

The Dream of the Gods

(El sueño de los dioses)

Tale from the Andes plateau

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A long time ago, before the beginning of the world, there was only one person. Her name was Bague and she was old like a great grandmother. Once, Bague let out a loud scream and all the gods, the light, the plants, the animals and the Muisca people appeared.

Later, the gods took a pot and filled it with seeds and stones. They went on long journeys through empty space to plant the planets and the stars. Then they took the crumbs that were left in the pot and threw them as high up as they could. This formed the Milky Way and the tiny dim stars we can barely see in the sky.

The world was beautiful but everything was still and nothing moved. So the gods decided to go and visit Bague, the great grandmother, and tell her what they had seen. They told her about the stars, the rivers, the animals with fur, the animals with feathers and the animals with scales. They told her how sad they felt that nothing moved, nothing made any noise and nothing grew.

Great grandmother Bague prepared a magic potion for the gods and they drank it until they fell asleep. The gods started having visions in their sleep. One saw a



tiger jumping on a deer. Another saw gigantic trees shaking their branches and full of chirping and singing birds. Another heard the sound of rivers and waterfalls. Another dreamt that the Sun appeared on the horizon, and another thought about the Moon and saw shooting stars.

The gods saw everything in their dreams and they dreamt of the Muisca people, going about their daily work. When the gods woke up, light spread its golden rays and the animals, the rivers and the trees started to move. The Sun, the Moon and the stars began to rotate. Such was the beauty of the first day.

Cosmology

About 14 billion years ago, the whole Universe that we can see today was only a few millimetres across. It was then extremely hot and dense and began to expand, a process that is called the "Big Bang". After a few billion years tiny lumps in the Universe grew into the first stars and galaxies. Then our star, the Sun, with its planets was born. Much later, plants and animals and eventually human beings appeared on the Earth.

The Sun is one of about 100 billion stars in the Milky Way, a galaxy that is shaped like a large and very beautiful spiral. The Sun and its planets are situated close to the edge of the Milky Way and revolve around its centre.

Rosa M^a Ros



maria vidal