

Legend of Pele

Hi everyone, this is Nancy. Today is May 29th, 2021. How are you doing? Dharma is everywhere. Everything could be telling us something. Today, I would like to share a legend with you, the legend of Pele, the Hawaii volcanic goddess. This legend has different versions. I learned about this legend when visiting the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. In the museum by the volcanic crater, there are beautiful paintings of Pele. She is typically painted out of a volcano. Here is the legend.

It's said that Pele came from Tahiti, the largest island in French Polynesia, the South Pacific archipelago. Pele oversaw volcanos. She was eccentric, moody and very violent. Her sister, Namakaokahai, oversaw the ocean water and the tides. It's said that Pele seduced her sister, Namakaokahai's husband and her sister was furious and went to condemn Pele. Pele's father decided to send Pele out of Tahiti. Pele's brother, Kamohoalii, got a dugout canoe and Pele and her brother left Tahiti together and came to Hawaii. The island they first arrived at was Kauai. Not long after, Pele's sister followed them to Kauai too. To protect the fire seed, Pele must dig a hole. Every time, when she dug out a hole (volcano crater), her sister would extinguish the fire with ocean water. In the fighting, Pele's brother died. Pele was not her sister's match, so she backed off to the south east. She got away from Kauai and arrived at the island of Oahu. On the island of Oahu, Pele dug another big hole to protect the fire seed from her sister's tsunami attack. This big hole is the Diamond Head Volcano Crater. But the Diamond Head Volcano Crater was not high enough, so Pele went to Molokai Island. Molokai island was too small, so she went to the island of Maui. There, she made Haleakala volcano. Pele could fend off her sister's attack first. However, when Pele's sister reattacked the island of Maui, Pele was torn into two parts and her soul became a goddess. It's said that every time when Goddess Pele is angry, volcano would erupt.

Ever since the first time I went to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and read this legend of Volcano Goddess, this legend just came to my mind from time to time. If I were Pele, I know I would not do the thing Pele did. But what if I were Pele's sister? What would I do? I have wondered on this question many times.

From this legend, you could see that Pele's initial desire, attachment was like the fire seed that started all this series of violent fighting, the formation and eruption of volcanos, and the death of her brother. If at the beginning, she could be mindful enough to recognize and extinguish her desire, look for another way out, then everything would not happen. If Pele's brother-in-law could resist the temptation at the beginning, everything would also not happen. If Pele's sister could let go of her attachment, then everything would also just stop right there. Of course this is just a legend and may not true, but it may apply to many things in reality. All the wars, conflicts, contradictions, may just start from some desire, some greed, some ego, some arrogance, or some anger in the mind, which is the seed. The seed would grow when conditions allow. Do you agree?

Amitabha! A still mind, a mindful mind definitely will help quiet down the chaos in the world. Thank you everyone for being here watching this video. I will see you next time. Bye.