

How The Dragons Learn Sign Language

Once upon a time, I was looking for tasty mushrooms in the forest and I saw a mysterious creature rumbling ahead. I froze in my tracks. "What was that?" I thought. I decided to investigate, and so I silently crept forward.

When I finally reached the area where the mysterious creature was, I was stunned to see a golden dragon hovering above a flower bed. "This can't be real!" I thought to myself. My mother had always reminded not to approach any strange creature, big or small, but I was mesmerised and could not help myself.

So I tiptoed towards the dragon. The dragon swiftly turned towards me and glared at me with his piercing obsidian black eyes. "How dare a mere human approach me! Who are you and what are you doing here?" the dragon boomed as he flapped his wings and rose up majestically into the air.

"My name is Amy." I stammered.

"Hmph! I am Lord Remorse from the Kingdom of Dragons in the Azerlisia Mountains. But, you may call me Remorse."

Remorse explained to me that he was looking for the Lazulite Stone. He explained that it was a magical artefact with immense power. Legends claimed it could grant invincibility in battle. The Dragon folks had been fighting a losing war against the giant Sand Serpents for centuries. The Sand Serpents are giant snakes who buried themselves deep in the sand and would swallow up any enemy or victims. Their scales are as hard as diamonds and are impervious to all attacks, but they were blind and relied on sound to locate their victims.

I shuddered at the thought of a Sand Serpents. They were as large as blue whales and they could move effortlessly through the sand. They had destroyed most of the human and dragon civilisation.

Remorse stated "Dragons are too large and our flapping wings attract the Sand Serpents. We could use your help as you are much smaller and nimble than we are."

"Would you help us?" Remorse looked intently at me.

I turned to face Remorse and tried to say "I cannot help you since I am just a human" but for some weird reason, I ended up saying "I will help you find it."

Remorse smiled gratefully and conjured up a magical map showing the location of the Lazulite Stone.

The map shows the Lazulite Stone was in The Kingdom Of Sand guarded by the Sand Serpents. Remorse said "I am too large to land on the sand dunes without alerting the Sand Serpents, but you may be better at avoiding the serpents." I can fly you there and direct you from the sky but I cannot put my feet on the ground."

I blurted out "Do you know Auslan?".

Remorse looked puzzled "Who is Auslan?"

"Auslan is a form of sign language! I replied. We can communicate using Auslan."

Remorse did not even bat an eyelid "Let's do it!"

Remorse flew me to the Kingdom of Sand and gently placed me among the dunes. We saw enormous Sand Serpents raising their heads and forking their tongues at us. I signed to Remorse "Take off now!" and sent Remorse packing before hiding myself among the bushes. The giant serpents, which were large enough to swallow Remorse in one gulp, appeared to be attracted to the sound of Remorse's flapping wings. I signed to Remorse "Slow down your wings but stay close. Help me divert the Sand Serpents' attention."

Dragons were amazingly intelligent. Remorse had learnt Auslan within a day and understood immediately. He roared and got the serpent's attention and led them around in circles.

Meanwhile, I headed off to find the Lazulite Stone. Remorse signed to me in Auslan "Look in the Temple of Sand to find The Lazulite Stone. It is in the Temple of Sand up ahead!"

"Yikes! Snakes!"

I went into the temple which was fortunately deserted, but I could not see anything resembling Lazulite Stone. I ran outside and signed to Remorse, who was now being chased by a horde of giant Sand Serpents

Remorse signed back while flying just out of reach of the snakes lunges, "Look in the centre pit! It might be covered by sand. No one had ever entered the temple in the last five thousand years!"

So I rushed back inside and frantically dug in the sand.

Finally, I felt something hard. It was gleaming and radiating blue light! The Lazulite Stone! I was so happy that I raced outside and mistakenly shouted to Remorse "I got it!"

The Sand Serpents heard me and came after me. They bore down on me and were about to swallow me and the temple whole when Lazulite Stone vibrated and radiated blue light in all directions. It was a magical shield! The first serpent, who reached me baring its fangs was sent flying into the air and nearly hit Remorse. It looked like a train flying through the air. The Sand Serpents all fled in terror. I was flabbergasted at the power of the Lazulite Stone.

I signed towards a confused looking Remorse, "Get me out of here!"

"Wow, what was that!" He talked and signed at the same time in his excitement. "You found the Lazulite Stone!". "This will shield our home from the Sand Serpents!".

That night, there was a huge celebration in the Kingdom of Dragons. There were thousands of dragons in attendance.

"You are our hero and you have saved thousands of us from the Sand Serpents! You are always welcome in the Kingdom of Dragons."

Remorse continued "The Auslan sign language you taught me was invaluable in our fight against the Sand Serpents. We can finally communicate and coordinate our defences while avoiding the Sand Serpents attack! All of the dragons will learn the Auslan sign language and perhaps we will finally end this war once and for all!"

THE END