

Imagi

By K. H. Blackmoore

This is the tale of the Imagi as recorded by the Chronicler Kraven in the years of Travel in the Time of Peace.

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The Imagi began with the birth of The Boy to Ancient parents, those who called themselves human, in the years Before in the Time of Chaos. When the Ancients, called human, were without a leader, having many, and bound to the Planet Sorrows, then called Earth. Now it was the time of Discovery when the Ancients first began to know and study the Gifts of the Mind. Governments often took Those Gifted, for safety it was said, though many feared and hated those Gifted, the Government's true wish was to claim Those Gifted for themselves. Many reasons there were for this claiming, though mainly Those Gifted were trained and focused in the dread art of Killing, for no Government was safe in the time of Chaos.

And so it was that when The Boy was born, his Ancient Parents did not submit him to be tested for the gifts. For they

were of an Ancient faith, which held not with the Gifts but persecuted Those Gifted as evil.

Now many tales have been told of the first sign The Boy gave of his Gifts, but only this one, recorded by the hands of the Chronicler Kraven, is true. For the Gifts, though they may be detected at any age, only manifest themselves when the body passes from a child to that of an adult. Yet so great was The Boy's power that such was not true of him.

Now at the age of six, when the Ancient children were oft allowed to play together, The Boy was taken by his Ancient Parents to a field where many objects of strange designs were placed that children might use them. Now at this field were many children, one of whom was wont to take his joy from the pain of others. And on that day, while the Ancient Parents conversed with others like them, The Boy was found playing on one of the objects by the child who loved the pain of others. This child struck The Boy from the object, causing him to fall to the ground. But The Boy, being of a gentle nature, did not cry or fuss, simply moving to another strange object. This lack of objection angered the child who loved the pain of others. So he followed The Boy, striking him again. Yet still The Boy did not resist the child that loved others pain. Striking him repeatedly, at last the child who loved the pain of others at

last caused The Boy to cry. Laughing the child struck a final blow, and the pain the Boy felt was changed to anger, and his first Gift was realized.

So powerful was this Gift, the Gift of Projection, the Gift which allowed one to put his thoughts into another's mind, to hear the thoughts of others, and even to control the actions of others, if present in the strongest form. This was the First Gift The Boy manifested, in form so powerful that all those around, for the range of many miles, Felt the anger The Boy felt. And they felt the blow The Boy struck at the child who loved the pain of others. A blow, untrained, untested, yet so powerful that the child was driven unconscious.

Now the effect of this blow was two fold. The first effect came from the Ancient Order the Ancient Parents proscribed to. They, in their chosen ignorance, decided that any Gift was evil and a Gift as powerful as The Boy's must be destroyed immediately. They demanded that the Ancient Parents destroy The Boy themselves or turn him over to another to accomplish this foul act. These demands were not unheard of, and were often met by the members of the Ancient Order. Yet the Ancient Parents of The Boy, being of those few who in that age loved their child in truth and not just in word, fled with him before the Ancient Order had time to realize that it had been spurned.

The second effect, as grievous as the first had been, was worse. For now the Governments realized that a Gift with greater power than any in existence was unclaimed and each Government desired that The Boy belong to them, so that that Government could prevail over its brothers. This was manifested in the sending of their Most Powerful Gifted from each of the many Governments to obtain The Boy at any cost.

For the love of their young son, The Ancient Parents fled across the face of the planet called Sorrows. Yet bound as the Ancients were, unable to pass much further than the Great Shield, the planet contained no refuge to hide. For The Boy continued to Send all thoughts and emotions to any within a great distance, being untrained. This drew the Hunters of both the Ancient Orders and the Governments. For several revolutions of the Great Shield the Ancient Parents were able to evade the Hunters. Yet The Boy could not be hide for long in any place, and the Hunters grew ever closer.

It was in this time of need that a Mentor arose. One of the Hunters, of a lesser Government, the Mentor was not deaf to the headings of reason, which the Ancients called Conscience. It was the Mentor which found The Boy and the Ancient Parents as they stood at bay, trapped by Hunters from the Ancient Order, who defeated the Hunters and gave those Hunters false memories.

