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### The Eternal Chase

In the beginning, the earth and sky realms were lifeless. Time did not exist, days did not pass. The two spirits that governed these realms found themselves wandering aimlessly through a barren world. The spirits yearned for a sense of purpose, for beings to rule over. To fulfill their desires, the two spirits gathered special materials from their respective realms and crafted two men; one of light and one of darkness.

The two men resided in the earth realm and received guidance from both spirits. The spirits taught the men to work together, gather supplies, and build shelters. The men lived in peace for a while, but as time passed they began to develop the same problems as their creators. The lives they had made for themselves grew dull and pointless so they looked to the spirits for guidance. The spirits revealed that the two men were far more divine than they knew. The spirits had endowed each of the men with half of the necessary powers needed to create life. The spirits explained that the two men were put on the earth to fill it with wonderful creatures for the spirits to watch over. The spirits only specification was that the two men work together to create perfectly balanced creatures. With this knowledge, the men swiftly set out to fulfill the wishes of their creators.

The two men were inexperienced at first and thus their creations pleased neither of the spirits. With time, the men grew more proficient and began creating beautiful creatures that would roam the earth as long as the spirits were there to watch over them. Each new creature made both spirits happy, but the earth spirit was far more content as all the animals belonged to its realm. The man of light was content

with his creations and how they pleased the spirits, but the man of darkness noticed a hint of sadness within the sky spirit. **The man of darkness** wondered why the **sky spirit** was hiding sadness behind a facade of happiness. He thought the creatures he and his counterpart made satisfied the spirits, but the sky spirit was obviously upset and he was determined to find out why.

He approached the earth spirit and asked if it too had noticed the sky spirit's gloomy attitude. The earth spirit told him that it had not noticed any sadness as it was too busy watching over all of the new animals in its realm. It was at this moment that the man of darkness understood the sky spirit's sadness. All of the animals he and the man of light created resided in the earth realm. While he, his counterpart, and the earth spirit were enjoying the abundance of life in the earth realm, the sky spirit was forced to observe from above and remained lonely.

The man of darkness sought out his partner so they could both create something that would please the sky spirit. He found the man of light surrounded by animals the men had created. He asked the man of light to help create an animal for the sky spirit. The man of light responded by stating that all the animals the pair had created were intended to please both spirits and the sky spirit had no reason to be sad. The man of darkness insisted but the man of light could not be persuaded. The man of darkness knew he could not be content in life if he failed to fulfill the wishes of both spirits, so he devised a plan to create an animal behind his partner's back in order to please the sky spirit.

The man of darkness knew that no ordinary creature would be able to accompany the sky spirit in its own realm. He and the man of light created many creatures together, and the man of darkness had a rough understanding of what his partner contributed in the process. **It took several attempts, but eventually he produced a creature with half the number of legs he and his partner gave the other animals and replaced the missing limbs with a special set that would allow the animal to roam by the sky spirit's side.** He was certain this would please the sky spirit and hastily made his way to the sky realm without showing the earth spirit or man of light what he made.

It did not take him long to find the sky spirit. The spirit sat alone in the now dark sky and was pleasantly surprised to see him. He told the sky spirit of his observations and what had come of them. The sky spirit was momentarily saddened when hearing that the earth spirit and man of light did not want to help, but was immediately filled with glee upon seeing what the man of darkness had created. The creature seemed as comfortable in the sky realm as the spirit itself. The spirit asked the man if it could give the creature a name as the privilege of naming creatures has always belonged to the earth spirit. The man was delighted that the spirit was pleased by his creation and insisted that it be the one to name the creature. The spirit called the creature a “bird” and gifted the man with a home next to its own in the sky realm so that the two may enjoy the animal’s songs together.

The man of light was made aware of his partner’s actions by the wave of darkness that swept over the sky. He speculated that his partner would create an animal for the sky spirit and his suspicions were confirmed when he saw a bird soaring in the sky above. He was furious that his partner would create life without him. He stormed off to the earth spirit and told the spirit what his partner had done. The earth spirit was content with what the men had created in his realm and paid no mind to the man and his anger. The man could not forgive this perceived betrayal and decided that he would exact his revenge immediately.

The man raced to the sky realm and found his partner talking with the sky spirit in the man’s new home. He could not believe his partner would take matters into his own hands and make a home for himself in the sky realm. In a fit of jealousy, he stole the bird from the spirit and headed to the earth realm. The spirit alerted the man of darkness and he was able to seal his partner’s entrance to the earth realm. The man of darkness promised to retrieve the animal for the spirit and chased after his partner in the sky realm.

The two men were created as equals, and they raced across the sky realm just the same. They tore through the sky causing it to shift from light to dark as they completed each and every lap. The man of

light refused to return the bird and the man of darkness refused to break his promise to the sky spirit. On and on the man of darkness chased but he did not get any closer to his partner nor did he lose any ground. Noting that the men's cycle would continue steadily and infinitely, the animals of the earth realm decided to name the two shifts in light and darkness. They called the two periods of time, night and day. Day was marked by a wave of light and the symphonic chirping of the bird. Night began with a wave of darkness illuminated by the sky spirit waiting patiently for its gift to be returned. For the rest of days, the two men are destined to represent the passage of time in an eternal chase until one gives in.

## Key

-Ex Nihilo

-Personification

-Protagonist

-Antagonist

- Guardian

-Super Natural Events

-Explanation of how night and day came to be