

Chapter 1 : Conquered by the Highlander (Conquered Bride, #1) by Eliza Knight

In her heart, her father was the most outstanding person in the world. Back then, he wreaked havoc at the Ice Spiritual Clan to rescue Aunt Bing. Every time when she recalls this matter, she would feel that her father was just too cool.

Thus were established and were But Tiamat and Apsu were still in confusion They were troubled and Apru was not diminished in might She smote, and their deeds Their way was evil Then Apsu, the begetter of the great gods, Cried unto Mummu, his minister, and said unto him: So they went and before Tiamat they lay down, They consulted on a plan with regard to the gods, their sons. Apsu opened his mouth and spake, And unto Tiamat, the glistening one, he addressed the word: By day I can not rest, by night I can not lie down in peace. But I will destroy their way, I will Let there be lamentation, and let us lie down again in peace. Let their way be made difficult, and let us lie down again in peace. Come, their way is strong, but thou shalt destroy it; Then by day shalt thou have rest, by night shalt thou lie down in peace. Lamentation they sat in sorrow Then Ea, who knoweth all that is, went up and he beheld their muttering. Apsu is laid waste, They banded themselves together and at the side of Tiamat they advanced; They were furious; they devised mischief without resting night and day. They prepared for battle, fuming and raging; They joined their forces and made war, Ummu-Hubur [Tiamat] who formed all things, Made in addition weapons invincible; she spawned monster-serpents, Sharp of tooth, and merciless of fang; With poison, instead of blood, she filled their bodies. Fierce monster-vipers she clothed with terror, With splendor she decked them, she made them of lofty stature. Whoever beheld them, terror overcame him, Their bodies reared up and none could withstand their attack. She set up vipers and dragons, and the monster Lahamu, And hurricanes, and raging hounds, and scorpion-men, And mighty tempests, and fish-men, and rams; They bore cruel weapons, without fear of the fight. Her commands were mighty, none could resist them; After this fashion, huge of stature, she made eleven [kinds of] monsters. Among the gods who were her sons, inasmuch as he had given her support, She exalted Kingu; in their midst she raised him to power. To march before the forces, to lead the host, To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack, To direct the battle, to control the fight, Unto him she entrusted; in costly raiment she made him sit, saying: I have uttered thy spell, in the assembly of the gods I have raised thee to power. The dominion over all the gods have I entrusted unto him. Be thou exalted, thou my chosen spouse, May they magnify thy name over all of them the Anunnaki. Thy command shall not be without avail, and the word of thy mouth shall be established. To avenge Apsu, Tiamat planned evil, But how she had collected her forces, the god unto Ea divulged. Ea harkened to this thing, and He was grievously afflicted and he sat in sorrow. The days went by, and his anger was appeased, And to the place of Anshar his father he took his way. He went and, standing before Anshar, the father who begat him, All that Tiamat had plotted he repeated unto him, Saying, "Tiamat our mother hath conceived a hatred for us, With all her force she rageth, full of wrath. All the gods have turned to her, With those, whom ye created, they go at her side. They are banded together and at the side of Tiamat they advance; They are furious, they devise mischief without resting night and day. They prepare for battle, fuming and raging; They have joined their forces and are making war. Ummu-Hubur, who formed all things, Hath made in addition weapons invincible; she hath spawned monster-serpents, Sharp of tooth, and merciless of fang. With poison, instead of blood, she hath filled their bodies. Fierce monster-vipers she hath clothed with terror, With splendor she hath decked them; she hath made them of lofty stature. Whoever beholdeth them is overcome by terror, Their bodies rear up and none can withstand their attack. She hath set up vipers, and dragons, and the monster Lahamu, And hurricanes and raging hounds, and scorpion-men, And mighty tempests, and fish-men and rams; They bear cruel weapons, without fear of the fight. Her commands are mighty; none can resist them; After this fashion, huge of stature, hath she made eleven monsters. Among the gods who are her sons, inasmuch as he hath given her support, She hath exalted Kingu; in their midst she hath raised him to power. To march before the forces, to lead the host, To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack. To direct the battle, to control the fight, Unto him hath she entrusted; in costly raiment she hath made him sit, saying: I have uttered thy spell; in the assembly of the gods I have raised thee to power, The dominion over all the gods have I entrusted unto thee. Be thou exalted, thou my chosen spouse, May they

magnify thy name over all of them She hath given him the Tablets of Destiny, on his breast she laid them, saying: But if she will not harken unto thy word, Our word shalt thou speak unto her, that she may be pacified. Ann drew nigh, he beheld the muttering of Tiamat, But he could not withstand her, and he turned back. Ansar [A gap of over twenty lines occurs here. Ansar beheld him and his heart was filled with joy, He kissed him on the lips and his fear departed from him. O Ansar, let not the word of thy lips be overcome, Let me go, that I may accomplish all that is in thy heart. Tiamat, who is a woman, is armed and attacketh thee. Speedily set out upon thy way, For thy blood shall not be poured out; thou shalt return again. In Upsukkinaku seat yourself joyfully together, With my word in place of you will I decree fate. May whatsoever I do remain unaltered, May the word of my lips never be chanced nor made of no avail. Go, Gaga, stand before them, And all that I tell thee, repeat unto them, and say: The purpose of his heart he hath made known unto me. He saith that Tiamat our mother hath conceived a hatred for us, With all her force she rageth, full of wrath. All the gods have turned to her, With those, whom ye created, they go at her side. They are banded together, and at the side of Tiamat they advance; They are furious, they devise mischief without resting night and day. Ummu-Hubur, who formed all things, Hath made in addition weapons invincible; she hath spawned monster-serpents, Sharp of tooth and merciless of fang. Whoever beboldeth them, terror overcometh him, Their bodies rear up and none can withstand their attack. She hath set up vipers, and dragons, and the monster Lahamu, And hurricanes, and raging bounds, and scorpion-men, And mighty tempests, and fish-men, and rams; They bear merciless weapons, without fear of the fight. Her commands are mighty; none can. To march before the forces, to lead the host, To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack, To direct the battle, to control the fight, Unto him hath she entrusted; in costly raiment she hath made him sit, saying: Be thou exalted, thou my chosen spouse, May they magnify thy name over all of them Let the opening of your mouth quench the Fire-god; Whoso is exalted in the battle, let him display his might! But Marduk hath set out, the director of the gods, your son; To set out against Tiamat his heart hath prompted him. He opened his mouth and spake unto me, saying: In Upsukkinaku seat yourself joyfully together; With my word in place of you will I decree fate. May whatsoever I do remain unaltered, May the word of my lips never be changed nor made of no avail. Gaga went, he took his way and Humbly before Lahmu and Lahamu, the gods, his fathers, He made obeisance, and he kissed the ground at their feet. He humbled himself; then he stood up and spake unto them saying: Fierce monster-vipers she hath clothed with terror, With splendor she hath decked them, she hath made them of lofty stature. She hath set up vipers, and dragons, and the monster Lahamu, And hurricanes, and raging hounds, and scorpion-men, And mighty tempests, and fish-men, and rams; They bear merciless weapons, without fear of the fight. To march before the forces, to lead the host, To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack, To direct the battle, to control the fight, Unto him hath she entrusted; in costly raiment she hath made him sit, saying: She hath given him the Tablets of Destiny on his breast she laid them, saying: In Upsukkinaku seat yourselves joyfully together; With my word in place of you will I decree fate. May, whatsoever I do remain unaltered, May the word of my lips never be changed nor made of no avail. Lahmu and Lahamu heard and cried aloud All of the Igigi [The elder gods] wailed bitterly, saying: What has been altered so that they should We do not understand the deed of Tiamat! Then did they collect and go, The great gods, all of them, who decree fate. They entered in before Ansar, they filled They kissed one another, in the assembly The sweet drink, the mead, confused their They were drunk with drinking, their bodies were filled. They were wholly at ease, their spirit was exalted; Then for Marduk, their avenger, did they decree the fate. Henceforth not without avail shall be thy command, In thy power shall it be to exalt and to abase. Established shall be the word of thy mouth, irresistible shall be thy command, None among the gods shall transgress thy boundary. Abundance, the desire of the shrines of the gods, Shall be established in thy sanctuary, even though they lack offerings. O Marduk, thou art our avenger! We give thee sovereignty over the whole world. Sit thou down in might; be exalted in thy command. Thy weapon shall never lose its power; it shall crush thy foe. O Lord, spare the life of him that putteth his trust in thee, But as for the god who began the rebellion, pour out his life. Command now and let the garment vanish; And speak the word again and let the garment reappear! Then he spake with his mouth, and the garment vanished; Again he commanded it, and. When the gods, his fathers, beheld the fulfillment of his word, They rejoiced, and they did homage unto him, saying, " Marduk is king!

