



## Once upon a time...

The Destinys' Bounty hurried towards The City of Daant. Being the capital of the Central Shoguntu it held countless temples, shrines, monasteries, and abbeys. The leader of the Central Shoguntu was the shogun, the great Daimyo of Daimyo. The Daimyo assigned land to the vassals who worked it and gave some of their crop as taxes to their Daimyo. The lowest rung of society was the Daimyo-less men. Those sub-Figures of Speech, cripples, women, and criminals who weren't assigned land. Most of them died within a year of losing vassal status and lived in the north-east of Daant. In the south-west of Daant was the Forbidden City. A walled capital where only those who had proved their worth as a learner of the way of Pithious could enter. It was intentional the great capital was on a hill to the south-west of town. When the sun set, the Hall of Mirrors would reflect a spectacular light show over the entire city. Falco liked to believe this made the Daimyo-less men feel a form of salvation despite their poverty. Falco boasted, "My family lives just outside of the Forbidden City as my father, a Samurai, is allowed to enter." He continued, "The Forbidden City is home of the White Scroll."

Isabelle, clueless, asked, "What is the White Scroll."

Falco proudly stated, "The scroll crafted by Pithious. Each land that the Central Shoguntu conquers hands over their most prized scroll. The White Scroll is a magical scroll that turns the other regions scrolls to white, without getting dirty itself. It is infinitely pure."

Ahimsa suggested, "Maybe we can stay at your family's house."

Falco quietly replied, "No. I don't think that would be a good idea."

When they landed Falco boasted, "Welcome to Daant. The greatest City in all of Ninjago!"

Zoro argued, "I think there are greater cities in the Valley of Peace."

Falco, clueless, asked, "Valley of Peace?"

Zoro replied, "Yes. It is a faraway land from where I come from."

Falco didn't realize Zoro wasn't from the Central Shoguntu, he only knew Isabella wasn't. Zoro asked, "Ever heard of sewers?"

Fremt piped in, "Pork-pop skewers."

Zoro informed him, "No sewers. Underground tunnels built for ninja to travel in."

Wu asked, "Are ninja there like Ninja in the Central Shoguntu?"

Zoro replied, "Not at all. Ninja are not allowed to fight in the Valley of Peace. They are expected to be office warriors."

Krispal blurted out, "Not allowed to fight! What is the fun in that?"

Sarcea exclaimed, "Krispal, fighting should be used as a last resort."

They left the Destinies Bounty with a parking attendant, who gave them a pass card to get their flying ship back and would guard it with a coconut catapult. The clan went to the Great Gate of the Forbidden City. Above the gate was a Tiger, the totem of the Central Shoguntu.

The guard at the gate asked, "What is your permission to enter?"

Zoro stated, "We are a Ninja clan."

The Samurai asked, "A Sensei's League Certified Ninja Clan?"

This time Sensei Sage spoke, "Yes we are."

Sensei Sage pulled out a piece of paper, that Wu couldn't see all of, and showed to the Samurai. The guard moved his nagamaki, or katana on a rod with half the length being the blade and the other half the shaft. They walked into the Forbidden city. This was one of the most religious experiences in Falco's life. He felt everything so full of meaning at this point. He wanted the walk to the throne room to last forever. Krispal blurted out, "Why is that man wearing a skirt."

Sarcea yelled at him, "It is called an archaic gi, sacred outdated ceremonial attire of the Ninja."

They walked past countless samurai. Zoro stated, "Glad we didn't have to fight all of them."

At last they arrived in the throne room. They entered and bowed to the Shogun. Shogun Honourous was dressed in silk with the stripes of orange and black, that of a tiger. He had necklace on filled with glimmering diamonds with a tiger tooth in the center. He had long greatly maintained hair in a bun. Despite his eloquence he wore armor shoulder pads and a katana on his back. Honourous ordered, "At ease."

They stopped bowing and looked up. Honourous began, "Sensei Sage, we haven't seen each other in fifteen years to this month in this very throne room."

Sage replied, "I maintain my position, but regardless ask for you to aide us today."

Honourous said, "Very well. I do believe I see members of the Zhu house. Odd, letting them be Ninja Sage. They have written dangerous essays against Pithious."

Honorous then noticed Isabelle, he said, "Isabelle long time no see. I hope you father is in good health."

Bamf was surprised Honorous didn't recognized him as the son of someone he had banished. Wu remembered, what Julia had said about Honorous being a snake. Finally, Honorous said, "And finally, Wu. Son of the first Spinjitzu Master."

