

## **Cosmic Curiosities**

**By: RaddaRaem**

Cloudy nebulae that spanned the void. White dwarfs that crackled with a faltering light and warmth. No matter how utterly routine such sights might have been... she couldn't help but stop and appreciate them.

The horned entity tucked her hands behind her back as she silently navigated the infinite expanse. She hummed thoughtfully at the quasars that radiated and pulsed with light. Comets, with their brilliant tails, elicited giggles and waves from her as she bid them safe travels. The sight of barren asteroid belts basking in the glow of a red giant prompted a bittersweet smile to creep up along her visage. No matter where she wandered stories long forgotten and stories yet told awaited her.

Had those lifeless hunks of rock orbiting around that dying star been something more? Were they once a sparkling solar system where their rocky and rust hued former selves danced among gas giants? What wonders, what sights, would bellow free from those dusty nebula that slowly compacted together in storms of static electricity? Were they but cradles for stars to be? Such questions simply tantalized her!

Hands clasped together, the star-goat wiggled in place. Her brilliant blue hair, puffy and luxurious, bounced along her broad back in the solar winds. One day! Someday, in the far flung future, she'd have her story. For now, she simply had to be patient. The cosmos worked at its own pace, after all.

“Hmm?”

An ear flicked to attention. Head cocked to the side, she leaned in towards the source. It was... shrill yet soothing. Rhythmic and repeating. She took to tapping at her chin. This certainly wasn't the after echoes of a star long since fallen. Nor the subtle plucks of gravity pushing and pulling upon celestial bodies. This was something... different. Something purposeful. Something intelligent. How very curious.

She didn't even so much as hesitate to investigate. The curvaceous capricorn immediately took to swimming through the twilight abyss, dark matter faintly pushing back against her fingers, as her curly locks twinkled with a radiance that eclipsed the stars themselves.

With a dainty and gentle touch she brushed aside swathes of asteroids as she honed in on the song, the source, that called out to her. Her tail flit excitedly when a frozen planetoid bumped against her thighs and wobbled out of and promptly back into its orbit around an unseen star. Delighted gasps tumbled free from her lips at the sight of gas giants, both ringed and striped, unlike any she had ever seen before. She had yet to even find what she was looking for and already the star-goat was enamored with this neck of the cosmic neighborhood!

Yet nothing could prepare her for the sapphire and jade treasure that awaited her. Unable to do little more than blink she quietly took in the sight of the celestial sphere that flickered to life before her. She cupped a hand beneath it, all but losing it and its moon in a wrinkle upon her palm, and watched. Her cheeks strained from how hard she smiled at the sight of lights, of life, twinkling on and off as the

planet twirled upon its axis.

She remained transfixed as such for far more rotations than need be mentioned. Free hand cupped against her cheek, the goat's eyes twinkled and grew ever wider while she traced clouds swirling to life across those vast oceans and continents. How they pulled apart only to clump back together again of their own accord. How they sailed or sauntered as they saw fit and adhered to nobody's schedule but their own. Such free and fleeting things!

Even so, countless questions remained unanswered. What, or who, was responsible for a call that could cross the cosmos? How had this beautiful blue dot made itself known to her? Yet one question, which burned brighter than any other, stumped the star-goat. How was she to go about solving them? Watching and waiting, her typical tools of the trade, were clearly insufficient for the tasks at hand.

“Oh!”

A thought came to the capricorn and her mind reeled. Why she... she could simply go down there and find out.

Her jaw went slack at the realization. She had grown so accustomed to the universe revealing its secrets and stories to her only when it saw fit to do so that... that the idea she could simply decide for herself never registered. The notion that she could choose what she wanted to know and when was utterly alien to her. Biting down into her lower lip she giggled up a storm.

“Goodness it really has been some time...” she giddily trailed off. “I do hope I have not forgotten!” Eyes clenched shut, the star-goat wiggled her nose as she violently trembled in place.

