



Introduction: Incarnations of Eternity

There is evil and disorder in the world because people have forgotten that all things emanate from one source. Return to that source and leave behind all-self-centered thoughts, petty desires and anger. Those who are possessed by nothing possess everything.

— Morihei Ueshiba, *The Art of Peace*

Kyai Ho!

Listen well. I am the 989th Klaital. For many lifetimes have I been a Garou. Blessed am I to be born so well, for there is no better path to liberation than the life of the Changing Breed. Before Klaital, I was like other Garou, confused and angered at the changes wrought in the world by humans. Since Klaital became enlightened, realizing the star within him that is the Self and the existence of the True Gaia Realm beyond all illusions, I have returned to the world over and over to free each and every creature of Gaia from the web of illusion.

Ah, my old cub, who has come to me after many years and many scars, I see that you suffer deeply. But no more so and no less than all who live in ignorance. Blessed are you to realize that you suffer, for now you seek escape from it. You seek freedom from illusion and strive for bliss in Gaia. How much worse are those who suffer but do not realize it? How long until they finally rise above their ignorance and see the Truth?

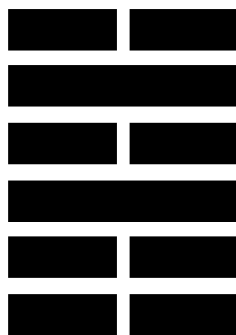
Truth is what you seek here, answers to the questions your own tribe could not answer. What do the Get of Fenris know of wisdom, you ask? Much, I tell you. But not the kind you seek. For you see, you are not of them, although you were born to them. Your soul, like many others, has journeyed long through many lives since the Dawn. I have known you before. Welcome, Stargazer, it is good to meet you again.

Yes, you were a Stargazer in your previous life. The signs are there; I have seen them. I will detail them for you later. I can tell by your eyes that this is not strange to you. You know this, deep within yourself. It is one of the answers you seek: Who am I? Where did I come from?

These things and more will I tell you. It is time for your initiation into the tribe of the Stargazers, Slayers of the Mind, Those Who Are Free from the Web of Ignorance.



Chapter One: Lifetimes in the Gaiadharmā



Chien (Obstruction): Surrounded by obstructions, one must first retreat, then seek the direction of the Sage.

— I Ching

Your time among another tribe has been good, for it has taught you their folly in a way words alone cannot convey. Only by living and failing over and over does the ego lose its sway over the self, allowing you to question.

I do not claim the other tribes are wrong in all they do. No, for they, too, know Gaia. But they fight the wrong enemy. As long as they spend themselves in rage against it, they will fail, and the true enemy will get stronger.

Your enemy, cub, is not the Wyrms.

Ah, still yourself. Beliefs long held die hard. I do not expect you to believe me simply because I say so. The Wyrms are formidable, indeed, and not something to ignore. It can greatly harm us, tempting us to its ways. Its ways are not those of corruption, however. No, this is but a side-effect.