The Conqueror took off her own crown, placed it over her desk, turned to face her Queen and embraced her closely to her heart, "Like the day you were but a young, slip of lass standing on the platform shivering when you first caught my eye all those years ago."

The Storybrooke events take place after " Ill-Boding Patterns ". The Evil Queen then gathers the villagers and tells them that she, not Snow White, cares about them. When Tinkerbell shows up to tell her why she did not pursue Robin Hood, Regina decides to scorn the fairy, but spares her and tells Tinkerbell not to meddle with her. This later leads to an argument between Regina and Prince Henry, who warns his daughter that revenge will never make her happy. However, when she fires the arrow, it flies straight towards the fortress. Believing that Snow is there, Regina returns to discover that the arrow leads her to her mirror, which she shatters into pieces. Regina realizes it is herself she hates most. In Storybrooke[edit] In the present day, the Evil Queen brings Robin back with her to town, he wants to go to New York but the Evil Queen wants to return Robin back to his Wish Realm, so she first asks him to dig up an item in the woods. Regina and Zelena then visit Emma and Snow, where they learn that Hook proposed to Emma upon looking at the engagement ring, but when they learn that the Evil Queen has returned to her original form, Emma wants to put those plans on hold. Then, after Henry reveals that he only wanted to use the Pen to help move her towards redemption, The Evil Queen scoffs at the idea. The Evil Queen then gives Henry a note to deliver to Regina, before telling him that no matter what anyone says, she still loves him. When Regina receives the message, she learns that the message came from Page 23 of the "Once Upon a Time" storybook that detailed the happy ending Regina never got, which Regina discovered that it all tied to Robin, who is being used as bait to lure her to the Evil Queen so she can kill her, even though Robin believes this plan will fail. Regina dares the Evil Queen to use the Shears and the latter does, unveiling the ties of fate linking Regina to her evil half, which The Evil Queen severs with the Shears. This makes the Evil Queen completely independent of Regina, allowing the two to battle each other until Regina manages to overpower the Evil Queen, and binds her against a pillar on the wall. The two agreed to send Robin back to his Wish Realm, and with help from Henry, he writes a new chapter and happy ending for the formerly Evil Queen by sending her off to a place to begin a fresh start. Meanwhile, Hook arrives at the docks to say farewell to Nemo, and confides his secret about killing Emmas grandfather to Nemo. Nemo suggests that Hook either ask for forgiveness from Emma or keep the secret and learn to forgive himself. Ultimately, Hook decides to remove his memories through magic and burn them. When Emma sees him doing this, she is not upset to learn he killed her grandfather, since they have come too far for something like that to break them; however, she is upset that Hook chose to keep it from her, as they had earlier in the season decided to no longer keep secrets from one other, in order to build a more honest relationship. Reluctantly, Emma passes back the ring and calls off the wedding until Hook can learn to do that. Later, Snow congratulates Hook on the engagement, not knowing about what transpired earlier. Unfortunately, just as Hook changes his mind and is about to leave Nautilus to return to Emma, the submarine submerges without Nemo ordering it to do so. Hook and Nemo learn that Gideon had ordered the sub out of Storybrooke, in order to get Hook out of the way so he can kill Emma, leaving Hook and Nemo trapped as prisoners. Later, as the Queen wishes for a fresh start, she is sent to the Wish Realm, where she reunites with Robin in a local bar. True to the image on Page 23, a bond begins to blossom. Title[edit] The title of this episode was revealed by Adam Horowitz via his Twitter account on November 30,

Talpa (ἑλζή...έ†• Arago) is the Emperor of the Dynasty realm and an enemy of the Ronin calendrierdelascience.com was defeated by The Ancient One and banished to the Nether Realm. It is from his armor that the nine armors were born.

Thus were established and were the great gods. But Tiamat and Apsu were still in confusion. They were troubled and Apsu was not diminished in might. And Tiamat roared. She smote, and their deeds. Their way was evil. Then Apsu, the begetter of the great gods, Cried unto Mummu, his minister, and said unto him: So they went and before Tiamat they lay down, They consulted on a plan with regard to the gods, their sons. Apsu opened his mouth and spake, And unto Tiamat, the glistening one, he addressed the word: But I will destroy their way, I will. Let there be lamentation, and let us lie down again in peace. Let their way be made difficult, and let us lie down again in peace. Come, their way is strong, but thou shalt destroy it; Then by day shalt thou have rest, by night shalt thou lie down in peace. Lamentation they sat in sorrow. Then Ea, who knoweth all that is, went up and he beheld their muttering. They banded themselves together and at the side of Tiamat they advanced; They were furious; they devised mischief without resting night and day. They prepared for battle, fuming and raging; They joined their forces and made war, Ummu-Hubur [Tiamat] who formed all things, Made in addition weapons invincible; she spawned monster-serpents, Sharp of tooth, and merciless of fang; With poison, instead of blood, she filled their bodies. Fierce monster-vipers she clothed with terror, With splendor she decked them, she made them of lofty stature. Whoever beheld them, terror overcame him, Their bodies reared up and none could withstand their attack. She set up vipers and dragons, and the monster Lahamu, And hurricanes, and raging hounds, and scorpion-men, And mighty tempests, and fish-men, and rams; They bore cruel weapons, without fear of the fight. Her commands were mighty, none could resist them; After this fashion, huge of stature, she made eleven [kinds of] monsters. Among the gods who were her sons, inasmuch as he had given her support, She exalted Kingu; in their midst she raised him to power. To march before the forces, to lead the host, To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack, To direct the battle, to control the fight, Unto him she entrusted; in costly raiment she made him sit, saying: I have uttered thy spell, in the assembly of the gods I have raised thee to power. The dominion over all the gods have I entrusted unto him. Be thou exalted, thou my chosen spouse, May they magnify thy name over all of them the Anunnaki. Thy command shall not be without avail, and the word of thy mouth shall be established. To avenge Apsu, Tiamat planned evil, But how she had collected her forces, the god unto Ea divulged. Ea harkened to this thing, and He was grievously afflicted and he sat in sorrow. The days went by, and his anger was appeased, And to the place of Ansur his father he took his way. All the gods have turned to her, With those, whom ye created, they go at her side. They are banded together and at the side of Tiamat they advance; They are furious, they devise mischief without resting night and day. They prepare for battle, fuming and raging; They have joined their forces and are making war. Ummu-Hubur, who formed all things, Hath made in addition weapons invincible; she hath spawned monster-serpents, Sharp of tooth, and merciless of fang. With poison, instead of blood, she hath filled their bodies. Fierce monster-vipers she hath clothed with terror, With splendor she hath decked them; she hath made them of lofty stature. Whoever beholdeth them is overcome by terror, Their bodies rear up and none can withstand their attack. She hath set up vipers, and dragons, and the monster Lahamu, And hurricanes and raging hounds, and scorpion-men, And mighty tempests, and fish-men and rams; They bear cruel weapons, without fear of the fight. Her commands are mighty; none can resist them; After this fashion, huge of stature, hath she made eleven monsters. Among the gods who are her sons, inasmuch as he hath given her support, She hath exalted Kingu; in their midst she hath raised him to power. To march before the forces, to lead the host, To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack. To direct the battle, to control the fight, Unto him hath she entrusted; in costly raiment she hath made him sit, saying: I have uttered thy spell; in the assembly of the gods I have raised thee to power, The dominion over all the gods have I entrusted unto thee. Be thou exalted, thou my chosen spouse, May they magnify thy name over all of them She hath given him the Tablets of Destiny, on his breast she laid them,

