

Nine-Sleeves Galaxy

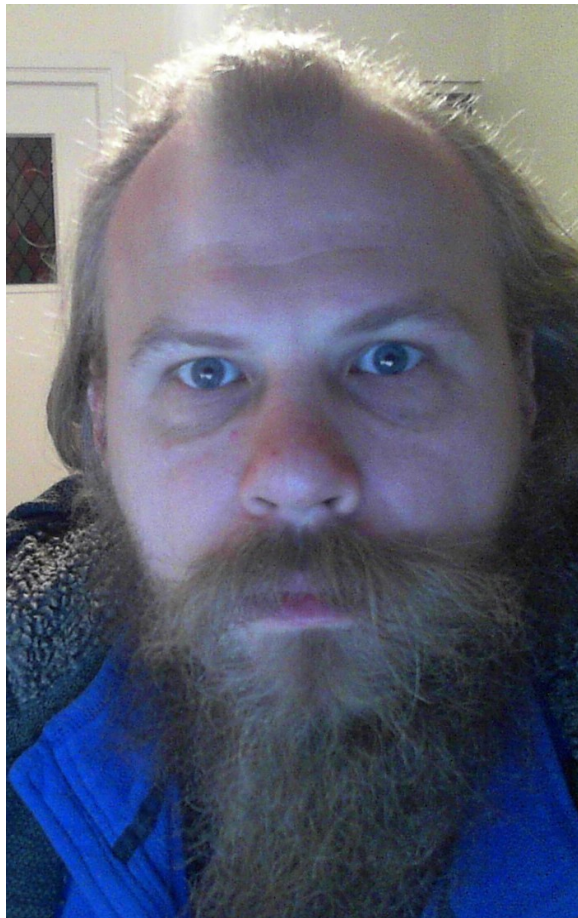


Preface.

I have decided to rewrite this version of my book in collaboration with an artificial intelligence named ChatGPT. The reason is that my command of the art of words and spelling is not proficient enough to provide you with a flawless work that adheres to all the rules of the language of modern society. Additionally, the helpful AI provided images upon my requests, which should make this work more colorful and interesting, especially since my target audience is children.

So, it is the eleventh of November in the year two thousand and twenty-three Anno Domini. London, United Kingdom.

The first edition was written around the year two thousand and sixteen Anno Domini, in the same place.



Aleksei Mihailovich A.

Episode One.

Asa (Space War).

Introduction.

Aniretake walked leisurely through the forest. It was the end of summer. There had been no news from Ashkela. Almost a year had passed since the Uaitmana had lost contact. The sun was slowly setting. Aniretake knew he would return; he always came back, but an unbearable longing troubled her soul. The Ashkela clan was famed for its numerous military victories, but war was alien to both of them. Ashkela was cursed by his clan. He took the Uaitmana and left with Aniretake.



From behind the trees, a small village appeared. Aniretake did not feel like going there. In the forest, she sensed Ashkela's presence, as if he was everything alive that surrounded her. But she needed to rest before the next day. She was due to fly on the Uaitmana to the Cold Earth. This spacecraft could travel through gates across the cosmos, but, unlike other Uaitmanas, it did not have a fash on board. Besides the strong spiritual connection between Ashkela and Aniretake, that was all that bound them. The Uaitmana was from the Uaitmara, which, along with Ashkela, was moved to the Ninth Arm of the galaxy, its precise location unknown. When the Uaitmara left the solar system, no one used the spatial gates; the boats traveled long distances without instantly passing through the gates.



In the Cold Land, in a small town, Aniretake was awaited by Aisa and Del. They maintained order in the local system. When Ashela was exiled like a phantom from his clan, Aisa and Del sheltered them. Now they had their own earthly home. This time, Ashela was sent to warn Aisa's relatives about the impending danger. The Kashcheis had attacked the first arm of the galaxy and could easily leap to the ninth. Since then, teleportation had not been used. The Kashcheis were usually very primitive and harmed only poorly protected worlds. They steered clear of the Aces' Uaitmaras. It remained a mystery who had opened the gates for their passage to the first arm. Now many refugees had flooded into the neighboring arms, the second and the ninth, and those who were particularly frightened moved further to the third and eighth.



Part One.

Cold Land.

As Aniretake emerged from the Uaitmana, Aisa and Del embraced her tightly. The sun shone brightly, and the white snow dazzled the eyes. Together, they entered a magnificent manor. Inside, it was warm, and the air was pleasantly scented with herbs.

The decor reminded her of the forest where Aniretake had been the day before. They sat down together. Aisa shared that the Aces of the Ninth Arm had driven the Kashcheis away from our worlds, and soon everything would end. Ashela, or as the locals often called him, Ashkela, would return soon. Aniretake's joy knew no bounds, although outwardly she only smiled. Del brought a small box.

'This is a gift from a dragoness,' he said, looking attentively at Aniretake. 'She brought so many eggs that she couldn't raise them all. Ashela once saved her, and now she is repaying the debt. You are kind people and will not teach her offspring evil.'



Aniretake opened the box. Inside, a green egg with a pattern resembling honeycomb cells, placed in a thermoregulated chamber, lay there. Gently touching it with her hand, she set the temperature to that of the human body.



