

The story of Chi Si Chen (Autumn Silver Reed) as told by Draenimaullair

Chapter 130: The lost son (3rd ride of Mirtul 1371 - Feast of Lanterns)

*L*istening to a city waking... What an enormous amount of noise people make. I could understand it, if I would wear that ring, but I find it more soothing to keep it in the background to decide what I think of this finch shape. I almost felt like bursting into a song when the sun shone through the window. How odd. But I am a dragon, lord of all the living creatures. I will not bow to some animal's habit. Instead I considered what actions I should take: mummy and daddy did not flame the elf and demon human, so they cannot be totally bad. And I know about Paladin vows: if either was clearly evil he would not be allowed to travel with them. Now he's a dwarf, so a bit dim and too focused on digging instead of enjoying gold and gems, but the vows ignore that excuse. So neither is truly evil. Bummer. Perhaps I can show that I am a grown up by... I got it. I will rescue an innocent child! That will show them how it's done... But I mustn't show myself, because I promised.

*U*sually I spent the morning flying but today I sit on my companion's shoulder as she goes in search of her sisters in faith. She finds them, but I don't like them very much: too much hiding and shadows, too much secrecy. My companion speaks properly. Do some listen or is she ignored? It is so hard to tell! I can smell silver here, and shadows move oddly. Suddenly we leave, I missed that last part of the talk. Then the demon human comes running: one son of the wise fisherman has been kidnapped by river pirates. Finally! Real evil people. The son is perhaps a bit old, but he'll do for saving. One mustn't cook a free human... or what was that saying again.

*R*eally I am wise: the half elf knows how to find the son, while the demon human knows how to use a boat. I knew he was good for something! We find some squalid buildings near the river below a pretty building that should be the martial arts school. Pirates here? But the demon human seems not surprised. Ah! That's why my parent allowed him to come along: he is close enough to evil to think like them! How useful. I will let him live until he does a bad thing. My companion and the tainted elf both move through water with less effort than most humans. We scout below, and by some trickery get the others access. Is this against the law? Difficult. They are pirates, so it is probably allowed. They fight the pirates while I rescue the son. Nobody sees me and I did a good thing! Daddy will be proud of me! The boat is too slow, so I tow it for a bit. The others now realize that they have been honored to be the companions of a dragon. It must be because they do not want to tell others, because they react only a bit. Of course! Mummy told them to keep the secret!

*E*ven as we close on the harbor, the demon human tells that a guard came to investigate: not the pirates, but us freeing the son. They were trying to make us look bad! How rude! Me! But I was wise and rescued the son, and the demon human is a good sneak, so he wasn't seen. Somebody is playing politics... politics... politics. My companion even thinks several people will try to make us look bad. This really is evil. I thought the demon human was evil, but he just likes to fight and show off. A bit like a copper (and he isn't trying to be funny). Even the elf... his blood does not lie. I have decided: lying to make good people look bad is as bad as stealing. It is really evil.

Human female Paragon/3, Wu-Jen/1, Naturalist/3, Ancestral Hierophant/2, Heartfanner/1, Sublime Chord/1