saying: But if she will not harken unto thy word, Our word shalt thou speak unto her, that she may be pacified. Ann drew nigh, he beheld the muttering of Tiamat, But he could not withstand her, and he turned back. Ansar beheld him and his heart was filled with joy, He kissed him on the lips and his fear departed from him. O Ansar, let not the word of thy lips be overcome, Let me go, that I may accomplish all that is in thy heart. Speedily set out upon thy way, For thy blood shall not be poured out; thou shalt return again. In Upsukkinaku seat yourself joyfully together, With my word in place of you will I decree fate. May whatsoever I do remain unaltered, May the word of my lips never be changed nor made of no avail. Go, Gaga, stand before them, And all that I tell thee, repeat unto them, and say: The purpose of his heart he hath made known unto me. He saith that Tiamat our mother hath conceived a hatred for us, With all her force she rageth, full of wrath. All the gods have turned to her, With those, whom ye created, they go at her side. They are banded together, and at the side of Tiamat they advance; They are furious, they devise mischief without resting night and day. Ummu-Hubur, who formed all things, Hath made in addition weapons invincible; she hath spawned monster-serpents, Sharp of tooth and merciless of fang. Whoever beholdeth them, terror overcome him, Their bodies rear up and none can withstand their attack. She hath set up vipers, and dragons, and the monster Lahamu, And hurricanes, and raging bounds, and scorpion-men, And mighty tempests, and fish-men, and rams; They bear merciless weapons, without fear of the fight. Her commands are mighty; none can. To march before the forces, to lead the host, To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack, To direct the battle, to control the fight, Unto him hath she entrusted; in costly raiment she hath made him sit, saying: Be thou exalted, thou my chosen spouse, May they magnify thy name over all of them the Anunnaki. Let the opening of your mouth quench the Fire-god; Whoso is exalted in the battle, let him display his might! But Marduk hath set out, the director of the gods, your son; To set out against Tiamat his heart hath prompted him. He opened his mouth and spake unto me, saying: In Upsukkinaku seat yourself joyfully together; With my word in place of you will I decree fate. May whatsoever I do remain unaltered, May the word of my lips never be changed nor made of no avail. Gaga went, he took his way and Humbly before Lahmu and Lahamu, the gods, his fathers, He made obeisance, and he kissed the ground at their feet. He humbled himself; then he stood up and spake unto them saying: Fierce monster-vipers she hath clothed with terror, With splendor she hath decked them, she hath made them of lofty stature. She hath set up vipers, and dragons, and the monster Lahamu, And hurricanes, and raging hounds, and scorpion-men, And mighty tempests, and fish-men, and rams; They bear merciless weapons, without fear of the fight. To march before the forces, to lead the host, To give the battle-signal, to advance to the attack, To direct the battle, to control the fight, Unto him hath she entrusted; in costly raiment she hath made him sit, saying: Be thou exalted, thou my chosen spouse, May they magnify thy name over all of them the Anunnaki. She hath given him the Tablets of Destiny on his breast she laid them, saying: In Upsukkinaku seat yourselves joyfully together; With my word in place of you will I decree fate. May, whatsoever I do remain unaltered, May the word of my lips never be changed nor made of no avail. Lahmu and Lahamu heard and cried aloud All of the Igigi [The elder gods] wailed bitterly, saying: What has been altered so that they should We do not understand the deed of Tiamat! Then did they collect and go, The great gods, all of them, who decree fate. They entered in before Ansar, they filled; They kissed one another, in the assembly; They made ready for the feast, at the banquet they sat; They ate bread, they mixed sesame-wine. The sweet drink, the mead, confused their; They were drunk with drinking, their bodies were filled. They were wholly at ease, their spirit was exalted; Then for Marduk, their avenger, did they decree the fate. The Fourth Tablet They prepared for him a lordly chamber, Before his fathers as prince he took his place. O Marduk, thou art chiefest among the great gods, Thy fate is unequalled, thy word is Anu! Henceforth not without avail shall be thy command, In thy power shall it be to exalt and to abase. Established shall be the word of thy mouth, irresistible shall be thy command, None among the gods shall transgress thy boundary. Abundance, the desire of the shrines of the gods, Shall be established in thy sanctuary, even though they lack offerings. O Marduk, thou art our avenger! We give thee sovereignty over the whole world. Sit thou down in might; be exalted in thy command. Thy weapon shall never lose its power; it shall crush thy foe. O Lord, spare the life of him that putteth his trust in thee, But as for the god who began the rebellion, pour out his life. Command now and let the garment vanish; And speak the word again and let the garment reappear! Then he spake with his mouth,

and the garment vanished; Again he commanded it, and. Go, and cut off the life of Tiamat, And let the wind carry her blood into secret places. He made ready the bow, he chose his weapon, He slung a spear upon him and fastened itâ€¦ He raised the club, in his right hand he grasped it, The bow and the quiver he hung at his side. He set the lightning in front of him, With burning flame he filled his body. He made a net to enclose the inward parts of Tiamat, The four winds he stationed so that nothing of her might escape; The South wind and the North wind and the East wind and the West wind He brought near to the net, the gift of his father Anu. He created the evil wind, and the tempest, and the hurricane, And the fourfold wind, and the sevenfold wind, and the whirlwind, and the wind which had no equal; He sent forth the winds which he had created, the seven of them; To disturb the inward parts of Tiamat, they followed after him. Then the lord raised the thunderbolt, his mighty weapon, He mounted the chariot, the storm unequalled for terror, He harnessed and yoked unto it four horses, Destructive, ferocious, overwhelming, and swift of pace; â€¦ were their teeth, they were flecked with foam; They were skilled inâ€¦, they had been trained to trample underfoot. Then he set out, he took his way, And toward the raging Tiamat he set his face. On his lips he held â€¦, â€¦ he grasped in his hand. Then they beheld him, the gods beheld him, The gods his fathers beheld him, the gods beheld him. And the lord drew nigh, he gazed upon the inward parts of Tiamat, He perceived the muttering of Kingu, her spouse. As Marduk gazed, Kingu was troubled in his gait, His will was destroyed and his motions ceased. But Tiamatâ€¦, she turned not her neck, With lips that failed not she uttered rebellious words:

Chapter 4 : Heart Sutra: Commentary on Text (4)

He never stopped to think how much he hurt her by pushing her away. This girl was always cheerful and full of hopes and love before she met him. She always looked for the good in people, even in this guy, because she believed he'd never do anything that could make her sad, let alone break her heart.

