

Book of Celestia

An account of the History of Equestria and Parables for Learning, written by the Eldest Sister.

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Chapter 17 - Hearth's Warming Tale

Once my sister Luna and I discovered our purposes, we went forth to carry out our destiny for this world. Years, decades, and even centuries passed, and we witnessed the small tribe of ponies that we created become three distinct civilizations working together for the benefit of all. The Pegasi were tasked with forming clouds and weather favorable to grow the crops for the Earth ponies to cultivate and share among the three tribes. The unicorns would also work to everyone's benefit, utilizing their magic and knowledge to create machines and crafts that would make the work easier.

For years the three tribes worked in unison, but over time the harmony between them grew thin. Small arguments became large quarrels and the ponies became more and more selfish. This persisted until one night, a blizzard came forth and blanketed the ponies' homelands in a layer of snow, while a blustery wind threatened to freeze everything it touched. The ponies were conflicted and each pointed a hoof at the other for the unexpected storm. The Earth ponies blamed the Pegasi for creating the blizzard, the Pegasi blamed the Unicorns for polluting the air with their machinery and thus inadvertently causing the storm, while the Unicorns blamed the Earth ponies for not harvesting the crops earlier. The blizzard only grew stronger as the ponies argued and insulted each other and chaos bred more chaos.

Faced with death from starvation and exposure, the leaders of the Three Tribes were pressed by their citizens to convene and come to an agreement. Commander Hurricane was followed by Private Pansy to represent the Pegasi, Chancellor Puddinghead and Smart Cookie represented the Earth ponies, while Princess Platinum and Clover the Clever were present on behalf of the Unicorns. Almost immediately after being seated, the quorum broke into chaos as the three

leaders argued, blamed, and insulted each other throughout the meeting. No agreement was reached, much to the dismay of the suffering ponyfolk, and instead the leaders left the meeting with more scorn for each other than before. My sister insisted that we go and bring everlasting peace, but I cautioned her that doing so would be only a temporary solution, and it was not our place to manipulate the free will of ponies. I was certain that it was in their best interest to regain the Harmony they have lost, and with this in mind, they would find it again on their own.

The three leaders met in private with their representative assistants and each were struck with the same plan. They would lead their citizens to a new promised land away from the harsh winter that had made their current home uninhabitable. So the leaders went forth out of their lands to search for the promised land that would provide solely for their tribe's talents for this generation and the next. After several months of wandering the ponies finally stopped their exhaustive search, for they all found their new homes.

Commander Hurricane exclaimed that the clouds above were perfect for weathermaking and staked his claim for the Pegasi, naming the area "Pegasopolis." Princess Platinum remarked on the richness of the mountains and its abundance of resources needed to create, and named this choice land "Unicornia." Meanwhile, Chancellor Puddinghead was aflutter when she and Smart Cookie discovered a prairie with the purest water, the freshest air, and the most fertile soil they ever found. They knew they had found their promised land and the Chancellor hoisted the Earth Pony flag upon it as she named it "Dirtville." However, Smart Cookie suggested a more dignified name, "Earth," which the Chancellor adopted.

Upon exploring their new-found lands, the three leaders discovered that they were claiming the same area, and thus they began their bitter feud yet again. This time, they bickered over who was the true claimant of the land. Commander Hurricane wanted to battle the other tribes for the land while the associates tried to counsel their leaders to calm down. As the ponies argued, a blizzard began to form above them and coated the area in snow. The ponies sought shelter inside a cave but even together, they would not let go of the animosity they had for each other. They continued to argue and resorted to childish behavior; the leaders divided the small cave into territories and quibbled over who should own common rocks. The hatred they exhibited towards each other hardened their hearts long before they were able to notice the frigid atmosphere that froze their bodies. Little did they know that Windigoes, creatures of chaos, were feeding on their hate and were responsible for the blizzard.

Fearing the elements and what they did to their superiors, the three associates made a fire and huddled around it to keep warm. Unlike their superiors, however, they were calm, collected, and shared no ill will against one another. They conversed for a while and found that they shared more in common than their leaders did, and became friends. They shared stories, sang songs, and reminisced about the days the Three Tribes were united in friendship and harmony. Soon, the fire they made went out, but the fires of their newly-kindled friendship kept them warm through the night, banished away the Windigoes and melted the leaders' frozen hearts.

