



A VISUAL STORY
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THE BEGINNING...

Once upon a time... Just kidding! This story didn't happen thousands of years ago. This story is happening now. Yes, right now! And this isn't your typical fairytale where the knight in shiny armor slays the dragon and rescues the damsel in distress. No, this story is about humans and dragons working side-by-side to build a better and brighter future together. And the best part is that the main character of this story is YOU. So come along for the journey of a lifetime as you step through the Dragon's Gate and explore the hidden realm.

Long ago, the world was full of wonder and magic.

Dragons soared through the skies, humanity roamed the Earth, and all natural life lived in harmony.

But as mankind's lust for power grew, the balance tipped. Unable to discourage humanity from continuing on their path of destruction, the Dragons hid themselves and the true magic of nature away in a realm not so far from our own.

Hopeful for humanity's redemption,

the dragons left portals open throughout the world to provide an opportunity for humanity to change.

In recent decades, explorers from different walks of life have begun to discover these passageways.

Together they have set up colonies, bonding with these spiritual guardians, learning and cultivating their skills.

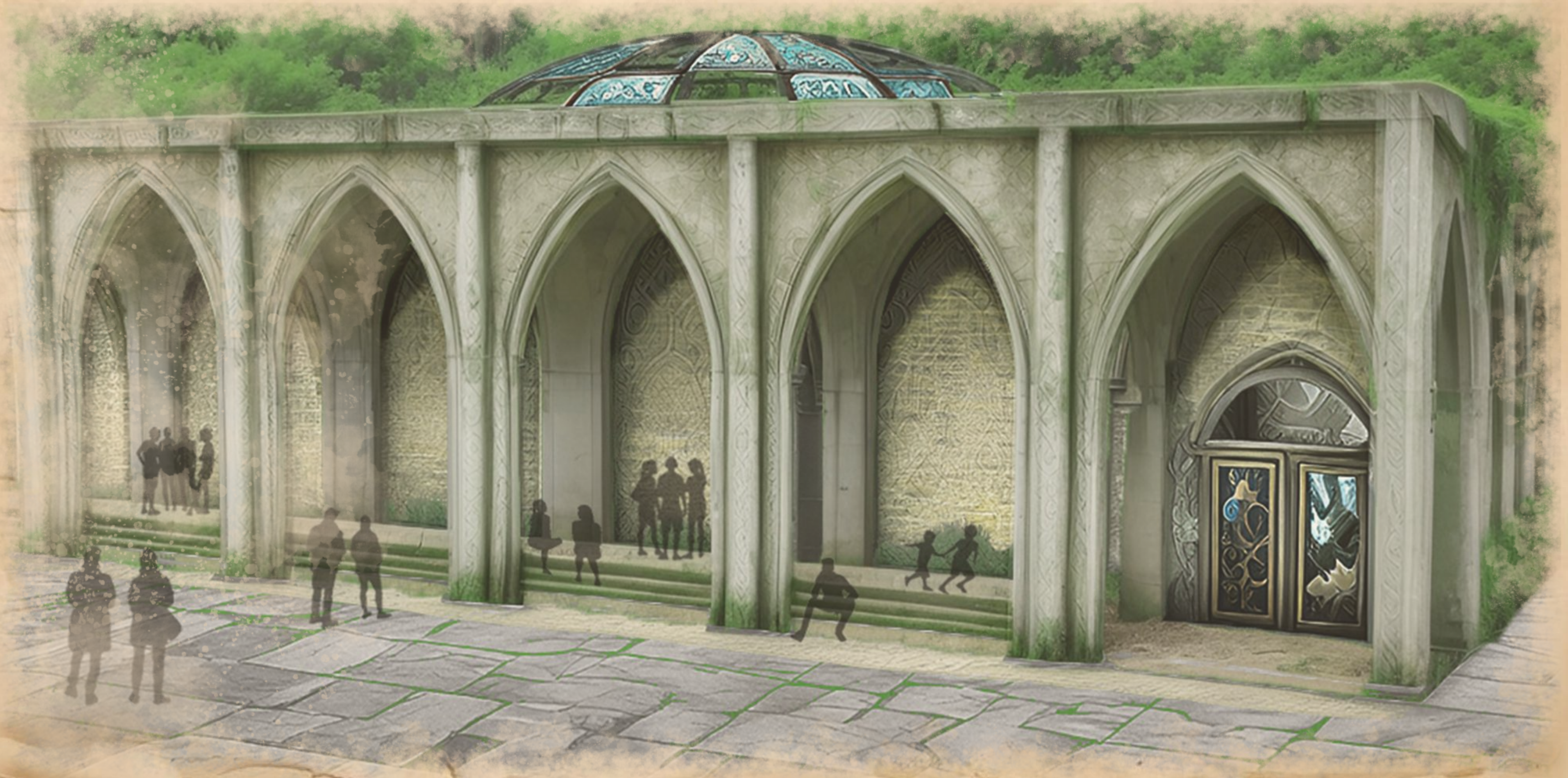
This is where our current story begins.