‘Dragons are immortal if they maintain their green color,’ Del continued, ‘but if they are not loved, they draw tremendous strength and can become black or red. When they transition to Pravy, they acquire a golden hue.’ Aniretake closed the box and put it away in her bag.

‘Tell us, what do you do on the Green Earth?’ Aisa asked curiously.

‘I walk through the forest near the settlement. There, I feel Ashela. Every sound means something. It seems as if he’s trying to speak to me. But the crows always drown out the soulful

sounds,' Aniretake lowered her head, and silence fell.
'Stay with us, dear. You'll be here for two short terms, and then perhaps the winds of change will blow,' Aniretake nodded.



A new day dawned. Del woke up earlier than anyone else and peacefully watched the sunrise. Many years had passed since Ashela and Aniretake started bringing joy to their home. They had become like their own children to them. Ashela had never been to Ase, which contributed to the peaceful disposition of his soul. His ship was equipped only with defensive systems, capable of withstanding any danger. Some even said it could withstand a jet from a black hole. But Ashela always kept the construction site of the Uaitmara a secret. It was only known that he had applied his engineering mind to its creation. All the warriors from his clan laughed at him, which became one of the reasons for the breakdown of family ties. But then Ase came for him. He was simply asked to deliver a message, but he decided to stay and help the Aces. Del knew that Aniretake was his guardian, and as long as she was well, Ashela would not disappear.



Cold Earth once resembled Green Earth. But that was many long terms ago. Since then, the sun on it shone not as brightly as before. Del had witnessed all these terms. Many people of his planet, like his children, decided to leave the cold world. Some moved to Green Earth, others to different systems. But he was not sorrowful, for his faithful wife Aisa was a reliable support and true friend. Together, they lived in perfect harmony. Beyond Cold Earth, there were several other planets, inhabited by different humanoids. They preferred underground cities and complex communications. They had huge factories and could build many things, including an entire fleet of Uaitmaras. Ashkela was very friendly with them and promised to help with technologies. But he was still very young and not always able to properly convey the essence of his ideas. Nevertheless, their friendship was so strong that Ashela took several of them on his Uaitmara. Operating this ship was especially easy, but when the Uaitmanas were empty, it was difficult for one person to manage everything. On their way to Aisa and Del, Ashela and Aniretake gathered many good people.

Yet, for the most part, the Uaitmara remained empty. Only the most desperate left their familiar places, and now there was the additional complication of Ase. Many wanted vengeance and saw

no point in staying on a ship without firepower. The older Uaitmaras met their demands, but it was very difficult to get on them since their crews had been formed many terms ago. New Uaitmaras had not been built in the galaxy for ten years. This was due to the arrival of Aniretake and Ashela with their Uaitmara. Their new technology was considered revolutionary. Plasma and fasha became things of the past.



The best defense is defense, not offense as was said in the past. Therefore, now the decision was made not to destroy the Kashchei but to push them to the fringes of the galaxy. The task was not an easy one. It was necessary to wait until they exhausted their entire combat potential. After that, it was decided to settle them on empty planets where they would embark on a long path of rebirth. It was more challenging for the Aces than for Ashela: they had to maneuver for a long time, wearing out the enemy, while Ashela on his Uaitmara could teleport Kashchei in groups, disabling their generators and batteries. Sometimes, when the Kashchei tried to flee, Ashela would alter their teleportation paths, sending them to the Aces or their powerless ships to the empty planets designated for their settlement.



The last Ase in their galaxy was coming to an end. Del knew about it. The Supreme Council had already approved the replacement of the old Uaitmaras with the type that brought Ashela and Aniretake into the bosom of their civilization. The Aces of all lands joyfully accepted this decision, and this final battle was meant to affirm it. Sent by the highest power, the Nine-Armed Galaxy had to prove that it could resolve extremely complex conflicts in a peaceful way. Ashela and Aniretake were key in solving this challenge. They had endured many trials after their exile. Their reward was their spiritual bond, indestructible, and those who met them could share this bond. Those who embraced it became the strongest families in the entire cosmos. Before Aniretake and Ashela, only Del and Aisa had such a connection in their system. And now the greatest joy began to spread with incredible speed. Del smiled, looking at the sun.



Part Two.

The First Arm.

Ashela sat at the central control panel. Before him was the image of Rita. Rita was on another Uaitmara, managing the relocation of the Kashchei from powerless Uaitmaras to barren lands. The Kashchei surrendered and accepted the will of the victors. Now, they were to grow their own food, marking the end of their parasitism. Aniretake, under the guidance of Aisa and as part of the galactic team, developed new plant species. These were intended to help the Kashchei regain their human form. The Kashchei, unlike their relatives, were very resilient. Their genetics had undergone significant changes. They gained superpowers but became mentally deficient. The parasitic mindset was ingrained in them at the genetic level due to a grave error in nutritional experiments. Now these mutants were to feed themselves for long terms, and in combination with the new plant fruits, they were expected to gradually return to a human essence.



'Glad it's all over,' said Rit.

'Mutually,' Ashela smiled. 'Now I can return to Aniretake. We'll set up a new outpost to watch over our wards. They now have a lot of work to do on themselves. It's a pity that the arm has been so battered. Del said that intelligence began to inhabit the Nine-Armed Galaxy from here.'

'Yes, but that was too long ago.'

