

The Seedlings

The twin gods Enza and Uzwe were tasked with creating life to inhabit the land their grandparents had created. From the fruits of the land, together they began the First Life, shaping the Seedlings. The Seedlings were small and red-yellow with auburn seeds like the sundown fruit the twins had created them from. Like the fruit, they still held seeds in their bellies, but instead of bearing new fruit, the seeds within the Seedlings grew more of their own kind with each death. Every Seedling that emerged from the earth after the passing of another was thereupon kissed by the land and the twins.

The Seedlings lived happily for four thousand years, nourished by the land and blessed by Enza and her brother. One day, a great wind rushed over the land, carrying some of the Seedlings far out to sea. They bobbed for many months in the briny water until finding land on the opposite side of the sea. They drifted from the coast and into rivers that carried them deep into the unfamiliar land.

Too weary to move, the Seedlings floated into swamps, lakes, and puddles, quickly becoming stuck in the mud and between rocks and logs. They soon found themselves plucked from the waterways by the curious inhabitants of the new land. They were elated to see that their rescuers were Seedlings as well, like them in every way, yet yellow as the sunrise fruit with golden seeds within their belly.

The Seedlings from this new land drew their brethren from the waters, fascinated with their arrival and the auburn seeds within them. Having only ever used their own seeds to birth more of themselves, the sunrise Seedlings desired to know what else their seeds could be used for. In their curiosity, they chose to pluck the auburn seeds from the bellies of their brethren.

They cooked the auburn seeds in oil and ate them at dusk. They tossed them into fires to watch the embers play. They carved them into combs and chairs and bowls and toys for children, despite having no need for such objects. The sunrise Seedlings discovered how versatile their sundown kin were and prayed to keep them in their land forever. The sundown Seedlings, though, only prayed to return home.

The sunrise Seedlings created boats from the auburn seeds, hoping to find the land their kin had come from across the sea. Not willing to risk the lives of the Seedlings still living blissfully in their homeland, Enza and Uzwe chose to dry up the sea connecting one land to the other.

Stranded in the new land and without seeds within their bellies, the sundown Seedlings were unable to create more of their own kind when they died into the earth. Not wanting to ever run out of the auburn seeds, the sunrise Seedlings attempted to plant the seeds themselves, hoping to grow more of their red-yellow kin. Most of the seeds perished, unable to receive the kiss from the twins, who ignored the lost Seedlings in hopes they would die out and would no longer have to endure the abuse of their kin.

Only but a few of the auburn seeds were able to grow, but this was enough for the sunrise Seedlings to continue their harvest. As time moved forward, generations of sundown Seedlings are grown in the new land, unable to die as their creators had hoped. Their auburn seeds were collected to create the many wonderful things the sunrise Seedlings had become accustomed to until the end of the First Life.