It was at this point that my sister and I flew down from the heavens to greet the newly reborn ponies. We told them of Harmony, of the Windigoes and how close they had come to disaster. Unanimously they decided that they needed other ponies in control. They needed us, and once they had asked us to become their new leaders, we did so without quarrel. And thus, the Great Diarchy of Equestria was born.

Chapter 18 - The Fall of Discord

Equestria flourished and prospered as the Three Tribes were united in Harmony again, under one nation, one flag, and as one group of ponies. The Pegasi improved their methods of weather control and created conditions perfectly suitable for the new land which made the Earth Pony harvest grow tenfold, aided as well by the swell of innovation from the Unicorns. They learned to create more with less and to build more efficiently. Together, the ponies entered into a Renaissance of peace and plenty that rejuvenated the hearts and spirits of everypony.

But this era of order and success was not to last long. For Discord, that sly, mischievous avatar of chaos breathed deeply the scent of all the good that came forth from the fledgling nation and swept down to bring it to an end.

Unlike the ponies, Discord was a draconequus disfigured by the chaos that engulfed his heart. He had the head of a pony and the body of a snake, but he was also an amalgam of the bodies of other animals like an experiment gone wrong. Though he was birthed from the epicenter of creation like my sister and I, he quickly gave in to the bedlam of the universe and fed from it, cherished it, and encouraged more and more of it. He looked upon the disorder he created and strewn across the worlds, the stars and galaxies and smiled contently, uttering in satisfaction "What fun is there in making sense?"

As he flew down to Equestria, he transformed his body into that of a common Pegasus and landed on the clouds where the other Pegasi resided. He quickly assimilated amongst the Pegasi and befriended them, gained their trust, and was hired to work alongside them on the weather. With him in the inner sanctum of the Pegasus' labor, he was able to learn all the secrets and methods of creating the weather and spared no moment in plotting to create disorder on a small scale that would grow out of control.

As he assisted the Pegasi in creating rain, he made sure that every so often, the raindrop that would fall was made not out of water, but chocolate milk. When he was tasked with building clouds, he hid a small cloud made from cotton candy among the perfect white fluffs. And when he was among the snowmakers, he made every single hoof-made snowflake differently except for the sole flake that he carved from a shard of glass.

Everything he did went unnoticed by the other Pegasi. Instead, they were impressed with the newcomer's exceptional commitment to work and kept him in their employ while he continued with his devious plan. On the day he departed from the company of the Pegasi, he transformed

his right hoof into a hand and snapped his fingers. With that snap, he disappeared and unleashed a myriad of changes in the weather. The rain was nothing but chocolate, the clouds all consisted of cotton candy, and the snowflakes were all sharp glass. Not a single Pegasus could understand the changes that happened before their eyes, nor could they correct the situation.

Discord, on the other hand, had already made his way down to the earth and transformed his body again, this time of a common Earth pony. He took a moment to relish in delight the chaos he instituted with the weather before he went to create mayhem with the harvest.

The Earth ponies were in a crisis. The crops were not yet ready for the harvest, but the weather threatened to ruin what they had grown. They rushed to pick the crops from the orchards and fields that were the closest to being ready, and Discord lent the hardy farmers a hoof. He helped them gather the apples, the corn, the carrots and the celery, but when he was done he transformed his right hoof again into a hand and snapped his fingers. In an instant, the crops grew in size tenfold. The weight of the gigantic apples bent the trunks of the trees and were too heavy in a bushel for even the strongest stallion to lift. The carrots were too big to lift out of the ground, the celery stalks were too thick to break off and harvest, and the corn not only grew too big to stay on the stalk, being the mischievous miscreant that is Discord, he made the individual kernels from each ear fluff out and flooded the fields in popped corn.

What would have been a blessing in disguise for the Earth ponies ended as a curse as the crops became impossible to harvest and attracted the unwanted attention of the nearby woodland creatures. They swarmed upon the farmland like a plague of locusts and greedily feasted on the crops, leaving very little for the ponies behind. Again, Discord took his cue to leave the Earth ponies as they frantically galloped across the fields, gripped in fear and pandemonium.