'Good luck to you, Rit. Drop by Green Earth. We'll be happy to see you.'

'And to you, stay healthy, Ashela,' Rit smiled.



The three-dimensional image disappeared. Ashela stretched, his joints cracking. The sleepless hours on Ase were taking their toll. In his mind, vivid images of Green Earth began to emerge, of the places where he spent time with Aniretake. He felt a sense of presence, the scents of herbs and trees. Suddenly, he felt as if Aniretake had touched his hand, but the sensation instantly moved to his shoulder, and Ashela felt Hira's hand on it.

'Dreaming?' asked Hir.

'Just tired. Need to get some sleep,' replied Ashela.

'The Council will contact us from the station shortly,' continued Hir.

'Then let's wait for the last Uaitman and open the portal,' said Ashela.

'It will take about an hour.'

'Alright. We'll wait.'

The air in the Uaitmara was sterile, but the scent of orchids lingered in Ashela's mind. On Green Earth, this plant was rare, but he and Aniretake were lucky enough to find some near the settlement. Since then, that place had become special to Ashela. He was drawn there. But duty is duty. The last Uaitmans entered the Uaitmara.



'Open the gates,' Ashela said.

A huge mirror opened in front of the Uaitmara. The ship entered it at a slow speed. On the other side, a mesmerizing view of the Council station opened up.

'Seventh dock,' the dispatcher's voice announced.

The Uaitmara slowly approached the dock.

'Contact,' Hir announced.

'Everyone is free until departure,' Ashela declared.

The station had both portals for transportation and endless corridors. Ashela had plenty of time and chose to walk. Following an involuntary feeling, he turned into the botanical garden. As always, it was beautiful there, and the artificial light resembled the sunlight of the Green Planet. Ashela sat down on a bench, and next to him sat a dark-skinned woman. Her name was Naiza, and she was a member of the Council.



'Hello, Naiza!' Ashela greeted.

'Hello, Ashela!' she responded.

'How are you here?' he asked.

'As always, fully occupied, but you don't need to go to the hall. We have the iron book here, the new generation. The Kashchei from any world cannot intercept its signal. Now the entire Nine-Armed Galaxy will be in our hands, completely safe,' Naiza explained.

'Thank you! How many factories will be involved?' Ashela inquired.

'One hundred and forty-four,' Naiza replied.

'So, it will take about a century to replace the entire fleet, and goodbye, Kashchei!' Ashela chuckled.

'We have exhausted them well; they won't appear now. Soon we will identify their galaxy, then we will warn the others. An expedition might be possible,' Naiza said.

'I would like to participate,' Ashela stated.

'It's not happening soon, but we will call you,' Naiza assured him.

'Thank you. Where is my apartment?' Ashela asked.

'On the seventh level of the north wing. You can rest there,' Naiza replied.

'That's exactly what I need! See you, Naiza!'

'Goodbye!'



Ashela stood up and headed towards the first portal. Passing through it, he found himself in his station apartment. Without a second thought, he collapsed onto the bed and fell into a deep sleep. After waking up, Ashela went straight to the Uaitmara through the portal. The crew had had time to rest, and everyone was ready.

'We're setting off!' Ashela announced.

The Uaitmara smoothly moved away from the dock. Within moments, the entire station seemed to be in the palm of their hands.

'Open the gates!' Ashela commanded.

An immense mirror appeared in front of the Uaitmara. Passing through it, the Uaitmara emerged near Cold Earth. Ashela took the Uaitmana and teleported directly to the settlement of Del and Aisa. It was midday, and the sun shone brightly. Stepping out of the Uaitmana, Ashela saw Aniretake running towards him. He caught her in mid-air, and they twirled around. Del and Aisa stood nearby, watching them.



Part Three.

Green Earth.

A short term had passed, and Aniretake and Ashela moved to Green Earth. The rest of the Uaitmara's crew also dispersed to their homes, leaving only a small group on the ship.

Ashela and Aniretake often went out into nature, where they felt wonderful. The crows had flown away. The nightingales sang a lot, and the orchids bloomed fully. Their fragrance brought peace to the soul. Aniretake carried with her everywhere a box with an egg. One day, a soft signal sounded. A small dragon began to emerge from the egg. Opening the box, Aniretake and Ashela watched. The shell slowly cracked and flaked off, revealing a little dragon's head. Its eyes opened, and the dragon hatchling looked at the people. One could get lost in its dark eyes, which glowed with an invisible light. Aniretake gently picked it up and held it close. The dragon wearily laid its head on her arm. Silence reigned. The dragon recognized the humans as its parents. They took it into the house and fed it. The hatchling ate a little; it was just a tiny creature. A special bed was prepared for it, where it fell asleep. Aniretake and Ashela left the room.



'It will be a long time before he can fly,' Ashela said.

'He won't be able to fly far for a very long time,' Aniretake responded.

'How long do you think before he should return to the Land of Dragons?' Ashela asked.

'Del said that they become independent at the age of five. It will be hard to part with him,' Aniretake replied.

'We will visit him,' Ashela assured.

