

Chens Adventure

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Chapter 1

One day a girl named Chen, asked her Mother if she could visit her Great Grandma Sakura, who lived in Ancient China at the foot of the great Mountain Zhini. Chen was twelve years old, and she loved visiting her Grandma Sakura, because it gave her a chance to get away, from the small busy town where she lived with her Mother. She never met her Father, who died before she was born.

"I think Ma- Sakura would enjoy a visit," You haven't seen her since you were ten," said Chens Mother. Chen was looking forward especially, to hearing the chilling stories that MaSakura would tell about the Mysterious Mountain Zhini, which was famous for its Magical Forest among the Villagers. MaSakura also had a pet white wolf, with blue eyes, named Yelan, that she raised from a pup, she found him lost, on the small dirt road in front of her cottage. Yelan loved to eat meat, but he did not like to hunt. Ma-Sakura would say that Yelan was the spirit of Great Grampa Sausuke, come back to watch over her.

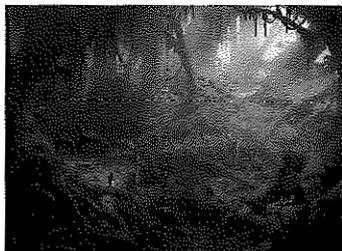
Chen decided to spend the night with Ma-Sakura, instead of returning home with her Mother, because she wanted to go on a picnic with Ma-Sakura the next day. That night before bed, Ma-Sakura told Chen a story about an old, wise Monk, that lived in a cave at the top of the Great Mountain. He never came down the mountain, as the story goes, this mysterious



Monk was said to have mystical powers, and he was waiting, but no one knew why.

The next day around noon, Chen and Ma-Sakura packed a picnic basket full of fresh fruits and sandwiches, and snacks for Yelan, and headed for a clearing in the forest, where other families would also come to enjoy picnic lunches, and fish in the nearby stream. Chen noticed that they forgot to pack the strawberries with their lunch, and asked Ma-Sakura if she should go back to the cottage to get them. "No, child", said MaSakura, "Just over that hill, is a small strawberry patch, Yelan will go with you, just follow him there". She called Yelan over, and they disappeared behind the hill, as Ma-Sakura watched.

Suddenly! a flock of birds flew up from some bushes on the side of the trail, and Yelan began to chase after them. "Come back Yealn!", shouted Chen, as she ran behind him toward the edge of the forest, "Stop Yelan! Don't go in there!" , but it was too late, Yelan disappeared into the woods. Chen followed after Yelan, and spotted him in a clearing by a rock, being petted by an old man. "Get away from him Yelan!", she yelled, but he didn't come to her. The old man looked at Chen, and waved at her to come over, "I just want my pet!" said Chen. The old man turned to walk away, Yelan ran behind him deeper into the forest, Chen decided to follow them at a distance.



They seemed to climb higher and higher, until they came to a cave at the top of the mountain. The cave seemed to be filled with light, and the old man entered in as Yelan followed him. Chen could no longer see them, she could only hear Yelan whimpering from inside the cave, she slowly approached the cave, where she saw the old man giving Yelan some water. "Don't drink that!" she yelled, and ran over to stop the wolf from drinking, just then she saw a beautiful pool of clear blue water, nested in the middle of the cave. Chen slowly walked over to get a closer look at the pool, when suddenly, the old man appeared, she took a step back, "Don't be afraid", said the old man, "I mean you no harm".

The old man seemed to float, as he approached Chen, his face was glowing like a star and reminded her of a monkey. "My name is Chi-yen", he said, and "I have been here for many years". "Why?", asked Chen. Chi-yen explained that he was waiting for someone special to take his place, and become the keeper of the staff. He told her that this staff had magical powers, and it was his duty to train its' next keeper.

He stretched out his arm and immediately the staff came to him. He held the staff toward Chen, it flew into her hands, and began to glow. "You are the Chosen One", said Chi-yen, "but you must be willing to stay here with me, for training". Chi-yen



also gave her a small gold coin, and told her she had 24 hours to decide, if she chose to stay, she would place the coin on her forehead, if not, she was to throw it in the stream, and she would forget what happened.

Before Chen could say another word, Chi-yen took the staff and suddenly Chen was back at her Grandmas' cottage, in her bed with Yelan lying next to her, not sure if she just dreamt the whole thing. Chen checked the covers as she made the bed, and she also checked under the bed, but she could not find the coin, she got dressed and went to eat breakfast with Ma-Sakura, before her Mother arrived to pick her up. As Chen sat down to eat her Grandma asked, "Did you lose this Chen?" , and slid the small gold coin on the table. Chen looked at the coin in surprise.