

ANGELIC WARFARE

the STONES *of* FIRE

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The Stones of Fire
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*This book is dedicated to Jaden
whose name means
“God has heard.”*

Introduction

At the dawn of time the cherub prince Lucifer became filled with vanity and rebelled against the Supreme Spirit. He then convinced a third of the angels to follow him, and they began an endless reign of evil, which included enticing mankind to commit every imaginable sin. The actions of the fallen angels also gave rise to giants who terrorized humans and monstrous beasts that destroyed everything in their path. In a world of growing wickedness, Michael and his angels were sent to earth to watch over and protect virtuous people. But the angels soon confronted legions of demons and valiantly resisted them until something horrifying happened that changed heaven and earth forever . . .

Scroll One

*You were the anointed cherub who covers,
and I placed you there. You were on the
holy mountain of God, and you walked
in the midst of the stones of fire.*

Ezekiel 28:14

Midway in the great city of heaven stood a circular crystal temple with a translucent rainbow dome that towered high above anything else in the realm. Surrounding the base of the sparkling structure were emerald stones of fire that constantly burned, yet emitted no heat. A solitary walkway made of glistening quartz led through the bed of flaming stones and extended up to the threshold of the temple.

Inside the holy edifice reigned the Supreme Spirit who ruled over all things in the continuum of space and time. He was the composite of three divine beings that mysteriously merged together whenever they deliberated on spiritual matters of unfathomable depth. At other times, though, the Supreme Spirit would become three unique beings who acted independently but continually communed with each other.

The divine being who presided over the affairs of the natural cosmos and supernatural realm was called the Ancient Spirit. He wore

a radiant white robe, and his hair sparkled like newly fallen snow. However, the rest of his body was concealed by an intense bright light as he sat upon a triangular diamond throne located in the middle of the temple.

To the right of the Ancient Spirit dressed in a crimson robe sat the Anointed Spirit who personally interacted with mankind to give spiritual blessings and peace. He had eyes like burning coals, pure white hair, and his skin glowed as burnished bronze being refined in a furnace.

To the left of the Ancient Spirit clothed in a silver robe sat the Advocate Spirit who moved like the wind to aid and sustain mankind. He was completely transparent except for blue flames of fire that outlined the contour of his body.

At the dawn of time the Ancient Spirit commented to the other divine beings, “We have made mankind in our image, but have not yet created a habitat for them where they can choose between right and wrong. The humans, therefore, will not know the meaning of true love since they do not have the opportunity to discern between selfishness and self-control.”

The Anointed Spirit nodded in agreement and added, “Although they possess the emotional need to love and be loved, it is the element of risk that instills personal commitment. Without risk, they will not have the liberty to become intimately concerned with each other’s welfare.”

“There is a solution,” stated the Advocate Spirit. “A special tree can be placed in the midst of their garden with fruit that contains a grain of our eternal knowledge. The humans can be told the fruit is forbid-

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den because of its spiritual properties which will then give them the option to decide whether to follow their heart or submit to their ego. However, if the fruit is eaten in defiance of our command, the eternal knowledge will turn into the antithesis of goodness within them that shall lead to a sundry of unholy thoughts and deeds, including spiritual death.”

“I will return to earth,” said the Anointed Spirit, “and cause this tree of knowledge to germinate and grow rapidly in the garden. I will also present myself as the redeeming Angel so their flesh will not be destroyed because of my true form and advise them which fruit may be eaten and what should be avoided.”

The Anointed Spirit then rose from his seat and majestically walked down the white marble steps that extended from the throne. Just beyond the stones of fire, he transformed himself into a brilliant ball of light and sped over the city’s gold-paved streets bordered with lush, ornamental foliage. He next made a sharp turn above a sparkling river that had fruit trees on both banks and zoomed toward the east wall. After he flew over the blue jasper wall lined with pink topaz, turquoise sapphires, and purple amethysts in its foundation, he followed a glistening quartz pathway that led to the city’s exterior boundary.

