



Once upon a time...

Ahimsa said to Bamf and Falco, "Let's sneak into camp so they don't realize we were gone."

Bamf stated, "Really! We were gone so long, that will never work."

Falco said, "Let's just walk in and admit to everything we did. I mean what are they going to do?"

Ahimsa said, "They'll be really mad. Let's sneak in and start cleaning the pile of dishes. They'll never realize we left."

Bamf thought of how angry Isabelle would be. Falco asked, "Bamf, are you OK?"

The Viking Ninja Master of Earth with long braided orange hair said, "Let's just frackn' get it done."

Isabelle walked over to the edge of camp and filled a bucket from the stream. Falco said, "Come on, there's Isabelle."

Falco yelled, "Hello, Isabelle!"

Bamf stormed away into the woods. Isabelle walked in the darkness to Ahimsa and Falco and asked, "Where were you? Wait, where's Bamf?"

Ahimsa said, "He needs time to sweat off his mistake."

Falco said, "He is just like his father, Waraxe Mattis, so stubborn."

Isabelle said, "Come on, we have to hold a meeting to decide your punishment."

As they walked through camp all eyes turned to them. Soon everyone surrounded them in silence. Falco asked, "Is anyone going to punish us?"

Sarcea argued, "You really should be punished."

Zoro said, "Line in the sand. Sneak away, you must tell Sensei Sage. That, is when he is available."

Falco asked, "Speaking of Sage mage, where is little baldy?"

Isabelle said, "He left. He had to talk to other Senseis."

Falco said, "Hey, shouldn't one of you be the big man and punish us instead of making Sensei do all the dirty work?"

Krispal said, "Fine, do all my chores."

Fremt said, "Really Krispal, you are still the bottom rung of the clan."

The elf squealed, "No! You are. Literally."

Krispal got behind Fremt and formed a table top. He paused and then snarled, "Flowious, push him over."

Flowious said, "Since Bamf, Wu, and Blaze are not here I have to say it is nice with me and Falco being the only mature boys here. You guys are jerks."

With an uninterested look on his face, Flowious glanced at Ahimsa. The orange haired girl with the big pink daisy on her button up shirt didn't seem to notice. Flowious turned away disinterested. Fremt squealed sarcastically, "I am the least jerk person ever. I hate you."

Krispal added, "I hate everyone."

Fremt got behind Flowious and Krispal pushed Flowious over. On the ground Flowious released a slow and solid punch at Fremt. The alien squealed, "Hey, you hurt my see-through clothing sensor."

Isabelle blushed. Sarcea looked shell-shocked. She said, "Guys, break it up."

Flowious stood up and stormed away to his tent. Ahimsa looked at Falco. Fremt thought, wow this is tense. He said, "Watch me juggle."

He took out some shuriken and tossed them into the air and sent lightning into them. He caught one which made his hair stand up from being shocked. Falco smirked. Fremt felt warm.

Ahimsa said, "I am going to go talk to Flowious."

Falco's face dropped. Ahimsa had to choose, Falco or Flowious. Fremt dumbly said, "Yes.

Flowious really needs you. Spend all night in his tent."

Falco clenched his fists and they emitted an annoying rumbling noise. Ahimsa walked away.

Fremt pushed Falco but to no avail, as he stood strong as a rock. Isabelle hugged Fremt, blushed and said, "You are really cute."

Fremt felt a sense of belonging. Sarcea looked away in disgust. Bamf walked into the edge of camp and he tried not to make eye contact with anyone. Falco saw him. Falco yelled, "Hey, runaway ran back."

Bamf then saw Fremt and Isabelle hugging. The ground began to shake. Isabelle saw Bamf and said, "Sorry, Bamf, I like Fremt."

Bamf fainted. Before anyone gained the courage to talk to him about it, he quickly scurried into his tent. Fremt began to shiver in fear. He was the weakest in the clan and Bamf was the strongest. Isabelle liked how Fremt failed at being tough. She felt safer with him, like he was more sensitive to her princess needs. Isabelle said, "Fremt. I am going to talk to Bamf. I'll be right back."

Isabelle walk to outside Bamf's tent. She said, "Bamf."

She heard Bamf roll over. She said, "I am not going to sugarcoat this. I am going to hurt you and leave the pieces. I don't like you the same way you like me."

A warm gentle breeze blew through camp. Bamf said, "Thank you. I will try my best to think of you in a positive light."

Isabelle thought about staying and saying how many in his arms would feel safe and well protected if he was only less imposing. Isabelle was no child, she realized he needed decisiveness to find acceptance. She quietly walked back to Fremt and smiled at him. It would be a fairy tale with the cutest boy she knew and get loads of energy from watching him.