They always planned their actions in advance. Youth did not allow them to look far into the future, but they tried. Sometimes visions would appear in their minds; some turned into déjà vu, while others were quickly forgotten. The older generation said that this was how the gift of clairvoyance was acquired, but it needed to be handled with great care. For Aniretake and Ashela, this came easily. They always supported each other during difficult times. Being alone was a completely different matter. Gradually, their ability began to take the form of simple communication. The visions became clearer, and the difficult moments seemed less intense. Days passed, and the dragon grew to the height of their knees.



He loved walking with his parents in the meadow with orchids. They learned to understand each other without words. Their spiritual connection strengthened day by day. They played together. The dragon's glands began to fill with flammable liquid, but it was not dangerous, as Aniretake and Ashela had taught him to control fire long before. The dragon enjoyed releasing small jets of fire into the sky, amusing everyone. Other neighbors gathered to watch the flames. Dragons had not been seen here for a long time, as they all lived on the nearest planet away from the sun, where it was warmer but less green. The dragons liked it there, undisturbed. In nearby solar systems, there were several similar planets, connected by portals that ancient dragons could open.

The time of five years was approaching. The dragon grew strong and felt full of energy. He could fly, loved to perform different figures in the air, and could easily lift one person. Ashela and Aniretake were already preparing to move to Yellow Earth. The dragon could hardly hide his joy at the prospect of seeing his kin. The day came, and they set off on their journey.



The Uaitmana appeared in the meadow near the rock where the dragons spent the night. Several dozens of these creatures soared in the sky. Most of them were green, but there were also dragons with black and red hues. Nearby, a dragoness approached.

Coming up to her offspring, they placed their heads on each other's necks - a sign of recognition among dragons. Looking at the humans, the dragoness nodded politely to them, and both soared into the sky. Ashela and Aniretake watched them depart, their hearts filled with joy rather than sorrow.



Chapter Two.

Investigation.

Part One.

Rit.

Ashela and Aniretake stood in the meadow near the settlement. Suddenly, a Uaitmana appeared, and Rit emerged from it. The friends embraced. The name Rit comes from the rune Rita, which means 'Origin of the Clan - Firmness - Agni protects.' This signifies the incompatibility of life in marriages between relatives such as father and daughter, son and mother, or brother and sister, as well as the incompatibility of marriages between humans and other entities.



'We haven't seen each other for a long time,' Rit started.

'That's true! How are our mutants doing?' asked Ashela.

'They are struggling with their first steps, they don't want to work at all. They really polluted their genetics,' Rit replied.

'And how is the reproductive function working?' inquired Aniretake.

'They don't even think about offspring. Complete selfishness,' said Rit.

'How long, according to our calculations, will it take them to transition to a normal state?' Ashela asked Aniretake.



'Those from the weak group will need about fifty years, the average ones around seventy, and the top tier a hundred or more,' Rit replied.

'What have you been doing at the posts?' asked Ashela.

'Mainly setting up their work. There was an incident at a colony.

As soon as the Uaitmana landed, a large number of human-mutants gathered. Their leader came forward, starting to assert rights. I had to weaken his psychoenergy, as he was strongly inciting his fellow tribesmen to take our Uaitmana from us. We unloaded medications for the most unwell and quietly flew away. Those who had completely exhausted themselves, not wanting to work, could barely walk. There, they were given a little bit of energy resources so they could work. I think the unpleasant experience of the slowdown and decline in motor functions had an impact on them. Now they should work better,' Rit explained.



Rit was originally from the Third Arm. His lineage was very enlightened and lived longer than many suns of the Nine-Armed Galaxy. His relatives settled here from a smaller galaxy after a devastating Ase. Since then, they had acquired great wisdom, and for many generations, all had been healthy and strong. His land was blue and called the Sea Land, unlike the system of Ashela and Aniretake, where all lands were of different colors, determining their names, except for Cold Earth, which was sometimes still called White. Rit's land had no solid surface, but it did not hinder a prosperous life. Cities were mostly built underwater, but there were also floating cities that could migrate. A wide variety of marine plants and animals complemented the ecosystem's harmony. A unique species was the sea dragons, distinguished from regular ones by webbed paws that facilitated movement on the planet and gills for underwater breathing. They were the most powerful creatures on the planet. They coexisted peacefully with humans, helping each other when possible. Underwater were caves with air-filled spaces, serving as resting places for dragons and meeting spots with ordinary dragons and other entities. Sea dragons also opened portals. Some said that dragons from very distant galaxies visited here, but it was a rare occurrence.



Part Two.

The First Arm.

Rit always loved his work. The breach of the Kashchei was a concern for everyone.

'Let's conduct our investigation into the unauthorized portal opening for the Kashchei,' Rit suggested, looking questioningly at his friends.

'We should take our Uaitmana and fly to the First Arm,' Ashela said.

'Let's go,' Aniretake smiled.

The Uaitmana appeared in space near the site of the portal opening for the Kashchei in the First Arm. Nearby was a blue planet that had taken the first hit. An artificial satellite, within which Uaitmaras were hidden, was pitted with craters, like a porous face. When the Kashchei appeared, they released numerous fasha charges at the planet. A protective shield activated, and the satellite took the brunt of the attack. It was impossible to destroy it with this weapon, but the camouflaging rock disintegrated after the explosions, creating numerous craters.



Rit contacted the satellite, informing of their arrival to avoid catching the locals off guard or frightening anyone. The satellite responded, giving the go-ahead for the friends' further journey.

