne was a beautiful, loving, incredibly brave, kind hearted and generous woman and her presence enriched the lives of all who knew or met her.

Rest gently beautiful spirit.

Charlotte Gaeta

## **BOOK 2 in the Eddie Motion Trilogy**

### **Dedication**

This book is dedicated to my dear friend Netta  
beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Your love of the Magikal has been a precious gift  
as we shared our enjoyment of nature, our furkids,  
and the Queen!

Your nurturing kindness and cheeky humour has encouraged  
and motivated me to bring this book of Magikal Questing to fruition.

Thank you for your championing encouragement  
which has inspired me every step of the way.

Your loving friendship has been a blessing to me  
Thank You Dear Lady!

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## Introduction

# Eddie Motion & the Knight's Quest

I am the Quest to uncover the essence of all existence.

I am the joy of reconnection and enlightenment. I am the mighty and the deep. I am the ancient reborn into the present, merging with the new to give energy to the spiritual voice within. You are the adventurer of self-discovery. Choose to claim your true essence and fully own your heritage as you ride the magikal wave on this enchanted quest.

Along the way you will uncover dense lush valleys and reawaken the mighty verdant forests, as the shimmering oceans and luminescent crystal caverns reveal their magikal landscape of possibility to you. Returning and rediscovering the journey of awakening as your glittering path of potential rolls out before you.

Spellbound, Aaron, Nerela and Morgana are waiting for you to join them on the quest of the chosen. To enjoy the dance of the Squiggins and harness the powerful majesty of the Dromogites, uncovering the elemental alignment that will unfold and bring you home.

Today is your day; so dive into this journey of discovery and inspiration, the ancients will share their wisdom to help you along your path and overcome your fears allowing you to find the light within you and the world around you. Today is your day to embark on the undiscovered path of reconnection. Your guides forever present as your quest unfolds.

# Chapter 1

## Through the Illuminator we see

Aaron and Spellbound stared into the swirling turquoise mirror clear water as it reflected the passage of time in the human world; gazing into the Illuminator Pool they watched as their young friends Eddie and Melody grew graciously into young adults. Recognising the courage it had taken for them to integrate back into their own world with their newly acquired wisdom and delighting in how they learnt to share their knowledge in a way others who hadn't experienced the magik of Andalustria could understand. So they too could know the value of the Tangible Magik insights and formulas and use them in their own lives.

Aaron and Spellbound saw the resistance Eddie and Melody first experienced as their schoolmates laughed when they shared Eddie's Tangible Magik. They saw how these brave young people stayed centered when challenges arose, using their Illuminator Sphere's and the skills they'd learned from their guides.

They admired the children's open willingness to learn and grow. How they used the Collaborative Intelligence tools they'd learnt in Andalustria to slowly teach others so they too could experience positive changes from the Magik Eddie and Melody taught them and their own energy and confidence could grow. And so the light of happiness shone out into the world through Eddie and Melody and the inspiring changes witnessed by all; both within themselves and in others allowed their peers and even their teachers to lower their cloaks of fear and judgement, so they were able to wake to their own unique magik too.

Eddie still skipped to school but in a new more thoughtful and appreciative way and with a greater reverence for the world around him and all its wonders. And Melody still rode her bike to keep up with her energetic friend and even occasionally skipped alongside him when he was in a particularly effervescent mood. Their guides from Andalustria saw all that happened in their young friends lives; celebrating their progress with great delight, knowing what it had taken to create the changes in their own world after their time in Andalustria.



The children began to find their teachers more and more open to Eddie's tangible magik insights and formulas once Melody put them in an order that would make sense to adults. Melody had shown the teachers how helping children identify where their minds were focused, as well as enabling them to recognise their own emotions and manage them, helped the children not only take charge of themselves and the situations they created in their lives but also enhanced their ability to learn at school. Melody also encouraged and helped the school with updating the alarm procedure at school making the children feel more confident about dealing with a potential issue that might arise. Now, alongside the *'Drop, Cover, Hold'* drill they were taught how to recognise when they were experiencing a freeze, fight or flight response, so they could work out how best to deal with it. The children learnt how to **'Press Pause'** and breathe down into their bodies and connect with the ground, so they could quickly overcome any fear or overwhelm they were experiencing.

Even the teachers practised the formulas and everything became a lot calmer at school as the children and adults embraced Eddie's Tangible Magik. Some of teachers and students even started sharing their own unique magik ideas and helpful formulas to add to the ones Eddie and Melody had brought back from Andulstria. So all in all it became a unifying and bonding experience.

Melody and Eddie never minded when other people took on the lessons they'd taught them as their own as they understood that this was just part of a much bigger picture. They knew that what was evolving at their school was only a tiny piece of an enormous puzzle. None the less it was a very important place to start, as developing more thought, understanding and empathy and encouraging others to share and spread these positive elements could lead to more stability in the world allowing it to become a safer and happier place where everyone could thrive.

Eddie's mother Nyria's life had also greatly changed now her Magik had returned. She had been invited to take over from Rick the Ogre as the head of the company she worked for; instantly halting all processes that negatively impacted the earth. She initiated new ways of conducting business that were not just environmentally friendly, but human friendly too.

People now worked well together with kindness, compassion, connection and healthy communication to create greater harmony in teams and a happier working environment all round. The company was no longer driven by busyness, fear, greed and competitiveness.

People's unconscious negative behaviours were replaced with people feeling clear about their purpose and encouraged and supported to develop and bring their own unique and valuable gifts to their jobs adding real value to their work. Everything was changing in a good way as Nyria used Eddie's tangible magik methods at the company, alongside pro-actively initiating her own brand of magik to empower others.

Nyria's magik was a new magik never before seen in business in this way. It was swift, powerful and positive and after the initial resistance it was quickly embraced as it benefitted so many areas and uplifted everyone after the dark energy Rick left behind.

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Aaron and Spellbound witnessed all of this with delight and great pride as their courageous young friends put themselves out there and took risks. They had truly started to help re-balance the conflicting energies in the human world.

So it was with great concern when Aaron and Spellbound began to start seeing the imbalance in the children's world starting to become more and more pronounced.

Eddie and Melody weren't aware of this escalation and the increasing imbalance that was growing in the world but continued doing what they knew; managing their emotions and their minds and following their purpose to help and show others how to improve their lives by instilling tangible magik within them.

Aaron now knew it was time to join forces again with Eddie and Melody; two young people whose hearts and very essence were of Andalusia. These two amazing blended mortals are the light of both worlds! Aaron thought.

He knew it was time to renew the quest, as it was clear from the aqua aura crystals that things were shifting once again and the spiralling dark energy was looming closer to both their worlds and they needed to prepare for what lay ahead.

No-one in Eddie and Melody's world had heard of or seen of Rick since their return....  
But Aaron and Spellbound knew what he'd been up to... and it wasn't good. After over a year the effect was now becoming very apparent, in fact it could be catastrophic for all their worlds.

## Chapter 2

# Two World's Collide

Eddie hovered his drone over Mandalay woods; he loved having a sense of what it might be like to be a bird high up in the sky, experiencing the sensation of flying like Chandor the Raven and Erador the Tiger. He remembered the thrill of soaring through the sky on the back of the majestic Tiger and wondered if he would ever experience anything quite like it again.

He was very happy with the way things had progressed at school, even though it had taken time to get everyone on board, Tangible Magik was now an integral part of the school and he no longer needed to push things forward. Now when he shared his new insights people were enthusiastic and joined in, sharing their own skills and ideas to add to the mix; which was real Collaborative Intelligence in his book.

Looking down at his screen, he followed the drones movements high above the woods, watching the tree tips swaying and dancing in the light breeze on this spring day. Birds cruising alongside clouds scrambled to get out of the way when the drone passed by and the Canadian geese squawked with indignation at this insult to bird kind invading their skies.

The sun shone brightly across the meadow as glistening dewdrops winked up at the mechanical machine flying high above them. The blades of grass with their tinkling water droplets sprouting from the pungent earth knew their connection to the world was the essence of life and that nothing could replace it, however much it tried. The natural world knew that no technology or metal creature could replace its uniqueness and what nature brought to the environment but if used responsibly they could work quite nicely alongside each other to give humans a greater sense of connection to mother nature, as humans were creatures of nature too, although they often forgot this obvious fact.

Eddie saw a yellow speck racing across the meadow towards him through the drone's camera, what was heading his way at such speed, he wondered.

Melody sped towards Eddie on her bike, her raven hair and brilliant canary coloured dress flapping in the wind created by her speedy impatience to reach her friend. She rushed through the soft swaying grass like a radiant sunbeam impatient to light the day? What a sight to behold on this beautiful spring morning.

Eddie knew he couldn't have convinced the school to take his insights and formulas seriously in such a short space of time if it hadn't been for Melody and her talent for getting across information in a way people could really understand and see the value of to them. The two friends knew they were a great team and enjoyed growing together as they stepped into new experiences.

Having shared such an amazing journey together in Andalusia they were closer than ever and had a deep understanding of each other and how they could work easily together-despite their obvious differences. As time went by and their visit to the magical land of Andalusia grew more distant they often talked about all they'd experienced there; to wonder at all they'd learnt and to check with each other that it was all real and they hadn't imagined it. They understood on a much deeper level who they were now and what their purpose was, which was not only freeing but really exciting, as they relished the possibilities of each new day.

Eddie watched Melody flying towards him on her gallant two wheeled steed and felt a flutter in his heart. When had things started changing with him and Melody, when did his heart start to race when he first saw her, it had just sort of snuck up on him. He could feel his face heating up as a rosy glow came to his cheeks.

Eddie brought the drone back to land so he could focus on Melody's arrival noticing how the sky darkened as the glistening sun was suddenly hidden from view as a huge black shadow covered the meadow.

*'That's a very big cloud?'* Eddie thought as Melody arrived in front of him quite breathless after speedily pedalling across the meadow to reach her friend.

*'What's that?'* she asked. They looked up just as a huge pair of black wings appeared darkening the sky further and they just knew.

*'It can't be... it is? It's Chandor, woohoo!'* Eddie shouted jumping up and down and waving a hand in the air.

Eddie and Melody hadn't heard from their Andalusian guides since they'd returned to their world. Even though they'd longed for a connection with their dear friends they'd been so busy and focused on getting the benefits of Tangible Magik into their school, and developing their own collaborative intelligence that the time had flown by. They had however spotted their sprites Erik and Mo in various forms hovering around them and keeping an eye on them at different times and when they looked into their Illuminator sphere's and asked for help they were given courage to step forward boldly with their plans. Every now and then they'd even seen blurry outlines of someone or something in their sphere's watching over them and immediately felt their bravery increase. Or a doorway of possibility that hadn't been open before seemed to open up before them so they knew they were never really alone and even though they had not heard or seen them they were still very much connected to their dear friends and guides from Andalusia..

Eddie looked up, 'was he imagining it, was it really Chandor?' Or was it just because things were more settled now that Tangible Magik was not only being used in his school, but had started to be taught across other schools too. Was his imagination playing tricks on him because he really was ready for another new adventure? he wondered.

*'It really is Chandor!'* Melody shouted as she looked up in wonder at the darkening sky.

Chandor circled round and round high above, moving faster and faster, making them feel dizzy just watching him. The faster he flew the more wind whipped up, creating a whirlwind of energy making what looked like an opening in the sky, as a wind tunnel, much like a cyclone appeared and circled down from the heavens.

Melody's hair thrashed across her face, as the air currents buffeted around her, giving her no choice but to lay her bike on the ground and sit herself down on the earth to stabilise her body. Eddie loved the energy the swirling air created, he felt alive and very excited, even when a draft of wind caught him and flipped him up into the vacuum of the wind tunnel, he wasn't concerned, just exhilarated.

*'What do you think he's doing?'* Melody shouted up at Eddie as she looked up at Chandor from her safe place on the ground.

*'Who knows, but it's bound to be for a good reason.'* Eddie shouted back at her as he bounced up and down on the air currents. *'The wind's so energising Melody, I can feel the Andalustrian energy, it's electrifying'*. Eddie called down to his friend.

Maybe it was Andalustrian energy, but it was very intense and quite frightening as it lifted plants and small trees up by their roots and they floated round and round above her head Melody thought.

Lightening tore through the wind tunnel sending its long spiny fingers crashing into the ground as a loud rumble reverberated through them and brightly coloured beams and sparks flashed down through the vortex that cracked open further before their eyes.

Suddenly, a huge flying creature flew down through the vortex and out of the wind tunnel flying off into the distance at race car speed. The lightening became more ferocious crackling and sparking all along the field and the thunder rumbled as a loud high pitched whistle pierced their ears and a transparent spectre appeared from out of the wind tunnel.

Eddie experienced a deep knowing and feeling of connection with whatever was attempting to enter their world through the vortex. His mind couldn't fathom what or who it was, but his heart felt open and warm in the way he'd experienced with the guides from Andalustria, who had seen them through many troubles and helped them develop into the people they were today.

*'Aaron!'* Eddie shouted, tears pricking his eyes as the sensation of a deep reconnection touched his heart and flooded through his body. He felt a tightening sensation in his stomach as he tried to hold back tears but his emotions welled up from deep within his chest, constricting his throat, until he couldn't hold it any longer and let out a big breath as tears flowed freely.

*'Where?'* Melody shouted, *'I can't see a thing except the lightening and whatever that creature was that flew off into the woods'*. She said.

*'I can't see him I just feel his energy and sense his presence'*. Eddie responded.

She didn't have to wait much longer as the white filmy outline of a huge face appeared through the vortex. With the big bushy eyebrows and deep set eyes that could see into

your soul, there was no mistaking this much loved guardian as he looked at them through the lightening. More and more of Aaron appeared as he gradually descended to the ground. His image wasn't fully formed and there were areas where you could see right through him, but his outline was clear and they could see his wizened kind face clearly as his feet alighted onto the ground of the meadow.

*'It's good to see you dear ones, it's been a while.'* He chuckled at their startled yet happy faces as his head finally came into full form so at least that part of him was no longer transparent.

*'We have been watching you from afar and know how industriously you've been spreading your tangible magik and sharing the collaborative intelligence in your world and we are much pleased.'* He said.

Melody got up, laughing as she remembering the strange way Aaron spoke and how much it warmed her heart to feel his love and acknowledgement. She felt a great sense of pride about all they'd achieved since last they saw Aaron.

Eddie was elated and rushed to hug Aaron but his arms met little resistance as they flew through where Aaron's body should have been. Aaron guffawed loudly as Eddie tried again leaning in for a hug and ending up wrapping his arms around himself as he fell flat on his face on the ground. Melody joined Aaron giggling loudly at her friends attempt to connect with the Aaron the hologram, failing hilariously.

*'I'm not here for long dear ones as my energy needs to stay in Andalustria. But I need to tell you know what's happening in your world, as you may not be aware of what is happening underneath the surface and the impact its having on Andalustria as it will also eventually affect all worlds if it's not stopped.'*

Eddie and Melody looked at each other perplexed, wondering what was so important that Aaron felt it necessary to come in person to their world.

It was quite disconcerting having Aaron's large fully formed head talking to them as he floated just above the ground and his body drifted in and out of visibility.

*'And what had come out of the vortex before Aaron? That creature appeared to be fully formed as it flew off into the forest?'* Melody wondered.



*'What is it Aaron, it must be very important to bring you all the way here?'* Eddie asked.

*'Indeed it is dear one, something very significant is happening right now.'* Aaron sighed deeply. *'You have been doing so well bringing tangible magik into your world and sharing it with your people. And your mother has done an amazing job at turning around the destructive impact Rick left behind by creating positive leadership in her company and beginning to work with humanity and nature and create more balance.'* Aaron acknowledged.

*'You need to know that even though neither you nor your mother have seen or heard from Rick the ogre since he vanished after your return from Andalustria he has unfortunately been very busy and is still having a very negative impact on the world.'*

The friends looked worriedly at each other. It must be really bad if Aaron had come here in person to tell them what Rick was up to. Obviously he had come to talk to them for a reason but they had no idea how they could help Aaron with the Rick dilemma.

*'Rick has befriended three of the most influential world leaders in your world.'* Aaron started to explain. *'Each of them believe they are his only allies, none of them know he's working with the others.... he is very devious in that way'*

*'He's telling each of them what they want to hear to believe he is going to make them the most powerful leader in the world, so they can overtake all the others.'* He continued in a sombre tone.

*'Regrettably they all believe him, as he holds the Chalice of Andalustria, which 'he stole'? A vessel of powerful magik which makes him very dangerous.'* Aaron shook his bodiless head with concern.

*'We don't know what he plans to do, but it's not looking good. The light of the aqua aura crystals are starting to dim in Andalustria, and we've noticed greater conflict happening across your land in everyday life as people's anxiety levels rise, and misunderstandings and disease are becoming more and more common as everyone and everything feels the energy shifting. This will continue to worsen if we don't stop Rick causing rifts in the energy in your land, and return the Chalice back to its rightful place in Andalustria.'* Aaron explained.

*'Can't Morgana do something about Rick, surely her magik is far stronger than his?'*

Melody asked.

*'Yes Morgana's magik is stronger, but what Rick's doing is creating energy rifts across all worlds as he has the Chalice. By bringing in other strong leaders with powerful energy he is sucking their strength so he's growing stronger and more dangerous to us all by the day.'* Aaron relayed.

*'These leaders are completely unaware of what he's doing to them, as he's feeding what is known as their 'ego' and their sense of personal power with his words and promises.*

*He's telling them it's their destiny to be the most powerful person of all the lands and stoking their human weaknesses by stroking their egos about how magnificent they are and promising them that he can bring them the riches of the world.'*

*'But can't they see what he's doing?'* asked Eddie. *'Compliments and flattery are great and we all like to be acknowledged for being good at things or being powerful but if they're world leaders, can't they see how deceptive he is? I don't understand?'* Eddie said in a frustrated tone.

*'You're totally right Eddie its certainly befuddling, but humans like us are all fallible! Some of the leaders have been swayed by the shining promise of the Chalice, that's pledges a sense of peace and a deeper knowing of the wisdom of the ages through its magik, not just riches as some want peace and stability in this world.'*

*'Whilst others are being swayed by Rick's promises of more power, fuelling their desire to be the best at all cost. None of them seem to realise that, even if they achieve these things, it won't fulfil the deep yearning they have inside. Because they're focused in the wrong direction, believing they can vanquish their demons by being the most powerful one, which has never worked for any creature or human previously since time began.'*

*'They must be very weak men indeed'.* Melody said scornfully. *'What's wrong with them, why can't they see that power alone can never bring satisfaction, and claiming peace and the wisdom of the ages can never truly be owned, if it hasn't been earned over time and endurance.'*

*'These leaders are made up of men and woman Melody, not just men. Both can be equally swayed if they're not living from their centre and for their highest good. Rick is playing on normal human weaknesses that cause conflict and pain for everyone in the long run. But they're blinded by his golden assurance and none of them can see how they're being drawn in by their ego desires in the hope of fulfilment. Even though it will be a sieve filled bucket they'll receive, they're completely blinded by the illusions he's creating right now.'*

## Chapter 3

# A New Journey Unfolds

*'What can we do to help they both chimed?'*

*'I was hoping you'd say that!'* Aaron said with a smile.

*'But I need to warn you both, it's not going to be an easy task as we need to mend the damage Rick has already done and then stop him from creating any further damage. This crusade is likely to involve many struggles along the way as we battle against the dark to bring the light back into all our worlds. Some battles will be physical, but others will be of the mind and the spirit.'* Aaron said.

Eddie and Melody looked at each other, moving closer together they locked hands lending each other support while they decided whether to join the crusade or not.

*'I was just thinking that now things are ticking along nicely with the tangible magik we showed our friends, families and school, we're definitely ready to go on another adventure.'* Eddie said.

*'What do we need to do?'* Melody asked.

*'It will be a different this time there'll be more challenges and there'll be many different obstacles and quests you'll need to undertake along this path.'* Aaron said solemnly so they truly understood the seriousness of the task ahead.

*'We can do that, we're ready Aaron.'* Eddie replied.

*'What sort of quests?'* Melody asked aware how quickly Eddie jumped into things, without knowing what was involved, or what it might mean to him or his life.

*'We need to find the sacred symbols so we can awaken the Knights of Nardor.'* Aaron said in a deep resonant voice that vibrated through their whole body.

They looked at each other in awe at the prospect of awakening Knights; that sounded very grand and Eddie's eyes glinted at the prospect of such and exciting adventure.

*'There are seven quests that we need to undertake in order to reclaim the elements and symbols needed to re-awaken the Knights of Nardor; they are the only ones who can help us overcome Rick's treachery and redress the balance between the dark and light.'*

*'This expedition will have many challenges and you will be tested many times and may need to face your fears and conquer your demons. You'll need to find out how to persuade the guardians of the symbols to relinquish their much prized and long hidden gifts to you. So the elemental alignment needed to bring the Knights back to this land can occur.'*

Aaron explained.

*'Wow this is so exciting! like a faery story or something in an adventure movie!' Eddie thought, 'I'm so up for this!' he thought.*

Melody was quietly thinking in the way only Melody did, working out what this expedition would mean to her life, and mulling over how she could create a plan to keep them safe, while they overcame the challenges on the quest. She thought about what might lie ahead, scrolling through her mind and the abundant library of knowledge she held in her head. But she came up blank as she really didn't know what they might be up against, and it frightened her.

*'It's good for you to be excited and apprehensive about what might lie ahead'. Aaron said reading their minds as his did so well. 'You'll both need your wits about you as these quests will test all your knowledge and your skills and you'll have to develop new ways to work through and overcome the unknown.'* he said.

*'It's perfectly normal to feel both exhilarated and fearful as they're two sides of the same coin. Fear is a natural part of life when experiencing something new or unknown. It's not something to push away or ignore. Nor to pretend you're not feeling it, when you are, as that will only sabotage your efforts. Fear is a natural part of life and when you experience fear it means you're growing. But it's what you do with that fear that makes all the difference as you know, from your tangible magik fear formula Eddie.'* Aaron explained.

*'So you're going to need all the tangible magik you can bring along, alongside your sensory and intuitive abilities Eddie. You'll need to focus your sharp mind to plan and*

*work around the clues that present themselves to overcome the quests Melody.*' Aaron shared.

*'We will be with you on your journey, if not in person, we'll be with you energetically helping you achieve the quests you need to accomplish, if you choose to take up the challenge.'* Aaron reassured.