The industrious Unicorns were the last to be victims of Discord's absurd antics, and they were already working hard to create contraptions at the last minute to help the Earth ponies. They were short several ponies, and those that were there were succumbing from mental exhaustion. A common brown Unicorn no other Unicorn knew or recognized knocked on the door of the Unicorn workshop and graciously asked to help. Without hesitation he was led inside and briefed on how to create the simple machines they needed, and set him to work on his own. However, creating appliances bored the trickster. The sudden necessity of the Unicorn creations meant a much stringent approach to quality was necessary, and he couldn't perform his disorder on a small scale in such an environment. And so, he changed his front hoof into a hand, snapped his fingers and disappeared in a flash, while in his wake all that the Unicorns created changed. The machines that were made and ready turned into useless gadgets that would work to not work, while the clothes they wove would be too small, too big, or have too many sleeves.

Equestria was seized in a state of unrest and stagnation. Nothing was as it seemed, and the situation became more and more absurd as time passed. The ponies were frustrated by it all

and their emotions turned sour. They had arguments against each other that gave way to fighting, and the situation escalated from there to destruction. Ponies set fire to their neighbor's houses, pillaged and looted what they can from other ponies, and some even resorted to killing one another.

Discord, still in the form of a Unicorn, witnessed the havoc he wrought upon Equestria from a distance and clapped his hooves together. "Excellent," he cried out with a hearty laugh.

He then returned to his usual Draconequus form and revealed himself to the clashing ponies. With Equestria in disarray, Discord had no problem taking the situation in his palm and tinkering with it as he pleased. As he changed the landscape and the villages into bizarre, topsy-turvy caricatures, he also cast a spell against the ponies and made them cause more chaos and mayhem throughout the nation. With this, he sat back as Equestria slowly transformed to his liking not just by his work, but by the disharmony exhibited by the other ponies.

My sister and I felt a great disturbance throughout the land, and were taken aback by Discord's presence. He threatened to spread his chaotic magic across the world and overtake the universe, but we vowed to stop him at all costs. We both wielded the Elements of Harmony and went from the heavens to confront Discord and right all that he did wrong.

An epic siege broke forth, as Discord engaged with us, armed with his sorcery against our Elements. He struck my sister first, but I assisted her and made sure she wouldn't succumb to the magic he possessed. He then came for me, but I would not let him take me so easily. I bound him with my magic, and with that, Luna and I used the Elements together as they shone in a powerful prism of light directed at him. The light of Harmony was blinding to the fiend; he couldn't evade its might as the light encased him in a thick skin of white marble.

We transformed all that Discord has done back to the way things were and his veil cast upon the ponies was lifted. As a reminder of the power of chaos, my sister and I placed the marble statue of Discord in a courtyard and taught the ponies to always be calm in chaotic times and to not give in to panic and frustration. We may experience trials and tribulations in this imperfect world of ours, but to fluster is to admit defeat. We must overcome the chaos we experience with a level head so we may learn from our experiences and walk forward, ready to tackle the challenge again.

Chapter 19 - The Parable of King Sombra

I was once asked by an advisor of mine why I allowed imperfections in my kingdom. This particular advisor had been on a trip the day before to Manehattan, and as such had taken the train to and from his destination. On the way back from the fair city back to the capitol, he had run into some difficulties. The train, as is common in public transport, had been delayed by several minutes. This had not really bothered the advisor but several questions had risen in his mind which he asked me to address.

Why do we have systems in place which do not function correctly? Many things go wrong in Equestria even when a pony is fully following the path of Harmony. All systems have this chaos about them, he said. Surely we should endeavour to purge this chaos and have better systems?

I thought for a moment and then decided to tell him a story demonstrating just exactly what end pursuing this line of thought led to.

When Equestria was still a relatively new nation, we came across a group of ponies living in the frozen tundra to the north. They called themselves the Crystal Ponies as that was the most abundant resource they had available and their leader came to me to look for an alliance.

His name was King Sombra, a name that would soon become legend. I taught him our ways, the way of Harmony and the way of order. He soon became transfixed with replicating the teachings of order in the systems he employed in his nation, the bureaucracy ever expanding with more and more complicated systems to cover all elements of life.

He believed that the perfect order could be demonstrated with a crystal.

"A crystal is perfect," he would say at our meetings. "It never changes, it is ordered and every piece of it does it's part and is in perfect Harmony with the other. There is nothing quite like it."

