

## LCC 2023 Conlang Relay Ring I

### *The Torch in English*

There was a country in a forest of large birch trees. The country's monarch Lok'a had a knife hidden in their crown.

The creature Epe resided in a different part of the forest. They had long hair all over their body but walked on two long legs like a normal person. When people travelled in their forest, Epe would, usually through magic, create a vision of a large and terrible group of soldiers. The magical group of soldiers would bring the travellers to Epe, and they would say this to them: 'You must choose. Either my soldiers kill you, or you give me all you have and they will not.'

T'idu lived outside the forest. The monarch hated them, but the monarch's sibling Thiye desired them. They wanted [T'idu] to take them away from their home in the forest and marry them. To this end they made a plan.

They had heard of Epe's actions against the travellers in the forest, and they thought this: 'If I can get Lok'a and Thiye to encounter Epe, Epe will take Thiye away from Lok'a. After that, they [?] can trade with Epe and have Thiye alone. Maybe Lok'a would bring their soldiers (which are more numerous than mine), but my soldiers and the magic soldiers would outnumber them!'

T'idu told Epe of their plan and promised they would trade with them after taking the monarch's sibling. Epe sent the magic soldiers after Thiye and Lok'a, and Epe took Thiye, and Epe gave Thiye to T'idu.

But Lok'a ran to their home and gathered their soldiers. Lok'a surprised and would follow T'idu and their soldiers after they had left the forest. Two groups of real soldiers and fighters, until the monarch used the knife hidden in their crown and ended the fight. T'idu and their followers ran away from the forest, and Thiye went home again.