

# *LOST LOVE*

## **The Beginning**



Our story begins in the summer of 1636 in a small village nestled in the trees along the shore of the mighty river that flows from the mountains to the sea.

In this place, two young children began their adventure, though they had no idea what was to come. Their names were Pino and Mohito.

Their families lived close to each other, but their parents were not very good friends. The families were fighting most of the time because their fathers, Kinta and Longo, were always competing with each other. They had been friends when they were younger. However their friendship ended when they both fell in love with the same girl. They had a big fight and it continued to that time. (In the end, the girl married another man.)

Pino and Mohito played together, even though their parents said no. They liked to go to the forest to look for mushrooms and berries. They would run and hide from each other and play until it was almost dark. It was especially fun to do this in the summer when the grass was tall, but most of the time Pino and Mohito stayed at their homes helping their parents.

Pino was with his father learning to fish and to hunt for food.

Mohito stayed with her mother learning how to make clothing and to cook.

This was the life in their village. Every person had a job to do and by working together, the village was a happy place to live. They shared all they had with each other.

The more Pino and Mohito played together, the closer they became. Sometimes they would pretend that they were married and dreamed about having children of their own. It was a great time for them to be alive. They only wished that they could tell their parents about the feelings they had for each other.

One day, when Pino and Mohito were about twelve years old, a strange boat appeared in the river. All of the people went to the bank of the river to see what this thing might be. They had never seen anything like it before.

Suddenly there was a loud noise. Then smoke rose into the air. Just as suddenly, there was another loud noise as something fell from the sky and hit the ground.

All of the people ran in many directions, not knowing what this was.

Another and another loud noise came from the boat in the river and large objects fell from the sky around them.

The people ran into the forest to hide.

As they watched from behind the trees, smaller boats came to the edge of the river. The strange men got out and walked up the river toward the village.

They had never seen anyone like them before.

The strangers searched and then burned the houses. They yelled loudly as they destroyed everything they saw.

After a long time the strangers began to leave.

Pino, and some of the other young men, got angry and ran out of the forest after the strangers, yelling at them to go away.

Their fathers tried to stop them, but it was too late. The strangers turned and grabbed the young men and carried them away.

The women in the forest began to cry, especially Mohito. Where were the young men going? What was going to happen to them?

Several years passed and Mohito could not forget Pino. Mohito was now old enough to get married, but she did not love any of the men in her village. She could only think of Pino.

One day, a stranger came to the village to sell them things he had purchased in the big city. He told tales of the city and the great buildings that were there. He told of how people in big ships from a far off place had built the city and that they had many slaves. These slaves were from different places and some of them spoke the language of Mohito's people.

Mohito got excited. Maybe Pino was one of those slaves. Maybe she could go to the city and save him. Maybe she could find her true love.

Mohito began to make plans to go to the city. She listened carefully to everything the stranger said. She wanted to know all she could about how to get to the city and what to expect when she got there.

The stranger told of the many dangers in the forest he had to overcome on his journey. He told of wild animals and thick forests. He told of other people he had met along the way who were not very friendly. He told of how the weather could become dangerous. He told of the many perils he had encountered on his journey from the city.

Mohito listened intently and remembered every detail. She was going to go to the city to see if what he had said was true. Ever since Pino had disappeared, she felt in her heart that he was still alive. After hearing the story, she decided that she was going to find him. She knew now was the time to go.

A few days later, Mohito decided she was ready to leave. She had a small bag with the things she thought she would need.

In the middle of the night, she quietly walked out of her house and walked along the edge of the river toward the sea. She used the light of the moon to see her way.

Until now, she had never gone very far from the village so she had to remember what the stranger had said about the way to the city. She was both excited and afraid as she began her journey.

When she heard the noise of the ocean, as the waves crashed on the beach, she knew she was far from her village. She had never been so far from her home, but she was not going to return to her home until she found her true love, Pino.

Mohito followed the directions she remembered from the man who had visited her village. The big rocks on the side of the hill told her to go to the left. She went up the hill, climbing the big rocks, and when she got to the top, she could not believe how beautiful the view was. The ocean stretched farther than the eye could see. Clouds floated by in the sky and white birds soared above her. The sun was coming up and its orange color reflected off the water.

She stood and stared out at the sea. She knew that she was following her destiny and that she would find Pino, it was just a matter of time.

She followed the shore of the sea until she came to a thick forest. Between the trees she found an opening where there was a path to follow. This was exactly how she remembered the story.

Once inside of the forest, it became very dark. The trees blocked the sunlight and it was difficult for her to see her way.

Suddenly she felt like something was watching her. She became very nervous. She walked faster and faster, but the feeling was still there. She looked behind her, but she did not see anything.

She ran until she became so tired she had to stop and rest. She leaned up against a tree and took long breaths of air.

She put her head down to help her get more relaxed. When she looked up, in front of her was a huge snake. She was so surprised she was unable to scream. The snake was hanging from a branch of the tree above her and was going back and forth looking at her face.

The traveler had told her about the snakes in the forest and how dangerous they were. He told how they hang in the trees waiting for someone to come along and then, when the person least expected it, they would bite the person and then eat them.