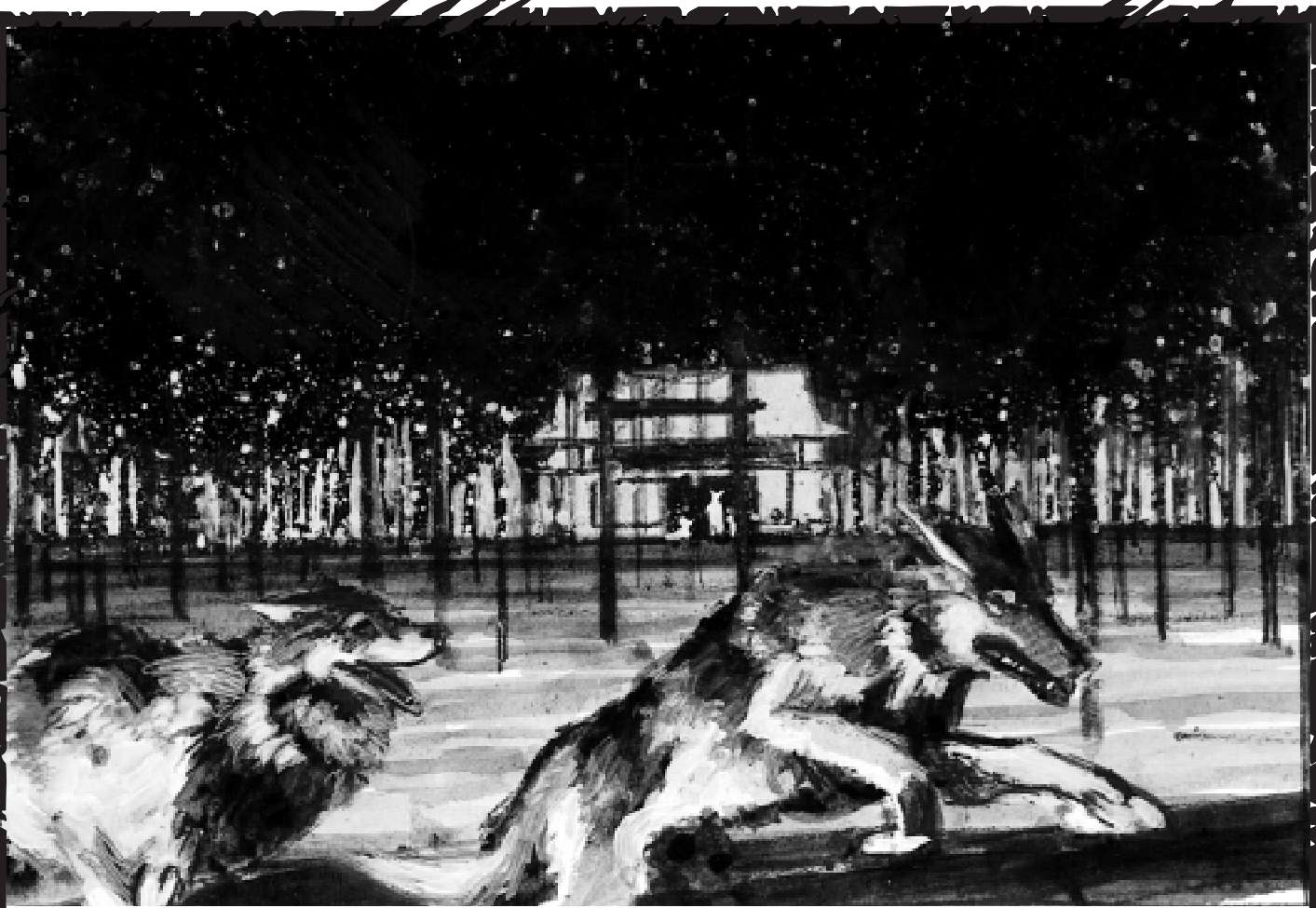
Ask yourself: Why does the Wyrms corrupt? Where does its rage come from?

Suffering.

The Wyrms are the supreme symbol of suffering. Its extreme pain causes the world more pain. But this is good! For it awakens us to pain, to the realization that all is not right with the world. Without that realization, we would never seek escape from the pain, but remain anesthetized in a numb acceptance of illusion.

And what is the cause of the Wyrms' suffering?

It is the same cause as all suffering: Mind. This is the true enemy. But I see that you already misunderstand. I do not mean the part of you which you think of as mind: your thoughts and feelings. They are but small illusions within a larger illusion.



Auspices

One moon
shows
in every pool;
In every pool
the one
moon.

— Soiku Shigematsu, *A Zen Forest*

Luna honors us as she does the other tribes by providing roles through which we can learn deep Understanding. She helps us to set the path we walk in this life by lending our incarnations secret wisdom.

Ragabash — Crazy Wisdom

The No Moon is the auspice of crazy wisdom — a knowing which abandons the rules to follow pure instinctual knowledge. Spontaneous, wild, cunning and amusing, full of humor and joy: The Ragabash is the smiling philosopher, using prank and riddle to undercut our egos, allowing our true selves to shine through. Who can be humiliated by them? Only ego suffers such shame. Laugh and be happy in the realization that you are not that shamed one; it is only a mask you wear.

Theurge — Spirit Wisdom

The Crescent Moon delves deeply into hidden lore, the invisible understanding barely glimpsed in the sliver of moonlight. The spirits have much to teach us, and the Theurges learn to listen. Their tantras are the most wondrous, defying the laws of the Web. But they risk also becoming enamored of their lore, and their egos often seek to become gods. Perhaps more than any other auspice, the Theurge must beware his ego, and strictly maintain his rites of humility, meditating and stilling the mind often.

