

The Story of Mago Castle

There is an ancient creation story passed down from the part of the Earth that is now Korea and recorded in the *Budoji*, an ancient text recorded by Jaesang Park, a scholar of the Shilla dynasty. Though this story originates from the ancient history of Korea, it doesn't speak to the history of Korea but rather to the history of humanity.

According to the *Budoji*, in the beginning, before heaven, nothing existed except for the flowing rhythm of the cosmos. The text cites that Mago, the Mother of the Earth, was created through the undulations of the cosmic rhythm, called Yulyo. Additionally, all of the stars in the sky were also created through countless reincarnations of this friction. Yulyo was called forth again and again, first creating water, then land that existed in the midst of the water. Energy, Fire, Water and Earth came into being, combining in varied increments to form night and day, the four seasons and all of the richness of the Earth. A paradise was also created, located on the most precious lands, known as Mago Castle.

Mother Mago then coupled with the energy of heaven, creating two celestial daughters, Gunghee and Sohee, to help with the task of creating all living things on the Earth. Just as Mother Mago had, both daughters created children of their own. Four human daughters maintained the yin, or female, tones and vibrations of heaven, while four human sons maintained the yang, or male, tones. The names of the women are long forgotten, but the names of the men are remembered as: *Hwanggung* (Yellow Child), who was charged with caring for Earth; *Baekso* (White Child), who maintained the balance of Energy; *Chunggung* (Blue Child), who maintained the Water; and *Heukso* (Black Child), charged with the task of managing Fire.

The descendants of these men and women formed four tribes in Mago Castle, where all lived in harmony with one another and the Earth. These original humans sustained their life force by drinking from the milk of the Earth, which sprung from the ground in Mago Castle, and they were quite different from the humans of today. Because they survived only on the milk given freely by Mago, all humans had a pure heart as well as clear blood and energy, which ensured

that their *ki* energy flowed freely within the body, also allowing them to hear and understand heaven.

With their connection to both heaven and the Earth, they also had the power to create matter from energy easily. The people of Mago Castle were able to turn their bodies into pure, golden energy in order to preserve them after finishing their daily work, and therefore could communicate without sound, travel without form, and live eternally.

This idyllic existence found in Mago Castle did not last. As the people multiplied, the milk of the Earth could not sustain the ever-expanding population. One day, a man named Jiso from Baekso's (White Child's) tribe, went to a well to drink, but the well was too small to nourish the number of people who had gathered. He yielded to others five times, when at last he passed out from hunger. When he awoke, lightheaded, he ate a grape from a nearby vine, receiving enough energy from it to survive. The grape contained all five flavors: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and spicy/savory.

When Jiso told others that the grape was good, many people from the four tribes tried the grapes out of curiosity. The eating of fruits and grains began, but this was soon prohibited since this food was not pure like the milk provided directly by Mago. By ingesting nourishment other than Mago's milk, people's connection to their Mother weakened.

The necessity of creating an external rule also weakened the connection between the people of Mago Castle and heaven. In having to follow a rule, they broke the rule of "*not having rules and just following the intuitive sound of heaven.*" They became further distracted from the sound of heaven as they became more and more absorbed in the sensual pleasure of taste and the other four basic human senses.

The individuals who chose to no longer be sustained by Mago's milk became deaf to the subtle sounds of heaven and their resonance no longer matched the pure energy of Mago Castle. This corruption created a disharmony that eventually required that they relocate outside of the paradise. Some who left missed the way that they had formerly lived in Mago Castle, especially the nourishment from Mago's milk. To recapture a taste of the milk, they dug the land near the borders of Mago Castle, destroying the sources that supplied the wells within the

paradise. When the wells started to dry, the remaining members of Mago Castle began to eat fruits and plants for fear of hunger, and they also lost their purity.

As the eldest son of Mago, Hwanggung felt a huge responsibility for this tragedy and repented to Mago. He made the decision to leave Mago Castle with the remaining members of the community in order to prevent the complete destruction of their precious paradise. He made an oath to one day help human beings return to their state of being, so that they might recover their seamless connection with heaven and the Earth. In preparation for that day, he created sacred markers of heaven's law so that the principles commonly known in the time of Mago Castle could be remembered when the era for restoration had come. He gave a copy of the sacred markers to each of the tribe leaders and taught all of the people how to survive in the world outside of Mago Castle, such as how to make food from kudzu root.

Finally, he ordered all the tribes to go their separate ways, and they spread to each corner of the Earth. Chunggung went to the areas that are known today as China, Japan, and Central and South America; Baekso went to the Middle East and Europe; Heukso went to parts of what are now Indonesia, India, and Africa; and Hwanggung took the most dangerous route through Siberia, East Asia, and North America. This choice showed his determination to keep his oath by choosing and enduring hardship.

Since that time, the people of the world have gone through periods of both darkness and enlightenment as they struggle to recover the laws of heaven and live from the heart of their true selves. The ways of Mago Castle have been passed down through spiritual traditions, such as Sundo in Korea, as both spiritual principles and energy practices that allow the return to the divine state of energy resonance that human beings embodied when first sounded into being at Mago Castle. While this story may have been long forgotten, the state of Mago Castle exists in each of our hearts, waiting to be remembered.

– Except from *The Secret of Mago Castle* by Rebecca Tinkle