

The Sisterhood, Part I

Atlantis, app. 50.000 bc

The Temple of Love stood on the shore of the bay, overlooking the sea. It was a low, flat, white structure comprised of many parts. Most noticeable was the dome of the crystal chamber in the centre of the complex and the tall tower slightly to the left of the dome. Most of the single story buildings were interconnected and housed the dormitories, library, offices, rehearsal rooms, and study halls.

The temple tower was not a tower in the sense of being lookout post. Instead the tall structure was laced with an intricate pattern that allowed you to see right through it. Some people even claimed that when the angle was just right, they could see the shining light from above coming down through the centre of the tower.

Apart from the tall, slender tower serving as an antenna to draw down the energies that the priestesses worked with in the temple, the design of the temple complex was very simple, even plain. Yet the buildings seemed to sparkle in the sunlight as the rays would bounce off the surface of glittering whitewash mixed with sea shells.

The Temple of Love was even more unearthly beautiful in the light of the full moon, when it took on a pinkish hue and the moon would reflect off the waters of the bay. The same beauty seemed to fill people's hearts whenever the priestesses were sharing their sacred work of unconditional love through song, writings, healing or teaching.

The city could be seen in the distance and reaching the temple was an easy ride through the rugged landscape leading down to the bay. There were no walls around the temple complex. The temple had never needed protection before.

"Priestess, priestess... You must wake up! First Priestess wants you to come. She says it's urgent."

She was deep in sleep in the middle of night. The maid servant was shaking her shoulder gently but determinately. The message finally seeped through her drowsy state and she hurriedly dressed in the white robe marking her as serving in The Temple of Love. She tied her long, dark hair back in a ponytail as she walked briskly along the corridors to answer the summoning from the First Priestess.

(descriptions of the temple)

"You called, my lady?" She looked at First Priestess with deep reverence and love. The woman sitting in front of her had been the most important part of her life ever since she was brought to the temple when she was 6 years old. She praised her luck daily and the woman with the deep blue eyes and thick long hair in the colour of

tarnished gold was more dear to her than any mother or sister could ever have been. Tonight the older woman looked tired and worried.

"Yes, my dear. We have much to do and so little time left. The forces of Azura Timu are closing in. I cannot ward him off much longer."

"But surely he wouldn't dare attack the Temple of Love? That would for certain turn the people against him"

"I am afraid not, my dear child. The time has passed when people care. Azura Timu own lust for power is so strong that he corrupted most of those surrounding him. The rest he has enslaved. Few can but do his bidding. It may peaceful enough but since he started taking over all four cities of Atlantis the world has turned dark. Only the Temple of Love and the Temple of Tien is still outside of his influence.

Yesterday Azura Timu gave us a final ultimatum. He will accept only the Temple of Love as a temple of prostitutes. He knows in his heart how powerful untained love can be and he hopes to break that power by degrading the very function of the Temple of Love."

"But he can't! *We can't!*How can any man force a woman to prostitute herself? That is rape. Please, my lady. You must stop him." Against her will she started crying.

"Please, no. I am so scared! Please help us..."

"My dear child, I wish I could. I have tried everything. I have even appealed to the temple of Tien but they are naive and do not truly believe that Azura Timu will harm us if we cooperate."

"But... Do they see nothing? Spending all their time zipping in and out of dimensions with no interest in what is happening around us. Any fool can see that the man is destroying our world!"

"Please do not be too harch on them, my child. We all have our own destiny and the wheel is turning to the next phase. There is nothing I can do to stop Azura Timu. His soldiers will brake down our gates at the first rays of the sun. Only by employing forces even more powerful than his could I stop him and that would destroy not only Atlantis but the whole planet. For now we must be brave and endure and not hate. I sense that sometime in a distant future the wheel will turn again and we must be read for this time."

"I know you have The Sight, my lady. Please tell me, how long will we have to endure? How many years?"

"Not years, my dear. Very many lifetimes, I am afraid.

I have called you here tonight not just to prepare you for the inevitable but also for you to help me. I will employ the full power of The Sight. I will try to look into our future so that we may know what lies ahead for us. For this kind of knowledge I

must go into the deepest trance and I will not remember what I have said. You must remember for me."

The older woman hugged her tightly and she stifled a sobbing. Drawing on years of relentless discipline she controlled her breathing and was sitting once again erect and prepared.

First Priestess induced her altered awareness and when she spoke again her voice sounded different, as if coming from a place far away.