*'Yes, yes I'm in! You're coming too aren't you Melody?'* Eddie asked turning to his very best friend.

Melody looked thoughtful and wrinkled her nose, she really wasn't sure whether taking part in this quest was really a good idea. She was making so much headway getting Tangible Magik into all the schools and seeing the great results and hugely positive impact it was having on not only the children, but the teachers lives too. She felt really passionate about her purpose to make her difference in this way, and now she was being asked to go off on another hair-brained adventure to deal with who knew what, with no guarantee that it would make any difference to what Rick was doing at all.

So far they hadn't experienced any of the negative impacts of whatever Rick was doing. So maybe it could wait a while before heading off and disrupting her schedule that was really changing things and making a positive difference.

*'I understand your resistance Melody as you're doing such great work and it's really helping make the world a better place from the roots up. But if Rick continues to mis-use the power he holds with the Chalice and musters more supporters to his cause, then it won't be long before even greater chaos comes to your world and all the worlds. Which won't only stop any progress you're making with your current work but will eventually allow demons from the underworlds into our realms creating even more death and destruction to our worlds. These demons are capable of drawing out human and animal kinds inner demons, creating pain, anxiety, addiction and depression. Amplifying the anger, fear and conflict that everyone feels at times in their lives into something that is constant and spills out into the world creating massive fights and wars, amongst all creatures.'* Aaron shared gravely.

*'So if things continue the way they've been going, which is likely unless Rick is stopped, then your work won't be able to continue in the same way Melody, unless the balance is*

*restored. Once that happens all creatures of the worlds, humans included will experience the normal balance of emotion and energy once again.'* Aaron explained sombrely.

Melody mulled everything Aaron said in her head, realising the best option really was to go with Eddie and help him on these quests. That's the only way my work won't be lost because of one very stupid, selfish ogre, who only cares about himself and gaining power over the worlds, without thinking of the bigger consequences, she thought feeling her anger rising towards the stupid, very dangerous ogre.

*'Ok I'm in.'* Melody said.

Almost the moment she agreed to go on the quest a big gust of wind blew up behind them and a loud whooshing sounded from across the meadow. The creature that had flown down through the vortex and disappeared off into the distance reappeared, heading towards them at a hundred miles an hour. As it drew closer they could see the giant creature's sparkling white wings flex as it drew closer. It's huge wingspan and beautiful white fur which was striped with black, flashed round them, as the creature circled around and around looking for a good place to land.

*'Erador!'* Melody squealed excitedly, happy to see the giant white tiger as he landed softly next to them. Erador's purr thrummed through their bodies as he came close, nuzzling his huge head into Melody, cuddling up to her in such a loving way that she was completely smitten again.

*'That's sealed the deal'* Melody said laughing. *'How could I resist such a beautiful offer to join the journey.'* She said as Erador turned to give her a big wet lick with his sandpaper tongue.

They all laughed recognising that laughter and humour were going to be necessary a tools to help them lighten their loads during challenges ahead, as they started on their next adventure to who knew where.

They climbed on the tiger's back, Eddie offering the seat at Erador's head to Melody as a thank you for letting go of her resistance to this new journey and the quest to help stabilise the balance of the worlds.

Settling into the seat on Erador's back and holding on to Melody as she gripped the straps around the giant tiger's neck, Eddie pondered. Resistance is quite a normal part of life really when you think about it. When you come up against something that is different to what you want to do, the path you've set yourself or is your own beliefs. It can bring up fear in you. So it's really good to notice when you feel resistance to things, situations or people as it can help you to work out what your triggers are and what the fear might be that's causing it? Whether it's a fear of losing something, or not being good enough, or not knowing what it might mean to your life.

Whichever way you look at it, it usually boil down to some form of fear, even if you don't recognise that initially. So the best thing you can do is to either notice when you feel resistance to something or even expect to have some resistance at times in your life and press pause when it happens so you can check out what the underlying fear is. Then you can decide if the feelings are warranted, or if you've dived into the freeze, fight or flight reaction when it isn't really needed.

That's when you can use the '**overcoming fear formula**' to work out whether it's a genuine fear, or just your monkey mind playing tricks on you, or perhaps an old habit or reaction that's no longer needed. Once you've worked this out you can quickly create a safe feeling for yourself by becoming centred in your body.

Eddie thought it was good for him to be thinking about '*resistance*' and where it comes from as he had a feeling it was going to pop up a lot for both him and Melody on the quests they'd agreed to undertake. Whilst Melody had been quite open about her resistance from the onset, he'd only felt excited, until now. But as he climbed up on to Erador's back he remembered the last time he'd ridden this majestic tiger and how fear had suddenly come out of nowhere as he'd realised he was flying into the unknown and as he remembered he felt the same tiny tingles of fear starting to flicker in his body.

So he quickly worked through his fear process as he recognised the memory of what had happened before was creating the same reaction now but was not necessary. He was genuinely excited about the new possibilities to strengthen his tangible magik and develop new skills on this new adventure.

It seemed he was as much a deep thinker as Melody nowadays! he thought as he chuckled lightly against Melody's back.



*'What's so funny'* Melody asked feeling the wee chuckle coming from Eddie.

*'Oh I was just thinking how you and I are becoming more and more alike, as you're experiencing things more emotionally nowadays and I seem to have added more thinking into my way of doing things.'*

*'Yes but you still suck at planning.'* She laughed as they enjoyed the deepening of their connection and friendship; lightening their spirits as they flew up into the vortex. They whizzed up and up. Flying round and round, lights flashing all around them they held tightly to Erador's soft fur, grateful for the dip in his back which supported them, making them feel safe, they knew they were unlikely to fall off his back, despite the whirlwind they were going through.

After what seemed like hours of being whirled around and around being buffeted by the wind, witnessing a multitude of suns and moons rise and fall; magnificent creatures and different worlds flying past them at break neck speed and a stream of ever changing, sights and sounds they gradually started to slow down and were able to catch their breath.

As they began to descend they flew down through soft candyfloss clouds sprinkled with silver droplets dropping down lower and lower, as Erador navigated his way to their destination. They could see the familiar outline of the land below and feel the welcoming energy of Andalustria calling them home once again. Even Melody felt a bit emotional as she watched the beautiful terrain passing by below them, flying over tall knightly trees, the forest reaching up into the sky tickling the clouds as they swayed in the light breeze. They glided lightly over snow-capped mountains and meandering streams that flowed into the silver river that shimmered its way across the land to the voluptuous ocean where you could journey on to distant lands yet to be discovered by the friends.

As they flew lower a silver streak flashed alongside them fast as a winged jack rabbit, closely followed by another silver flash whizzing by, they circled round them faster and faster making them giddy with the merry dance of joyous welcome.

Erik and Mo, Eddie and Melody's sprites flew in to join them on this new adventure, landing gently on their shoulders whispering words of love, encouragement and joy that

tickled their ears making them giggle overjoyed to see their humans returned to their land. Erik and Mo had kept to their word and had shown up in Eddie and Melody's world in many forms to help them over the last eighteen months bringing them much needed support, joy and merriment into their world. So it was really uplifting to have them flying alongside them once again now in their true forms. They usually only showed up when Eddie or Melody really needed their support, which said a lot about what might lay ahead of them in Andalusia.

Descending lower they noticed a lush oasis leading to the glorious silken blue luminescent waters of the Nardor lagoon where it seemed they were going to land. How interesting, that we're coming here. I wonder what secrets this place is going to reveal to us this time? Melody pondered.

Coming in to land was a truly uplifting magikal experience-as beautiful blue Devas flew to greet them, glowing with their ethereal blue light. They could feel the buzz of excitement humming through the trees and mystical creatures around them as they glided into landed.

Almost the moment they touched down on the ground the Squiggins, started dancing a hilarious jig around Erador. The mouse gnome like creatures had helped rescue and heal them from the poison the vampire faeries had inflicted on them in the depth of the woods last time they were here and were celebrating their arrival with great style. Throwing their multi-coloured hats in the air, prancing around arm in arm, tiny feet swathed in gold buckled shiny patent shoes they gambled around and around like a flurry of children skipping round a maypole on a spring day, full of merriment and excitement for the arrival of their friends from the human world. Eddie and Melody were both surprised and very humbled by the wonderful, very jubilant welcome they were being given, which made them feel like royalty or long lost family.

Aaron was there to greet them, now in his full form and an orange furry creature known as Spellbound waited close by as Eddie and Melody alighted from the white tiger's back and planted their feet back on Andalusian soil once again.

*'Oh it feels so good to be back.'* Melody squealing in a high pitched voice, her resistance and trepidation long forgotten for now.

Eddie ran over to Aaron, finally able to give him the hug he'd tried to do in vain earlier back in their world. Feeling Aaron's strong, tall ancient body and his sack like cloak against his skin, as his bristly beard brushed Eddie's face, he felt a deep sense of safety as Aaron's earthy odour permeated his senses. *'Steady on dear boy, you'll knock me off my feet.'* Aaron chuckled at Eddie's exuberance to embrace his guide and friend.

Meanwhile Melody rushed over to Spellbound and buried her head in his almond doggie smelling, damp orange fur nuzzling into the warmth of his body. After their swift flight she suddenly realised how cold she was after their journey as she cuddled into her warm furry friend. Spellbound smiled as he hugged his dear friend, knowing the challenges of the journey ahead and grateful for their friendship and their support on the quests.

## Chapter 4

# Uncovering the Knights Quest

*'Come along dear ones, we have much to prepare before we start our journey.'* Aaron said hurrying them along after their heartfelt welcome from the creatures of Anadalustria.

As they moved along the side of the lagoon towards the entrance to the secret cavern hidden behind the lagoon's waterfall; a magical place they'd visited last time they were in Andalustria. They heard a high pitched yapping and barking and Missy, Eddie's dog suddenly appeared running towards them having run straight through the waterfall from the entrance to the cave.

*'Whoa, Missy where've you come from?!'* Eddie cried with joy as Missy his faithful furry Maltese doggie friend leapt up and down with excitement like a flea at a circus, performing a wee dance in front of them and shaking water all over them. Then she ran round them panting and snorting with excitement, blowing her smelly doggie breath all over them, eyes bright with joy as she reconnected with Eddie and his friends, happy to be part of this new escapade.

*'She told me she didn't want to miss out and needed to come along on your adventures this time as she knows she can help on your quest.'* Aaron explained.

*'How did she tell you, we've never heard her speak?'* Melody asked. Even though they were now in a magikal land and things weren't always what they seemed, Melody liked to know how things worked so she could understand how to make the best of every situation, even if things didn't always make logical sense.

*'Well some creatures speak in specific languages and other creatures and beings communicate intuitively; what you would call telepathy'. Spellbound explained. 'So what they're trying to communicate may come to you in a thought you have, or a vision, or picture or even symbols. There are so many ways to communicate if you're open to receiving other beings messages, as I believe Ling showed you last time you were here.'*

Aaah yes, I remember that now Melody thought remembering back to the first mystical creature they'd met in Anadlustria.

*'I'm really happy Missy's here as she just loves adventures. She's been unwell lately and she's getting older so this may be the last chance for her to tag along so it's great.'* Eddie said thinking about the huge capacity for joy that the little dog had created and brought to his . He was so grateful she was here with them this time.

*'What if something happens to her, or she gets unwell while we're here.'* Melody said worriedly, as she knew how close Eddie was to Missy.

As she uttered the words Missy moved next to her, placing her paw on Melody's arm, and in her mind she heard the words, *'I chose to be here as I want to share this special journey with you all. If I am injured, or unwell I will stay behind or use the healing of this land to support me, so that I don't hinder your quest.'* Missy told Melody.

Melody looked up in astonishment and by the expressions on everyone's faces she knew they'd all heard the words Missy had shared with her.

*'I can help with some of the quests you're going to come across, as I have my own gifts to bring to the party.'* Missy said in her own unique way.

Missy ran over to Eddie jumping up into his arms and licking him over his face, thanking her lifelong companion for allowing her to join him on this quest, then jumped down and stood by his side.

*'Well it looks like that's all sorted'*. Spellbound said beckoning them to follow him as he headed towards a new entrance into the cavern behind the Nardor lagoon waterfall.

After pulling the dense bush which hides this entrance to one side they entered the cave and felt the coolness and smelt the musty damp earthiness of the underground tunnels as they followed Spellbound towards a light ahead.

Entering the large cavern a sense of awe and wonder fell upon Eddie and Melody once again as the luminescent turquoise, bluey, white waters flowed down from the cavern's waterfall into the Illuminator Pool at its foot. Splashing down onto the sparkling crystals below, the gushing tinkling sound of water landing in the pool and spreading its magik tendrils over the shining stones made them catch their breath with the beauty of it all. They looked up into the skylight's cylindrical opening above the Illuminator pool

and gasped at the majesty of the starlit other worlds which shone and twinkled down on them.

For Melody this was sheer heaven as she had a real passion and love of stars and planets and she was captivated by the vision above her as her ears were serenaded by the cascading waters flowing into the pool. Something's different she thought after staring up into the reflection of the sparkling worlds above her. There seemed to be less light than before and fewer stars. Or am I imagining it, Melody thought

She looked at Aaron as fear flashed across her face. *'Yes, things are much changed in the worlds since you were last here'*. Aaron said reading Melody's thoughts.

Melody looked at Eddie, who looked up to see what Melody was feeling so emotional about and he too noticed that things just didn't seem the same. I can't put my finger what exactly is different, but things just aren't as bright or alive, he thought.

*'This is terrible, what can we do?'* Melody said sadness passing over her face.

*'That's why we asked you here as we need your help on these quests.'* Spellbound said seriously as Eddie and Melody looked round starting to understand the gravity of the situation as they noticed how the aqua aura crystals in the pool and those scattered on the ground, had also been affected and weren't as bright as they once were, much like the light of the worlds above.

*'Do you remember the symbols that were on the cave wall here in the Illuminator cavern?'* Aaron asked turning to his young friends.

*'I do actually'*. Melody said recalling the strange and intricate gold symbols that adorned one of the cave walls close to where they had fallen asleep when they were here last time.

*'Well we need to decipher them and work out what they mean before we can start out on our quest as they will show us where to start looking for the magic we need to awaken the Knights of Nardor.'* Spellbound continued.

*'Have you brought your Illuminator sphere's.'* Aaron asked *'As they will help us shine a light on the meaning of the symbols, alongside our collective energy and the aqua aura crystals, so we can work out what we need to do.'* Aaron explained.

*'Yes we have them.'* Eddie said *'We rarely go anywhere without them as they help balance our energy in any situation.'* he said.

*'Great well we have no time to waste now you've seen how bad things have become. So let's begin.'* Spellbound said leading them past the waterfall and the empty space where the Chalice of Andalusia should have been. They moved around to the side of the Illuminator pool heading towards the wall where they'd seen the golden symbols previously.

But the symbols were nowhere to be seen!

*'Where have they gone? What do we do now?'* Eddie asked curious about what was going to happen now as quite clearly there were no gold symbols on the wall now.

*'Take your Illuminator sphere's to the Illuminator pool.'* Spellbound instructed. *'Now take your shoes off and stand barefoot on top of the aqua aura crystals at the edge of the pool so you can to ground yourselves.'* He continued as Aaron, Eddie and Melody removed their footwear and stood on top of the myriad of blue and white multi-coloured crystals on the ground.

It took a bit of getting used to and they had to wriggle their feet around before they could stand comfortably as the crystals were cold and some were quite sharp. It felt like a rigorous foot massage, that hurt in places even though they knew deep down it was doing them good.

As they settled their feet on top of the crystals Spellbound continued his instructions *'Now hold your sphere in your hands close to your stomach.'* Spellbound explained as Aaron watched on. *'Breathe deep down into your body, right down to your toes, as you feel your feet on the aqua aura crystals.'* He instructed.

Eddie and Melody did as they were directed, feeling the roughness of the aqua aura crystals beneath their feet, running their feet back and forth over both pointed and round crystals. Getting used to and even enjoying the sensations as the crystals massaged their feet, experiencing the crystals energy entering their body, grounding and focusing them, whilst making them as light as air at the same time.

Holding their Illuminator spheres helped them stay centred, as the crystals vibrant energy rushed through them making them light headed to begin with. Gradually they settled into this new energy that was building within them, feeling pleasantly peaceful, yet full of a heightened sense of awareness and power neither of them had ever experienced before.

Aaron stood close by, staff in hand as he observed what was happening and felt the energy rising; joining the children he too stood barefoot on the crystals, noticing his staff starting to vibrate and pulse in his hands.

Missy moved closer to Eddie jiggling her paws up and down, she did a merry dance on top of the crystals, enjoying this fresh new, revitalising energy flooding into her body.

Spellbound brought the children closer to the pool, raising his hands over the luminescent turquoise water of the pool and spoke.

*'Show us the wisdom of the ancient ones who lie dormant in this land, awaiting the chosen to awaken the mighty.'* He said with great reverence as he dipped his hands into the warm silken waters, then lifted them out and above the Illuminator Pool he summoned the presence of long past wisdom to bring itself forth.

*'Hold onto your Illuminator spheres and place your hands in the pool.'* He commanded. *'Now take a few deep breaths as you feel the aqua aura energy of Andalustria permeate your very soul.'* Spellbound said in a very serious voice indeed.

Missy rubbed her body against Eddie as they placed their hands into the healing waters of the Illuminator Pool, so she could join in this magical ritual to gain the energy she also needed to join the quest.

*'May we be the vessels to bring the ancients' home to this land to honour their heritage after their long deep slumber. May the way be shown, so we can begin the quest to claim the magik of this land. The mighty are needed to fight the good fight in order to stabilise the balance between dark and light.'* Spellbound chanted his words, his arms raised to the cylindrical portal in the roof of the cave, where the dimming lights of the multiple worlds twinkled.



As Spellbound uttered these words calling the energy forth, Aaron raised his staff which vibrated with white light like a beacon, and slowly lowered it into the Illuminator pool alongside the children.

*'So shall it be.'* Aaron said in a deep melodious voice.

Energy buzzed through all of them filling them with a sense of wonder, as they felt their senses awaken and tingle; their bodies rose to accommodate this new vibrant energy that filled them all.

Suddenly there was a huge *'Crack'*, like the sound of a whip cracking at a rodeo and the whole cavern lit up with a bright turquoise light, followed by a blinding neon light, which then dimmed into a golden glimmer that bathed their faces.

They felt the heat from the glow before they saw the golden symbols that were now forming. It was as if an invisible hand was writing on the cave wall.

*'Take another deep breath'*. Spellbound said to Melody and Eddie *'Now ask for what you need to help you on this'*.

*'Ask for the skills, the guides, the helpers, the courage, the energy and all your tangible magik, along with anything else you feel you want or need to support you on this enchanted journey.'* he instructed.

*'Then take another deep breath. Breathe in all you need, then lift your hands out of the water and place your Illuminator sphere's back in your safe place so you can keep them close to you on this journey.'* Spellbound told them.

Eddie and Melody did as they were told, and as they placed their Illuminator spheres in the special pouches Eddie's Mother had made for them, they noticed their spheres were glowing a gentle turquoise colour with glittering gold and silver flecks embedded within them.

Missy appeared to be glowing a gentle yellow colour, she looked very happy with a massive toothy grin on her furry face, which made everyone else smile, lightening the mood after such an impressive ritual.

## Chapter 5

# The Earth Quests

*'Now dear ones, let's see what they have left us, those ancient ones.'* Aaron said stepping toward the cavern wall to inspect the golden symbol that magikally appeared.

*'Hmmm, I wonder.'* Aaron said inspecting the symbols that had manifested on the wall. *'My collaborative intelligence is telling me that all of you will have a part to play in the four Elemental Quests as they each present themselves.'*

*'Melody and Spellbound you need to touch this first symbol together for its message to appear.'* Aaron said with authority as they both looked round in surprise. *'We need to retrieve the quest message so we can follow the instructions to claim the first object. Once each quest is completed the symbols will appear to guide us on our next quest.'*

The dark haired girl and the large almond smelling orange furry creature Spellbound stepped up to the symbol side by side, nervously smiling at each other both intrigued as to the reason they needed to do this together? One small hand and one large paw descended onto the ank like symbol. Immediately the symbol glowed red and words started to appear on the wall that both Spellbound and Melody could read.

They took turns reading each line of the message out loud for them all to hear; fascinated with its meaning. *'Earth energy come forth to ground our hearts in the magik of this land claiming our heritage, which belongs to both humans and animals. Return to Nemuria the birth place of one of the chosen one's ancestors; though born in another land this chosen one has strong ties to this land. Deep in the earth lies the gem of our secrets, waiting for the very roots of existence to unfold. Once the first is uncovered the next will follow.'* they read.

*'Wow, what does it mean.'* Eddie asked, *'Melody you're good at puzzles what do you think it means?'*

Melody didn't miss a beat, *'Well it looks like we need to go to Nemuria, as that is the birthplace of your ancestors Eddie as your Mother comes from there. And we may need to search underground, or at least in the ground for the gem they're talking about.'*

Spellbound and Aaron looked at each other mightily impressed with this interesting young girl who was rapidly growing into a very intelligent and beautiful young woman. *'Well done Melody, that's very impressive how you sieved through the clues so quickly to start us on our journey.'* Aaron said coming closer to give her an acknowledging hug, which she readily accepted.

*'I'm lucky I just sort of know how these things work, like Eddie knows about nature, energy, feelings and instincts. Solving puzzles is my gift I suppose.'* she said shyly.

*'Along with being organised and planning and soooo many other gifts.'* Said Eddie as a deep sense of pride in his best friend shone out from him. *'By the way how are we going to get to Nemuria.'* He said without even skipping a beat.

*'Things like getting from one place to another are never really a problem around here.'* Spellbound said, as the sound of flapping wings and a tiger's roar sounded as if on cue. They rushed out of the cave eager to start their first quest to Nemuria.

*'We all need to go together this time.'* Aaron said, and with that two of Nerela's ladies appeared on their huge white swans swooping in, followed by another riderless swan for Aaron and Spellbound to ride. Whilst Eddie, Melody and Missy would fly on Erador who was waiting patiently, knowing he was needed for the journey ahead.

