

Long, long ago...

There were
four gods who
reigned supreme.

There was
Genbu the turtle...


Byakko
the tiger...

Seiryuu
the dragon...

And Suzaku
the phoenix.

The gods were
petty and feuded
regularly.





Armies were raised...

Countless lives were lost...

The rivers were stained with the colors of war.


It was during this time that Suzaku had her first and last clutch of eggs.

As each egg hatched, the fledgling was coaxed out of its nest....

One by one, the other gods destroyed the hatchlings...

Until only one remained.

And killed...



Fearful for the last of her offspring...

Suzaku temporarily left the land of the rising sun...

Perhaps when it hatched

And hid away the egg.

It would be free of the terrible battles.



Centuries passed...

Eventually the gods, realizing the sheer amount of devastation...

Decided that it was time to end the wars.


They met in Nara and agreed to divide the lands.

Genbu took The North.

Byakko took The West.

Suzaku took The South.

Seiryuu took The East.



Each ruled their own lands in peace and faded from the memory of people.

Eventually, they seemed to be nothing more than myths and legends.

Unfortunately...

Suzaku had not planned on Byakko's ambitions.

The tiger god had been given lordship over The West...

And soon he stunned all the gods by pressing those borders beyond Japan and into the countries beyond.

Yet, none of the gods could challenge him.

The West was his.

Unsuspecting of the dangers that awaited her, Suzaku's chick rested in her shell.

Not long ago, the egg was discovered by the founders of Naka Kon.

Under their care, the long dormant shell once again began to pulse with life.



Finally, a baby phoenix sprang forth.

So Cute!


They named her Tomo and adopted her as their patron goddess.

Fortunately for Tomo and Naka Kon, Byakko did not notice the disturbance in his lands.

He had returned to Japan for a counsel with the other compassed gods. It was due to this that Tomo was able to rule over Naka Kon for 8 years.

During this time she grew at a speed greater than any human...

By her 6th year, she was fully mature.




She also grew in powers and, when it pleased her, she would shower her gifts upon Naka Kon.

These came in the form of wondrous cosplay competitions, beautiful balls and even with fair weather.

At other times her ire was drawn and she would punish attendees with cool winds and con funk.

Unfortunately, Tomo also grew in other ways. While she was in many ways kind and benevolent, she also grew to become more vain and selfish with each year.

She still cared for the people, but only to ensure that they would return every year for what she regarded to be her personal festival.



That all came to an end last year...

Hm?

When Byakko **RETURNED.**



Hello?

Why hello there, Cat.



What is all this?



Someone's birthday?

?

Is there a festival my minions have failed to remind me of?



Both in fact.

It is my birthday, and this festival is held annually in my honor. Naka Kon!

As you can see, it is **GLORIOUS!**

Indeed it is, but who are you that is so important as to have a festival in her honor?



I'm...

Not entirely sure.

You see, I do not know my parents.

I hatched here.



When I hatched, there were people celebrating.

But I forget myself.

I am Tomo, patron deity of Naka Kon!

I admit, I was intimidated at first, but they had such delicious food.

I determined this festival must be for my birth.

Welcome to my festival.



Well Tomo, it is a pleasure to meet you, but I think you do no belong here.

For you see, these are **MY** lands.

Your lands?

If these are you lands, then where have you been all these years?



Watch your tongue **peacock!** Lord Byakko was given dominion over all the lands in the west after the long war!

You have no claim here!

Why do people pay tribute to **ME** every year?

How typical of a kitten, to ignore when it suits him and then capriciously demand attention.



Peacock?!
You insult me. I am no mere peacock. I am a **Phoenix!**

There is only one other phoenix left in this world, Tomo.

A phoenix?

I now know who you are...



Your mother is Suzaku, one of my sworn enemies. During the war, she hid her last egg, for which I commend her...

But for the daughter of Suzaku to encroach upon my territory, demanding a festival to herself... it's **OUTRAGEOUS.**



I know nothing of your war and give no merit to your claim. Naka Kon is **MINE**

Play soldier elsewhere. We must finish preparing for the festival.



Do not ignore me, Tomo. The division of the lands brought an end to hundreds of years of bloodshed. Leave now or that horror will be revisited on YOU.

And what would you do with such a festival?