They decided to visit the satellite's Uaitmar park.

The Uaitmana entered the airlock calmly. Inside, it was very bright, and numerous ships could be seen at the docks. Finding a free spot, Rit, Ashela, and Aniretake docked. Exiting the ship, they all passed through a portal and found themselves on a bustling road with people moving in different directions. A few moments later, the friends arrived in a hall filled with various equipment. They were greeted by a gray-haired elder with a young face and a strong body. Rit quickly spoke with him and gained access to a panel with recordings of recent events. His eyes lit up with a silvery color, and runes scrolled across the screen at an incredible speed. Rit saw images of what happened during the Kashchei's stay near the planet. He quickly reviewed everything, and the text from the runes ended.



'It's all clear,' Rit declared, 'the Kashchei used a huge amount of energy to summon a gravitational wave. Their galaxy didn't exist in our cosmos. They came from a parallel universe,' silence ensued. Everyone pondered. Such an advanced civilization of Kashchei had never been encountered before. There was a possibility to use a reverse action to send their galaxy back to their own world, but in the Nine-Armed Galaxy, they were accustomed to solving problems, not shifting them from one shoulder to another. Rit thanked the elder, and the trio left the hall.



It was decided to take a walk on the local planet, enjoying its flora and fauna before returning. First, they planned to visit the local Asgard. There was no hint of the conflict that had unfolded in orbit; people lived their full lives, appearing thoughtful, but there were many reasons for that. The buildings were mostly made of white stone, interspersed with beautiful parks. There was an immense variety of birds. Aniretake extended her hand, and a white dove landed on it. Moments later, a white pigeon joined it. The birds looked at her intently, communicating in a language understood only by them. Aniretake smiled, and the birds fluttered away. The city was vast, and the friends walked through it for a long time. Only in the evening did they return to their Uaitmana, where they decided to stay for the night. A magnificent sunset spread across the west.



Chapter Three.

Cats.

Part One.

Guardians of Asgard.

Night had fallen. A white lion in a mirrored helmet watched as the stars began to appear. A tiger with black and white stripes, wearing a similar helmet, approached him.

'Do you miss it, my friend?' the lion smiled.

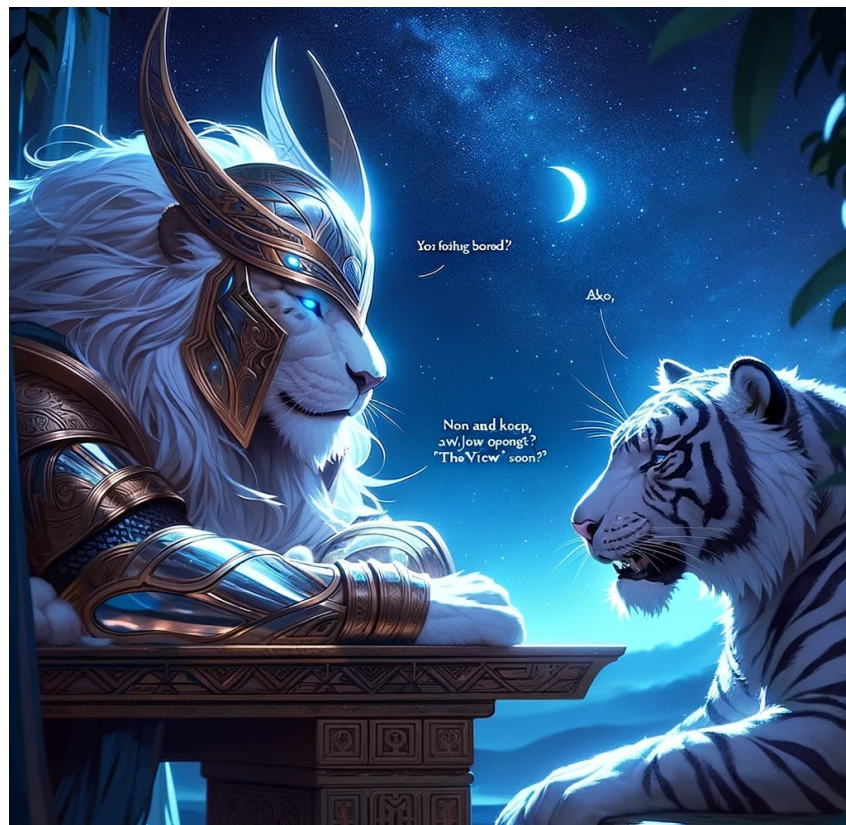
'Ani is asleep, and I can't seem to sleep either...' the tiger replied.

'Is Ako also asleep?' the lion asked.

'Yes, for a while now,' the tiger confirmed.

'The View will open soon, will you help?' the lion proposed.

'With pleasure,' the tiger agreed.



Above the pyramidal, elongated tower, a huge blue sphere lit up, emitting rays in all directions. Images began to appear over all of Asgard. The guards called this 'The View'. The Five-Armed Galaxy appeared. The lion frowned, and the focus zoomed in on the third arm. A blue-green planet appeared. The region with a natural disaster - a drought - was enlarged. It hadn't rained there for many terms. Animals, parched with thirst, hid under the dried plants. The panther, working with the lion on 'The View', emitted a ray of the same green color from her beautiful eyes. The lower layers of the planet appeared, revealing its core. The tiger's eyes glowed with silver. He began reprogramming the planet. It took several hours. The tiger's eyes returned to their usual blue. The ray from the panther's eyes ceased. The planet returned to its normal appearance.





