

THE MADNESS OF CHARTRULEAN
A Gardeka Story

S1:E02SC
"STORY COMPENDIUM 1: THE ETRUVIAN"

Written by

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STORY COMPENDIUM: THE ETRUVIAN

YULIA

At the center of the universe is the source of all power. And at the source are the starmakers. Together, they form one cosmic being: Jhar. Jhar is the collective consciousness of three cosmic minds: Jhardeka, father of wisdom, Jhardekai, father of innovation, and Jhardoestra, mother of mothers.

Long ago, Jhar made three avatars, one for each cosmic mind, and sent them to share their gifts with the people of Arcas. These avatars harbored extraordinary power, which they shared with our ancestors.

Jhardeka brought an elevated understanding of the spirit, expanding our knowledge of the cosmos and our place in it. Jhardekai, a higher functioning mind and body, and the drive to nurture and protect it. His teachings were geared towards innovation. And Jhardoestra taught us love, clemency, and empathy, which led to the formation of community.

The avatars fell in love with humanity and made Arcas their home. In time, the inevitable happened: they made families of their own. The result was a new superhuman race: collectively, they were called Jhardeho.

Just as the starmakers are unique, so are the three types of Jhardeho. The sons of Jhardeka have elevated powers of the mind; the sons of Jhardekai, enhanced performance; and the Jhardoestra, unfettered access to the secrets of the heart.

In time, the Jhardeho Order came into existence. The founders were Etruriel, a Jhardeka; Niven, a Jhardekai, and Dua, a Jhardoestra.

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YULIA (CONT'D)

Their mission was to serve as custodians and protectors of our collective knowledge. And it needed protecting.

The trouble first began with the advent of weapons, when people discovered that the same tools that could be used to hunt game and build shelter could also be used to destroy. These things were the results of Jhardekai's gifts, and so his descendants were branded as bringers of chaos.

The world fell out of balance for a time, until the people realized that a world without innovation could not move forward. The re-assimilation of the Jhardekai into culture led to a great period of enlightenment, which in turn led to industrialization. But industrialization came at a terrible price: the decreased habitability of our world. Again, the Jhardekai were blamed. It's said that during this time that Jhardoestra rescinded her gifts to humanity, believing that we were no longer capable of compassion. Now, the planet is slowly dying--like an infant losing its mother.

With the Jhardoestra all but diminished and the Jhardekai outcast, the people of Arcas desperately needed a savior. The starmakers provided an answer. Into every generation, a Jhardeho is born to surpass all others: the Etruvian. Considered superior in every way and embodying the gifts of all three starmakers, the Etruvians are revered as messiah. Their purpose is to navigate humanity through the starmakers' grand design. Under their guidance, humanity can reach its ultimate potential: harnessing the power of the collective consciousness of the universe.

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The one and only rule the Etruvians live by is not to tamper with any course laid before them by the starmakers. For this reason, the Etruvian usually chooses to separate themselves from society and live in isolation--so as to avoid the temptation to interfere with the starmaker's grand design.

To this day, humanity is endangered because of the many losses and lessons our ancestors endured. But thanks to the Etruvians, tribal conflict is now mostly a thing of the past, and our current society is built on top of the old as we continue the work started by our ancestors. But our execution of the will of Jhar has been far from perfect. And now, we face a new dilemma. Chartrulean has deviated from that one rule, forging a new path for humanity that's at odds with the starmakers. He now holds the reins of destiny, but is quickly losing his grip. He has power, and a strong mind, but his heart is crippled. Jhardoestra could give him the strength he needs to persevere. But where is she?