

## Tale of the One-Tails: Chapter 1 - Great Power in Small Hands

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The Heaven's Fangs wolf tribe all stood together as they beheld the rejuvenating season trotting to them over the horizon. By the order and aid of Alpha Male Shu, and his vixen mate, Alpha Female Zuki, the village prepared to celebrate the first day of spring. Shu himself welcomed the return of the cherry blossoms to the tree next to the mountain spring at the peak where he and Zuki played as cubs. Lost in the lavish zest of the feast, Shu called out to their pack's most amazing allies, whom could hear his call anytime of any day, anywhere on Earth.

"Lady Zenkura... Lady Zenayin... Lord Zenon... I ask that you express to Zen my wish for him and his siblings to come to my village, and grace our humble celebration with their presence." Shu thought, concentrating hard to push the thought through the astral barriers and to the three phoxes who watched over their ten earthbound siblings.

Within an hour, the feast was underway, as Shu's mother, Yun, brightened the feast with the angelic sound of her erhu and divine skills with said instrument. Shu's former pupil, Hao Yu, joined in with his bamboo flute, as his sister Hao Ling stood watch for their guests. Starry-eyed and dressed in her finest, with the best village-made oils soaked into her ebony fur, Ling continued her gaze over the horizon. Each moment she thought of Zenion caused her tail to wag faster and faster, at one point acting as a beat for the music, thanks to her brother holding two drums on either side of it.

After less than ten minutes, cerulean feathers rode a gentle breeze from the east, as one feather landed on Ling's nose. She smiled and breathed in the scent as though it was the only air left on Earth. A portal opened over her, as the phox himself hovered from it, his phoenix wings of the same feathers lightly flapping to slow his descent as his kitsune tails curled and caressed against Ling's face, as she grabbed them. The portal disappeared as he turned to face the black she wolf, his gentle smile and pink eyes melting her heart as her tail wagged too fast to see.

"Hello, Ling. I hope I didn't keep you waiting, too long," he thought, transferring his greeting to her mind.

"Ohh ho ho... I LOVE it when you talk in my head." Ling shivered with delight, flinging herself at him and wrapping her arms around his waist.

From the center of the village, nine glowing orbs floated down from the sky, orbiting in a ring as the villagers watched in awe. A pair of dark hands reached around the purple orb and formed a pitch black silhouette that shifted into a female phox's body and faded into view as Zendria, the darker side of kitsune and phoenix magic. A pink orb floated down and encircled the males of the tribe, shedding blossom pedals before they formed the shape of another phox, then exploded off the formed body of Zenatha, the upbeat and flirty vixen of the family.

Dropping like a bomb, the brown orb pierced through the earth beneath the paws of the Langren, and arose again, now as the phox Zeno, direct, simple, and stoic as always, flashing a light grin as some of the females of the tribe stared in awe of his above-average physique. The breeze picked up once more, blowing bits and pieces of oddly colored leaves that collected in the tree, like puzzle pieces. The complete puzzle was the easygoing Zenya lounging in the tree, already making herself at home as she yawned and gazed at the passing clouds.

A beam of electricity struck a patch of grass, as some fire started to emerge, until water was splashed onto it. The three elements then separated, as the electricity formed a sort of stick figure shape which expanded and morphed into the body of Zenora, to whom all the children flocked as she crouched to greet them all with a hug and a kiss to the head. The fire emerged into an anthro form and flashed a confident pose as they died down and simmered onto the body of the cocky and dreadlocky Zenaku, who's only greeting was a toothy smirk and a slight upward tilt of his head.

The water arose and formed yet another anthro form, as fur and clothes began to grow within like an absorbing sponge before the water sunk into the pores of the now present Zenium, who adjusted his collar and gave a gentleman's bow to the Langren present with a dignified smile. And finally, true to his distaste for flare and amazement, Zenith simply walked straight through the Langren and even the long table of the feast with his powers to become intangible and joined his siblings, addressing the Langren villagers with a neutral yet bone-chilling gaze.

"With all due respect, the cause of all this zeal greatly underwhelms me," he confided to Zenium. "A celebration of a natural occurrence that is as certain as the sunrise seems redundant and counter-productive, to me."

"If you would just let your body feel warmth, cold, or the wind, you may change your tune," said Zenium. "The days are now longer, the weather is more bearable, and the soil is fertile."

