

It Was a Gift from God

1 And the Lord said 'Go to the woman who toils in the grove and give her this box.' And the angel asked not what was in the box, but delivered it to the woman.

2 The woman knew the ways of the Lord, so when she saw that the box was full of grief, she was not afraid.

3 God said 'Take this grief, for it belonged to the One Who Came Before You, and she can bear it no longer. Take it to the East, as far as the next land.'

4 The woman did as God bid, but a soldier saw what she carried and threw her before the King.

5 The King asked 'Why have you dishonored our land with your beast?' She replied, 'It is not a beast, but a burden, and the Lord hath made *me* the beast of this burden.' The King was angry and said 'Behold again the contents of your box!' She looked again and lo there was a beast where before there was none. For this she was locked away.

6 She prayed and the Lord was merciful. 'You were burdened with a beast and now you are captive like the beast. Go to the farthest sea and the beast will follow you, and there he will leave you forever.'

7 So the lord sent an angel to open the prison door and it came to pass that the woman was followed to the sea by the beast who, when it was night, fled to the dunes and withdrew from this world.