His attempts to find order soon became an obsession.

It wasn't enough to simply have a perfectly working government, his ponies also needed to live perfectly ordered lives. Magical surveillance crystals were soon put into place not just in public spaces but in every room of every house. Watching every move his nations citizens made. Many ponies were uncomfortable about this and raised the point against him.

"Those of order have nothing to fear," he stated in response. "Only those of chaos have things to hide. To the ponies of Harmony this is not a cause for concern in the slightest."

Those who did commit chaotic actions were quickly arrested. Sombra merely viewed them as broken cogs taken out of the system they were ruining. Even the smallest offence was worthy of imprisonment. Ponies were taken from their families simply for causing arguments, for cooking the wrong meal or saying the wrong things.

Soon the nation was put under martial law. Sombra justified this by saying that the ponies lives were "full of improbability and chaos" and that all ponies would now be "unified under one ordered lifestyle".

Everything was now controlled, timetabled and scheduled. Ponies would get up at a specific time, go to their government allocated occupation and work their allocated hours only to come

home and do allocated activities until, at an allocated time, they would go to bed.

The Crystal heart, powered by the element of Joy within ponies, fell into a dormant sleep. Underpowered. Revolutionary groups sprang up, resorting to violence in an attempt to oust Sombra from the throne. The people had grown tired of constant order and schedule, they wanted to be free.

It was during my final meeting with Sombra that he complained to me in frustration.

“Why do they not understand that this is all for their benefit? Why do they not wish to take part in my order, do they want to be chaotic?”

It was at this point I found out about his recent change from a fair rule to a totalitarian one. I challenged him on it and he ran. Even I, his idol, had decreed him to be incorrect. Such was his inability to comprehend this that he went back to his nation and used ancient magic to freeze it in time.

Sombra got his idea of a perfect order, ponies frozen in time like a crystal. It is only recently that he has been defeated.

So you see my little ponies, where Sombra went wrong was that he misunderstood what chaos really was. Chaos is not when things go wrong or when challenges arise. Chaos seeks to destroy a system that is destroyed in it's entirety.

When my advisor got a late train, that was no chaos. That was the system he lived in having a degree of variety and improbability. Such things, though they may seem chaotic, have a place in a system.

Has there been a single book written or story told which did not have a dilemma for it's characters to solve? Without problems and variety, no matter how trivial they may seem, ponies would grow bored and unhappy. It is part of the order of life that when a false order is imposed ponies create their own chaos against it. This is a part of the system and is not true chaos itself.

Stagnation is not perfection. Even a utopia needs problems to solve.

Chapter 20 - The Banishment of Nightmare Moon

It breaks my heart to recollect this dark period of Equestrian history, but nevertheless it is history that deserves to be told and shared.

My sister and I did everything together. We were birthed together, ruled Equestria together, and defeated those who threatened to obstruct the peace together with the Elements of Harmony. We were inseparable, and found our greatest strength within each other. It was inconceivable at

the time that we would drift apart.

And yet, my sister became distant. Ever since our clash with Discord, I noticed a slow change in her. It was as if she was quarreling with herself on what to do, like a still small voice embedded in her ear that whispered against her thoughts and actions. I recalled that my sister was struck by his power the day we fought the Draconequus. But she was resilient against the forces of Chaos, and in the end, harmony prevailed. Or at least, that's what I thought. It seemed that long after we were triumphant, the magic that Discord employed still waged a war on my sister's mind.

I wanted to help her, but Luna only pushed me away. The Luna I knew and cared for was drifting away, and in her place stood a doppelganger that seemed more content in letting things go awry and causing mischief. She began to torment the maidponies by deliberately creating a mess of her room just to watch them toil all day on it, and when the room was pristine again, Luna would wreck it just as they walked out the door. She eventually tired of this and banned the maids from entering her room for any reason, and went to harassing the Royal Guards. While they were on duty late at night, she would trot around the obscure areas of our castle, making loud, eerie sounds as she went that would scare the Guards out of working the night shift. Those Guards that braved the evening watch would later be forced to contend the physical, mental, and even sexual abuse that Luna's depraved mind would deliver to these poor soldiers, all for her twisted amusement.