"That only confuses me more, brother. If the days are longer and better suited for crops, should they not be using the time they instead spent on this 'celebration' and make the most of it? They should build a stock of provisions for next winter."

"Aww, Zenith mah phox, dun go makin' math outta fun," said Zenaku, patting his shoulder rather roughly. "I say PPPAAARRRTTTAAAYYYY!!! YEAH!!!"

"Wait a minute..." said Zenora, looking around. "Zenith, did you lose track of Zenny again?"

"I am Zenny's brother, main ally in battle, and recently a tester for his bizarre and exaggerated inventions," Zenith stated. "I hold true to each role, grudgingly but faithfully. However, I never agreed to being his personal chaperon."

"Yet you wonder how he makes those inventions without you noticing until you are begged to test them." said Zenium.

At the peak of the mountain where the cherry tree was nestled, there was a giant red cover draped over a mass of large objects with fox-ear-shaped bulges rapidly shifting around beneath it, all while playing a cartoonish symphony of construction equipment and tools whirring, pounding, and sawing as clouds of dust seeped out from the bottom of the cover. Eventually, a mass of identical, red-eyed, one-tailed, orange, child-like foxes in orange vests with highlighter yellow stripes over and down the shoulders and yellow construction helmets, vacated from beneath the scarlet veil.

"My fellow Zennies, prepare to dazzle and be dazzled by the reward for the sweat of our brows." said the one standing at the front of the crowd.

"We didn't have to sweat, at all, if we just used our dark matter to conjure up the whole thing, instead of making a toony construction work skit out of it all." said one of the crowd.

"Yeah... come to think of it, we don't even sweat, to begin with. We're part kitsune. We pant to cool down." said another, as the lead Zenny frowned in annoyance while his left ear twitched.

"I REALLY need to stop spending so much time with Zenith. His cold, logical mumbo jumbo is making a mess of my creativity. And my clones are getting outta sync with me." said the original, clearing his throat. "Without further ado, let's give our extra special thanks to our Langren friends for inviting us to the party. Sure, our big siblings like Natha and Naku can always liven festivities up with ease, but it's not an official phox party until Zenny Infinitium makes his mark."

"Hoorah!" the other Zennies roared in pride and unison.

"Now, switch costumes!" he said as he started to spin and conceal himself in a miniature tornado.

The other Zennies did the same. Stopping simultaneously, their construction site uniforms were gone, replaced by various intricate costumes, all with phoenix and kitsune designs. The original Zenny himself wore his newest favorite outfit to distinguish him from the others as the original, all dressed in white with a full suit and a black bowtie, as well as a white top hat and his gentleman's cane; a simple pole of refined oak with his orange orb attached to the top. After adjusting his collar, Zenny pointed his cane forward like a general with his sword, proudly charging with his army.

"Hhheerrreee's Zenny!" he grinned.

In the Langren Village below, Zen and Shu sat side by side, with Zuki on Shu's other side and Nora at Zen's. The other Langren villagers sat in a ring as they watched Hao Ling and Hao Yu performing, with the exception of a few, pounding on drums, and Yun, who played a flute to drive the performance along. Yu tossed Ling into the air again and again, as he flipped and cartwheeled to where she would land next. Ling herself did various flips spins and such while in the air before being caught by her brother in various forms and ways. Ling naturally enjoyed performing more.

"The she-wolf fights gravity and embraces the wind and air." Zenya commented. "I gotta praise her, she knows how to let the wind carry her like a leaf, and pull off those amazing tricks with her."

"Word. Check out dat wicked air time." said Naku. "She's as nimble as a noodle. She practice Yoga, or somethin'?"

"No, but she has been blessed with incredible agility and grace. Even as a pup, she would leap through the branches and show her nimbleness, flipping and spinning to outshine us all." said Shu with a pause and a grin. "I can't help but notice that she is especially bright-eyed and bushy-tailed whenever Zenion is around."

"Oh? Well, uh..." Zen paused, somewhat flustered as signaled by his blushing. "True enough that I notice her beauty and ability. And as someone who loves to experience all the beauty life can offer, I have a deep respect for her."

"Come on, Zen. You don't have to hold it in." said Zuki. "After all, she is very pretty, even when she isn't defying gravity."

"Aww, someone has a crush on our Zenion." Zenora said adoringly. "Seems like only yesterday, he was an innocent phox waking up from his slumber in the temple, experiencing the softness and warmth of his own fur and the cold texture of the stone floor beneath his paws for the first time."