She was sure she would never forget how the Conqueror had banished her from Corinth just for exhorting her to make peace with the Queen. Lady Satrina searched for an answer. Her first thought was Princess Athena, but alas the Heir was leagues away. After some time had passed, she came up with another idea. Her Majesty has always told me how the Shamaness was a great healer, not just of the body, but of the soul as well. She could guess for herself the reason for it. Once inside the Imperial chambers, Lady Satrina and Lady Cyrene put the Queen in bed and allowed her to rest, both women grateful that the Queen was amiable enough and did not raise any protest. I wish to care for her Majesty and my ladies in waiting can be trusted not to have their tongues run away with them," Princess Sieglinde whispered soon after the Queen had closed her eyes and succumbed to shallow slumber. The Spartan Legion that had since returned to Corinth was sent to track down and apprehend all those whom Likos and Sirius had named during their long, brutal and insufferable interrogations. The Spartan Legion performed their task relentlessly and efficiently. It was then that the mass executions in the central square in Corinth began, where a large scaffold had been built by the order of the Sovereign. A few women circled the high platform selling wares to the gathered crowd, taking full advantage of the substantial traffic. There were even days when so many executions were performed that the straw scattered over the planks of wood became too saturated to soak up all the blood and the condemned scheduled to be executed that day were forced to return to their cells in the palace, as their execution had to be postponed to the following day. Some of the condemned lost control of their bodies and emptied their bladders and their bowels on the platform, adding foul odors to those of blood and sweat. The Conqueror granted neither mercy nor forgiveness. The Ruler swung her arm over the heads of the kneeling conspirators and the only kindness she was willing to show them was that she removed their heads clean off their shoulders with a single smite of her sword. Their heads were put on spears and were carried throughout the Realm. Each night the Conqueror returned to her empty bedchamber, assuming that the Queen was sleeping in hers again. Her heart did not soften, not by a hair, but the other way around, it grew harder and colder. The Conqueror was enthralled by her viciousness and cruelty, as was required in order to insure and secure her hold on the Empire and in order to keep the promise she had given to the grieving families, whose loved-ones had fallen in Corinth. Princess Terreis was kept away from her so as not to cause the young child distress and anguish. The Shamaness sat next to the pale Queen and recognized an even greater sadness in her than the sadness she had witnessed when the Queen had stayed in the Amazon Lands. She did not waste any time. She could hardly believe how thin the Queen looked and how shallow her breath was. She was too distraught to speak. She knew that there could be only one thing that would cause the Queen such profound, debilitating sorrow. Our Queen is in danger, you can all be sure of that," the Shamaness urged them with a foreboding tone of voice. It was Princess Sieglinde who took it upon herself to answer, "Her Majesty and the Lord Conqueror had a major dispute regarding the marriage between Min Herre, Athena, and myself. The Queen pulled herself to a sitting position and reclined back against the pillows, holding the hot brew in both hands. Cynna has no bearing on the issue between my Lord and me," the Queen dismissed. One of them was that I must never place anyone above my Lord. I remember thinking it was the easiest rule to follow for I could think of no other soul on earth I would place above my Lord. Princess Lao-Ling then told me that one day we might have children and that I must not place them above my Lord either. She was perhaps the only one who could truly understand what the Queen was saying. I have forgotten who my Lord is. My Lord is supreme power over all things. I cannot explain it. It is like no other sensation I can think of and it is excruciating and enlivening. You cannot imagine how it feels to be touched by such demanding power and consuming desire. The hunger never leaves me until my Lord releases me from it. The Queen covered her mouth with a shaking hand, too weak and too distraught to form a clear thought. And after a few moments, the Queen averted her watery bloodshot gaze to her daughter-in-law

and asked, "And what should I do in regards to my Lord? Princess Sieglinde took a deep breath. She felt deeply honored that of all the women in her presence that were older than she was, the Queen asked for her advice in the greatest matter of all. The weight of the responsibility was not lost on her either and settled heavily on her shoulders. The Queen saw that Princess Sieglinde found it difficult to speak in such a large forum, since privacy was required and better befitting the content of the advice she was about to give. They restored her back to health and provided her with much need consolation, till the Queen felt herself capable of visiting with her youngest without raising suspicions in the child that there had been anything other than the ordinary. During those days in which the Conqueror was toiling arduously to cleanse her Realm of conspirators and collaborators - mornings conducting interrogations in the dungeons and by noon performing mass executions - fear was running rampant in many provinces of the Realm, not just in Thessaly, Epirus and Rome but in their neighboring provinces, as well. A few men whose hands had been one with the traitors tried to flee, some even abandoning their families behind to fend for themselves, believing they had a better chance of surviving without the extra burden. When the Conqueror returned to her chambers at dusk, she went first to bathe so to wash the bloodstains off her person, then to eat supper in seclusion. Every evening, Gabrielle would wait naked in the Imperial bedchamber kneeling with nothing but the slave collar around her neck, waiting quietly for the Conqueror to finish her meal before coming to her. The ritual never changed, though. The Conqueror took from Gabrielle nothing more than was absolutely necessary for her to sate her needs and gave absolutely nothing in return, not even a brief glance or a single syllable. It bewildered Gabrielle just how many contradictions resided within the Conqueror: One thing was apparent and lucid above all else - the Conqueror did everything with passion, even her indifference was passionately displayed, Gabrielle thought. It always ended in the same manner, as well. The weather was harsh and so was the icy sea. However, these violent conditions did not bother Princess Athena, for other things, such as the battle ahead, preoccupied her mind. Never before had she commanded over an army by herself. She was burdened by the awesome responsibility she had to the Realm and to the thousands of lives that she would command on the battlefield. Failure or defeat was not an option. Dry land could not have been reached soon enough. The men on board craved war better than they craved the sea, for at least war would keep the blood warm. On our way to the battlefield we will pass through populated lands of the Norsemen. You will not harm unarmed civilians but you will tread carefully and be vigil at all times. Keep warm and maintain a good pace. You will kill them all in the name of our Lord Conqueror! Princess Athena proved to be as brilliant and as devious a tactician as was her Sire. The fighting lasted for seven days, in which Princess Athena managed to force the battle back and deeper into the Nordic province. As she had been instructed, she ordered the men under her command to shout out her name as they fought and they all did as she commanded till her name could be heard louder than the clashing of weapons against weapons and shields. No prisoners were taken and none escaped. Princess Athena had never before fought a battle in the snow, and so she was mesmerized by how red the blood appeared, plentiful against the whiteness of the snow. Not a single drop disappeared into the earth. He made an attempt to fall on his axe, but he was stopped by one of the Imperial Guardsmen and his weapon was removed from his hand by force. Princess Athena, drenched in blood, ordered her field-groom to be brought to her. Her men pounded the hilt of their swords against their shields and shouted her name so loudly that it reached the ears of the Norsemen who resided closest to the battlefield. To the Heir, their cries sounded like an affirmation that they trusted her, and that she succeeded in proving herself to them as their ruler. She remembered that the Conqueror had once told her that the warriors under her command must trust her in order for her to command over them. She realized that they had followed her lead and had obeyed her orders before victory was achieved solely because of her station, but henceforth they would obey her out of trust and respect for her command and capabilities; in other words, based on merit alone. Our wounded are to be treated by the healers. Once they are done, they are to set camp before darkness falls. I will give you gold to purchase fresh provisions from the villages surrounding us. Tell the men to keep their cocks in their breeches. As she treaded through the maimed lifeless bodies scattered in the snow, mindful of her steps, she recognized the bodies of two brothers who had attended the Military Academy of Rome with her. She remembered how their mother, the Lady Demetra, would visit them during their trainings; she would always bring nut-bread with her when she visited and Cleon

