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Journeyqueen of Cups

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

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Abstract

Against the road's long dust, she offers Fire & water both: alchemical tempering of the heart.

Additional Keywords

Poetry; Journeyqueen of Cups; Ann K. Schwader

And thus did sage Soong call, "Asif come forth," and there was blurring and a shifting and a trembling and a young man lay on the ground before the sage where minutes before a tiger had been. The young man immediately leaped to his feet and felt himself all over, exclaiming in a joyous voice, "I'm human, I'm human," then he flung himself down in front of the sage and kissed the hem of his yellow robe. "Don't do that," said the sage crossly, "Give thanks to the Buddha who has saved you, not me", and he gazed sternly at the young man. "I shall give thanks to both, O master," replied the young man irrepressibly, and he left the clearing praising both at the top of his voice.

Meanwhile the woodcutters, who had witnessed all that had happened, made hast to come down from the trees and make their way to the village where they would tell all they had seen, while they picked up their supplies. That left sage Soong alone in the clearing once more, still sitting in the lotus position. As he sat he meditated upon what his past actions would mean to his once comfortable bird and butterfly life. For no doubt disciples would be drawn by the tale of the tiger.

Well, he had promised the Buddha that he would no longer be lazy. A few disciples to keep him up to the mark would not come amiss. Then the sage took a few moments to give thanks to the Buddha and to pray for his abbot before he too arose and started on his way back to his fig tree.



Journeyqueen of Cups

by Ann K. Schwader

Against the road's long dust, she offers
Fire & water both:
alchemical
tempering of the heart.

Her wisdom
is thorn within the flower, but never
fear of sweetness;
fear of flame
quenched cold in golden light.

Lady of fire & roses,
she reaches
through burning veils of doubt,
holds out
the heartcup of her hands.