Ahimsa went into Flowious's tent. When she was with Flowious she would support him. When she was with Falco she would support him. When she was with both she would support Falco. Flowious snarled, "Don't come in here with that skirt, it makes you look dorky."

Ahimsa liked her blue pencil skirt. Ahimsa asked, "Oh, I'm sorry."

Flowious dismissively said, "Whatever."

He continued, "I want to apologize to Fremt."

"You don't need to. You know how immature he is. He probably doesn't even feel hurt."

Ahimsa felt like it was her duty to make Flowious happy. She remembered the doll she had when she was little and how she was taught it was the duty of women to look after those who cannot protect themselves and provide them warmth no matter what. She felt like she had failed. Her father, the joy of her life, ran away because she had failed at being a woman and she couldn't protect her own father, how was she ever supposed to protect anyone else? She was good, she was determined to find peace with this someday. The time was now to tell Flowious. She whimpered, "Dad."

Flowious's jaw dropped but when Ahimsa looked at it he turned it back to nonchalant. Ahimsa felt no anger at him, only sadness that he refused to talk about his feelings. He said, "So. Did you come for nothing?"

Ahimsa realized if she kissed him that might make him pleased. She darted toward him and kissed him on the lips. He rolled his eyes and said, "What was that about?"

She shed a tear for him. He was looking at something. Ahimsa turned around and saw Falco by the flap. Ahimsa ran to him and hugged him without thinking. Falco relaxed and smiled warmly. He felt all peaceful, as if he could accept anything that came his way with her there. Flowious snarled, "Anyway, I came up with the best plan to stop Diyi. Unlike some of us getting bogged down by relationship drama."

The next morning everyone gathered at the center of camp for Flowious to share his idea. He said, "I know some of you will object- but keep in mind- doing so makes you an idiot."

Fremt chuckled. Sarcea scolded. Zoro commented, "Really Flowious. We have to weigh the cons in your plan fairly."

Flowious began, "Travelers tea takes you to wherever you are thinking about. All we need to do is get enough and think of Diyi."

Zoro said, "So simple. I can't believe I didn't think of that."

Krispal ordered, "Simplify, so Fremt will understand."

Fremt ordered, "Simplify so I will understand."

Flowious rolled his eyes and bluntly said, "It will work."

Falco said, "Hey, smart guy. But, what if we get separated? Travelers tea doesn't take us all to the same spot."

Flowious lied, "Already thought of that."

He improvised and said, "Krispal will go with our carrier pigeon during the night. He will turn to shadow and send the pigeon with his location on a note. Then the rest of us will take the DB to where the note says to go."

Falco asked, "Zoro, you aren't seriously going to let us go through with Flowious's plan. He just made that up. It isn't a good plan. Why did he say 'enough' if it is only one person who goes?

Who puts Krispal as the one to make the play?"

Zoro said, "Your rivalry has little concern with me. I have non-biasedly concluded Flowious is correct. Though he just made up the last part to appear more intelligent to Ahimsa. In my judgment saving someone is more important than a girl."

Flowious spat, "No. I didn't make it up just now. And I don't like drama queen."

Sarcea asked, "Can't Zoro go now, and turn invisible?"

Zoro said, "Invisible yes, intangible no. Krispal at night is the only one who can avoid being injured completely."

Krispal said, "We don't even have traveler's tea."

Flowious said, "I took note, we have some on the DB."

Krispal said, "We used to. I thought it was regular tea and accidentally used it to send a cardinal to Marty Oppenheimer's School of Performing Arts. Great school, I think it is a one year program. He will be performing soon, we should catch his show."

Flowious said, "Great, Krispal. Now a bird will become an actor while Blaze dies. Great priorities."

Fremt said, "The cardinal was actually a she. She had tan feathers, not red. She will be an actress and we will catch her show."

Zoro asked, "You sent a bird to a school and they accepted her as a student? Weird."

Krispal said, "Yeah she really likes electronic music, they played some for her, I saw before the portal closed."

Flowious bickered, "Really, music is your top priority right now?"

Zoro said, "I just meditated and my judgment says we should get traveler's tea."

Krispal asked, "Are you sure that is our best move?"

Zoro stated, "I am afraid we are running out of time before Friday night."

They arrived at the outskirts of Ninjago City with the Destinys' Bounty mid-day. Zoro explained, "I read about this teashop in one of my books."

A horse and carriage pulled up behind the Destinys' Bounty. It was a taxi. A few passengers got out, got their luggage from the luggage rack and went into the city. The taxi driver saw them and said, "You aren't planning on getting any traveler's tea?"

The clan shared glances, wondering where this was going. Falco, for whom it was against his code to lie, stated, "We are."

The driver groaned, "That tea is putting me out of business. Especially this year, when the century bloom flower is in bloom. You know it can take you different realms. If you drink it you may never return."