and Dexios would share it with her. Their father had died recently, she suddenly recalled hearing mentioned in passing. Cleon and Dexios would never marry, would never have children, would never laugh and love again and she would never see them again. Princess Athena had fought on the battlefield only once before alongside her Sire against the Horde in Phrygia soon after she had graduated from the Academy. War is not a game. War is not a challenge. War creates widows and orphans. War bleeds one dry. Whenever she would lead men into battle, it would be her and no other who would be held accountable for the lives of the men under her command and it was that understanding that was at the foundations of a great ruler. Princess Athena called out to her groom, and pointed at her dead subordinates. When her groom left, she looked over and saw the dead bodies of the Nordic warriors. It was the first time she noticed their faces rather than their eyes or their necks or their arms and legs or chest, in search for an opening to plunge her weapon into their flesh. There were fifteen thousand of them lying dead, men she had killed or those who warriors under her command had killed by her orders. It was such a staggering number. Nevertheless, she had spilt their blood and it laid heavy on her.

Chapter 5 : He Broke Her Heart And Shattered Her Hopes, But She Won't Be Afraid To Love Again

Valkyrie Daughter Lyrics: Valhalla is ever receiving / As her sons are forever at war / But her gates are not barred, as you may have been told / To the women and children worth fighting for.

Share This girl loved him in ways she never believed she was capable of loving. She devoted herself to him with every fiber of her being. Then, without a warning, he broke it into countless little pieces. He walked away without looking back to see the havoc he created in her life. He left her to pick up the pieces of her broken heart by herself. He never stopped to think how much he hurt her by pushing her away. This girl was always cheerful and full of hopes and love before she met him. But, this guy managed to shatter all her hopes so easily. Like her love and hope were some kind of toys he could play with for as long as he wanted and then just easily discard them. This girl unselfishly gave him her heart – the most important and sacred treasure anyone can be ever entrusted with. She threw her innocent soul under her feet. And how did he thank her? He took both her and her love for granted. He convinced her to believe that she was the only girl in his life. He destroyed her ability to trust people. From a girl who believed in the good in people, she turned into a girl who thought all people are the same -evil. His betrayal scarred her emotionally and mentally. It ruined her self-esteem and shook her faith in love. She feels as if the other part of her left with the one she was with and loved. This girl is now picking the pieces of her torn heart step by step. She tries not to think of him and of the things they did together. Every place in the town reminds her of him. Every food, every perfume smells like him. She slowly begins to remember who she was before the guy who was supposed to love and fight for her came into her life and played with her feelings and mind. Her new love will prove to her that he deserves her attention and trust. And this girl will finally become the person she used to be once. This woman will love and be loved again because she deserves it. She deserves to be with someone who will choose her every single day. Someone who will respect and appreciate her. Someone who will be loyal to and respect her enough to never lie to her. She deserves all this and much more, and she should never settle for anything less than that. And the moment she allows herself to love again, she will no longer carry the burden of her painful past on her shoulders. The memories of him will no longer haunt her.

Lyrics to 'Her Heart' by Anthony Hamilton. I had a habit of messing up / Staying out late and getting drunk / I let you down a thousand times / Broken promises.

HEA forces Amanda Bouchet to name 5 only 5! She succeeds By Joyce Lamb August 3, Joyce Lamb August 3, This question is obviously meant to torture me because choosing only five novels from all the amazing romance authors and books out there is like asking me to eat only one potato chip from a full bag! Since I have to narrow it down, though, here are some of my all-time favorites. It has everything that makes a romance novel perfect in my eyes – wit, humor, beautiful writing, steamy love scenes, and all those moments that make your stomach dip, your temperature rise, and your heart jolt in your chest. This is the first in the Wallflower series about four young women in London society banding together to help one another find husbands. Annabelle Peyton needs to catch a rich husband to save her family from financial ruin, but her most persistent admirer is the wealthy but unsuitable Simon Hunt. Simon offers her security, and pleasure, but not marriage, leaving Annabelle and her friends scrambling to find a more appropriate gentleman for her and Annabelle waging a battle against her own increasingly rebellious heart. This book kept me guessing about how the hero and heroine were going to overcome the major obstacle in their way to a happily ever after. This is the story of Clare Westmore, a popular London miss looking to catch a duke for a husband. Daniel Meriel who occupies her time – and her thoughts – instead of the dance floor and the duke. Jennifer McQuiston has a real talent for creating heroes with depth and dash. Another huge favorite of mine is the Charley Davidson series by Darynda Jones. There are nine books out so far, they are all dynamite, and they just keep getting better. The Dirt on Ninth Grave, the latest in the series, delivers the perfect mix of humor, suspense and sensuality when Charley gets amnesia and has to discover her talents, her purpose and her inevitable love for Reyes all over again. Outlander by Diana Gabaldon is another one of my favorites. I first read this book shortly after it came out, promptly fell in love with Jamie Fraser and have remained that way ever since. In , combat nurse Claire Randall reunites with her husband in Scotland to try to rekindle their marriage after the war separated them for years. While still trying to make her way back home to the 20th century and Frank, she marries James Fraser, a gallant young Scottish warrior who offers her protection from a common enemy, leaving Claire with a difficult decision about where her heart and path ultimately lie – in the future, or in the past. Druid Drustan MacKeltar awakens in the present day after a five-century sleep and finds himself tangled, literally, with Gwen Cassidy when she falls into an underground cavern and lands on top of him, getting way more than she bargained for from her Scottish vacation. Kiss of the Highlander has humor, sizzle, twists and turns and main characters you can really root for. For me, this book sets the standard for everything a fun and sexy time-travel romance should be. There are so many more books and authors I would have loved to mention here – and so many I have yet to discover! About A Promise of Fire: Kingdoms will rise and fall for her –! But not if she can help it. She is perfectly content avoiding the danger and destiny the Gods – and her homicidal mother – have saddled her with. That is, until Griffin, an ambitious warlord from the magic-deprived south, fixes her with his steely gaze and upsets her illusion of safety forever. Griffin knows Cat is the Kingmaker, the woman who divines the truth through lies. He wants her as a powerful weapon for his newly conquered realm – until he realizes he wants her for much more than her magic. Find out more at www.

