

Genesis
by Natalie McNabb

In the beginning, The Arachnid spun its web from the void, in the deep darkness that was upon the face of the heavens, and the winds moved upon its web.

And the winds brought forth the first fly to The Arachnid's web, causing the fly to become ensnared.

And The Arachnid felt the fly's movement upon the face of its web and was drawn to the fly.

And The Arachnid crept along its web, descended upon the fly and called what it found there Life.

And with web spun of its bowels, The Arachnid divided the fly from its breath and called what it then found Death.

And The Arachnid's eyes were opened, and it was as a god, knowing evil from good.

And this first Life and Death the arachnid called Existence.

And The Arachnid said, *Let me eat of the fly and yield fruit after my own kind, the seed of which is in myself:* and it was so.

So The Arachnid brought forth the firstlings of its cluster in its own image.

And The Arachnid saw that its fruit might also become as gods, knowing the Life and Death of Existence, knowing evil from good.

And The Arachnid called itself Alpha because it was the father of all living, the beginning and the first.

And The Arachnid said, *Let my fruit be carried upon the wind into the firmament of heaven to divide it one from another, that it might alight elsewhere upon the earth and be fruitful and multiply.*

And it came to pass that The Arachnid's offspring sent forth long silken strands and raised their abdomens toward the firmament, and the winds moved upon their silken strands, taking them up from the earth unto heaven as if a great mist rising.

And The Arachnid's fruit fell upon the whole face of the ground, and The Arachnid saw everything that had been done: and that it was very good.

And The Arachnid blessed its firstlings and sanctified them, saying, *Unto you I give every herb, every bearing seed, every tree and beast upon the face of the earth, and every thing that creepeth wherein there is Life for your continuance do I give unto you.*

And The Arachnid commanded its offspring to bring forth abundantly, to populate the earth across all seasons, across all days and years: and it was so.

And The Arachnid's fruit spun myriad webs in the void, in deep darkness, and the winds brought forth abundant flies from which the arachnids brought about Death, drank Life and delivered more seed unto Existence.

And The Arachnid's fruit did not rest, but multiplied, sending forth likenesses unto the earth to dress it and keep it, to replenish and subdue it.

And The Arachnid's fruit also became as gods, having dominion over Life and Death in Existence, over every place where they did set their feet and over every living thing that inhabited the earth: and it is still so.

~ FRIGHTMARES: A FISTFUL OF FLASH FICTION HORROR, edited by Stan Swanson, Dark Moon Books 2011