

LOST LOVE

The Village



It took several days to go through the forest. When she arrived at the far side of the forest, the morning sun was coming up giving off a soft glow in the meadow in front of her. She saw the sun glisten off the dew that had settled on the plants the night before. The sweet smell of flowers filled the air. Normally she would have stopped to enjoy this, but she was not going to stop until she found Pino.

Suddenly in front of her appeared a snake out of the grass. Mohito noticed the snake and stopped to talk to it.

She asked the snake if it had seen her true love, Pino.

“I’m sorry, but I haven’t seen a young man come this way. You must have been mistaken. He must have gone different way from the city,” the snake informed her.

Mohito sat down and cried. She was sure that he had entered the forest before her and that he was on his way back to the village.

Now she had no idea what to do. She just sat and cried.

Mohito was discouraged and confused. Her instincts had been right before, why had not they worked this time? She was so close and yet Pino was not anywhere to be found.

Turning back to the snake, Mohito asked, “Are you sure that no one came this

way? I was sure that he was just in front of me.”

“We’ve not seen anyone but you. I’m sorry. Perhaps he chose another way,” the snake surmised.

Mohito had to make a decision. Was she going to go back through the forest to find Pino, or return to her village and wait to see if he had found his way home?

She was so tired she fell asleep along the side of the path.

When she awoke, she was surrounded by snakes. They were keeping her safe from anyone or anything that might hurt her.

She was happy to see them.

“Have any of you seen my true love, Pino?” she asked hoping they had seen him and that maybe the first snake was wrong.

None of the snakes had seen a young man in the forest.

Mohito found some water to drink and ate some nuts she found in a tree.

She decided the only thing she could do was to go back to her village and wait to see if Pino had returned. She would wait for him there and if he did not return, she would go to find him again.

The walk home took much longer because she was sad and she was not excited to go home without Pino. She had been so close to being with him, yet he had not heard her voice.

When she got to the big rocks by the sea, she looked out across the ocean and dreamed that Pino was on a big boat returning to her village. There was nothing on the sea; only white birds flying in the big blue sky above her. She stood there looking out at the ocean. It was a beautiful sight.

She climbed down the rocks to the riverbank and began the long walk to her village. She was not afraid. She was sad.

As soon as she arrived at her village, it was late in the evening and most of the people were already in their homes sleeping. The soft golden glow of the fires scattered around the village lit up the place where she lived. Smoke rose from the

fires. The smell was sweet to her nose. It brought back so many memories of her life there.

She remembered the time when she and Pino played together in the forest. She remembered how he smiled at her.

It was good to be home, even though she was alone.

She had been gone for more than a month.

When she knocked on the door of her house, her father opened the door and yelled, "It's Mohito, she's returned!"

Shortly afterward, her mother came and they embraced each other for a long time. It was good to be home.

Her parents asked why she had left so suddenly. Mohito told them about how she sensed that Pino was in the city after the stranger had told her the story of what the city was like.

She sat in the house and shared with them her adventure.

She told them about the snakes and how they had protected her on her journey. She told them about the city and how the people there were very strange.

She told them how Pino had won his freedom and about the lady who spoke their language in the city.

Mohito began to cry when she told them how she had called out to Pino, but he hadn't answered.

She thought that he was on his way home, but he was not on the same trail. He had not come home after all.

Her parents tried to console her, but since she was so upset, she just curled up in the corner of her room and fell asleep.

The next morning the rest of the village heard about Mohito's return. She had to tell them the entire story she had told her parents the night before. She told them that she had seen Pino, but he had not seen her. How he had won his freedom and that he was trying to come home, but how he probably did not know the way.

After she told her story, the elders of the village had a meeting. They talked for several hours about how they might find Pino and bring him home.

The problem they had was that very few of the people of the village had ever left the valley and they were afraid of what might happen to them if they went to search for Pino. They were afraid they might be captured and be put into slavery just as Pino had.

There were many arguments about how to find Pino. At the end of the discussion, three of the young men decided they would go to look for Pino.

Although the elders felt it was a bad idea, the boys made their plans to search for Pino.

The young men met with Mohito to get directions on how to get to the city. Mohito told them it was very dangerous and that without the help of the snakes, she would have never been able to make the journey herself. She would have died if it were not for the help the snakes had given her.

The young men were determined to make an effort to find Pino. Mohito offered to go with them, but they said they wanted to do it on their own.

The young men packed supplies for the trip.

Just after the sun rose the next day, they began the walk down the river toward the sea.

Mohito was afraid for them, so she followed them at a distance to make sure they were not in danger. She knew she could ask the snakes to make their journey safe.

The young men reached the rocks and began to climb to the top. They followed the directions Mohito had given them. After they reached the top, they disappeared down the trail toward the forest.

