

Lightning Myth

By Sadie Moors

Once, a long time ago, in a kingdom made of white and fluffy clouds, so beautiful and pearly, there lived two sisters, Raynna and Zoe. They were not normal sisters. They were goddesses. Zoe was the goddess of the sky. She created day and night. She painted the sunsets and changed the color of the sky with her magic. She could also change the weather from sunny and bright to dark and windy, in a snap of her fingers. Raynna was the goddess of rain, who controlled the clouds and made them cry their tears upon the earth. Their personalities were very different. Zoe was dramatic, like the difference between a gloomy misty night or a bright hot blistering sunny afternoon. Raynna was calm like a gentle breeze or a wave coasting towards warm sand. But she was also stubborn like a drought that weakens the earth and turns it brittle and brown.

The sisters always got into fights over who was better and more important. One fine spring morning, Raynna was making a delightful spring rain while sitting on a soft cloud with her sister. As they watched a farmer tend her tomatoes, the farmer said, "What a lovely spring rain! It will make my tomatoes nice and plump." "Did you hear that?" asked Raynna, "She loves my rain!" Zoe heard it and got very jealous and snapped, "If it wasn't for me, she wouldn't have gotten enough sleep and gotten up in the morning to tend her tomatoes. Then she mumbled under her breath, "That farmer obviously likes the sky more than the rain."

One morning, Zoe was painting the sky a bright light blue over the pink of the sunrise. Raynna walked up to her sister and said, "That's an awful color; paint over it at once!" "I'm not changing it at all," yelled Zoe. Looking down, they both saw a Social Studies teacher stepping out of her classroom to let her kids out for recess. The teacher said, "It makes me so happy that there's not a drop of rain in the sky today. I love this magnificent blue sky!" Zoe shouted, "See, this person loves the color of my sky; why can't you?" "Well, people have different opinions, Zoe," yelled Raynna, storming off with a small puff of a rain cloud over her head.

One day, a huge wildfire started over the hills, sending up smoke into the cloud kingdom. Zoe started to paint the sky a gloomy gray and told Raynna to start some heavy rain on the wildfire so people would not get hurt. "You don't tell me what to do!" said Raynna angrily, "I'll decide when it's time to rain. That's my job, missy!" The sisters started screaming and shouting at each other. At the moment they both screamed at the exact same split second, their anger mixed together and a huge fire bolt came out of the sky. It was a huge ball of red swirling anger, lashing down to the earth, hitting a tree and spreading the fire towards the nearby village. People below started running from the flames like little ants to a crumb and screaming for help. At that moment, Raynna started to pour down sheets of rain and Zoe began to clear the smoke-filled sky.

The village was safe at last and all the little villagers got down on their knees and prayed to the sky goddesses. The sisters realized they were stronger united and had more power by working together. When they realized this, the love and respect they had for each other created a beautiful glossy rainbow that stretched across the village. But to this day, sisters being sisters, Zoe and Raynna still get into fights over who is better, and that's when lightning appears on earth.