Memories of the death of The Boy and The Ancient Parents, with the Mentors' Gifts and the false news of death, at last gave The Boy and the Ancient Parents a chance to hide.

Thus began the years of training, which The Boy learned to hide his thoughts so that no one felt them, to project those thoughts to one or many, to control another's mind or give that mind false memories or thoughts. And as The Boy learned, a second Gift awoke, that of reading minds, which The Boy also had in great power. Thus it was, that at last The Boy learned to fight mind to mind, to shield or break another's mind shield, to control ones opponent, for to kill mind to mind required more power than any possessed even The Boy. So it was that The Boy grew into The Young Man.

Now it was during the years of training that the They first appeared. The They first came to the Great Shield of the planet called Sorrows, where the great ship was set in orbit. A lesser ship came down to the planet called Sorrows and flew through the skies. Much panic among the Ancients was caused by this, though they did not turn their great weapons on the lesser ship. Instead a great many Governments sent Air Ships to watch the lesser ship as it flew here and there.

Tragedy was born that day, though the end was Imagi. For an Air Ship approached upon the lesser ship and an energy struck

it from the sky. The remains had not yet touched upon the earth before the great weapons of the Ancients were opened and the lesser ship was destroyed. The Greater ship also sustained a great deal of damage, though it left the orbit of the Great Shield and escaped into the space the Ancients could not follow.

Now the planet called Sorrows was in chaos. Governments rose and fell only to rise again. Every Ancient was against his neighbor, and many religious Orders sought to slay any who saw or believed about They. For many of the Orders thought that the Ancients alone existed in reason.

It was during this time that a leader arose who united the Governments and brought a measure of order, though no one could reason with the Ancient Orders. This leader knew that the They would return for retribution, so prepare the planet he did.

Both the Ancient Parents perished in the chaos, though the Mentor and The Young Man escaped. Neither revealed that they possessed Gifts, and lived as those without, humbly and quietly. So the years past until The Young Man became a Man of twenty.

Now the They returned in the twentieth year of the life of the Man. They set their great ships in the far reaches of space and sent many lesser ships and greater ships to destroy the planet called Sorrows. Thus began the Great Battle in which many Ancients and They died. For the They were not want to go

to war with each other as the Ancients did, though their numbers were far greater, their weapons were not as great nor did They know the many ways to kill. So the Great Battle raged for a week and a half, for the They would come down to the planet called Sorrows in great numbers and destroy all in their path until a great many They were destroyed upon which time They returned to the great ships the Ancients could not reach. Though the Ancients destroyed many for each Ancient that died, the numbers of the They were simply too great.

So it came to pass that on the eleventh day the They brought their great ships down to the planet called Sorrows, to destroy all with their numbers alone. And the Ancients were afraid, for they could not replace those who fell in battle and no longer could resist such an attack but would be destroyed utterly.

Now at last, as the They entered the atmosphere, the Man attempted what no Ancient had done before, and cast out his mind and touched the mind of a They. Now the mind he touched was not as an Ancient mind, and the Man could not comprehend what he saw and heard there.

But the Man could confuse the mind of the They so that the They erred and struck another They with the weapons of that They's lesser ship. Now encouraged the Man cast out to the far

reaches of his power, confusing the Minds of many They so that as the battle was joined the forces of the Ancients were not destroyed immediately. Yet as great as the Man's power was, the number of They were far greater, so that the battle was fierce, with many deaths on each side as all the days before. And so the day past, with the Man assisting the forces of the Ancients, yet losing the battle all the while.

At last, as the Star of the planet sank in the West the Man touched the mind of a They that felt his touch and knew it for what it was, striking back in return. The Man's power was greater though; able to deflect the thoughts aimed at the Mans mind and return the blow. Yet the Man could not break the shield around the mind of the They. And upon the returning of the blow, the They withdrew its mind from the battle, and all the They fled into space, even though They had won the battle and were but moments from destroying the Ancients.