To the surprise of Mohito, the snake began to talk.

“What are you doing in my forest?” the snake asked.

Mohito was very surprised and did not know what to say at first. She finally

became calm enough to speak.

“I’m on a quest to find my true love. His name is Pino and he was taken from me many years ago. I’m going to the great city to find him. Please don’t hurt me. If you do, I’ll never find him and he’ll be alone for the rest of his life,” Mohito begged the snake.

“You’re looking for your long lost love? How sweet. I’ve never met anyone like you. I bet you’ll taste very delicious. Since you have a sweet heart, you must be very sweet to eat!” the snake said, as he snapped at Mohito.

Mohito jumped out of the way and the snake hit the tree instead.

The snake shook its head in obvious pain.

“Why did you do that?” the snake inquired.

“I didn’t want you to eat me. Why do you want to eat me?” Mohito asked.

“I need meat and you look like you would be very delicious,” the snake answered.

Mohito was an excellent hunter. She had learned to hunt with Pino before he disappeared. She looked around for a moment and then took a small knife out of her bag. She threw it past the snake and hit a squirrel that had stopped to watch the snake eat Mohito.

Mohito ran over to the squirrel, picked it up, and gave it to the snake to eat.

“I’ve never had anyone do this for me before,” the snake said as it ate the squirrel in one swallow.

While the snake ate, Mohito ran down the trail toward a light at the end of the forest. The snake was too busy eating to notice that Mohito had gone.

When she got to the middle of the forest, she did not realize that there was a bog of quicksand. Mohito fell into the bog and sank up to her waist. The more she tried to get free, the further she sank into the mud.

She screamed for help, but realized there was no one to help her. She began to sink deeper and deeper until she was up to her neck in the quicksand.

Just then, something dropped down in front of her. She grabbed it and it pulled her out of the mud. When she looked up, she realized it was the snake.

“Why did you help me? Do you still want to eat me?” Mohito asked the snake.

“No, I don’t want to eat you anymore. The squirrel you gave me will last for several days. I wanted to thank you for the meal, but you left. When I followed you here I realized you were in trouble, so I decided to help you,” the snake informed her.

“Thank you so much. I would be dead if you had not helped me,” Mohito said thankfully. “I must now get clean and then continue on my journey to the city.”

“Do you need help finding your way?” the snake asked.

Very surprised, Mohito asked, “Do you know the way to the city?”

“Yes, just follow me and I’ll take you there,” the snake offered. “Because of your kindness to me, all of the snakes in the forest will help you. From now on you’ll be safe.”

Mohito was now very excited. She had a new friend and he was going to show her the way to the city.

**VOCABULARY** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. nestled _____   | a. unusual, odd           |
| 2. village _____   | b. unsafe, perilous       |
| 3. pretend _____   | c. protected, sheltered   |
| 4. strange _____   | d. fly with ease          |
| 5. yell _____      | e. worried, uneasy        |
| 6. dangerous _____ | f. small town             |
| 7. stretch _____   | g. journey with a purpose |
| 8. soar _____      | h. spread, enlarge        |
| 9. nervous _____   | i. speak in a loud voice  |
| 10. quest _____    | j. imaginary, invented    |

**TRUE / FALSE**

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|---|-------|
| 1. The village was in the mountains high above the city.    | T / F |
| 2. The village was close to the city.                       | T / F |
| 3. Pino's and Mohito's fathers were best friends.           | T / F |
| 4. Pino learned to hunt and fish.                           | T / F |
| 5. Pino disappeared into the forest.                        | T / F |
| 6. Pino and Mohito were in love.                            | T / F |
| 7. All of the men in the village chased the strangers away. | T / F |
| 8. Mohito got married when she was old enough.              | T / F |
| 9. Mohito listened to the man who came to her village.      | T / F |
| 10. Mohito went on a quest to find Pino.                    | T / F |

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What year did the story take place? \_\_\_\_
  - a) 1636
  - b) 1736
  - c) 1837
  - d) 1789
  
2. Who was taken away from the village? \_\_\_\_
  - a) Pino and his friends
  - b) Mohito and her friends
  - c) the men of the village
  - d) the animals
  
3. Who went to look for Pino? \_\_\_\_
  - a) his father
  - b) his mother
  - c) his brother
  - d) Mohito
  
4. Who told the stories about the big city? \_\_\_\_
  - a) Pino
  - b) a stranger selling goods
  - c) a man from the big ship
  - d) Mohito

**COMPREHENSION:** (*Write a complete sentence to answer the question.*)

1. Where was the village located?

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2. What did Pino and Mohito usually do in the summer?

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3. Why did their parents say they could not play together?

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4. What did the strangers in the boat do to the village?

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5. What did Mohito's mother teach her to do?

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6. What did Mohito do when the stranger told about the city?

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7. When did Mohito leave her village?

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8. What did Mohito see when she climbed to the top of the rocks?

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9. What did Mohito feed to the snake?

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10. What had happened to Mohito so the snake needed to save her?

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