

## Gadakhch

Long ago, the world was ruled by fear, for the gods that were worshiped had turned spiteful because they felt as if they were not loved enough. However, even as people attempted to become even more devoted to these gods, they still speared the earth with their anger making it a dangerous place to live. Nevertheless, there was one town that seemed to be slightly less impacted by the gods than all the others. Now don't be mistaken, the town of Doon was still miserable, but they had a lovely elder, Gadakhch, who was as benevolent as the gods were sinful. This elder also had a cat, Deraz, who was loved by all. The entire town would play with it, would feed it, would make sure it was comfortable, and the cat bestowed them with the greatest honor of all, love from a cat.

Gadakhch wanted for the reign of the gods to end, and so, she began to wonder, *'what does a god fear other than loss of power? And what can make a god lose their power other than another god? Nothing!'* It was then that she began to ponder other deities, and realized her cat was likely a deity. It had lived so much longer than any cat before and loved the people of the town, something she had never seen a cat do before. Gadakhch decided that Deraz must be worshiped, but only by the choice of others. So, she began by building an altar and a throne for her cat. She brought it all to the center of town, put her cat on the throne and began to pile the altar high with offerings. Then she began to pray. Others saw what was happening, but thought little of it as they knew just how much Gadakhch loved her cat. But a small child, afraid of almost nothing, approached her and asked, "Why do you worship a cat as we once worshipped the gods that are now harming us? Do you not worry that your cat will one day harm us?"

Gadakhch replied, "I have lived many lifetimes with this cat, and my cat has lived for many lifetimes more than any cat. Therefore, I have no choice but to believe that this cat is a god

living among us. In that time, the people of this town have been nothing but kind to this cat and she knows that she must be a benevolent god. However, in order for any deity to have power, people must believe in their divinity. And so, in order for this cat to have powers, and the wrathful gods who are so full of anger and jealousy to have none, we must all know and worship this cat's divinity. Do you, dear child, believe in her divinity?"