At the end of the pathway was a corridor which the Supreme Spirit had formed on the sixth day of creation to serve as a passageway between heaven and earth. It was filled with multicolored gases that swirled in a counterclockwise motion, yet never dissipated. The moving gases made no sound and a fragrant scent similar to spring blossoms saturated the entire corridor. It ended at the lower part of Earth’s troposphere and was invisible to humans except for streams

of light in the northern night sky produced by the residual gases and charged particles in the atmosphere.

At the entrance to the corridor, the Anointed Spirit then changed into the likeness of the Angel of the Lord. But before entering, he glanced back at the great city and lamented to himself, "Soon, iniquity will be drawn with cords of vanity that shall change heaven and earth forever."



The Supreme Spirit created three categories of celestial beings who resided in heaven: four seraphim, thirteen cherubim and countless angels. Each category also had one mighty prince to represent them in the presence of the Supreme Spirit when there were no assemblies for the entire host.

The seraphim were positioned around the temple inside the stones of fire and possessed long trumpets to announce when all celestial beings needed to gather at the city. Each seraph had six wings and wore a purple robe with a silver sash. Although their bodies were similar to the form of a human, only one had the face of a man, while another bore the likeness of a lion, the third resembled an ox, and the fourth appeared like an eagle. The last seraph was a mighty prince called Uriel.

Twelve cherubim were stationed by the twelve pearl entrances to the great city, and they held flaming torches that symbolized the presence of the most revered in heaven: nine burnt for the three divine beings and three represented the three mighty princes. Each cherub had four wings and wore a deep blue robe with a white sash. They

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were built like men, except the soles of their feet resembled calves' feet and sparkled like burnished brass. Three cherubim had the face of an ox, three others resembled a lion, three had the countenance of an eagle, and the remaining three looked like men.

The thirteenth cherub was a mighty prince who also had four wings and the face of a man, but was more glorious than the other cherubim. His appearance sparkled as the colors of every precious stone, and his countenance glowed like pure gold. He possessed inspiring charisma that made him popular among the angels, and he personally discussed celestial matters with the Supreme Spirit. His name was Lucifer.

The majority of heaven's inhabitants, though, were legions of angels who served as ministering spirits and messengers of the Supreme Spirit. Yet none of them had wings except the archangel and mighty prince, Michael, and he had two wings. All the angels looked like young men and were attired in white robes with golden sashes. But their bodies glowed like polished brass, and their eyes glistened as sunlight on new fallen snow.



Shortly after the Anointed Spirit left for his mission to earth, the Ancient Spirit summoned Uriel and said with a thunderous voice, "Sound the trumpets to assemble the host."

"Yes, my Lord," replied the seraph prince as he gracefully flapped his six wings while hovering near the throne. Uriel solemnly bowed once and darted back to his post where he lifted his trumpet. He then gave one short blast. The other seraphim immediately raised their trumpets, and in unison, all four blew a resounding call that

reverberated throughout heaven.

Lucifer and Michael were far away enjoying the beauty of the realm and each other's company when they heard the trumpets. They frequently held chariot races with white-winged horses that roamed heaven, which delighted the angels. One-third of the angels were especially fond of Lucifer because of his stature and magnificent appearance. He always defeated Michael in the races.

As the two princes were harnessing their horses for the return trip to the great city, Lucifer said with a slight smile to Michael, "Perhaps after the assembly we can resume the game."

"You have been truly blessed with many talents," replied Michael with a grin.

They then mounted their chariots and sped away. But as they approached the east wall, Lucifer noticed that three torches were out.

"Michael, do you know why those cherubim have their flames extinguished?"

"No. Perhaps we will find out at the assembly."

Lucifer had become so focused on the cherubim that he didn't see the new corridor at the end of the walkway. It was not until they landed that Lucifer caught a glimpse of swirling gases through the trees.

"I'll be right back," Lucifer told Michael as he started moving his wings for a vertical ascent. However, when he reached the treetops for a better view, an inner uneasiness came over him upon seeing the gaseous corridor. He thought to himself, "Why haven't I been told about this before?"

Michael, meanwhile, was unharnessing his horses when the an-

gel Gabriel approached him. “Greetings, Prince Michael,” he said warmly.

“Peace be with you, brother,” replied Michael.