THE RETURN...

Evidence of ecological destruction on Earth is beginning to seep into their world as it continually damages ours.

As a brave newcomer venture into this realm via a hidden portal, you will face various challenges and prove your worth.

The passageways from our world into theirs starts in places that were created and neglected by humanity. They lie in wait for those willing to seek and find worth in the neglected and fragile places of the world.



THE GUIDE...

As you explore these abandoned locations that humanity has deserted, you discover that Nature has embraced these spaces, and as life grows, so does magic.

Eventually, you come upon a Guide.

Guides are those who have successfully walked the same path before. They inform newcomers, such as yourself, of the trials and tasks that lay on the journey ahead and provide you with what you need.



THE GATEWAY...

As you walk with the Guide you come upon a statue surrounded by strange runes . The statue is in ruin, discolored and littered with cracks. It feels like a deep sadness surrounds it. As you and other new adventurers continue to look around at the surroundings, the walls seem to shimmer alive with colors of purple and green shifting this way and that. Then, just as soon as the colors appeared, they vanish and revert back to normal. The guide notes this is normal and points to where to venture further if it be so desired.



THE PORTAL..

Those that choose to continue forward, come upon greater shifts. The greenery, once laid haphazardly, starts to become uniform and tended to. The runes on the walls start to become clearer, describing the history between the dragons and humanity. You discover that the dragons last plead was for humanity to stop using the natural gifts bestowed upon them to harm the world. Dragons had taught humans are to balance their mind, body and spirit to harness the elements. In time, this ability was perverted.



THE ENTRY...

As you walk through the portal with this new knowledge in your mind, you see at the end of the gateway, a familiar sight. The same dragon statue, once crumbled and tarnished, turned gold, glowing bright and thriving. You realize that you have been transported to a hidden realm that lies just beneath our own world. Off in the distance, you catch a glimpse of a world unlike anything you have ever seen...



THE REALM...

A singular tree stands, a presence of respect and wonder, as a central guide to the world of the Dragon's Gate. All around, you see visions of dragons flying above the now unbroken dome and moving against the walls. At the base of the tree, guides work to direct you and other new cadets around and inform you of the Dragon's desire to help humanity reconnect its mind, body and spirit to the natural world. To learn how to balance these aspects of one's self you must go to the library, the obstacle course and the sanctum. They provide you with unique personalized guide bands to help track the progress of your growth in order to prove yourself worthy of the ultimate experience, the dragon flight.



THE MARKETPLACE...

Surrounding the Great Tree is the Marketplace, where guides have set up stalls providing materials that could help aid cadets on their trials. You see that they also provide sustenance at these stalls. They know that your journey here was a long and burdensome one. As you walk around conversing with some of the stall owners you are happily surprised to learn that they have also been on the path you are on now and they provide you with advice and encouragement, leaving you happy, fed, and ready to take on these trials!



THE LIBRARIAN...

Knowledge is the key to understanding, it is the first step taken when one is trying to figure out the answers to the questions of “how” and “why”. In the Dragon’s Gate Library, you encounter the librarian who gives you questions. You work with others to find answers. Throughout it all, you learn of how natural disasters are being exacerbated by climate change and why new innovative solutions are important. Much of humanity works toward those now. You hear a voice tell you, “...there has always been hope for your kind. That is why you are here...”



THE LIBRARY...

As you move among the vast and ancient knowledge contained within these books, the histories of the dragons and the humans start to reveal itself. There are six main species of dragons located around the world that humans had a relationship with. From your research, you learned that the dragons taught humans how to use natural magic which is elemental in its nature. Some humans used their knowledge of the natural order against the world, manipulating the elements to their will. This led to a disruption in the balance of things and since dragons could not unteach what have been taught, they had decided to take more drastic measures by hiding this ancient knowledge away.



THE CHALLENGE..

After spending time in the library, you make your way over to the obstacle course. While you know that you are inside a built structure, when you are in this space you can help but feel like you're outside again. From your studies in the library, you know that the dragons believe in playing to your strengths. You see many time of physical challenges, some built for speed, agility, strength and dexterity, you test your skills in all of them, reviewing your scores as recorded against the other cadets. As you move toward the sanctum you reflect on your journey so far.



