

SERENDIPITOUS  
JOURNEY

The  
Elusive  
CUP

PASHA CHEN  
AUTHOR / DESIGNER





— *Elusive Cup* —

*The Elusive Cup is a container that holds the desires of life. It carries materialism, romanticism, imagination, and interpersonal relationships in life. Its also reflects the endless greed, obsession and ignorance of mankind.*



# THANKS

*Give Thanks to the LORD  
for Your salvation and love.*

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;  
I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full.  
(John 10:10)*

# PREAMBLE

*What is the real meaning of life? Take courage and seek the Elusive Cup, for it is the key to Nirvana, and holds the meaning of life.* Tales of the Elusive Cup became an incessant calling to the Traveler, leading him on. One day, the Traveler heeded this call and began his journey to find the Elusive Cup and the promised land...

**Serendipitous Journey** is an interactive animated series that seeks to identify the emotions and challenges of an individual's journey for self-discovery. It turns out to be a journey that unexpectedly led to his salvation.

**Serendipitous Journey** is an English and Chinese digital book series. **The Elusive Cup** is the first book of the **Serendipitous Journey series**.

Prompted by the gnawing thirst for knowledge, the protagonist starts on his journey of self-discovery.

*In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. (Proverbs 16:9)*

## WHICH CUP DO YOU PURSUE?

Elusive Cup • 01 : Money, Wealth, Fulfillment of Material Desires

Elusive Cup • 02 : Appreciation, Fame, Personal Glory

Elusive Cup • 03 : Control, Dominance, Influence of thoughts

Elusive Cup • 04 : Success, Victory, Elitist Pride and Honour

Elusive Cup • 05 : Education, Intelligence, Knowledge

Elusive Cup • 06 : Appearance, Branding, Perfectionism

Elusive Cup • 07 : Talent, Ability, Personal Charisma

Elusive Cup • 08 : Love, Romance, Eroticism

Elusive Cup • 09 : Gourmet, Entertainment, Hedonism

Elusive Cup • 10 : Self Indulgence and Freedom

# ABOUT

Pasha Chen is a Christian artist and author. After personally experiencing God's grace, she used stories with illustrations to testify to God's beauty and grace. During the past 20 years of her professional career, Pasha has worked as an educational animation designer; an illustrator of books and teaching materials; a graphic, advertisement and web designer; a learning course designer; and a multimedia/motion graphic designer. She used to focus on artistry and creativity in her work, but under the harsh reality of a worldly career, she began compromising her ideals. The mindless rapid productivity became a bottomless abyss that consumed her creativity. Thank the Lord that the end of man is often the beginning of God. After Pasha personally experienced God's unforgettable love, her self-awakening and repentance allowed her to grasp what true '**Glory**' is. She realized that Love is the mobilizing force giving her joy of the Lord in her creative process.

*"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness." (Genesis 1:3-4).* Jesus Christ is this light, and He will lead everyone who believes in Him into the eternal kingdom of God. Blessings be with you and may the peace of the Lord rest upon you.

Thanks to Jack for being the author of the English versions of the ***Serendipitous Journey Series*** and for being a supportive husband.

# COPYRIGHT

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Copyright © Pasha Chen

Publication Date : May, 2018

Second Edition : March, 2022

Library and Archives Canada

ISBN(ENG) : 978-1-7753670-1-7

Characters and events in this book are fictitious. Any similarity to real persons, is coincidental and not intended by the author.

Author / Design by Pasha Chen

Editing by Jack Tang

[www.colorzmotion.com](http://www.colorzmotion.com)

# CONTENTS

THANKS

PREAMBLE

ABOUT

COPYRIGHT

CONTENTS

– 1 – *Foreign Shores*

1-1 Riddle Of Life

1-2 Communication

1-3 Reflection

1-4 Quandary

– 2 – *Outsider*

2-1 Appointment With The Mayor

2-2 The Wine Merchant

2-3 The Spacious-Rock

– 3 – *Conformity*

3-1 The Music Fountain

3-2 The Clockmaker

3-3 Two Gentlemen

– 4 – *Serendipity*

4-1 The Lake Of Tranquility

4-2 The Resplendent-Rocks

4-3 The Golden Cheese

4-4 The Circus

– 5 – *Transformation*

5-1 Begin Again

5-2 The Shepherd's Flock





– 1 –  
Foreign Shores



---

## 1-1 Riddle Of Life

In a topsy turvy world, we often feel lost and disconnected, leading to desperation and hopelessness.

“Do not be afraid”, the traveler murmurs.