"I've come a long way since then, you know." Zenion said, slightly vexed by Nora's motherly recollections.

"I'll say he's come a long way." Zenatha added with a grin. "I think it's just priceless. Finally, someone sees Zen the way I see all people in the world, as something to hold the closest to my heart and cherish forever and ever."

"And why is that Ling seems ignorant of this 'respect' you have?" asked Zenium.

"She's not. I hugged her and made sure she was the first to see me." Zen defended.

"Love is complicated, but it isn't rocket science." said Zeno. "Let your heart speak for you, not your arms."

"Easy to say for someone so direct. Not to mention one who has the full attention of the females in this village."

"Though it may hurt them, their fascination with me is only attributed to my physique. I'm so much more than a mass of muscles and Earth magic. Beneath my pectorals beats a heart, with which I know true love when I see it."

"Bro, you try n' hold it all in, you'll blow up like Zenny when Zenya blow too much air in him after he gets flattened by somethin'." Naku advised as Zenya chuckled, recollecting those amusing occasions.

"Speaking of which, where IS our little brother?" Zenion said, looking around.

Zen looked left and right for his little brother, creating the perfect opportunity for the black she-wolf to move in. Ling looked to her brother, as if signaling something, then swiftly gestured her nose to the concerned phox next to Shu. Yu sighed with annoyance and rolled his eyes at being a pawn in his sister's scheme to lure this male's heart into her possession. He then threw her once more, with great power and accurate timing as Zenion spread his arms out in a shrug to indicate he was unaware of Zenny's whereabouts, just before he saw a black she-wolf land in those arms.

"Oh... I... how did that happen?" Ling asked innocently, as Shu and Zuki tried to conceal their snickering.

"You embarrass me with your antics, at times, dear sister." Yu sighed.

"You'd almost say that is the job of your siblings." Zenith said.

"Very subtle, Ling. Just like when we were pups." Shu grinned.

"HELLOOOOOOO, HEAVEN'S FAAANGS!!!" a young voice cried out with the help of a megaphone. "Ain't no party like Ze-nny party, cause a Ze-nny party never stops!"

"Uh oh. He's at it again. It's best just to grin and bear it." said Zenion, as he set Ling back on her paws.

A rumble spread throughout both the village and its mountain foundations, as Ling growled. Her perfect moment, gaining the full attention of Zenion, all for nothing thanks to the approaching phenomenon, sure to turn everyone's heads, especially Zen's, from her, if what Shu told them was correct. True to Shu's word, no less than a hundred Zenny's came trotting down the hill, the original dressed in his finest white suit and twirling his cane like a baton, with half his clones in a marching band behind him, and the other half dancing on a float, decorated with kitsune and phoenixes.

"All that rehearsal... all that time away from my tailoring cot... all those sleepless nights, and I get upstaged by that inconsiderate little show-off?" Ling snarled, her fists quaking as her right eye twitched. "No way! Not in this lifetime!"

"Ling, calm down. He's not trying to-" Zuki said, interrupted as Ling dashed toward the Zennies on all fours.

"And she's off." said Yu.

Beyond the ring were more spectators, whom she leaped over, using their heads as footholds as she advanced toward the Zennies. Zenny took notice with a grin, and shifted the terrain between himself and Ling into a hole, covered by a trampoline. In front of it, he formed a hurdle, which Ling flawlessly cleared with a front flip, ineptly landing on the trampoline and launching herself into the air. Eight of the Zennies aboard the float spread out into a ring and lifted a large tarp to catch her, then threw her back up into the air to repeat the process.

"Zenny, stop this circus act, or so help me, you'll be the first ever kitsune with no tails!" she tried to shout over the band.

"You heard her, Zennies!" Zenny shouted to his clones. "Try a circus act! So help me, it almost never ever fails!"

"On it!" said two of them, as they conjured a tall trapeze structure, stretching from the back to the front of the float.

"I bet you have Zenion's attention now, don't you, Ling?!" Yu shouted as he chuckled.

"Haa ha haa ha ha! We have got to invite the Zens more often." Zuki laughed.

