

## Arom Story Quest Ch. 5 – Atop the Mountain!

You travel immediately. The Nomba gave you directions toward the mountain shrine: It is across the bridge, toward the mouth of the cave, but you'll head south before you reach the cave. They also gave you some food and water since the trek is long and dangerous. The crazy lady stayed in the village; they gave her some medicine so she wouldn't be quite as annoying.

After a while, you reach the mountain pass they spoke about. You look up, take a deep breath, and start climbing. At first, the trail is quite easy and simple to move along, but it quickly becomes populated with slippery stones and potential drops to a person's death. Yet, in spite of the butterflies in your stomach, you continue, courageously.

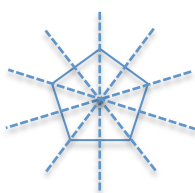
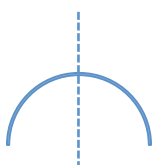
At one point you slip and almost fall off the cliff to your doom, but you manage to grab hold of the edge of a stone. After pulling yourself up, you rest for a few minutes, reflecting on your near death experience and then carry on up the mountain.

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Finally, you reach the summit, where the shrine sits. You go up to it and open the door. It is heavy, but swings open easily. Inside are many, many candles. Some are still lit, but most have burned away, leaving puddles of wax on the stone floor. You hear something, so you step quietly. It is coming from the far wall.

When you get close enough, you hear someone yelling, but you can't understand them. You just know someone is behind it. Adrenaline takes over and you start kicking the wall and trying to push on it. You finally exhaust yourself and fall to the floor. You feel something in your pocket, so you pull it out. It is the scroll that Mailget gave you. You decide that you may as well look at it; she did say its knowledge would help you...

... WE CALL THEM **LINE**S OF **SYMMETRY**. WHEN WE FOLD SOMETHING IN HALF AND BOTH SIDES ARE EXACTLY THE SAME, THEN THAT LINE MADE BY THE FOLD IS CALLED A LINE OF SYMMETRY. THE FOLLOWING FIGURES WILL SHOW WHAT WE MEAN...



AS YOU CAN TELL, THE FIRST IMAGE (AN ARC/SEMICIRCLE/RAINBOW) HAS ONE LINE OF SYMMETRY. THE SECOND (A REGULAR PENTAGON) HAS FIVE LINES OF SYMMETRY. THE LETTER "B" HAS ONE **HORIZONTAL** LINE OF SYMMETRY, WHILE THE LETTER "A" HAS ONE **VERTICAL** LINE OF SYMMETRY.

WE NOMBA FIND GREAT BEAUTY IN SYMMETRY. IT SURROUNDS US. WE ALSO BELIEVE IN THE MAGICAL POWER OF WORDS. EACH SOUND RESONATES IN THE THROAT AND CAUSES IMAGES TO FORM IN THE MIND. SO, YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT THE COMBINATION OF THESE HAS THE POWER TO MOVE MOUNTAINS AND TO CARRY GREAT BURDENS. IT IS PATIENT, STRONG, AND BEAUTIFUL. DISCOVER THIS WORD AND OBTAIN THE POWER TO HELP OTHERS...

**Task:** The ancient scroll tells of an ancient and powerful word. This word is the name of the Nomba's most sacred goddess; she is a strong warrior and she can overcome any obstacles. She is persistent, strong, patient, and beautiful. And, if you speak her name in times of great suffering, she will help give you the power to overcome those struggles.

In order to figure out this word, you must look at the alphabet. First, you should write down (or circle) all the letters that have *vertical* lines of symmetry. Next, you should write down (or put a box around) all the letters that have *horizontal* lines of symmetry. The name you are looking for will be spelled using the letters that have both *vertical and horizontal* lines of symmetry. [Take note that once you've found the letters, you still have to put them in the correct order to form the name. As a hint, the goddess's name sounds similar to how it would sound if we were to "Greet a powerful beast of burden" in English.]

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A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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You yell out the goddess's name, but nothing happens. You try it again, but still nothing. Maybe you have the wrong name? So, you try all combinations of the letters, but still nothing. Surely the name is correct. What is going on?

You start scanning the wall for clues, when you find twenty-six little stones in-between the larger ones. You get very close to them and you can see that they have small letters engraved on them.

Excitedly, you spell out the goddess's name using them and you hear a loud click! You push on the wall and find that it now swings open easily. Even before it fully opens, an old man jumps out, hugs you, thanks you, and shakes your hand furiously.

He tells you that he came up here to find a hidden scroll that holds the key to surviving the drought, but that the wall accidentally shut and locked behind him. He was certain he would die, so he prayed to the goddess to help him so he can save his people. He knew his prayers were answered when he heard you come into the shrine.

Despite being grateful and excited, he looks very weak. It is also getting dark outside, so you decide it's best to camp at the shrine for the night. You make a fire and start cooking. He drinks a lot of water, eats tons of food, and then passes out. You clean up a bit, cover him with blankets, and then drift off to dreamland yourself.