

## **Past, Present, and Future**

### **A Meditation of Reth Yu**

#### **Revealed to Kai Eltros while balancing on a chain in the Bay of Cademan**

Consider, if you will, the elements as a cross with 5 points. The Moon sits in the middle of the four others and two bars, linking the opposite runes run through it. On opposing sides are Earth and Fire, Water and Air. Now, assign in your mind that the Earth rune is the past – the old things and memories and history. Fire, it follows, is the future – new things, yet to be – Destiny. In the middle of this axis lie the three unconsidered runes in a bar that we will call the Present – what is now, what is real. Neither a Hope nor a memory – everything that flows in the Reality of the universe flows here.

The past is solid, it does not move. It gives support to the present. It gives the present context. The future is too in flux to have a form at all. It consumes all that is placed into it to fuel its flames. There is nothing of substance in the future. The Ru can see into the Fire, but to linger too long there brings madness or the loss of self. More feared is the cold evil that lies in the Path of the Earth – the path where the past and stasis are all that is left.

The Ru live in the present, where the Flow is the most potent and present. While time flows into the future, the Path of Fire is available, but carries great perils. The Earth lies behind the Flow of all Things, both time and matter. It is forbidden because one cannot gaze deeply into what is behind him without turning his path from what is to be – halting all Flow. Ru are best at staying within the enlightenment of the Present.

Now consider the Present. Water represents the heavy things – practical, stable, the foundation of the flows of the present, it always seeks the lowest point to provide a base for the present. The Air is lofty and rises above such practical things. It is the intellect and the grand thoughts of those who flow through the present as time flows from Fire to Earth.

But what of Moon, we now ask. Neither the practical and physical or the lofty and reasonable, it sits alone – unreal. It is the Fifth Path.

Wizards say the path is Magic, and can show in their terms how all magic is derived from the Moon Rune. The divinely inspired tell the world that the Moon is the Voice of the Gods as they softly whisper to the people of the world. Ru do not have a prior experience of the Moon, we do not yet feel its Flow. To do so is the quest of the Fifth Path. That is the Quest that I am upon, and I am recounting to you my meditations on it, that you might aid me in finding it.

Now, ask yourself what the Moon represents in the present. Not the solid or the vapor, not the practical or the intellectual. It is the fulcrum. It seems to always remain the center of the balance of all things – of time and matter, lore and ignorance, dreams and reality. The Moon, it seems, is Balance itself.

The Gnomes, the First race to be bound to the Moon, have no great magic or no abundance of Gods, though there are both Wizards and Priests in their ranks. It seems that the one thing that the Gnomes could do that was unique was bridge the gap between what they could imagine and what they could do – instantly and without a true understanding of what they had done. In a manner similar to our state of “No-Mind”, they reach into the ether of their dreams and pull back a practical and real idea.

The wizard does something like this when he pulls a spell from a map of concepts written on a protocol sheet into Reality itself to be carried out there. Auguries take the knowledge that is real and recreate it as a dream-like illusion trapped in a vessel prepared by magical means. The divine take the inspirations of their hearts and spirits and allow it to manifest in the wondrous things they do. We Ru meditate upon the mystical essence of the Flows of energy and matter in this Universe and we use that enlightenment to achieve great things as well - focusing our wisdom and energy in ways that allow us to stretch our Reality and force it to conform to the Enlightenment we have achieved. We are all inspired by dreams and thoughts to pull from that which is to that which is not or *vice versa*.

Inspiration in its very essence seems to be the Flow of the Moon – the Flow from Dream to Real, from Real to Inspiration. That which was but a dream is now a reality and that reality feeds new dreams that stretch further than the last. It is the Flow that keeps building upon itself. It has the most potential, I feel, of all of the paths before it.

That is the Fifth Path – and when I find it, and master its Flows – I will be done with my Unknown Path forever and my destiny unto death will be clear. I will sail the waves, spreading the Enlightenment of the Scree to the Ru who can make use of it. That is my dream, and I must find the path to pull it into Reality.