The two Zennies flew atop their perches and began swinging, one of them grabbing Ling, swinging back, then forth and tossing her to the other. Terrified at the height, she covered her eyes as she was tossed back. The Langren of the village began to ooh, ahh, cheer and chortle at Zenny's performance, with Naku and Natha laughing hard, as Nora tried to hold back her own laughter. Zenya watched the ordeal with a moderate interest all while Zeno, Zenith, Zendria, and Zenium watched with unamused frowns. Zenion sat by wary, in case Zenny's performance backfired.

"Ugh... Let me down already! I feel like my early morning breakfast is returning for a late night visit!" Ling piped up.

"But, you told us to try a circ-" both trapeze Zennies began to say.

"I SAID LET ME DOWN!!!" she shouted.

"Sorry, sorry!" they said timidly, as the first let her go flying, while the other leaned and swung out of the way.

"I DIDN'T SAY DROP ME!!! WWWHHHOOOAAA!!!" she shouted, as she began plummeting toward the marching band.

Ling's landing impacted the center few of the last three rows of Zennies, as those in front of them fell forward, toppling the others like a set of dominoes. In the front, Zenny himself was balancing his top hat upside down atop his head, all while juggling three broadswords he "borrowed" from the village armory. The tidal wave of tripping Zennies managed to sweep his legs out from under him as well, as one of the sword spun through the air. His eyes fixated on Ling and the Zennies, Shu didn't notice the sword was flying right for him, until it was too close.

"NO!!!" Zuki screamed, extending her hand at him.

Shu's eyes squeezed shut in preparation for the certain impalement, but instead, he felt cherry blossom pedals fall and slide off of his face. He opened his eyes to find Zuki, her hand extended out to him, and the sword no where in sight. Even the Zens wore faces of absolute shock, as they witnessed a close call that could have ended in great loss. Zuki looked at her hand, then rubbed her eyes to make sure all was what it seemed. Zenny's clones disappeared, as the original found Ling stuck sitting in the frame of a broken band drum, with a pitiful frown and eyelids heavy with grief.

The villagers swarmed to Shu, hoping that he was unharmed, as they looked at the blossom pedals on the ground, certain that only moments ago, they were a deadly blade heading straight for their alpha male. Unaware of the terrifying ordeal that had just transpired, Ling was at least content that everyone's focus was on someone else, to make her embarrassment more mild. Her ears hung as she wiped a single tear away and sniffled a little. Zenny's ears lowered as well, as did his tail, before he walked away from her. Hours later, the other Zens came into the Alpha Pair's home.

"It is not my first near death experience. And it is, by far, my least painless. You needn't worry yourselves. Zuki and I are both unscathed." Shu assured them. "I worry more for Hao Ling. She just wanted to entertain you all, and now she must live this unfortunate evening down. Everyone was so caught up in Zuki saving me by... whatever she did, no one paid any mind to Ling, except me. I saw her scrape herself and what little dignity she had up, and sulk all the way to the tea house."

"We're all glad you're unharmed, and we're sorry if you think we're overreacting, but steel doesn't simply turn into pedals willy nilly." said Nora. "You know there's more to it than that, don't you Zuki?"

"Believe me, I'm still shaken up by that magic act." Zuki replied

"Magic is the keyword." said Zenith.

"You know about your roots, Hirozuki. Why do you refuse to accept this?" asked Zeno.

"Because it's impossible. I'm the granddaughter of the first kitsune to reach nine tails and the first one to turn evil. I spent my teenage years trying to purge myself of her haunting magic, and I finally did it. It was all that was standing between Shu and I. If it's back, than I'm a curse on him, once more. Everything I've done to be rid of it... it can't just be all for nothing."

"It's magic, that's for sure." said Zenion. "But it isn't evil. Evil Kyubi magic or not, you're still a kitsune. Magic is drawn to you. And it's Kitsune Magic you have to thank that Shu's still breathing."

"Well, I'd like to turn Zenny into pedals and ground him into powder to make some tea." she snarled. "We were fine with a simple yet dazzling performance, and he just had to invite himself into it. Steal center stage from the Hao Twins. And for the main attraction, he nearly turns my mate into a Shu-shkabob."

"Zuki, please." said Shu, with his hand on her shoulder. "He was reckless, that much is true. But he is young and full of zest. He meant well and humiliating Ling was not his intention."

"The more he grows, the more does his power. Black Matter is generically evil, but he has managed to tame it, so far. But if it grows stronger than him, it'll mean great destruction for us all."

"Good, then I'll have an excuse to skewer that squirt." said Zuki.

