

7 In the clear light

Otus the young owl wants to soothe the ever more numerous shadowy beings in the universe, but he must first master his own violent impulses in matters of the heart. Will he manage to reconcile his personal desires with his universal mission?

Illuminating the greenhouse

Chévia and her friend Otus spend a few days of vacation together in the bright greenhouse of the south.

— Otus, it's dark now, do you want to come fly with me over the sea, along the coast? asks Chévia.

— Yes, gladly, replies Otus. I'll let you go ahead of me, you're always the slowest! he adds with a teasing little smile.

— Just wait, you'll see, if I get there first, I'm giving you a forfeit, the young owl says, laughing.

And she takes off at full speed, flying in near-total silence.

Otus tries to keep up with her, but he soon realizes he'll come in dead last ... so he stops to pick a red hibiscus flower, then rejoins his friend.

— All right, you're the fastest, says Otus, holding out the flower to her, and to make up for it, I'm offering you this gift, if you'll accept it.

— Thank you Otus, I accept it gladly, says Chévia, her eyes shining, it's well chosen, you're escaping the forfeit with real style!

They set off together again, flying in a whirl of laughter and joy!

Then they let themselves be carried by a warm current at altitude, savoring the softness of the night.

— Otus, we'll soon be heading back north, says Chévia, and there's still a lot of work waiting for us there. I'd really like us to spend more time together, I've missed you these past weeks. And then there are all these young owls fluttering around you, she says with a wink!

— Ah Chévia, you know very well I only have eyes for you, he replies with a broad smile! Yes, let's ask Bubo and Tycia to pair us together as much as possible.

Otus is happy to share these good moments with Chévia. He knows now that their love will last, even if their life paths separate them later on. He no longer feels any jealousy and sincerely wishes his friend the freedom to flourish.

They set off north again the very next day.

— The clan is ready, judge Bubo and Tycia, two bird friends. We can now bring light to the neighboring greenhouse, to help the many birds living there in darkness. Chévia, Otus, will you help us?

— Oh yes, with great pleasure, the two young birds answer in unison.

— Very good, we start tomorrow evening!

At the appointed time, all the available clear light birds and their many allies together produce an immense luminous aura, illuminating all the way to the edges of the solar system. They concentrate it and share it with the birds of the dark greenhouse, taking turns over several nights.

Then they travel there, in a great flight led by Aquilus the free eagle, to meet Aiglata the eagle-king and his court of great horned owls.

— What are you doing here, asks Aiglata, addressing Aquilus directly. This is my territory and I could kill you for your impudence!

— O king, replies Aquilus, we have come in a spirit of peace, which we wish to share with you.

— Peace? the eagle-king scoffs. Here, I am the one who decides everything! he adds.

Aiglata is cautious. He is no longer under the control of the shadowy creature from the center of the earth, and his mind has been well illuminated these past nights. He is finally impressed by the calm and power radiating from this eagle and his retinue.

— Many creatures from the spirit world are prowling on earth, Aquilus continues. They are very powerful, dangerous, and feed on the energy of living beings before killing them. They target the dominant birds first, to seize control of them, then weaken all their subjects and feed on them too.

— So what, asks Aiglata, spreading his wings. That doesn't impress me at all, let these spirits come, I'll tear them apart ...

— They have already come, and we rid you of them not long ago, Aquilus states calmly. Think back ...

Aiglata is troubled now. He had felt all of this, without speaking of it to anyone. So, these birds were the ones who freed him from the merciless grip of the dark spirit, right where his most powerful mages and sorcerers had failed?

— and what are you proposing? he asks?

— To help you build a protective barrier here, in this greenhouse, so this doesn't happen again, Aquilus proposes.

— Is that all? asks Aiglata. And how do you intend to do that?

And Aquilus explains how to create a protective dome by training all the birds in clear light.

— In exchange, he concludes, I ask that you no longer attack the birds of the clan, as they will be a valuable help to you in protecting yourselves.

Aiglata takes a moment to consult with his court and eventually accepts the proposal.

Then the birds return to the clan.