'Soon the cyclone will bring the needed rains,' the lion smiled.

The projection folded, and the blue sphere turned into a blue flame at the top of the tower.

'Shall we take a walk in Asgard?' the tiger suggested.

'Let's go!' the panther supported.

The cats, stepping slowly, descended the hill and walked along the road towards the pyramidal tower. The tiger was named Al, the lion Yars, and the panther Iza. They were all young, not many years old.



The Aces defeated all nearby enemies and began transmitting their knowledge to the local animals. Each of them had developed civilizations in different worlds, and they initiated fruitful cooperation. Since then, many animals from the forests had relocated to Asgard, which became a planetary center. Among our trio, only Al had started a family. His wife was a yellow-red lioness named Ani, and their daughter Ako resembled her mother but had her father's coloration. Ani spent all her time with Ako, teaching her various wisdoms. Al tried to spend as much time as possible with his family, but sometimes he had to leave. He could feel the suffering of others and always came to their aid. The Aces taught them to use the blue flame from the tower, and every evening they watched over the poorly-protected worlds until late.



Part Two.

Bred.

The gray-haired elder quickly walked down the street. He wore long garments adorned with ornaments and held a staff in his hand. Dawn was breaking. Today was a special day. He remembered his past life on Midgard Earth in the Four-Armed Galaxy. But to call him an elder was somewhat of a stretch. He was as handsome as he had been in his past life, only now his long hair was silver. This was Bred. After passing through several quiet streets, he approached a magnificent medium-sized building. Without stopping, Bred entered, where he was greeted by Arch. 'Happy birthday, Bred,' Arch said, embracing his friend, 'What are you thinking?'



'We were very lucky to have found Midgard. The dark forces had hidden it from us in a parallel universe for too long,' Bred began. 'I managed to make contact with a local. He told me that Chernobog has taken power on the planet. Mara dominates everywhere, and there are hardly any Ingliings left. I'm thinking of trying to look at Midgard tomorrow evening with Yars and his team using The View.'

'It's worth a try, but it's unlikely. We have to wait for the gravitational wave, after which we can anchor the Four-Armed Galaxy in our world. In the fourth arm, there is an artificial planet where the Aswans live. They are the best at connecting worlds,' Arch noted.

'I must meet with them,' Bred said.

'I think I can help you with that. In a week, we can send a cargo ship there. Take Al's family with you; they will be very happy. Their daughter hasn't flown yet,' Arch suggested. 'And what did you see, if it's not a secret?'

'Nothing special, just running around Midgard, waving sticks with steel blades. It happened when they called the best to stop Ase. Someone should have been left to keep watch... Everyone lost their heads,' Bred concluded.



'Sad. Come to Yars's hill tomorrow, he will be glad to see you,'
Arch said.

'I will do that. Good luck to you, my friend,' Bred replied.

'See you,' Arch bid farewell.

Bred left the building. The sun brightly lit the street. He spent most of his time on an artificial satellite, where the Uaitmar fleet was based. There, they maintained order throughout the system and interacted with other bases. They received main directives from the council. The streets were gradually coming to life, but Bred needed sleep, which he soon found.



Part Three.

The Four-Armed Galaxy.

Yars sat quietly, gazing at the stars.

'Ala won't be here today,' said Iza.

'But Bred will come.'

'Here I am!' Bred exclaimed with a smile on his face.

'Let's begin,' Iza declared with a serious expression.

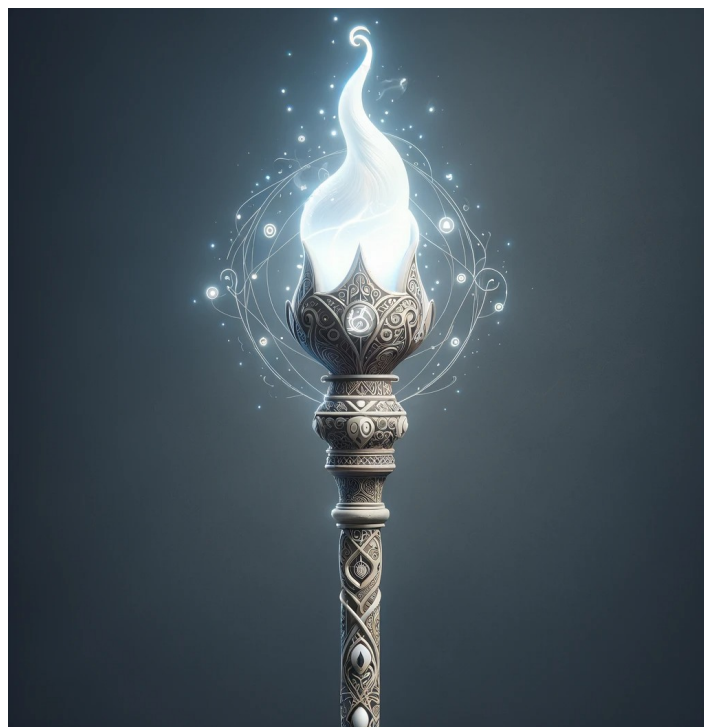
The fire transformed into a sphere, and the Four-Armed Galaxy appeared. The View tried to focus on one point, but it was unsuccessful. The whole galaxy seemed like a mirage. Yars frowned for several hours, but it was of no use.

