

From: The Treasure Cave

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How Plants came to the Earth

Once upon a time," said Tiptoes, "Kalor and Vallor lived on the sun. Kalor was warmth and Vallor was light and they were brothers. Kalor was older and darker, and Vallor was younger and luminous. They liked to be together.

One day they were sitting on the sun and looking around.

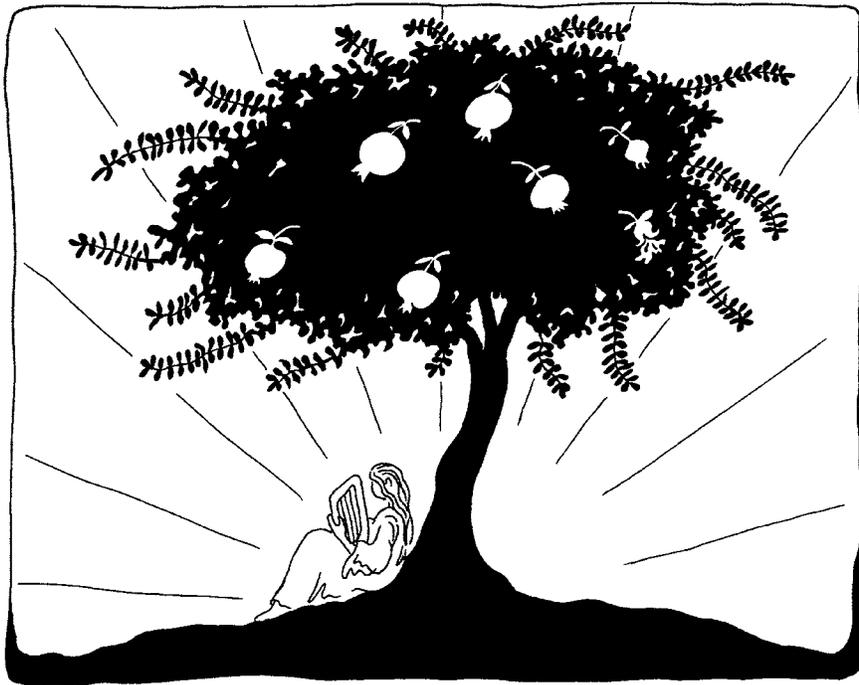
'The earth looks much too bald,' said Kalor.

'Yes,' agreed Vallor. 'It's as bald as a goose egg.'

And it was true; the earth was as bald as an egg because that was in the days before clouds and trees.

'We will have to ask Sister Vive for help,' said Kalor.

So they went to Sister Vive and found her sitting under a golden pomegranate tree.



'Sister Vive,' said Vallor, 'the earth is as bald as an egg.'

'Yes, that has been bothering me too,' said Sister Vive, and she reached up and plucked a pomegranate. She opened it, scooped out the seeds, and held them in her hands. Kalor breathed on them and made them glow bright red. Vallor shone on them and made them shine like stars. Vive cast the seeds into the sky, and down, down they fell upon the earth, shining like golden rain. Some fell into the oceans and lakes; they hissed and sizzled and sent up clouds. The rest fell on the land and were buried deep under the ground.

Kalor and Vallor sat on the sun and waited. They watched the first clouds cover the world. They watched the rain, the first rain, wet the soil. Then Kalor sent waves of warmth to the earth. The seeds soaked in the warmth. They sprouted and grew, and Vallor sent rays of light to the earth as the leaves unfolded. The plants bathed in the light and soon made flowers. Last of all, when the flowers had faded, Sister Vive sang a song and caused the seeds to scatter over the ground for the coming year."

"That's how the first plants began," said Tiptoes, "and why they love the light and warmth so much."

"But what about the fire fairies?" asked Tom Nutcracker. "You never told us about them."

"That's just the first part of the story," said Tiptoes. "But the rest will have to wait."

"Why?" said June Berry, disappointed.

"Because supper's ready," said Farmer John, looking in the door. "Time to wash your hands."

