

MEROPE - A Journey to Authenticity

by Christel Veraart

Scene 1 - Creation

Once upon a time, some hundred million years ago, out of a gigantic cloud of gas and dust, seven star-sisters made their appearance into the world. Born within minutes of each other, they emerged into space, a place far away from us, — into a space, void of time and idiom, where judgement did not exist. Each star-sister came into the world bearing heavenly gifts that held the promise of beaming their brightest shimmer into the world. Uniquely gifted, the sisters became archetypes for wisdom, justice, moderation, faith, hope, generosity and, last but not least, authenticity.

Scene 2 - Evolution

Growing up wasn't easy for the sisters but somehow, life dealt Merope, the youngest of the sisters, a much harder hand, and because of life's tribulations Merope lost her luster, and in the process her gift, her authenticity. Despite Merope's loss of her authentic self, her six remaining star-sisters never ceased believing she could ultimately restore her shimmer and even though Merope wasn't capable of believing them, at least not yet, she always sensed her sisters' presence, albeit faintly.

Scene 3 - Reverie

For many years Merope felt safest while in hiding. Closeness felt too close, and distance still too far. Her star-sisters, like before, never ceased their support nor their conviction that ultimately Merope could heal what had been lost. And thus, they demonstrated their support by sharing their unique gifts.

Star-sister "wisdom" encouraged Merope to move forward without fear, while star-sister "moderation" reassured her to move forward at her own pace. Star-sister "faith" emboldened Merope to trust her own instincts, and star-sister "generosity" heartened her to, despite her own struggles, never cease to share with those around her. Star sister "justice" vowed to protect her and lastly, star-sister "hope" reminded Merope that her time had yet to come.

During her years "in hiding" Merope was content in her own world. She didn't yet realize that hidden inside herself, she held the key to transform her lackluster into the brightest star of all.

Merope felt safe in the small world she created until one day she became aware of a faint flickering that stirred her world.

Scene 4 - Metamorphoses

While the faint flickering transformed into the slightest of shimmers, Merope's nights were filled with dreams about another galaxy, much bigger than where she was from, where nobody knew her and she could start afresh. If only she knew how to get there? Time passed by until, one night, Merope woke up to the soft cooing of a dove. When looking outside, she detected a beautiful bird, its snowy white wings lit up by the moon. Could this be the sign she had been waiting for, Merope asked herself? Could it be that this feathered creature would know the way to the galaxy that consumed her dreams? As if the bird could read her mind, it signaled her to follow by stretching its gigantic wings across the universe. Like a boundless bridge between two places, Merope's dream became reality, as she followed the bird to reach her new destination. Upon arrival, it felt as if all the weight of the world that had held her down for so long, had dissipated into thin air. In her incognito state of mind, in a place where nobody knew, nor judged her, Merope could finally access her true, authentic self. Within her new habitat, her past tribulations were presented to her from a fresh and completely new perspective. What Merope had experienced as disadvantages before, now seemed to be her biggest assets. The new world showed her that the difficulties that life had handed her had in fact shaped her into the persona, the star she was today. Furthermore, Merope discovered that her story was not "unique" but the way in which she had handled it "was".

Scene 5 - Authenticity

Having fully restored her authenticity, Merope returned to her birth galaxy where she realized that it was through her sisters' love and empowerment that she had been transformed. Her sisters no longer surrounded her but instead had become an integral part of who she had become. On Merope's journey to authenticity, her star sisters had guided and molded her persona into a new, authentic self. No longer afraid to show to the world who she truly was, Merope stepped into the light. The moment she did, her inner being manifested itself into the brightest beam of light that erupted out of her chest in celebration. Her inner star so strong now, was shining more brightly than ever before and lit up the world around her. THE END