POOF

A cloud of stardust, brilliant and twinkling, billowed out from where she once stood. For a time, it lingered, until solar winds and a bombardment of energized particles saw fit to disperse it. As the dust cleared a familiar figure came into focus. The star-goat, same as she ever was, and beaming proudly for it. Hand held out before her she smiled warmly at the conjured avatar of herself, significantly reduced in size, sitting cross legged within her own palm. Balanced upon her mini-me's prodigious thighs, and with a generous belly bumped against it, lay the precious planet.

“Hold now...” the smaller of the star goes rumbled as those brows folded down into a frown. Debris, metal and manifold, wreathed the planet as did strange winged structures adorned with lights. “Huff!” Lips pursed into a pout she could not help but tut.

Whoever it was that called out to her clearly could not be bothered to clean up after themselves! While those sculptures were clearly placed there with a purpose everything else most certainly had not. Shaking her horned head, the star-goat daintily plucked said eyesores out of the planet's orbit pinch by pinch and flicked them off towards the simmering yellow star that sat at the solar system's center. With patient devotion she tended to her work, cycle after cycle, until space itself was left spotless!

Head cocked to the side she gleefully took in the spectacle of lights, both on the sphere's surface and high above it, dancing in concert with one another. “Much better!” she happily declared. From on high the more sizable of the capricorns leaned in close and blinked curiously.

“Hum...” mused the lesser of the giants. Her ears, peeking out from her wild blue hair, twitched intently. Beeps. Boops. Bwoops. Such strange songs those winged sculptures sang! “So these are what called out to me. Most curious!” One mystery had been solved and, to her delight, many more rushed in to fill its place! Why did they sing? How did they sing? Who commanded them to do so?

A twinkle filled the smaller star-goat's eyes as she cupped her hands against her cheeks. She simply had to know more! With a knowing giggle, wrinkles formed along her snout while she took to wiggling her nose once more.

POF

Plumes of smoke rose from the moon that orbited the pale blue dot. A horned silhouette, caught against the sunlight, coughed into its fist as it swatted away at colorful clouds that had since overstayed their welcome. Sitting atop its bleached white surface yet another goat made herself known.

“Oop!” A gasp of concern slipped free from the latest capricorn's lips. She could feel herself sinking, slowly but surely, into a pair of perfectly concave craters that were molding themselves to the contours of her generous rear. With a hup she pushed off from the moon and allowed herself to fall into the mysterious planet's orbit. Rubbing at the back of her head, her fingers catching among her curls, she meekly waved up at herself.

The greatest of the goats, her visage distant yet all-encompassing, offered a knowing smile in response. Whereas the shapely second-in-command, whose lap the planet still rested upon, occupied herself with gingerly twirling its moon about in place. She heaved a sigh of relief when those cheeky imprints retreated from view.

Basking in the reassuring presence of the greater goats, or self-assuring as it were, star goat the smallest nodded knowingly. Arms tucked against her chest, fists clenched as she bunched herself up in excitement, the voluptuous visitor set her sights on the planet below and the vast expanse of water that shrouded its surface. So vast in its abundance that masses of land, both great and small, paled in comparison against it.

She knew not what to expect. She knew not what, or who, might greet her. And the thought thrilled her like no other. With the lights below as her guide the star-goat somersaulted out of orbit.

Disengaging from her tumble, the star-goat tossed her arms back as the atmosphere roared past. Blinding flames trailed off of her hooves while an unfamiliar, yet welcome, warmth seeped into her limbs.

“Almost. Almoooooooooooooost...” she told herself as the moment of impact drew ever closer.

Her hair whipped wildly to and fro. The darkness of space, all she had ever known, vanished behind her and in its place a brilliant blue sky welcomed her.

“Annnnnnnnnnnnnnd stop!” said the goat. At her command the forces of gravity simply ceased to exert themselves as she willed herself to a complete and utter halt upon the water's surface. Her still incomprehensible form, stretching into and scraping at the sky, shrouded the seas in shadow. Tidal ripples exploded out from beneath her hooves every time she so much as shifted her weight. Yet, even

with her head in the clouds, she well and truly relished the sensation of the ocean lapping against her soles.