**Do we look but not see?**



---

## 1-2 Communication

**Communication** is an essential talent to facilitate transition and success in society. The Traveler put all his efforts in learning the lessons in communication. The first lesson he learned was '**Listening**'. He soon realized most people don't like to 'listen', but they do love to '**speak**'.

***Do we listen but not hear?***



---

## 1-3 Reflection

As the Traveler trudged ahead in his journey, there was a sudden downpour. He looked down at his reflections in the puddle at his feet and noticed an exhausted and distorted image of himself. He reminded himself, "... everything is transitory, just accept and don't overreact."

***Do we perceive but not understand?***



---

## 1-4 Quandary

Conflicted by a tough choice, the Traveler prayed for wisdom in his decision. Should he choose to get in touch with his loved ones back home or to satisfy his immediate needs. The Traveler murmurs to himself, “I must become stronger so I can help others.”

***Do we need sustenance for the body or the soul?***



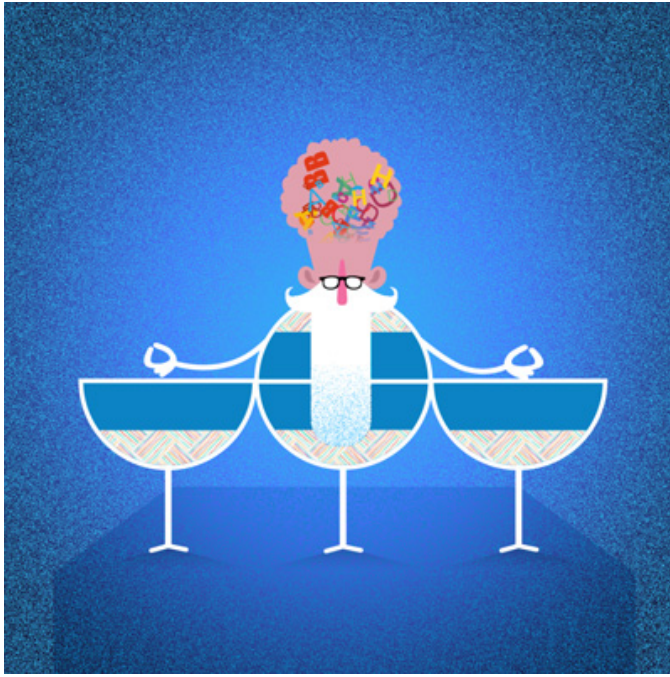
– 2 –  
Outsider



---

## 2-1 Appointment With The Mayor

With the mayor's portrait hanging high above them, the mayor's assistant made sure the Traveler knew she was in charge by holding up the mayor's 'stamp of approval'. The assistant told the Traveler in unequivocal terms to follow her every order if he hoped to make it in this town.



---

## 2-2 The Wine Merchant

The Traveler met a friendly old wine merchant, who invited him to share some wine made from **secrets people shared**.

The Traveler noticed that the old man was drunk and consequently his face was covered in **whispered secrets**. When parting, he gave the old man a friendly advice, “Too much wine is harmful, moderation is key, but abstaining is even better.”





---

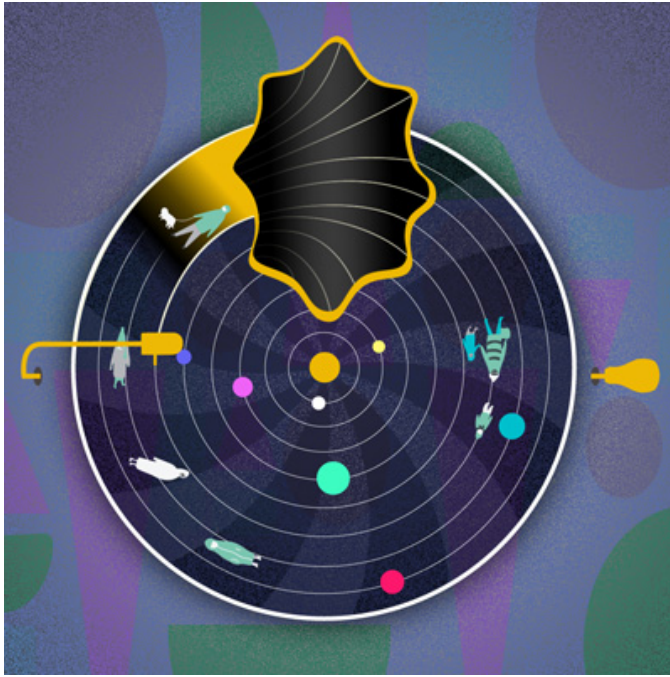
## 2-3 The Spacious-Rock

The vendor said to the Traveler, “pick any **Spacious-Rock** that suits you”. Curious, the Traveler wondered what is a ‘**Spacious-Rock**’?