They took off with great gusto, travelling high above the knightly forest, up over the mountains and out to sea, leaving the land they had known behind. *'Goodness, I'm going to see my Mother's birthplace and reconnect with my aunt Nerela.'* Eddie said expectantly. *'How awesome is that!'* He said raising his hand to give Melody a high five and nearly toppling them all off Erador's back in his excitement.

Missy had hunkered down between them sitting on Eddie's lap and enjoying the view as she reached her head out to smell all the new intriguing odours as her ears flapped along in the wind. She seemed to be having a wonderful time and had a permanent toothy smile on her wee furry face. This made Eddie very happy as Missy had been so sick over the last couple of months that he hadn't been sure if she would pull through or if he was going to have to face the unthinkable of losing his bestest fur buddy in the world. She had been his companion and constant shadow for the last thirteen years,

going on all his adventures, bringing joy out in all that she did. She was such a loyal and loving friend and brought a lot of laughter and happiness into his life and the whole family loved her as an important member of their family. So seeing her here having such a wonderful time enjoying herself, flying with them to his Mother's birthplace was such a gift after her recent sickness. Eddie knew she was very old, ninety one in human years, and she had had a really good and happy life. But he wasn't ready to lose his dear friend, even though he knew all creatures had their time he didn't really want to believe she would ever leave him. So he was very happy to have Missy with him, especially as she was loving every minute of this adventure.

Looking down to the ocean below them they saw dolphins, seals, whales and some interesting looking mer-creature's who waved up at them as they passed overhead. All sizes of colourful birds as well as other flying creatures flew alongside them nosily interested in who was travelling through their domain. They flew through several cloud banks and the sun changed position as they flew giving them the sense that both time and space were passing swiftly as their flight moved them ever forward.

Eventually they spotted a speck of land in the distance and a flurry of white wings soon surrounded them as they entered into Nemurian air space. It seemed everyone who greeted them was female, so did that mean all Nemurians were woman, Eddie wondered.

As they flew down alighting on the giant Nemurian island he could see the beach and what from a distance looked like his aunt Nerela. She was adorned with all her finery, her head sparkling brightly in the sun with her beautiful crown. She was a beautiful sight and stood a head taller than all her ladies as she raised her magnificent staff, waving at them as they came into land.

Eddie couldn't contain himself, he jumped off Erador's back and rushed at his aunt with arms open wide nearly knocking her over with his enthusiasm as he embraced her. Her ladies found this hysterical as their majestic queen nearly got bowled over by this eager young man, who just happened to be her nephew. They had never seen anything like this behaviour in Nemuria as outsiders never touched their queen, nor did they do lots of hugging in their tribe so they were very startled and very amused by Eddie's behaviour. And they were even more surprised by their queen's reaction as she drew

her nephew to her in a warm embrace and swung him high up in the air with the joy of seeing him again.

Missy jumped down at the same time and rushed to catch up with Eddie and also threw herself at Nerela, knocking them all over onto the ground. Nerela's ladies waited to see how their queen would react at this furry intrusion, but she seemed to take it in her stride and laughed loudly as they all sat on the ground having a big family hug, grateful for their reunion.

Aaron, Spellbound and Melody dismounted calmly enjoying the spectacle of Eddie's reunion with his aunt and grateful to have finally arrived in Nemuria after such a long flight.

Once the merriment settled down, Nerela led them to her home which was a beautiful swan shaped castle high up on a ridge and after being fed and watered they sat down to talk.

*'It's so lovely to see you all but what exactly has brought you such a long way to Nemuria, as it would have been a lot easier for you if I had come over to Andalustria?'* Nerela asked.

*'You're aware of the imbalance that's been occurring since Rick stole the Chalice of Andalustria?'* Aaron stated not expecting a response. *'Well things are getting worse'*. He said. Aaron then filled her in on recent events and the reason they had come to Nemuria as the first quest to call on the sleeping knights to awaken, so they could help them rebalance the worlds once again.

*'What can we do to help?'* Nerela said keen to assist her nephew in whatever was needed for their quest as the situation impacted them all.

Melody and Spellbound repeated the guidance they'd read on the wall of the Illuminator Cave about the first quest to see if Nerela could offer them any help or guidance to uncover the meaning of the first Earth Quest.

## **The First Earth Quest**

*'Earth energy come forth to ground our hearts in the magik of this land claiming our heritage, which belongs to both humans and animals. Return to Nemuria the birth place of one of the chosen one's ancestors; though born in another land this chosen one has strong ties to this land. Deep in the earth lies the gem of our secrets, waiting for the very roots of existence to unfold. Once the first is uncovered the next will follow'*

*'Well obviously Eddie's heritage is of this land so he needed to come along, but it appears you two have something in this too.'* she said looking at Spellbound and Melody curiously.

Spellbound raised his arms in the air as neither of them knew why they had been called upon to be the chosen ones for this first quest, even though this was Eddie's ancestral home.

*'It says 'deep in the earth lie the gems of our secret', so the only likely place that could be is in the Dromogite's lair which is underground and not too far from here.'* Nerela surmised.

*'Goodness that sounds scary, what's a Dromogite?'* Eddie asked.

*'Oh you don't need to worry they haven't been seen in this land for centuries... so you'll be able to access the underground cavern easily.'* Nerela informed them.

They gathered everything together and Nerela called to one of her ladies who provided some digging equipment and tools to assist them just in case they needed to dig into the earth as the message suggested, and they set off towards the Dromogite's lair.

Once they arrived they noticed how huge the entrance to the cave was and wondered at the size of the extinct Dromogites, as the doorways stood at nearly four times the size of Nerela's largest swan. The entrance was covered in foliage that they had to cut back, opening the way to see into the cavernous space beyond.

Both Nerela and Aaron had their staffs which they used to light the way along the passages that flowed down deep into the earth. Erik and Mo, Eddie and Melody's sprites that had accompanied them since they arrived at Nardor Lagoon also lit up their shining silver body's flying just ahead of the group as they travelled through the tunnel. Their silver wings fluttering and shining like beacons lighting the way ahead as they flitted down either side of the damp cavern.

The party walked for what seemed like hours, hearing a few strange noise and noticing a few fleeting shadows of what appeared to be large transparent beings as they travelled deeper into the ground. They couldn't quite tell if they were real, or if it was just their minds playing tricks on them as it was pretty spooky down here. The air became much cooler, holding a stillness that surrounded them, which made them feel as if they needed to whisper in case they disturbed the sleeping. The earthy damp smell was pervasive and intoxicating and the damp seeped into their bones making them feel encased inside the earth. But they felt safe in the cocoon of earth, although aware of the possibility of a tunnel collapse and possible suffocation at the same time.

They kept walking until they eventually came to what appeared to be a complete dead end... an earth wall with a bronze mirror facing out towards them that was encrusted with earth. *'What does it mean?'* Eddie's ever inquisitive mind asked out loud.

*'Melody and Spellbound stand in front of the mirror side by side.'* Aaron suggested as his intuition spoke to him. With no other idea or avenue of guidance as to how to progress they did as they were told and felt strangely comforted and connected as they stood side by side looking into the mirror. *'Why did you suggest we do this, Melody asked Aaron?'*

*'I don't know it's my Collaborative Intelligence (CQ) kicking in, my instincts are telling me that just as Eddie is connected by family to this land of Nemuria, that you and Spellbound are also connected by family, strange as that may seem.'* Aaron continued. *'The first quest is to 'discover the gem deep in the earth, waiting for the very root of our existence', so it's all about our roots and our sense of belonging amongst our own kind, but also within nature and ourselves. What better place to uncover a family connection, than deep in the earth. It's a bit of a guess, so let's see what happens.'* Aaron said.

Looking at them standing side by side with their images reflecting out into the cavern, the young woman and the orange furry creature, who resembled a cross between a sasquatch, a bear and a monkey. It seemed highly unlikely they were somehow related? However, Spellbound had originally come from Melody's land, the world of the humans before he became a Knight of Nardor and was transformed when the Chalice was stolen, so maybe there was something there..?

The two strange companions stood side by side looking into the mirror and for some reason Spellbound felt the need to reach out and hold Melody's hand, which she

accepted readily. Almost the second their hands clasped together the ground started shaking and the earth encrusted mirror sprung free from its earthy bed and opened outward to reveal an even smaller cavern. Erik and Mo flew forward to light up the small cavern so they could all see what was inside. The cavern appeared to go back a very long way but just a short way inside the entrance seven stars appeared on the ground. Each star was a different colour; red, orange, yellow, green, blue, magenta and white and they twinkled in the ground and then disappeared as they all stared at the ground.

Following Aaron's lead to trust his intuition Spellbound shared his thoughts *"I feel as if we need to dig down into the earth to retrieve whatever it is we're looking for."* he said as he knelt down inside the small cavern and started digging where one of the stars had briefly shone with his sharp claws, which were the perfect tools for the job.

After he had dug about an inch down into the ground they heard a loud hissing noise and looked around with widening eyes to see what had made the noise but there was nothing obvious? Spellbound continued digging faster now as the hissing sound became louder and the air around them became quite putrid as a smell like rotting flesh permeated the air.

The hissing was becoming louder and louder and Spellbound dug faster and faster to try and reach the gem they were seeking. But as he continued digging he felt something large dart out towards him just missing him, as it slithered back into the dark.

Missy suddenly jumped forward and started digging alongside Spellbound where one of the stars had been with her tiny paws digging frantically into the ground as the hissing became louder by the minute. Spellbound kept on digging having created a large hole quite quickly, ever mindful of the hissing serpent creature in the dark. There was nothing underneath where the first star had shone, so he moved onto the next one, as did Missy covering good ground between them.

As they dug the others who were watching on, as the cavern couldn't hold too many more people, spotted a pair of orange eyes staring back at them from the dark. What was it?



At this point Erik and Mo the sprites changed their form as they are able to do, Mo transforming into a black curly haired dog bigger than Missy and Erik transforming into a wee griffin, shihtzu type of dog. They jumped into the cavern to assist Missy and Spellbound with the digging as they knew time was of the essence to find the gem and danger was looming close with beady orange eyes.

Suddenly the orange eyed slimy creature made a dash towards Spellbound flicking its poisonous tongue out catching Spellbound's arm as he continued his fervent digging. They couldn't see what it was clearly as it was so fast, but what they were able to catch a glimpse of resembled a big serpent with orange spikes and huge shining orange eyes, with gnashing teeth and an orange forked tongue .

Missy jumped forward barking and growling at the serpent which backed off quickly, as the little brave dog stood her ground as Spellbound fell to the earth floor in the cramped space of the small cavern aware he'd been struck on the arm by the serpent. The serpent slithered away back where it had come from as Missy and the sprite dogs barked at it continuing to dig for the gem before the serpent could return.

Spellbound had fought many battles as a Knight of Nardor so he had a good constitution and was healthy and very strong, so he was surprised at how quickly the poison was dulling his senses making him start to black out and making his breath catch in his throat. Aaron reached into the small cavern and pulled Spellbound out as Missy and the sprite dogs continued feverishly digging and barking at the same time, warding off the serpent whilst continuing to hunt for their prize.

After digging down into the ground a metre or so from where the third star had been Missy felt something sharp under her paw and began digging around whatever it was until a glint of shimmering red appeared. Missy howled and barked at her find letting the others know she'd discovered something as they were now focused on helping Spellbound. She continued digging alongside the other sprite dogs to finally uncover a large diamond shaped red gem that appeared through the soil. Missy prized it out of the earth with her paws and pushed it towards Aaron with her nose.

Nerela, Eddie and Melody were looking after Spellbound resting his head on the ground and at Nerela's instructions lifting his legs up onto a small rock close by to allow the blood to come back to his body. As a warrior queen Nerela was used to challenges of

this nature with strange creatures and unforeseen circumstances so without the slightest thought for her own safety she bent down and sucked the serpent's poison out of Spellbound's arm and spat it onto the floor into the corner of the cave. She then placed a strange smelling salve she removed from the pouch around her waist on top of the serpent bite to help neutralise any residue of poison and start to heal the wound on Spellbound's arm.

*'You were lucky I had this with me, as the poison from the ground serpent can kill a man twice your size in no time at all'.* She said making everyone aware of the close call Spellbound had just had with death.

*'It's all thanks to you and Missy I survived as the serpent would have come back for another go if Missy hadn't warned him off with her courage and your quick actions to remove the poison Nerela are why I'm here to tell the tale.'* Spellbound said stroking the wee dog that had saved his life.

*'Not only that, but Missy's managed to uncover this amazing ruby which is the gem we're looking for for our first quest.'* Aaron said holding up the most magnificent red gem they had ever seen. *'But it was a close call for you Spellbound'.*

*'Missy's pretty amazing'.* Melody said, *'You're a true heroine you are girl.'* She said picking up the little dog and cradling her in her arms, as she covered Melody in dog kisses.

Missy barked jumping out of Melody's arms after her cuddle and ran over to the two sprite dogs Mo and Erik and started licking them to thank them for helping her. They all laughed and thanked the sprites too as Missy was reminding them it was a team effort.

*'How appropriate, a furry female heroine on an island of female warrior, Amazing!'* Aaron said as they all fell about laughing at the irony. It had taken a wee furry dog to rescue this giant hairy creature and ward off a poisonous serpent AND find the secret gem at the same time.

The sprites transformed back into their usual silver winged selves and took an exaggerated bow over and over again whilst flitting their luminescent wings back and forth as they flew turning somersaults in the air as they bowed, creating even more laughter amongst the group.

It was so good to laugh and release the pent up emotions they'd just experienced after the hissing serpent attacked Spellbound and it helped them all relax as they closed the mirror on the entrance to the small cavern to make sure the serpent didn't get out and try to bite any of them again. As they closed the mirror door they noticed that a symbol that hadn't been there previously had now appeared on the front of the mirror.

## Chapter 6

# The Second Earth Quest

*'Eddie the symbol is for you and Nerela.'* Aaron stated quite matter of factly as Nerela looked at Eddie quizzically. This must be what was meant by the last sentence of the First Quest *'Once the first is uncovered the next will follow'*. Aaron continued. *'This must be the symbol for the clue to the Second Earth Quest.'*

Eddie took his aunt's hand, *'We need to place our hands on the symbol together as I think it works to show its message for our next quest when our two energies combine.'* He told her.

They stepped forward and placed their hands next to each other on the symbol... and the message appeared to write itself on the ground in front of them.

### **The Second Earth Quest**

*'Breath of earth, air, fire and water,  
with talons of gold, leathery scales of shimmering violet  
slipping under the radar for so long, cloaked in invisibility.*

*Where did we go, nowhere, everywhere, somewhere...  
Wherever we are needed we will be!*

*The time is upon us to awaken the wise ones  
long sleeping in their chamber.  
We are tuned to the unseen fluctuations of the worlds  
and the changes that abound.*

*We must work together with the sensual energy of the feminine  
to breathe life back into our wings, so we may fly once again into the light.*

*The mother energy brings us home to our true nature...*

*Awaken to its majesty.'*

*'Wow, wow, wow, that's so beautiful. I think I even know what it means.'* Eddie exclaimed.

Everyone looked round at Eddie expectantly as he continued *'It's about the Dromogites! They're still here, but they're cloaked in invisibility. They're biding their time, waiting, asleep until they are needed once again. It takes the creative sensual feminine energy of the earth mother to breathe life into them again. And Nerela is the queen of the feminine sensual creatives and we are in mother earth right now. So the Dromogite must be close by.'* He said hardly able to contain his excitement.

They looked at each other, what Eddie said sort of made sense, but how could they find the Dromogite, if it was invisible and asleep they all wondered.

*'What's the most creatively sensual feminine thing we could all do right now to help breathe life into our wings, so we may fly once again.'* Eddie asked Nerela as she was most definitely the wisest woman here and should know all about this sort of thing.

Nerela looked surprised at the depth of her nephew's wisdom; she had come to love him and saw him as part of her tribe but had thought of him as a child and one to be guided rather than being capable of leading them. But here he was guiding them on how to rediscover one of the most ancient lost creatures of this land. He could be wrong and letting his imagination get carried away with him but her intuition said he was right and the Dromogites were still here, just waiting for someone like her nephew to uncover their secret.

*'We could do the tribal dance of the Nemurian Warriors which is a very sensual dance and involves earth magik? We could use it as an offering to the ancient Dromogite to call him/her back home and to full visibility within this realm? We should all take part in the dance, with the whole tribe as that will raise the vibrations even higher and be a great offering to honour the Dromogite.'* Nerela announced.

At these words she moved swiftly, heading back through the caves to where the rest of her tribe were waiting by the entrance to the caverns. Once there Nerela strode towards

a mound of flattened earth resembling a large platform or stage to talk to her people. Holding the huge Ruby Gem in both her hands Nerela looked deep into its core and a determined look came over her as she lifted her head and spoke in a deep resonant voice to her tribe and the Earth Quest companions. *'To honour the mighty Dromogite and ask it to unveil itself we need to perform the Earth Ceremony and bring the energy of this Ruby Gem to life so it can help awaken the sacred ones.'* She announced.

*'We must head to the palace and prepare ourselves for the ceremony and send word to all the Nemurian Warriors and their tribes across this land and the other worlds so they too can attend the ceremony, tomorrow at twilight on the eve of the blood moon.'*

*'We must be diligent in preparing ourselves for this awakening ceremony as not only will it call upon the mighty one to reveal itself, but it will also allow us to release our fears and our worries and help fill us with courage and strength as our future quests will require us to be fully present to our spirit energy and our connection to nature and it's innate wisdom, if we are to succeed.'* She said .

Nerela's speech felt sombre but was a realistic assessment of the situation and Eddie and Melody stood up straighter as she was talking knowing that these quests were going to require a lot from them and they would need to become more resilient and focused; using their minds clearly to make the right decisions and act quickly when they were needed. Pressing pause to keep their emotions centred so they could use their **'Collaborative Intelligence'** to overcome the challenges the quests were going to present to them.

*'Let's go. I'm looking forward to witnessing the unveiling of what has been hidden for so long, we are much in need of the mighty ones return to help us rebalance the light and dark in our worlds.'* Aaron said.

They walked out of the entrance of the cave *'Come along, we have much to do to prepare'*. Nerela said as her pace quickened. The strange looking group knew there was much at stake if they failed the quests; the fate of many worlds were in their hands. They followed Nerela's lead moving swiftly towards a narrow path surrounded by tall palm trees which seemed to have appeared out of nowhere. Walking along the path they noticed how the palm trees became more densely packed until they were journeying

through a verdant living tunnel which eventually brought them out into a clearing that looked down over the bay they had flown into on arriving in Nemuria.

Erador and some of Nerela's ladies on their majestic swans were flying above their heads, waiting for them in the clearing and they felt a rush of air as Nerela's lead swan swooped down, flapping its huge wings to land gracefully like a very large elegant ballerina in front of her mistress.

*'Can't we walk to your palace.'* Melody asked, as she felt like a walk in the fresh air after the stuffy cavern and really wanted to stay on the ground as it felt solid and safe as she felt slightly wobbly inside with everything happening so fast around them.

*I'm afraid not Melody, as it would take you several days to walk from here and we only have until tomorrow night to prepare for the Earth Ceremony before the blood full moon arises. So we really don't have the time to walk this time'*. Nerela explained.

Eddie could feel that Melody was feeling overwhelmed by everything they'd learnt and the tasks ahead, as he knew his dear friend so well and wanted to help her feel better and more stable so he suggested they take a moment to ground themselves with the ***Press Pause formula\****.

Aaron also noticed what was happening for Melody and decided Pressing Pause would actually be a good thing for them all to do together to help them ground themselves. Standing in front of the beautiful giant white tiger and the majestic swans they stood in a circle together and took a few minutes to ***\*Press Pause***; to feel their feet on the ground and breath deeply and slowly to help centre themselves before setting off on the next phase of their journey. Taking a deep breath right down into their stomachs, whilst imagining a safe or happy place, they held their breath in for 3 seconds allowing the feeling of safety to flow into their minds, their emotions and their bodies. They began to feel more stable and energised as they directed and focused their thoughts using their breath to fill up with positive energy. Then they each blew out any of the fearful or wobbly thoughts and feelings they'd been having; releasing them. Again breathing in and filling themselves up with safe, uplifting breath and holding it for 3 seconds before expelling any fear or worry they had. They repeated this breathing and visualisation technique 3 more times and as they did so a deep sense of calm fell over the group of adventurers standing united together, which felt great. Practising the Press Pause

formula together connected them on a much deeper level, reminding them that they were a powerful team who supported each other and would continue to do so as they stepped up to take part in these magical quests. Everything started to feel more positive for Melody.

*'How do you feel now Melody?'* Eddie asked

Melody opened her eyes as she liked to shut them when practising the Press Pause formula. *'I feel a lot better thanks Eddie. I think it was being cocooned in the cavern, it felt claustrophobic and then Spellbound being attacked by the serpent, it made me feel really light headed and very anxious inside. But I feel a lot better now. It's incredible how quickly the Press Pause Formula works. It always amazes me... how something so simple can have such a deep and powerful effect and can transform something as complicated as the way our body reacts to feelings of anxiety and even our deepest fears into feeling more empowered. You can really turn things around positively very quickly when you Press Pause and take charge regularly. You really must be some sort of wizard Eddie to have come up with it!'* she said laughing.

*'So are you comfortable about traveling on Erador to Nerela's palace now instead of walking Melody?'* Spellbound asked putting his large furry paw on her arm.

As Spellbound touched Melody's arm she felt a warm current like an electric charge flow through her arm and experienced a sensation of being wrapped in a warm blanket that energised her from head to toe. *'Wow, that's some power you have Spellbound, what have you been doing, that's never happened before.'* Melody exclaimed.

*'Something magikal is going on between you and Spellbound it seems.'* Aaron said nodding at Melody. *'It will be interesting to see what unfolds from this'...* Aaron reflected mysteriously.

Missy leapt up and down barking, as she could sense the electrical current flowing between Melody and Spellbound, the energy excited her and she bobbed around their feet on her hind legs like a circus dog performing a well-rehearsed choreographed dance.

Missy's jumping bean impression completely lightened the mood and everyone laughed at her antics feeling their spirits lift as they witnessed the wee black dog's happy



excitement. Missy was a sensitive creature much like her master and could sense things others were often unaware of, maybe even more so than Eddie. She was always filled with a great love of life and she brought a smile to even the grumpiest of faces, with her infectious joy of life. As was the case with many dogs she quickly forgave humans for their foibles, and focused on what she loved in the moment and just embraced life. She could be a wonderful teacher for humans to learn how to show unconditional love towards each other, and to allow themselves to experience the joy of just being alive in each moment, regardless of the circumstances. Eddie felt truly blessed to have shared his life with Missy for so long, she brought him so much comfort, acceptance and love, and her quirky antics were very funny and made him laugh a lot, even when he was sad.

