

LOST LOVE

The City



It took several days to walk through the forest. The snake helped Mohito along the way. She used her hunting skills to not only feed herself but also the snake. It was the best thing she could do for the snake since it had been helping her to find her way.

The forest began to thin as the sun came through the branches more and more. She walked until in front of her she could see the city.

She had never seen anything like it before. The buildings were big and the wall made of logs around it was strong. Smoke rose from the houses and the noise coming from inside of the city was very loud

When she walked through the gate into the city, she saw many horses doing many different jobs. People were going from place to place in such a hurry. The smell was strong and the noise was even worse. As she walked down the street she watched the people, but no one seemed to notice her. They were too busy. The streets were narrow and dirty.

She could not understand the language of the people as they talked. Some of them seemed angry while others seemed to be worried. She could only understand the expressions on their faces.

While she was walking, she saw a number of young men working very hard. They were working on many different projects around the city. Usually there was an older man yelling at them and hitting them with sticks.

She realized they were slaves. Mohito did not like this. She could only think about Pino and she hoped that he was not one of these who were being so badly mistreated.

Mohito walked and walked until she became so tired she had to sit down. The city was big and it had taken her the rest of the day to reach the other side.

She found a tree along the wall and sat beneath it. Soon she was fast asleep.

She awoke the next morning and felt very hungry. She had not eaten since she arrived in the city. Close to the tree, she saw a garden. There were many things to eat in the garden, so she went to pick some vegetables.

While she was eating, a lady came out of the house and started screaming at her and chased her away with a stick. Mohito did not understand what she was saying, and she did not understand why the woman was so angry. In her village, they shared everything with everyone.

Mohito carried the food she had taken and ate it as she ran away. The lady was still yelling at her as she disappeared onto the next street.

Mohito continued to walk, looking for Pino. She knew he was close, she could feel him. She knew it was just a matter of time before she would find him. She was smiling as she was thinking about how wonderful it would be for them to find each other again.

Every once in a while, she would wonder if Pino would recognize her, or even if he would still love her, but she always put her doubts aside and kept positive thoughts in her mind.

When she reached the plaza in the center of the city, the people were gathering and cheering. She moved to a place where she could see clearly. What Mohito saw were many young men who were tied together and following a man on a horse. They were being led out of the city.

The people of the town followed.

Mohito followed behind because she was curious about why the townspeople were so excited. There was music and singing as the people walked together out of the city.

They stopped at a large field just outside the city gates. Once everyone arrived at

the field, the people formed a large circle.

Mohito could not see very much. Every time she tried to move to the front, another person would push her away and say something to her in a very mean voice. This did not stop Mohito from trying.

For a few moments, the crowd was silent. The men on the field were given long sticks with a basket on the end. They were separated into two groups and lined up on opposite sides of the field. Then a ball was thrown into the air and the two teams ran into the middle of the field to get the ball.

Players were hit over the head and were bleeding. Others were running with the ball only to be knocked down and forced to give the ball away. The crowd was cheering loudly as the game went on. More and more of the young men were on the ground unable to continue. The faster players were able to avoid being struck by a stick.

Mohito did not understand what was going on. She heard the players yell out in pain when they were hit. She tried to see if it was Pino who was on the ground, but fortunately, none of the players she could see were him.

The game went on for a long time, and the crowd continued to cheer and scream for their favorite players.

There was a loud whistle and everyone went silent. Suddenly the game had stopped.

Mohito jumped up and down trying to see what was happening now. She saw a tree not far from the field and decided to climb it to get a better view.

When she got there, the tree was already full of children. She climbed up and found a spot where she could sit and see what was going on. The children yelled at her, but she did not care. She could now see the players on the field.

The young men were in the middle of the field and older man was talking to them. Many of the players had been taken off the field and were receiving medical attention. None of them was Pino.

When she looked back at the center of the field, the others lifted one of the young

men into the air. They were cheering. The young man had something in his hands and he was holding it above his head smiling. It was Pino!

Mohito jumped down from the tree and ran to the crowd. She tried to go through them to get to Pino, but no one would let her through.

She yelled, “Pino, Pino!” but the crowd was so noisy he could not hear her.

The young men were cheering as they carried Pino toward the city gate. The people who followed behind were also cheering for him. Mohito could only follow and hope that she could find him once they were inside of the city.

The crowd was big and moved slowly.

By the time Mohito got inside of the city, the young men and Pino had disappeared. She had no idea where they had gone. Now she had to search for him again, but at least she knew that he was alive and safe.

Mohito didn’t know how to ask for help since she did not speak the language of the people around her. She just walked up one street and down the next. She got tired, but she did not stop. She knew he was there. She had come too far to give up now.

Mohito began to get discouraged. She was thirsty, and she was hungry. She sat down to take a rest.

Just then, a nice woman came up to her and spoke in a language she did not understand.

Mohito answered, “I’m sorry, I don’t understand you.”

