

The Girl Who Went to War

Once upon a time in a far off land... there was a young girl who lived in a village with a family who took great pride in their ability to fight. One day war broke out in a neighboring kingdom, and the young girl, wishing to please her family disguised herself as a young man and joined the army.

It wasn't long before she was sent to the front lines, and it was there that she experienced great pain and suffering. It was there that she found men killing each other with swords of steel. And it was there that she discovered that all she had been told about the glories of war and of fighting, were lies.

When the wars ended, she returned home to her village and to her family who welcomed her at first. But soon her harsh truths about the horrors of war and the uselessness of fighting, were an embarrassment to her village and to her family. Soon she began living alone, which increased her bitterness greatly.

One day, while walking along the outskirts of the village, she saw an old man walking towards her...a very strange old man. It was almost like the old man had a very beautiful and mysterious glow about him. Of course...this was impossible.

And then the old man walked right up to her, looked her straight in the eyes, and said, "I understand that you wish to become a great warrior?" And then he turned and walked back into the forest.

Well naturally the young woman had to follow, curious if nothing else. When she finally saw the old man again, he was sitting on a rock, his back to her, his feet dangling in a stream. So she too sat down and waited, and waited, and waited. Soon she could stand it no longer and jumped to her feet and began screaming at the old man.

The old man, without turning around, softly but firmly said, "Sit down. Be still."

The young woman sat down again and tried to be still, not knowing just how difficult that really was to do. She sat, and sat, and soon her thoughts and emotions began to run through her like a pack of wild dogs. Eventually she could stand it no longer, and she leaped to her feet again, this time drawing a sword that she always carried from the wars to attack the old man.

Again the old man softly but firmly said, "Sit down. Be still."



The young woman sat down again. This time more determined than ever, she sat, and sat, and sat, and tried with all her might to be still. "Sit down. Be still, and become a great warrior."

Again her thoughts and emotions ran through her. Her heart raced and she began to sweat. Her body began to tremble and shake until she thought for sure that she would explode. Finally she could stand it no longer. She leaped to her feet drawing her sword, this time to kill the old man.

The old man slowly got to his feet, turned around and looked the young woman right in the eyes and said, "I have waited a long time for you. It is easy to be angry. It is even easy to kill men with swords of steel. But it takes great power to be peaceful. It takes a great warrior to master herself."

"Sit down. Be still, and become a great warrior."

.....The people in the village couldn't remember the last time they saw the woman wear a sword. Towards the end of her life, it was said by some, that if you could see her in the shadows when the sun was just right, she actually glowed with a very mysterious and beautiful light. Of course..... This was impossible....