

Stories

of

Jah Lemon

part six

Between Grapefruit and Spring

Celebrating Citrus Drinks

Natty Mark Samuels

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Dedication

to

Pastor Derrick Dunkley

Chair of Edgbaston Community Centre, Birmingham

and to

Julia Wagstaff

Administrator of Edgbaston Community Centre, Birmingham

for hosting the Blue Plaque ceremony for IDA B WELLS

and for inviting me to deliver a workshop at the event

Between Grapefruit and Spring

And Spring said to Grapefruit " Throughout the colder months, you and your family have fulfilled your annual task of protection, lessening the occurrence of the seasonal hindrances, such as colds and flus. The one that is supposed to come after me, seems to have come early! Everyone seems to be smiling, grinning, at the recent indulgence from the one in the sky: I hear them talking of an early summer. Come Grapefruit, between you and I and your clan, we shall bless them with the souvenirs of Creation."

Grapefruit

Time again for you and me, Orange;
Alongside peppermint,
And our old companion honey.

Orange

Yes, I can see they're ready for us,
For a glass of Iced Mint Tea.

Spring

Another drink that seems to be popular, is one with the contribution from one of your smaller clan members. I am spirit, but even I like the thought of a fusion of coconut milk, yogurt and lime juice. I imagine the blending of the aforementioned three with ice cubes, served in a tall glass, with embellishments from that smaller member: slices of him on the rim, of a Lassi of Coconut and Lime.

Grapefruit

Yes Spring, a very popular beverage. Like all of us, Brother Lime is kept busy all year round; medicinally, as well as in the culinary zone. Because of his size, we sometimes tease him, calling him Jolly Green Giant! But we all know he makes a valued contribution to the healing bag, the same as the rest of the Rutaceae Family: he is little, but he is big. He comes from citron, one of the Citrus Ancestors, as I come from Pomelo, one of the other, of the four Citrus Ancestors.

Spring

I bring forth so much, I forget certain aspects. Please remind me again, of the other two in that great Citrus Quartet.

Grapefruit

With pleasure! The other two are mandarin and papeda, all four from Asia.

Spring

Of course, how can I forget, especially mandarin! Only the other day, a young couple were sitting in there back garden, under a parasol, making a....

Mandarin

They make a mojito from me,
For I am mandarin.
Using rum, cane juice,
Mint leaves and lime juice:
And water that is sparkling.

Grapefruit

And in that particular recipe, tangerine can be used instead of mandarin; the descendent instead of the ancestor.

Spring

No trouble with the Generation Gap in your family, is there Grapefruit?

Grapefruit

That's right Spring, the elders and the younger ones interact very well. Going back to Grandfather Pomelo, one of the more unusual ones featuring him, is one that calls for...

Tablespoons of cane sugar
And of grated fresh ginger:
Input from pomelo zest.
The aroma drifts upwards,
Birds linger and hover,
Descending from their nests.
Juice from pomelo and lemon,
Non-alcoholic beer:
Come, it is time to take a rest.

Spring

What's that one called?

Grapefruit

It is called Sparkling Pomelo Ginger Shandy. If I remember correctly, the woman who created the recipe, did so as a health tonic, but also as an alternative to drinking beer during a pregnancy.

Spring

I see; very inventive. You and your clan inspire people endlessly.

Grapefruit

Yes Spring, it appears that we do: but so do you, wondrously.

Spring

Yes, I guess I do. Now, we can't leave papeda and citron out, after mentioning the other two. I don't want to be accused of favouritism, like the parent or grandparent I sometimes see, who favours one child over another. I know one for citron, but you'll have to help me out with papeda.

Grapefruit

Certainly.

Spring.

You've heard of it for sure: Citron Presse, otherwise known as French Lemonade. Apparently, its very popular in French cafes. Its content list features five ingredients: water, sugar, mint, lemon juice and lemon peel. A simple, but obviously enjoyable drink. Over to you now, for the papeda suggestion

Grapefruit

Well, I'll probably go for one featuring a descendent of the papeda, the yuzu, popular in China, Japan and Korea. It also features another member of our family, as well as a herbal tea.

Yuzu

I am Yuzu;
With simple syrup
And soda water.

Kumquat

I am Kumquat;
With sprig of mint
And a little cucumber

Yuzu and Kumquat

We are here to make a mocktail,
Of Yuzu, Kumquat and Chamomile.

Spring

There are so many we could mention! Such as Orange and Cardoman Tea or Mandarin and Mango Chill.

Grapefruit

Orange and Ginger Tea or Lemon Barley Water.

Spring

Raspberry Lemonade or Orange and Passionfruit Crush

Grapefruit

Lemon and Vanilla or Clementine and Carrot.

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