



Once upon a time...

Wu was let into the Montgomery dojo by Misako. After two months of separation Garmadon was there in a deep mediation pose. He opened his eyes and snarled, "Brother."

Misako realized Wu was the one Garmadon had told her about. Wu awkwardly said, "Hi."

Wu had considered it his fault his brother had been cursed by the Great Devourer. Misako said, "Garmadon, I won't interrupt your meditation."

Garmadon said, "It is funny. In a sacred dojo, I used to be consumed by spirituality, but now I feel a desolate loneliness. I can feel my patience dwindling. The venom is growing stronger. I bet you have been at peace knowing you deserve to be sacred protector."

Wu stated, "I know you were led to believe you were meant to be sacred protector and now you aren't. But I was led to believe I wasn't sacred protector and now I am. Our two worlds are not different."

Garmadon snapped, "How dare you assume you know what I am going through! I was the son of the greatest master Ninjago has ever seen and now I am on a dark road to be the greatest villain Ninjago has ever seen. The dishonor I will bring on myself is too unbearable to imagine."

Wu stated, "I still believe you can be saved, older brother."

Garmadon said, "Enough with your empty hope."

Wu argued, "I need hope as much as you. All of Ninjago now expects me to be a great hero for the rest of my life. I always must live with this attention I never wanted. I always wanted to be a

contortionist but now I must fill my father's shoes with feet that cannot even imagine being that size."

Garmadon snarled, "Don't speak of father. He loved you as sacred protector and hated me as a villain. He is no longer here. He had small shoes and yet you complain about not being able to fill them; he was a fool."

Wu argued, "No, father was the wisest man in existence. We are all cursed without him here to protect Ninjago."

Garmadon slyly said, "I was even cursed with him here."

Misako sighed, "Sometimes it feels the whole world is cursed. People's destinies being the opposite of what they want."

Both Wu and Garmadon agreed. Wu stated, "I am good and I hope we can find the inner piece with this one day."

Misako said, "My father's good friend, Warturo, is a fortuneteller. Maybe if you see her, Wu, you can learn what your future holds."

Wu asked, "And what if it holds what I don't want?"

Misako said, "Then you rise to meet it."

It had gotten dark and Blaze had found a cave. He went inside and seeing that no bear lived in it, decided to spend the night. Being the Master of Fire, getting one started was as easy. It did attract a lot of attention though, as the light from the fire shot through the blackness. It didn't help the cave was on a hill, meaning everyone for miles could see his camp. If Zoro were here,

she could reflect the light back on the walls of the cave instead of out in every direction, but she wasn't here.

At midnight, a group had surrounded the sleeping Blaze. Blaze awoke and saw the bronze-clad clan. They wore an assortment of copper, bronze, and brass armor. They had steam powered weaponry and vehicles. "I am sorry," Blaze asked, "Am I a problem here?"

The leader said, "No, we were just inspecting the fire at our copper mine. Are you lost?"

Blaze said, "Yeah, my name is Blaze, thanks for asking. I am lost and you are?"

The leader replied, "Steampuff, and we are the Shuu Clan."

Blaze noticed the rat emblem on their armors. Blaze said, "As I have had a run-in with Undead X, could I ask for your protection?"

Steampuff said, "Undead X is a world class villain. Shogun Honourous, Superior Dictator Vagus, and even Sultan Goughes think him an enemy of progress. The Samurai has made an opponent of almost everyone with his pride. Why might he be associating with a mere commoner?"

Blaze didn't tell him about being in a Ninja clan. Steampuff continued, "An amusing farce. They say he was cursed many years ago. He made a deal with the King of the Underworld, Samukai, that he may walk Ninjago again, but in exchange he had to have his heart torn out. And although he will live forever- he will on an island, without love for anyone."

The next morning Wu went to the herbalist and healed, then went to Warturo's dojo. She was an old lady and was nearly blind, like her name she had three warts on her face. Wu sat on a mat and asked her, "What do I do if I don't like what is to come?"

Warturo said, "Do not run from your fate. With enough fire, inside you will fall victim to it, but not be hurt by it."

Wu said, "I can't see past Friday night."

"Often teenagers cannot see past the big party."

"I am afraid for my friend. The Master of Fire, he is supposed to die Friday night."

Warturo barked, "Oh, I see. He is a teenager also. He isn't on Efficient, is he?"

Wu said, "No, he isn't. He got captured while we were fighting for Ninjago."

"Trying to take over the world now."

"No, we weren't trying to take over the world."

"Please pick a bone."

Wu picked a panda funny bone and handed it to Warturo. She placed it on a fire. She said, "Oh, I see. I have bad news for you. Are you afraid? Be honest."

Wu lied, "No."

Warturo said, "You must make an impossible decision before the age of thirty. Your clan may be divided for life, most former friends turned to greatest enemies, by a man named Chen, your clan will be destined to be divided or you will decide to die yourself and keep them friends."

Wu was shocked. He didn't want to die before the age of thirty, his new clan seemed like nothing compared to his own life. Warturo continued, "But there is a bright side. You will be ready to decide."

Wu asked, "How long do I have?"

Warturo said, "Before the age of thirty, but years from now. Spend your time preparing to endure the unendurable."

Wu left as if he had been stepped on by a giant destiny.