Honorous spoke to Sage, "I see you went for every Elemental Master you could find Sage. But no big figures?"

Sensei Sage replied, "We seem to do adequate with just Elemental Masters."

Honorous said, "Remember Sensei, you serve Pithious above the First Spinjitzu Master and his guardian houses."

Falco stated, "With respect. We may be Elemental Masters, but we are still Ninja. The elements make us great but being a Ninja makes us good."

Honorous replied, "Well put. Lest we forget, the First Spinjitzu Master's son is destined for evil."

Wu clenched his fist in his pocket. Blaze spoke next, "Honorous, we have reason to believe your life may be in danger."

Honorous asked, "What makes you believe that?"

Blaze replied, "Fun Dashaui Diyi is a threat. I overheard him saying he plans for Ajna to become Shogun at your assassination."

Honorous informed them, "Ajna has already tried to kill me. He was unsuccessful."

Blaze argued, "I am sorry but Diyi made it sound like a group of Fun Dashaus House members would try to kill you. We believe you are still in danger."

Fremt stated, "Fun Dashaus Diyi is a threat. You need to hunt him down."

Honorous replied, "The Fun Dashaus House is a pillar of the Central Shoguntu government. Ajna was a radical I refuse to create enemies with an entire house over the actions of a single member."

Blaze replied, "I am just repeating what I heard. It is your own fault if you don't believe me."

Zoro argued, "Please. Just make Diyi a wanted man and spare the rest of the house."

Honorous replied, "Diyi is the patriarch of the Fun Dashaus House. I don't want a political enemy with an entire powerful house."

Zoro argued, "Please, just investigate the Fun Dashaus House."

Honorous bellowed, "Samurai escort these ninjas out. I have a dam project to plan I have been researching for the last seven months."

Samurai surrounded them and led them down from the throne room. But they didn't lead them to the courtyard. Instead they led them to the dungeon. Flowious stated, "I think there has been a miscommunication."

The samurai snickered, "That's what they all say."

He locked them in vengestone shackles and placed them in a cell. Blaze asked, "Great, how are we going to get out of here?"

Bamf tried to undo his shackles but they blocked his super strength. Falco asked, "What if one of us unlocks our true potential, the shackles won't work on that?"

Sensei Sage, "No need to do that. We have other powers inherited by the lineage of elemental powers that the shackles cannot block."

Wu remembered that each of them had a spirit form and a beast form. Zoro asked, "What do you mean?"

Sage explained, "Wu has inherited great powers from the First Spinjitzu Master. The most sacred, and origin of all the spirits."

Wu asked, "You mean if I become a Shinto I can ghost out of my shackles."

Sage explained, "Yes, because they don't have Deepstone fused in them."

Wu asked, "But how do I become a spirit?"

Sage instructed, "You must free yourself of all cowardice, timidity, and darkness. Embrace cheerfulness, become a spirit."

Wu got into the best meditating pose he could get into with the shackles on. He concentrated on what gave him grief. He remembered Garmadon yelling, "This is all Wu's fault!"

If he hadn't been so afraid of his father he would have gone after the katana, and maybe he would have not been bitten. Wu's muscles left the meditating pose as he felt weak from

sadness. Sage advised, "Light and darkness are in each and every one of us. We spend light every time we do a task of the Way of the Ninja. Fear, sloth, greed, each is totem of lack of inner light. Come to peace Wu."

Wu remembered how glad he was to come to peace with his father's death. This made him feel stronger, like his spirits had boosters to do the task at hand, no matter how tiresome. For a brief moment, he flashed into a Shinto. He had the long translucent white robes and body, with a wooden mask of a black and white panda. He held it just long enough for the shackles to fall off his wrists, before turning back into human. Wu asked, "So I am out of my shackles but, I am not an Elemental Master and we are still in this cell so it doesn't help."

Zoro sarcastically remarked, "Great, now if a guard comes he will see you out of your shackles."

Sensei Sage said, "Ok then. I was hoping it would last longer. Blaze, Bamf, Fremt, and Ahimsa. You have the four elements of creation. Put together in Spinjitzu, you four can do the Tornado of Creation, use that to create a key out of here."