The vendor explained, “The **Spacious-Rock** is a reminder for you to be kind and gentle to others. The more spacious the rock, the more spacious the heart, hence alleviating any potential conflicts in your heart.” The vendor then offered a free **Spacious-Rock** to the Traveler and said with a smile, “You’ll be back soon for an upgrade”.



– 3 –  
Conformity



---

## 3-1 The Music Fountain

**The music fountain** sprayed harmonious and enchanting tunes every night. Everyone in town enjoyed the nightly rhythms; entranced, they couldn't remember who they were.

The Traveler was surprised that he was unaffected by the frivolities around him, and said with a sigh, "...acceptance and inclusiveness are not assured for the foreign ones."



---

## 3-2 The Clockmaker

The Traveler noticed a crowd in a busy street; in the middle was a clockmaker giddy with anticipation announcing his new invention... the **'Timepiece of Life'**. The clockmaker used many specialized terminology to obfuscate the details of the process, but promised to customize each timepiece to the needs of his customer in allowing them to dictate how long they wished to live.

The Traveler excitedly approached the clockmaker and asked for a customized **'timepiece of eternity'**. The clockmaker in consternation said derisively, "Is it not enough to control the past, present and future? Why would you want to live forever? The one with the answer you need is not here, search elsewhere!"



---

## 3-3 Two Gentlemen

Two well-dressed gentlemen of high-society approached the Traveler. After some short pleasantries, they offered to sponsor the Traveler by virtue of their company, to which the Traveler politely declined. Affronted, the two gentlemen proceeded to turn their noses up and gave the Traveler a **'Thumbs-down'** emoji, then promptly left.

Perplexed, the Traveler remained in place with his emoji, smiled and said, "Hilarious... relationships are all but illusions, one minute an unbreakable chain, the next, up in smoke."



— 4 —

# Serendipity



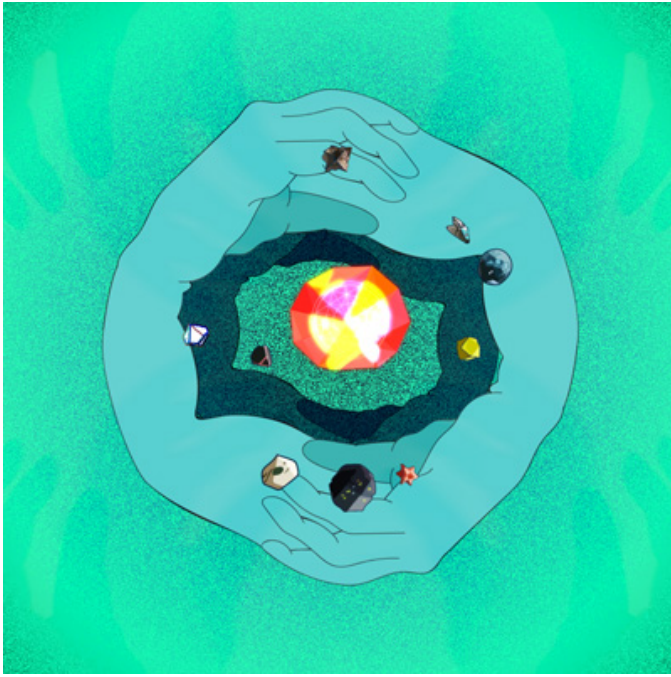
---

## 4-1 The Lake Of Tranquility

Entranced by their beauty, the Traveler followed some butterfly-fishes to the lake of tranquility. He stretched and flattened himself on the water and enjoyed the moment of peace.

He felt like he was back in his mother's embrace. While lying there in serenity, he sent his best regards to everyone he met through the clouds in the sky.

With a clear mind and contented heart, he felt re-energized for the journey ahead to find the Elusive Cup.



---

## 4-2 The Resplendent-Rocks

The Traveler bumped into the '**Spacious-Rock**' vendor near the lake. The vendor sadly mentioned the downturn in business and asked for help.

They worked all day and night brainstorming ideas. They eventually decided to paint all the rocks with brilliant colours and transposed the starlights onto them. They were so delighted with the new beautiful product, they named it '**Resplendent-Rock**'.

The vendor rejoiced from this serendipitous encounter, but the Traveler merely said, "Do you remember the '**Spacious-Rock**' you gave me? In my mind, that '**Spacious-Rock**' is the real crown-jewel.





