

RESOLUTION'S NEW YEAR

Resolution was born after Promise, son of Faith and Determination. They were all noble and admirable in their own ways, but Resolution was jealous, short-tempered, and misleading. He wanted to be revered as much as his brother but was always overshadowed by Promise's achievements, and greatly resented this. Everyone believed in Promise – he who fulfilled all his vows had won great respect from the populace over the years. Resolution knew he was not strong enough to overthrow Promise, so he decided to simply be his brother's downfall, to the detriment and sacrifice of what little power he did enjoy.

One winter, during the season's festivities, Resolution was introduced to Deception – a great enemy of his brother. Together, they devised a plan to blacken Promise's reputation.

They chose the last day of the year to begin their coup. While everyone was drunk and merry, Deception and his sidekicks spread the word that tonight was the best night to make a solemn self-commitment, to be carried out throughout the year. It would be called the New Year's Resolution, in honor of Promise's brother. At first, people were not convinced. They knew Resolution to be a cheat, and did not wish to honor such a being, but sip by sip, as the alcohol went down faster and their senses became numb to intuition, the people fell prey to brainwash.

“Resolution is a changed man,” they were told, “And he wishes to mark the day of his reform with the populace as a sign of unity and friendship. This vow he makes tonight with all of you present, he encourages you to undertake as well. Make yourselves a deep and honourable commitment. Anything, as long as you go through with it all the way.”

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The people became intoxicated with this innovative concept, and were fervently enthused with the idea of setting a goal for themselves – after all, the beginning of a new year marked the beginning of a new life, didn't it?

And so they did this...

As the months passed, Deception permeated the dreams of every person while they slept. He merged with their thoughts of a better tomorrow, and implanted seeds of his own self that would pollute their unsuspecting minds. Little by little, they would give up on their resolutions and stop acting on their dreams.

With time, this affected their belief in making promises to themselves and to others, and ultimately, they lost their faith in holding their promises.

They became bitter, shunning Promise and his parents. Resolution was nowhere to be seen at that point.

Trust – Promise's true love – was the next to fall. Nobody wanted to see her anymore. The act of promising implied the act of trusting, of believing. When you no longer believe you can count on someone, especially yourself, you begin to lose your love for Life and Friendship and fall into the clutches of Depression.

Seeing what was happening, Hope and Conviction stepped in with their army. They tracked down Resolution, who was in hiding with his lover Cowardice. They were taken for questioning to the House of Love, from which Cowardice was soon to escape.

"You," Love began, "Who have marred the happiness of so many with your lies and treachery in order to satiate your own; what have you to say for yourself?"

Resolution remained silent.

"You have dared to deny to others that which you have selfishly taken for yourself, put your whole family in disgrace and turned away from them without looking back. Now, the woman you have been with these past weeks has deserted you. I

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ask only this; what have you really gained from it all?"

Resolution was speechless for some time, "I only wanted people to look upon me as they did my brother," he finally stuttered, having been struck hard by Cowardice's flight.

"We are all born to shine like the brightest star in our own ways, Resolution. It is up to each one of us to make this choice, not undermine the gifts of others. Our path is to show up for who and what we are, and allow others to do the same for themselves."

Resolution was holding back tears of betrayal. His fists were clenched, and his pain grew larger than the House of Love, which covered the face of the Earth.

"You must tell the populace what you have done, and work to restore their faith in your brother and family. If not, you shall continue to suffer the consequences of your own machinations; not because I say so, but because you made it happen this way. Do you wish to be alone and cheated, Resolution?"

"No," he faintly replied.

The task was not as hard as they had at first imagined. The populace seemed ready to believe Promise again, though they naturally held some reservations about Resolution. With concerted effort on everyone's part, peace and harmony were eventually restored for all involved.

They found his sandals at the river's edge by the House of Love the following New Year's Day, and a boat was missing. Nobody ever knew what became of Resolution. Every year since then, in order to commemorate him and to renew their faith in themselves, people make their New Year's Resolutions, knowing that if they don't fulfill them they will still believe in Promises, because we can always resolve to make changes and give our lives new meaning at any given moment.