The lady replied in Mohito’s language, “Are you OK?”

Mohito was very surprised but happy that she had met someone who spoke her language.

The nice woman gave her some bread and some water to drink.

While Mohito ate and drank, she told about her journey and why she had come to the city. She continued by telling the lady about her true love Pino and how the other players held him up.

“Oh my! Your friend Pino was the winner of the game today. He has won his

freedom. He has been a slave for many years, but because he won the match today, he is free to go. We must hurry before he leaves. He must to be planning to return to his village very soon,” the lady explained to Mohito.

Mohito was now very excited. The lady was going to take her to where Pino was living.

Mohito kept saying to the woman, “Hurry, we must Hurry!” but she was old and could not walk fast.

When they got to the place where the slaves were kept, there were many men outside to make sure that none of the slaves inside escaped.

“Where is Pino, I don’t see Pino!” Mohito began to panic.

“I’ll ask,” the woman replied.

She walked over to one of the guards and talked to him for a few minutes. When she returned she did not look happy.

“He’s gone. They’ve already taken him to the city gate,” she informed Mohito.

“I must get to the gate quickly. Pino doesn’t know the way home. I must show him or he’ll have many dangers along the way!” Mohito yelled as she ran faster than ever toward the gate of the city.

It was late in the day and the sun was very hot. Even though Mohito was hot and thirsty, she ran as fast as she could to catch up with Pino before anything happened to him.

When she reached the gate, no one was there, just the normal traffic of people who were coming and going. She looked in every direction, but she could not see him.

She ran to the forest. She yelled out Pino’s name, but there was no response.

When she got to the forest, she sat in the cool shade of the trees and began to think. How could she find him? Then she had an idea. She called out to the snakes.

“Snakes, I need your help. This is Mohito, do you remember me? I gave food to your friend and he told me you would help me!” Mohito cried out.

Suddenly there were snakes everywhere, on the ground, in the trees and under the

logs.

“What can we do for you Mohito? We have heard of your kindness. How can we help?” one of the snakes asked.

“I need to find my true love. His name is Pino, and I believe he has entered the forest. He doesn’t know the way home and I’m afraid he’ll be harmed in the forest. Will you help me find him?” Mohito asked.

“We’ll help you. We’ll find your true love and we’ll keep him safe,” one of the snakes answered.

And then, the snakes disappeared into the forest.

Mohito followed the trail. It was getting dark and it was difficult to see the way.

Just then, the trail began to glow. She could follow the glow on the trail easily. Now she could walk faster. The snakes had talked to the fireflies and they came to light the way for Mohito.

She walked and walked. She did not see any of the snakes, and worst of all she did not find Pino. She was trusting the snakes that they would keep their promise to her.

Even though Mohito was getting very tired, she did not stop except to drink some water and eat some berries.

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. skill _____ | a. to be hit with something |
| 2. mistreated _____ | b. abuse, injure, unkind |
| 3. recognize _____ | c. encourage, praise, shout |
| 4. struck _____ | d. least, not best |
| 5. cheer _____ | e. faith, confidence |
| 6. worst _____ | f. path, route, road |
| 7. trust _____ | g. bugs with lighted tails |
| 8. difficult _____ | h. talent, ability, clever |
| 9. trail _____ | i. not easy, hard |
| 10. fireflies _____ | j. notice, identify, understand |

TRUE / FALSE

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Mohito got lost in the forest. | T / F |
| 2. Mohito followed the crowd out of the city. | T / F |
| 3. The young men were playing a game. | T / F |
| 4. Mohito stole food from a garden. | T / F |
| 5. Mohito slept in a hotel. | T / F |
| 6. Pino won the game. | T / F |
| 7. An old lady gave Mohito water and food. | T / F |
| 8. The snakes ate Pino. | T / F |
| 9. Fireflies carried Mohito to the edge of the forest. | T / F |
| 10. Mohito found Pino. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What did Mohito sleep under when she was tired? ____
 - a.) under a rock
 - b.) in a cabin
 - c.) beside a log
 - d.) under a tree

2. What did the lady do when she saw Mohito eating her vegetables? ____
 - a.) gave her more to eat
 - b.) chased her with a stick
 - c.) put her in jail
 - d.) sold her the food

3. Who won the game? ____
 - a.) Mohito
 - b.) the old lady
 - c.) one of the players
 - d.) Pino

4. Who helped Mohito in the forest? ____
 - a.) snakes
 - b.) townspeople
 - c.) horses
 - d.) young men

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

1. What was the wall of the city made of?

2. Where did Mohito fall asleep?

3. What did the lady do when Mohito took vegetables from her garden?

4. Where did the townspeople go after they left the walls of the city?

5. What happened to many of the players?

6. Where did Mohito go so she could see the players better?

7. Why did Mohito want to see the players better?

8. Who won the game?

9. Where was Pino when Mohito arrived at the place where the slaves lived?

10. What made the path glow so Mohito could see her way in the forest?
