

I Am Rija, Who Are You?

An Origin Story

Rija came from the Old One and was female first. Beloved children, she and the other – Rama – grew up in the Old One’s garden. Rama was male; though, indeed they were twins, nearly identical as created.

In the beginning, all was light. They experienced no darkness in the garden. It was ever beautiful and no one knew toil. The two grew effortlessly. They were friends then, inseparable.

Yet, as they became more fully female and male, the seed of conflict, of difference, rooted itself between them.

Rama developed differently than Rija. As first male, he used his senses in another way and became more outwardly involved. It was not enough to appreciate, he felt the urge to manipulate his surroundings – he was active.

Rija appeared more passive in contrast. She went inward in her explorations. Her interest was held by the study of questions, while Rama liked answers. In their studies, consumed by their different pursuits, Rija did not acknowledge or even notice Rama’s way of being and he could not see hers.

Before long, they grew far apart in their minds. Their relationship with the Old One was their only connection. In their extreme misunderstanding of each other, they brought strife to the beautiful garden in which they lived. The volume of their arguments escalated to anger and caused a division in the garden itself, as creatures favored one or the other.

Eventually the Old One called them to It.

It spoke of how the One had become two and now the two must learn to live as one. It caused Rija and Rama to sleep, cast them into darkness. When they woke, they were not in the place they knew. Each felt alone in an alien land, populated by those they had never met. And, when each cried in fear of aloneness to the Old One, they heard only silence. They were on their own, with only what they knew.

Rija and Rama came together at times; sometimes they knew each other on sight, sometimes their original connection seemed too distant to recall. Foremost, each felt their aloneness. In the worlds that were new to them, they embodied their differences and explored the results. In sleep was the only time that the two became as one again, as their given bodies gave way to a shared consciousness.

As each existence was used up in some way, they would move on. Sometimes the Old One would call for Rija or Rama and bring them home. It would ask what they had learned. From that, they would awake to a new body and another existence in which to orient itself – sometimes Rija was male and Rama was female – always the landscape was somewhat changed. Always they had only what they knew and learned, with which to work. The groundwork of their future was laid in the past.

After many existences, the garden of their birth, and even the Old One, seemed less than a memory. Others were dispatched to help Rija and Rama remember their greater reality. But their views were filtered through self-created myth, through whatever story each had told themselves in the meanwhile. Indeed, neither saw that, after many existences, they had filled their adopted worlds with refractions of themselves. The refractions naturally developed to be as polarized as their origins. The more they forgot, the more they separated, the more Rija and Rama harmed their selves and the less each listened to any but their own thoughts.

More than once, Rija and Rama's polarity threatened to pull apart the very fabric of life. Each was solemnly warned in every way to change direction or be annihilated. Yet how could they resist...?

[The Question...]

To be continued.

[Its Answer.]