

THE FIRST HAPPENING



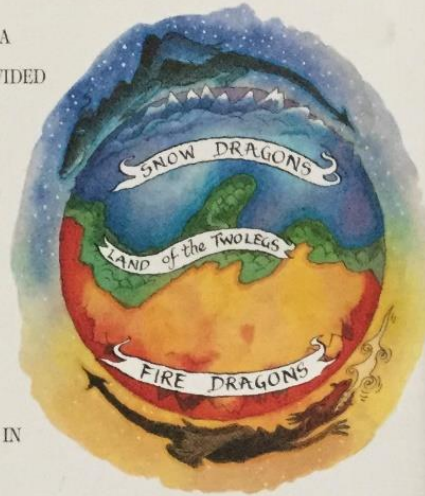
IN THE BEGINNING WAS A WORLD, AND IT WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO HALVES. THE SOUTHERN HALF WAS BURNING HOT AND RULED BY FEROCIOUS FIRE DRAGONS, BUT IN THE COLD AND ICY NORTH LIVED THE PEACE-LOVING SNOW DRAGONS.

WHERE NORTH AND SOUTH CAME TOGETHER THERE WAS A LONG NARROW LAND OF WATER AND GREEN HILLS WHERE TALL TREES AND LEAFY PLANTS GREW, AND IN THIS LAND LIVED THE TWOLEGS.

THE TWOLEGS POTTERED ABOUT HAPPILY FOR MANY YEARS TENDING THE EARTH AND GROWING FRUIT AND FLOWERS, AND THE DRAGONS TOOK NO NOTICE OF THEM.



BUT THEN CAME A HAPPENING THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING.



AT THE TIME OF THE MAKING OF THE WORLD A BOOK WAS WRITTEN, A BOOK SO SPECIAL THAT IT WAS ALWAYS KNOWN SIMPLY AS BOOK.

SOMETIMES BOOK WAS A HANDBOOK OF INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW THE WORLD WORKED, AND THE DRAGONS FOUND IT VERY USEFUL. AT OTHER TIMES BOOK WAS ABLE (IF IT FELT LIKE IT) TO TELL THE FUTURE.

IT WAS THIS THAT CAUSED THE HAPPENING.



The Happening began when the Most Royal of Fire Dragons himself called for Book.

"Book," he rumbled, "tell me if one day I will be Lord of all the world... South and North together!"

Book sniggered, and showed a picture of a scurrying beetle.

The Most Royal of Fire Dragons grew angry. "Answer me, Book!" he thundered, and his burning breath singed Book's pages brown.

Book glared at the Fire Dragon. "Fire worm!" it hissed. "READ! And see the future!" and it opened its pages wide.

BEHOLD! THE TIME IS COMING WHEN FIRE DRAGONS
WILL BE NO MORE...

The Fire Dragon stared, and stared again.

"How can this be true?" he snarled. "Who could ever defeat ME?"
Book turned another page.

A TWOLEG.

"A Twoleg!" sneered Book. "Tee hee! Tee hee! The Fire Dragons will be defeated by a Twoleg!"

The Most Royal of Fire Dragons roared such a terrible blast of flame that the skies turned to burning crimson, and he hurled Book away into the darkness of the swirling smoke and ashes.

