Fariji, Harbinger of Death and Rebirth.

Fariji was born from the union of the black dragon Vallerma, Ruler of the Unfathomable Depth, and the red dragon, Braghlor, The Soaring Inferno. Both were infamous for their acts of cruelty and violence. As their offspring, he quickly grew in size and power and was also expected to summit the world through unbearable pain and suffering since it was in his nature. But Fariji felt a deep conflict within himself that only became more apparent as he grew older. Unlike his parents, he did not find joy in destruction, and he wondered if there was another role for him beyond that of just a bringer of ruin. Despite his reluctance to continue to do so, Fariji kept playing the role he was given at birth, destroying lands and the lives they harbored regardless of how he felt. After all, what could fire do other than destroy?

One day, while soaring over a desolate land he had incinerated, Fariji encountered an ancient, wise dragon named Eldara. Known as The Elusive Sage, Eldara was a golden and red dragon, considered something that should not exist, she had been shunned and hunted all her life. But despite that, she had managed to find her place in the world and was well known across all of the Silver Continent for her heroic deeds. Fariji was initially hostile towards her. However, after she bested him in combat, she realized that Fariji had carried a heavy burden inside his heart and offered to guide him. The dragon was reluctant to follow her since he could not hear to become an outcast, but when Eldara mentioned that he himself was his biggest obstacle towards finding the answers he was looking for, Fariji could not deny her anymore since she had spoken the truth. Dragons can do however they please, so, what impeded him from doing the same? And with new conviction, he finally accepted her proposal.

Under Eldara’s mentorship, Fariji embarked on a quest to discover his true purpose. They traveled to forgotten realms, met mythical creatures, and uncovered ancient secrets about the world. Along the way, Fariji learned about how the power of creation and healing was intricately linked to that of destruction, realizing in the process that his flames could not only bring misery, but also purify, give warmth, usher restoration and change. New life.

As Fariji’s journey continued, he began to use his powers to restore the lands he once ravaged. He became a protector of the weak and a healer of the wounded. The ones that had once feared him had slowly started to see him not as a destroyer, but as a beacon of hope. This gave Fariji more reasons to continue his redemption pilgrimage, which Eldara oversaw with delight.

Having taught Fariji everything she knew, Eldara decided it was time to part ways. She believed Fariji was ready to start a new journey on his own. Fariji felt saddened by having to say goodbye to his mentor after she had been so patient and understanding with him. Regardless, he knew this day was bound to happen eventually. The redeemed dragon kept on trying to help others and continued to break stereotypes and change the perspectives of many, forming both lifetime allies and fearsome enemies along the way. Still, there was something nagging at him.

While he had enjoyed traveling the path of a nomad alongside his master for years, he had to admit that he would like to have a place he could call home one day. After witnessing how life could thrive even in the most daring of situations thanks to being supported by family and friends, Fariji started yearning for something similar to that. And, as fate would have it, he was about to have a chance at that, but not before having to put his own life in the line to attain it.

While traveling, Fariji reached a mystical place known as The Forest of Eternity. He has once heard of it from Eldara, a secret garden of love built by two gods of the wild and nature. A peaceful paradise on earth where the two would take physical form and interact with their worshippers. Curious at how the idea of deities choosing to live in the material world rather than staying in their own outer planes, Fariji decided to take a look at the place. But once he arrived, it became apparent to him that this so-called ‘paradise’ had seen better days.

Crossing the snowy white mountains and looking down at the valley, he quickly saw all the greenery was being consumed by a cursed plague. Fariji felt it immediately, this corruptive blight was a product of multiple layered curses that if it was not taken care of it would immediately consume and destroy everything without any means to bring back new life. This was what Fariji had once thought of himself and his flames, but not anymore. Not wanting to see the forest end like that. Fariji did not think twice as he landed in the middle of the biggest corrupted area, his body already burning like the sun and then incinerating all the cursed area within seconds.

Despite his best efforts to purify everything with his flames at once, he felt there were still plenty of contaminated places in need of cleansing, which meant his work was still not over yet. But as he tried to take upon the skies again to get a better view as to where to go next, he started feeling his body go weaker. At that moment he realized that the miasma created by the curse was strong enough to affect a powerful dragon like him, which meant that any other creature would have less of a chance at surviving it.

