

# *LEGEND OF THE TIGER MAN*

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It was a time of great confusion throughout the land. The warlords controlled everything and they had no mercy. The people were afraid since there was no unity. No one knew what would come next. This was soon to change, but the time had not yet come.

In a far-off land high in the mountains and far from the sea, in a place seldom visited by outsiders, a boy was born to a poor family who were farmers. His name was Gang-No.

When he was young, he played with the animals in the forest and learned their ways. He learned to hunt and to follow his prey so they would not know he was there. He learned the skills of the great cats. He learned how to find what he needed to survive.

His parents wanted him to go to school and get the education he would need to find a good job, so he could provide for his family when they were old, but he did not want any part of it.

He obeyed his parents and attended school during the day, but as soon as he was free, he went to the forest and practiced the ways of the tiger and of the leopard. Day after day, he became friends with them and they trusted him.

As Gang-No got older, he spent more time in the forest than in his home. People thought he was crazy and told his parents he should be sent away. They were afraid of him and thought he would be a danger to the people of the village.

Gang-No's parents begged him to give up his life in the forest, but he just ignored

them. He knew the forest was where he belonged. He loved the animals and they loved him.

The people did not understand Gang-No, but he did not care. He was doing what he felt was right in his heart.

One day, while Gang-No was in the forest, he heard loud noises coming from his village. He heard the screams of people echo through the trees. He heard the loud noises of the destruction of the homes. He ran as fast as he could to help his family.

When he got to the edge of the forest, he could not believe what he saw. His town was burning and people were laying in the street. The town had been destroyed. His family was not anywhere to be found.

The warlord's soldiers from the next province had raided the village and taken the women and young children with them.

Gang-No sat and cried for his people, unable to move. He could not believe what he was seeing. He waited until the soldiers were gone. He was too afraid to help the people of his village because there were too many soldiers.

After sitting for a long time, and after the soldiers left, he decided to search the village to see if he could find any one that might still be alive. He went from house to house searching through the debris that was scattered across the valley as if a large storm had come through. He searched for several hours, not finding anything, until he found a girl hiding in a well. She was too frightened to answer Gang-No when he called down to her.

He helped her out of the well and carried her to a fallen tree where he sat her down. She was crying and could not speak for a long time. Gang-No just held her close trying to comfort her.

When she finally stopped crying, she told him about all that had happened. She told him how her mother had told her to hide in the well, and how she had heard the screams of the people as the invaders destroyed everything. She knew what was happening, but she was also powerless to help.

The girl's name was Sang-Gi. Gang-No knew who she was, but he did not know her family very well.

Sang-Gi knew who Gang-No was by his reputation. Everyone knew about the crazy boy who lived in the forest and hunted like a tiger. She was surprised at how gentle he was to her.

After Sang-Gi calmed down, they searched the village together, but did not find another person alive.

While Sang-Gi searched for food, Gang-No began to bury the dead.

It took two days to bury all the bodies and to mark the graves, so if any of the people who had been taken away ever returned they would be able to find their loved one.

Gang-No was not sure what to do with the girl, he knew he could not leave her behind, so he took her to the forest where he taught her what he had learned from the animals. She was quick to learn and soon the two of them hunted as a team.

Sang-Gi learned from Gang-No how to survive in the forest. She learned to love the animals and soon she became their friend as well.

As time went by, no one returned to the village. Every once in a while, they would go to the village to see if anything had changed. Over time, all that changed was the village began to disappear into the jungle. Soon there was nothing left except for the well where Gang-No had found Sang-Gi.

They lived together in the forest. They were afraid to go to the other villages for fear that they might be captured or even worse, be killed. They were comfortable in the forest. They had everything they needed.

They fell in love and had a child who they named Ni-Fong. He was a bright child and he grew up fast. He learned quickly, and soon the family moved from place to place hunting and playing in the deep forest.

For several years, they lived alone. They were not being bothered by the warlords who made life miserable for the people in their land.

One day, while they were hunting in the woods, they heard strange noises. The noises were coming toward the place where they were living. The noise came closer and closer.

They knew these were the same men who had destroyed the village. They knew they needed to hide from them. In order to not be found, they climbed into the trees and watched as men dressed in strange clothes walked through the forest.

When the men found their home, they began to destroy the place Gang-No had built for his family. This made him angry.

He jumped out of the tree and began to kill the men one by one. They had no idea where the killer was coming from. Gang-No was so fast and so quiet, they never saw him. Suddenly one would give out a scream and then another.

It was not long until the remaining men ran away, back the direction from where they had come.

Sang-Gi and Ni-Fong climbed down and looked at what Gang-No had done. Ni-Fong asked his father why he had killed the men. His father explained that the same men had come to their village and killed all the men there, and then had taken the women and children away. He continued to tell his son of how Sang-Gi had been saved by hiding in the well. He told Ni-Fong that these were bad people and they should never be trusted.

