

The Ai-mo have always revered nature, seeking harmony with the elements and the spirit of the mighty Oo-li.

Among their sacred traditions, one stood out—the Pe Lo chili. It was mainly used in very low concentrations as a spice, reserved for the royal family, and said to possess extraordinary power, granting those who consumed it the ability to dive into others minds. The validity of the rumours surrounding this fruit was unknown, but the Ai-mo were curious and decided to experiment.

And so, on one fateful day, the Ai-mo gathered in their central temple. Tension rose as the high priest stepped forward. In his hands, he held a single Pe Lo chili—a vibrant red pod that seemed to pulse with energy.

The tribe watched closely, as he raised the chili to his lips. With a single bite, the world shifted. Colours intensified, sounds became symphonies, and thoughts flowed like rivers. The high priest's eyes widened, and he staggered back. The minds of those around him were laid bare—their fears, desires, and memories exposed.

Word spread swiftly through the valleys; The Pe Lo chili was no ordinary spice; it was a conduit to the very essence of consciousness. But the Ai-mo soon realised that this gift could be both a blessing and a curse. They feared the chaos that mind control might unleash upon their peaceful existence.

And so, a decree was issued: only the high priests were allowed to partake of the Pe Lo chili. They would wield its power judiciously, guiding their people toward enlightenment and unity. The now so called “Mindbenders” became revered figures, having access to hidden knowledge. They could sway decisions or soothe conflicts—with a mere thought.

However, the other tribes of the square were not blind to this newfound power. They watched from afar, with their envy growing every day. Some whispered that the Ai-mo hoarded their secret, while others plotted to steal it. The Mindbenders knew that their monopoly on the chili could not last forever. And so, they devised a plan. They reached out to neighboring tribes, offering trade and alliances. In exchange for a taste of the Pe Lo chili, they demanded loyalty and rare resources. The Mindbenders became diplomats, weaving intricate webs of influence across the land. Soon, other tribes trained their own Mindbenders—each owing their abilities to the Pe Lo chili.

Yet, the Ai-mo remained watchful. They remembered the time when Bardur had managed to steal their sacred scrolls, seeking forbidden knowledge. The Mindbenders knew that their power could corrupt them as well, so they vowed to protect their legacy, people and home from the unsure future.