Philodox — Culture Wisdom

We travel through many lifetimes forgetting many things. How can we maintain the lore we learn from one life to the next? Tradition. It is very important to honor tradition and the keeping of wisdom, for it is our anchor in each life, that which allows us to progress further without having to spend countless lives seeking wisdom which has already been won. The treasures of Understanding are kept within the myths, ways and rites of a culture, and it is the way of the Half Moon Philodox to guard this lore. The ways of a people speak deeply of that people's progress toward enlightenment.

Galliard — Poetic Wisdom

It is too easy to overlook beauty in our quests, so concerned do we become with the end goal. But beauty is the harbinger of the True Gaia Realm, reflecting its pure harmonies in the contrasts of the dualistic world. Those who can take the disparate experiences and forms of the world and show their beauty and interconnectivity, their harmony, are truly blessed and close to enlightenment. Such are the Gibbous Moon Galliards. In song, story and art, they speak to our hearts and remind us of our triumphs and failings, of our life in the Dawn Times.

Ahroun — Body Wisdom

Wisdom is not only of the mind. We must not forget the truths taught by our bodies, ever-changing, made of spirit and matter. The Full Moon Ahrouns know this wisdom best. The body cannot be ignored; it teaches the truths of the phenomenal world through pain and ecstasy — it teaches that others are real, both enemies and lovers. The Ahrouns must beware their rage, however, for it is stronger in them than others.

The Litany

As Garou, we honor the culture of our kind. Its wisdom stretches far back into the past, and contains whispers of the Dawn Times. But we interpret its wisdom differently than do other tribes.

Garou Shall Not Mate with Garou

To mate with another of our kind is to produce rage, a metis cub incapable of controlling its anger. We are born as a Garou not so that we can enjoy physical love with each other, but so that we can hone ourselves into spiritual weapons against the Weaver and the Wyrms. While we choose on occasion to breed with humans or wolves, this is so that we can birth more Stargazers. The karma is not always right for such a birth, but our seed leaves a karmic endowment which is passed on from body to body until the right soul connects with it, and a new Garou is born.

If you feel the need to mate with one of your kind, deny it. Remove yourself from that person and contemplate just why it is that such desire wells up within you. Perhaps this other Garou and you shared a soul in a previous life, in which case you must put such feelings in the past. Objectify the desire as if it is something separate from you; this allows you to view it from all perspectives.

We do not deny love; to deny such bliss from Gaia is evil. But we discriminate between the physical expression of love, based on false desires and goals, and the true love which comes from the heart.

Combat the Wyrms Wherever It Dwells, Wherever It Breeds

Indeed, this is so. But where does the Wyrms dwell? In the Web, trapped in a cocoon not of its own making. It is there that we must combat it.

And where does it breed? Within our minds. Its rage reaches across the realms and worlds and taints us all. We must combat the urges its breeds within us, for only then can we win against its outer manifestations, but shadows of the inner taint.

Many Garou say that we are weak on this tenet, but it is not so. We are the only Garou who take the fight to its source, rather than expending our energies against its minions.

Respect the Territory of Another

No one can truly own the earth; it belongs to itself and Gaia. Who owns the rocks upon which you stand? You or the rocks themselves? We understand this truth while also understanding the territorial nature of our kind. Respect another's territory not because it is his, but because it shows respect for him. Certainly, the possessive clinging to land is an illusion born of ignorance, and we do not seek to perpetuate it, but nothing is gained by angering those laboring under such delusions.

From another perspective, one's territory is one's own mindscape. If this is what is interpreted, then by all means we much respect such territory. Only Chimera and Gaia are allowed free access to another's mind; to force one's thoughts upon another without invitation is evil, and only empowers the ego.

Accept an Honorable Surrender

To think otherwise is surely a sign of an ignorant nature. Indeed, accept all surrenders that come from the heart. When a being gives himself over to your command in such wise, it is a great responsibility. You not only wield your own karma in such a circumstance, you also affect his. Forgiveness breeds more forgiveness, a virtue from the True Gaia Realm.

Of course, be wary. Some beings pantomime surrender in order to disarm you. Learn to discriminate the heart surrender from the knavery surrender.

Submit to Those of Higher Station

It is very important that you follow this tenet, for it helps us to slay the ego. Even when one above you is undeserving of such stature, follow this rule. If you are always humble, regardless of the recipient of your humility, your ego can never gain sway over your Self. Worry not about respect and reputation; the state of your own soul is far more important than such fleeting social values.