After the soldiers returned to their village, word of a man who attacked like a tiger spread throughout the region. They told about a mysterious man who could move quickly and quietly through the forest and not be seen.

The people who had been taken from the village had told stories about a young man who lived in the jungle and hunted like a tiger. No one believed them until the soldiers returned with the story of how they had been attacked. They began to call him 'Tiger Man'.

Not long afterward, many of the soldiers in the province decided to hunt the Tiger Man. Many soldiers went into the deepest part of the jungle, looking for the Tiger Man, some were never to return.

Gang-No and his family were being hunted, and they knew it. Even though they went deeper and deeper into the forest, the soldiers kept coming.

They lived in the trees and watched day and night for the soldiers who wanted to kill them. When a group came by, Gang-No and Ni-Fong would hunt them like leopards and then the soldiers would run like scared children back to their village to tell the story of how the Tiger Man and his family were waiting, prepared to kill them.

Time after time, soldiers would go into the jungle looking for the Tiger Man only to come running back, telling stories of how the Tiger Man came out of nowhere and killed the others..

Gang-No was getting tired of all of this. He wanted it to stop. He talked with his family and they decided to do something about it. They decided to go to the village of the warlord. They were no longer going to sit in the forest and wait for the next group to come and try to kill them.

They took what they would need for the journey and followed the trail the soldiers had made when they came looking for the Tiger Man.

The trail was easy to follow. What was not easy was avoiding the many soldiers who were still looking for them.

It took several days to get to the village where the soldiers had taken the people of their town so many years before.

They hid in the tall grass on the edge of the village and watched the activity going on as people did the normal things they did. They recognized a few of the people from their town walking in the streets.

Sang-Gi almost gave them away when she saw her mother and little sister. Gang-No had to put his hand on her mouth and hold her back from running toward her mother. He told her it was too dangerous to go into the town until the sun went down.

They hid in the tall grass until the fires in the village began to go dark.

Gang-No went first, hiding behind the buildings, moving slowly and cautiously, looking at the town and the way the it was laid out. He was making sure he could escape

quickly in case he was seen.

An important person lived in a very large house in the middle of the town. He was the warlord who ruled the province. He was the one who told the soldiers to attack the village and had also sent them to find Gang-No and his family to kill them.

There were two soldiers standing in front of the building.

Gang-No pointed to a fence along the road and motioned for Sang-Gi and Ni-Fong to stay behind it.

After they were hiding in the place, where he had told them to go, Gang-No quietly approached one of the guards and pulled him to the ground. No one heard a thing.

He then came up behind the second sentry and did the same thing.

He waved at Sang-Gi and Ni-Fong to follow him up to the house.

Gang-No told Sang-Gi to go to the back of the house and for Ni-Fong to follow him.

Gang-No entered the house and saw a light in the room at the back. Gang-No and Ni-Fong crept silently like cats to the room. The door was opened just enough for Gang-No to see inside. Sitting at a desk was the warlord. He was writing something in the light of his oil lamp.

When Gang-No threw open the door, he stood in front of the man.

The man was so surprised he was unable to speak. He tried to yell for help, but nothing came out of his mouth. Sang-Gi had climbed through the window behind him and hit him on the back of his head with a stick. The man fell into his chair, silent.

Gang-No and Sang-Gi dragged him through the window and into the forest.

When he came to, he was surprised to see where he was.

He asked how he got there and who they were. He asked why they had done this to him.

Gang-No explained to him who he was.

“I’m the one you call the Tiger Man. You destroyed my village and took the women and children away. Your soldiers are always coming to the forest to kill me. Why

do you want me dead?” Gang-No asked.

The man was so surprised and afraid of what was happening to him that he did not answer the questions Gang-No was asking him.

After a while, the man asked Gang-No what was going to happen to him. Gang-No just ignored him not answering his question either.

In the morning, Gang-No and his family walked into the town pulling the man behind them on a rope. The people began to laugh.

Gang-No and his family walked into the center of the town and led the man to the entrance of his house. He tied the warlord to the fence so those who had come out of their homes could see what was going on. When the warlord looked at the faces of the people he could see they were angry.

Gang-No told them they needed to get rid of people like this man, and they needed to defend what was theirs.

The soldiers tried to stop him from talking, but every time one of them tried to stop him, Gang-No just pushed them aside and made them look foolish. None of them could hurt Gang-No. He was too fast and too quick for them.

The townspeople began to help. When soldiers came, the people began to hit them with bottles and sticks. Before long, all the soldiers were either dead or begging for their lives.