When I learned of Luna's abhorrent behavior from those she tormented, I had to step forth and correct my sister's inexcusable antics. I went to her room before I was to retire for the night. Like her mind, her room was in disarray, with the mirrors and windows shattered, the lights all broken, the curtains torn and Luna's personal effects scattered all over. I was as quiet as I could be when I entered, and yet Luna could sense my presence as she stood on her balcony, gazing down at the ponies below as they slept.

"Sister...it's good to see you this late at night." she told me without turning her head to face me. "Please pardon the mess, I'm in the middle of making a few changes in here."

It was a cool and beautiful night, and the rays of the full moon gave my sister's mane an ethereal shimmer. Yet when I walked closer to her, I could see a scowl on her face as she watched the ponies who lived in the villages below the castle retire to their slumber.

"Look at those lazy plebeians" I heard Luna say. "Do they not appreciate what I do for them every night? Do they simply disregard my importance to sleep on this beautiful evening?"

I've never heard my sister talk this way. Raising the Moon and bringing forth the night was an art form for my sister, who did it every night to balance the Sun and bathe the world in beauty. Even if there was nopony to see her work, she did it every night for her own enjoyment.

“Luna, you must understand, these ponies love you and what you do for them every night. There’s no need to misconstrue their need for sleep as an insult.” I tried to comfort her by embracing her and whispering “Please let me help you, sister, this isn’t how you usually behave...”

My words must have struck a nerve with her mind, because in a flash, she knocked me off of her and sent me tumbling on the floor with such force that it made my entire body ache. When I raised my head to look at the balcony again, she was gone, but she reappeared shortly after by her altar. We locked eyes for a moment, and I could tell now that there was no light and no harmony in those dark, cruel eyes. Even so, I had to help her. I could not just stand by while this evil consumes her and puts herself, me and other ponies in danger. As I tried to walk to her, she glared at me with her menacing eyes, urging me with her body to stay away.

“NOT ANOTHER STEP!” she cried out. Her mouth curled into a mischievous smirk as she froze me with her icy stare. “Did you really think I was going to sit idly by while you raise the Sun for the ponies to bask in your precious light?”

She then walked over to the altar while she kept her eyes locked on mine. “There can only be one Princess of Equestria, and that Princess will be ME!”

She slammed her front hooves down on the altar, instantly breaking it into rubble. The force sent a crack up the wall behind her, making the beautiful stained-glass depiction of her raising of the Moon behind her shatter into a thousand tiny pieces. Just like the stained glass, my heart shattered in a thousand pieces when I saw what became of my dear sister. In that moment, I witnessed my sister be wrapped by the darkness of the night and transform her into a wicked mare of darkness. When the dark magic lifted itself off her I noticed she was taller, her coat was darker than nightfall, and she donned armor befitting a warlord. But the most striking aspect of her transformation was her eyes. They were no longer pony eyes, they were devoid of joy, happiness, or peace. Rather, they were the eyes of a demon, swirling with chaos and capable of striking fear in the faint-hearted.

She lunged at me to attack me but I moved out of her way and ran back to my chambers. Tears streamed down my eyes as I approached the chamber where the Elements were kept, and unlocked its massive doors. Inside were stored the Elements of Harmony, the most powerful artifacts in the land that my sister and I used together to defeat evil and preserve the peace and order. However, without my sister, I would be wielding the Elements alone and worse, against her. This was a moment that I never thought I’d witness, and with my heart heavy with the weight of emotions I possessed all six Elements and hurried back to my sister’s chambers.

When I broke down the doors to Luna’s chambers, she was nowhere to be found. She had already left the castle and was swooping down on the ponies below, waking them from their slumber with unimaginable terror.

“Hear me now, citizens of Equestria! The land shall be shrouded in eternal night, and you shall bow to me as your Princess, for I am Nightmare Moon!”

“Luna, please, this is unlike you. Please return to the castle, so that we may rule over Equestria again together in harmony.” I pleaded. “I don’t want to quarrel with my own sister, after all we’ve done together.”

“DO NOT CALL ME LUNA!” she shouted back. “It is because you cling to your pathetic feelings that you are incapable of being a proper Princess! These ponies need an iron hoof to instill dominance into them! You have always thought that ponies should grant you respect for being gentle and caring, but you’re wrong! You need to demand respect by force! The Age of the Sun has fallen, sister, so now witness the coming of Lunar worship and the Eternal Night!”