"You will not do anything. He is OUR brother and OUR responsibility. You have a right to be upset, but without any intention or success in hurting your mate, you have no grounds for such unfounded retribution." said Zenith. "Especially when he could defeat you with just a flick of his finger. Besides, you've only begun to tap into your magic, and it's no where near his level."

"I know he is deeply sorry, Zuki." said Nora. "Our Zenny only wishes to bring humor and joy into the lives of others."

"And what's gonna happen to all that sunshine and rainbows when his power outgrows him?" Zuki asked.

"We not gonna let dat happen." said Zenaku.

"The question is, what's causing this growth... his kitsune magic, or his phoenix magic?" Zeno pondered.

"Phoenix magic is as infinite as the light of the sun, and as such, is ageless." said Zenium. "It is definitely kitsune magic. Besides, phoenixes are innately benevolent, but as Zuki's grandmother proves, kitsune have the capability to turn to darkness."

"I agree." said Zenith. "And as we divide our capability between the two powers, we can do nothing to help. We must find a full blooded kitsune who is a magic specialist. He can help Zenny manage his grip on his wild card of a power and, hopefully, avoid any episodes like the ones that have passed this evening."

"Yeah, yeah. Sure. Solid plan. Just enroll him in Kitsune school. That simple, right?" Zuki remarked sarcastically.

"Actually, yes." said Zenya.

"Wait... there are seriously Kitsune schools?" Zuki asked.

"There is only one such place we know of." said Zenion. "Inari Gakuen, built in honor of Inari Okami, the Shinto God, and sometimes Goddess, of foxes and prosperity."

"In mythology, the Kitsune served him as heralds, and as guardians for his loyal followers." said Zenium. "They did so, through means of shape-shifting, illusion, and dream penetration. Kitsune also pride themselves on teaching life's many lessons. Morality, humbleness, discipline, and so on. They teach it to both the willing and unwilling through their talent for trickery. Teaching Zenny to better control his power is a job for a master kitsune, not an outburst of brute force."

"Suppose that I agree not to pound his face in, will you tell me where I can find one to teach me how to use my magic?" asked Zuki. "If I gotta have this magic, I may as well master it. All the better to fight those who prey on the weak, right?"

"Unfortunately, the path there requires more than a good sense of direction. But rumors arise frequently that the answers lie in Inari's many shrines." said Zenya

"So, you've never been to Inari Gakuen? None of you?" she asked.

"We were created to serve, protect, and accompany Zenion. We have full mastery of our powers, however, all but Zenny's are constant and unchanging." said Zenora. "His power is growing, and so must he, or he'll go from guardian to threat. If you think you can control your temper, you can find a way to Inari Gakuen together."

"Fine. Then that means we must head for Japan. We should try Kyoto. They have kept many temples and shrines in shape, from centuries ago."

"But... ohh, very well." said Shu.

"What's wrong?" Zuki said, sitting beside him.

"I look back on how we searched the Earth for each other. It seems such a short time we found each other again, and now you must leave." he said, hanging his head.

"Hey..." she said, lifting his face up to meet hers. "This time, you know I'm safe, and I'll talk with you every night, with some magic help from Zenny. You grew stronger trying to find me, now I can grow stronger, trying to find myself."

"As you wish. But still, the village and I will miss you terribly." he said, as they embraced.

"I won't be away so long, this time." she said.

"I will hold you to that." Shu grinned. "But I know you'll become a credit to all kitsune."

Only fifty yards away at the village tea house, Ling was drowning her shame in a variety of the many warm nectars brewed by her brother. Yu rolled his eyes as he served her the seventeenth cup, as she thoughtlessly gazed ahead to the clearing she performed at only hours ago. She glugged yet another serving, and slammed the cup down, wiping her lips with her arm as she leaned back on the bench and gazed at the distant moon glowing above. She only closed her eyes a moment, and opened to find them locked with another pair of peepers, crimson red and child-like.

"Are you feeling any better, Ms. Hao?" asked Zenny, as she sat up and rubbed her eyes.

"A good night's rest would help... too bad this isn't a good night." she sighed.

"One performance flops, out of the dozens you've given, and suddenly, your life isn't worth living." Yu remarked, filling her cup once more. "Where do you find the gall to treat ME like the baby of the family?"

