



Home was far behind - I was no longer a child.  
I journeyed deep - deep within myself, deep within  
the earth, down to the D'ni cavern. I was alone for  
a time & I consumed my heritage, breathing deep the  
air of the cavern and the knowledge of my people.

But the desire for companionship drove me mad.  
I engaged a senomar & my confidant, and a tredfish  
in the harbor became my younger brother. I spoke to  
them & family and they answered, I swear they  
answered.



Then my mind took a final step into madness when  
I walked into the library on Ae' gur a and saw an old  
D'ni man on the floor below me. Now I was  
imagining people to ease my loneliness.

But he was no mirage - his name was Calam.  
And he was a D'ni Writer of Ages.

Trust did not come easily. There was conflict  
between us - between his ancient rules of D'ni, that  
I did not respect, and my creativity, which he feared.  
We fought and feared and battled and screamed,  
until exhausted, we began to learn from each other.  
We learned of the power of both, just as Father and  
Mother had done.

So I learned to Write with all the skills that the  
D'ni had known - beyond what my parents had  
taught me. For their lessons were given by a flawed

instructor and by their own trial and error. I

learned to Write from a Master: an opportunity

father was never given. Calam's abilities were

breathtaking - he knew all the D'ni knew, when

D'ni fell.

But I taught as well as learned. There were

things that the D'ni were forbidden to Write, words

they feared, concepts they shunned. Rules and boxes. I

had no cultural fear of such things, so I dug deeper,

asking questions that Calam could not answer. And

together we sought answers.

That is how we learned of the Bahro and the Tablet. I learned of its power. We grew in knowledge and strength, and Calam became one of my dearest friends. I began to think that it was he who would be the Grower.

But evil will find you, even in the depths of the earth, and Calam was murdered.

Christie

