

Christopher Alington was a pompous young man, who spent his days drinking in his lavish manor and his nights drinking at taverns. Though he was heir to one of the largest trading companies in the country, he did very little to learn about the responsibility that came with it. If Christopher did not get his life in order, James Alington, sick and tired of his son's behaviour threatened to disown him. He said to Christopher, "For generations, every man in our family has spent years away at sea, learning the craft of sailing the high seas and finding new trade routes. It is now your turn. If you don't, then you're a disgrace to the Alington name; and can bid adieu to your inheritance." Scared of losing his fortune, Christopher begrudgingly agreed. He summoned a group of skilled navigators and explorers to accompany him on his journey, and set sail a few weeks later.

The journey was harrowing and they often had to endure extreme conditions. Still Christopher persevered for he was determined to succeed and fight to keep his inheritance. One morning, he was awoken to the noise and chatter of his crew. After weeks and months of sailing, they had finally come across a sign of land. He rushed to the front of the ship's deck, and pulled out his compass. If he was right, the land they had found was *Ananda*, the land of eternal bliss. He rushed to his lead navigator to confirm his findings, and to his delight he was right.

They docked their ship at the shore. Christopher stepped onto the land with his crew behind him, only to be stopped by a figure. The figure was of a woman named Adira: the protector of *Ananda*.

"Let us through," said Christopher. But Adira did not budge. Her figure kept growing bigger and bigger. "Let us through now," said Christopher again, trying to sound tough.

"Only on one condition," she responded.

"Yes?"

“You will leave this land the way you found it, not a single thing should be out of place or missing.”

“You have my word.”

Adira stepped aside to reveal the sacred and untouched land Christopher had discovered. The land was lush and green. The flowers, plants and trees were of colours and shapes he had never seen before. The animals had luscious, silky fur, and had a gleam in their eyes. They were the most majestic animals Christopher had ever seen. Even the sun shone brighter here than it did back home. She let the men pass through and into the land that she had sworn to always protect. They walked for miles through the meadows; through the hills and through the woods until they came across a river that was as clear as a diamond. Tired and exhausted from the voyage, they decided to set up their tents for the night. Christopher walked to the river in order to quench his thirst. He bent down to collect some water in his palms and took a sip. His face lit up with joy.

“This is the best water I have ever tasted!”

He ran back to his men, and invited them to try the water from the river themselves. One by one his men took a sip from the river, and it was as if all their fatigue had disappeared. They had the same response.

“If the water from a river is so delicious, what would the fruits taste like!”

While walking back to the campsite, Christopher spotted a tree. He rushed to it, and plucked a fruit out of the tree. He took one bite of it, and it was like an explosion of flavours in his mouth that he had never tasted before. He called out to his crew.

“Bring a basket with you, and come taste this slice of heaven I found.”

Eagerly he started plucking all the fruits off the tree. A few of his crew members walked to him with baskets in their hands. He spent the rest of the day looking for more trees to gather fruits from and any kind of food he could find. They only stopped when they trees were bare,

and there were no animals left in sight. They trekked back to their campsite, where Adira was waiting for their return. Christopher and his men kept walking, completely oblivious to Adira's presence. As she spoke, she grew bigger and bigger.

"You betrayed me. You broke your word, and now you shall pay for it."

Adira lifted her arms, and smashed all their tents. A ball of fire arose from her palms, and she set their belongings on fire. She reached for Christopher, and held him upside down.

"Help me now!" he cried. The crew members, terrified of Adira's wrath, ran towards the ship ready to escape the place. Christopher tried to fight her. He tried to wriggle out of her grip, but he was unsuccessful. Still raging, she walked to his ship. The crew members were getting the ship ready to leave.

"Not so easily."

A ball of fire appeared in her other hand, and she launched it towards the ship. The sound of the flames drowned the cries of the crew members out. "Don't ever come back here," Adira says as she flung Christopher onto the burning ship. She moved the water in the ocean, which formed big waves and took the ship deeper into the ocean.

The ship still roams the seven seas, burning to this day. It is a reminder of Christopher's actions, haunting any travellers voyaging the seas that set course with similar intentions in mind.