

The Mighty Ones [Death]

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The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even/or evermore. -- Psalms 121: 7, 8 [KJV]

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and the sea was no more. --Revelation 21:1 [KJV]

Long, long ago, there was the time of the giants. These great nations of huge beasts are called many things by many peoples: dinosaurs, thunder lizards, scaled lords, dragons, giants-- and those are only some names given by humans. The great creatures had many nations of their own, of course. Their time on the Earth was far longer than we have lived. Their names for themselves have been many. One such name was "*the Mighty Ones*." This story is about the way some of them said good-bye.

"It is time for us to go," the mother of a tribe of Mighty Ones said to her children. "How shall we go?" the giant babies asked her back.

"Each of our tribes goes a different way," the mother replied. "Our nation lives by the great volcano. She will speak soon. Our one, great land-- alone in the sea-- must die to give birth to many lands. Mother Earth will send her blood to us; we shall become children of the flowing rock. Giving ourselves to the stones, we may leave a record of ourselves for the future."

"Can't we just leave here?" argued her smartest child. "Can't we escape this?"

"Yes," she agreed, "we can move and choose another way to go. But, go or change we must. Our time here is over. It is not our age any longer."

"It is so sad to go," cried one of the children of the Mighty Ones. "I wish I could stay."

"Some of us will stay. Turtle will stay. Crocodile will stay. Some will hide in deep or far places. Some will grow wings and fly away. But, even for them, there will be a time to leave. There is a time to end even for the Earth herself."

The wisest of her children looked back at his mother with golden eyes and said, "We are children of the melted rock. We will stay with you. When we leave with you, we will change. If our bones become rock, then our breath will become wind and return to the lips of the Spirit Who first breathed it into us. If there is something new for the Earth, then there will be something new for us as well."

Where did they go? Chinese stories tell us that the dragons fell asleep and were covered with the skin of mother earth. Now, they are certain hills and mountains. When they turn in their *sleep*, the earthquakes come.

Some say dinosaurs did not all die; some changed, becoming the birds of the sky. Others still live among us today, hidden deep in the seas, in forgotten places on the earth, or simply unnoticed because they are so familiar-- like the turtle, crocodile, and alligator. Legends say the ghosts of the giants make thunder when they walk across the clouds during a stormy night.

Life and death, saying hello and saying goodbye, is a part of the way things are for everything. But this promise we have from God: *“The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.”*

God will not forget you. For every going out, there is a coming in. You may be afraid or angry to say goodbye to someone you love who must leave their body to the stones of this world. But, remember the breath that gave that body life goes back to God. And God’s breath has always made us alive. There is always something new and beautiful with God. Trust life’s pattern and, remember: nothing’s breath just goes away: it goes to God.