After they cordially embraced, Gabriel said with a serious demeanor, “I recently witnessed wonders that have never occurred before. Shortly after I arrived in the city, the Anointed Spirit picked up one of the stones of fire and pressed it with both hands until the stone was half its original size and glowed more intensely than the other stones. Moments later, the stone floated above his hands and began to spin vigorously. Then it disappeared!”

“Did anything else unusual happen?”

“The Anointed Spirit returned to the throne, and the Supreme Spirit uttered strange commands at six different intervals that none of us understood.”

“In time, our Creator will reveal his intentions,” Michael reassured him in a calm voice. “He is well aware that we have an inquisitive nature and desire to know his purposes.”

Michael then realized that Lucifer had not returned, so he glanced at the tree line behind him and got his first glimpse of the corridor. He was awed by its beauty and said to himself, “None can compare to the Lord’s wonderful surprises!”

Gabriel noticed Michael gazing at the corridor and commented, “Those swirling gases first appeared after the Supreme Spirit gave his sixth command.”

Lucifer was still standing next to the corridor and staring at it when his curiosity changed to bewilderment. He also felt dejected because the Supreme Spirit had not confided in him about his intentions.

Lucifer shook his head in a disapproving manner and began walking slowly back to the others.

“Hello, Gabriel,” Lucifer said with a half smile, trying to conceal his true feelings as he walked toward his horses to unharness them.

“I pray that all is going well with you, Prince Lucifer,” replied Gabriel. He sensed the holy cherub had something on his mind, but felt it was not his position to pry into a prince’s personal matters.

Thousands of angels were starting to congregate in the area for the assembly. Not wishing to impose his celestial rank by commanding the angels to step aside and clear a path for them, Michael said, “We should enter the city now before more angels arrive.”

The three began walking across a rolling, flower-scented meadow flanked by a large orchard on the left and a pristine pool of water on the right. En route, the two princes and angelic captain did not speak to one another but preferred to keep their thoughts to themselves and reflect on what they had seen. After going through the east gate, they followed the glistening quartz walkway that led to the crystal temple. But Gabriel stopped in the courtyard as Michael and Lucifer continued walking beyond the stones of fire to take their position of authority by Uriel near the steps to the throne. Just as they entered the temple, the Anointed Spirit descended through the rainbow dome and took his seat beside the other divine beings.



Such vast numbers came to the assembly that only a fraction of the angels entered the city while the majority remained outside the walls. Many shared their excitement about the gathering since the entire

host had only met together once before right after they were created. The three princes, though, remained solemn while they waited for the celestial event to begin.

Suddenly, flashes of lightning and a barrage of thunder burst around the Almighty's throne. The illumination was so intense that it penetrated the interior crystal walls and turned the temple into a giant strobe light. Every being immediately froze and turned his attention to the breathtaking sight.

Moments later, the astounding display abruptly ended and silence fell on the kingdom like the stillness after a heavy snowfall. The Supreme Spirit then slowly ascended up the temple through the rainbow dome and continued rising until the entire host could see his unified presence. The angels were so overcome with joy, they joined together and sang praises until the Supreme Spirit stopped his ascent.

When it became quiet again, the Ancient Spirit spoke with a resounding voice that sounded like waves crashing against the shore. He said, "We have created a new realm in another dimension in which the order of things is different than here. There is a special sphere called earth where human beings and a variety of creatures are made of flesh and blood so they can reproduce themselves. The humans look similar to angels, but will be lower in stature than celestial beings until the ages have ended. If the humans are good stewards of their world, they will also be placed on other habitable places throughout the universe. That dimension is now accessible to you."

"There is a special corridor that leads to earth's far northern region and is the only way back to heaven," said the Anointed Spirit. "The

entrance to the corridor is at the end of the east walkway. After exiting the passageway, you will need to fly southeast the same distance as the circumference of our city in order to reach the humans' special domain."

"However, you must not consume any fruit on the tree of knowledge that is in the center of the human's garden," warned the Advocate Spirit with a voice that made the angels quiver. "If you do, it will change you forever. The tree is identical to those growing on our riverbank, but the one on earth contains divine substance."