Before Melody, Spellbound or Eddie had a chance to ask Aaron what he meant Nerela called their attention back to the task at hand and the need to prepare for the Earth Ceremony at her palace. *'Come along we need to go, as there's much to do before the ceremony tomorrow evening.'* She said.

They climbed onto the backs of their flying creatures, Nerela, her ladies and Aaron and Spellbound on the Nemurian swans and Eddie, Melody and Missy up onto Erador's back sitting in the cosy nook by his neck.

Whoosh! It was always exhilarating taking off on the huge white tiger's back as he sprang into the air as if he was as light as a feather but with the force of a jet plane. They had to hold on tight to each other and Erador's fur as he leapt into the air, his angelic white wings unfurling to their full widespan dwarfing even Nerela's majestic swan. They held on to each other tightly with Eddie closest to Erador's head and Missy cocooned between him and Melody. Melody was determined to enjoy this flight after feeling so oppressed in the cavern. She took a deep breath, marvelling at everything around her as they took off, feeling exhilarated as the rush of cool air buffeted them awakening all of her senses as Erador leapt into the sky.

*'I can smell coconut and strawberries, how odd.'* Melody said to no-one in particular.

*'Me too'*. Eddie responded lifting his head and sniffing the air as a big smile erupted across his face, happy that Melody was feeling more settled now and was enjoying herself as they flew through the air, over the valley's and villages below.

They appeared to be following a path in the sky between two mountain ranges with a valley between covered in forests and dotted with lakes and what seemed to be many people milling around on the ground below. The mountain ranges on either side were very different from each other with one side being snow capped with misty blue clouds forming above them whilst the ranges on the other side were alternately covered with dense green swaying palms or bright dunes of golden silky sand that seemed to be perpetually moving.

How could you have extreme cold on one side and extreme warmth on the other? Eddie wondered. Andalusia seemed to be a world of great contrast with Nemuria being a great example how two areas that were so very different could co-exist side by side quite comfortably. Wouldn't it be wonderful if people who believed different things could learn to live in harmony despite their differences or diversity of gender, culture, religion, beliefs or upbringing. The world would be a much happier, more prosperous place and then all this 'ego stuff' to gain power that Rick was causing and which was creating the negative shifts in the world wouldn't be happening. Why are people so short-sighted about their impact on the world around them, how their thirst just to get a quick fix of power or money or release of emotion in the moment ends up creating long term problems on things in their own lives and all our worlds. Eddie pondered saddened by the reality he knew was taking place in the worlds.

They flew on for what seemed like hours watching the ever changing terrain, chatting about what they were seeing, smelling or sensing as it changed and often drifting off into their own thoughts about what this adventure and these quests meant to each of them.

Melody looked over to see Aaron and Spellbound deep in conversation and she wondered about this new deeper connection that seemed to be happening between her and Spellbound. She knew Eddie's roots were of this land, but she also felt she belonged here too as well as back in the world they had been born in.... Or had she? Melody didn't know much about her past, but she'd always felt like she didn't quite fit in with her own family, as if she was a bit of an enigma to them.

Melody's was an only child and her parents were quite a bit older than most of her friend's parents. They were kind and generous and very loving, but they didn't

understand numbers and logic in the same way Melody did and often relied on her to solve the more complicated issues that life presented especially as she had gotten older. Her mother was a very round, extremely cuddly and caring person and accepted Melody as she was without question and her father was much the same. They often dressed in similar clothing as if they were twins and finished each other's sentences and led a very simple but wholesome life, teaching Melody about caring for nature, animals, her body and the planet. They loved music and she'd often get home after school and they'd be dancing together around the living room and through the house, happily laughing and enjoying each other's company. They grew their own fruit and vegetables in their garden and as far as Melody remembered they had never gone to a place of work, but weirdly she had not questioned how they had made a living or funded themselves financially as they seemed to have been retired from work since she was born. She was always well provided for and never wanted for anything and her parent's life was a very simple and wholesome existence but now she thought about it, it was strange that they had never mentioned these things to her?

She wondered what was happening between her and Spellbound... was he connected to her in some way... it was confusing and right now there seemed to be no answers. But she supposed that was ok for now!

Everyone was pulled out of their reverie or conversations as Erador and the swans took a sharp turn to the right and began to descend..

## Chapter 7

# The Nemurian Ritual

As they headed down through a hazy mist of orange clouds a glorious sight revealed itself. On top of the mountain sat an enormous terracotta coloured castle, it had aspects of many architectural styles blended together to make it a quite unique and stunningly beautiful sight. Nestled high up on the mountain Nerela's palace had four circular turrets, circular arches and long elegant but sturdy battlements all along the height of the castle walls.

Eddie and Melody had both visited Europe on holiday and Nerela's palace resembled a cross between some of the Mediterranean castles they'd seen on their travels and palaces described in the stories of the Arabian Knights. The terracotta coloured palace looked warm, welcoming and quite charming perched on the mountain top in front of them.

Nerela circled the palace several times before landing; letting her people know she had arrived and giving them time to prepare for her homecoming and her guests arrival. As they came into land they saw a hive of activity as woman young and old ran to their respective positions to welcome their Queen home.

Erador followed Nerela's lead circling her palace; giving Eddie and Melody a bird's eye view of the lay out of the palace with its palm tree lined streets, beautiful fruit laden gardens and circular terracotta courtyards. They both felt very excited as they came into land in the centre of the great square in front of three terracotta archways that led in different directions within the palace grounds.

As soon as Nerela landed four of her ladies, dressed in very minimal clothing much like bikini's or swimsuits, rushed to her side with a cloak of gossamer gold that had intricate circle designs and symbols which they draped over her shoulders. She handed them her headdress and they brought forward a golden crown with a huge orange stone at its centre and placed it on Nerela's head.

As they placed the crown on Nerela's head an orange carpet was rolled out in front of them leading towards a pair of large wooden gates with golden insignia adorning the

doors. Everyone bowed deeply, as their queen passed by. She nodded to her subjects head held high with a beatific regal smile across her face. Children rushed to her side as she was a much loved queen who treated her people with respect, kindness, support and generosity and they loved and appreciated her for it.

Happy faces were all around and here in the castle there were both men and women not just women, which surprised them all as they had thought this was an island only for woman, but it appeared not. The men were strong, good looking and happy and there were many children as well as the many female warriors dotted around the palace.

*'Is everything prepared?'* Nerela asked what appeared to be her lady in waiting or her second in command.

*'Yes we are ready for you and your guests and the preparations are underway for the Blood Moon Earth Ceremony tomorrow at twilight.'* Her lady responded leading the way through the wooden gates that opened the moment Nerela stepped onto the orange carpet.

Nerela led the way and Aaron, Spellbound, Eddie, Melody and Missy followed close behind looking around at the vibrancy and happiness of Nerela's people and all the new sights and sounds of the castle as they moved into the inner sanctum of Nerela's palace.

*'First we must prepare to bathe in the sacred waters to cleanse all our pain, sadness, tiredness and any negative energy away. Then we will feast together and celebrate the dawning of a new day and the return of the mighty ones before we rest for the night. Then tomorrow we will bathe once again in the sacred waters and state our intention before heading back to the Dromogite's Lair to perform the Earth Ceremony at the time of the blood moon to awaken the mighty to full flesh and visibility.'* Nerela told them.

They were all pleased that Nerela had so clearly laid out what was going to happen even though they didn't know all the details, it was good to have a plan and know what was going to occur when so much was unknown to them in this world.

Aaron and Nerela walked towards each other and it was obvious from Aaron's manner that he has been to Nerela's palace before as he led the way through an archway into the inner sanctum.

One of Nerela's ladies came forward to escort them and took Spellbound, Eddie, Melody and Missy towards a corridor with several rooms leading off it. As they walked down the corridor Missy met another dog who looked very much like the sprite dog Erik had turned into. She had long blonde brown fur with big loving eyes and her underbite jutted forward slightly making her look as if she was permanently smiling. Nerela's lady told them the dog's name was Tammy and she belonged to Nerela and was the happiest most loving, loyal friend anyone could ever have... other than Missy of course.

They were shown to their rooms which were draped with chiffon curtains and coverings of many colours making the room feel like a cloud of soft colour that was soothing, comfortable and relaxing. All their rooms were adjacent and they each had their own bathroom with marble floors and many gold adornments. There were soft seating areas and cushions all around the rooms and across the huge beds. It was a place fit for a king or queen and they all felt very spoiled, which after recent events was very welcome.

There were white and gold ceremonial kaftan type gowns on each of their beds made of light cotton which Nerela's lady suggested they change into to ready themselves for the sacred bathing ritual that would take place shortly. They were all relieved to get out of their warmer clothes and into the light weight robes that felt much more comfortable in the heat.

Outside in the courtyard it was evident Missy was very happy to see another dog after all the adventures and once her people were settled Missy and Tammy ran around outside their rooms rolling in the grass, chasing each other, having fun bumping each other and barking with glee. Both Missy and Tammy seemed really pleased to have a new friend as they both usually mixed more with humans than other dogs, so it was great to have a fur friend to play with for a change. Despite Missy's age and her recent illness, they raced around until they wore themselves out and as the day was hot even in the late afternoon sun they then curled up under a palm tree and fell asleep nestled together.

After they had all had some time to rest and had changed into their new robes Nerela's lady returned to collect Melody and Spellbound to take them to the place where the ritual was to be held.

Missy and Tammy were still asleep under the palm trees in the beautiful garden and Eddie decided it would be a good idea let Missy continue sleeping as all this adventuring was tiring her out, even though she seemed to be keeping up with them he knew she often did this just to be alongside him and not let him down. So after reassurance from another of Nerela's ladies that she would look after Missy along with Tammy he felt comfortable to leave her sleeping in the shade.

So the unusual looking group, decked out in their white ceremonial kaftan's, followed Nerela's lady's lead to where the first ritual would take place. Through the beautiful gardens with their water features, orange and lemon trees and beautiful carved stones toward the side of the mountain where the pool for the bathing ritual was.

As they turned the corner out of the garden they saw Aaron ahead on the path. He was also wearing a white robe and an orange cape that shimmered in the light and greeted them with a gentle smile. His long wooden staff had the beautiful aqua aura crystal at its tip and just ahead Nerela stood on the other side of what appeared to be an orange shimmering pool. The water was an amazing orange liquid gold colour and looked quite dense, almost like honey and they couldn't see through it to the bottom of the pool so they had no idea from first glance how deep the pool was.

*'Welcome to the sacred waters of Nemuria, we are here to prepare ourselves for the Earth Ceremony and to cleanse all our past challenges, pain and negative energy so we are open to the vibrant energy and the new intentions we will bring to our quest tomorrow.'* Nerela welcomed the group in her voice.

Aaron then spoke to them telling them that he would guide each of them in turn into the sacred pool, once Nerela had activated the waters for the sacred cleansing and he would aid them as they submerged themselves in the waters to release what no longer served them. The ceremony would only take a few moments and then they would be able to go back to their rooms and rest before tonight's feasting.

They all felt very happy they were going to be guided through the process as it was such an unknown experience for them and it always feels a lot safer and more relaxed knowing what's going to happen in advance; allowing them to relax and just enjoy the sacred ritual.

Nerela lifted her huge staff and waved it over the pool to activate the sacred waters and as they watched the pool changed texture and colour, becoming more like water with a bright golden glow. The water swirled around for a couple of minutes and steam rose out of it as it made a gurgling sound as bubbles of all colours rose to the surface.

Eddie laughed and was filled with joy as he watched the sacred waters in the pool transform and Melody bumped him with her elbow signalling for him to calm down, as she felt this was supposed to be a serious ritual and not something to laugh at or take lightly. Even though she knew Eddie found joy in so many things others overlooked and didn't want to spoil his fun she felt he should be more respectful as this was a sacred ritual after all.

Aaron stepped into the water, which came up to his waist and the waters bubbled around him, steam releasing as he dipped himself under the water for what seemed like ages, but was probably only thirty seconds or so. As Aaron dove under the water the bubbles around him rose up from the pool carrying within them dark colours which floated off into the sky and released into the ether. The water immediately around Aaron turned a blue, then grey, then white and then back to its beautiful golden orange glow as he emerged out of the water's depths.

As he rose they noticed that his robes shone even whiter than before and he looked younger and his face was smooth and relaxed. He'd been looking tired since they'd met up with him and Melody thought this was probably due to the worry about what Rick was up to. The waters seemed to have released all the tension from his body and face and his long hair shone brightly as if he has a golden halo around his head.

He smiled at the others and offered his hand to Melody to step into the sacred waters alongside him. Taking Aaron's hand Melody stepped into the water and immediately felt a sense of relief and euphoria as she moved further into the pool. The water felt silky and smooth on her skin and it was warm enough to be comfortable and cool enough to be pleasant on her skin in the day's hot sun.

At Aaron's direction she dipped her head under the water and held her breath as she submerged her whole body into the sacred waters. It was a strange sensation but soothing and peaceful and she found it easy to hold her breath and did not feel pressurised to come to the surface too quickly. She could feel all her muscles relax and



her mind went blank and felt peaceful which was very unusual for Melody as she was always thinking about or planning something and worry and anxiety was something that she struggled with often.

As she came back up to the surface of the pool she felt the bubbles all around her and saw their changing colours and felt the release of all the stresses and burdens she'd been carrying as they too rose up into the sky and dissipated. Eddie gasped as Melody emerged from the depth of the pool, her hair shone and shimmered jet black, a white halo surrounded her head and her skin was like porcelain. She looked stunningly beautiful and his heart skipped a beat as he felt a new love dawning in himself for his dear friend, deeper than he had known before.

Eddie stepped forward offering his hand as Melody stepped out of the pool and the electrical current that passed between them was something new, something neither had experienced. Before they had been best friends and loved each other dearly for their differences which complimented each other and their similarities. But this was different it felt like a more grown up love felt by young people rather than children. Things were changing Eddie thought and not in a bad way!

Aaron gestured for Eddie to step forward into the pool. The whole ritual was taking place in silence and although they hadn't been told not to talk they all felt the reverence of this sacred ritual and were not drawn to speak but rather to feel into themselves and allow the introspective space inside them to reflect in their own minds and thoughts as they went through this transformative process.

Eddie slowed and became stiller than usual, letting himself gently submerge, holding his breath as he dipped his head under the waters. Strangely he found he could actually breathe under the water so there was no need for him to hold his breath at all and he opened his eyes to observe what was around him. He noticed the bubbles coming off his body, some dark black, some yellow and some a greyish colour and as the bubbles released from his body he got a sense of what each bubble was taking with it. The fears he had held from a young child of being scared of heights, especially when walking over areas where he could see underneath him like metal fire escapes or bridges you could see through or glass lifts. The dizziness he felt when seeing blood oozing out of bodies, even his own blood. The fear of people he loved dying and being left all alone. The

worry of letting his family or Melody down, or not being good enough when he tried new things, or feeling he had to live up to other people's expectations at times. The sadness over Missy getting older as he knew she wasn't long for this world and he would miss her terribly. He watched the bubbles with awareness of each thing he was releasing and felt grateful and happy for this wonderful pool of cleansing water.

As he surfaced he let out a huge breath of air and felt strong, refreshed and more alive than he had ever felt. Before leaving the water he turned to Nerela and bowed with his hands held in a prayer position and did the same to Aaron letting them know without words that he truly valued their wisdom and the experience of the sacred cleansing waters.

This time it was Melody's turn to gasp as she saw Eddie come to the surface of the water he shone like a magical creature with a rainbow of colours shining from him and his body looked strong and handsome, something she had never noticed in her friend before. She felt her face blush as she looked at Eddie aware she was developing a different sort of attraction to him than she had held previously. She turned her head away shyly for a moment but felt the pull to look back at Eddie as his energy was quite magnetic.

Eddie came straight up to Melody and embraced her in a beautiful heart nourishing hug to let her know that even though things were indeed changing between them, he wanted to reassure her that they still had a strong foundation of deep love and friendship and all would be fine.

Melody smiled and relaxed into Eddie's arms and felt the deep love they shared alongside the new feelings that were evolving and they held hands and looked into each other's eyes to cement their connection, then turned toward Spellbound who was now walking towards the pool.

Spellbound also submerged himself as soon as he stepped into the pool; staying under for a considerable amount of time as they watched multitudes of bubbles and steam release from the waters. As a Knight of Nardor Spellbound would have faced many battles of old and they knew he'd experienced a great deal of pain and loss in his life. Especially after the Chalice of Andulustria was stolen under his watch; losing the love of his life and then being transformed from the young man he had once been into the

almondly smelling, orange fur creature he was today. They knew Spellbound had a lot of old, sad, painful and negative energy to release and they were so pleased that he was getting the opportunity to release the past and be revitalised with energy into a new way of being.

As Spellbound emerged from the sacred healing waters his orange fur stuck out from his body as if it was electrified and the glow and relaxed look on his face reflected back to them all he had experienced in releasing the past and the negative energy he'd been holding in his body.

Eddie and Melody rushed to hug Spellbound, who was becoming a very much loved friend, as he stepped out of the water and the strong waft of roasted almonds exuded from his body, which made everyone feel hungry! They all laughed and buried their faces in his wet fur as he smiled ecstatically at the release he'd experienced in the healing waters and the love of his new friends who all knew his sad story.

They all turned and bowed towards Aaron and Nerela to thank them for the wonderful experience and the changes they'd each undergone during the ritual in the sacred waters. Then one of Nerela's ladies stepped forward and gestured for them to follow her back to their rooms. Eddie noticed Missy was still fast asleep under the palm tree with Tammy and they all began to feel suddenly very tired from the ritual.

Nerela's lady in waiting introduced herself as Mai and told them to rest as the sacred ritual needed time to embed into their auras so they could fully embrace the releasing and replenishing effects of the waters before the final ritual would be performed at the Earth Ceremony during the blood moon tomorrow. Mai told them Nerela thought it wise for them each to have some time and space to themselves before the next ritual as they had all released a lot. So they would be served whatever they wanted for dinner in their own rooms this evening rather than having a feast all together as had been the original plan.

They were all feeling very tired and agreed that this was a very good idea as they knew things would only get busier from here on and it was wise to use this opportunity to rest as everyone needed a balance between taking action and resting in life.

They all went to their rooms and very quickly each of them fell into a deep replenishing sleep, not even waking for dinner but rather sleeping through until the morning when they were woken so they could breakfast together.

## Chapter 8

# Setting an Intention

Breakfast was held in the one of the beautiful gardens surrounded by orange trees and they ordered whatever they desired as they were all very hungry having missed last night's dinner.

At breakfast Nerela explained that they would be commencing the Intention Ritual at the sacred pool in a few hours and that after breakfast they could each spend some time deciding what they wanted to choose as their intention for the Quests.

*'When we set an intention it allows us to focus our mind on the aspects we want to create or enhance within ourselves; for instance feeling focused, confident and relaxed might be qualities that would be of value to you. Or connected, safe and inspired is another example of how you might want to feel. Setting an intention enables you to choose what you focus on, to create as part of your experience in life or for that particular aspect of life; setting a focus or qualities you wish to bring into your 'questing journey.'* Nerela explained.

*'You can also set an intention for the outcome you would like to experience outwardly or with other people'. Aaron suggested, 'That way you are using your Collaborative Intelligence to focus your mind, centre your emotions and take action from a place of clear intentional connection with yourself, others and the world at large'. he continued. 'You might want to experience courage, being pro-active or being fulfilled as further examples; there are so many options for you to choose from but we suggest you choose a maximum of three no more, as three is a powerful number of manifestation'. he said.*

*'Setting an Intention for the things you do; a task, an objective or goal is always a sensible thing to do as it means you take charge of the actions you want to take, how you want to feel and who you want to be, regardless of the circumstances'. Nerela suggested.*

*'What a great idea, that works wonderfully alongside creating plans and also helps you prepare for getting the best outcome'. Melody said joyfully.*

*'I like it too as you can be spontaneous and just set an intention about how you want to feel, even if you don't have a specific goal or plan'.* Eddie chipped in laughing as he knew Melody loved making plans. Eddie winked at Melody and she smiled and blushed. She quickly got over the embarrassment she felt from Eddie's comment but wondered why she was suddenly blushing more when she was around Eddie.

*'When I was a Knight of Nardor we set intentions for each of our missions and it really pulled us together to have a focus to work toward. It made us feel very powerfully connected in our mission'.* Spellbound agreed *'I'm very excited we're doing this together'.* he said with a big grin on his face, something none of them had seen before the cleansing ritual. Spellbound had always seemed so serious probably due to all the challenging experiences he'd had but now it seemed he was able to come to terms with the past and was taking the good from them after the cleansing ritual..

They each headed off in different directions across the garden to have some time and privacy to decide on their individual Intentions for their Quest. Afterwards Spellbound, Eddie, Missy and Melody came together to relax in the gardens; exploring the beautiful grounds before they were called back in to Nerela's palace to prepare for the final ritual before the Earth Ceremony.

Mai came to collect them to once again, returning them to the sacred waters of the pool so they could state their intentions for all to hear. They were an excited bunch as they headed towards the pool, feeling purposeful and filled with a new lease of life, ready for the next phase of their quest.

As they neared the sacred pool they could see Nerela and Aaron waiting for them at the side of the pool wearing their normal clothes. This surprised them as did the fact that they too had been told to wear their usual clothing for the ritual. The pool was the same colour as before but as they stepped closer they saw Aaron had a large vessel filled with the waters from the sacred pool and wondered what was going to happen.

*'We are going to head straight to the area of the Dromogite's Lair from here. We will perform the Intention ritual and be transported through the portal to the sea near the place we need to be for the Earth Ceremony'.* Aaron explained.

They looked at each other wondering where the portal was as there was no sign of it. It seemed to be one of those times where they were not going to be told the full plan and would need to go with the flow. This worked well for Eddie as he loved adventures and spontaneity, but Melody felt slightly anxious about not knowing what was going to happen. Spellbound however, was very used to the ways of Andalusia which allowed him to experience both sides of everything so he was quite relaxed about it all.