Everyone stood back as Blaze, Ahimsa, Bamf, and Fremt began their Spinjitzu soon they were in a massive tornado. Out of it, when they stopped a key dropped to the ground. Everyone undid their shackles and they shot a barrage of elements at the cell door with exploded into tiny spikes of iron. Everyone except Fremt turned down the hallway in the direction they came in on. Fremt turned the other way, to more cells. Fremt stated, "Guys, exit is this way."

Everyone said, "Fremt, no it is not."



Everyone except Fremt ran towards the exit while Fremt towards the last cell. When they got to the courtyard they Isabella yelled, "Fremt come here!"

Fremt yelled back, "Guys. Honourous is in this cell!"

Falco yelled, "Don't be crazy Honourous isn't in a cell."

Fremt argued, "Yes. I am looking right at him."

Zoro went to retrieve Fremt, but she too recruited the others, though she had more influence in the matter. Wu noticed, in the cell was Honourous tied in ropes against a chair with a cloth tied around his mouth. Blaze shot a little fire and burned away the cloth. Falco asked, "Honourous?"

The figure replied, "I will forgive you for not bowing to me."

Isabella said, "I don't understand, you look just like Honourous. Are you his evil twin brother?"

The figure replied, "About four days ago, me Honourous, had a meeting with someone named Ajna. He ambushed me when Fun Dashouse Diyi jumped in a window. It was private so It was just the two of us. We both went into that room, I came out with a bag over my head and my mouth sealed. Ajna came out with my appearance, he is an Elemental Master of form it turns out. He locked me up and has kept me alive and given me Truth Tea to question me to flawlessly assume my identity."

Falco asked, "Liar, how do we know you are not Ajna and Honourous is really in the throne room."

Zoro said, "Falco, how is he supposed to explain it. Ajna has had more time with the real Honourous than the average figure thus knows far more about him than us."

Bamf said, "But wait."

He asked the figure in the cell, "Who am I?"

The figure replied, "You look like an older version of Waraxe Bamf. The fake Honourous doesn't recall banishing the Waraxe house, because it was a minor banishment and he never asked me about it."

Bamf asked, "Tell me. Why was my father banished?"

The figure said, "It goes back to when Falco was a little boy. He fell into a crocodile exhibit."

Ahimsa looked at Falco. The figure continued, "Waraxe Mattis was the closest one to the exhibit, but instead of going into to retrieve Falco he covered Bamf's eyes and ears. I thought it selfish to choose protecting your own child from physiological harm, while allowing another to succumb to physical harm. For his cowardice, I banished him."

Bamf had always viewed Honourous as a monster for banishing his father, now he felt anger at his father and guilt that he had been protected while Falco was hurt. Falco said, "Now great, we have to take on all of those Samurai and get Ajna to be shown as the fake Honourous."

Blaze said, "Not necessarily. Diyi said, Ajna doesn't actually believe in the Fun Dasha House he believes only finders keepers. If we show him Wu belongs to the first house in Ninjago, his idealology will make him loyal to us."

Sage instructed, "Ahimsa, Bamf, Diptidulla, Sarcea protect Honourous. Zoro turn invisible and talk to Ajna and tell him the truth. The rest of us will fight the Samurai security. It is time for Ajna's lying and deception to come to an end."

They grabbed Honourous, untied him, and charged out of the prison corridor. The Samurai looked confused at Honourous. Sage said, "Zoro. Deceive them on your location and talk to Ajna."

Zoro turned invisible like instructed and left. Honourous instructed his Samurai, "I order for the shape shifter in the throne room to be arrested."

One of the Samurai yelled, "How do we know you are not the shape shifter?"

Ahimsa built an ice half-sphere around Honourous, which Bamf built an earth half-sphere around that. Soon Ajna, appearing as Honourous, walked onto a balcony. He ordered, "Arrest that imposter."

The Samurai looked back and forth at each. Until the general ordered, "Attack the one with the Ninja!"

The Samurai did as they were told and started charging at the Ninja. Sarcea made the first line of Samurai super-heavy and they laid on the ground motionless. Falco played some notes on a flute and soon the general couldn't speak. He tried to give commands to reorganize the troops but he could not make noise. Fremt shot lightning at the next line of troops. They had almost nearly captured Fremt who was tied up with a whip. Zoro appeared on the balcony she said, "Ajna, the Fun Dashaus House is not the first house. The First Spinjitzu Master's House is."

Ajna grabbed Zoro by the ankle and raised her off the balcony over a forty-foot fall. Blaze yelled, "I don't understand. Diyi said, you believe in finders-keepers."

Ajna slyly replied, "Yeah, He lied."