"Michael, you may now take your angels to the new world," directed the Ancient Spirit. "But they must remain invisible so the humans will not be frightened because of your large numbers and appearance. The seraphim, cherubim and their princes shall remain in heaven to serve us."=

The angelic prince bowed reverently and flew to the corridor where he hovered high above the entrance so the angels could see him. He then raised his right hand and exclaimed, "Brothers, form ranks according to your designated legion!"

After the angels had amassed, Michael motioned them to follow him into the corridor. Just as they started to enter, the passageway began to expand and quickly became wide enough to hold the entire host. This would happen whenever great numbers entered the corridor from either end, but the passageway would recede to the size of a large redwood tree when no one was in it.

After the angels were gone, the Ancient Spirit and Advocate Spirit returned to the throne while the Anointed Spirit descended to the edge of the steps adjacent to the cherub prince. "What troubles

you, Lucifer?" he asked.

"Why was I not told beforehand about the extinguished torches at the east wall?"

"You were busy enjoying yourself with Michael when I was in the new world, and the three torches were extinguished to signify my absence from heaven. Even now, one torch is out while Michael is gone."

"Why has Michael been given the honor of being the first prince on earth rather than me?"

"Your skills are needed elsewhere to accomplish a special mission with Uriel."

The Anointed Spirit gazed momentarily at Lucifer as a father would look at a troubled child, and then turned his head slightly to address Uriel who was at his post. With a soft voice he said, "Uriel, please come here."

The seraph prince carefully set down his trumpet and majestically flapped his wings to get enough lift to land near the Anointed Spirit. "How may I serve you, Lord?" he asked respectfully.

"Both of you will create two new kingdoms in another dimension," said the Anointed Spirit in a grave tone. "It will be called the netherworld."

"Each of you will retrieve two stones of fire and place them in the satchels sitting by the stones before going to the corridor. When you get to the entrance, Uriel, you will hurl one stone into the corridor, and it shall travel considerable distance before exploding. The blast will make an opening inside the corridor and allow access to an immense void. Enter the portal and fly a short period through the emptiness un-

til the corridor is barely visible behind you. You shall then throw your second stone into the midst of the void to form a great land mass.”

“Lucifer, you will hurl your first stone in the same direction as Uriel’s second stone to establish another large domain. Immediately thereafter, take your second stone and cast it between both new kingdoms to enlarge the expanse that separates them. When you two are finished, return to the city.”

“May I then go to the new world?” pressed Lucifer.

“No,” rebuked the Anointed Spirit.

“As you will, my Lord,” replied Lucifer as he pondered how to go undetected to earth. Yet Lucifer felt he needed to demonstrate his meekness and embraced the Anointed Spirit who whispered to him, “What you are going to do, do it quickly.”

The comment surprised Lucifer, and he wondered if the Anointed Spirit could read his mind. He dismissed the thought as presumptuous and assumed the divine being was referring to the mission. Lucifer then stepped backward and stood beside Uriel. Both bowed reverently before exiting the temple to get their satchels and stones of fire.



When the two princes arrived at the corridor, Lucifer asked his companion, “Why were we selected for this task rather than the Anointed Spirit simply doing it himself?”

“The Lord intends to involve many celestial beings in his divine decrees,” said Uriel. “In time, you will even be identified with the kingdom you’re about to create.”

“As an overseer?”

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“That you will not know until your destiny unfolds.”

“I wonder what Michael and the angels are doing on earth?”

“Eventually they will become extensively involved in the affairs of mankind.”

“Uriel, how do you know such things?”

“My ability to sense the future is a gift from the Advocate Spirit.”

“What do you perceive is my gift?”

“Yours is leadership . . . just like Michael. That is why you two enjoy competing with each other.”

“Obviously I must be a better leader than Michael since I have never lost a chariot race.”

“Being a complete leader involves many talents that neither of you have tested yet. Perhaps that time will come soon.”

Lucifer then took one stone out of his satchel and said, “During our orientation to heaven we were told the stones of fire had special powers beyond our understanding and we should not handle them without approval from the Creator.”

“Be careful!” cautioned Uriel. “It can adversely affect your body.”

“In what way?”

“Another seraph once picked up a stone to admire it, but the stone had a protruding edge which cut him as he was lifting it. Sparkling substance began flowing out of his palm and he nearly lost consciousness. The Anointed Spirit promptly went to him and healed the wound by placing his hand over it.”