Flowious said, "We have to track down someone in need. We have nothing more to lose."

The driver went back to his carriage and put the stool inside and drove away without any passengers. They went into the tea shop. Zoro said, "Hello, Mistake."

Mistake was a young woman and the shop looked brand new and pristine. Zoro said, "We would like some traveler's tea."

Mistake said, "I am sorry. I've never heard of that tea."

Zoro explained, "You take the leaves of a century bloom flower, a little bit of wild mountain thyme for a nice aura and positive spirits, black leaves if you are traveling during the monsoon season, and add some marshmallows to give it a nice taste in case you decided to drink it instead of using it to travel."

Mistake said, "Ah, you mean punishment tea."

Krispal gulped, "Punishment tea."

Mistake explained, "Yes. Have your convict drink terrible tea, which makes them think of their greatest fear. Then push them into punishment tea so they go to their greatest fear."

Krispal said, "Are you sure this is a good idea? What if I find Diyi, but don't know where I am? What am I supposed to write then? What if it takes me to another realm? What if Blaze isn't with him? What if I am too afraid and it takes me to my fear? What if the sun comes out before you arrive?"

Zoro said, "He- he's right. Too much can go wrong. Nobody should go. I grew impatient, unwise, I became too eager to save Blaze and my judgment was swayed. Shadow saw where light didn't hit."

Everyone looked at the planner, Flowious. He said, "Fine, I'll go. It's my plan, it's my duty to see it through. Most of the time when somebody comes up with a plan they should be held with the most consciousness. We will rendezvous at me once I teleport, can't make it up to me- you are bad."

They started preparing the Destinys' Bounty so they would be ready to leave as soon as the carrier pigeon, Aola, came back. Flowious took note of a big bag of Ahimsa's. Flowious wanted to hurt Ahimsa so she would know how bad it felt to be hurt. He said, "Wow. Fat? You have a big breakfast."

Ahimsa angrily spat, "It's for Blaze."

Flowious's younger sister, Diptidulla saw him in private. She spoke, for the first time in a long time, "You don't have to do this, brother."

Flowious said, "I'm sorry, sister. I'll come back in one piece."

She whimpered, "I don't want to see Diyi hurt you like Blaze so you can impress Ahimsa."

Soon everyone regathered in the teashop. Zoro said, "This is a mistake, line in the sand, nobody goes."

Mistake had collected and mixed all the ingredients and was boiling the water. There was only enough century bloom flower for one person. Falco announced, "I have a confession to make."

He squeezed his hands in pain over what he was about to say. He believed in being honest so he said, "I'm... I'm... a fanatic."

Ahimsa said, "You mean someone who sometimes turns into an animal?"

Falco nodded yes. Then he said, "I have what it takes to fly away from Diyi if I get scared enough, for fear is the only way I can become a beast. Let me go instead of Flowious."

Flowious said, "Falco, you don't have to. There is a chance the plan won't work."

Falco said, "I am a Ninja and this is what Shogun Honourous would want."

Sarcea made sure to smile at Falco, her step-mother would approve of her dating him because of his ethical compass. Ahimsa said, "You could die. Have Krispal do it."

Falco said, "Flowious, thank you for the plan."

A portal opened-up on the floor. Ahimsa screamed, "This is madness. Honourous isn't worth your life."

Falco spat, "I will never be a malgarson!"

Zoro started running toward the teapot. Falco grabbed Aola and jumped in the portal. The portal closed. Flowious said, "Being the hero isn't always right. Sometimes is, sometimes isn't, there is a balance."

Zoro said, "I am sorry. I should have realized the plan was bad sooner."

Krispal cried, "Nobody listens to me. You will when I'm a dictator."

Fremt joked, "At least he isn't alone and has Aola."

Ahimsa fell to the ground and cried. Isabelle couldn't understand how she let herself keep getting pushed down by boys who clearly didn't realize how much they hurt her. She thought, Ahimsa really needs to learn to stand up for herself.

As Falco fell he remembered the first time he became a beast, when he was attacked by an ancient crocodile at a temple. He fell into a river and a crocodile started swimming toward him. Falco's arms turned to wings, his legs to talons. He was in his beast form. He had the body of a

snake, three feet long, and the slimy feathered wings coming off it. He was an abomination of animal form, part reptile- part bird. The crocodile lashed his tail into the air. The snake-falcon twisted his body in a way no bird should be able to do and the tail missed. In his falcon talons was a terrified Aola. More crocodiles emerged from the river's water. Falco flew to the nearest village. It took him an hour to calm down enough to reenter human form. He sent Aola with a note with the village's name. He cried like a child, because fear wasn't an ideal of his. By morning his clan arrived. Zoro wouldn't speak to him as punishment.