"I had his full attention." Ling continued to mope. "I was in his arms, gazing into his bottomless, entrancing, rose-colored eyes. And all it took was a kit and his carny clones to turn his head away from me. A kit who gets to spend every day with him, while I have to wait for a special occasion, just to get a glance. And the second his eyes are on me again, I'm being tossed around like a stuffed animal. Maybe I should just run away and join the circus officially."

"For the love of all Langren, why do you take everything so personally?" Yu scoffed.

"I didn't mean to embarrass you, Ling. Honest." said Zenny, crossing an X into his chest like it was putty. "The Langren invited us, and I was just trying to thank them the only way I knew how. By making them laugh, smile, ooh, and ahh. It wasn't my idea to drag you into it, but when you jumped in, everyone was enjoying it, so I just went along with it."

"The blame's not all yours, Zenny." said Yu, looking at his sister. "Ling's jealousy compromised her judgment, and drove her to try and crash your act. But your intentions were pure, and she reaped what she had sewn. Maybe if she hadn't acted so childish, it wouldn't be just you here to comfort her. She also shares an equal blame for nearly killing Master Shu. Why are you mourning your performance when we could have lost him because of your actions, Ling?"

"I..." she hung her head. "You're right as always, brother."

"And don't you forget it." he grinned, pulling the two of them closer. "You wanted to welcome the Zens, while you, Zenny, wanted to show your gratitude for being welcomed. You both would have performed great, and next time, I'm sure you can come up with something together that will amaze us all beyond imagination. But it's still trivial compared to the life of our chieftan. If you both truly want to amend this, apologize to each other, and to him. And all will be well."

"Yes... it could have been worse than a ruined performance. I'm the one who should apologize. Please forgive me, Zenny." said Ling, as she hugged the kit.

"Aww, gosh..." he said with a blush, as his tongue magnified to a cartoonish size, licking her face as a gesture of acceptance.

"Eugh!" Ling said, disgusted, as she wiped the slobber from her fur, her brother laughing as she did so.

Together, hand in hand, Ling and Zenny walked toward the house of the Alpha Pair, crossing the arched bridge over a thin ring brook and up the three stairs. Ling reached to the wind chimes and rung them, to announce their presence, before slowly sliding the door open. They walked inside to find the other Zens and Shu waiting for them. With Hirozuki standing in the middle. They seemed more focused on Zenny, as Zuki approached them and knelt to him. He trembled inside at the possibility of what she would do, knowing her mate narrowly eluded death.

"Zenny... your siblings, Shu, and I have been talking." she began. "You're magical power is growing, but your power over it remains the same. On the other hand, my magic has just been awakened. The siblings believe it is time we both embark on a journey to mastery... for the sake of avoiding similar disasters, such as that which occurred tonight."

"A journey? We both? Not Zenion, or Zenith? Only you and me?" he asked fearfully.

"I know you didn't mean to, and all that matters is Shu is safe... and now I've begun delving into ways to protect him and everyone else better. I forgive you, and I wish to learn with you."

"Really? You mean it?"

"Yes. Before today, I shunned magic... I believed mine would only be dark and corruptive, like my grandmother's... but the Zens have opened my eyes, you especially. With training, I can control it, and keep it from controlling me."

"The dark matter you wield is dangerous, Zenny. If not for these very particular circumstances, a life would be gone. One that cannot be revived, like ours." said Zenith, re-instituting the guilt.

"Our point is..." Nora interjected, glaring at the tactless Zenith. "... you need to learn better control, or you risk your life, your family, your friends, and maybe all of reality. We all know you're a sweet and zesty phox, but without proper guidance, the dark matter will change you, and not for the better. We just don't wanna lose the Zenny we have now. You understand, do you not?"

"B-bu-but... I don't wanna leave you guys." he said, flashing over-sized sad phox eyes.

"And I don't wanna leave my village, let alone my love." she said, looking at Shu. "But if it means greater power to use for our cause, I can't let it pass me by. And we'll have each other. We'll have much to teach each other on the side."

"Well... fine." he said, his ears hanging low. "But where are we gonna learn what we need to know?"

"Don't worry." said Zenith, extending his hand. "Keep your minds sharp, and you will find the guidance you seek."

Zenith then opened a wormhole in the middle of the floor. The other Zens huddled around Zenny to exchange parting gestures, as Shu and Zuki enjoyed their final embrace and kiss for a time. Afterwards, Zuki and Zenny looked at each other, then beheld the portal beneath them. Neither one of them could imagine what was waiting on the other side.