"Thousands of years will pass before the evil and darkness that Azura has gifted the world with can be released. We too will live in the dark through circles of lives, barely surviving, not remembering our past or our powers. Our bodies will have died so many times over but our souls will not die and some day we will return to resume our work.

Disciples of the Temple of Love can only practice their powers in a world of unconditional love. We cannot even fight for the light because fighting for light gives power to the darkness.

But the wheel of destiny will turn as the planets turn and many many years from now we once again reach a full circle, aligning with the central sun of our galaxy. That time will bring about great changes for the Earth and it will let in light to finally disperse the darkness. At that time we will finally be able to, once again, step into our full powers and help heal the world of the wounds that are now being inflicted upon it and upon humanity."

"But how can the Gods allow this to happen? How can such an evil man be allowed to live? And all the people who follow him willingly..."

"Do not judge. Enough souls have asked for this experience and it must come about. How can we truly appreciate light if we have not known darkness? Time is nothing. Know that on the day in the future when people again choose light instead of darkness, the light will come to stay."

"You say that the priestesses will be called back to service sometime in the future. If we are no longer in the same bodies, how will you know us and summon us, my lady?"

"I will no longer be here when that time comes. For this I have called you here tonight for you are to be my successor."

"But no, no please my lady! I am not worthy. I am not ready. Please stay. You must stay. Shall I never see you again after tonight?"

"My dear child, I will not leave you now. As we have already had many loving lives together we shall have more. We may not remember Atlantis but we will remember our love for each other and rejoice. But some day in the future I will no longer return in a body but work from the other side of the veil.

You are well worthy to succeed me but were you the lowest criminal on that day in the future when I summon you, it would not matter. Because you are so close to me, my dearest sister of the soul, I can reach all others through you. Together we will be able to shine like a beacon of light, awakening all of The Temple of Love.

In the lives ahead all of The Temple of Love will recognize each other, though not consciously, and be able to help each other. This gift I can give you all. In this night I will also ask all who are willing to return to service in the distant future to pledge an oath to do so. In the very fabric of their souls there will be built in a code that I will be able to activate through you.

When the time draws near for the alignment of the sun of the galaxy and the potential of unconditional love is once again present I will awaken you and through you we will awaken the other to service if they so choose. They may not recognize what will be happening but only feel drawn to contacting you but in time they will awaken to their devine purpose.

I must now return to my body."

With a start First Priestess seemed to be present again though she still had a far away look in her eyes.

"Before dawn breaks I must leave you all to fend for yourselves. It breakes my heart to do so. Words cannot describe my pain and sorrow at leaving you behind. But for the plan to work I must transport the essence of The Temple of Love to another dimation or we will be completely destroyed and will never be able to raise again. It must be done at the monent when Azura Timu thinks he has won so that he will not notice that only a shell is left here on Earth.

This much I remember. Tell me quickly, what else did I say?"

She told her and both women had tears rolling down their faces.

"At least we know that we will be together again, dear one. Tell me, will you accept the responsibility placed upon you?"

"Of course! I still cannot see how I can be worthy but of course I accept."

"Then, quickly now, go and wake the others and have them meet me in the crystal chamber for the pledge. Dawn will be upon us soon and I must prepare."

In the crepusculus dawn she stepped into the crystal chamber followed by 8 other priestesses. As always she was awed by the sight of the giant crystal in the middle of the circular room. It stood slightly taller than the tallest of them and nobody knew how far down into the ground it went. The white marble building with the glittering dome and slender pillars was built around it back in acient times. First Priestess was standing next to it with a look of concentration on her face.

"I am so sorry, my lady, only eight would come. The rest will either not believe the danger or have run to hide."

"That does not matter, my dear child. All will be perfect."

First Priestess gave them a short explanation about the dangers they were facing and asked them if they were willing to take the oath. All nine of them nodded with stark determination on their faces.

"Then step up to the crystal and place your right hand on the crystal. Repeat after me..."

As the ten priestesses were touching the huge crystal, reciting their pledge, the crystal was glowing with a bright white light though there was no other source of light in the room.

The first rays of the sun broke through the eastern window. The priestesses around the crystal heard screams and cries outside of the crystal chamber. There was a loud knocking on the heavy door and rough male voices demanding entrance. As the knights of Azura Timu burst through the doors the young priestess noticed the splendor of their appearance and the noble faces, now contorted with the anticipation of the plunder, and she caught a stray thought from the woman standing next to her "How can such beauty host such evil?". At that moment First Priestess disappeared and the mighty crystal lost its light.