“I thought we were immune from any type of bodily affliction?”

“We are . . . except for the stones. Apparently their composition makes them dangerous if not handled properly.” Uriel then looked

down at his satchel and said, “We should now proceed with our mission.”

The seraph prince cautiously took out a stone and heaved it with all his might into the long passageway. Moments later, a loud explosion occurred deep in the corridor that startled the seraphim and cherubim in the great city. Thick, multicolored gases also blew out of the entrance which obscured the visibility inside. But the princes just waited patiently for the gases to dissipate.

Once it was clear inside, the two flew deep into the corridor. Midway, they noticed a stationary hole in the swirling wall large enough for both of them to step through. They moved close to the portal and were surprised to see nothing on the other side but endless, gray emptiness similar to a gloomy, overcast sky.

“Ready to enter?” asked Uriel.

“Yes, of course,” muttered Lucifer. But he quietly thought to himself, “How can such an unusual location serve any useful purpose?”

After they leaped through the hole into the perpetual solitude, the only sound that could be heard was the motion of their wings. Lucifer felt apprehensive about being surrounded by such vast emptiness and said, “If we fly too far into this dreary tomb we will surely lose our way back to the corridor.”

“Then we must continually glance back until we reach a point to safely throw the stones so the corridor won’t be damaged,” replied Uriel.

The two princes continued flying until the long passageway looked like a thin strand of light behind them.

“This should be far enough,” said Uriel.

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While hovering in a stationary position, the princes slowly flapped their wings as each carefully pulled a stone from his satchel. Simultaneously, they cast their stones deep into the gray abyss, but nothing happened. Moments later, a low rumbling sound could be heard far away that grew louder and louder until a deafening noise echoed all around them like the roar of many chariots in battle.

Suddenly, two massive islands appeared in the distance and floated toward the princes. The islands finally stopped moving once they were several thousand cubits away from them. The new realms appeared to extend indefinitely in all directions, except where they nearly touched each other. There, both were separated by a narrow, bottomless gorge that contained no light.

“Uriel, your creation is an exact replica of heaven and has fruit trees, rolling meadows, and pools of water!” exclaimed Lucifer. “Look—even a sparkling canopy is forming over it that glitters like blue sapphires!”

“This place is only a temporary abode,” Uriel replied nonchalantly.

“For whom?”

“The Advocate Spirit has not shared that with me.”

Lucifer closely examined his island and sighed, “My creation is nothing but flat, empty terrain. Is it also a temporary dwelling place?”

“No. It will exist forever but eventually become part of a greater kingdom.”

“Where is the other kingdom?”

“It has not been created yet.”

“Why not?”

“The Advocate Spirit has not revealed that information.”

“Is he always so cryptic about his revelations?”

“The Lord believes the best way to preserve the integrity of the future is to limit the knowledge about coming events.”

Something strange on Lucifer’s island then caught the cherub prince’s attention, and he said, “I want to get a closer look at my creation.”

“Lead the way,” responded Uriel.

The princes flew nearer and noticed silver grass protruding from the ground that resembled thin, glittering blades of metal. The surface suddenly began to shake and both of them could barely catch their breath as six mountains rose out of the ground. The mountains were composed of dark crimson stone, and their slopes had countless red and yellow flames that leaped about in all directions. Molten lava poured out of the tops and ran down the sides which formed rivers of fire at the bases that flowed throughout the domain. When the imposing towers reached their peak height, volcanic eruptions spewed glowing cinders over the entire island and turned it into a gigantic inferno.

Luminous trees also materialized that were covered with metallic leaves, crystal blossoms, and golden fruit, which sparkled from the reflection of the flames. The trees emitted a pungent odor that smelt like burning sulfur, and their branches continually rustled from the scorching winds generated by the intense volcanic debris which constantly showered the island. The hot winds, however, became so powerful that they blew flames over to Uriel’s island and set its cliff on fire.

“Lucifer!” shouted Uriel. “Throw your stone so the kingdom won’t be destroyed!”