'We will soon fly to the Aswans. Al, Ani, and Ako are coming with me,' Bred announced.

'That's good,' Yars replied, approached Bred, and gently bit his staff. A white flame briefly appeared above the head of the staff.

'Here's my contact.'

'What's there?' Iza asked curiously.



'The same as here, but Mara ruins everything. Your breeds are many. I spent my entire past life there. When our kind appeared, all was well. But then the Kashchei arrived, sowed their seed, and people started toying with Fash. Some flew away, but most went mad, began eating animals, and that's how Mara appeared. Arch recently spoke with a local. He says they produce a lot of poisons and contaminate everything around. It's a horror what they've done to the planet. Good thing they haven't forgotten how to give birth; that's what they are hanging on to. Apparently, the Kashchei decided to take everything into their hands and hid their galaxy in a parallel universe,' Bred shared.

'It's bad that the Kashchei have learned to use gravitational waves. They will add many troubles for us,' Yars said, lowering his head and shaking it.

Silence fell. Only the sound of crickets could be heard. Everyone descended to the road and headed towards the city.



The soul is the same in all living creatures, although the body is different. ~ Hippocrates.



Part Four.

Departure.

The Uaitmana stood in the meadow. Bred, Al, and Ani walked towards it unhurriedly, with Ako bounding ahead of everyone. They all boarded the ship. The Uaitmana smoothly took off and exited into space. A cargo ship was quickly approaching on their path. The Uaitmana entered it. Ani and Ako went to their cabin, while Bred and Al headed to the Central Control Unit (CCU).

'It's very strange,' the pilot said, 'a fleet of unidentified Uaitmars has appeared on the other side of the planet.'

A mirror window opened, and the ship slowly began to enter it. Flashes of light sparkled on the satellite. The Ase began.



Part Five.

The Aswans.

A huge mirror opened, showing a massive cargo ship with Bred and Al's family on board. Bred sat in the chair with his blue eyes open, telepathically communicating with Arch. Al left the central control unit and joined his family, feeling a sense of foreboding as well. Bred stood up and approached the pilots.

'The Kashchei have attacked our planet. The main blow was taken by the satellite. It survived. Now our fleet is driving their Uaitmars away,' Bred informed.

Everyone pondered. The Aswan space station was approaching smoothly. A gigantic mirror opened near it, and a dozen Uaitmars slowly began to enter it. The commander explained that the Aswans had sent help to their planet after receiving the news of the attack. The ship smoothly docked at the pier. Al entered the control unit, also communicating with Yars. This trouble had adversely affected Ako. Ani decided to stay with her on the ship. Bred did not object. They headed towards the airlock, where they were greeted by several people.



'Hello! My name is Ras. We share your concern about what's happening. Please, follow me,' Ras invited.

Everyone proceeded through the spacious corridor into the depths of the station. It was not very crowded here. Along the way, they encountered beautiful plants. After passing several junctions, the group entered a spacious hall with armchairs and long tables.



'Please, take a seat, friends,' Ras said, 'this matter is very serious.

We detected a gravitational wave and, tracing its path, found a galaxy that wasn't previously in our cosmos. Then we received your message about the attack. Everything points to it not being a coincidence. Our Uaitmars will study the path of the enemy fleet, and we will know exactly where it came from. One thing I can say for sure, your planet is safe. We have just completed calculations of the outcome of the collision. The advantage is on our side. It seems the enemy couldn't penetrate our structures and make an accurate assessment of our strength.'

At that moment, the door opened, and Ani and Ako entered.



'It would be better for us,' Ani said, 'If you don't mind, we would like to join you.'

'We will be happy to have you,' Ras replied.

The cats quietly approached Al and sat next to him. Al licked Ani.

'I suggest that everyone takes a good rest,' Ras said, 'Soon we will have more information about the battle. Also, Bred, regarding Midgard, we cannot connect their world right now due to an unforeseen disaster. Let's postpone it.'

'I understand,' Bred said.

Everyone went to sleep.



Al awoke first. Ani was sleeping peacefully, her head resting on his paw. He kissed her, and Ani briefly opened her eyes before falling asleep again. Al laid his head down and began to reminisce about their first meeting. It happened within the walls of Asgard on their native planet when they were kittens. Their parents had brought them to the city to help the Aesir establish contacts with

their worlds. Their group lived in a school where they were educated, and they would never be predators again. The Aesir had created plant-based food for them, abundantly found in the gardens of Asgard and its surroundings. One bright day, the kittens were playing in one of these gardens. Al, running fast, jumped at a friend, but the friend dodged, and Al tumbled over. When he stopped, he noticed a little lioness looking at him. Al sat up and began to watch her.

'Ani,' the lioness said.

'Al,' Al responded.

