

## *The story of Chi Si Chen (Autumn Silver Reed)*

### *Chapter 87: City Blues (3<sup>rd</sup> ride of Hammer 1371)*

*Waterdeep's climate was colder than the 'Gate, but being right next to the ocean meant it was tempered by the ever-changing water. Grimwald had tried to hire a smithy to do some work, but the laws here were more strict: he was no master – officially so – so he needed to prove that he was. Nobody doubted that he would succeed, but rules were rules. Sometimes I just did not see the point in them.*

*Cuura was busy making friends with soldiers, Nethander disappearing like he had lived here his whole life, Kendalan looking for plants in this city of stone, Felina looking for information, and Zhae trying to find tales of the Twelve. I went to places, trying to pick up new melody lines and tales, but I found this place to be far more open to music of my home land.*

*It was odd, but within a day I no longer needed to look for places to play. I was invited by this and sundry person, to play at homes, festhalls, guild buildings, even two temples. I limited my performances to the pipa, as Lasham warned me against showing to much to soon. 'Your public should always discover something new'. It was good advice, but bad for my nails and finger tops. I earned quite some coins, but my wardrobe needed some attention, the poor needed their alms, and paper and ink as I had hardly any space left to write. I also bought some generic tools as my backpack was far from full, and at least some of Grimwald's ever-preparedness had rubbed off.*

*At night, very late indeed, I was happy that Kendalan was still awake to rub some poultice on my hands, and I apologized to Guan Yin as I used her art to heal my hands and instrument. I considered my life till now, and found my path strangely twisted, yet straight. From maiden to Wu Jen, from Wu Jen to Naturalist, and now from Naturalist to Bard. From nothing to the elements, from elements to life, from life to music. Guan Yin showed us the importance of listening, and I hoped that Music would help me understand others, and others understand the beauty of life. I made four steps in the circle already, would I make a fifth?*

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