



## Once upon a time...

Krispal asked, "How are we supposed to form a chi dragon?"

Zoro replied, "I don't know. I was hoping one of you would know."

Garmadon replied, "The First Spinjitzu Master once taught Wu and me. But the only time I was able to, was before being bitten by the Great Devourer."

Zoro suggested, "All we know is that we have chi dragons inside of us. We don't know what path to take to form them. Tell us what he told you. Maybe one of us will be able to even if you can't."

Garmadon said, "He told me how each elemental master has two little people inside of them. A rider component and a dragon component. He told me the dragon is the shadow self; it represents our drives, or what it is we want to possess. The rider side is the embodiment of our conscience, it represents our understanding of right versus wrong. Rider and dragon together makes an elemental master."

Sarcea said, "Sounds like the struggle between good and evil."

Garmadon replied, "According to the First Spinjitzu Master it wasn't a struggle between good versus evil. Think of all the things dragons can accomplish. It is the rider's job to keep his or her dragon under control, but the dragon created the rider; therefore, the rider is indebted to the dragon. The Spinjitzu Master once told me the dragon and the rider are one and the same. They are called chi dragons because of the chi they give us. Dragons are the embodiment of fire and chi. Fire is life, not just destruction. They keep us alive. They might let us go save Wu. The power to not use a weapon is fine, but the power of the weapon should not be underrated, or we risk foolishly losing again. It also helps the riders to grow having a big dragon to try to control."

Krispal said, "Plus they are really beautiful with how destructive they are."

Garmadon chuckled and said, "Exactly."

Sarcea scolded him. Blaze asked, "How do we get a chi dragon?"

Garmadon explained, "The First Spinjitzu Master said to form your chi dragon you must decipher what the shadow voice is telling you on a conscious level. You have to understand it is not something external that holds you back from the benevolence and power of inner piece, but something internal."

Everyone, except Fremt, who was unconscious, turned to Herold. Herold asked, "Why everyone looking at me?"

Zoro stated, "You are the most driven of us. You must be able to see your inner piece."

Herold stated, "Herold wants to rule Ninjago. That is what Herold wants."

Ahimsa demanded, "Then form your dragon."

Herold closed his eyes. Everyone fell silent to let him concentrate. After a minute, he opened his eyes and said, "Sorry, Herold must be driven by something else."

Zoro asked, "If not power, what? Fame, hero worship, women, ease of living, safety, health?"

Herold stated, "Tried all of those. Herold doesn't know what drives Herold."

Ahimsa asked, "Could it be helping others?"

The group all said in unison, including Herold, "Nah."

Blaze suggested, "While we try to figure what drives Herold, the rest of us will try to connect to our own inner dragons."

Blaze remembered what he wanted to accomplish more than anything in the world. He wanted his father to be proud of him. Soon his chi dragon reappeared. Isabelle tried to think about what drove her. Getting Fremt to like her drove her for so long, she now didn't know what drove her. Then she remembered she wanted the life of luxury being a princess. After realizing this, her chi dragon formed. Zoro thought about what drove her. She realized she wanted to make others proud of her knowledge, but bigger than that she wanted to find the source without a source, so she could be content that there was hope for figure-kind. After realizing this second and larger drive, her dragon formed. Ahimsa knew well what drove her. She wanted to protect her friends and family. Her chi dragon formed the quickest of them all. Krispal thought about what motivated him. He wanted to take over Ninjago. His inner dragon didn't form. He then thought about it more and realized what he actually wanted was to be an elf, to spread joy and laughter. His chi dragon formed after he contemplated the possibility of this. Krispal looked at his dragon. It looked like the largest dragon he had ever seen. It had large purple eyes. The dragon put his wings down. His chi dragon was the smallest dragon of them all. Like a moth or butterfly, he had fake eyes on the wings to trick predators into thinking he was larger. Sarcea couldn't visualize what drove her. She tried all of the ones she could think of. She tried primal drives such as food, survival, and safety. Then she tried social drives such as a sense of belonging, approval from others, purpose in life. None of these worked. She couldn't see what drove her. Bamf thought about what drove him. He took the longest of those who were successful. He eventually figured out what he feared most was loss of autonomy. He wanted to be in control of himself and didn't want to be bound to follow anyone. After realizing this his dragon formed. Garmadon eventually reformed his dragon after realizing what he wanted most was not having the bite from the Great Devourer.

Garmadon's dragon was much larger than before he was bitten. Garmadon mentioned, "It appears my dragon has gotten larger due to my bite. The First Spinjitzu Master said mine was a to-hugh."

Zoro replied, "Its size must reflect your newfound ambition. To-hughes are usually for riders that are driven by fear of the future."

Garmadon's to-hugh caught itself on fire. Garmadon asked, "How am I supposed to ride that if it is on fire?"

Krispal mocked, "Haha, Zoro. Your dragon is really small."

Zoro replied, "Yes, small but fast. It is a dasher-slasher. It reflects my ability to be quick on my feet and precise. It is representative of that I know precise facts and can use them quickly."

Blaze bragged, "Hey Zoro. Mine is larger."

Zoro explained, "It is rather large, it is a burning-burner. You can tell because it burns small yellow flames. Be careful, they are among the hardest to train. They are not very smart, which makes them forgetful. Mastery over one takes years of false progress. It must reflect that you learning to control your ambition often backtracks."

Blaze's burning-burner stuck out its tongue and a yellow flame shot out. It caught a bush on fire. Isabelle shot water with her chi dragon to put it out. Zoro said, "It is large, so you need great skill to train it. Isabelle, yours is a chest-nailer. It shoots nails from its chest and belly that stab holes in people."