The warlord was humiliated in front of the people. His house was burned to the ground and all his wealth was divided among the families. It was decided not to kill him, but to put him into a cage in the middle of the town so people could laugh at him and throw things at him.

The people of the village began to yell, “Tiger Man! Tiger Man!”

They were cheering for Gang-No, the boy they had thought was crazy was now a hero.

Sang-Gi and Ni-Fong only smiled.

Just then, Sang-Gi saw her mother, ran up to her, and hugged her. Sang-Gi

introduced her son and Gang-No to her mother. Her mother was proud of her. She thought she had died when their village was attacked. They cried as they held each other.

After defeating the warlord, Gang-No felt that he and the people of the town could also defeat the warlord of the village in the next province.

Gang-No went to the next town, and with the help of the people, they tried to defeat the warlord of that village, but they lost because the warlord knew they were coming. The warlord and his soldiers were prepared for the attack.

Gang-No realized that he had to train his new army in the ways of the tiger. They went to the forest to hide and during that time Gang-No showed them the way to hunt and kill the enemy without a sound.

Gang-No taught the people the ways of the tiger and they respected him. His followers began to be known as the 'Tiger Army'.

Soldiers came to the forest looking for Gang-No and his people, but when they got too close, they ended up being killed.

The next time Gang-No's army went to the next village, the soldiers had no idea what was happening, the attack was so sudden it was impossible for the warlord to fight against them.

The story of what happened to these soldiers spread across the land. It caused the warlords to fear Gang-No, but they still hated each other so much, they would not join together to fight him. This turned out to be a very bad decision. The Tiger Army went from village to village and defeated every one of them.

Gang-No and his new army went from town to town freeing the people. Gang-No's army was a people's army and soon the entire land was free. The warlords lost their power.

After the warlords were gone, the people needed a leader. They needed someone fair and honest. They chose the 'Tiger Man' to be their new emperor. They called him 'Emperor Tiger' and trusted him to lead them.

Gang-No did not live in a palace. He continued to live in the jungle with his friends

the animals, but he ruled his people well. They were the protectors of the people and when trouble came, he was there to help, and upon his death, Ni-Fong did the same. He was also called 'Emperor Tiger' since he was just like his father.

**VOCABULARY** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. confusion _____ | a. area, region, domain       |
| 2. warlord _____   | b. helpless, weak             |
| 3. prey _____      | c. admiration, esteem, regard |
| 4. province _____  | d. leader, chief              |
| 5. sentry _____    | e. protect, support           |
| 6. powerless _____ | f. truthful, trustworthy      |
| 7. defend _____    | g. unrest, disorder, turmoil  |
| 8. foolish _____   | h. guard, soldier             |
| 9. respect _____   | i. food, quarry, victim       |
| 10. honest _____   | j. silly, stupid              |

**TRUE / FALSE**

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|---|-------|
| 1. The boy's name was Tiger.                                  | T / F |
| 2. Gang-No's father was a king.                               | T / F |
| 3. They lived in a place where few outsiders ever visited.    | T / F |
| 4. Sang-Gi was hiding in a well.                              | T / F |
| 5. Gang-No and Sang-Gi had a daughter.                        | T / F |
| 6. The soldiers tried to kill Gang-No and his family.         | T / F |
| 7. Ni-Fong became a great hunter.                             | T / F |
| 8. The warlord was put into a cage in the middle of the town. | T / F |
| 9. Gang-No was called "The Leopard Man".                      | T / F |
| 10. Gang-No became the emperor known as "Emperor Tiger".      | T / F |

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What did Gang-No like to do the most? \_\_\_\_
  - a) go to school
  - b) hunt like the big cats
  - c) prepare food for his family
  - d) all of the above
  
2. What was the name the soldiers gave to Gang-No? \_\_\_\_
  - a) “Tiger Man”
  - b) “Tiger Boy”
  - c) “Leopard Man”
  - d) “Leopard Boy”
  
3. Where did Gang-No find Sang-Gi? \_\_\_\_
  - a) in the forest
  - b) in his house
  - c) in a tree
  - d) in a well
  
4. What was the name of Gang-No’s son? \_\_\_\_
  - a) No-Fing
  - b) Ni-Tong
  - c) Sang-No
  - d) Ni-Fong

**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What happened to Gang-No's village?

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2. Who did Gang-No find in the well?

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3. Why did Gang-No not like to go to school?

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4. Where did Gang-No go after he heard the noises coming from his village?

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5. What happened to the soldiers that came to the forest to kill Gang-No?

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6. What did Sang-Gi do to the warlord in his house?

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7. How many guards were outside of the warlord's house?

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8. Who helped to defeat the warlords in the villages?

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9. What was Gang-No's army called?

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10. Who became "Emperor Tiger"?

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