

them feared had come to pass. The gods battled amongst themselves and struck cruel blow after cruel blow. During this conflict, the first god to die was Eritos, god of healing. He was struck low by a spear of Endenamite fashioned by Gihos and cast by the mighty arm of Thulos, leader of the gods of chaos. Eritos was mourned deeply by the Nine and their hosts. The Tirus fought beside their creators and many of them died in spite of the many boons the gods granted them to protect their lives. Still the atrocities were horrible and the suffering of the Tirus mighty. When finally the gods of chaos struck out at Piratus and destroyed it, all the gods and even the Dragons took pause at the destruction. The gods of chaos found they had something as valuable as the Secret of Creation, they could destroy.

They began destroying everything they came across and began plotting how to destroy the universe. Some say Aru asked the Dragons to intervene others believe it was the wisdom of the Dragons themselves which told them to become involved, in either case it was only through the involvement of the Dragons that peace was found at all. The Dragons became concerned and decided to step in to what they had, until now, considered a sibling rivalry.

Draconis Dei Adgratus

The gods were all summoned to the Dragons' presence and all attended except for the gods of chaos, who refused to attend being busy with destruction. With some concern, Borenhaus began the negotiations which would outline the next effort at creation. At first both sides were reluctant to see reason but Borenhaus led them to a resolution called the Draconis Dei Adgratus. In the agreement, the Nine would work with all the gods on the creation of the new world but in the end, one of the Nine would need to give their life to make room for one of the gods of evil. This god of evil would be given the Secret of Creation and become one of the gods of Creation.

The gods began work on the new world but with some trepidation and the gods of chaos constantly harassed them. Borenhaus dispatched Cyrrm the Gold to deal with the errant gods. As Cyrrm hunted them, Thulos cast his spear at him but Cyrrm merely laughed as his mighty jaws consumed the weapon. Once rounded up, Cyrrm informed Borenhaus of the attack. Borenhaus grew enraged at this defiance and banished the gods of chaos beyond the universe to the void.

Sacrifice of Gaea

As the world neared creation the Nine became more and more anxious. Except that Gaea once again was lost in the creation of small things. Aiding her this time was Titiania and several other goddesses. In their creation they made trees and flowers, bees and spiders and all manner of creature which would live on the world for now and into the future. Titiania made the

sidhe and faerie folk to aid in the care of the plant life and all things wild. When the time finally came to breath life into the world all the other Nine were fearful and stood back looking one to the other for the one who would sacrifice themselves. Marroth laughed, tossing from hand to hand the dagger he would use to perform the sacrifice. He chided the uncertain gods as a father to children, "Who of you will pay the price for your creation? None for you all love your life more dearly than any other in this creation." Gaea had been late in coming to the gathering so deep was she in her craft. As she approached the mount she heard Marroth's words and scowled. She did not hesitate a moment as she strode forward to Marroth. He was taken by the beauty and grace of Gaea and his hand faltered but Gaea steadied it, placed the blade to her heart and said, "Let it be so, for this world and all my children." Marroth then plunged the dagger into her chest. The gods wailed and even the gods of evil were said to weep. Her blood flowed out across the world and where it mingled with the tears of the gods the red Aeth blossom sprouted and continues to grow on all of Gaea.

It was at this point that Aru named the world Gaea. He wept the hardest at the passing of the goddess he loved so dearly. He took her body up and against the wishes of the Dragons laid it in the heart of the world as he finished his work.

