

EORTHE: BUMI [BOOK ONE]

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ABSTRACT

This creative project is a novel that is telling the story of a young man named, Rei, in his journey to find the truth about his late parents to help him find who he is, and a young princess called Aria in her quest, accompanied by Rei and their friends, in order to regain her right as the one and only successor to the throne of a Kingdom named Earendel. In this story, I decided to use quest and social criticism as the two main themes, while the sub-themes are quest for identity, quest for power, and for social criticism, it is change versus tradition. This to assist me in realizing my aim for writing this work which is to help raising more awareness towards our surroundings by promoting discovery process in the young adult world and social change. During their journey, the two major characters will see how some people is still having difficulty in accepting a change in their tradition from having men as the heads of the family to having a woman as one. The family here represents the patriarchal tradition or custom that most of families hold. As for the genre, I chose fantasy with the sub-genre epic fantasy and using the common epic fantasy properties, such as magic, supernatural creatures, the quest conducted by the two major characters, and also the existence of the good and the evil one.

Keywords: Epic fantasy, social criticism, quest for identity, quest for power.

BACKGROUND AND CONCEPT

To begin with, I have lived my life with my passion in writing stories, especially fantasy and fairytales, thus I chose to write a fantasy with a little taste of fairytale inside. My main reason of writing in this genre is because I have been exposed to the genre since childhood. The more I am exposed to this genre, and read more books of the same genre, I could not stop myself from liking fantasy and fairytale genre to the extent that most of stories I wrote were fantasies or related to fantasy and fairytale. More importantly, by reading or writing such story, I can have a similar feeling as satisfaction and excitement because I am able to feel the thrilling new world and adventure, or having some sort of magic and other awesome supernatural abilities, although it is only inside my imagination. In this work, I am trying to bring the issues related to the importance of identity and social issues, such as the struggle to bring changes into the society with a strong hold on traditional values. In this case, the traditional value I take is the tradition of patriarchy in families and government.

The genre used for writing this work is fantasy with the sub-genre, epic fantasy. I chose epic fantasy as my genre is because I feel that this genre is interesting and it gives me a freedom to create a whole different world than earth. More importantly, using epic fantasy, I am able to show some issues going on in the real world and how I would like to share my thoughts without having to lecture my readers. It is because I can use symbols or analogies in the story that can represent the society.

There are two main themes in this work, which are quest and social criticism. In quest, I use two sub-themes, quest for identity and quest for power, and as for social criticism, the sub-theme is change versus tradition related to the patriarchy tradition in society. I decided to use quest for identity is because I realize that not being clear about one's identity might cause a disturbance in life and affecting a person's psychological state. As for the quest for power, I chose this due to the fact that humans are never satisfied and always trying to be more than what they are. The possession of power is tempting either in the form of physical power or authority. Lastly, change versus tradition is simply to show that even when a hundred years has passed a tradition in a family or country takes more than an effort to change to suit the new generations' way of living, in this case, I took the tradition of patriarchy as an example.

PROCESSES AND CHANGES

I would say, in writing this work, I did not stumble upon any obstacles that I could not overcome. The process itself was rather smooth and fun, although it could be challenging at times. The beginning of this project is finding what I wanted to do or create, and in the end, I decided to write a novel. After that, I had to find the issues or topics I wanted to bring up in the story, therefore I decided on two main themes. The first main theme is quest with quest for identity and quest for power as the sub-themes. The second main theme is social criticism, and I chose change versus tradition for this, because I wish to raise more awareness from young adults like me towards our surroundings, especially the ones related to gender roles. These themes and ideas of the story were put together into a proposal before I could work on the project itself. In writing the proposal, I needed to find details that could support the themes or my statements; also, I had to write the components of the story or the concept of my story. Truth to be told, it was not easy for me as I had to write or plan every single thing regarding the story before I actually working on it in the next semester, although there were some changes in the story during the writing process.