— The work will be difficult, says Aquilus. These birds must also change their way of life, built on fear and violence. Starting with Aiglata, who will also have to replace the prestigious

shine of his crown, his jewels and his gold coins with true clear light, he adds slyly. But the first step is a success!

— Yes, Tycia continues, it will take a great deal of clear light, non-violent communication, calm and soothing to bring light to this greenhouse.

— And also a great deal of time and patience, adds Bubo, to master the violence and build trust.

A universe is reborn

Otus and Chévia work hard, but with the happiness of being together to help and train the birds of the greenhouse.

Bubo visits them.

— We're making good progress, he says, the dome of light is in place, and trust is taking hold. But dark creatures keep coming in ever greater numbers, and I'm not sure the dome can stop them all.

— Really, is it that serious? Otus is surprised.

— Yes, replies Bubo. We must act quickly!

— What if we sealed the hole Musso made in the fabric of space? Otus asks.

— And how would we do that, asks Chévia?

— We don't know, replies Bubo. We've never done this before. Otus, any idea?

— Let's go back there with our allies, Otus proposes. Maybe ideas will come to us once we're there?

Bubo agrees. Cautious, he asks every clear light bird to join this highly dangerous operation in the spirit world.

Strengthened by his first experience, Otus crosses through the hole and passes into the dark universe, with Chévia, followed by the other birds and the allies.

Suddenly, countless giant, shadowy creatures burst out from every direction, some even taking them from behind, from the universe they had just left ...

Before being drained of their life energies, Otus and Chévia quickly unite their clear lights and, together with the other birds and their allies, project a vast and dense beam that bathes all these creatures in light. But it still isn't enough!

And then, the universe catches fire! ... Countless allies of clear light, from countless universes, join together with immeasurable power. The universe becomes a blaze, immense flashes of light split the darkness down to its farthest corners. Every single dark creature, without exception, dissolves instantly, and the small beings that emerge from them, dazed, are immediately taken in by spirits of light.

Under the effect of these torrents of fire with infinite power, the matter and energy contained in this universe transform, concentrate, concentrate further and further still ... before exploding in a gigantic cosmic flash. The tremendous energy released sets the universe back in motion, where galaxies and star systems favorable to life will now be able to form. The

spirits of the deceased, now well illuminated, will be able to resume their journey toward the beyond, thus setting off a new cycle of life.

Otus and Chévia share, with the other birds and all their allies, a moment of wonder before the creative power of clear light, and rejoice!

They finally return to their own universe and seal the hole by intensely illuminating the fabric of space at that spot.

Love carries life

Time has passed. Chévia and Otus have settled together in the same little tree.

Accompanied by other birds, they regularly go into the spirit world to bring light to those who need it. Otus's parents have resumed their journey and rejoined the beyond.

— Chévia, says Otus, now that the greenhouse is well lit and the clan's birds well settled, what would you say to a lovely trip?

— Gladly, Otus, replies Chévia with a broad smile. East this time?

— Excellent idea! Let's go let everyone know we're leaving, concludes Otus.

So they travel for several days, happy, in love. Their clear lights, intimately woven together, radiate around them a soft yet powerful halo that illuminates and inspires every being they encounter.

As they approach their greenhouse, they hear: peep!... peep! ... very faintly. It's coming from a dense thicket, which they head toward.

— Oh, the poor little things! Chévia exclaims, discovering three owl chicks, half-dead.

— Something serious must have happened, says Otus, no one is caring for them anymore. They're lucky to still be alive.

— We're taking them with us, this is urgent! Chévia decides, help me Otus, there, very gently...

Otus leaves signs in the nest to indicate where they are taking the chicks.

— There, he says, we can go!

Carefully, they carry the little ones back to their tree, arrange a cozy nest for them, then give them food and water.

The chicks quickly regain their health, play together and demand food with gusto. They are saved!

Otus thinks of his parents, gone to the beyond, of the chicks to raise and educate with Chévia and the community of the greenhouse, of all the beings in the universe needing clear light to grow and flourish freely.

He savors this moment with delight and presses close to Chévia. With their clear lights intimately woven together, they gently rock the chicks, who smile in their dreams.