Rainbow

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by lah mrh

Summary

The Enterprise visits a very rainy planet.

Notes

Written for the Fandom Empire prompt "Rainbow".

La'an pulls her hood tighter, glancing around her for potential threats. Not that she expects to find any; they've been here for two days now and the most dangerous thing she's seen is a badly behaved rodent. By all accounts, Aguaria is a safe planet, if a very wet one. According to Spock, who has somehow managed to avoid coming on this particular mission, the upper regions of the main continent - which is where they currently are - can receive an average of 1.5 metres of rain per year.

Today is actually a relatively dry day, apparently, minor drizzle interspersed with brief showers. There are even some sunny patches, appearing intermittently as if teasing them that the rain might eventually stop.

Their guide doesn't seem to notice the water, his large webbed feet strolling through the puddles as if they're not even there. The captain seems to be attempting to engage him in discussion, but from what she can see he isn't having much success. She doesn't doubt his diplomatic skills, but the Aguarians are a laconic and superstitious people, and earning enough of their trust to allow any kind of meaningful trade or dialogue is said to be difficult at best.

The sun comes out again, peeking briefly through the clouds, and the guide stops dead, pointing up at the sky. "Look," he says. "The great arch."

La'an looks, squinting through the rain. For a moment she doesn't know what he means, but then she sees it, a burst of colour across the otherwise grey sky.

"We call it a rainbow," Pike tells the guide. "It's seen as a sign of good fortune among my people."

"And among ours," the guide replies. He studies Pike speculatively for a moment, before striding off quickly. "Come, we have much to discuss."

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