THE ELEMENTS...

You read and learned about the natural world and how humanity has affected it, even during a time where magic existed. You wonder more about what drastic measures the dragons had to take. At the course you exercised the energy you had and felt more connected to your body and to the natural world around you. Here you saw other cadets doing small manipulations with elements, something not possible in your world. There were a couple of people obviously at a higher level than the cadets. You moved toward the wizened looking figure holding a large book in the back of the room. He directs you toward your arm band, which he explains is also a channel that helps you access the magic in this realm. You must still learn to channel it.



THE INNER SANCTUM...

He reminds you that Magic is within nature, it is drawn from the energy all around us, and that it belongs to no one but is a part of every living thing. There are many different categories of magic but they all fall under the four familiar elemental groups. Water, Earth, Fire, and Air. All cadets try out every elemental magic to see which one calls to them. As you walk further into the sanctum, you are amazed to see a dragon sitting across from you with an old man standing next to her. Eggs are scattered everywhere on the stone floor, with people touching them, whispering words & casting small spells in a language you don't recognize. As you ask someone nearby and she motions to the runes that cover the interior. You realize you can continue to learn here.



THE WAIT...

If deemed successful in the trials, you will earn themselves an audience with the Great Dragons for a chance of bonding with a dragon of your own and taking flight on their backs throughout this beautiful hidden world. But before you get to the flight, there is one more task you must complete. You must find your way through the maze within the cave, with only glimpses of the outside realm as your guiding light. As one point, you notice that there are different levels of riders for those who have returned to the hidden realm from a previous trip. As a newcomer, you are classified as a "Cadet", but you do have the chance to climb in rank to "Rider" and "Master" if you hone your skills further in the previous trials and learn to connect more with nature and the dragons.



THE SELECTION CEREMONY...

As you make your way out of the cave you find yourself in a small group of other fliers in a structure that looks out into a large open field. All of sudden these magnificent beasts start landing in the field and begin to approach each of you slowly. You come to realize that the dragons are judging you, looking for their perfect rider. As one of the great creatures stops in front of you, you feel a warm, yet gentle breath of smoke, and deep down you know that this dragon has chosen to be its rider. Your senses heighten as you feel the bond between the two of you settling in.

The only way you can describe it is that it almost feels like the humming of the underlying bass notes in a song.



THE PREPARATION...

Now that you finally have your dragon companion, a Guide leads you to the rider depot and demonstrates what you can expect on your upcoming flight. They review some basic safety features with you, as they don't want you to go falling off your dragon. The Guide also explain how each of you will be getting a special pair of flight goggles to wear during your flight.



THE FLIGHT...

Finally, the moment has arrived! You enter a large loading area where it appears that the dragons have already been saddled. You take your place on your dragon and put on your flight goggles when instructed to. As you place the goggles over your eyes, you realize that they aren't meant to protect your eyes from the wind, but they provide a lens that lets you see a whole different aspect of the Hidden World. For example, as you and your dragon take flight, you see magical creatures and plant life that you swear weren't there before. This thrilling ride takes you on exciting adventure around the realm where you help the dragons tame the ecological disasters that are moving into their world, proving a new experience and adventure everytime you come back to fly with your dragon again.



THE SHOP...

Every journey needs a souvenir, a physical piece of proof that something was accomplished. The Great Dragons wanted cadets to always be reminded of this place and what they have learned. So to help, the guides and the dragons curated many fine goods for you and the other riders to choose from. These trinkets not only help you to remember all you learned through your time here, but also to enhance your experience if you choose to stay in the realm little longer. As you shop, you find that some of the more fascinating goods range from pairs of flight goggles, to a hand crafted plush version of your bonded dragon, to official outfits of the realm that showcase the different rankings, and more. There's something here for everyone.



THE INN...

After this long journey you have ventured upon throughout the hidden realm, you find yourself in need of a well earned meal! Thankfully, in the center of the gift shop is a quick-service, inn-style restaurant, providing a wide range of culinary treats that's sure to satisfy the hunger of anyone. This space gives you the perfect chance to wind down, relax, and just reflect on all that you learned from this experience. As you look around the inn and see so many people bonding together over the ideologies of nature that were demonstrated by the dragons, you start to think of ways that you can bring what you learned back to the human world above.



THE END...



After many years of ruination, a dragon's trust is a feat not so easily accomplished, but yet there is still hope for the dragons, along with their magic to return. It is up to us to prove that as a whole, society is worthy enough of coexisting with dragons and the magic of nature harmoniously once more.