Isabelle said, "Gross. I don't want my life to be a fairy tale."

Krispal asked, "Ew, what is mine called?"

Zoro answered, "Yours looks to be oni-song. It appears much larger than it actually is."

Krispal commented, "Ahimsa's is the largest, lucky."

Zoro stated, "Ahimsa's large dragon must reflect of her large drive. Your dragon is a conflagrator. It is massive and unyielding. The most difficult to train dragon in the world. Luckily its element is ice, so it won't be destructive when you lose control."

Bamf asked, "We are taking turns having Zoro telling us what ours is called. What is mine called? Since we are in this pattern."

Zoro stated, "Small size, four legs, ox horns, yours must be a puffer-wing. They are usually small and malleable but, when threatened, puff out and become nearly uncontrollable."

Sarcea and Herold loaded Fremt onto Ahimsa's Ice Dragon then sat on the cold spine themselves. They felt chilled as the ice dragon emitted a damp cold fog. The chi dragons went skyward. Zoro asked, "How are we going to find them?"

Herold said, "Herold put spell on Fispima. Track him with magic."

Herold then murmured, "Shellac, anodized aluminum, bud's cola, give me nose of bloodhound."

A purple cloud appeared in front of him. It shot to the side and Ahimsa turned her dragon away from the group after the dark magic cloud. The rest of the Elemental Alliance followed her. After five minutes they arrived at a cabin in the woods. It was an abandoned log cabin in a clearing. Shi-Shi Kimono was on the bark roof on lookout. He easily saw the Elemental Alliance approaching and yelled, "The Elemental Alliance, they found us!"

Zoro dove as fast as she could and grabbed Shi-Shi. He formed his own dasher-slasher and the two got into a highspeed mid-air talon fight. They both struck quickly. Shi-Shi Kimono had the advantage, being the Master of Speed, until Zoro turned herself and her dragon invisible. Blaze eventually caught up to Zoro. He shot a ball of fire at Shi-Shi, who was too preoccupied by Zoro striking him. His chi dragon was knocked back and disoriented. Zoro took the opening and swooped by, slashing Shi-Shi's chi dragon into two using her dasher-slasher. The chi field faded, and Shi-Shi entered a fall. Blaze landed next to where Shi-Shi landed and ordered, "Don't try to reform or I will blast you."

Bamf dove his earth chi dragon down and plowed into the log cabin. Logs slit from each other and fell into the cabin. Distal's, Minion Bufu's, Station Dragon's, and Fispima's chi dragons exploded from the logs. Ahimsa squared off with Distal's chi Dragon of Intimidation. Distal dashed many heads at Ahimsa's ice dragon, who exhaled a wall of ice blocking all the heads. Sarcea used her gravity power to lower Fremt down to the ground. Herold jumped off the ice dragon and ran over to Wu. He used his titan katana to slice Wu out of the ropes he was in. Herold suggested, "We teach figures a lesson about messing with us."

Minion Bufu's dragon shot an azure blast at Bamf's earth dragon. Bamf picked up his speed and phased through the azure fog. His puffer-wing chi dragon hit Minion Bufu's dragon, which shattered. Minion Bufu fell to the ground. Bamf unformed his dragon and fell too. When he hit the ground, he shot up a series of rocks that encased Minion Bufu. Minion Bufu asked, "How is the Master of Lightning doing?"

Bamf ordered, "Enough talk. Let's not talk about him."

Minion Bufu offered, "I can give him his breath of life back."

Bamf ordered again, "I said stop talking!"

Just then Wu ran and stepped on Minion Bufu's head, landed next to Fispima's dragon, and did a barrel roll with his bo staff. Fispima got ready to step on Wu but Garmadon's to-hugh landed on top of Fispima. Fispima's chi dragon began to slowly fade away as the purple fog from Garmadon's Chi Dragon of Destruction extinguished it. Garmadon unformed his dragon. He grabbed Fispima's hands and held them behind his back. Wu struck Fispima with his bo staff

and Fispima fell unconscious. Station Dragon's dragon had almost encased Isabelle in lava until Zoro's light dragon swooped by Station Dragon and sliced her chi dragon. The Chi Dragon of Shadow disappeared. Krispal reappeared behind Station Dragon and struck her with his nunchucks. She fell to the ground, disoriented. Zoro did quick slicing of Distal's necks. Ahimsa's ice dragon did a small exhale and the wounds were covered in ice. Isabelle's water dragon shot a warning shot at Distal. She withdrew her chi dragon. Wu ordered, "I respect you did not kill me when I was your hostage, so I will spare your lives in return, but please don't attack again."

Fispima said, "Thank you for not letting me be killed back at the cave. We may be on opposite sides but let's agree to both remain."

The five elemental masters left without Wu. The Elemental Alliance landed in the clearing and began cheering. Wu encouraged them by saying, "That was incredible. How did you do that?"

Herold said, "It was all Garmadon."

Wu amazed asked, "You passed on father's teaching?"

Garmadon, "We had to do it though we couldn't have won without Ahimsa."

Ahimsa said, "I had no way of cutting off the Master of Intimidation's chi dragon's heads without Zoro's dasher-slasher."

Krispal said, "We all rocked it today."

Bamf mocked, "Except for Fremt."

Fremt lay in the grass, fast asleep. They turned around. Someone was walking out of the woods. It was Falco. He was smiling at them and complemented them, "You guys did incredible."

They all cheered that Falco was back. Bamf asked, "How did you find us?"

"Dragons in the sky, you know." Falco stated. He then said, "Think we could fly to Packe? I know our next objective."