After I was done with the proposal, I began to work on the story. I planned twenty seven chapters and made sure that I would meet the deadline of submission, however, it turned out that I wrote thirty three chapters instead. It was rather unexpected for a result with a plan. At first, this project was supposed to be a single book story, however, due to the limited time, I had to divide it into several books. Thus, I only worked on the first book of the story which told the beginning of the hero and heroine's journey to the five in islands of Earendel. There are some other changes I made during the writing process. For instance, I changed some of the characters names to suit their situation or personalities. Also, there was a change in how the heroine's parents died during a ball to make it more dramatic and to give more impact to the heroine's psychological state. As for the plot, there were no major changes, except that I changed a little detail about how Rei, the hero, met the members of his family. Furthermore, I also ended created several new characters while working on this project.

There were also some other changes in terms of technical parts, such as the grammar either in the proposal or in the creative work, and I also added more sources to make my academic report more convincing. Lastly, I also revised the bibliography to match the APA format for references and added some new references too.

Here, I would like to show the changes made in the work as I mentioned before:

1. The single book changed into a series consists of several books.
2. The numbers of chapters from 27 to 33 chapters after I divided some chapters that are too long.
3. The hero's name was changed from Rei Shirish to Reishi Shirish, and his father, from Sinathriya Shirish to Satriya Shirish.
4. The heroine's parents' death was changed from died in the fire into, the father was beheaded and the mother died protecting her.
5. At first, the hero was supposed to meet the members of his family in a banquet, however I changed it into a formal but more personal meeting with only the elders of the family, the family head, Rei, Aria and company.
6. There are three new characters added in the story, Kiriya, Cyril, and Isabelle Sinclair.

CONCLUSION

After making some changes in the story and the characters' details, this is the final version of the story for this book one.

Rei, a young man and a skillful swordsman in a small village in Earendel, lost his parents when he was only a child. His parents were murdered by an assassin ordered by the Council of the Elders. On his 20th birthday, he was asked by Agni who took care of him after he lost his home, whether he wanted to blindly looked for his parents' murderers or seeks for the truth behind the death of his parents first. After asking such a question, Agni left the village to return to the Royal Palace.

On the other side, Aria was attending the Royal Ball with a frown on her face. She did not like to be in such party where people she did not know talked to her as if they knew everything. She was about to slip away from the crowd when she heard a scream. Aria turned around and saw some dark figures at the thrones where her father

and mother were. She realized that those figures did a horrible thing to her parents. They killed them in the blink of an eye. Aria did not have the time to scream out her lungs, because Agni came and took her away from the Royal Palace. In the end, Agni decided to bring her to his house.

Rei was still into his dilemma in answering Agni's question, until a man named Ignis from the House of Shirish, one of the Houses of Nobles, came to him and told him that the main house wished to have him in the family, because his deceased father was the supposedly head of the House. Rei does not want to lose his freedom by entering the main house, thus he was given four weeks to master the Regalia in the form of a sword, owned by the House of Shirish and he could have his freedom.

Rei, Aria, Agni, Ian, and Regina set out to Bumi two nights after Ignis came to their house, because the night after Ignis departed, there were some Seekers attacked Agni's house in an attempt to assassinate Aria. Fortunately, they could stop them in time and no one was injured, also, they were able to capture one of the Seekers, Aisha. Aisha was soon discovered as a part of the House of Shazadi and also an Inheritor of one of the five Regalia. As they made their way to Bumi with a new member in the group, they were running away from the other Seekers and at the same time, they had to rush before the four weeks given to Rei passed.

Aside from the problems concerning the safety of Earendel, during the journey to Bumi, Aria started to realize that she was in love with Rei and she began to try to show Rei her feelings. Unfortunately, Rei was too fixated on his quest and his uncertain life-goal that he did not bother to think of other thing, such as love. When their group grew larger because Aisha joined in, Aria's rival in love appeared. Aisha did not really interested in love, however, she grew fonder and attracted to Rei due to his unconscious kindness, and when the two girls were busy chasing Rei, there was Ian who were very much infatuated by Aisha and always tried to show his love and affection to Aisha.

On their arrival in Bumi, they were welcomed by Asha Shirish, the current head of the House of Shirish. Asha guided them directly to the main house and let them rest for a while before they had to meet her and listened to the matter regarding Rei and his freedom. Asha told them the same thing as the requirement Ignis gave him in order to gain his liberty and not to be bound by the tradition of becoming the head. Asha's requirement was to help Rei acknowledged by the whole clan, and in order to be able to gain their approvals, Rei had to do several tasks. First of all, he had to go and visited an Old Man who lived near the Waterfall to learn *Kanuragan*, the old martial arts mastered by the Shirish. Secondly, Rei had to face the keeper of Shirish' Regalia, and lastly, he should gain the acknowledgement from the Elders of the Shirish.

