

### **Cain**

It had been a very peculiar week for Cain. As he stood watching over Abel's lifeless body, his mind trailed back on what had led to this event just a few days ago. Cain remembered the night when he was wed to Abel's twin while Abel was wed to Cain's own. The pairing was arranged by their father, Adam, and it was probably justly so. However, Cain was unhappy. Three days prior to the double nuptials, both Cain and his brother went to the summit and presented their gifts to the Lord. The gifts were meant to appease Him and also a symbol of their wish for His blessings on the coming weddings.

Unfortunately, that was when everything went wrong for the Lord favoured Abel's offerings. Come to think of it, Cain felt as if everyone, including the Lord Himself, favoured his brother. "Maybe that was why Father chose Jumella as my bride", thought Cain. Everyone knew Jumella paled in comparison to Aclima. To make things worse, even the herding dog favoured Abel. Speaking of which, that black creature was in Cain's room on the wedding night. As Cain entered the room and feeling dejected, the dog barked, "Woe poor Cain! Woe! The Lord rejected your offering and advised Adam to wed you with Jumella. God loves you not. God blesses you not. Abel He loves. Abel He blesses" and Cain thought he saw the dog smirked and its golden eyes twinkled. At first, Cain was struck with disbelief. A talking dog! However, his disbelief was immediately replaced by rage. In his blind fury, Cain bludgeoned the beast to death. Moments later, Abel rushed into the room, puzzled by the commotion. He was terrified at the sight of the dead dog and his bloody brother. "What did you do Brother?" he cried. "That beast insulted me!" defended Cain. Abel

was bewildered by his answer and left the room thinking that his brother was mad. The next day, everyone in the family avoided Cain. He assumed that Abel told them about the dog and antagonized Abel even more.

Cain murdered Abel with the same object he used to kill the beast that night. Coincidentally, he saw a raven scratching the ground beside Abel's corpse. An idea dawned upon him and Cain inhumed Abel. He was certain that he managed to hide the body even from God.

After the homicide, Cain wandered away from his family. Today, many think God turned Cain's skin dark as a sign of his sin. This is not true as Cain's skin did not turn dark but instead it was very pale. So pale that it was almost translucent. Cain realized he could no longer walk under the Sun. So terrible was his skin condition that the Sun's rays would burn him alive. Indeed the Lord had condemned Cain and shunned him from His light. "How did He know? How did He find out? I hid him so well!" moaned Cain.

Cain thought that he was alone but someone was nearby and heard his lamentation. It was a young man and he was dressed shabbily. His hair was raven just like the bird, his eyes were golden much like the dog's, and his skin was as pale as Cain's own. "What ails you, good man?" he asked. Cain was surprised for he never met or knew anyone other than his family but this stranger emitted an aura of persuasion that Cain could not hold back but told him everything that had happened. "Do you think God hates you?" he asked gently and Cain replied "He does! I can no longer walk under the Sun. The water I drink quenches not my thirst. The food I eat relieves not my hunger. I can no longer feel pleasure. I can no longer feel anything!". After a long pause, the young man asked slowly "Do you want to feel again, Cain?" and Cain answered "Yes! Yes, I do! I will do anything to elevate myself out of this

misery!”. “Anything?” the man approached to which Cain impatiently said “Yes, anything!”. The young man suggested to Cain a way that may ease his suffering.

The next day, Cain exhumed Abel’s body. He felt a surging calmness upon him. It was eerie but it felt good nevertheless. Who would have thought that Abel’s blood could be so refreshing? Now Cain could feel again.