Now the Man was held a Hero on the planet called Sorrows, yet the planet was all but destroyed. For much had been obliterated and much life lost by the attacks of the They. Yet the Man knew, as did the leader of the planet, that the They would return, and prepare they must. Yet how to accomplish all that must be done escaped them for a time.

So the Ancients set upon the task of repairing the planet called Sorrows, while the leader also attempted to rebuild the armies. Now that the Man nor the Mentor must live as those without gifts, they too worked with those Gifted to learn no longer to fight each other, as the Governments had taught them but rather as a team.

Many of the Ancients believed that the They had been destroyed, and these Ancients opposed the rebuilding of the Armies and also the training of the Gifted. Much time was lost as those Ancients opposed fought them with them with words, and laws where they could, and finally violence. Despite this, much was accomplished although there were simply not enough Ancients to rebuild the Armies and terrible Weapons back to what they were. Although the Gifted did at last put aside many differences and to unite their minds to a lesser degree, giving them great power, though not the power of the Imagi.

This was the state of the planet called Sorrows when the They returned. So many were their ships that the sky was darkened, blocking the Star by day and the lesser stars by night. And this time the They did not stop at the great shield, but drove down to the planet, obliterating all in their path.

Now when the Man reached to touch the minds as he had before (for his reach was the greatest) he felt many minds which

knew his Touch and struck at him, forcing him to retreat. Yet in that moment he knew that even as a team, all the Gifted could not defeat the multitude, but would be destroyed as the planet burned.

In this desperate hour the Imagi were born. For in desperation the Man reached for all the minds he could, any whom he had spoken with or been in contact with, whom a Mind link he had shared or created. And in the time of the mind, which is less than the time of light, but greater than the time of action, he bound the many minds he touched into one mind but many bodies, the Imagi. For he did not know that the power of two minds was not two but four, and the power of three minds was not three or even nine, but thirteen, even as the Ancient prophecy was filled, which spoke: "Two minds are better than one". So in the moment the minds were bound together in the One that is Many, the greatest power was born, though not the power of the Imagi today. Now many think this action wrong, to alter people without their permission, but this is not the case, for in the moment Before he showed those he would bind the thoughts in his mind, with all he knew, and felt, and remembered, so they knew him as himself, and as one voice cried "YES" so permission was given.

Now in the moment they were bound, the Imagi knew all, the all about each other Imagi, as if they each had lived the life of each, so though they speak with one voice, they are many. In the next moment the Imagi reached for the minds of the They, and not just the They around the planet called Sorrows, but all They, even those at the edge of Existence. Once found, the Imagi struck a blow unlike any before, a blow to kill, not one, but a race.

This blow was the greatest mistake that has ever been made. For after the blow was sent, but before it fell, the They became Imagi. The Imagi had not known that to kill another, that other must be one's self. And as the They saw in the lives of the Imagi the crime they had and would commit, They cried to the Imagi "Forgive Us". And as the Imagi saw the crime they had committed, "Forgive Us" they too cried.

"We Forgive" each answered and then the They were gone. Yet the power and memories of each of those lost and those who remained were left in the mind of the Imagi. For though an Imagi can be killed, the power and knowledge held by all remains.

So the Imagi came into their full power, though the cost was great. No longer able to bear the site of so many sorrows, the Imagi, with the power of their mind alone formed ships out

of the wreckage of the planet and the ships of the They. Taking those who would, or could be bought, or forced, the Imagi left the planet then called Earth, though they first healed its hurts and blessed it, and named it Sorrows.

Few people were left after the battles that would not go, though there were some. No contact has been had with those who were left, for no one walks on the planet called Sorrows since the great Leaving.

Calling themselves now no longer human, but Troubles, the Ancients followed the Imagi into the depths of space. Many other tales be felled them, and much was learned by the Imagi, but these tales have no bearing upon this story. So the Imagi began to lead the Universe, and Troubles spread.

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Recorded by my own hand,

Chronicler Kraven, Imagi

So that none forget.