Nerela called Melody forward first as she knew this bright young girl needed to experience some *'not knowing'* to grow her *'happily living in the moment'* muscle. By going first she wouldn't know what was going to happen or what to expect as she wouldn't see the others going through the ritual before her.

Melody looked around at Eddie for reassurance and he touched her hand and smiled and she felt better knowing he would be close behind her, whatever was going to *happen*.

*'State your Intentions for the Quests Melody; the things you wish to bring forward into your essence and your experiences hence forth'*. Nerela said.

*'My Intention is to focus my energy into being Relaxed, Joyful and Courageous. To develop and experience these feelings in all we do and everything that presents itself'*. Melody shared.

Eddie smiled as he knew Melody spent most of her time being focused, making plans and organising things and people so for her to choose being relaxed and joyful was the opposite of what she often experienced in life. He felt very proud of her as it was really empowering for her to choose to step up in this way; even now she was being courageous by going first, not knowing what was going to happen.

Aaron stepped forward and poured the vessel of sacred water that turned a deep purple over Melody's head which took her by surprise and made her giggle. As the water was poured over her head the sacred pool in front of them started swirling round and round and an opening appeared in the centre of the pool.

*'Jump through Melody, it will be a smooth transition to where you need to be'*. Aaron encouraged.

Melody could feel the fear rising in her and turned to look at Eddie and Spellbound and they both smiled and nodded their heads for her to continue into the portal that had appeared within the sacred pool.

*'Well my Intention was to be courageous so here I go.'* Melody said as she took a jump into the sacred pool and through the portal.

Now it was Spellbound's turn *'State your Intentions for the Quests Spellbound, brave warrior and all you wish to bring forward into your essence and your experiences hence forth.'* Nerela stated.

*'My Intention is to bring in the energy of being positive, successful and accepting in all that takes place.'* Spellbound bellowed loudly. Aaron poured the now purple sacred water over Spellbound's head and he jumped into the pool and through the portal.

By now Eddie was actually getting a bit fidgety being last as he wanted to know how Melody was doing. So the minute Spellbound had jumped through the portal he stepped forward before he was even requested to do so.

*'Whoa there boy, relax all is well, there is no hurry we have plenty of time.'* Aaron reassured him.

*'I want to make sure Melody is ok.'* Eddie said in a breathless voice as he felt his anxiety rising; he just wanted to get on with it and check in with his best friend.

'What are your Intentions?' Nerela asked Eddie.

*'To be Focused, Brave and Grounded.'* Eddie said quickly

*'Those are great intentions, so right now do you think you are being grounded or focused?'* Aaron asked.

*'No I suppose I'm not.'* Eddie responded, *'but I'm worried about Melody and just want to see how she is.'* he explained.

*'I understand Eddie, but if you truly want to live your Intentions this is probably a good time to start practising them as saying an intention alone without putting them into action doesn't mean anything and will have little if any effect on the positive outcomes you want and can create.'* Nerela said in a commanding voice to her nephew.



Eddie took a big breath as he knew what Aaron and Nerela said was true, there was no point setting an intention if he wasn't going to practise becoming more of the intention. He couldn't really expect to experience more of those qualities in his life if he wasn't prepared to put his intentions into action.

*'You're right'. he said, 'I'm not focused. Well I'm focused on getting to Melody, so I suppose that's focused. But I'm certainly not grounded as I feel quite anxious and I'm not being brave either as I'm in reaction to the situation, not in response or taking responsibility. Thank you for pointing this out as it's a valuable lesson I will remember'.* he said to his guides and mentors.

Eddie decided that the quickest way for him to become grounded, as that was the first thing he needed to do, was to sit on the ground and **Press Pause**, taking 3 deep breaths and calming the anxiety he felt so that he could be more focused on his intentions, which he did.

As he sat on the floor Missy trotted over to him and sat in his lap which comforted him and helped him ground his energy even more. It only took a few minutes for him to settle himself and become much more grounded and focused. Feeling brave enough to take on this challenge, which right now was being separated from Melody and not knowing how she was doing.

Eddie got to his feet feeling much more in charge of himself as Aaron said *'I will bring Missy with me as she will have a smoother transition that way.'* reassuring Eddie.

Once he had demonstrated his intentions to take charge of his mental and emotional state, Nerela asked him again. *'State your Intentions for the Quests Eddie and all that you wish to bring forward into your essence and your experiences hence forth'.* Nerela stated.

*'My Intention is to bring in the energy of being Focused, Brave and Grounded, to develop and experience in all that follows'.* Melody shared.

*'I am proud of you nephew for quickly setting your intentions into action.'* Nerela said as Aaron poured the purple water over Eddie's head. Eddie thanked them, patted Missy on her head, before jumping into the sacred pool through the portal.

## Chapter 9

# Return of the Dromogite

Swirling around in the water he felt himself flash past many water creatures before being thrown up onto a sandbank. Waves flowed over his body as he spluttered and gulped in air having taken in a mouthful of water during his trip.

Just like his friends who had gone before him he had travelled swiftly through the portal at the sacred pool to find himself back on the beach near where they had arrived originally in Nemuria; just down the hill from the Dromogite's Lair.

He was soaked through to the skin but the air was warm and he knew he'd dry out quickly as he scrambled to his feet. Looking up he saw Melody and Spellbound further up the shoreline, laying back on the sand relaxing. Eddie called out to them and they waved, laughing at his bedraggled state as they had already dried out and were looking out to sea waiting for his arrival.

Eddie followed their gaze to see an orange cloud appear on the horizon and drawing closer. As the clouds cleared they saw a magikal sight; Nerela and Aaron, who was holding Missy in his arms, floated above the water as if they were walking upon it. They glided towards them and stepped onto the shore bone dry with not a drop of water on them.

*'Shall we head up to the Dromogite's Lair, as it's not long before the twilight of the blood moon?'* Nerela asked nonchalantly as if floating above the water was a normal everyday occurrence.

After their time of preparation at Nerela's palace they all felt ready to commence the Earth Ceremony to reveal the secrets long hidden from the world, as they climbed up the hill towards the Dromogites's Lair. As they moved upwards they noticed they were no longer alone and could see that word had gotten out and many female warriors were heading towards the apex of the Lair, where the Earth Ceremony would take place.

Once they arrived at the entrance to the Lair, Mai, Nerela's lady in waiting appeared carrying their white and gold ceremonial robes, along with headdresses for each of

them. Each headdress held a large aqua aura crystal at its centre. They slipped the ceremonial robes over their own clothes and Mai placed the headdresses on their heads.

Nemurian warriors from across the land as well as many other women who'd received the calling and returned home to attend the ceremony and help raise the feminine energy so they could welcome the Dromogites home, as decreed as part of the Second Quest.

Hundreds, maybe thousands of female warriors old and young alike (*Eddie lost count after five hundred*) could be seen as far as the eye could see, waiting for their Queen to guide them. While Aaron, Nerela, Spellbound, Eddie, Melody, Missy and the silver sprites Erik and Mo arrived at the cave entrance.

Nerela placed the large Ruby Gem at the entrance to the cave and with a clear and vibrant voice she spoke in the language of the Dromogites. Her words became faster and her voice resonated loudly as she raised her arms to the sky and then down to the ground for the Earth Ritual as the sun began to dip and the light started to fade as twilight came upon them.

Aaron quietly explained that Nerela was inviting the Dromogites to come home in an ancient language from the times of the mighty ones, but now long forgotten in this land. She called to them, telling them they were much needed at this time, simultaneously raising her staff as the aqua aura at its apex lit up. This started a chain reaction lighting up all the aqua aura crystals in the many headdresses that adorned the warriors and those of Spellbound, Eddie and Melody. Beaming out the powerful energy of the aqua aura crystals; the life blood of Andalustria, and all the worlds.

It was a magical sight to behold, Melody thought as the powerful aqua aura light rays focused on the entrance to the Lair and Nerela started swaying rhythmically like a sensuous snake. They could feel the beat through the earth underfoot as it shifted with the rhythmic swaying movement of the many warriors dancing in unison on the orange earth. Nerela moved her arms up and down like a wave flowing with the rhythm of mother earth as the sensuous calling of the feminine energy started balancing the flow of nature around them.

From above it looked like a giant wave gyrating and moving with the flow of the many women calling the ancient mystical creature back to its full nature on this land. They continued moving, swaying, humming and calling the Dromogite home for some time; intoxicated by the collective feminine energy working alongside the masculine power of Aaron, Spellbound and Eddie who were also moving rhythmically at Nerela's instruction, all working together as one for the highest good in the worlds.

Slowly they began to feel a stirring close to the entrance of the cave. Or was it just the ground moving underfoot from all the people moving and swaying, Eddie was unsure. No there was definitely a stirring in the energy he thought, as they continued to move in unison.

Eddie saw the last rays of the sun flicker on an outline of something truly huge by the entrance to the cave... and then it was gone.

The sky was darkening as the moon continued its ascent, deepening into the richness of the full blood red moon, shining out the magical colour of this annual occurrence, bathing the dancers in a warm glowing orange red light as they swayed on the earth below.

They felt the earth shudder and a loud crack sounded as the earth by the Lair's entrance started to shake and crack as the swaying warriors continued their dance and the earth split open. A deep crack opened up in the earth and glints of green, brown and violet started to slowly appear. Some of the warriors were startled, but Nerela encouraged everyone to continue the now much gentler rocking motion, as they continued to call the Dromogite back home where it belonged.

Smooth greeny brown scales, shot through with a shimmery sheen of violet blue emerged in the cracked earth under the glow of the blood red moon. Yellow eyes flickered as the creature gradually came into full vision reviewing its terrain. Thorny triangles rose along its spine and it spread and unfolded its huge leathery wings. The Dromogite's face was that of a much loved horse but covered in the same shiny leather scales and it silently flicked its ears from side to side.

On first appearance the Dromogite looked like a dragon/horse, with wide nostrils blowing out steam as it processed its surrounding and the energetic odours of this land.

Lifting its giant head it stretched its neck high into the knightly forest, never missing a movement as it purred with satisfaction, knowing all was well in its domain.

People often feared its size at first sight, not realising the ancient Dromogite was a gentle guardian and carried the secrets of the symbolic keys; able to wake the army that lay in their earthen tomb awaiting the call to come to aid of the land.

Its scales glistened, mirroring all around it, yet it felt soft as fur to the touch. Is it a dragon, horse, dog or cat? Resembling aspects of a Jurassic age filled with the armoured ones. Long has it rested guarding the tomb, as do its brothers and sisters around the worlds; peacefully awaiting the elemental alignment which is now nearing its time.

As the Dromogite stretched its long limbs, Squiggins appeared out of nowhere running up and down the beasts spine with their tiny shoes, loosening its muscles, as it re-awakened with the movement of each stretch. The Squiggins are friends of the ancient one, as are all the creatures of this land, knowing its nature and the wisdom of the ages it brings with it. They begin to work together as the time draws close.

Awakening to awareness of the many that have gathered here to honour this mighty creature, the majestic Dromogite stands and speaks to all in attendance on this magikal day.

### **Dromogite Awakening**

*'My size is no reflection of my gentle heart, though I will fight the good fight  
when the mighty are needed.*

*I am a Dromogite, protector and protected.  
Made of Fire, air, water and earth, I breathe.  
Precious beyond measure, I live within my centre;  
my peace unfazed by the shifts taking place.'*

*Our magik is in the might of our connection to the earth and the sky,  
as the knowing of nature's ancient courses runs through our blood of gold.*

*'We are Magikal creatures made of this earth; carrying both the darkness and the light.*

*Our existence transcends and connects the elements as each season and year  
unfolds.*

*For those with fear in their heart, we strike a terrifying presence.*

*For those with love in their heart, we resemble your most loving protector.*

*'I am a mirror of the soul, I am a Dromogite'*

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The majestic creature stood to its full height reaching high into the surrounding trees as it nuzzled and munched on the leaves and rubbed its head back and forth on the branches, scratching the itch behind its ear.

Nerela pushed Eddie forward as she knew he had been chosen as the one to connect with the Dromogite, as he had known it was here and had deciphered the message about the second quest.

Although Eddie was excited at being chosen, he was also nervous as he knew he had felt fear in his heart at times, so he didn't want that reflected back to him in this giant creature. But he remembered his intentions to be more focused, brave and grounded and took a deep breath, felt his feet on the earth beneath him and cautiously moved towards the creature.

He was tentative, yet excited to be connecting with such a magnificent creature, he knew this was a great honour for him. He could never have imagined a few years ago that he would be standing here about to talk to a Dromogite, in a magikal land alongside his aunt, a Nemurian Queen. It was the things magikal stories were made of not something you expected to actually happen and live through in real life. It was quite unbelievable really!

At times in the past, he had found it hard to work out what was real and what was his imagination, as he had a very creative other life in his head. But now he'd found that his real life, between his own world and Andalusia was actually more magical and exciting than his imagination could ever have created.

Eddie stepped towards the Dromogite and felt the need to bow down deeply to the ground with his whole body before the giant creature. As he brought himself back upright he looked up and saw the Dromogite looking down at him with its almond shaped yellow eyes, and it appeared to be smiling. It really did look like Dragon, but with a horse like muzzle and ears with fur covering its face on top of the shimmering leathery scales. It was definitely something to behold and he felt very privileged to be in its presence.

*'Why have you summoned me, how can I help you?'* the Dromogite asked as he leaned his huge head lower to bring it alongside Eddie's body.

*'There's an evil ogre who is disrupting the balance of energy across all the lands and all the worlds are in trouble as he has stolen the Chalice of Anadulstria and is using its powerful energy to influence great leaders to join his quest for power. We are trying to find a way to bring about the return of the Knights of Nardor to reclaim the Chalice of Andalustria so that the worlds can be brought back into balance. We have been sent on quest to recover the gems and symbols that will awaken the Knights.'* Eddie explained.

*'I'm aware of this, but how can I help You, Eddie?'* the Dromogite replied getting straight to the point.

Eddie wasn't sure what to say as he hadn't really thought about what he needed, especially not from this ancient creature. So he pressed paused, took a breath and focused his mind to get clear about his intention and what he really needed from this majestic being. Taking a breath, he felt his feet on the orange earth, put his hand on his stomach and breathed in, holding his Illuminator Sphere in his other hand; which he had carried it with him throughout their quest. It often helped him focus his mind, emotions and body so they worked in collaborative intelligence. Then he found he was able to become clearer about his purpose, his intention and the actions he needed to take in any given moment.

After reconnecting more fully with himself he was ready to answer the Dromogite, who was now sitting comfortably in front of him like a large cat, resting on its haunches with its eyes gentle closed, but ever vigilant to all around.

*'I would really like to understand the lesson of the two Earth quests and to know what we need to do next please.'* He said in quite a squeaky voice. Even though he was clearer about what he wanted and was able to express it, he still felt a little nervous standing in front of this huge creature.

*'Those are valuable questions and I will do my best to answer them in a way that will be helpful for you Eddie.'* The Dromogite said. Eddie wondered how the Dromogite knew his name, but decided it wasn't worth thinking too much about, as anything could happen here in this magikal land.

*'For the Knights to be woken you will need to collect the gems and symbols of the four elements, which you will do by undertaking the seven quests successfully AND learning their lessons'*. the Dromogite explained.



## Chapter 10

# Lessons of the Earth

*'The first element of Earth required you to take two quests, which you have all completed successfully. As obviously I am here before you.'* The Dromogite said with a chuckle, as it moved a giant arm with long gold talons along its body to show its full form.

*'The first quest of Earth was to claim the giant ruby which Aaron is now the guardian of for safe keeping. What do you think that lesson was all about Eddie, as it was for you to know and understand as it is for Melody too?'* the Dromogite said gesturing for Melody to join Eddie in front of him.

Missy jumped out of Melody's arms as she'd decided that she should be with Eddie too and ran to stand by his side looking up at the huge Dromogite with inquisitive excitement as Melody came forward to also stand with them.

*'Can I answer that?'* Melody asked.

The Dromogite nodded at her request.

*'Well I'm not completely sure',* she said tentatively. *'But I think the lesson's about understanding and knowing where you belong. Where you belong within yourself and with your family and friends, your tribe, and where you belong within the earth you live on.'* Melody explained.

*'I also think it has something to do with Father energy, whether it's your real Father or a Father figure, or male guide of some sort.'* She said looking over at Spellbound shyly, feeling the deep connection they now had but not really understanding what exactly it was, or what it meant to her.

Melody's explanation made sense to Eddie and he chimed in adding his understanding of things. *'Yes, I think it's definitely to do with Male energy and being pro-active and taking action to get things done. It's like our roots, the foundation of all things.'* Eddie expounded

*'You are both correct.'* The Dromogite said. *'As quests evolve you'll understand what each of these lessons mean specifically for each of you. Just as we need Collaborative Intelligence to utilise our full power; having our mind, our emotions, our body and our spirit communicating together and working alongside each other as a team to enhance our lives. We also need the Four Elements – Earth, Fire, Water and Air working in unison, so we don't just survive, but live our lives fully. The Seven Quests are part of the life lessons we all seek to master as we live each day.'*

*'When we utilise all the gifts and talents we have within us and all we have in the world around us to make the most of our lives, we truly thrive.'* The Dromogite told them. *'When we master these things we can live in full alignment with nature and live to our own fullest potential.'* He said.

*'Does anyone ever master all of these things, it seems an awful lot to learn?'* Eddie said with a worried look on his face, which made everyone laugh, even the Dromogite smiled at this small young man in front of him.

*'The reason you're being called to discover these elements and learn these life's lesson is to allow you to develop your own internal support system and ways of using or channeling them. By choosing to use them and learning to use them more and more you will feel more confident, have more energy, be clearer about your intentions, what you want and how best to go about achieving a happier more fulfilled life in collaboration with the worlds, for the highest good of all.'* The wise Dromogite explained..

*'None of this is something you 'have to do' Eddie, everything is always a choice. You choose what you take on board and what you use, even if you can't always choose what happens in life, you can always choose how you respond'*. Aaron added from behind him.

Nerela stepped forward and put a hand on her nephews shoulder. *'Relax Eddie, just take on one lesson at a time, stay in the present moment and give it breathing space to land in your body, then you will uncover what it means to you personally and how you can use it when the time is right. You don't have to do everything at once. Just stay in each moment as it comes. **Press Pause** and ground yourself whenever you feel overwhelmed with too much information'*. His aunt encouraged.

*'Yes I do feel a bit overwhelmed with all this information and trying to work out what it all means.'* Eddie said.

*'And I feel overwhelmed with so much responsibility to find the answers to save the worlds, it's quite a lot to handle.'* Melody shared.

*'It's good that you're sharing your fears and concerns.'* Aaron said coming forward. *'We all feel burdened with too many responsibilities at times, as we grow and learn to manage things in life, that's quite normal. So relax now and release your worries as they're easier to deal with if you do.'* he said.

*'As Nerela said, Press Pause, get grounded and use your CQ to reconnect to your centre. Then your mind will become much clearer about the steps you need to take. Grounding and centring yourself in this way will help you to align with your instincts and intuition so you can see the actions you need to take for the outcomes you want. It'll also help you to feel safer, more relaxed and more confident in what you are doing so you can start the next part of your quest in the right frame of mind and head in the right direction.'* Aaron reminded them.

*'That's what Morgana taught us about Collaborative Intelligence, isn't it?'* Melody asked looking for reassurance that she was on the right track.

*'Indeed Melody, that's right.'* Aaron reassured.

*'Don't worry about what each quest's lesson means to you specifically just yet, unless it's obvious at the time, as it will unfold as the journey continues. But it's important that you understand the overall lesson of each quest is for everyone.'* The Dromogite stated.

*'So what have the Earth Quests meant to you so far Melody?'* The Dromogite asked.

*'Well so far I feel far more connected with Spellbound and to our little quest team and I feel more in touch with the earth; which is giving me a greater sense of myself. If that makes sense.'* She said as the others all nodded in agreement.

*'And I feel a greater connection to my heritage and my aunt Nerela. I've gained a much deeper bond to this land of Nemuria, as my ancestral home.'* Eddie added.

*'So what of the Second Earth Quest?'* the mighty armoured one asked.

*'Well I think it's about working together to make things happen, as you do with relationships or friendships or a developing a team.'* Eddie said. *'As it took the energy of the whole tribe moving and working together in unison to bring you back.'* Eddie continued.

*'Yes, and using and connecting with all of our senses; smell, taste and touch along with rhythmic movement and sounds to get connected with Mother Earth and the feminine energy in all of us; both men and woman to increase our strength and passion towards our intentions. Raising that energy made me feel alive, flowing with nature and at one with everyone and everything around me.'* Melody added.

*'This is indeed true. What you have both experienced is all part of the Earth Quests'.* The Dromogite acknowledged.

*'But we don't know how or where to get the gem or symbol for the second quest'.* Said Spellbound, stating out loud what everyone else was thinking.

At this the Dromogite got up from its cat like resting position. *'I am here to help you with that but before we go any further let me introduce myself properly. I am Dakarai, I am a Dromogite of the light and my name means 'Happiness'. I will guide you on your quests' whenever and wherever I am able to.'* The Dromogite declared as he stood to his full height.

Dakarai then lifted a giant claw and with his talons drew a golden symbol in the air. Creating a figure eight sign lying on its side as gold poured from his talons. The Dromogite then blew a burst of firey flames with its breath onto the symbol, which startled everyone and showed them just how powerful this creature really was. They were very glad he'd said he was a Dromogite of the 'light'.

Dakarai took the symbol and placed it on the ground in front of Spellbound. *'Here is the symbol from your 2nd Earth Quest. You now have all you need to move onto the next quest... The Fire Quest!'*

They looked at each other in awe as the still smoking symbol on the ground glinted up at them. What an amazing thing to witness they all thought in unison as they wondered what the fire quest would entail.

*'The Fire Quest requires only three of your questors; Eddie, Melody and Spellbound'.*

Dakarai said in a commanding tone.

*'What about Missy, what's going to happen to her?'* Eddie said concerned for his wee old dog.

*'Don't worry Eddie I'll take care of Missy.'* said Aaron. *'She's weary after her exertions and needs to rest and replenish her resources. She can come back to Nardor Lagoon with me'.*

It was easy to forget how old Missy was as she always tried to keep up with everything Eddie was doing but she was nearly 15 years old in human years; which in dog years was over 100 years old, so she was really quite amazing. But she was bound to be very tired after all their adventures and a rest would do her good.