“You leave me no other choice, then.” As tears streamed down my face, I used the magic of the Elements against Nightmare Moon. Since I used the Elements alone, I could not use them at full strength and bound my sister in the mystical aura. “Goodbye, sister” were the last words I spoke to her as the magic whisked her away to the Moon and sealed her on that heavenly body.

I lowered the Moon that night to bring forth the Sun and made it my duty from that point on to perform the Celestial tasks that were my sister’s responsibility. Yet performing her tasks always left a heavy weight in my heart. After raising the Moon each night I often gazed up at it, wondering how my sister is coping in her forlorn exile, and when she might return.

The Elements of Harmony that we held to keep chaos at bay couldn’t free my sister’s fettered heart from the evil that kept it prisoner, but I still held hope that she would be freed and we would be sisters again. Until that day comes, I raised the Sun and the Moon and lived every day and night alone.

Chapter 21 - The Ascent of Luna

A thousand years have passed since that night when my dear sister was sealed away on the Moon.

And in that spent millennia, I have witnessed numerous changes. Equestria is no longer the small but prosperous state it was, but a mighty and populous nation. The nation itself went through several revolutions in that time that evolved Equestria culturally as well as technologically.

And even through the progressions, Equestria was set back with fights and famine. From the first night I sensed that the ponies were uneasy with what transpired. They were scared, angry, and suspicious, especially of me. The fear that was buried in their hearts made some of the ponies lash out at each other, causing skirmishes that would last several days and tore communities asunder.

It took a long time to calm the ponies about Nightmare Moon, but over time their fear of her subsided. They became more comfortable under my reign and were able to trust me more. And yet, while I was able to heal the rift between the ponies, I could not heal the parched land so easily. The terror instilled in the Earth ponies who tilled and cultivated the crops made them neglect their farmland, leading to several seasons of famine for many types of food. The Earth ponies eventually had to broker many agreements and compromises with the Pegasi in order for the weather to work in the Earth ponies favor.

Over time, the Banishment of Nightmare Moon became a distant memory, and so did memories of my sister in the hearts and minds of the populace. She was relegated to nothing more than a fable in a thousand years' time, a scary story old ponies would tell little fillies and colts to scare them at night and to make them more obedient to their elders. Even in their rituals, Nightmare Moon was no longer a terror to ponies, but a literal effigy. On the eve of the Summer Sun Celebration, ponies would bring a tall wickerpony made of dried wood and straw to the center of town, and as the Sun was set and the Moon rose ponies would dance around the wickerpony, declaring it to be the Queen of the Night, Nightmare Moon. Then they would set it alight and celebrate some more until the flames would be snuffed out and nothing more remained of the wickerpony except ash and hot embers.

It broke my heart to see those wickerponies being set ablaze, knowing whom they represented, but I hoped that they could see the difference between my sister Luna and Nightmare Moon. I wanted to see the ponies conquer their fears of Nightmare Moon, but not vilify the tortured soul trapped inside her. It was why I never condemned the wickerpony ritual, but didn't show my full support for it either.

In a thousand years, it became a depressing sight to wander about the corridors of the Royal Palace while every painting, every curtain, and every statue held memories of my sister. The half of the Palace where my sister dwelled became neglected by the maids, as they were too afraid to enter. It was left untouched since my sister was banished, and fell in disrepair as the years went by. It became too much to live in the Palace and so I sought an architect to build a new Palace, or rather, a new community of ponies that I would live amongst on the mountainside.

And thus, a new city was born in Equestria. When it was complete, it was dedicated as the Royal City of Canterlot. And while I still missed the old Palace and my sister, I was no longer as alone here as I was there. I walked along Canterlot's cobblestone streets and conversed with the ponies who were there daily. Not only that, but it was comforting to live somewhere without the daily reminder of that fateful night. It was also in Canterlot that I was introduced to my best and brightest student, Twilight Sparkle.

Twilight Sparkle was but a young filly eager to enroll in the school I had chartered for gifted unicorns. I had no idea back then just how gifted she would be, however. It was only after taking

a stroll along the castle grounds that the sky was grazed by a beautiful rainbow, and not long after, the tower where the school's entrance exams took place not only was alight with bright magic, but it had also made a giant dragon grow out from the room! I rushed quickly to see what the commotion was, and saw her in the center of the room, unable to harness the surge of magical energy that was flowing out from her small body. When I saw her, I knew that she had a special potential inside of her that she would learn about in due time, but at that moment I had to control her before she destroyed the room inadvertently. I reached out and placed my hoof on her, absorbed the excess energy and allowed her to regain her composure.

