

## BOOK SIX CHAPTER 4 THE COUNCIL

Under a full moon through dense groves of trees, the sumptuousness of nature's appearing and disappearing lights and shadows impossible to ignore, the rustling of crisp leaves underfoot was the only sound. In less than twenty minutes, the Raven, Shilli, Emilie, Julian, Asha and Lapis arrived at an open space to find the Council, a blue poppy, gazelle, crane, heron, cat, ant, rabbit, carp, takin and white crow.

The lowest, not highest, branches of a nearby blue pine tree were filled with crows' nests, the cackling birds obviously hard at work to ensure everyone's comfort. Hollowed out tree trunks were filled with blue poppy blossoms, welcoming and comfortable places to sit. Raw sapphires covered the ground like pea gravel. The Raven addressed everyone's unspoken thought. "Worth is not financial."

When a fly landed on their hand, rather than brushing it aside, Shilli, Emilie, Julian, Asha and Lapis did nothing. The flies were still. They were waiting.

### **MECONOPSIS BETANICIFOLIA**

"I am BLUEPOPPY.

Six guests would like to speak."

A large golden Bhutanese Eagle, keen eyesight, a hooked beak, powerful legs, began.

### **BHUTANESE EAGLE**

"I am RAMSIN.

I have a tendency for silence. The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek."

### **BLUE PETALS**

"I am NILOOFAR.

To the eyes of the man of imagination, nature is imagination itself."

**CHIMPANZEE**

“I am GOODALL.

Seek first your own reflection before judging another.”

**TIGER**

“I am SEJONG.

Education. Alphabet. Language. Leaders must be in pain to ensure their followers can be comfortable.”

**OLINGUITO**

“I am FIBONACCI.

There are numbers in the natural world. Look for patterns.”

**LIZARD**

“I am STRIKER.

In your world, animals are considered things and have no rights. What is the reason your species thinks it alone has rights? Are you aware that animals are affected by the earth’s magnetic fields?”

The guests left quietly.

**GAZELLE**

“I am KUBLER-ROSS.

Excite the mind and challenge every assumption. That which we do not understand in others, we do not understand in ourselves.”

**BLACK NECKED CRANE**

“I am PEMA.

Open minded. Open minded. Open minded.”

**WHITE BELLIED HERON**

“I am DORJI.

Learn how to think. Humans would benefit from learning how to change themselves physically to match their surroundings.”

**ANT**

“I am HARRIET.

Misconceptions and false memories abound. Be vulnerable to challenging them.”

**RABBIT**

“I am BETTELHEIM.

Love is attention. Ignorance can be voluntary.”

**CARP**

“I am WHEREIBELONG.

One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken.”

**TAKIN**

“I am BENTO.

Time is a resource. Protect it and use it wisely.”

**WHITE CROW**

“I am McCAY.

We want to help humans access long forgotten memories.”

**ORANGE TABBY CAT**

“I am PENTACLES.

Inter galaxy Interface. Those who have been waiting are ready to contact you. The five of you have committed to something most of your species would think insurmountable. The night before you arrived in Bhutan, you each had a dream. The pieces are about to fit together.”

As The Council’s animals and flowers left, the orange tabby turned with a backward glance, “You are on your way to all of us.”

The distant fog horn tone everyone had first heard during the trial filled the clearing. A comforting sound.