*'Goodness I don't know if she'll go with you Aaron as she's very connected to me and usually causes a right hulla balloo if I try to leave her with a anyone else?'* Eddie said.

*'Well let's ask her Eddie. What do you think Missy, are you happy to come with me and wait for Eddie back at Nardor?'* Aaron said to the small, brave dog who loved the adventure she was on with her human and mystical friends. At this Missy barked loudly, running round and around licking Eddie, Melody and Spellbound before jumping up into Aaron's arms and curling up, completely content to get some rest and stay with this wise old man.

*'I will take the ruby gem and the gold symbol from the Earth Quest back to Nardor with me for safe keeping, as we will need them later I would imagine'.* Aaron said and they all nodded their approval at his suggestion.

*'So what do we need to do?'* Eddie asked his curiosity getting the better of him.

*'The three of you are coming with me'.* Dakarai said as the three adventurers eyes widened in surprise and a touch of fear at the prospect of travelling with this giant creature. Stunned into silence, they stood like statues until the huge armoured one started to get up and move towards them.

Goodness it was huge, Eddie thought, he couldn't remember seeing anything this big before and they didn't even know if Dakarai was a he or she; maybe they should ask, or was that just rude?

Aaron moved towards them to say his goodbye's then climbed on Erador's back with Missy and they took off into the distance. The three of them then collected themselves together as Nerela stood on a hillock, thanking all her warriors then ordering them to disburse and go back about their businesses.

Then she said goodbye to the Melody, Spellbound and her dear nephew Eddie. *'I am so proud of you dear nephew, your parents will be so excited to hear all you are doing here in Andalustria. I will get a message to your mother to let her know you are alright and making wonderful progresses with the Elemental Quests'*. Nerela said as she lifted her nephew high in the air and hugged him to her. Eddie had grown considerably since she had last seen him and she was surprised at how grown-up he was becoming for someone in his early teen years. She then hugged Melody who was also blossoming into a lovely young lady and embraced her old friend Spellbound; wishing them a safe journey as they went on to the challenge of the Fire Quest, with Dakarai the Dromogite.

# Chapter 11

## Three Adventurers

Despite the trepidation she saw in the faces of the three adventurers, Nerela had no fear about sending them off with the Dromogite to fulfil the Fire Quest, as she knew the ancient one would take care of them throughout this next challenge.

*'Is there a message to go with the Fire Quest that we can follow?'* Melody asked Dakarai.

*'Yes... I am the message!'* said the Dromogite with a grin, making them all laugh and become more relaxed, realising that the creature had a good sense of humour.

*'Climb on.'* The Dromogite said lowering his shimmering body to the ground so they could climb onto its back. *'Spellbound you need to be at the front by my neck.'* Dakarai said as they helped each other up, climbing onto the Dromogites' knee, then it's hip, before clambering up onto its spikey back.

Spellbound managed the climb first, then he hauled Melody and Eddie up onto Dakarai's back to join him.

*'Can I sit between you?'* Melody asked. *'As it makes me a bit nervous that we have no idea where we're going or what we need to do and I'd feel happier between the two of you.'* She said.

*'Remember your intention Melody, to be relaxed, joyful and courageous.'* Spellbound reminded her as she settled between them.

*'We didn't know what was going to happen with the other quests Melody, or last time we were here. So it's no different this time, don't worry.'* Eddie reassured her. Melody often did the same for him when he was feeling anxious.

*'You're both right, I'm going to take a moment to **Press Pause** and remind myself that this could be a fun adventure if I let it be and I'm going to buckle on my suit of courage too.'* She said closing her eyes and pressing pause for a moment to visualise putting on her imaginary suit of courage; which made her feel a lot better about the whole adventure.

Eddie knew that even though Melody had been fine to go with the flow before, she could only go so long without a plan, otherwise she started to get what they called *'speed wobbles'* and needed reassurance that everything would be ok, whether they knew what was around the corner or not. He'd often felt the same himself so he could appreciate how she felt.

*'We can use the Tangible Magik Fear Formula' while we're flying with the Dromogite if you like Melody?'*

*'Yes please that would make me feel a lot better'*. Melody responded with a nod.

Eddie reflected how amazing it was that it didn't matter how confident a person you were or how often you could go with the flow, even with new or unexpected situations. There were also times when fear reared its head and new or unknown situations or things could throw you into overload; making you feel jangled by everything, sometimes at the most unexpected of moments and in the most unusual ways. So it was good to learn and accept that this was just a normal part of life and having some formulas and Tangible Magik insights to use quickly to help you feel safe, relaxed and more confident. Rather than judging yourself or anyone else... was brilliant.

As they climbed closer to Dakarai's neck he lowered the spines on his back so they could sit comfortably and feel secure without getting hurt, as his spines were pretty spikey. His shimmering scales of greeny brown also glistened a bluey purple sheen, glinting in the sunlight, yet the scales felt as soft as rabbit fur, which made a lovely cushion for their bottoms to get comfortable for the journey.

The Dromogite raised his talons once again and drew a saddle with a sturdy pomel of gold in the air which transformed into a golden leather saddle as he blew it over his neck and it magikally buckled itself in place around his enormous chest. This would definitely help them to feel safe and give them something to hold onto once they started moving. Dakarai spread his huge leathery dragon-like wings and took a couple of steps forward as the three remaining adventurers adjusted themselves on his back before take-off.



Then, one, two, three, four, giant steps forward, wings outstretched and flapping with strong wide strokes the giant creature took to the air at what felt like break neck speed they were travelling so fast they felt like they were on a supersonic plane.

*'Goodness I didn't expect it to move so fast'*, Spellbound thought impressed by the speed of the mighty creature. Over all the years Spellbound had been in Andalusia he had never seen or even heard about the Dromogites. He wondered if this was the only Dromogite, or if there were many as Dakarai had mentioned 'We' when he made his initial introduction. He was enjoying the exhilarating experience of being at the helm of this giant creature holding onto the golden pommel, he had no illusion that he was in charge of this mighty creature, he knew Dakarai held his own destiny in his hands. . This experience reminded him how he'd felt when he was a Knight of Nardor, before he'd been transformed into the furry orange creature he resembled today. It felt good to remember the energy of Knighthood with all its challenges and its glory, with a clear purpose to protect the realm of Andalusia. He really hoped that one day if they could retrieve the Chalice from Rick to bring it back home, he could become that Knight once again.

They were each lost in their own thoughts about the next quest, as they flew on the Dromogite's back.

Melody was working through the Tangible Magik fear formula in her mind, eyes closed, breathing deeply as she allowed herself to uncover what was frightening her so that she could release it and feel more relaxed, courageous and joyful; as was her intention.

Whilst Eddie was day dreaming about what the Fire Quest might be all about!

Eddie didn't need to wait long as they were very quickly covering a huge amount of ground with the supersonic speed the Dromogite flew at. So that in no time at all they were flying back over Andalusia; a place which was becoming very familiar to Eddie and Melody after all their travels.

They made a steep arc, heading in the direction of Morgana's portal and almost immediately they could see her cottage and the small bridge far below, where they had met Edward the friendly ogre last time they were here. As they circled above the

cottage they could feel Morgana's presence in the place; which was comforting and energising, and exactly what they needed to prepare for the fire quest.

But it seemed they weren't stopping at Morgana's as they continued flying on towards and then over the tops of the snow-capped mountains, veering lower as they skimmed alongside the mountain range. As they flew over the peak of the highest mountain they noticed that within the mountain sat a huge crater that seemed to be spewing out smoke and steam in intermittent bursts.

As they dropped lower and lower the Dromogite's passengers become increasingly uneasy as they realised they were actually going to land in the crater!

Dakarai alighted a little way from the edge of the crater, encouraging his passengers to disembark onto the spongy surface; which none of them were keen to do at all.

*'The Fire Quest is about overcoming your fear and managing your egos; as you claim and acknowledge your full worth; within yourselves and within your world. It will require each of you to use the lessons you have learnt from your previous quests and your connection with the earth and each other to work together as a team to claim the prize.'* Dakarai told them.

*'Are you coming with us?'* Melody asked hopefully.

*'No, I will leave you shortly as this is not my path at this time. But you will see me again in the near future.'* Dakarai said smiling at Melody to bolster her strength as she would need it.

*'You will however meet my sister shortly. She will test your resilience and your worthiness for your quest's fulfilment.'* Dakarai relayed this information watching the look of terror pass over their faces.

Goodness another Dromogite, well that answers that question, there was more than one, thought Spellbound.

Melody, who had just gone through the fear process to calm her anxiety over the quest felt her apprehension starting to rise again at this latest news. Whilst Eddie's whole body seemed to have frozen as he sat bolt upright, like he'd been struck by a stun gun.

*'Fear will not serve you in this place. Even though it's normal to feel fear, you need to overcome it by working together; using your minds, your purposeful hearts and staying present in your bodies so you can respond to the challenges that are presented.'* Dakarai said encouraging them.

*'My sister is not really bad as she and I share similar qualities but she likes to play with the dark side for fun and to challenge herself and if she feels your fear she will use it against you. So if you want to overcome the Fire Quest you will need to bring love into your hearts in whatever way you can. As she will act as a mirror to your soul and your intentions and can only reflect what you are holding inside yourselves.'* Dakarai the Dromogite of the Light instructed.

*'Her name is Drala and she loves to create drama and mayhem, regardless of its impact on others. But if you can stand up to her with a clear heart and own your own issues proudly, she will have no choice but to back down. You need to hold onto and remember these things as once she starts playing with you it's easy to get lost in the chaos and confusion she can cause.'* he warned.

*'What can we do?'* Melody asked seeming confused as if she hadn't heard what Dakarai had said. She was feeling pretty scared with all he had told them and hadn't actually taken in any of his advice in her panic.

*'Stay in the Light, Stay in Your Heart, Connect with the Earth and each other and you will be fine dear one.'* The Dromogite responded.

*'Before you begin this quest I wish to give you my 'Personal Power Blessing' for this Fire Quest which will serve you well on this mission and all others as you raise your personal power and claim your birth rights.'* Dakarai said.

They looked wide eyed at each other, then back at Dakarai as they took a deep breath and centred themselves in preparation to receive the magikal blessing from this majestic creature as the Dromogite began sharing his gift of light with them to help them on their quests.

# **'Personal Power Blessing'**

*I offer you these blessings to receive the gifts of worthiness,  
self-confidence, personal power and intuition.*

*Let the fire of inspiration burn through any negative energy,  
any out of time energy, and anything that no longer serves you,  
cleansing and healing that which is past its time.*

*The brightest gold is forged through the hottest fire  
You are that Gold!*

*Let the divine flames of inspiration ignite your purpose, giving you  
the strength to step into your full magnificence.*

*Let your golden light of personal power shine out, as you offer  
your unique gifts to make the difference in the world  
that only each of you can make.*

*Be fully present as your intuition guides you on your path as you step  
into the wholeness of who you are.*

*As your own sun rises, let its warm glow wrap you in divine love  
as you step up to create your own destiny.*

*As you shine your light, you give others permission to do the same,  
lighting the lights of many, as you walk your path in this lifetime  
fully empowered in the way that is only yours.*

*I offer you the gift of fire to light your way through the dark,  
as you step through the veil of uncertainty to reclaim  
your true self in all its glory.*

*Let the unity of souls draw in what is needed for each creature  
in our worlds, to expand these magikal gifts for all.*

*So shall it be!'*

As Dakarai shared his personal power blessing, the three adventurers could feel the rush of power and a deep sense of safety and peace flood through them as the vibrant energy of the light coursed its way into every cell in their body. Their hairs stood on end as the mighty Dromogite bestowed his sacred gift on them.

Spellbound looked like a giant orange hedgehog as his fur stood to attention as if he'd been electrocuted, a massive grin spread across his face as he experienced a rush of energy throughout his whole body.

Eddie tried to stifle a giggle that burst out of him, as the electrifying energy tickled its way round and through him and he felt the warm glow spreading everywhere, making his red curly hair stand on end. He too experienced a sense of power which made him feel as if he could overcome anything as his own unique personal power exploded through his whole being.

Melody felt a deep sense of appreciation as tears pricked the corner of her eyes, as she recognised with great reverence the enormous value of the gift this mighty creature of the light had bestowed upon them.

The three adventurers felt uplifted, empowered and truly grateful to this magnificent creature who had shared his magik with them to help them prepare for this next quest on this amazing journey.

*'Thank you for your wisdom..... we will be very mindful of your advice and forever grateful for your golden gift of personal power'*. Melody said stroking Dakarai with much gratitude for his precious gift. As well as the invaluable information about Drala, as she moved into a mind focused place within herself to prepare for the potential battle ahead.

Eddie felt in his pocket for his Illuminator Sphere to help add to his courage for the quest ahead and nodded to Melody to do the same with her own Illuminator Sphere. Whilst Spellbound looked around for anything he might be able to use as a weapon against Drala if needed, as he had a feeling that might be necessary.

*'Weapons are of little use with Drala as she can overpower most things of that nature.'*  
Dakarai said.

*'But I have another gift to help you achieve your Fire Quest. It's a cloud of invisibility. But, you must only use it for a few minutes in short bursts, as it will suck up your oxygen if you use it for longer and you won't be able to breathe. This is the gift of the Dromogite, not of human's or Spellbounds'.* He said grinning as only Dakarai could do.

As he spoke a silver ring with scales appeared on Eddie and Melody's middle fingers and a bangle appeared on Spellbound's arm that would activate the invisibility cloud should they need it.

*'When you want to activate the invisibility cloud, just turn your ring round until it glows. But remember only use it in small bursts, or it will work against you'.* The Dromogite warned.

Eddie was mesmerized by the ring and started turning it as he always liked to try things out straight away. A cloud suddenly appeared over Eddie and he completely disappeared in front of their eyes.

*'Bring yourself back by turning the ring again.'* Dakarai explained as Eddie did as he was told and appeared back in front of them.

*'Wow, that's really cool.'* Eddie said excitedly. *'I could use this in all sorts of situations to get out of tight spots, or even to find out what other people were getting up to.'* He said cheekily looking over at Melody who blushed as he looked at her.

*'What are we looking for.'* Spellbound asked. *'Will we know or can you tell us as it's always good to know what you're looking for on a quest where possible?'* Spellbound asked hopefully, thinking it unlikely the Dromogite would tell them.

*'You are looking for a golden citrine crystal ball.'* Dakarai said seeing a deep appreciation on all of their faces for the information he'd imparted.

*'Remember you can also call on your own helpers if needed, your Sprites, the Devas and the Squiggins of this land. But aim to use your own CQ to increase your resilience, and work together, as it's important for you to claim your own personal power for this quest.'* He concluded.

*'Now I must take my leave.'* Dakarai said as he bowed his giant head. Then before they could say another word, he took off into the sky at supersonic speed, leaving them all feeling a sense of trepidation at the prospect of facing Drala!

## Chapter 12

# Keeper of the Fire

The three adventurers looked at each other, wide eyed after being left in such a barren place with no clear guidance of what to do next; other than what to avoid doing.... feel fear. Which realistically was almost impossible to do knowing what lay ahead and all three of them were feeling pretty fearful following Dakarai's description of his sister Drala.

*'Ok let's make a plan.'* said Melody, as she thought this was the best thing to do right now. *'Where's the most likely place to find a golden citrine crystal ball?'* Melody looked at Spellbound, thinking he might know these lands and the sort of place where this sort of gem might be found.

*'I really have no idea.'* Spellbound replied. *'But if it is a natural crystal it's the gem we need to retrieve for the Fire Quest. So I would hazard a guess that it is likely to be near or around fire.'*

*'That seems logical.'* Melody said in her very best scientific voice; something she'd decided to adopt in an attempt to overcome the terror she was feeling rising in her body at the thought of the firey, mean Dromogite who wanted to play games with them.

They both looked at Eddie hoping he might come up with a bright idea. But Eddie didn't say a word, he just sat down on the ground with the soles of his feet firmly on the earth and his palms touching the soil. He shut his eyes and took a deep breath and just sat very, very still.

Melody and Spellbound looked at each other raising their hands in the air. Had Eddie given up, was he too scared to move? it was unlike him to go quiet and not communicate with them; especially as Dakarai had told them to work together. Melody's fear suddenly developed horns and turned into a red hot anger at Eddie. What was he doing, why had he bailed out on them, especially at a time like this, she thought.

Spellbound could see what was happening to Melody as he had experienced something similar himself when he had first been transformed into the furry creature he was today



and had felt very frightened. His transformation had set him off and he had gone from extreme fear to extreme rage in an instant as his survival mechanism had kicked in. He realised that this was a normal protective reaction to help overcome the debilitating feelings fear can induce. It wasn't something that you consciously did but sometimes an unconscious reaction to the stress that was brought on by fear, which could sometimes be just as destructive.

*'Melody come over here.'* He said. *'Let's go and find out what Eddie is doing as I have a feeling he's using his intuitive skills to try and gain some information that we can use.'* He said gently putting a comforting arm around the enraged young woman and gently steering her towards Eddie.

Melody felt comforted by Spellbound's touch and the rage softened as she took a deep breath; not realising that she had been holding her breath and hardly breathing at all. Once she realised this she started doing some deep breathing, down to her stomach. Feeling her feet on the ground and placing her other hand on her stomach to try to stabilise herself. Then she felt in her pocket for her Illuminator Sphere as it always helped her feel more connected and calm.

It was amazing how the gentle touch of someone that cared for you and a soft soothing tone, could quickly bring you out of the unconsciously reactive emotion of uncontrollable rage that had been set off by a fear impulse. Gradually she managed to calm the anger so it became only a mild irritation at Eddie's odd behaviour.

*'What are you doing Eddie?'* Spellbound asked gently aware that Eddie was swaying back and forth on the ground.

Eddie took a breath and spoke *'I am tuning into the earth and communicating with her as I was drawn to do as soon as Dakarai left'*.

*'Is it working, is the earth telling you anything?'* Melody asked in a sarcastic voice. Hearing herself speak to Eddie in this way made her draw her breath in with shock as she had never spoken to him in this way ever before, nor lost her temper with him. What was going on, it was most unlike her to react so emotionally and aggressively, most unlike her. She thought.

*'I'm hearing a rumble in the earth, I think it is Drala moving about as she knows we're here and has already tuned into our energy and is starting her games.'* Eddie said sagely.

Ahhh that must be what's going on with Melody, as she never struck me as an emotionally reactive girl or an angry one, so this behaviour was very out of character, Spellbound thought.

*'Drala's messing with Melody's head.'* Eddie said. *'Hoping to turn us against each other so we are weakened and she can take over.'* He said.

Melody heard what Eddie said and realised it was true, she'd never felt like this towards Eddie before and it made her even more angry but strangely not towards Drala but towards Eddie.

*'Stop it!'* She said to Eddie, *'Stop pretending you're something you're not; you're not a wise one, you're just a boy with a big imagination that lets his dreams run away with him.'* She said angrily.

Spellbound looked at Melody his eyes widening and mouth opening in shock at her words.

Eddie just sat still breathing deeply despite Melody's verbal attack, he stayed centred and kept tuning into the earth as something new shifted beneath him. He started to feel the fire beneath the ground and felt warmed and charged by its energy, whilst still maintaining his centre.

*'Spellbound can you sit on the ground with Melody and put your arms around her and care for her.... even if she resists please.'* Eddie asked of his furry friend.

Melody screwed her nose in disgust. *'What are you talking about you stupid boy, you can't order people around, who do you think you are, just because your Mother's a Nemurian you think you're special. Well you're not!'*

Spellbound ignored Melody's outburst as she clearly wasn't herself and he believed Eddie words about Melody having been taken over by some outside force that was trying to control her. This behaviour was the total opposite of Melody's usually calm, logical demeanour. He put his arms around her and held her close, talking in soothing,

calming words and sending her love. Melody resisted pushing at his arms but he was much stronger than her and he held her tightly continuing to try and calm her.

Meanwhile Eddie kept tuning into the earth, feeling the fire energy building in him as he searched with his instincts and his intuition to uncover where to find the golden citrine crystal ball. He could sense it and knew it was close but he just couldn't see it. He kept going as he knew in his heart that this was the best way to uncover the secret of the Fire Quest.

Under the earth he felt the drama of Drala rising as she was annoyed she had only been able to impact one of them, so far. He knew that he needed to find the gem soon or she would make things worse and he might not be able to resist her energy if she amped it up further.

Deep in the earth near the fire he felt a wise one, not Drala but a younger one, a wise one. What was it, would it help him he wondered. He tuned into this younger wise one and called to it for help. In his mind he sent a message to this creature *'We are here on the Quest of Fire to claim the prize so we can help save the worlds and bring things into balance, can you help us please?* He asked of the creature deep in the earth with his mind and thoughts.

Melody was fighting to get loose from Spellbound, but he still held her close sending her love and speaking to her with calming words to help her overcome the demons that had enthralled her right now.

Eddie waited breathing, sending love to this creature deep in the ground. This creature might be their only hope to overcome Drala's mind manipulation as she tried to take and play with their energies for her own amusement. In his mind's eye he saw the creature turning and lifting its wing to show Eddie the golden citrine orb and he knew this creature would work with them to overcome Drala and give them the gem to fulfil their quest. But how could they retrieve the golden citrine and what if all of this was just in his mind and not real? Eddie wondered.

Eddie started to feel a shred of doubt as he felt Drala began to try to get into his head with her mind control. He heard her laugh, a loud cackling hyena shriek rumbling through the earth, moving and shaking the ground.

Suddenly, Melody managed to get free from Spellbound's hold. Running at Eddie she started hitting him over and over as she shouted evil words at him; as if he was the worst person in the world, an enemy and she was fighting for her life. Eddie tried to ward off her blows, whilst not losing his centre, which was almost impossible to do.

Spellbound ran over pulling Melody off Eddie; pinning her down and restricting her movements, despite her kicking and screaming as if someone was trying to kill her. Finally managing to overpower her so he could hold her down and she couldn't move.

A loud shrieking sound came from the crater, as a huge jet of steam gushed up into the air. And with it came Drala!

Eddie fell backward onto the ground overcome with fear as the giant Dromogite headed straight towards him blowing fire from her nostrils, shrieking loudly. She's terrifying he thought even though he'd seen Dakarai, he was tame compared to the sight of this angry, and obviously dangerous and angry Dromogite, that could strike terror into the hearts of men and woman. Eddie thought as he stayed down on the ground trying to regain his centre.