Mohito followed them by climbing the rocks and then watched as the young men entered the forest.

Mohito trailed behind where they could not see her. When she got to the edge

of the forest, she called out to the snakes to come and talk to her.

Several snakes appeared.

“What can we do for you today?” one of them asked.

“Some of my friends are going through the forest to find my true love Pino. Will you protect them like you protected me?” she asked.

“We’ll be happy to, but why are they going through the forest?” another asked.

“They are looking for my true love, Pino” she replied.

“Do you mean the young man you told us about?” asked the first snake.

“Yes, they are looking for Pino, my true love,” she answered.

“He left the forest last night. We protected him from danger. He has found his way this far. We don’t know what happened to him after he left the forest,” another snake said, wondering why Mohito did not know that her true love had already passed through the forest.

Mohito was excited. Pino was on his way home, but why had they not seen him? Maybe he had gone too far, or maybe he had gone another way? She did not know what to think.

“Please go and tell my friends to turn around and go home. Tell them you have seen Pino!” Mohito exclaimed as she ran back toward the rocks. She was going to see if she could find his tracks and follow him.

Mohito looked to her right and to her left to see if Pino may have left the trail and gone another way. As she climbed down the rocks, she looked for footprints to see if he had gone that way. She saw the prints of the young men and herself in the sand.

Then she saw a set of bigger footprints going the opposite direction. This set of prints was going toward the village!

Mohito ran along the edge of the river calling out Pino’s name. She could see his footprints in the sand between the rocks as he had climbed over trees and walked

toward the village. Pino had found his way, but why had not she seen him?

When Mohito arrived back at the village, the people were excited.

Pino is home! Pino is home!

As soon as Pino saw Mohito he ran to her and hugged her.

The people of the village had told him her story. They had told him that she had never forgotten him and that she had dreamed that one day he would return to her.

Pino told her that the snakes had informed him of all that Mohito had done to find him.

Pino picked Mohito up and carried her to the center of the village. The people cheered and danced all night.

Pino told Mohito that he had heard her call to him after the game, but he couldn't believe that it was her. He had looked around to see who was calling to him, but he did not see her.

After that, he knew he had to come home to find her. He told her that he had never forgotten about her and that he won the game so he could go home to be with her.

He told how the snakes had helped him in the forest and how the fireflies had lit the path for him. Without the help of the snakes, he would never have found his way home.

Soon after, the three young men who went to search for Pino returned to the village and joined the celebration.

Not long afterward, the other young men who had been taken from the village returned. They told of how the snakes in the forest had helped them find the way home.

Mohito and Pino were married, had several children, and lived a happy life together.

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. glow _____ | a. open space in a forest |
| 2. meadow _____ | b. moisture in the morning |
| 3. dew _____ | c. dim light |
| 4. mistaken _____ | d. quarrel, disputes |
| 5. discouraged _____ | e. leaders, chiefs |
| 6. riverbank _____ | f. edge of a river |
| 7. curl up _____ | g. disappointed, sad |
| 8. arguments _____ | h. wrong, incorrect |
| 9. elders _____ | i. sparkle, gleam |
| 10. glisten _____ | j. coil, sleeping position |

TRUE / FALSE

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Mohito got lost on her way home and died. | T / F |
| 2. The snakes helped Mohito find her way in the forest. | T / F |
| 3. Mohito went swimming in the ocean. | T / F |
| 4. The river flooded the village. | T / F |
| 5. Mohito arrived at the village early in the morning. | T / F |
| 6. Mohito saw footprints in the sand. | T / F |
| 7. Pino and Mohito danced all night. | T / F |
| 8. Mohito died before they were married. | T / F |
| 9. The village sent many men to free the other slaves. | T / F |
| 10. Mohito and Pino had many children. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What lit up the path so that Pino could see in the forest? ____
 - a) light bulbs
 - b) a flashlight
 - c) fireflies
 - d) fairies

2. Who told Mohito that Pino had left the forest the night before? ____
 - a) squirrels
 - b) the elders
 - c) snakes
 - d) her parents

3. What did Mohito see after she woke up? ____
 - a) squirrels
 - b) the elders
 - c) snakes
 - d) her parents

4. Who was the happiest to see Mohito? ____
 - a) snakes
 - b) Pino
 - c) the elders
 - d) her parents

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

1. What did Mohito see when she left the forest?

2. What did Mohito eat before she decided to return to her village?

3. Why did the walk home take longer than before?

4. What did Mohito see in the sky above her?

5. When did Mohito arrive at her home?

6. How long had Mohito been gone from her home?

7. Who hugged Mohito when she got home?

8. Who met in order to decide what to do to find Pino?

9. Who went to search for Pino after the meeting of the elders?

10. How did Mohito know that Pino was on his way home?