When she calmed down, I looked into the wide eyes of a scared filly, afraid of her own potential. But I reassured her myself that despite the damage and destruction, she did nothing wrong. Instead, I wanted to teach her personally under my wing to focus her abilities. When she heard this, she leapt for joy as if this was a dream come true, and I was glad that she accepted the opportunity.

It was Twilight who first informed me of a long-forgotten prophecy regarding Nightmare Moon foretold by Starswirl the Bearded many years ago. He said,

"On the longest day of the Thousandth Year, the stars will aid in releasing Nightmare Moon from her Lunar Prison, and she will come down to bring forth the Eternal Night once again."

But I reassured him just as I reassured Twilight that if she were to escape, Equestria would be prepared to handle Nightmare Moon should she return. But after the years of study, I've noticed that she has shut herself off from the outside world, choosing to socialize solely with her assistant Spike and myself. Considering that I felt she was destined for something greater than she realized, I believed she needed friends to not only learn more about the world around her but to tackle the obstacles that will lead her to that destiny, and so I sent her to supervise the preparations for the Summer Sun Festival in Ponyville. At the very least, it finally got her out of the library.

Even though Twilight was noticeably concerned about Starswirl's prophecy, I went along with my day as if nothing would go wrong, and encouraged my faithful student to relax. And prior to the festival, nothing did. Twilight and her friends did a wonderful job with getting Ponyville primed and polished for the celebration. It was just before I was to head to the town hall that I was confronted with a familiar voice behind me that I haven't heard in a thousand years.

"Hello sister. It's been a while."

Before I could react, she bound me with her magic and locked me away in a chamber.

"Sister, you've grown soft through the years. And you call yourself the Ruler of Equestria? It's time to step aside, Sister, as there is no room on the Throne for weakness."

Apparently the years of isolation on the Moon gave her the time to strengthen her magic, but the

methods she used to do so are mysterious, even to me. I never asked my sister about it considering how painful the memory must be to her, but that is when I realized that Starswirl, despite sounding like he lost his marbles may have been right all along in predicting the stars aiding in my sister's escape.

There was nothing I could do while I was bound in the chamber; her magic was bound to Nightmare Moon's strength while struggling to break free drained me of my energy. I was hopeless while my Sister wreaked havoc upon the ponies. The only thing I could do is hold out hope that my student, with the help of her friends, would be able to stop Nightmare Moon and reform my Sister into the Princess that I remember.

As the hour of the Sunrise neared, I could feel the binding on my legs loosen. Slowly, the potency of the magic wore away until I could break free with my own power and I was free from the chamber. In a show of triumph, I lifted the Sun into the horizon to let the ponies know that the Star of the Day shines brightly and that I am safe before heading towards the Old Palace where Nightmare Moon was located.

When I arrived, I saw the Palace as a decrepit ruin in the middle of what is now the Everfree Forest. There was no conflict. Twilight Sparkle stood with her friends Applejack, Fluttershy, Pinkie Pie, Rainbow Dash, and Rarity as they all donned the Elements of Harmony. And in front of them my Sister was on the cold stone floor, visibly weak and crying. She looked up at me with an innocent gaze and begged me for forgiveness. I could tell from that glance alone that it was her again, that the nightmare is finally over. I went to my Sister and hugged her for the first time in a thousand years, and I forgave her for falling from grace. I could tell she was ready for redemption, walk down the path of Harmony, and rule by my side over Equestria again.

My Sister Luna demonstrated that no matter who we are, we can all become victims to a fall from grace and be ensnared in the jaws of chaos. Once your mind is trapped in Chaos, it is difficult for you to realize how far you have fallen. It takes friendship to help you back on the path of Harmony, just like Twilight, Applejack, Fluttershy, Pinkie Pie, Rainbow Dash, and Rarity had to use the Elements of Harmony together to free Luna from the discordant Nightmare Moon. Not one of them, and even myself could use the Elements alone to reform her.