Rejection of Borenhaus

When the gods were finished and all was in order, Borenhaus decided that he should inspect their work. As he approached, the world looked alive and good, much more so than Piratus had ever looked. He became covetous of the vibrant lands and felt his blood boil and a gleam of avarice came to his eye. He wished to rule this world and to have creations bow before him. He had not felt so in all his time in this universe nor this form. He made to alight on the world to look closer and he heard a booming voice, "I reject thee Borenhaus, Father to the gods, for I am Gaea, world crafted by thine kin and made alive by their blood!" Borenhaus, after a moment, laughed at the arrogance of anything to defy him. Was he not Borenhaus, strongest and wisest of all Dragonkind. He began to alight again, "Flee now, Dragon King, I will not trifle with thee!" Now in defiance and anger he lit upon the face of the world. Suddenly the world struck out at Borenhaus' extended talon with the blast of a thousand stars. All of Borenhaus' mighty arm was rended. He screamed in pain and blasted the world with fire but it had no effect for Gaea's protective arm shielded all that lived on her surface. Where Borenhaus' blood touched the surface all forms of monsters and dragonkind leapt into existence. Gaea recoiled from these creatures for they were a mix of her compassion and Borenhaus' power. Borenhaus, mightiest creature in all the universe, retreated to tend to his wounds.

The Dragons were amazed and the gods fearful of what they

had created. Borenhaus was never to recover the use of his arm nor be relieved from the pain of the wounds. Borenhaus became estranged from his kind and his children, the gods, became fearful of his change of mood. No Dragon has ever set foot upon Gaea since.

Creation of Elves

In time Aru and the other gods went about Gaea tending to her creations and defending them from the worst of Borenhaus' brood. Yet in time, surely after many thousands of years, Aru became lonely and wanted for companionship. So he took it upon himself and created the first elf. When awakened upon Gaea, the wind blowing and the three moons above, he was filled with joy. Aru, for sentiments sake, had formed the elf as Tirus but of lesser proportions. He named this elf Tirus in their honor and began to teach him. For 5000 years they walked Gaea and Aru spoke of the making of things and speech and the way of life. Tirus was often confused and unable to understand the very speech that Aru used to describe the wonders of the universe.

When Tirus looked about he now noticed two of everything and was lonely when Aru would leave to attend to Gaea. When he next saw Aru he asked for a companion, a family. Aru was sympathetic and asked Tirus to help in the creation. Long they labored together but it was labor filled with laughter and joy. When it came time to speak the Word of Life in the mouth of those they had created, Aru sent Tirus away. This hurt Tirus but he knew that he could not hear the Word again once he was a living creature. Tirus went to wait in the great forest which covered all of Gaea at that time and had been there only a short while when he saw a figure approach. It was a woman. Her hair was the color of corn silk and her eyes the silver grey of the moon, Celestia. She moved with a grace he could never match. He taught her to speak and when Tirus asked her name she said she had none and waited on what name he would pick for her. Tirus named her Celest in honor of the moon her eyes so resembled. In all Aru made seven Lyards and Lyara, princes and princesses of the elven people.

Coming of Dwarves

As Awle toiled in the creation of the world he made helpers for him. At first, these helpers were mindless drones, little more than machines, used for simple tasks. He made them of the strongest stones and they were durable unto eternity. As Gaea formed he perfected his design and required more and more of them until he created seven masters to help direct all the workers. Awle did not realize how well he

had crafted these servants but they became indispensable to him and to the other gods as they toiled through their labors. When all had been completed the evil gods wished the workers destroyed for they secretly feared their numbers and remembered the hosts of Tirus well. Awle quailed at the thought of destroying that which had served him so well but when the time came the seven leaders stepped forward and asked that they be heard. This shocked all the gods and they bent closer to listen. Their leader, Betlin, said that the workers were innocent of wrong and only wished to serve faithfully. With more perception than they had been granted, Betlin said if the evil gods feared them then deal with the true threat and destroy the leaders, the seven, and let the rest be. The gods peered into the heart of Betlin and the other of the seven and saw that they were true and willing to sacrifice themselves for their people. To the protestations of the evil gods, the workers and the seven would be spared. As a concession to the opposition, the gods would give life to the workers and make a place on Gaea for them. They would be made as other creatures of the world, vulnerable, mortal. Awle beamed with pride and named his creation Dwarves, which in the old language means "People of Stone".

When it came time for the dwarves to travel to Gaea, as a final