---

## 4-3 The Golden Cheese

The **Resplendent-Rocks** did not disappoint and sold out quickly. The Traveler noticed a distraught man of meagre means sitting in the corner. When approached, the poor man explained that he needed the **Resplendent-Rock** for his king, but was not able to get one. His king is greedy and unkind and will only reward him with the Golden Cheese to feed his family if he were to deliver a worthy treasure.

The Traveler contemplated, then proceeded to give his **'Spacious-Rock'** to the poor man and said, "I believe this Rock will be a better gift for your king, for his heart is need of kindness."



---

## 4-4 The Circus

As the Traveler continued on his journey, he was mistakenly pulled into a circus and for some obscure reason directed to the stage to perform without any guidance. He was embarrassed and had no ideas as to what to do; he danced with elephants and suffered indignities all for the sake of amusement. He was trapped in a vortex of disbelief and prayed for imminent escape from this humiliating situation.

He eventually accepted his fate and said to himself, “No use in complaining, this will all be over sooner or later, and my journey will go on.”



– 5 –

# Transformation



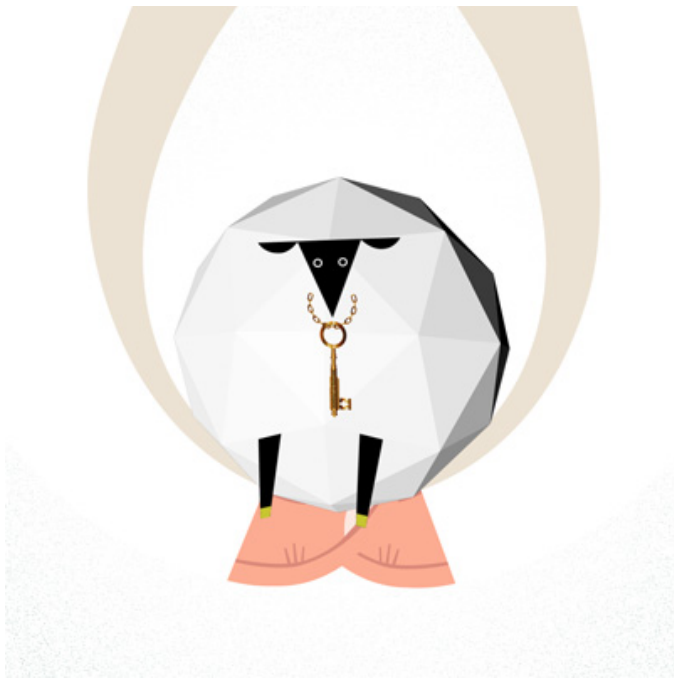
---

## 5-1 Begin Again

The long and arduous journey has enlightened the Traveler. It dawned upon him that the path to the Elusive Cup is abstract and constantly shifting; from entanglement to enlightenment and back again. The shadowy road ahead is designed to drain any and all perseverance, only time is absolute.

The Traveler murmured to himself, “Are my plans inadequate? Why is the Elusive Cup just within sight, yet out of reach?”

As the Traveler collapsed onto the ground in total despair he became aware of the endless vastness of the sky and the stars therein as well as the paths they promised.



---

## 5-2 The Shepherd's Flock

Following the stars, the Traveler became lost on the mountaintop. As he was giving in to despair, he noticed a lost and frightened sheep. Having found a kindred spirit, the Traveler decided to help the lost sheep to find its owner.

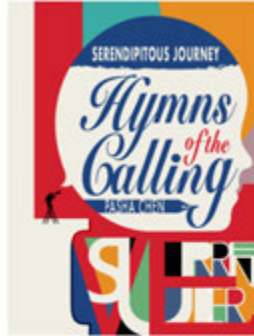
They eventually stumbled upon the shepherd, who elatedly invited the haggard Traveler to accept his hospitality in gratitude for returning his lost sheep. The shepherd shared many stories and words throughout the night as they relaxed by the fire.

When departing, the shepherd offered the sheep's keychain to the Traveler as a keepsake and said, "Thank you friend, for bring my lost sheep home. The keychain will bring you unexpected blessings. I look forward to seeing you again."

# Serendipitous Journey Series



The Elusive Cup  
in 2018



Hymns of the Calling  
in 2019



Transcendent Awakening  
in 2021

*The traveler sent his best regards  
to everyone he met through  
the heavenly clouds.*



Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35)

If you liked this book, please consider donations to Ottawa River Of Life Christian Church, Hope Ministries. May God's blessing be upon you. <https://www.orolcc.net/奉献支持/support-us>