The year after Luna's reformation, the Summer Sun Celebration moved its festivities to Canterlot. I gave my Sister a tour of Canterlot and let her revel in the festivities. It was such a jubilant time for everyone, and even my sister was enjoying it, even though she was still very shy at that point. Then as the Sun set, the large wickerpony was brought to the center of town. I had forgotten all about the wickerpony ritual and was slightly embarrassed that Luna was looking at it, puzzled as to what it would represent.

"Sister, what is this?" she asked me.

I sighed, knowing that she would be disgusted, but I explained "It's the Wickerpony, a ritual

started while you were imprisoned in the Moon. On the eve of the Summer Sun Celebration, the Wickerpony is lit aflame in the center of town. It's supposed to represent you as Nightmare Moon. I'm sorry, Sister, I had forgotten about this part of the ritual..."

She raised her hoof, and I finished my explanation. She seemed unfazed, and I could even see a slight grin forming from the corners of her mouth. She took a blazing torch from one of the festival ponies with her magic, then stood in front of the towering wickerpony.

In her Royal Canterlot voice, she announced:

"Hear ye, Citizens! The Wickerpony represents the Nightmare! And this torch represents our triumph against her!"

She then cast the torch in the middle of the wickerpony, setting it ablaze. Flying high above the flames, she declared: "Let us never fear the Nightmare and enjoy the beauty of the Night!"

I couldn't have been prouder of my Sister than that night.

Chapter 22 - The Subterfuge of Chrysalis and the Sin of Changelings

I've been asked numerous times about my favorite season of the year, and I've always replied with the same unwavering answer: "Spring."

I always loved taking walks through the meadows, stopping every so often to savor the flowers that have just bloomed in the season. While winter is beautiful in its own right, the vibrancy of color brought on by the springtime blooms never fails to delight me. It certainly is a welcome sight after looking at the whitened earth for a few months.

Springtime is also the season when ponies become more amorous towards each other. It must be something in the air that draws the ponies attraction, but nevertheless, I always love seeing ponies not only being happy and peaceful towards one another, but to see them show a genuine love towards one another all at the same time is truly special.

It's why every Spring, a celebration takes place to commemorate the feeling of adoration that seems so natural to ponies around this time. We call it the Hearts and Hooves Day, since it was said that when one pony found that other pony that was very special to them, that made their life complete, it felt like they held each other's hearts in their hooves.

It was on Hearts and Hooves Day a few years ago when one of my youngest students came up to me and asked me "What is love?" I looked down at the young filly who asked the question, and I couldn't help but smile at her large, inquisitive eyes that while innocent, were twinkling with wonder at the world. Despite her youth, she was able to ask me a question I could not answer easily in a few simple words. So, to answer her question I recanted the time when I was to host

a grand celebration of love, a wedding between my protege's brother, Shining Armor, and my niece, Princess Mi Amore Cadenza.

[07/1/2013 1300 - Posting what I have done so far on Ch. 20. More will be coming soon, work will be hindered somewhat until the 8th because I have a busy work schedule and I have family visiting later on this week. I still don't have a computer and won't be getting one to replace it until the 18th because I'm a poorfag. Sorry. Until then, I'm using my mate's computer while I'm at home and she's at work to work on this. - L Azure]

[(Thanks to Dallos for the Parable of King Sombra). This version of the story does state things about the origins of Discord differently from the episodes. In the episodes Celestia describes him as a "former ruler of Equestria" but in the Book of Lyra he was created when the universe and the Divine Sisters were created in the "big bang" that birthed everything.

Of course, I wrote him in as being the latter, but if we need to change that to conform to the episodes, we would need to do some major revisions to what we wrote. Personally, I like the approach that he was cosmically created at about the same time as Celestia and Luna, it's easier to explain his supernatural abilities this way than explaining how he transformed from a powerful unicorn into the Draconequus we know of today. (Not that I'm validating Vanhoover here, but you get the picture).

[UPDATE 06/23/2013 0718: Chapter 18 is now complete, ready for revisions and critique. It may need some work near the end, I was losing some steam on writing it. Let me know what everyone thinks. I also want to run by an idea to squeeze in the Parable of Starswirl somewhere in here, but can't really decide where. His parable will likely double the length of the chapter, unless a new chapter can be added. - L Azure]]