

# GENESIS REVISITED

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## **1** Plentiful, Free Necessary Goods

There once was a great valley that lay between two high mountain ranges which stretched to the sea. A small group of humans inhabited the valley. They were the only humans there. None of the inhabitants had ever left the valley and they had never encountered any other humans.

Clear rivers, full of fish and other wildlife, coursed through the valley. The forests and fields were lush with fruit and nuts, and wildlife was abundant. Each morning they gathered whatever food they needed for the day. They had much time for play, dancing, and loving.

As generations passed, the humans grew in number. They separated into many small villages.

## **2** Discovery of Luxury Goods

One day, a woman found beautiful red crystals growing within a hillside cave near her village. She gathered a few and showed them to the other women of her village. All the women admired the stones. One inventive woman used pine tree resin to glue a red stone to a leather string and placed it around her neck. The men said the stone made her more beautiful. Hearing this, other women did the same. More red stones were collected and soon all the women of the village wore ruby necklaces.

The humans of the village began calling themselves the “Rubies.”

When the men of the Rubies joined men from other villages for hunting trips, they boasted of the beauty of their women. Men from other villages asked for red stones. The men of the Rubies said among themselves, “Why should we give red stones to other villages? Let us ask for something in return.”

### **3 Development of Trade**

The women of the Rubies gathered more red stones and let their men swap them for food with men of other villages. Soon the Rubies had more food than they could eat and the extra food rotted. Still more villagers asked for red stones. Clothes and tools were accepted for red stones, but these also became extra and lay in piles within the Rubies' village.

### **4 Invention of Money**

A shrewd man of the Rubies said, "At this time the Rubies cannot use all the food, clothes, and tools which others swap with us for red stones. Let us accept promises of future gifts in swap for red stones." This the Rubies did, but after a time the other humans forgot that they owed gifts to the Rubies for red stones already received. The shrewd man said, "Let the humans who wish to receive red stones make flattened stones with their mark upon them and give them to us whenever we give them a ruby. This flattened stone will be evidence of their debt to the Rubies.

With passing years, the Rubies built a great store of flattened stones. The other humans each had several red stones and began asking less often for more red stones. The women of another village found a cave with beautiful crystals of blue stones. Soon other humans were swapping flattened stones to this village for blue stones. The humans of the village of blue stones called themselves "Sapphires." The women of the Rubies also desired to wear blue stones on their necklaces. They made flattened stones and swapped them for blue stones. The shrewd man of the Rubies said, "We do not need to make our own flattened stones, let us swap the flattened stones of others for the blue stones."

### **5 Creation of Envy and Lust**

Shrewd men in other villages said, "Why should the Rubies and Sapphires have the source of the beautiful stones unto themselves? Let us spy upon them and find the sources of red and blue stones." So men of other villages spied upon the women of the Rubies and Sapphires and found the secret caves. In the night they robbed the caves of many beautiful stones. When the

Sapphire women next returned, they saw that they had been robbed and hurried home to tell their men.

## **6 Eruption of Fighting**

The Sapphire men said that the Rubies must have stolen their precious blue stones. They armed themselves with knives and spears and attacked the Ruby village while most of the men were away. There was much shouting and fighting. Two Ruby men were killed and the Sapphire men seized many blue stones from the Ruby women.

When the Ruby men returned, they were enraged and prepared to attack the Sapphire village. They found the people of the Sapphire village celebrating their victory and drinking fermented honey. The Ruby men fell upon the Sapphire village and killed three men. Gathering the surviving Sapphire villagers in a circle, they made them handover all their red and blue stones. The Sapphire people wept and cursed the Ruby men for robbing their cave.

After the Ruby men returned to their village, the Ruby women went to their cave of red stones and found that it had also been robbed. A shrewd Ruby man said that other villagers must be robbing both the red and blue stone caves. He asked for a meeting with a shrewd Sapphire man. The shrewd men agreed that both the Rubies and Sapphires had been mistaken in attacking the other. Each village returned the stones which they had taken. Because the Sapphires had attacked first, it was agreed that each Ruby woman would be given an extra blue stone by the Sapphires.

## **7 Formation of Armies**

There was peace between the Rubies and Sapphires. However, each village placed guards at their caves. They posted notices throughout the valley that they were the owners of their caves and would kill anyone caught stealing precious stones.

## **8 Development of Private Property**

In generations which followed, many other precious stones were found in other caves and other villages claimed their rights of ownership. Shrewd men of villages without caves of precious stones asserted that if caves could be owned, fields, forests, and rivers could be owned. Each village began claiming ownership of the most fertile lands, best hunting forests, and rivers most plentiful with fish.

## **9 Growth of Economy**

Villagers began finding that they could not freely gather or hunt for the foods and materials which they needed. More flattened stones with marks upon them were made and swapped for necessary materials.

People had to visit many widely separated villages to get all the materials they needed. Flattened stones were swapped from village to village. Daughters and sons of different villages began marrying and moving to other villages. New villages were formed as the number of people grew.

## **10 Evolution of Inflation and Deficit**

Persons with many flattened stones began to complain that some were not being honored by the makers or the traders of goods. Many persons whose marks were on flattened stones had died and members of their families refused to redeem them. Also, whole villages had disappeared and flattened stones from these villages were also not honored. Persons increased the number of flattened stones which they required in exchange for goods. Persons without many flattened stones began making more and more.

## **11 Stabilization of Economy**

Shrewd men of the largest villages met to find a solution for breakdown in the system of trade. They decided to use a new material, a refined metal, for the construction of a coin that would

replace all flattened stones. The making of metal coins was more difficult than making flattened stones and the source of copper was limited to a small region which could be guarded. All coins bore the same new mark. All people with flattened stones were told to gather at a central village on the winter solstice when they would be given one coin for each five flattened stones turned in. After that day, everyone was ordered to stop accepting flattened stones in trade.

After much complaining, trade in goods stabilized and the quantity goods increased.

## **12 Evolution of Disparity and Dissention**

Six generations passed. The population of the valley was great. The supply of many necessary goods did not increase as fast as the population. Some villages had more goods than they required and many did not have enough. Dissention formed between the rich and poor villages. The rich villages gave some poor people goods in exchange for defense. People in poor villages formed gangs and attacked rich villages and stole goods. Many people were killed in fighting and many sources of goods were devastated. The forests disappeared, the land dried, and the rivers shrank to polluted streams.

## **13 Expulsion From Eden**

Those who could, fled over the mountain peaks to new lands. They carried with them many beautiful stones, coins, and luxury goods.