Chapter 7 : WarriorJudge - Princess of the Realm

Conquered has 52 ratings and 18 reviews. April said: Sexy RAF pilot Sam McKenna and Jen Thorne met when he walked into her office and her hormones went n.

For much of its early history, the Twilight Realm was a peaceful place, until the King of Evil known as Ganondorf was banished to the realm by the Ancient Sages, where his evil influence would cause a coup of the government and cast the realm into darkness by overthrowing the true Twilight Princess and installing a puppet ruler named Zant into the position of ruler of the Twilight Realm. This action severed the only known gateway between the two worlds, destroying the only known means of travel between them to prevent similar events from happening again. To this end, the Interlopers used an ultimate weapon, the dark relic known as the Fused Shadow, inside which they had vested a vast amount of their magic. The goddesses chased the interlopers across Hyrule and banished them to the Twilight Realm. Over time, the Interlopers would evolve into the Twili. However, when the Ancient Sages impaled him with the Sword of the Sages, the Triforce of Power suddenly activated within him and prevented his death. As a last resort, the remaining Sages activated the Mirror of Twilight in order to open the portal to the Twilight Realm and send Ganondorf through it. Centuries later, the Twilight Realm entered a period of political instability when the throne was suddenly left vacant. One of the hawkish advisers of the Royal Family of the Twilight Realm, Zant stood as a prime candidate to ascend to the throne. However, Midna was selected as the true Twilight Princess, and Zant became enraged that he was not selected instead. Zant used his newfound magical abilities to curse Midna and usurped the throne of the Twilight Realm, transforming the Twili into Shadow Beasts and sealing away the Sols within the Palace of Twilight, leaving the Twilight Realm in darkness and bringing misery to the Twili. Zant was persuaded to attempt a conquest of Hyrule by Ganondorf, whom he released back into the World of Light in fulfillment of their bargain. The Invasion of Hyrule Main article: Zant then proceeded to launch an invasion of the World of Light itself, intending to conquer both worlds and mix shadow and light together to make pure darkness, as ordered by his "god". In this Twilight, the people of Hyrule became like spirits, unaware of what had happened to them. Link enters the Twilight-covered Faron Province. Here, he met Midna in her transformed state and the imprisoned Princess Zelda, who relayed to him the fate that had befallen the kingdom of Hyrule. Link teamed up with Midna to locate the lost fragments of the Fused Shadow to defeat Zant and free Hyrule of his power. After succeeding in reversing the spread of Twilight and finding all of the Fused Shadow fragments, the pair were confronted by Zant himself, who stole the fragments and fatally injured Midna before they could escape. Zelda sacrificed herself to save Midna and instructed the pair to find the Master Sword to combat Zant and save Hyrule before mysteriously vanishing. There, they discovered a shocking truth: The pair succeeded in finding the three lost fragments and restored the Mirror of Twilight, reopening the gateway between the two worlds. It was here that the Ancient Sages offered their apologies to the Twilight Princess for sending Ganondorf away into her world and causing so much misery for her and her people. It was here that Zant revealed to his unwelcome guests the truth of his relationship with Ganondorf. Link is then forced to battle Zant in several deadly skirmishes for the fate of the Twilight Realm, facing him in arenas that Link had visited throughout his adventure to defeat the King of Shadows. She was unprepared for the abilities that the Fused Shadow gave her. At the top of the castle tower, they found the Throne Room being circled by dark, foreboding clouds. After a brief conversation, the pair began a battle against Ganondorf for the fate of Hyrule, battling him in many different ways and forms. After Zelda was restored to her physical being, she and Link were warped away by Midna, who attempted to kill Ganondorf with the Fused Shadow, but ultimately failed. Link and Zelda then engaged Ganondorf in a horseback battle across Hyrule Field and Link engaged him in one final sword duel before impaling him with the Master Sword, killing the Dark Lord and restoring Midna to her true form as the Twilight Princess. Link and Princess Zelda accompanied Midna back to the Mirror Chamber to bid her farewell as she returned home to resume her place as the ruler of the Twili. Zelda encouraged relations between Hyrule and the Twilight Realm to continue, stating that they are two sides of the same coin, to which the Twilight Princess thanked her for her kind words and true heart.

Midna then addressed Link one final time as she shed a single tear and sent it drifting toward the Mirror of Twilight, seeming to wish to confide something very personal to him but losing the nerve at the last moment as the tear collided with the Mirror of Twilight, causing it to begin to crack and fragment. The Twilight Realm is ruled by a monarchy, the like of which governs its counterpart, the World of Light known as Hyrule. The Royal Family of the Twilight Realm governs the world and all in it from the massive Palace of Twilight, situated at the heart of the Twilight Realm. The monarch is called the "King of Twilight" if he is male or "Twilight Princess" if she is female. It appears that a retiring monarch typically determines the successor, but in the absence of a selection, the people of the Twilight Realm have the power to select their next monarch.

Military During the short period of his reign, Zant created an army of transformed Twili, the Twilit Messengers, and used them to launch an invasion of the kingdom of Hyrule. It is not known whether the Twili monarchs possessed an army before Zant usurped the throne. None of their gods are named, and it remains unclear if they pay homage to the Golden Goddesses. However, Link finds Rupees hidden in several places within the Palace of Twilight. This would seem to imply that like Hyrule, the Twilight Realm also has a similar economy that uses Rupees as currency. Technology in the Twilight Realm Link stands on a Twilight platform, an example of the advanced technology of the Twilight Realm. The Twilight Realm is shown to be filled with examples of technology far more advanced than anything found in Hyrule or most other locations depicted in The Legend of Zelda series to date. When Link visits the Twilight Realm, he finds that most buildings are suspended in the never-ending Twilight by unseen forces, implying that the Twili have developed some means of making their structures float in the void of the Twilight Realm. As exemplified within the Palace of Twilight, there are multiple other examples of advanced technology that were made by the residents of the Twilight Realm, such as the Twilight platforms that seem to be made of pure energy, the crystal switches used to activate these platforms, the Sols, the Sol-activated staircases that appear throughout the palace, and many others.

Geography Locations and Landmarks The Twilight Realm is only seen in brief flashbacks and only visited on one occasion within Twilight Princess, and as such, only part of it is viewed, namely the area around the Palace of Twilight. When closely inspected, one can see other buildings floating in the distance, implying that the Palace of Twilight and its surroundings are only a part of the Twilight Realm, leaving much of it unexplored as the buildings seem to be suspended in midair, making it impossible to travel from the ground upon which the Palace of Twilight rests to the other structures. However, the Palace of Twilight and the Sol Shrine seem to be the two most important places in the Twilight Realm, and as such, the plaza acts as the place upon which the portal generated by the Mirror of Twilight is located.

