

Volcanoes of Ndi

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Many suns and moons ago, the land Ndidi experienced creation and destruction at the hands of violent, but beautiful events. Four volcanoes were stretched out across the land and they each had names. There was Chinwe Shield, which was created by the piling up of layers of lava flow and it stretched out over the land. The lava flowed easily from it and allowed for it to branch out across the land.

Cinder Ayo was created by the ejection of pyroclastic material into the atmosphere. The material fell upon the ground surrounding the volcanic vent. It was like a child dumped sand onto the ground create a shifty mountain. When lava flowed, it was too much for the delicate Cinder Ayo, so it fled the volcano by creeping out underneath it.

There was Dome Chariton, which was created by a viscous magma flow. The exposed lava piled up around Chariton's volcanic vent. Chariton was a quiet volcano and when she made her presence known, she did it suddenly, explosively. However, the lava that made her was too thick, so it just continued to pile up. There were times where parts of her face would collapse and it would allow for pyroclastic flow.

Composite Alexios was a strong volcano and its birth proved it. It took hundreds of thousands of years for it to fully bloom. There were many eruptions that built it up to its glory. The growing layers led it to become thousands of meters tall overlooking the glory of Ndidi. Composite Alexios was built from pyroclastic flows, rocks, and a profuse amount of ash. The eruptions that left Composite Alexios were special for the fact that they were sudden and took much time to build up. The magma within was very thick and it blocked Alexios, so he relieved himself of his congestion with smoky explosions. Now, each volcano has had at least a taste of

the power of power, but the pyroclastic flows from Composite Alexios were sudden and rolled down his face with so much intensity as to blow the trees out of his path and sometimes people.

The volcanic Alexios found a friend in a girl Kapua who brightened his days with her bright smile and brown eyes on her copper face. Kapua lived quite a distance from the volcanoes, but she always made the trek from her village to talk to each of her volcanic friends. She favored talking to Composite Alexios, but given Alexios's nature, Kapua spent such a short time with him that it felt like passing. Alexios could have violent pyroclastic flows that could roll down the mountainside and he did not want to lose his little friend. The combination of rock and ash could suffocate her and even knock off her feet. In spite of Kapua's friendships with Alexios and her other friends, the people in the village had enough and they decided to stand atop a hill to look into the faces of the volcanoes and declare their suffering.

"I lost my house to you!"

"My papa nearly suffocated to death because of your ash!"

"I have still not recovered from the burns on my feet!"

Then, it escalated.

"Leave! We do not need your careless rivers of explosions and liquid fire!"

"We will defile your faces with all the suffering you have caused!"

Kapua heard the demands of the people as did the volcanoes, who were ready to erupt with anger. They could not control their flows and the people could not understand that! Kapua realized the disparity and she offered, "I will tell them of *all* that you do for Ndidi." In the next moment, she fled to the people on the hill and explained the volcanoes.

"You all scream of the violence that comes from these volcanoes... It is true. They do allow for burning, destruction, and danger. However, you overlook how they develop Ndidi. If volcanoes

did not exist the world could not hold itself together. The energy within the earth would tear it apart, so it must find release. It is not a choice, but a necessity.” Someone retorted in the crowd.

“What good is in what you said? This land has had tsunamis, deaths of people and animals, and we have had to move our village because of it destroying our homes.”

“Yes, those things are true. However, the lava that comes from them changes the earth. It wipes out life, but it brings it back with better soil. The landscape looks even more lush after the lava changes it. Also, the minerals in the deposits have been useful for building in the village. Some of the volcanoes’ cousins even create new lands for us to find and settle.”

“Are you trying to say that these outweigh the lives lost and pain gained?”

“No, I tell you that with sunshine comes rain, which brings flowers. With night comes darkness, which brings stars. The volcanoes cannot help but relieve the massive energy within them, but they do their best to revive what they have slain.”

The people listened to Kapua and they thought about the balance between what it took to sustain and change life on Ndidi. They decided to try to understand the volcanoes more, so Kapua taught them all she knew and when she was unsure, she took them to each volcano and let them teach the people. Thankfully, the people all befriended the volcanoes and forgave their destruction, especially that of Alexios. Kapua delivered their message to him.

“The lives and things lost to your eruptions are reborn throughout the land. You cannot control your flow, but time allows for beauty to remerge. It is like destruction births a life after death.”