



原经 : The Classic of Origins

一、前

Part One—Before

*“Before the first daybreak,
After the last twilight,
The everlasting light,
The unending darkness.*

*How splendid is its beauty?
How terrible is its power?*

*It goes on and on and on—
for ten thousand myriad years.”*

In the time before time, the world before this world, there was nothing and everything. The primordial void encompassed life and death; light and dark; peace and chaos. Such was the state at the start of the universe; such it shall be at its end.

Within the void was nothing—not man nor beast; not mountain nor sea. Substance did not exist; being could not be; time would not pass. Blissful in its silence and tranquil in its stillness, it was the way of the world for an eternity of eternities.

Yet the void was not empty. Within the boundless vessel was the cosmic energy of the universe: the life force of every being which has ever been and which will ever be; the memory of every moment which has ever passed and which will ever come to pass.

This great energy was not created nor could it be destroyed—it simply was. And out of this energy, when it was so ordained by the overarching cosmic order, emerged the first being.

二、中

Part Two—Amidst

*“Two great beings,
Emerging from the void,
Two parts of one design;*

*The beast of the land,
The creature of peace and order,
Tethered to the ground
Which it fashioned in its image.*

*The being of the skies,
Harbinger of freedom and chaos,
Free to roam the void
Which hath no dominion."*

Emerging from the void, the creature woke and looked around. It could not walk upon the void, so it fashioned from the cosmic energy that flowed around it a being of the skies that could fly through the void and harness its power.

"Bring me energy so that I may make substance," the great creator beast thundered. Flying through the endless expanse, the dragon obliged, absorbing within itself the building blocks of life, elements, and everything else in the world and bringing it in turn to the badgermole.

With this energy, the badgermole created the earth beneath its feet. It then took the first step onto the ground of its design; this created time. It took a second step, then a third, and so forth, with each step giving shape to the surface of the world.

Thus, the badgermole and the dragon were partners, and together they created everything. But it all changed when the badgermole created man.

三、后

Part Three—After

*"The two paths which diverge
At the foot of the mountain
And shall never again cross;*

*The one paved with gold,
Splendid beyond splendour,
Beautiful beyond beauty,
Ruins the traveller who upon it sets;*

*The one of solid earth,
Though uninviting and harsh,
Provides a firm footing,
And leads him through the treacherous pass."*

Marvelling in its work, the badgermole instilled in its creation respect for the order of the world of its design. Man was to live upon the earth, taking from it what he needed to tame the wilds and conquer the seas.

But the dragon did not share in the badgermole's vision. It did not believe in the natural order and scoffed at the thought of man being tethered to the ground. So it roamed the cosmos harnessing vast energies and imbued the energies in man to give him the dark arts of flight and apparition.

"You are now free to reshape the order of the world," the dragon told the corrupted men whom he took as followers.

The badgermole was aghast, and called upon its loyal followers to expel the dragon from this world. The followers of the badgermole and the followers of the dragon did battle for many myriad years, and the children of the earth were victorious.

The dragon took its followers into the vast expanse, beyond the reach of the ground-dwellers, and split the world in twain. The followers of the badgermole lived in the world of light, while the acolytes of the dragon lived in darkness athwart the edge of the void. The worlds were now separate, though the darkness of night would reopen the portal between the worlds and allow the servants of the dark to roam upon the earth.

To fight the incursions of its fallen creations, the badgermole endowed man with the gift of creation, which he could use to harness the cosmic energy and reshape the earth. Having imparted the sum of its knowledge to man, the badgermole's duty to the world was complete and so it returned its life force to the cosmic energy field of the universe and became one with the void.