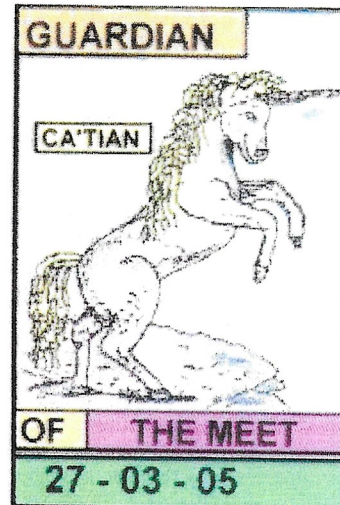


# CA'TAIN



Ca'tian did not feel like doing anything. She knew with a dull certainty that she had failed that last theory exam and that meant the end of her dreams, she wasn't going to be a Guardian. Right now she didn't much care what happened to her. She didn't want company, she didn't want to be alone, she didn't want anything.. She most certainly was not going to check the results board with everybody else, she didn't need to.

She supposed that at some point they would ask her what she wanted to do, they might even make some suggestions but she could not bring herself to care what she did. She hoped they would leave it until the feeling of empty blankness had worn off, if it was going to. Her stomach started to complain but she didn't feel hungry, part of her mind thought that strange but the rest of her mind said "So what" She sat and watched the log burn lower and lower and thought at some point that she had better get another log, but she didn't bother.

Finally her bladder forced her to get up and move, coming back she noticed that it was dark and thought with mild surprise she must have been sitting there for most of the day, she had come out of the exam room before breakfast and come straight here. She pulled the curtains and wondered what she ought to do next, make a hot drink and try to pull herself together for the lack of anything else. It sounded about right

She tried to see herself doing something else, she knew there was plenty of choice, she had very good marks in all the subjects she had taken except for math, the problem was that she couldn't see herself doing anything else, teaching, research, medic, support, resource none of them appealed more than the others, try it the other way, what appealed least, support, medic, teaching, she didn't want teaching definitely, research maybe, resource maybe. Well her subconscious might come up with something, she should probably try to sleep on it. One thing she knew was that she wasn't making any decisions any time soon. "Go and make that hot drink" she told herself.

She had barely sat down again holding the warm dish when there was a knock at the door, "Oh no, not yet" she thought but what she said was "come in". The dean poked her head round the edge of the door, and starting talking. A few minutes later Ca'tian realised her mouth was hanging open and shut it while trying to get her head around what the dean was saying. She had graduated, she was going to be a Guardian and furthermore she was Guardian of the Meet and that was tomorrow,

**tomorrow!!!!!!!**