Palace of Twilight
Main article: It was here that one of her advisers, Zant, expelled the Twilight Princess upon his coup of the government and usurping of the throne, and he locked away the Sols within the palace walls, depriving the Twilight Realm of its only source of light and leaving the realm in darkness. Link obtained the Light Sword here, allowing him to cut through the Dark Fog that pervaded the palace. After a lengthy battle, Midna assassinated Zant using the power of the Fused Shadow, dethroning him and restoring peace to the Twilight Realm. It is also presumed that Midna returned to the palace for the remainder of her reign after she returned to the Twilight Realm and shattered the Mirror of Twilight. It is made up of two pedestals and is the rightful resting place of the Sols, located just outside of the walls of the Palace of Twilight. Once this was completed, the power of the Sols reverted the Twili to their original forms, restored light to the Twilight Realm, and transferred into the blade of the Master Sword, transforming it into the Light Sword]] and giving it the power to cut through the dark fog that Zant had scattered across the halls of the Palace of Twilight.

Twili Midna, the Twilight Princess and an example of a Twili. The primary residents of the Twilight Realm, the Twili are a race of shadow-beings that are descended from another group of dark magicians known as the Dark Interlopers that once resided in the land of Hyrule in the past. After the Interlopers began to delve into darker magic and developed an awesome weapon in the Fused Shadow, they attempted a conquest of the fabled Sacred Realm in the hope of establishing control over a much greater source of magic, the Triforce. After much bloodshed, the Golden Goddesses chased the Interlopers across Hyrule and banished them to the Twilight Realm, outside of which they could henceforth only exist as shadows. The Interlopers eventually evolved into the Twili race, a more humble and less selfish race than their ancestors. In their evolved forms, the Twili are shown to be fairly

humanoid beings but with some stark differences in regard to Hylians or even their dark ancestors. Their skin varies in shades of white and black, and their eyes glow with a red hue. Only two Twili have shown the capacity to speak the normal Hylian dialect, those two being Midna and Zant, while the others seem to communicate through a high-pitched series of moaning sounds that are not able to be understood by Link. Aside from the mindless Shadow Beasts transformed by Zant and used to serve in his army, the general populace of the Twili appear to be very peaceful. Trivia According to the original Japanese text, Midna mentions that the Hyruleans mistakenly believe the Twilight Realm to be an afterlife realm. It is often seen as a world of shadows and evil, however there is a serene beauty to the Twilight Realm, a beauty which is said the Hylians see every time the Sun sets.

Chapter 8 : Conquered (Honor Bound #9) by Angel Payne

He conquered Tiamat, he troubled and ended her life," In the future of mankind, when the days grow old, May this be heard without ceasing; may it hold sway forever!

Of suffering there are two kinds: The suffering of birth and death of allotment, 2. The suffering of birth and death of mortal changes. All ills and defilements mean suffering. According to the interpretation of the teachings, when it is fully understood that all five skandhas are empty five fundamental conditions of passions and delusion are severed and two kinds of birth and death are over. What are the five fundamental conditions of passions and delusions? The five fundamental conditions of passions and delusions depend on the five skandhas for their existence and when the skandhas are found to be empty the five fundamental conditions of passions and delusion vanish. Everyone is equipped with five skandhas, and those uninstructed in BuddhaDharma cannot eradicate the five fundamental conditions of passions and delusions because they are unaware that these are originated by, and dwell in the mind. Such being the case, sentient beings have no other choice but to endure suffering in the present and turn in the cyclic pattern of existence until they recognize the cause of their suffering and enter the path to enlightenment. What are the wrong views common in the Triloka? To see the object; to be confused by the object and to give rise to greed as the result of that confusion is the root of defilement. Let us suppose that someone who meets some wealthy, influential, high--ranking official and from that is given to envy, greed and jealousy. Greed becomes entrenched in the mind and as such is very difficult to extirpate. Defilements of this kind are most common. Those unexpectedly promoted and prosperous, those in humble circumstances or those destitute, those who enjoy long life and those who die young, even the smart and the dull ones, all are in that situation because of cause and effect. Good causes in previous life will produce good effects in the present. Good causes in the present will produce favorable effects in the future. The law of cause and effect is all-pervasive, excluding nothing and no one. The practice of this Dharma and the understanding of obstinate void sever eighty-eight wrong views in the three realms and lead to the attainment of the first fruit of the path, i. What is meant by attachment in the realm of desire? To recognize greed as objectionable and to relinquish it is expedient and noble: Not to see the object, not to give rise to clinging and not to be moved by outside things leads to great liberation. Poverty, wealth, success and failure can all be endured. That cycle will be repeated four times and then the second fruit and the path will be attained, that of Once Returner. One more rebirth is required to attain the third fruit Non Returner , which means the end of all delusion in the realm of desire. With the cessation of all desires at all levels in all three realms, the fourth path and fruit is attained, i. Attachment in the realm of form: Those who freed themselves from wrong views and clinging, but still hold on to the analysis of the theory of voidness will be reborn in the realm of form rupa loka , which includes eighteen layers of heaven. These are divided into four dhyanas according to the depth of absorption: Each dhyana dissolves nine kinds of illusory thought, which means that thirty-six illusory thoughts are brought to a halt by the four dhyanas. If the one reborn in the realm of form still has a form-body, it would not be that of a woman: Those reborn in that realm have the form-body of a man. It is also called the Brahma sphere because the beings there have renounced sense desires and delight in meditation and dhyanic bliss. For that reason we speak of attachment in the realm of form. The beings in that realm have all necessities of existence attended to without any effort. The realm of form is beyond the reach of ordinary people with mundane concerns. The nourishment in these realms is of four kinds: Solid nourishment, especially of the palatable variety; fragrant nourishment; the nourishment of delight in dhyana; the nourishment of delight in Dharma. The first kind, or the solid nourishment, is the same as what people eat every day: It is the manner of humans in the six realms of desires. The second kind, the fragrant nourishment, sustains devas heaven-dwellers and ghosts. The nourishment of delight in dhyana and Dharma is for those in formless realm. Attachment in the formless realm: When wrong view with its concomitant grasping no longer contaminates the realm of desire and the realm of form, rebirth in the formless realm follows. That sphere is free from form body ; there is only the knowing consciousness and, therefore, we speak of clinging to the formless realm. Denizens of that realm are no longer preoccupied with matter or material. The Dhyanas and

