

Drasil

written by

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EXT. COTTAGE ABOVE THE CLOUDS - MORNING

ATLAS sits at the stoop of his cottage. He breathes in, full of purpose.

He stands up and grabs his backpack, filled to the brim with every earthly possession he can call his own.

MOM (O.S.)

Are you sure you want to do this?

Atlas turns around to meet the gaze of his mother.

ATLAS

More sure than I've ever been about anything.

MOM

Okay.

He turns around and begins to walk away.

MOM (CONT'D)

I'll miss you.

He stops in his tracks.

ATLAS

Me too.

He continues walking.

ATLAS (CONT'D)

Me too...

She watches her son walk away and breaks down crying.

He begins his descent.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE BELOW THE CLOUDS - DAY

Atlas makes his way past the cover of the clouds and for the first time sees some semblance of the earth below. It is peaceful, quaint.

A screeching from the skies breaks Atlas from his trance and he sees the object shooting towards him: a Thunderbird. Startled, he lets go and falls to a nearby protrusion of the mountain.

The Thunderbird follows him down, entrapping him with its massive wings. It opens its jaws in starved fury.

ATLAS

Wait!

The bird stops its motion to hear what Atlas has to say.

ATLAS (CONT'D)

Before you eat me, may I have a
chance to earn my life?

MUNNIN

What do you have in mind mortal?

Atlas pauses, thinking.

ATLAS

A test of skill.

MUNNIN

Ahh, a physical test of might.
Brave of you, if foolish.

ATLAS

Not of physical might, of something
more important.

MUNNIN

What could be more important than
the might of one's body?

ATLAS

The might of one's mind.

Munnin chortles at the thought.

MUNNIN

Alright then kibble, convince me to
let you live.

ATLAS

Do you know why, great Thunderbird,
I descend this mountain?

MUNNIN

Why is that fool?

ATLAS

For a brighter future. For the new
and exciting. To experience the
prime of my life the way I wish to.

MUNNIN

You choose to leave your home in
the clouds for that of the earth
and sea?

ATLAS

Yes.

Munnin laughs harder than ever.

MUNNIN

Oh you truly are a fool, let me
save you from your delusions of
grandeur.

He opens his mouth once more and encroaches on Atlas.

ATLAS

Did you not have dreams once too?

The bird stops.

MUNNIN

What concern is that of yours?

ATLAS

When you were but a hatchling, did
you not dream of a greater world
for you to explore?

MUNNIN

Yes. I suppose I did.

ATLAS

And you had to take that leap, the
leap to leave the nest and make
your own path.

MUNNIN

I did.

ATLAS

That is exactly what I am doing.

MUNNIN

What you are doing is foolish.

ATLAS

Is that what you told yourself all
those years ago?

A pause between the two as an understanding is met.

MUNNIN

I'll let you be on your way.

Grateful, Atlas nods and begins to descend once again.

MUNNIN (CONT'D)

And when your body fatally hits the
ground beneath your feet, it will
be I, Munnin, who rends your corpse
from this realm.

ATLAS

Agreed.

The Thunderbird screeches and flies into the cloud cover,
leaving Atlas to his quest.

He descends further.

EXT. TRAIL TOWARDS THE GROUND - DAY

Atlas has descended further down the mountain, nearer to the
realm of man than he had ever been.

A hiker, LIF, notices Atlas on his descent and is intrigued
by this strange figure.

LIF

Hey stranger.

Atlas breaks from his path and meets Lif's eyes.

ATLAS

Good tidings, stranger.

LIF

Where do you think you're going?

Atlas looks up to the sky, then drawing his focus to the
land.

ATLAS

Chasing my destiny.

LIF

Well, good luck...I guess.

Lif begins to walk up the trail.

ATLAS

What of you kind stranger? Why do
you ascend this mountain?

LIF

Chasing my destiny.

Atlas smiles, then his look turns to that of apprehension.

ATLAS

You know there is nothing for you
up there right?

LIF

What do you mean?

ATLAS

At the top of this mountain, there
is nothing but barren sky as far as
the eye can see.

LIF

How do you know this?

ATLAS

There...

He points to the clouds.

ATLAS (CONT'D)

...is where I spent my whole life.

LIF

And you're choosing to leave it?

ATLAS

Yes.

LIF

Why?

ATLAS

Because I want to find out if it
gets better than this.

Lif smiles.

LIF

It does. It absolutely does.

ATLAS

And you?

LIF

I'm up here, hiking and exploring
our great Mount Othinn. Does it get
better than this?

Atlas smiles in kind.

ATLAS

That is for you to decide I
suppose.

LIF
I suppose so.

They hold each other's gaze for a moment.

ATLAS
Well, good travels stranger.

LIF
Lif.

ATLAS
What?

LIF
My name is Lif.

ATLAS
Atlas.

They smile at each other.

LIF
Well, I hope you find what you're
looking for.

ATLAS
And I you.

The two separate and continue on their respective paths.

Atlas descends further.

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE ABOVE THE TREETOPS - DAY

Atlas has reached the trees on the ground, the foliage overtaking everything that he sees. He smiles, he has almost reached his destiny.

The ground shifts below him, though he doesn't notice. A group of pebbles roll down the path, following him. After a moment, Atlas stops and looks down to see a face made of pebbles meeting him.

OTHINN
Traveler!

Atlas ignores the rocks.

OTHINN (CONT'D)
Traveler, cease your quest!

ATLAS

And what concern is it of yours,
mound of rocks?

OTHINN

If you continue your journey, only
regret and disappointment will meet
you.

ATLAS

How can you be so sure?

OTHINN

You and I are both aware.

Atlas disregards this and keeps moving forward.

OTHINN (CONT'D)

If you leave, you will never be
able to return!

Atlas stops once again. The pebbles scale a treeface to be
eye to eye with the adventurer.

OTHINN (CONT'D)

You will be banished forever.

ATLAS

I know.

OTHINN

Then why embark on this foolish
mission?

ATLAS

To make a brighter future for
myself.

He continues walking. The pebbles roll around to follow him.

OTHINN

What does that entail? Total
isolation? A life without your
family and away from everything you
know?

ATLAS

Yes. Absolutely yes.

Atlas begins to walk away from Othinn. A flurry of rocks,
leaves and twigs begin to swirl behind Atlas, which catches
his attention.

Behind him stands the figure of an ancient god, bearded and face wild with divine fury.

OTHINN

I've been following you your whole journey, your whole life. I am the Othinn, god of mountain, and I know it does not get better than this.

ATLAS

Maybe not for you. But I...I need a fresh start.

OTHINN

So you flee, like a fool, a coward?

Atlas stops, angered.

ATLAS

I am making my own future.

OTHINN

You have everything you need here. There's no use in running.

ATLAS

Then why do I feel trapped?

OTHINN

It's for your protection.

ATLAS

It's for my imprisonment.

Silence between them as Othinn's enraged eyes meet that of Atlas.

OTHINN

Very well, you may leave.

ATLAS

Gladly.

He continues on his path.

OTHINN

I'll miss you.

Atlas stops and takes one final look at the embodiment of his home.

ATLAS

I know.

As Atlas walks away, the pebbles fall apart and all that is heard is the rushing wind; it sounds like crying.

He descends further.

EXT. BASE OF MOUNTAIN - DAY

Atlas makes it to the place where mountain meets land. He looks at the ground, feeling trepidation over his final step.

He breathes out, confident in his choice. Taking one last step he feels free. He is a new man.

He walks along the dirt road away from the mountain, away from all he's ever known, into a brighter tomorrow.