It would not suit you. Like me, this convention is full of color and life!

But you... your fur is so drab. Black and white? It lacks **STYLE!**

Then I shall dye it with your blood and wear your feathers as a headdress!



YOU WILL NEVER TAKE TOMO FROM US!





Are you too afraid to fight your own battles, Tomo? You are not a true goddess, but I had thought better of you than this.

Perhaps I give you too much credit.



Hansuke, disengage.

In all things.

What are the conditions to this battle?

But my lady...

Do you not trust me?





What do you say, Kitty?

It makes no difference since a bird will never defeat a cat.

Then I accept!

SNAPS



Have you forgotten your weapon, clumsy chicken?

Lady Tomo...

I have forgotten nothing, you flea bitten feline.

Rest Easy.



He shall not strike me.

WOOOOOOOSH!



I am like a leaf on the wind.



SHOOOO



ENOUGH STALLING TOMO!

So eager to fight?

Then so be it.







AHHHH!

LADY TOMO!



LORD BYAKKO IS VICTORIOUS!

You must pick up the pieces...

And I will be reborn.

I don't understand.

Hansuke...





Soot?

So many pieces...

The pieces...

Pick up...



Listen everyone!
Tomo can be reborn!

She is a phoenix! We must collect her ashes.



You would dare go against the Tiger Lord?

What Impertinence!

Go choke on a hair ball! Tomo shall rise from the ashes and we shall have our revenge!



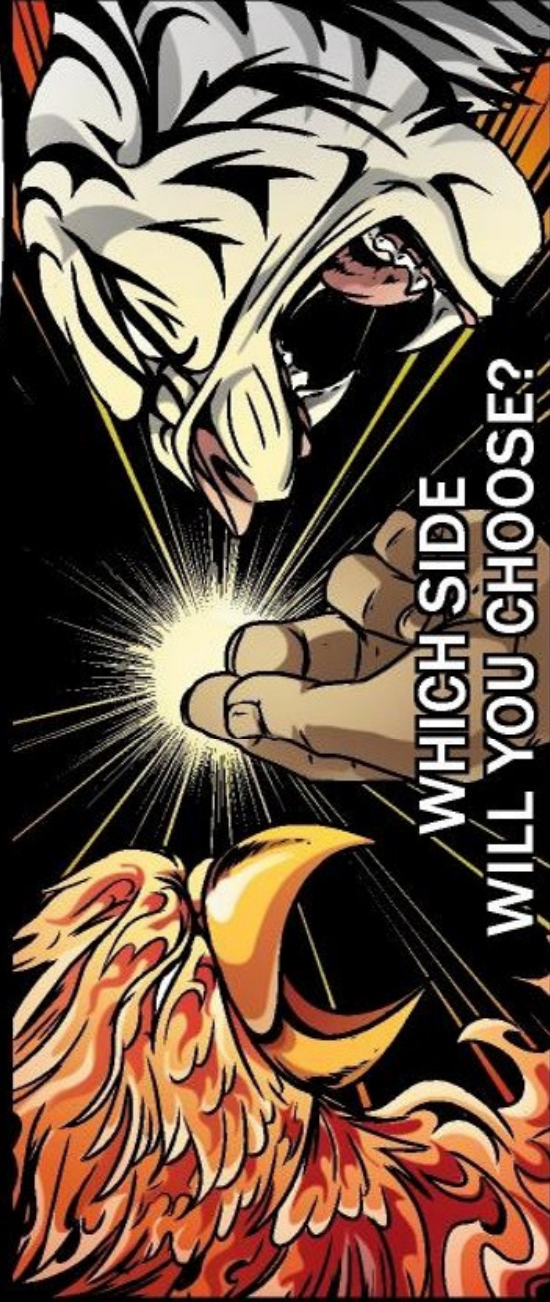
All those who support Tomo, bring us her ashes so that she may take back Naka Kon!

NO! To anyone finding her ashes, who supports the rightful Lord of these lands...

Bring us her ashes so we may keep her scattered!

Friends of Tomo, come forth! Pledge your allegiance and take our token! We offer prizes to those who assist us the most!

Supporters of Byakko, join us and take our token! Byakko offers wealth and status for his supporters!



WHICH SIDE WILL YOU CHOOSE?