

Trila, The Tree Goddess

By Isabella Z.

Hi! I am Trila, the goddess of the trees. Welcome to my forest! It is called Yamika, the forest of beauty. Here we have nymphs, sprites, trolls, and so much more. There is also a spooky creature that lives beyond the woods. His name is Amirak. He is one third troll, one third god and one third wolf; and he is not the nicest creature. Everyone in the forest is afraid of him, except Livisha, the goddess of the lakes. Livisha and I are sisters, but we don't usually sit down and chat like you humans do. We are too worried about saving the world. Right now we have a very important matter to take care of: we have to destroy Amirak. No one can live like this anymore. Everyone is in their homes all the time, and the forest isn't as happy as it used to be. And it's all because of Amirak. Let me tell you more about him before we start on this journey. Amirak lives only a couple of oak trees away. Even though that is very close, to be safe, you need to move slowly and NOT let him notice you. He always wears wolf skins, which does not make sense because he is one. He has wolf guards at the entrance of his cave, which makes getting to him a bit tricky. This is why I will have to summon a couple of gods and goddesses in order to complete the task of making the forest safe and happy again. I have to gather up Livisha, the goddess of the lakes; and her eldest daughter, Stira, the goddess of the streams. I also have to gather up my brother, Sill, the god of the sky, and my grandfather, Thursh, the god of thunder. In addition, I have to touch my magical necklace and say their names, the cause I need them for, and they will come. Neat, huh?!?! Come along on this adventure, and you can see the whole thing with your own eyes. I touch my necklace. A green light appears, and I say: "Thursh! Sill! Stira! Livisha! We now need to gather up to go get Amirak!" All I needed to say was that. They came right away. "Did I hear right or am I having that

problem again Trila?”, came the booming voice of my grandfather, Thursh. “What did you hear, Thursh? Because if it didn’t say we have to fight him, then you heard wrong.” Thursh spoke in a thunderous, deep voice that shook everything around when someone was summoning him. “Nope; I heard right! Trila, are you su...” But he didn’t finish because, at that same moment, my sister and brother appeared, completely out of breath. “Trila! Oh, it is so good to see you! Are you sure you want to do th..”, said the voice of Livisha, the sound of her lake-like dress in the background. Sadly, just like Thursh before her, she was cut off by Sill. “Where is Stira?” At that moment, she appeared next to Livisha. “Sorry I took a while. I was feeding my wolf when I heard the message.” Both Stira and my sister had blue necklaces lying gently on their bosoms. I noticed them with the corner of my eye, and smiled gently, lulled by the memory of the gentle motion of a stream. My daydream was cut short when Sill motioned: “Now that we are all here, let’s talk strategy.” All nodded in agreement, and he continued. “I have my sky-made sword. If Thursh uses his and all of you women use your powerful necklaces, I think we can take him down. Now, Thursh, you take him down from above. You can do your hovering trick. I will stab him in the back and get the golden key. The three women will take him down from there. I am assuming you know what to do. The whole plan will take three days to complete, seeing as we are already at the first tree. For now, let us forage, build a hut and gather water. We will stay here tonight.” As soon as he finished his sentence, we set to work. Gathering all of the materials was not hard. My sister used her necklace to summon water. Stira did the same to get us a place to bathe. I worked my magic to gather the wood we needed. My brother got us shelter by weaving sky together to make a fort (not an easy task!), using thunder for the ceiling, which was very useful because if any uninvited guests tried to enter, the ceiling would roar. Food was harder to get, as

the only goddess who could do that was Frilla, an old friend of mine whom I hadn't summoned in forever. I really didn't want to do it, but seeing as the choice was to summon her or have us all starve, I did it. Frilla came right away, gave us food, said that it was nice to see me, and left. She had no idea what we were doing. If she did, she would have stayed no matter how fervently I would have asked her to leave. For a meal, she brought us acorn soup, chicken and broccoli. She also brought some Japanese wine berries for dessert. On top of that, she brought some water kefir and sourdough bread, which were delicious. That night, we ate well, and fell asleep happy and full. The next morning, when I awoke, Sill was already up and ushering us to get moving. That day, we walked to the second tree, and followed the same routine we had the night before. The following day, however, was a lot better because we managed to get to the last oak tree, and slept in a hidden place right next to Amirak's cave. That last night we had to be careful, given that we were so close to Amirak's lair. Even though we were all a bit scared, it was also fun. We were careful, but were able to play games, plan for the following day, and eat before falling asleep. The next morning dawned, and with it, the realization set in: the big day had arrived! We woke very early, and ate eggs and rice to sustain us for the battle ahead. We hydrated well, then crept to the cave. Once we could see the opening, we saw the wolves that were guarding it. They themselves looked back every now and then with scared faces. We crept toward them. It dawned on me that this part would be easy since we could camouflage because our mother is Eara, the goddess of Earth. We crept past, and the wolves noticed. One of them said: "Who's there? Who's there?" We said nothing and walked forward, as quiet as mice. The cave was long, but there were virtually no obstacles. The only thing in our way was actually being able to destroy Amirak. It was a while until we saw him. We forged on. Once we spotted Amirak, we

took off our camouflage and ran forward into our positions. Amirak is not a pretty creature. In fact, he is very ugly, and that is one of the reasons that all are afraid of him. One tricky feature about him is that he is also the god of illusions, and when he's aware that others are around, he can use that to his advantage. Case in point: when he saw us, he snarled and turned into a cute little kitten. But we were not fooled. Changing into a kitten didn't help him, and snarling didn't help either because now we knew the shape he had taken. When he sensed that *nothing* was helping him, he growled angrily and said: "You will never get me! NEVER!" "Oh, please, you may be huge, but you are a baby inside!", said my sister. My eyes widened in surprise when I heard this. For someone who was usually kind and mindful of others' feelings, Livisha saying something sassy like this was surprising. She noticed my reaction, and I smiled and nodded encouragingly. Under these circumstances, her stance and words seemed quite fitting. My brother immediately followed up, yelling: "Charge!" We got in our places and started to unravel our plan. My sister and Stira shot water at Amirak so he couldn't see. This was followed by my dropping a succession of logs on his head and body. Sill used piercing stars to pinch Amirak, then he got out his sword and waited for the right moment. Thursh hovered nearby and shot lightning at the beast, and then he too got out his sword. Amirak, with the head of a wolf, was about to howl when I dropped a final tree on his head. Suddenly, a flash of lightning and stars blinded us all. The next thing I knew, Amirak was on the ground, with Sill and Thursh beside him, holding a huge key between them. I was puzzled. What did the key mean? Livisha noticed my confusion and said: "This is the key that gives Amirak his powers". Realizing it was all over, and that Amirak lay dead under a pile of wet logs surrounded by blinding light from stars and lightning bolts, we rejoiced! We hugged each other, smiling and announcing in a cacophony: "We did it! We did

it!” We celebrated for a while, then remembered that we still had to restore the Yamika woods. We got on our way to get out of the cave. Once the wolves saw us, they howled, rejoicing that there was no more Amirak, which meant that they were free. They joined us at Yamika, and from then on the woods were colorful and happy. Earra came to visit and celebrate with us, announcing proudly that we had done a heroic and brave deed, freeing the woods from darkness and fear. All was well and happy, and the Yamika woods were peaceful and beautiful once again.