Spellbound rose from the ground, a large piece of hard lava rock in his hand, catching Drala on her underbelly with his makeshift weapon, as she flew down to attack Eddie. Spellbound's actions were enough to throw Drala off her stride and the flash of fire that blew from her nostrils missed Eddie and threw her off course long enough for Eddie to run for cover in a nearby lava cave.

Melody jumped up and ran screaming at the top of her voice towards Drala. *'Get away! get away! get away!'* All of a sudden the anger she'd directed towards Eddie, she began directing at Drala.

Spellbound realised they were now sitting ducks and totally vulnerable if Drala began to attack them with fire rather than the mind manipulation she'd tried so far.

What was happening? Drakarai had told them Drala would play mind games with their fears but she was now trying to attack Eddie directly with fire. Or was she? Maybe this was all part of her mind games he thought!

Where was she now, she'd disappeared? Was she playing with them again, trying to generate more fear in them to feed on? Spellbound wondered. Melody was heading towards Eddie with a purposeful stride, what was going to happen now he wondered.

Eddie was sitting on the ground in the lava cave communicating with the wise one who had shown him the gem they needed to retrieve under the earth and he didn't see Melody heading towards him.

Spellbound was too far away from them to get to Melody before she reached Eddie, so he stood still and sent her loving energy hoping it would reach her and stop her doing anything to harm Eddie if she was still under Drala's control.

Melody had nearly reached Eddie, what was going to happen, Spellbound hoped it would be fine, but he just couldn't tell which way it was going to go from the focused look on her face.

Eddie felt Melody's energy as she approached and took a deep breath and also sent his love to her..... She reached Eddie completely focused on destroying the thing that was making her so angry.

## Chapter 13

# The Winged Rescuer

The fiery anger coursing through Melody had changed; it was no longer aimed at Eddie but was now focused where it needed to be... at Drala!

Melody reached the makeshift cave and fell to her knees. Grabbing Eddie she hugged him close as she sobbed. *'I'm so sorry. I have no idea what I said to you or Spellbound or what I've done? It was as if something evil had possessed me.'* She said through her tears.

Eddie hugged Melody to him, relieved and happy to have his friend back and feeling no malice towards her for the terrible way she'd treated him; knowing that she'd been overcome by Drala's negative and destructive mind control. He was just grateful she'd returned to her normal self, even if it was a much angrier version!

*'I want to kill that Dromogite.'* She said. *'I've got a really strong mind and if she can do that to me imagine what she could do to someone who isn't as strong willed?'* she said.

*'Well it's great to have you back to your old self Melody and the extra feistiness left from Drala's mind control may help to raise your energy so we can get really focused on retrieving the golden citrine and get out of this hellish place.'* Eddie said.

*'You're right Eddie. By refocusing this extra energy and using my collaborative intelligence I should be able to really help.'* She said.

Eddie had been continuing to communicate through his thoughts with the winged creature underground. It had told him to search the back of the small cave they were sitting in, as there was a way to get through to the creature there. So they rummaged around in the back of the cave, scrabbling about in the dark on their hands and knees for what seemed like hours. Finally they discovered a small entrance that appeared to go down into the ground and Eddie's intuition told him that this was the way through to reach their new winged friend, who looked like a small Dromogite in Eddie's mind.

They crawled through the opening and down and along the tunnel for some time, heading towards a flickering light they could see at what they assumed was the end of the tunnel. The tunnel eventually expanded and opened out into a small chamber they

could actually stand up in, with a number of further tunnels leading off it. Eddie continued communicating in his mind with the small Dromogite, as it guided them through the many passage ways, which twisted and turned this way and that, heading deeper into the earth. Eventually they emerged into an underground clearing, where the creature Eddie had been communicating with sat guarding the golden citrine crystal ball.

Melody wondered if this was another of Drala's emotional mind games or a trick to fool them, leading them here only to find nothing or something worse! But Eddie was certain the animal he'd been communicating with him was a friend. So when they reached the creature and saw that it was indeed a smaller version of the two Dromogite's they'd already met and he was not only friendly but gentle and helpful, she was very relieved.

*'My name is Dalyn and I am the son of Drala.'* He said. *'And I would like to help you, so you can take this orb back to sit alongside the other gems and symbols from the Elemental Quests to help awaken the Knights of Nardor.'* He said.

Melody couldn't help herself she just had to ask *'Why are you helping us if Drala is your mother, surely she wouldn't want you helping us or to give us the gem?'* she questioned.

*'You're right. It is not usual for a son to go against his mother's wishes. But my mother has been aligning herself more and more with the dark side and she's out of control. She's consumed with the desire for power and wants to inflict suffering and pain but that's not the way of the ancient one.'* He explained.

*'She's not happy and so she's taking her emotions out on anyone and anything else she can to distract herself from having to deal with her own challenges and her own unhappiness.'* He said. *'While I love and feel empathy for my mother I can no longer tolerate her behaviour towards others. So I need to make a stand and set a clear boundary to show her that she can't continue to hurt others, or herself any longer.'* He said with a sad but resigned voice.

*'Thank you You're very wise for such a young Dromogite and we'd really appreciate all the help you can give us, as Drala nearly took over Melody's mind completely and made her behave very aggressively for a while. And I don't imagine she's going to just let us just*

*walk out of here with the gem once she discovers we have it'. He said as the young Dromogite handed the stunningly beautiful golden Citrine crystal ball to Eddie.*

*'No she won't be happy and she'll have quite a tantrum and create an even bigger drama I am sure.' He said sadly. 'However, there's no other way, she needs to be stopped before her ego gets completely out of control, as all she's thinking about is herself and her needs. As ancient ones of the worlds' we need to step up to support positive changes, not to just focus on our own needs and I need her to remember this.'* Dalyn said wisely

Goodness this young Dromogite certainly had the wisdom of the ancients coursing through his veins for sure; enough for himself AND enough to compensate for the situation with his mother. Melody thought.

*'Thank you, you're very kind'.* He said looking at Melody as he read her thoughts.

After the awful experience she's had with his mother, Melody felt such love and gratitude towards Dalyn, she understood how much courage it would take to stand up to his mother's will and champion what was right and good. She rushed over and flung her arms around him, thanking him profusely.

The young Dromogite nuzzled his giant furry scaled head against Melody and enjoyed receiving every drop of the love she offered him; as it was quite a foreign experience to receive such feelings and something he definitely wanted to experience more of in future he thought.

*'We need to go before she comes back.'* He said quickly. *'Let me show you a way out of this place so you can head towards the Silver river, where you can travel back to Nardor with the gem.'* He led them down some stone stairs then, walking quickly, began heading up a steep path towards the surface. They knew time was running out to get away easily and they needed to hurry.

Eddie suddenly stopped abruptly his hand flying up to his mouth, *'Goodness what about Spellbound?'* Realising that in his complete focus on finding the gem he'd totally forgotten about his friend who must be back on the surface of the crater keeping a lookout for Drala.



*'You need to continue to the river from here so you can get the gem away before Drala returns, this may be your only chance.'* Dalyn said earnestly. *'I will help Spellbound escape don't worry.'* He said.

Eddie and Melody knew they had a tough decision to make between escaping with the golden Citrine that would help in rebalancing the worlds, or going back for their friend and possibly getting caught by Drala. What an awful choice to have to make Eddie thought.

*'We have to keep going.'* Melody said. *'Right now we have to look at the bigger picture and make a decision based about what will help the most people and I know Spellbound would want us to do that too.'* She said. *'Which means we have to get the gem to Nardor Lagoon as quickly as possible.'* She said sadly but resolutely.

*'Spellbound will be fine, remember he was a Knight of Nardor, so he knows how to fight demons and overcome challenges. As a Knight he made a vow to protect Andalustria and he's in the form he is in now because he made a huge mistake and failed to do so previously. I know he would want you to go on ahead for the good of Andalustria and all the worlds.'* Said the very wise young Dromogite called Dalyn.

*'Knowing Spellbound he will see this as an opportunity to redeem himself for his previous failings.'* Eddie said now clear of the decision they needed to make.

*'I will go to Spellbound now as I can feel my mother is approaching and she'll be here soon. I need to protect Spellbound as best I can so you two can escape before she realises you're not with him.'* Dalyn said in a determined, yet quivering tone.

He knew only too well how furious his mother would be when she found out that not only had two of her play things escaped but they had gotten away with the golden Citrine.... And her son had helped them.

Drala would see Dayln's actions as a betrayal. She wouldn't understand that his actions were due to her own actions as she took no ownership or responsibility for her terrible behaviour. She hadn't figured out that life was about cause and effect and when you behaved badly towards others and the world around you eventually your behaviour came back to bite you. But the young Dromogite knew his mother could cause a lot

more damage before she ever realised this. So it was his responsibility to at least try to protect Spellbound and help them all to get back to Nardor.

Eddie and Melody thanked the young Dromogite again and continued along the tunnel, which Dalyn assured them would lead to the Silver River and back to Nardor Lagoon. They said a prayer and asked their guardians to help Spellbound overcome whatever was needed to get safely away from Drala and hoping Spellbound would be safe they hurried on their way.

## Chapter 14

# Drala's Revenge

Dalyn was named after his special powers, which in the Dromogite language meant '*fire creature of supernatural powers*', so he was easily able to feel his mother's energy getting closer and he trembled knowing the rage she would be in once she discovered what had happened. Drala had always been addicted to drama due to the challenges she had experienced in her own life when she was young and he knew she would take his actions very personally, not understanding that she had a part to play in his actions.

He knew she would take her anger out on the nearest thing to her once she knew, Spellbound and himself. He didn't mind so much for himself as he had grown up with her behaviour and the impact on him had only made him focus more clearly on working for the light and uncovering new ways to improve things in life. But he was worried for Spellbound as he rushed to reach the surface of the crater to help him.

He knew as he reached the surface that she had arrived...

She wasn't aware yet that the Citrine gem had gone. But he knew she was already taunting Spellbound like a cat playing with a mouse, knowing she could kill him at any time but enjoying the sense of power as she batted him around, enjoying the sport of it but not feeling the need to kill him quite yet.

Drala had conjured up a Fire Demon, called a Fury who was chasing Spellbound around the crater. Spellbound was ducking and diving trying to avoid the revolting looking flying beast, which resembled a screeching skeleton with wings and gnashing teeth. Drala was sitting back on her haunches watching; enjoying the fun, whilst preening her talons.

Dalyn could tell she had recently fed, which must have been where she'd disappeared to. This was a good thing as it meant that she probably wouldn't eat Spellbound and so far she hadn't registered that the other two humans weren't there. Dalyn decided to keep out of sight for the moment as with luck after her feed she'd soon lose interest in Spellbound and fall asleep and then he could help him escape.

The young Dromogite sat in the shadows watching, waiting and hoping for good fortune to fall upon the situation for Spellbound's sake, as he had a fair idea what she would do if she discovered the truth, and it was all bad.

The minutes and then hours dragged by and the sun moved slowly across the sky. Eventually Drala's eyes began to flicker and droop as a prelude to sleep. She was growing bored of watching the furry orange creature being chased around by the fire demon, she was losing interest and felt sleepy after the mornings fun. But out of the corner of her eye she caught a glint of something shiny winking in the sun. She flicked away a vampire faery that had been buzzing around her head and tried to resettle herself ready for a nap but the sun kept catching the, whatever it was, glistening in her peripheral view and it started to peak her interest.

Blinking slowly, her huge yellow eyes pierced the crater surroundings, a memory stirred. Where were the other two humans who had been with the hairy orange creature? Searching around she realised they were nowhere to be seen, only this strange furry thing seemed to be here, where were the others? she ruminated.

The sun flickered again on the shiny object half hidden by the cave entrance and it now had her full attention. Her piercing eyes focused like a laser on it, whilst her huge nostrils sensed the odour of something very familiar. What was her son doing up here on the surface watching this fur thing running around, when he should be guarding the gemstone sphere, she wondered.

A thought dawned on her, if Dalyn was up here no one was protecting the gem and if the other humans weren't here where were they? Something wasn't right. She tuned into the residual energy around her and used her powers to sense out what had happened while she'd been away. She saw the events that had happened unfold in her mind's eye. She saw her son giving the Citrine gem sphere to the humans and showing them the way out of the caves to freedom!

With this realisation all hell broke loose in Drala's mind as the full impact of what had occurred dawned on her... her son's betrayal, the scheming humans and this pathetic fur creature running around the crater.

She focused all of her fury towards Spellbound, belching out a scorching stream of fire. But Spellbound was busy trying to evade the fire demon and instead of hitting him the flames directly hit the fire demon, destroying it completely and leaving just a puff of smoke where it had been. Intent on being the one to inflict pain on this furry creature, the only one left to pay for what the others had done.

Spellbound had stopped to catch his breath, relieved the fire demon was no longer pursuing him. He didn't register straight away where it had gone, not realising what had happened to it and that he'd just seen it go up in a puff of smoke. Then he looked up and saw Drala's narrowed eyes focusing all her attention on him. She hadn't moved and was still sitting in the same place but he could sense that she was now fully alert and no longer relaxed and heading towards sleep. He could feel her anger. She wasn't just angry she was furious; filled with a very dangerous rage.

What had made her sooooo angry, he wondered. Eddie and Melody must have got away. He thought. They must have got away with the gem! he realised and a smile crossed fleetingly over his face.

That was enough for Drala, the last straw, that tiny glint of a smile on Spellbound's face took her rage to a whole new level. How dare he smile in her presence, how dare he mock her!

She focused her power and tuned in to Spellbound's mind and his memories and she put the poison in. This one would not escape unharmed, it would pay, she decided.

Drala trolled through Spellbound's mind and found all his sad and painful memories. All the grief and pain he'd ever experienced and she gathered them together. Memories of the time when he'd left his world behind, leaving those he loved far behind aware of a greater calling and the grief and sadness of that loss. The heartache of losing both his parents and the sorrow of his friends passing while he was away in the new world. The physical, emotional and mental pain he'd endured during the many battles he'd fought as a Knight of Nardor and the loss of his comrades during the many wars they'd fought to bring peace to Andalustria. The deep aching in his heart after losing the love of his life and the humiliating disgrace he'd felt after making the biggest mistake of his life; leaving the Chalice of Andalustria unprotected, allowing it to be stolen. The shame of knowing his actions had resulted in Lord Nardor and the Knights of Nardor

disappearing from the realm; allowing room for Rick the Ogre to rise in power and use his dark magik to create the imbalance the world's were currently experiencing. An imbalance that threatened to destroys all the worlds.

Drala took all of these sad, difficult and painful feelings and experiences and enlarged them; picking them up one by one, intending to throw them back at Spellbound like so many socks, thrown haphazardly at a laundry basket. Amplifying all of his pain, fear, sadness and loss so they'd be excruciating in their delivery and would cause Spellbound maximum pain. Her aim was to throw so much mental pain and anguish at him that it would drive him mad.

Entering his subconscious she teased at first, excited to see Spellbound's reaction as he felt his world shift and emotionally spiral downwards. She threw these memories at him with her mind, playing with him and enjoying her diabolical power over him emotions.

Spellbound couldn't work out what was happening as he was zapped with the first burst of painful memories that Drala was sending him and found himself re-experiencing the pain, grief, shame and disgrace that he had felt at those years ago. Then the thoughts became even more intense and he needed to hold his head in his hands at the sense of complete mental anguish and overwhelm as the past and the present collided. Every painful memory and experience relived in technicolour in his brain as he saw the events unfolding in his mind's eye. The mental and emotional pain was agonising and his body folded reacting to his mental state; he'd never experienced anything like it before. He couldn't think clearly or focus and rolled around on the ground gripping his head; his whole body reacting as the torturous amplified combined traumatic memories flooded him.

Drala was very pleased with the result of her bombardment and decided to amp up her attack; she was having fun. She was going to make this fur creature pay for the theft of her jewel and the injustice she felt had been done to her. Then she would punish her son for his betrayal.

She strengthened the intensity of the unpleasant memories and feelings she was sending Spellbound; deciding to increase his physical pain as well by throwing him around the crater at the same time. Bouncing him from one side to the other, watching as the blood from the cuts he was sustaining started to leak through his fur. Not long

now she thought; these creature never lasted long in her tallons. This one would pay for all those that had betrayed her, she thought as she amped up her cruel treatment.

The young Dromogite could stand it no longer, despite the terror running through his veins and knowing his mother would soon turn her attention to him, he had to do something. He had lived under her tyranny for too long, always too fearful to do anything when she punished, toyed with or tortured others; just for her warped entertainment.

Dalyn ran out from his hiding place, stretching his leathery wings he flew up to his mother's face. He was smaller than her, but not by much and once out of the cavern his full size became apparent. He had matured a lot in the last year and his strength was growing but he knew he was no match for her practised evil.

*'Mother stop, you'll kill him. This is my doing, not his, he is innocent.'* The young Dromogite pleaded.

Incensed by what she considered her son's betrayal she looked at him with scorn. Who was he to tell her what to do, who was he to try to stop her from doing anything she liked, she thought.

*'I will not be disobeyed or challenged Dalyn!'*, she roared, lifting her giant arm and swatting him away with her silver talons; as she'd done with the vampire faeries.

Dalyn flew across the crater, crash landing on his back near where Spellbound was writhing in agony on the ground. Picking himself up he grabbed Spellbound under his arms and flew with him back to the cave entrance. Dropping him gently on the ground Dalyn turned to face his mother, as Spellbound lay on the ground holding his head in torment.

Dalyn knew if he could just draw Drala's attention away from Spellbound and onto himself the furry orange little creature might have a chance of surviving his ordeal.

Dalyn rose up in the air and flew back to meet his mother. She came striding towards him, loosening her mental focus on Spellbound; intent on punishing her son now, no matter the cost. She sent a stream of fire at her son, narrowly missing him as he darted

upwards. She turned her head and shot another burst of fire, this time catching one of her son's wings.

Dalyn realised his mother was most probably going to kill him, which horrified and saddened him after all his years of caring for her and loving her, despite her wicked behaviour. But he didn't have time to brood about that now he knew his own fate was probably sealed but he could hopefully do something to save Spellbound. He had to get him to safety quickly.

Dalyn flew over to Spellbound, covering him with his body protecting him from his evil fuelled mother.

*'You stupid child!'* Drala screamed across the crater at him, launching herself up into the air, wings at full span. She flew over them breathing fire and sending dark murderous thoughts into their minds, thoughts that would shake the very soul of the strongest mortal.

*'Do you think you can defy me and get away with it?'* she screeched.

Drala had descended into pure evil!

Once there had been some hope that Dalyn could get his mother to see the damage she caused and perhaps be persuaded to change her ways but that was before her behaviour had become so dramatic and wicked and she'd begun to use dark magik to drain her prey. But the betrayal that she now felt because of Dalyn's actions was different, he could see that this had been the last straw for her and she had completely descended into the dark side. Now there would be no reasoning with her and no mercy from her.

Drala's leathery coat started to change colour. The greeny, brown scales with their distinctive blue, purple sheen were going. Her coat oozed a molten black substance, dark as night, shiny and gleaming as a black patent leather shoes. Her eyes transformed from yellow to a glaring red and her talons became steel. She had now been completely overtaken by the dark side and she revelled in it!

The young Dromogite protected Spellbound, shielding him with his body as she bombarded them with fire and excruciating emotional and mental pain. She knew they



couldn't last much longer and then she would be free to do whatever she pleased, now she had this new even darker power.

But just as Drala was starting to gain a new momentum, pummelling her son and Spellbound with her dark energy, a crack of lightening appeared in the sky plummeting down into the crater creating a divide between Drala, Spellbound and Dalyn.

*'No more Drala!'* A booming voice commanded, echoing around the crater as another crack of lightening stopped her in her tracks. *'Enough!'* Boomed the deep female voice.

The young Dromogite saw his opportunity and took it, grabbing Spellbound and dragging him and his own wounded, smoking body down into the cave away from his mother as her attention was pulled away from them.

No longer bombarded and tormented; physically, mentally and emotionally by his mother, the sense of relief was incredible. But Dalyn knew he had to get Spellbound away from here for either one of them to stand a chance of surviving. Spellbound was now unconscious after all the torture so he would need to be carried. The brave young dromogite knew that if he could get Spellbound to the Silver River the healing waters that flowed underground from the Nardor Lagoon into the river there would heal them both but only if they could get there without dying first.

Back in the crater Drala had regained her composure after the lightning strikes had momentarily stopped her in her tracks and she was now sending flash after flash of fire and mind torture towards the cave. Completely ignoring the warning voice that had commanded her to stop!

No-one could tell her what to do anymore she decided, she wasn't going to listen to anyone. She had all the power she needed now and no-one could stop her, she decided.

*'I said that is enough!'* The loud booming voice echoed again piercing Drala's mind as another crack of lightning struck the ground close to the huge black Dromogite.

Then an intense white light, twice the size of Drala appeared in the crater.

*'You will heed this call Drala!'* The voice boomed as the shape of Morgana appeared before her.

*'Drala heed this call, this is your last chance.'* The giant spectre of Morgana ordered.

Drala laughed and blew fire at the spectre. *'You can't stop me'* she cackled.

*'That is where you are wrong.'* Morgana's voice told her. *'You have lived on the line with your behaviour for many years, and we have given you many chances to take responsibility and to change your ways but you have gone too far this time and there are consequences to your actions'.* Morgana said.

*'What can you do to me, you can't do anything to me. I am all powerful now!'* Drala shrieked back at Morgana.

*'We forgave you your over inflated ego before but now your dark side has taken over you have lost touch with reality Drala.'* Morgana boomed. *'You are not all powerful, nothing in the dark realm can be all powerful and that you will soon learn for yourself.'*

Drala cackled and sent another sheath of fire towards the spectre that was Morgana.

*'Henceforth you are banished from Andalustria Drala.'* Morgana's thundering voice boomed out into the crater.

Morgana raised her staff and brought it down firmly on Drala's head. Drala started shrinking and shrunk down smaller and smaller until she was just a tiny speck of dust. Then she disappeared in a puff of smoke with a wee popping sound.

Morgana waved her staff over the crater to clear the land of the negative energy that had pervaded it since Drala had been living there. Many coloured mists seeped out of the ground and the air became filled with an odoriferous smell of putrid rotting flesh and the smell of rotting vegetables as the colours rose from the ground swirling together in a dark mist as the negative energy oozed out of the ground and the surrounding area where Drala had left her damaging mark on the land.