She inhaled deeply, her chest and stomach expanding while she did so, and drew deep of the pungent and noxious fumes that... wait a minute. Wait a minute. "Silly me!" she coughed as her eyes began to water. "That's the o-zone."

Cheeks puffed out, she rubbed at her snout before coming to kneel upon the water's surface. Her generous chest bounced with every stifled cough as clouds and smaller weather systems pooled between her cleavage. The hum of thunder, the churn of lightning, the spray of the tempest! Giggling, she shooshed them all with a playful smooch of her breasts.

As her laughter, and wheezing, tapered off the goat allowed her mind to fall silent. Once more, she breathed in deeply of the sapphire seas. Her eyelids creaked shut while the unfamiliar smell of salt graced her nose. The hiss and fizz of the white capped waves crashing against her thighs prompted many an intent twitches from her ears. She rolled her shoulders as her dark furred arms drank in the warmth of the distant star glowering from afar. If there weren't so many mysteries calling out to be solved why... she could see herself remaining here nigh indefinitely!

"Alas," she offered with a shake of her head. The capricorn couldn't help but wonder, but hope, that the denizens of this planet enjoyed what they had as much as she did! With a wistful sigh she thrummed her fingers along her tummy as she rolled her derriere to and fro atop her heels.

Blinking, her attention slowly came to focus on the myriad islands that pocked the seemingly endless expanse of liquid. Some were little more than barren slabs of salt-caked stone. Others, black as the void on high, smoldered and hissed while the molten innards of the planet itself bled out and congealed upon them. Then there were... there were...

"Ooh!" cooed the star goat as her eyes twinkled. Hands cupped to her cheeks, her tail swished excitedly at the sight of colors most spectacular!

Palms pressed against the water's surface, waves rippling out from her splayed digits, the voluptuous visitor from beyond the stars crawled towards one such island. With a pronounced FLOP, her enormous breasts and belly offering ample cushioning, the star goat came to a rest. Squinting she could just barely make out multitudes of lanky and fibrous spires, adorned with fanning protrusions, swaying to and fro. The spires themselves were all manners and colors of brown, sun baked and peeling, whereas those curious protrusions spanned a much wider variety of greens and yellows. Why this... this was life! In its various stages of growth and decay!

She curiously bobbed her head side to side. These creatures seemed to care not for her presence. Locked firmly in place, their bases embedded into the sand, they did little more than bend with the wind. Lips pursed, the capricorn puffed gently. A gale washed over the island and the countless spires tussled back and forth as their protrusions brushed and rustled against one another. Ears twitching, she hummed at the soothing song they played for her. "Oh! You sing too?" she realized with a start. "Does that mean..." she trailed off.

The star goat gently shook her head as she came to rest her chin on her hands. Clearing her throat, she peered down intently at the many spires that whipped back in the wake of her spoken word. "Pardon my asking but... you wouldn't happen to know who taught those winged sculptures in the sky

how to sing, would you?" she asked.

Unsurprisingly, they offered little more than silence in response.

"There's no need to be shy!" she reassured them. "Your song is no less beautiful!"

Even in the face of the star goat's heartfelt apology the spires remained stoic and implacable.

With a huff the cosmic capricorn pursed her lips. Had she made such a poor first impression that they refused to so much as speak with her? Then again...

The star goat leaned in close and crossed her eyes as she struggled to peer past her nose. "Can they speak?" she mused. "No wonder then!" she giggled. Such strange shapes life took here. "If only the mysteries of the universe were so easy to answer," she contentedly sighed with a shake of her head. Even so! This was an opportunity in and of itself! Biting down into her lip, the star goat stifled a squeal. These were but some of the smaller land masses after all and life overwhelmed them! What shapes would life take elsewhere? What surprises, what delights, awaited her even still?

Pushing off from the ocean's surface, white capped waves lapping at her palms, the star goat slowly rose from her prone position. Her ears flicked gently while she hesitated. Those curious spires continued to sing for her.

While it was true that she could pursue the answers to what vexed her whenever she pleased... she was certainly in no hurry to. A gentle smile creased her cheeks as she took to flopping before the island once more. After all, who was she to deny her newfound friends an audience?