During their stay in Bumi, Rei discovered the reason behind Ignis and Asha's unpleasant and complicated relationship. Ignis loved Asha more than his own life, but he never had the chance to tell her because everything went messy the moment they were forced to compete each other to be the head of the house. In the end, because he knew the consequence of being lost in the competition over a female competitor was to be the guardian of the family for eternity and she would not be allowed to have a family of her own and she had to live by herself deep within the main house's corner with no one permitted to visit her, Ignis decided to let go of his right to be the next in line and handed it over to Asha without telling her the reason, which led to Asha's disappointment in him.

They spent about a month in Bumi before finally made their way back to Sedna to check on the situation only to find that the Throne was already taken. Aria's cousin, Luce Sinclair was appointed as the temporary King until the rightful one came back, or so the Council's leader said. The Council's leader, Lord Danihel Crescence, told Aria that if she wanted her Throne back, she had to acquire the approval of the five houses of nobles and brought back the Regalia along with the Inheritors. Once again, Rei and Aria set out for a journey to the five islands, with their determination to take back her place and to avoid having her Kingdom fell into ruins under the vicious hands of Lord Crescence, accompanied by Agni, Ian, Regina, and Aisha. On their way to Tsuchi, Rei made a promise to Aria that he would accompany her to the very end of their journey

and made her the Queen of Earendel, and Aria made a promise to keep Rei company and help him find his way if he ever get lost until the day he could find what he wanted to do with his life.

During the process of finishing this project, there are unexpected problems came up along the way not only as obstacles but also as lessons. For instance, I find that writing a novel is actually a challenging experience, because I have to do some research about things I plan to put in the story, especially if it is related to history or an existing story or legend. In writing this novel, contrary to my initial impression, I have to pay more attention to details of the story, even if it is as simple as someone's age, clothes, or names, which I find as a rather difficult thing to do. To write a whole novel is not an easy work to do, since it needs consistency right from the beginning to the end. Nevertheless, consistency is not the only one needed in writing a novel, because what is written has to make sense in one way or another. Even though this creative work is a work of fantasy, the issues inserted in the story are taken from those happens or happened in the real life. Thus, I did some necessary research on the details regarding the issues, such as how in the old days, women are not meant to be leaders or to fight alongside men.

Furthermore, during the process of writing this story, I began to care more about what is happening around me, especially the ones related to gender roles. Truthfully, I did not pay too much attention towards issues surrounding women and their roles in society, or how sometimes traditions are bound to change following the changes in the society. Regrettably, no matter what the reason is, whether it is to make people more comfortable or to make the young generation having more opportunity to do what they want to do. Aside from that, while writing this story, I also developed another way of thinking regarding what being equal is, in terms of gender. Before, I was rather fixated on trying my best not to be looked down by the opposite sex, but now, I realized that it is more than that. Slowly, I start to think that I do not have to be like them, men, but I only have to do what I want and what I can as good as I can. I realized that rather than competing on getting higher standing or position, standing on equal ground is a better option, because nobody will be positioned beneath the other.

In the future, I am planning to polish this work into a publishable book, and to realize my purpose, I will work on the details or parts I did not have the opportunity to include in this work, such as some relationships between the characters that did not show in this first book. The polishing will be including polishing the grammatical errors, the use of language, and even the components used in the story, such as settings and characterizations. In addition, since this is only the first book of Eorthe, I am also planning to finish the rest of the books of Rei and Aria's journey and quest which will probably be packed into five or six books in total.

Also, as I see around, I begin to think that there might be a chance for me to adapt this book into a screenplay and produce it into a film. Thus, I am also planning to look for a foreign producer to realize this plan. The reason I chose to look for a foreign producer is that I would like the adaptation to be as good as I hope it would be.

Lastly, this work is a manuscript which is still in the process of finishing. Therefore, there will be possibilities that I will do some revisions later on regarding the grammar and the content of the story. Moreover, this manuscript is not the only one for this story, because this story will consist of four to six books to finish.

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