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Lucifer cautiously removed his other stone from the satchel and flew close to the islands so he could throw it between them. With all his might, he hurled it into the bottomless gorge and watched the stone disappear in the dark void. Moments later, a muffled noise came from the narrow gap between both islands and grew louder from vibrations that shook their foundations. The islands then started slowly drifting apart.

Suddenly, a severe downdraft formed between the islands that began to siphon loose matter from both sides into the ever-widening black gorge. As the downdraft became progressively stronger, its powerful velocity began pulling Lucifer into the mouth of the gorge. He tried with all his might to fly out, but it kept forcing him downward until he was barely visible in the darkness.

“Uriel, help me!” cried Lucifer.

The seraph prince immediately lifted his head and extended his arms upward as he prayed, “Almighty Lord, deliver Lucifer from this calamity according to your will.” A voice then came within him which said, “Take your sash and raise it high above your head.”

Uriel promptly removed his sash and held one end in each hand as he lifted both arms. Miraculously, the silver sash increased in size and turned into a great chain that was several hundred cubits long while at the same moment another silver sash appeared around his waist. Uriel continued to hold the chain above his head as he flew close to the two islands, but stayed far enough away so he wouldn’t be affected by the downdraft. He then wrapped one end of the chain around his waist and threw the other end into the bottomless gorge and yelled, “Grab the chain!”

Lucifer aggressively flapped his wings trying to reach the chain while battling the continuous downdraft, but the chain whipped around in the turbulence like a piece of string. No matter how hard Lucifer tried, he could not reach it.

In desperation Lucifer cried, "Lord of hosts, deliver me from this place!"

As soon as he finished his earnest plea, the chain swung in his direction, and he was able to grab the tip. "I have it!" shouted Lucifer.

When the seraph prince heard the cherub prince's faint voice in the distance, he positioned his six wings parallel to his back and reversed their motion so he could fly backward and pull Lucifer out of the gorge. But it took all of Uriel's strength to battle the downdraft's immense force and fly several moments before he finally saw Lucifer dashing out of the gorge without the aid of the chain.

A voice again came within Uriel which said, "Cast the great chain into the dark chasm."

Uriel did not understand how the chain could be recovered if he threw it into the bottomless gorge, yet he obeyed the command. He whirled the chain twice above his head and released it with all his might. The chain quickly passed over Lucifer's head and dropped into the black void. Uriel then sped toward Lucifer to see if he needed any assistance and noticed the chain swinging around inside the gorge. One end of the chain had looped over a metallic pole near the edge of Lucifer's island which prevented it from falling into the abyss. Uriel thought to himself, "Surely the Lord must have placed the stake there."

Lucifer had seen the chain pass high overhead, but he did not watch

it descend onto the pole since his back was to the bottomless gorge. Uriel, though, felt that it would be better not to mention what had happened to the chain so Lucifer would not become alarmed by yet another strange occurrence.

“Are you all right?” Uriel asked Lucifer as he approached him.

“That was an experience I never want to repeat. Where did you get the chain?”

“The Lord provided it.”

Lucifer looked back at the ominous gorge and said, “Before anything else happens, perhaps we should return to the corridor where it will be safer to observe our creations.”

During their flight back to the portal, Lucifer began to reflect how the fire destroyed the edge of Uriel’s island but did not affect his island. Lucifer had always been fascinated with the emerald stones of fire that emitted no heat. Yet these red flames in the netherworld had special qualities unlike anything in heaven.

Once both princes entered the corridor, yellow gases began to mysteriously stream along its floor and flowed through the portal toward each island. When the gases reached the edge of the islands, the vaporous substance suddenly hardened and formed two bridges. The one that flowed to Lucifer’s island turned into black onyx, whereas the one leading to Uriel’s island changed into solid gold. The bridges, though, were located far enough away from the bottomless gorge so that anyone could walk to either island without being affected by the intense downdraft.

Delighted with the prospect of being able to stroll back to his island, Lucifer took a step toward the portal. But red gases suddenly

began to swirl over the entrance. The gases quickly crystallized and formed a solid ruby door that fit over the entire portal. Lucifer became annoyed because he had begun to feel a personal attachment to his island and the door blocked his view. He pulled on a silver handle that had also materialized on the ruby door, but the barrier would not budge. In frustration, he tried to push the door open, yet it still would not move.

