

Yellow, scarlet, and lavender rhododendrons join white magnolias in a serene twilight. A single dandelion is at a distance. Members of The Council sit on their mushroom swivel seats. The seats' mirrored backs ensure each Council member, when speaking to another, will face their own reflection.

**MECONOPSIS BETANICIFOLIA**

"I am BLUEPOPPY.

We have four guests who have asked to speak.

**HAWK**

"I am PASTREADY.

When my mother died, I was raised by a Dove."

**DOVE**

"I am MAL'AKH.

My mother and father were killed . A Hawk found me and took care of me."

**MAGPIE**

"I am SAPPHO.

Above all else, there is one thing that saddens the human species - that their lives don't have meaning."

**DANDELION**

"I am SIMONE.

"To be rooted is perhaps the most important and least recognized need of the human soul."

**GAZELLE**

"I am KUBLER-ROSS.

Hopefully, what is going to happen will help each human understand their unique gifts."

**WHITE BELLIED HERON**

"I am DORJI.

Every human will be touched. What will take place may be seen by some as isolated incidents. They are part of a whole."

**PORCUPINE.**

"I am KAZANTZAKIS.

Is it true that, of all the species, the human brain takes the longest to mature?"

**ANT**

"I am HARRIET.

I don't know. Knowledge is good thing, but it is not everything. Understanding is equally important."