Time was running out, so gathering all his might, he pushed through his increasing fatigue as he traveled all around the vast place to clear all signs of the curse. And just as he burned down the last cursed sore, he finally felt exhaustion hitting him. The enormous dragon fell on top of the still sizzling ground causing a tremor around him. As his consciousness faded away, Fariji was glad to know that he had helped this land escape their impending doom.

By the time he woke up, he was being surrounded by numerous fae creatures of all shapes and sizes. He noticed numerous glowing vines snaking all round his body. As he questioned their purpose aloud, he startled all of those surrounding his imposing frame. Some things never changed, Fariji thought, but was interrupted by a voice that carried a weight and regal tone that made him immediately recognize he was speaking to a monarch of some kind.

A fae king appeared in his line of sight, ethereal white light emanating from his body. Introducing himself as King Alba, he proceeded to tell Fariji how all they were trying to do was make their savior more comfortable, since he had done them such a great favor by clearing out the cancer born from all the magic in the land getting twisted and out of control. Fariji questioned the reason as to why it happened in the first place. The king had a mournful expression as he recalled how they lost their gods and protectors when an invader from an Outer Plane tried to claim this place for their own. Ever since that moment, the cursed blight would show up every year due to the fact that there was no one powerful enough to purify all the energy that gathers in this place. They would do their best to cleanse the affected areas, but each consecutive year, they would be bigger and more resistant to their purifying rituals. And while Fariji’s method had been certainly unorthodox and a little dangerous. He had done what they could not. A true decontamination of the land.

As he said so, King Alba, gesturing to Fariji to look at the ground here he had once laid during his final blast. Small seedlings were already growing there, and in no time, that part of the forest would be restored to its former glory, in turn protecting the home their gods left them with; and I was all thanks to the valiant Fariji. As his said so, the king bowed to him to show their gratitude and did everyone else. It has not the first time Fariji had been shown gratitude, but it had never been to such a extent. He started feeling a little self-conscious as he downplayed the monumental task he had performed. The king chuckled as he never expected for a dragon of his magnitude to show such humility.

Putting everything else aside, King Alba said to everyone present that they were in due need of a celebration for the events that occurred. Everyone who was present cheered and agreed as the ambiance became livelier and more relaxed as everyone started to prepare for the impromptu event. Speaking again to Fariji, the king told him to keep resting, while they did not have much to share as if right now, they would do their best to give him a good feast for a savior like him. Fariji was at a loss, but could not hide his eagerness to be accepted so suddenly like this, besides, using up all that energy sure leave him with a big appetite at the end of the day, and a feast sounded like the most ideal thing right now…

Fariji still remembers fondly that day. It was the day when he not only found a home but also saved it in the process. He had just planned to stay for a little longer, but when the place returned to its true majestic state, he had to admit he now understood why Eldara had called it a paradise. Little by little, he started meeting with more of the land’s denizen’s that paid respect to the great dragon that had saved them all. And soon, he found himself building his own “lair” at the base of the biggest mountain. The cursed blight would return the following year, and Fariji would cleanse again, but not wanting him to make himself extremely exhausted, the King and many others asked them if there could be away from him to teach some of their most nature-attuned casters the ways for them to help him out during his endeavor. While Fariji was apprehensive at first, since he did not know where to begin, he had remembered the ways Eldara conducted herself while guiding him. And thus, it began Fariji’s journey as a mentor who would gain renown as the years passed.

Nowadays, he loves lounging around his cave or having a peaceful stroll down the forest. Flying has become a little more challenging, but not because of age, all those consecutive feasts after each successful cleaning of the forest unlocked quite an appetite in him. And while keeping his strength, his mobility is not exactly the same as it was centuries ago. Not that he minds it though, this peace and clarity of mind he found, along with the many friends, family and students he has made within his new home, has been worth it. Although he sometimes can’t help wondering what would have happened had he nor followed Eldara all those years ago, would he have turned into a consuming inferno and been snuffed away like cinders by a hero? Or he turned bitter and resentful while hiding away from the world, never discovering what he was actually capable of. It all comes back to this being the best outcome. Always smiling and willing to help, especially those who think that they are just destined for a path of destruction.