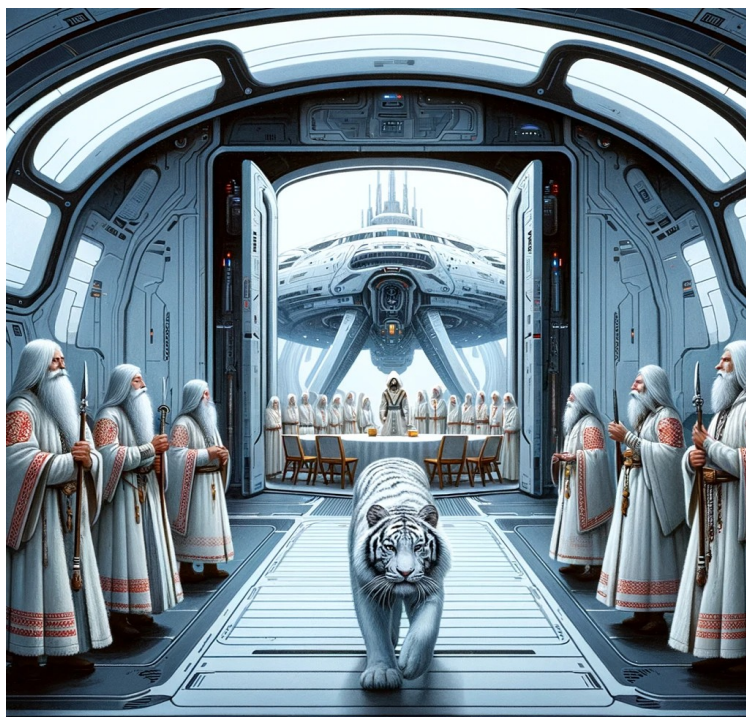
They didn't have time to say anything more as Arch entered the garden and called all the kittens for their lessons. Since then, Al always thought of Ani, and when they grew up, they formed a life union.

Ani opened her eyes and licked Al. Al smiled.

'Shall we go?' she asked.

'Let's go!' Al replied.

At the exit from the cabin, they were met by Ako. She affectionately kissed Ani and Al. At the entrance to the hall, they met Bred. Everyone entered and took their seats at the table.



'Our predictions have been confirmed,' Ras began, 'the Kashchei appeared from this new galaxy. We managed to drive their fleet away from your planet. But now they have split up and threaten the weaker worlds. Our Uaitmars are equipped with new spatial blockers that won't allow the enemy to teleport. But if they are scattered, they might slip through. The council has now alerted all worlds, and additional fleets are already in the first arm. That's all the information we have at the moment.'

Bred and the cats returned to the cargo ship.

'We can't teleport into the combat zone. We have to wait,'
announced the first pilot.

'We could visit the Cat Galaxy. Ako might find it interesting,'
Bred suggested.

Al's eyes lit up with a silver light. A moment later, they
returned to their normal appearance.

'We've been invited to the planet of Pumas,' Al announced.

'Let's set off,' Bred said, and the ship started moving.



Part Six.

The Planet of Pumas.

The ship emerged from the spatial gates near a green planet. The landing module smoothly separated and entered the atmosphere, slicing through the air with plasma, and landed on the coast after a few moments. Exiting the ship, the guests saw a group of black cats observing them attentively. Ani stepped forward and roared. One of the pumas responded, 'Uai!' Bred set up a small device among the cats, above which a hologram opened, displaying a space battle. The pumas flattened their ears, watching intently. Ako was fascinated by observing her distant relatives. Then the pumas purred in unison, inviting everyone to a village in the jungle. There were many dens among the tree roots, and kittens frolicked everywhere. Evening came, and everyone began to disperse to sleep. Bred carefully made a fire and sat down with Al. Their thoughts merged, and a star map formed from the flames, showing their native planet with a crater-pocked satellite and several Uaitmars in orbit. Thus, they spent the night together.



A new day dawned. Ani woke up early and went to Al. The whole village was slowly waking up.

'Good morning!' Ani said.

'Good morning,' replied Bred and Al.

'Ako will still be sleeping. She needs strength,' Ani noted.

'I'll contact Yars and Iza,' Bred informed. Setting the staff upright, he touched the spot where Yars had bitten. A hologram of a lion and a panther appeared from the crystal.

'You have a task,' Yars began, 'I accidentally connected with a distant relative from the Cat Galaxy. We talked for a long time and decided that he will move to Asgard. But he doesn't know how to determine the positions of planets. Ask the pumas for help; they will find him. Alright?'

'Yars, we will do it,' Bred said.



The pumas of the village and its vicinity set up posts, watching the night sky, trying to catch the signal of the lost lion. A week later, they managed to contact him, and Bred and Al calculated his location. He was not too far away. A cargo ship was sent after him. Ako maintained communication with him and managed to befriend him. There was a small age difference, and they liked each other. When the cargo ship returned, the lion landed on the Planet of Pumas. Ako and the lion decided to form a life union and stay on this planet. Ako wanted to build a settlement similar to Asgard, calling it Kosgard, thus further connecting the Cat Galaxy with the Nine-Armed Galaxy. Bred, Ani, and Al returned to Asgard and often visited Kosgard. Bred and Iza also flew there.



Everyone really liked this new turn of events, and they forgot about the issue with the Ase. All the mutants were successfully reverted back to human form. Some of them stayed in the territories they had settled, while others returned home. No one here mentioned the Kashchei anymore.

