

## Desolation

By: Quincy M.

Destruction, the only thing that all creatures know from the moment they enter this world to moment they leave. War, violence, greed, pollution, and death, these are all things that ultimately lead to destruction. But with all this chaos, there is still hope. As the planet's deities decreed, "an entity drawn to the violence, destruction, and defilement of this world will cleanse the parasites and create a new era." The gods foresaw this and called it prophecy, spreading it to the creatures of the planet who worshipped them yet, they were ignorant to the fact that they too were creatures who had warped this world and caused its suffering. As such they continued to carry on with their ways, leading to more chaos and destruction.

The day the entity arrived, pandemonium started and chaos was loosed upon the world. The skies darkened, the ground shook, and the seas boiled. As the creatures bound to the planet fell into despair, the gods high up in their kingdom celebrated. Most watched without pity or regret unto the world as it started to crumble. Whilst they watched, the entity wasted no time in reducing everything to atoms. "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust." The gods raised a toast to the end of a world and the beginning of one anew. As they enjoyed their party, some felt guilty for their hand in the planet's cleansing. They left and went down to help those who were still surviving, fighting the chosen destiny of their world. The rest of the gods ignored those who left and continued with their festivities. They were drowning in self-pleasure and greed, just as those on the planet had.

In their influenced state they didn't notice the cracks forming around them or the hooded shadowy figure watching them. Suddenly, one by one, the gods partying fell to their knees and cried out, "You acted as though you were above them," said the figure as it approached them and knelt next to the most powerful god. The figure reached out an arm and grabbed them by the face and lifted them off the ground. With a scream of pain the god crumbled to dust and was blown away by an unknown wind. While the figure's cloak billowed in the gale all the other gods instantly sobered up and were staring in horror as the figure walked towards another. "You thought just because you aren't a mortal, you wouldn't face punishment for your actions? You are all just as, if not more guilty then they are." The closest gods screamed in agony as they exploded into dust. "I will not have ignorant fools guiding the next era." More gods cried out as they crumbled to dust, others struggling to get away from the figure. "I cannot overlook this, I will make sure this never happens again." Their cries for help were heard by all, and were quickly silenced leaving nothing but their echoes of damnation hanging in the wind for eternity.