As the mists cleared and the sun started to shine through once again the crater came back to life with new plants emerging from the ground as a lightness filled the air and the energy shifted bringing in the light. Morgana then focused her staff toward the cave sending healing energy to where Spellbound and the young Dromogite were hiding.

Down at the back of the cave Spellbound and Dalyn had passed out from exhaustion after all of the physically, mentally and emotionally injuries they'd received, both completely spent.

Neither of them felt the energising and healing light permeating the cavern lifting them up and carrying them towards the Silver River; healing their wounds as they passed through the many tunnels to get there.

When they finally awoke; dazed from their experience and feeling cool and damp as a light breeze blew over them, they were surprised and delighted to find themselves hovering over a river, as Morgana's powerful and loving energy continued to heal and soothe their wounds.

Spellbound and the young Dromogite floated along following the course of the Silver River absorbing the healing powers of the magikal waters that flowed from the Nardor Lagoon. As they meandered along the river gently floating along on their backs, they could feel the tingling sensations penetrate throughout their bodies and minds, as the restorative, soothing waters did their work.

It took several hours for them to glide down the river to Nardor but neither one of them was aware of time passing, both of them too exhausted and battle weary from their near death experience with Drala to care. Drifting in and out of consciousness as their body's embraced the waters calming energy replenishing every part of them; they slept floating ever closer to the Nardor Lagoon and their friends.

## Chapter 15

# Return to Nardor

*'Quick, quick I need help!'* Eddie called to the others tears of relief filling his eyes as he spied Spellbound and the young Dromogite, Dalyn floating towards them.

Aaron, Melody and Missy ran toward the bank of the river, Missy barked in response to Eddie's excitement as their friends floated towards them. Aaron grabbed the young Dromogite as he drifted towards the bank; pulling him out of the water as the others dragged a very heavy water sodden Spellbound out of the river, using his long fur to get a good grip on him to haul him out of the water.

As Spellbound and Dalyn slowly came back to full consciousness they gradually registered that they were now safe and back amongst friends and were able to fully let go of the tension that had permeated their bodies. Their friends brought food to the side of the bank where they rested so they could begin to replenish their strength. Recovering as best they could from the life threatening ordeal they had just experienced with Drala.

Everyone knew the physical wounds would heal and their bodies would recuperate pretty quickly thanks to Morgana's magik and the Nardor river's healing waters. But the mental and emotional damage both Spellbound and the young Dromogite had received at Drala's hands would take a lot longer to heal but Aaron knew they would recover fully given time. Now Spellbound was back with his fellow questers, and Dalyn was beginning to understand that he was among new caring friends. He was sad for the loss of his mother but he knew that it would be better for him and Andalustria that she was gone and it was a wonderful novelty to feel so loved, protected and safe at last.

Eddie and Melody built a fire to warm the two bedraggled creatures. They decided to camp on the edge of the river bank that night, so the two wounded warriors could have more time to heal before heading to Nardor Lagoon, where they could reunite with the hard won gems from their quests.

Aaron produced a large circular piece of Levanos; the bright orange Turkish bread like food from under his robes, for them all to share. Eddie and Melody had eaten Levanos

before on their previous adventures in Andalustria and knew it restored and balanced your energy but they wondered how it was going to go round them all. But they needn't have worried as Aaron seemed to have an endless supply and whenever he pulled off a piece of the wonderfully fragrant and warm, garlicky, cheesy food to hand to one of them, more appeared in his hands, so they could all eat their fill.

As they lay down to sleep Squiggins's appeared from nowhere and got busy with their magical salve; lathering it thickly on the two warriors wounds to help them heal. It had helped heal Eddie's wounds from the vampire faeries in the dark forest last time they were in Andalustria and was truly miraculous. Melody looked on in amusement as the brightly coloured, half mouse, half gnome like creatures in their shimmering yellow suits and shiny patent leather shoes with gold buckles got to work with their poultices and healing creams on the two wounded warriors.

It was very peaceful sitting on the grass along the banks of the Silver River after everything they'd been through. Mo and Erik, the silver sprites flew in to assist the Squiggins restoring everyone's equilibrium by spreading an enchanted haze of healing energy over them all. The glowing turquoise haze wafted over the strange looking band of questers and they felt a deep sense of relief that the traumatic day was finally over; releasing their tension as the sprites healing energy floated over them, allowing them all to relax into a deep slumber now they were safely back together.

When daylight came upon them they ate some more of the Levanos and drunk the replenishing waters of the Silver River. Then set off on their journey to Nardor Lagoon, which although only an hour away had been too far to travel last night with their wounded companions.

They knew they were getting close to Nardor when the blue Devas started to appear, floating around them lighting the way along the path until they came to the edge of Nardor Lagoon. They looked across the peaceful luminescent blue waters allowing its restorative magik to flow over them all as they dipped their feet in the silken waters.

Melody liked to be able to plan ahead and although she was learning to go with the flow of life more than she had ever been able to do in the past, she was far more comfortable when she could plot her path forward step by step. But it seemed that that wasn't going to happen on these the quests, as surprise after surprise kept happening, making her

feel quite anxious at times. Looking into the waters of the lagoon, Melody saw creatures moving under the surface gliding back and forth and the mesmeric movement helped to calm the worrisome thoughts going through her head about what might happen next.

As they each connected with the waters a semi-transparent apparition rose from the water; shrouded in a glowing white light which resolved itself into the familiar face of Morgana, who appeared above the blue waters her staff of white light held high.

They drew in their breath, releasing it in unison in a huge sigh of awe at the sight of her beauty. All feeling a deep sense of love envelope their weary bodies as Morgana alighted onto the bank from the water. They could feel her appreciation for all they had done in venturing to claim the hidden gems on their quest to help the worlds, without her even saying a word.

They also felt a deepening sense of connection permeating through the group, as the much travelled friends held hands united by the journey they had undertaken together. Missy licked Eddie's face as he held her in his arms, she was grateful to have her master back with her in this strange world.

As they stood in the healing blue aqua aura waters Morgana spoke...

*'You have faced much danger and overcome many challenges for the Elemental Quests. You have discovered the earth's secrets, deep in the ground and claimed the ruby gem, the golden symbol and their lessons.'*

*'You have embraced the feminine wisdom of the earth and faced your fears to release them from your aura. AND you have defined your intentions so you could take part in the Blood Moon ritual to awaken the mighty ones so they could come forth to assist you on your quest to bring the worlds into balance once again.'*

*'You have faced the terror of the one who has turned to the dark side and walked through the fire energy to release its gem, to bring it home where it belongs.'* Said Morgana acknowledging all they had been through and all they had accomplished so far.

*'Now as you stand together in union in the healing waters of Nardor, united in love for each other, you have earned the right to claim the Symbol of Water.'* Morgana relayed as she raised her staff from the water up high into the air.

*'The Symbol of Water represents our emotion, it is the essence of our heart energy and the love we choose to bring into our world. When we are in balance we feel a deep connection and love for all things including ourselves, for the majesty that we are as creatures of nature. When we are out of balance and disconnected we feel deep grief and sadness in all we do as we are disconnected from our heart and our place of deep knowing.'* She explained.

*'Much of your world feels disconnected from itself as it is not working with nature's energy making things feel separate or above it.'* She said nodding to Eddie and Melody. *'And that's is how Rick the ogre has been able to permeate the minds, the ego and hearts of some of your leaders in your world.'* Morgana explained.

*'Your connection with each other and the love and support you have brought into these quests with your brave hearts will start to turn the tide; showing others to way back to the light.'* Her voice echoed out across the lagoon and reverberated in their ears.

Morgana lifted her staff high above the water and a rose gold symbol drifted up from the turquoise waters hovering just above the surface before floating towards Aaron.

*'This symbol of the element of water embodies the energy of unconditional love and emotional balance.'* Aaron said as he plucked the symbol shaped like a circular swirl of water from the waters, placing it on top of a large flat rock at the side of the lagoon.

Then he drew the citrine and ruby gems and the golden infinity symbol from their quests out of the bottomless pouch he kept under his robes, where he'd been safeguarding them.

*'The Fire Quest was a quest of the mind teaching you to raise your personal power to face and overcome your deepest fears so you could centre your power on the good of all, not only the one as Drala has done.'* Aaron explained.

*'Drala was the dark mirror of what can occur inside all of us when we work from a place of greed and lack. When we need to take power over others in one way or another with little or no awareness or respect for others wants, needs or opinions or their way of life. That is the negative side of ego which Rick is working on with your leaders right now.'* Morgana clarified.

*'The Water Quest is a quest of the heart and of enduring love and is linked to all the quests; as only when we come back to our heart are we truly happy. Only when we connect to ourselves, to the natural world and to others with awareness, compassion, kindness, support and love can we be truly fulfilled. As no power over others or riches will sustain our deep need other than love.'* Morgana said, enlightening them all with her words.

*'During these quests you have shown much love towards each other, towards nature and to all those you have met along the way. It is your union of friendship and love that has now enabled you to claim this elemental symbol of water.'* Aaron continued.

Morgana she looked at Dalyn, addressing the young Dromogite directly. *'Dear one, you have shown much courage living with your mother, trying to rectify her wrong doing as her dark energy increased. Your bravery has risen to a new level, especially on this day as you made a stand for the light against your mother's darkening aura, knowing she couldn't continue in the ways of the dark side without destroying many others as well as herself.'*

*'You have shown great love for the strangers who entered your world at your own cost. Their lives and their quest were victorious by your boldness so rejoice as they now become your new family. Without exception you have embraced the light as you supported their quest for the good.'* She said waving her arm in the direction of the others.

*'Dalyn, you have suffered much pain and loss to save others, you have earned the right to become a true Knight of Nardor.'* Morgana said to the gentle, yet powerful Dromogite.

*'You are one of the mighty and have the power of the light within you and you have earned your talons of gold this day.'* She said pointing her staff towards Dalyn, as the young Dromogite lifted his huge head high as a feeling of wonderment flowed through him as he looked upon the beauty of Morgana.

He raised his body to full height as he received Morgana's acknowledgement of his heroism and his pure heart. They all watched in amazement as Dalyn's talons transformed from a dull black to brilliant gold; much like Darkarei's stunning talons.

But his transformation didn't stop there as his leathery coat of brown, purple and green scales and fur started turning a beautiful shimmering red with flecks of silver running through the fur on his face.



Morgana smiled as this was not her doing, she had given Dalyn the honour of the golden talons but now the energy of Andalustria and the worlds were taking over and transforming Dalyn into the magnificent creature he had always been in his heart and in his actions. Transforming him into a full Knight of Nardor for his courage and brave heart .

The young Dromogite let out a huge sigh, feeling a deep sense of peace as he experienced the love of his new family. As he raised his head higher tears formed at the corner of his eyes, as a silver horn started growing out of the top of his head, shining a silver light across the lagoon. After all the years of fear and pain with his mother, trying to turn her towards the light to have these new friends recognise all he had been through and acknowledge him meant more to him than any words could ever express.

We all need to be seen for who we are and recognised for our good as well as the challenges we have to overcome Dalyn thought, and he was so deeply grateful to his new family as Morgana had called them, for seeing who he really was in this life.

The others stood in awe as Dalyn's body continued to change as the Andalustrian energy bestowed the blessings of the quest upon this magikal creature full of heart. Dalyn's new silver horn reminded Eddie of the mystical unicorns he'd read about in fairy tales many years ago, it was magnificent!

*'You have overcome much.'* Morgana said. *'And as an initiate Knight of Nardor you have now earned the right to bring the Knights of Earth, Fire and Water home.'* Morgana said to the young Dromogite sealing his fate with her words.

Aaron approached the Dromogite and embraced him, stroked his shimmering red and silver leather and fur coat as Dalyn brought his head down close to Aaron's in gratitude, tears coming to his eyes at the magnitude of what was happening to him.

*'It is your time.'* Aaron said to Dalyn. *'You have earned this recognition, it is part of your destiny.'* He said as he laid the ruby gem and the gold infinity symbol from the Earth Quest at the Dromogites feet. Then Aaron placed the golden citrine crystal ball from the Fire Quest that Dalyn had helped secure by his golden talons. Lastly he laid the rose gold circular symbol from the Water Quest that Morgana had liberated from the Nardor lagoon, alongside the citrine crystal ball.

As Aaron placed the last of the precious pieces from the elemental quests on the ground, they were all magikally transported into the cavern behind the waterfall and found themselves standing in front of the Illuminator pool.

*'Now dear one, place each of these elemental gems in the Illuminator pool.'* Morgana said to Dalyn. The young Dromogite, who also seemed to have grown to match Dakarei's height, did as Morgana summoned.

Placing each item from the elemental quests in the water of the Illuminator pool, Dalyn arranged them on top of the aqua aura crystals.

As he laid the last one to rest on the bottom of the pool a thunderous cracking sound resonated throughout the cavern and sparks flew from the pool. As the sound reverberated around the cavern golden writing started to appear on the wall of the cave. Glowing brightly illuminating all around it. They were unable to read what was written on the cave wall but then, from out of the depth of the cavern, a voice spoke out loudly.

## Chapter 16

# Nardor Knights Awaken

*'Knights of Nardor Awaken... Knights of Earth come forth from your slumber. Knights of Fire let your majesty return to this place. Knights of Water bring the heart back to this land. It has been far too long since your mighty force has energised this world. Welcome Home.'* this was all said in a strange language but all who heard it understood what was being said as the words poured from the bowels of the earth in a deep sonorous voice.

At the same time Morgana stepped from the Illuminator pool and steered the group towards the opening of the cave above the waterfall. They stood in amazement looking at the upheaval happening outside, watching in wonder, mouths open wide at the sight that met their eyes.

The forest they'd so recently walked through to get to the lagoon was moving, the trees were awakening and as they awoke they took back their original knightly forms. There were thousands of them, maybe millions who could tell? *'These are the Earthly Knights.'* Aaron explained.

Then diving down from out of the sky came the Dromogites. They could see eight in total from where they were standing at the entrance of the cave, including Dakarai from Nemuria – as now the Fire Knights arrived.

Their huge wings created a whirlwind effect as they flew around the Lagoon; their shimmering coats flashing iridescent sparkles of golden brown, green and purple on the ground as they past; creating rainbows of shadow and light on the earth as they circled high above. While the earth rocked and roiled from the uprooting of the Earthly Knights.

And as if that wasn't enough, the waters of Nardor Lagoon started to churn and whirl; whirling around and around as mer-like creatures began to swim up from the depths. Leaping in and out of the luminescent water, creating sizable waves across the lagoon. From where the group were standing above the lagoon, they could see an array of water creatures large and small rising out of the water, then diving back into the deep aqua

liquid. They appeared to be half man, half fish or water creature; these were the Water Knights of Nardor coming home to help redress the balance of the worlds.

The energy was palpable and there was a deep sense of presence in the air and all who were watching and witnessing the awakening trembled in awe at what was unfolding before their eyes.

Melody realised she was holding her breath as she witnessed the turmoil, changing and unfurling all around her. It was exhilarating but also terrifying at the same time she thought!

Spellbound intuitively picked up on Melody's emotions and moving closer to her and taking hold of her hand with his large orange paw, which instantly made her body relax and she let out a big breath of relief.

*'This is incredible and wonderful!' Eddie shouted at the top of his voice amid the cacophony of noise going on around them. The Knights were coming home to Andalustria.*

*'This is just the start.'* Aaron said, as Eddie and Melody looked over at him with ever widening eyes.

*'What do you mean, this is just the start?'* Melody asked.

*The Water Knights of Nardor cannot fully form until the last Water Quest is completed only that will bring the remaining Water Knights to our aid.'* Aaron explained.

*'But that's for another day.'* Morgana said as she hovered, still not fully formed next to them. *'Now is the time to celebrate all that you have accomplished and the work you have done to begin redressing the wrongs of the ages and restoring balance to the worlds.'* She announced.

*'It is always important to honour and celebrate what has been achieved, not to always focus on what has yet to be accomplished, or you will never find a sense of honour or peace in your life.'* Morgana stated wisely.

Then she spoke directly to Spellbound. *'Spellbound you have put your life at risk during these quests to aid Andalustria and in the hope of being able to restore your honour and*

*release the shame of what has passed in your life before. You are a Knight of Nardor and although we cannot restore your original form until the Chalice of Andalustria is returned to its rightful place in this land we can release the shame you carry in your being and restore your honour; for the courage and bravery you have shown and your kind and generous heart.'* As she spoke to him, he felt the heavy burden of disgrace and humiliation that he had held since he allowed the Chalice of Andalustria to be stolen under his watch, lift from his body. A lightness of spirit and a deep joy spread into every furry part of him as his huge orange, almond smelling body floated up in the air and everyone watched in amazement as a stream of dark mist poured from his body taking the feelings of dishonour and negative energy with it as tears of happiness filled his eyes.

As Spellbound drifted back down to the ground Melody ran to him, hugging him as he folded her into his soft furry embrace; she felt a new deeper sense of connection with him.

*'Now my friends, as Morgana said it is time to celebrate all that has been accomplished; the lessons you've learned from the experiences and trials you have had to face and the understanding and fortitude you've learnt along the way. Let us celebrate all we have achieved so far on our quests towards rebalancing the worlds once again!'*

Morgana now materialised into her full form wanting to be fully present to them and share in the celebrations.

The celebrations continued long into the night, after which they rested, sleeping soundly until late morning; knowing that they had achieved what they needed to on the quests they had undertaken. For now they began to feel that all would well in the world.

Or so they thought!

Melody however had not slept well as she'd been mulling things over all night and felt something wasn't quite right. Weren't there four elements, and weren't there supposed to be seven quests' she pondered.

She moved to stand by Morgana's side looking out over Nardor Lagoon deep in thought. *'Speak dear one, your thoughts and words are of value.'* Morgana said to Melody.

*'Well I've been thinking and don't we need four elements' to bring all the Knights of Nardor home to redress the balance of the worlds, as we only have three right now' she questioned, 'isn't the element of Air missing?'*

*'You are wise dear one, and you are right.'* Morgana said.

*'We do indeed need all four elements to complete the Elemental Alignment so all of the Knights of Nardor can awaken and come home to help us redress the imbalance across the worlds.'* Morgana agreed.

*'The remaining Water Quest and the Air Quests can only be undertaken in your world. And it will require much strength and determination, as there are still three quests to complete and dangers to overcome to claim the last elemental powers to bring back to Nardor so we can awaken the full Elemental Alignment.'* Morgana told Melody.

*'In your world we will have to deal with Rick and the leaders he is galvanising to his cause. So you will need to have all our wits about us to overcome that dark energy. But you now have many of the Knights of Nardor to help you to achieve this.'* Morgana said encouragingly as she saw the look of dread on Melody's face.

*'Shall I tell the others?'* Melody asked looking down at her dear sleeping friends, not really wanting to wake them up to hear bad news.

Morgana looked at Melody wisely and said *'No dear one, let them sleep, they need to rest and recuperate after all their trials. The final Water Quest and the Air Quests will happen when they must.... That time is not too far away, but in another world and another time.'*

*'Be silent and at peace for now dear one.'* She said placing her hand gently on Melodies heart!

## **Epilogue – Embrace the Magik!**

We live in a world based on external achievement, commerce, business, and celebration of the mighty dollar, so what place do mystical guides have in everyday life?

How can we work to reconnect with the long-forgotten, long-yearned-for connection to our spiritual selves in a world that is focused on what we own, our position, and what we do in life? When deep down we know these things never truly gives us peace.

Remembering the truth of who we truly are outside of any role we play, status we have, or possessions we own. Remembering ‘who you truly are’ when you re-reconnect to your natural essence, awakens your spirit and opens the way for others to do the same. Aaron, Nerela, Morgana, Melody, and Eddie show us; children and adults alike, how to move out of the darkness and into the light. So we can reconnect with our true essence with acceptance, love, fun, magik, and peace... if we allow it to be so.

The lessons, thoughts and observations that our characters experience invite you to consider your own quest to perhaps bring some tangible magik into your own life so you no longer need to fill up with over-work, shopping binges, food indulgence or internet cravings, to fill the gap inside. We can decide to make more conscious, empowering choices to enhance our lives each day, in each moment . . . .

It is for you to bring the magik home to yourself in a tangible way so you can feel its purpose, value, and wisdom in all that you do and truly own the magik within you.

Now is your time to embrace your own “Tangible Magik!”

**THE END**

## Author Bio

Suzanne de Malplaquet was born in England, the eldest of four children from parents and grandparents in the entertainment world, she grew up exposed to a diverse variety of experiences and personalities. From childhood her finely tuned sensitivity to others combined with being immersed in a world of 'unusual' experiences allowed her natural intuitive abilities to develop and strengthen from an early age.

After creating a successful career in the corporate world she turned to alternative methods of restorative therapies and strategies when she suffered burn-out. She was so impressed with the results that she decided to dedicate the rest of her life to studying and practicing these skills. Combining her business knowledge and skills with her intuitive abilities to 'read' people she opened her own communication wellness business in the UK.

In 1994 Suzanne emigrated to New Zealand and continued her studies becoming a Master Practitioner (AIBMA) (body language specialist), a Counsellor (MIT), Hypnotherapist (HNZDH), Reiki Master and Executive Coach (ICF).

Over 23 years' Suzanne worked with thousands of individuals as well as many of today's leading companies. Helping people to improve their health and elevate their communication to experience greater depth and quality in their life and relationships personally and in the workplace.

Her clients ranged from Sky TV (UK), Air New Zealand, Qantas, NZ Rugby, ASB Bank to security and surveillance teams at Sky City Casino, China Sands (Macau) and Marina Bay Sands (Singapore).

Suzanne also spent many years as the media's 'go to' analyst: and was The Body Language Analyst for TVNZ, 7 Sharp, Breakfast TV, TV3's, SKY TV (UK) and The Herald national newspaper. Suzanne worked alongside mainstream media reporting on key figures and was the Body Language analyst for the New Zealand and US elections as well as being a feature writer for several magazines. She is also author of #No.1 Best-selling book 'Eddie Motion and the Tangible Magik' (1<sup>st</sup> of the Eddie Motion Trilogy) and co-author of 'Align, Expand, Succeed' and '101 Ways to Enhance Your Career'.