“It is apparent that we are no longer permitted to enter the other side,” said Uriel.

“Sometimes your patience is beyond my comprehension!” snapped Lucifer. “Aren’t you curious what else might be happening over there?”

“We are not always permitted to know the Lord’s motives as his thoughts and ways are higher than ours. We should leave now,” Uriel responded calmly.

“Perhaps you’re right,” Lucifer said while staring at the door. But he had become enchanted with the thought of retrieving a burning flame from his island and wondered whether there was a way to get past the door without being detected. It then dawned on him that he needed something durable to break down the door—like a stone of fire. However, he didn’t know the extent of damage that would result from such an act because none of the celestial beings knew the magnitude of the stones’ powers. Furthermore, if the stone exploded, he would have to contend with shrapnel that could possibly injure him, and he would also need to explain the reason for the noise when it reached the city. Yet, Lucifer still felt compelled to attempt the feat, irrespective of the consequences.

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Uriel noticed Lucifer was in deep thought and started slowly moving his wings to let him know that he was ready to leave. Lucifer glanced at his companion and looked back one more time at the door before moving beside him for the flight back to heaven. In unison, both fluttered their wings to gain enough lift off the surface and quickly sped through the long passageway.

After the princes exited the corridor, they flew over the wall and descended in the temple courtyard near the stones of fire. Uriel walked to the bed of flaming stones, knelt down, and placed his satchel beside them. After he stood up, the seraph prince came to a hover and said to Lucifer, "Peace be with you, brother." He then returned to his post.

Preoccupied with his thoughts Lucifer mumbled, "And with you," as he slowly walked along the stones of fire. Soon the cherub prince spotted one that had no protruding edges, and he knelt down beside it. Lucifer took off his satchel, placed it adjacent to the stone, and quickly slid it into the satchel.

After Lucifer stood up nonchalantly, a great earthquake suddenly shook the entire realm of heaven. The seraphim and other cherubim were terrified by the tremendous tremor and wondered how the Supreme Spirit would respond to this unusual event. Even Lucifer became panic-stricken because he thought the Supreme Spirit might call a special assembly to explain the vibration. The Supreme Spirit, though, remained on his throne and said nothing.

Lucifer concluded that he needed to leave immediately before the seraphim became curious about his prolonged presence near the temple. So he darted out of the courtyard and headed toward the corridor. At the entrance he nervously glanced around to ensure no one was

following him, and then sped into the passageway.

Moments later while flying through the corridor, he began pondering the best way to use the stone. He thought to himself, “Should I throw it against the door or use it to break the handle?” Lucifer concluded he first needed to survey the barrier before determining the most effective way to open it.

Once he arrived at the portal, to his surprise, the door was wide open. Lucifer wondered whether someone else had gone into the netherworld and peered around inside. Seeing no one, he concluded the earthquake must have caused the door to open. Lucifer then stepped over the threshold and hovered along the black, shining walkway to his island.

When he landed on the edge of the blazing inferno, Lucifer felt a rush of contentment flow through him as he viewed his personal creation. He immensely enjoyed watching the volcanic eruptions and intense firestorms since he was immune to the effects of the heat. He also took great pleasure in smelling the pungent sulfur that permeated throughout the scorched surroundings.

After several moments, Lucifer walked toward one of the many luminous trees that filled his island and broke off a branch covered with flames. He then headed back to the portal with the flaming branch in one hand while using his other hand to grasp the satchel strap. However, when he leaped into the corridor the door mysteriously closed behind him. It initially alarmed Lucifer, but he quickly discounted the incident as unimportant since he had fulfilled his goal. The cherub prince smiled and thought to himself, “Surely there must be some great use for the burning branch and the stone of fire to dem-

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onstrate my superior leadership qualities. Perhaps in the new universe I will be able to test their properties.”

Proud of his accomplishments, he continued the journey through the passageway to earth carrying his prizes when a voice within him said, “You are the anointed cherub—do not forsake your holy station.” Lucifer felt violated by the mental intrusion and forced the thought out of his mind. He snarled and said to himself, “I will not be denied the right to choose my own destiny!”