the Dharma are their repast and their bliss. The formless realm is divided into attainment in meditation on the void; attainment in meditation on consciousness; attainment in meditation on nothingness; and attainment leading to a state of neither perception nor non-perception. Consider for a moment the difference between Dharma talk offered by an Arhat, as compared with that given by someone of lower attainment. The attachment to formless realm still manifests. Vast differences are noticeable when the two traditions, namely the Theravada and the Mahayana, are viewed in juxtaposition. Because meditation according to the Theravada does not single out wisdom, yet the five fundamental conditions of passions and delusions require the practice of both activity and principle and equate meditation with wisdom; it is not comparable to the realm of form and the formless realm. Even the third stage of liberation according to Theravada, i. The state of ignorance in the Triloka: Ignorance and delusory views still predominate, as countless as the atoms in the universe, although beings in that realm have relinquished some part of both. Their understanding as to action and principle is far from clear and therefore they cannot stop the conversion of their thoughts into the cycle of birth and death, although they were released from the four states or conditions found in mortality. The Arahata who completed the fourth and the highest stage, attaining the fruit and the path is, likewise, liberated from these four. Worldlings cannot escape the two kinds of birth and death no matter how long their earthly existence might last. Reborn in the formless realm, they still have birth and death, even after eighty-four thousand kalpas. That is a very long time. One particular sutra teaches that a very, very long time ago, people lived eighty-four thousand years, but the life span gradually decreased, shortened by greed, hatred and delusion, and the process continues at a steadily accelerated pace. Thoughts of the past or future tend to make people uneasy or jittery. Such full cycle is called small kalpa. Twenty of those produce one middle kalpa and four middle kalpas are called the great kalpa. Several different systems of calculating the kalpa exist, depending on the cosmology used as the point of departure. They may be reborn in any circumstances and may suffer a great deal, depending on whether their causes were good or evil; it is quite reliable. The preceding explanation dealt with the five fundamental conditions of passions and delusions. We understand presently that neither the heaven-dwellers, nor the worldlings can escape the suffering in the wheel of birth and death unless they terminate the five fundamental conditions of passions and delusions. There is, however, more happiness in heaven than in the world. To end the two kinds of birth and death and the five fundamental conditions of passions and delusions one must make the great vow to attain enlightenment; to be able to do that one must study and practice Buddhadharma. The passage we just concluded was related to the two kinds of birth and death and the five fundamental conditions of passions and illusions as dependent on the five skandhas, namely form, feelings, perceptions, volitions and consciousness. At the time of his attainment of the radiant wisdom, the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara conquered all ills and suffering by means of apprehending beyond any doubt that all five skandhas are devoid of independent existence.

Chapter 9 : The Babylonian 'Enuma Elish' - One Of The World's Oldest Creation Myths

Snow Song Realm, Divine Ice Phoenix Sect. Several days passed since Mu Xuanyin left for the Flame God Realm. Mu Bingyun had always been feeling uneasy in her mind and found it difficult to calm herself down. Usually, her mind would be devoid of worldly things and she harbored very few desires, so it.

When she entered, soon after the ceremony master announced her name, her legs were visibly shaking and her teeth were chattering. She had no doubts as for the reason and she was grateful that no one else attended the Great Hall. The Lady curtsied deeply and could barely find the strength to lift her body back up to stand upright. Realization finally caught up with lady Satrina. She understood that the Lord Conqueror was in effect sending her far away from them and binding her in marriage to put off any notion of possible love she had towards the Royal couple. It broke her heart and spirit. Aside from sentiments of great friendship, the Queen felt indebted to her lady in waiting. It was cruel, the Queen believed, and would bring about utter devastation upon her devoted friend. Perhaps she might find a more suitable mate and to show my appreciation for her great service to me and the Realm, we shall vouch to pay a handsome dowry should a future eligible suitor ask her hand in marriage? Both the Queen and lady Satrina could no longer contain their joy and joined their Sovereign in laughter. So be it," the Conqueror rendered her final verdict when at last her laughter subsided. Thank you for your infinite benevolence. Lady Satrina curtsied one last time then backed away from her Rulers, leaving them alone in the Great Hall. Their hearts might meet and touch, my Lord. As the Queen had hoped, a profound affinity developed and flourished between Princess Lao-Ling and lady Satrina, and as promised the Realm paid a substantial dowry and traveled to the land of Chin to attend the Royal wedding. Alas, a few years later tragedy struck. A mercenary sent by the rival house of Tzu poisoned Princess Lao-Ling. She was allowed by the Conqueror and the Queen to return back to the Realm after years in exile. In the safety of the Realm, the Queen and the inconsolable lady Satrina could mourn the untimely passing of the beloved Princess. Gabrielle lifted up her head and quietly stared at her lover, waiting for her to proceed. He was closer to me than anyone else and I loved him dearly. We used to fish and spar together. His heart was pure and courageous just like yours, my love. Tell me more about him," the Queen encouraged her Lord. For a while my mother has blamed me for his death as well and banished me. It must have been so awful you must have felt so alone. At that moment, she wished she could have met her Lord back then and offered her comfort and companionship. It was when I first learned that you cared for me that my loneliness abated. What if death takes you away from me? She had once faced the notion of losing her Lord, only now they were bonded by love; she knew the loss of her beloved would devastate her to the point of not wishing to go on living without her but follow her beloved Lord to the underworld. She was out of her mind with grief for a loss she had yet to endure. The Queen became agitated when no response came from her Lord. I shall argue on your behalf and if I fail, I swear to you, I will never part with you. I shall follow you gladly to Tartarus. I am your wife. I go where you go," the Queen spoke with such conviction that it nearly gave her Lord pause. I need to become one with you. I need to become flesh of your flesh, blood of your blood, tonight. She wanted nothing more than to weld their wanting bodies together with love and passion. As Conqueror and Queen made love that night, desperately melting into one another, they could no longer tell when one of them ended and the other began. When both battered houses remained dwindled in arms and fighters after a lengthy war, she made her move and marched her vast forces into the ravaged domain and aggressively conquered the ripe lands of Chin in a brilliant campaign. During those years, the Conqueror kept each and every promise she had made to her consort; they visited their daughter and heir to the throne in Rome as often as the Queen desired. They spent every available moment they had in their treasured isle of Thira. They freely expressed their love for one another whenever they were alone. The headmaster of the Roman Military Academy sent a letter with the recent graduate stating that the Princess excelled in her trainings and studies and surpassed her classmates and most of her teachers as well. A huge and festive banquet was held in the Great Hall in honor of the returning Princess. Her name was Antonia. Princess Athena stood in the middle of the Great Hall. The years had added considerably to her stature. Her skin tone was tanned by hours upon hours of training outside on the drilling

fields beneath the Roman sun. She wore black leather trousers as did the Conqueror, a light armor adorned her torso, a black cloak with crimson inner lining covered her proud shoulders and a sword rested against her right thigh. All in attendance raised their goblets in honor of their Rulers and bowed and curtsied before them. The Conqueror raised her own goblet. To you, your Grace! She was strong in her mind to outwardly maintain and demonstrate the charade and hide any hint of love and devotion she felt towards her Queen. Forgive me," the Queen slightly lowered her head. The Conqueror signaled one of her servants to refill her empty goblet, and then asked her daughter, "So what do you wish to know about power, Athena? The Conqueror went on to say, "His swordplay skills nearly match my own. Of course he could fend off a dozen other warriors with his weapon, but what if there are twenty of them? The guard standing next to him has a quick and clever mind. Together, they make the ultimate warrior. He is the richest man in the Realm and governs Thrace , the most thriving of provinces. What this lad wants this lad gets. No one gives it to you, but some can take it away. You should hold on to your power zealously and never allow anyone to take it away from you no matter the cost. When the banquet was over, the Princess retired to her chambers and the Conqueror and the Queen retired to theirs. Just look at her mother," the Conqueror replied affectionately. But if you desire to hear the words " The Conqueror took off her own crown, placed it over her desk, turned to face her Queen and embraced her closely to her heart, "Like the day you were but a young, slip of lass standing on the platform shivering when you first caught my eye all those years ago. I am happy that my heart was a virgin when first you touched it, my Lord," she answered and pressed herself closer to her Lord. The Conqueror adjusted her body to better fit the Queen.