

## The Tale of the Sun and the Moon

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There once were two celestial sisters who roamed the skies. The younger was a radiant sun goddess. Her name was Sunna. She had skin pale as snow, and hair that shone like spun gold. A shimmering crown sat on Sunna's head. Her eyes were blue, icy and cold as a snowstorm. She called herself the queen of the sky, though she was younger than her sister. The eldest was a less radiant, darker goddess. She was Selene. Selene's skin was the color of the ground after rain, with silver hair that matched her eyes. She wore no crown, no fanciful adornments. The only jewelry she wore was a charm on her neck shaped like the waxing crescent of the moon. Selene did not give herself grand titles. She was content in her sister's shadow.

Sunna and Selene both had their time to raise the moon or the sun high in the sky. While Sunna flew on her radiant steed Helios across the sky, the people on Earth rejoiced and played in the warm light the sun brought. However, when Selene and her pack of celestial wolves roamed the sky, the people slept peacefully, hiding from the darkness of the moon. Selene was a quiet goddess, and she enjoyed hunting the skies with her wolf pack at peace. On the other hand, Sunna loved the attention that the mortals gave her. One day, she decided that she did not want to leave the sky to make way for Selene. Her eyes flashed with a malicious glint, a plan forming in her head.

One night while Selene was hunting with her wolves, Sunna crept into her sister's sleeping cave. Both sisters lived in the mountains, but while Selene's cave was small and dark, Sunna's palace was large and bright. The sisters could not be around each

other, or the sun and moon would destroy each other, so they kept to themselves in their homes when they were not in the sky.

Selene could not be around the rays of the sun, because she would be destroyed like a shadow. The sun goddess Sunna lifted her hands, blasting a bright ray of light onto Selene's bed, then covered it with one of Selene's animal pelts. Then, with a cat-like grin, the sun goddess left the cave. When Sunna had to raise the sun, Selene returned to her cave to sleep. She went to her bed and removed the pelt. As soon as the black fur was lifted, Sunna's powerful light weakened her. She collapsed on the ground. What Sunna did not keep in mind was that her bright light would create shadows, and that mistake saved Selene's life. A shadow fell on the edges of Selene's body, keeping her sustained between life and death.

Meanwhile, Sunna cantered across the sky in her cart pulled by Helios, her burningly bright steed. However, when it was time for Selene to begin hunting, her wolf pack grew anxious, searching for their leader. Suddenly, one of the celestial wolves jumped up and bounded across the sky, chasing clouds. The rest of the pack followed. The wolves were tied to the moon chariot, but with no leader to stop them, the moon was pulled across the sky. Since Sunna had not yet left the sky, the wolves caught sight of her fiery stallion and began a great chase. Sunna saw the wolves bounding uncontrolled, and urged her steed faster. In his rush to escape the wolves, Helios fell onto his knees. The sun lurched, threatening to fall out of the sky. Selene's wolves quickly fell upon Helios and Sunna. The bright sun was covered by the moon that the wolves had brought.

The dark circle of the moon was surrounded by a blazing crown, lashes of the sun trying to escape. The fire from the sun raged across the sky, turning it from blue to a deep red. When the people that occupied the mountains saw the uncommon sight, most panicked. However, some were intrigued by the scarlet sky, and named the land that they occupied Colorado, so nobody would ever forget the day that the sky turned red. The fiery lashes around the moon they named the Corona, after the fiery crown that sat upon Sunna's head.

Sunna and Helios were badly wounded, and Sunna was forced to call upon all of her sun rays to form a shield around them. The moment the powerful light was whisked away from Selene's cave, the beautiful goddess aroused from her state of unconsciousness. She slipped outside to see her wolves attacking Sunna and Helios. Selene rushed to her sister's aid, calling the shadow wolves off. They bounded to their goddess. Sunna, grateful for her rescue, declared a truce with the moon goddess. Selene was hesitant, but eventually agreed to her sister's truce. The sisters bonded over time, but could only meet once a year, during an eclipse. The sky never turned red again, but the name Colorado served as a reminder to the people of the fight between the sisters. Since their meetings were rare, each new eclipse was a time of peace and affection between the goddesses, and a time for awe and wonder for humans.