

## **Light of an Old Friend**

**Authors: Yordi Blanco and Felipe Robleto**

A long time ago in Pangea, I woke up to a cloudy night. I'd had a nightmare and I wanted to go out for some fresh water on the nearby river. When I arrived, I looked down to the water and saw my reflection. It was as always: white skin, red nose and lonely as ever. While I was washing my face, I heard a sound of something falling, it was a stick, this one was a large one and made of good wood so I took it home.

The next morning I heard a voice, a very familiar voice, it was like an old friend of mine, he said "Cloud wake Up!". I immediately opened my eyes and looked around, the wooden stick had a magic light, the stick continued to talk "Hey! Don't you remember me? It's me, Chelo!" Cloud replied "Yes... But what happened to your body?" Chelo replied "I really don't know, I just woke up like this".

Cloud and Chelo continued talking about the lost body, Chelo wanted to rush out and find it, but Cloud say: "As my mom used to say: First the egg and later the milk", which meant that things needed to be done patiently, then they moved to the local market where all poor people went so it was in a bad shape, and then proceeded to ask people about who knew where Chelo's body was. A group of fellows told him that there was a wise frog living in the mountains who knew about a lot of things and about magic.

The two friends arrived at the Frog's Mountain and encountered an old frog wearing a vest and fez, the frog said "Welcome to my shelter! What do you want young ones?" they replied "We are here to ask you if you know anything about my friend's lost body" then the frog replied "Sorry but I don't know anything about it, but I know someone who is collecting bodies to return to his normal form, if you would like to find him he lives on the Mountains of the nearby island, people refer to him as the Mage", after that the 2 friends left and thanked the frog.

Later that night it rained and Chelo's light went off and was unable to speak. Meanwhile, Cloud searched for a cave to spend the night and found a depressed and old koala. Cloud said to him "Hi! What happened?" he replied "Ah... it's nothing, I just want to get out of here, I don't like this place. And why are you sad?", "My friend's light is off and I need to turn it on" said Cloud. The Koala then said "Well... I can turn it on, only if you help me get out of here", so Cloud accepted the quest.

Cloud said to the Koala to follow him, he knew someone who could help them. They both walked for hours until they arrived to the beach where a large Tortoise was chilling. Cloud explained the situation to the Tortoise and accepted to help the Koala, but there was something wrong because the Koala lied to Cloud about turning Chelo's light back on. Cloud was little angry because the Koala tricked him, but then the Tortoise said "Oh!... I can make a smooth fire if I had a soft material like the Koala's Hat", the Koala didn't like the idea because it was expensive but the Tortoise said that it was the only thing to compensate Cloud, in the end he accepted and Chelo returned to life.

The tortoise left them in Sky Bay (a famous bay in the east of Pangea). They searched for the cheapest ferryman that went to Mal Fasant city (a city with a political revolution). The ferryman accepted and with his finger counted the hours to arrive. Cloud took advantage of the situation and decided to sleep for a while. Chelo observed that they were arriving so he shouted "Cloud! Wake up!", then they took a break in another bay near the island. Cloud was very tired and wanted to sleep in a hotel, but when he was walking a man said to him that this bay was dangerous at night, Cloud ignored the man and continued walking. Then, he heard an explosion.

As soon as he heard that sound he ran away, but when he got back to the Ferryman he noticed that there wasn't anyone around except for the man who warned him, he explained to them that the only ferryman who is available was kind of blind and he didn't see very well in the dark, and then Cloud suggested to brighten the path with Chelo's light. In the end both escaped safely and arrived to the other part of the island.

The first thing that they did was to search for a shelter to protect themselves from the dangers of the city and so Cloud could sleep properly. When the sun rose Chelo came shouting "Cloud Wake up!", Cloud was a little annoyed that Chelo was too desperate, so he replied "As my mom used to say: First the egg and later the milk". Then they started going to the mountain where the mage was, but they couldn't go straight there because all the dangerous towns were on the main route so they decided to take another path.

The path was long so they started talking, Chelo said something about dreaming that he was in an accident and died, Cloud was a little confused because he knew that it was a dream but it sounded like something real to him, in the end he ignored it and continued walking. It was getting late so they entered an old house in the Mountain, it was OK, but then they started to hear sounds from above.

Cloud and Chelo went down to investigate and found a Mage making a potion, instantly Cloud thought that it was the "Mage" and without thinking twice he threw some kind of bottle with a liquid in it to the caldron where the mage was making his potion, suddenly the potion reacted and exploded. Cloud ran away with Chelo to avoid the explosion, but when they escaped they heard someone screaming in the house, so they ran in the other direction.

Chelo was furious about what Cloud had done, because he didn't ask the mage for the body but also maybe he killed the Mage, preventing him from recovering his body. Cloud was sad because of his actions and because he didn't think it through, and know there was nothing they could do. Cloud and Chelo now needed to return to their homes but it was late and decided to sleep.

Then Suddenly Chelo heard something loud and woke Cloud up. It was a demon, they were both confused and scared. "YOU! YOU WERE THE ONE WHO RUINED MY BODY" said the demon, "Are you the Mage!?" both said, "YES! WHY DID YOU DO THIS TO ME, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU" replied the demon, then Cloud said "I'm s-sorry, but I thought you were the one who stole my friend's body". The demon angrily responds "WHAT!? NO! I DON'T COLLECT BODIES FROM PEOPLE, I COLLECT BODIES FROM ANIMALS OR OTHER THINGS, I WOULDN'T KILL ANYONE TO TAKE THEIR BODIES".

Then Cloud replied "I'm really sorry, but there's nothing I can do to repair you" but the demon had an idea. He quickly grabbed Cloud by force and said "WELL... I CAN TAKE YOUR BODY TO RESTORE MINE", Cloud was scared and unable to do anything, meanwhile Chelo didn't care at all, he thought that Cloud had it well deserved because he didn't restore his body. Cloud was close to dying but then the morning appeared and the demon disappeared because if he touched the light of the sun he disappears too, that's why he only wakes up in the night in his new form. Cloud fell off and hit his head on the ground making him unconscious.

t was a sunny day, I was in my chair reading a book when Chelo entered my house trying to scare me, but he looked like a normal person and not like a stick, he said something about following him and that he had a surprise for me, I responded that I would be there in a moment, then he left quickly. I wasn't planning on going, Chelo is kind of a prankster so I ignored him. Later that night I didn't see Chelo anymore, maybe he went to his house or something."

The next day I didn't see Chelo either, I searched everywhere and I couldn't find him, then I remembered that he said something about following him to a place, I rushed to get to that place and the first thing that I saw was a cake and some party objects, then I remembered, yesterday was my birthday and this was like some kind of surprise party, I felt bad and spent the rest of the day searching for him but in the end, I couldn't find him."

Finally Cloud woke up after that, he remembered what had happened. That stick wasn't Chelo, it was only his imagination because the real Chelo had disappeared a long time ago. Then he went to his house and thought about what had happened, "Why did the frog know about the mage? Maybe he was just tricking me to leave him alone", Cloud was very confused and had a lot of questions, but he decided just to grab the stick and put it again in the river, where it belonged.