

## **Arom Story Quest Ch. 3 – Gastronomy**

You feel as though you have failed. You were so angry at the Rubites for destroying the Aromi's forest, but now you feel guilty for having placed the blame on them without getting their point of view first. Now, you realize that they are only doing what they need to do in order to survive. Can you really blame them for that? People always do things they wouldn't normally do in the name of survival...

Trudging south through the cave system, you notice some subtle differences; the tunnel is starting to get brighter, as if light were pouring in from somewhere close. You feel happier just seeing the light, so you start to run toward it.... Your jaw drops as you stare in awe at the gorgeous spectacle in front of you.

The sight in front of your eyes is one of the most beautiful things you've ever seen: a vast kingdom where everything is made of glass. As you walk toward it, you notice that even the grass is made of glass. It all looks like it took ages to make, so you decide to walk on the glass roads instead.

You can't help but stare at everything as you walk, especially at the tall towers on the castle. In fact, you stare at the towers so long that you accidentally trip over a small woman. Before you can apologize, she glares at you, says, "Light travels at 300000 km every second!" and then walks away. What a strange person. I hope I never have to run into her again.

Continuing into the kingdom, you notice that everything really is made of glass. But, you also notice something else... Nobody is around! The only person you've seen since you arrived was the weird lady. Where is everyone?

You make your way to the castle gates and read the note posted on the door. It says that the king and queen are very friendly and are always pleased to have guests; you should follow the red carpet down the hall and up the stairs.

You walk inside and stare at the great glass sculptures lining the walls. You also notice the stained glass that projects different hues on the staircase. It's very beautiful.

Once you reach the top of the stairs, you see the king and queen, but they are sleeping. You find another note that says: "Please feel free to eat anything and rest, but do not disturb anyone until 9 p.m." You are a bit surprised and baffled, but there is nothing you can do, so you decide to make yourself a turkey and cheese sandwich and rest until 21:00.

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When you finally awaken, you hear the castle buzzing with activity. You walk out into the open and you see dozens of people running around, excitedly. When you pass by the room where the king and queen were sleeping, you now see them awake and also very excited for something. You carefully enter their room and they jump up to greet you. They are super friendly and say they want to know all about you, but they say that we have to go up to the observatory first.

You follow the king and queen up the tallest tower, which opens up to a bridge that wraps around to a hidden ledge above the kingdom. Off in the distance, toward the opening in the cave that lets light in, you see a gigantic astronomical observatory with three different sized telescopes jutting out the sides at various angles.

We all enter the observatory and then the king and queen introduce themselves...

“Good evening, my young friend, we are Paral and Lel. We are the king and queen of the Glasslands. We are crazy for all things glass and have dabbled in many hobbies, but our favorite so far is Glastronomy. We look into the skies and explore the vast regions of space with our glass telescopes. I think you call the “study of celestial objects” astronomy, if I am not mistaken. We have studied your solar system quite a bit and have noticed that you have glass on your planet, too! How exciting! It looks as though you have something vitally important to speak with us about. But, before you do, please help us to understand your solar system a bit better...”

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**Task:** Paral and Lel are fascinated by all things celestial. They have viewed our solar system quite a bit, but do not know the names of our planets. Your task is to list the planets in order. Write the closest planet to the Sun in the 1) spot and the furthest planet in the 8) spot. (Remember that Pluto is not officially considered a planet anymore).

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ 8) \_\_\_\_\_
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“Thank you very much for telling us the names of the planets in your solar system! That is so exciting! Now, as promised, please tell us your tale...”

You tell them about the Aromi and their forest, as well as about the ruby famine in the Rubite city. After you finish, the king and queen sit down and think, pondering the situation at hand. Then, after a few minutes, they jump up, very excited and say...

“We know how we can help! There is a great Bamboo Forest near here that we’d be glad to let the Rubites use. Bamboo is a type of grass; it is very strong and grows extremely quickly. In fact, some species in that forest have been known to grow at least 20 cm in a single 24-hour day! Because of this, it’s perfect for them! The Rubites can take as much as they need and it won’t hurt the ecosystem. Unfortunately, the bridge to the forest is broken and needs to be repaired before we can get there...”

Could you travel to the Nomba tribe in the desert to the northeast and ask them to bring sand so we can make glass to fix the bridge? Oh, and try to bring some extra sand with you, too; we’d love to make a new telescope! Thanks, my young friend. Safe travels.”