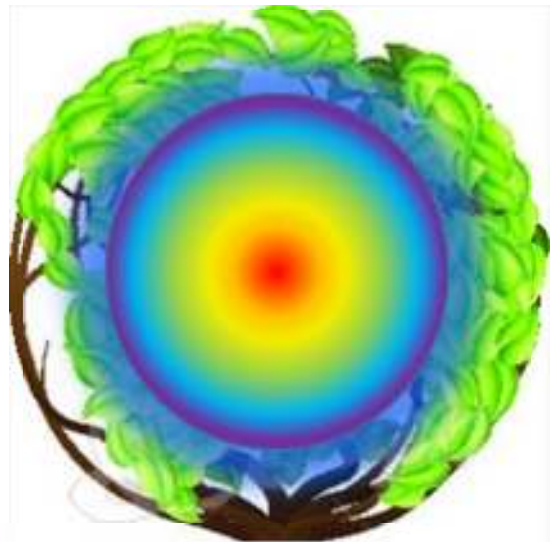


The Enchanted City



Most of us don't think about where our rubbish goes.
Sometimes we even throw it on the ground.
In this story, however, one magic deer won't let that
happen anymore.
All is revealed in this magical adventure!

The Enchanted City

By Robert Scicluna - 15th May 2016

The animal stood there looking at me. “Why did you do that?” the animal asked. I was astonished to hear an animal speak.

I had not seen the bin in the park earlier, so I put the tissue on the ground when I thought nobody was looking. But apparently there was this deer watching me and now it was interrogating me.

“Why did you do that?” it repeated.

“I couldn’t see the bin,” I replied.

“Come with me,” the deer said, and led me to a tree that had grown in an “O” shape. By this time I noticed his antlers turning golden. He rubbed them against the tree and a portal lit up, showing a similar forest, but this one was glowing with magic.

“Jump in,” the deer told me. I ran into the portal and the deer followed. Then it was all black.



The Deer



The tree



Lighting the portal

A few seconds later I found myself in the enchanted forest. “Welcome to the Enchanted City,” the deer told me. A path led into the woods. A sign read “This way to the Enchanted City.” It was a long way off.

“Would you like a faster ride to the city?” the deer asked me. I nodded. Then the deer pressed a hidden button on the ground. A beam of light from one of the glowing trees streamed to the deer. There was a burst of light and suddenly I saw a golden dragon instead of the deer.

“I am Redhot, the guardian of this forest and the one in your world as well. Get on my back and I will take you to the city,” the dragon boomed.



The Transformation

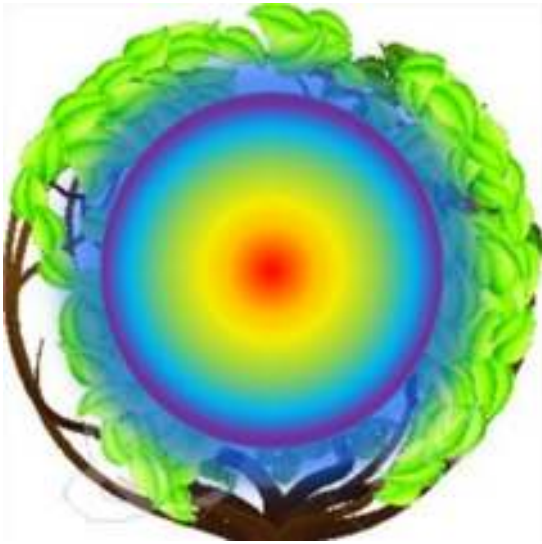
A few minutes later we arrived. I stepped off

Redhot. The city was amazing, with lit up houses carved into massive redwood trees. A central plaza was set in a clearing, with shops and a massive glass ball inside it. Redhot took me to the ball. It was hollow and half-filled with litter.

“Look,” Redhot told me. “This ball here gets more rubbish in it every time one of you human beings litters in a forest, valley or any natural place. If it is not stopped, the ball is so fragile that it may explode, killing everything in our city. Will you help stop it?”

“Yes,” I said. I promised Redhot that I would help stop littering, and even clean up to empty the glass ball in the plaza.

“Good,” he said. “Now do you want to go back to your home?” I nodded. I got onto Redhot’s back again and he took off. He flew to a tree that was like the one earlier, but much larger and flat on the ground. Redhot breathed flames into the ring and it lit up in a rainbow-coloured light. Redhot dived in and then it was black.



The portal home

When I came to I found myself back near the “O” tree in my world. I picked up the tissue I had dropped earlier and put it in the bin. I heard a soft *Ding!* And I knew it was the glass ball emptying a bit.

It has been years now since the event and I have made regular visits to the Enchanted City.



Lighting the portal home

Redhot always greets me warmly and the glass ball is always a bit less full. It is almost empty now and it will soon disappear. The first trip was a great lesson learnt and I encourage anyone who reads this to help clean up, to keep the ball gone.

(Also say hi to any male deer with golden antlers for me. ☺)

The End