

Kinzu and the Universe

A star twinkled in the clear December sky. Yes, there were a whole lot of stars once you really started looking. It was strange to think that they were many thousands of kilometres away and that the light Kinzu had just been looking at, had actually been sent from up there many years ago. The universe was limitless. You could carry on and on flying out into it without hitting a wall. It was almost hard to imagine. Kinzus' dad had read to him about the universe and shown him pictures and this particular evening they stood together and looked up towards the sky.

"I'm going to wish for a dream tonight," said Kinzu. "I want to dream that I am on board a spaceship and I am going to visit that twinkling star up there." "Well then, you'll have to tell me about it early tomorrow, Kinzu." They went inside together.

Shortly after Kinzu was in bed, he arrived in dreamland. He stood in front of a large gate. He knocked three times. A guard appeared, opened the gate and asked what he wanted. "I want to speak with the universe tour guide." "That would be Mr. Amazu. Certainly. He's in his office right now. You need to go to the green building you can see over there. That's the travel agency." Kinzu walked over to the building. There was a display window outside where you could see pictures from the most distinctive planets. Suddenly, Kinzu felt uneasy. He realised that he didn't know anything about the twinkling star he had decided to visit. Neither its name nor where it was precisely located. He was just about to give up on it all when a sudden impulse gave him the courage to walk into the universe travel agency anyway.

The man who sat in the front office asked him to take a seat and wait until Mr. Amazu was ready. A short time later, a little girl came out of Mr. Amazu's office. She was holding a ticket in her hand. Kinzu was shown into the universe tour guide's office.

"And where would you like to go, Kinzu?" asked Mr. Amazu after they had introduced themselves.

"I am so embarrassed. I don't know what it's called. I only realised that just before. It was a twinkling star I saw together with my dad last night. I'd really like to go up there."

"Don't be sad that you don't know what it's called, Kinzu. We'll figure it out. We have a time and place machine over in the corner. Just get in and we'll find out the name of your star."

A time and place machine! This was exciting. Kinzu went over to the machine immediately.

"Now you just sit down on the chair there and we'll start the machine. It will ask you a lot of

questions and then you will be able to see out into the universe on the screen there." Kinzu was ready. This was really interesting. The machine asked his name and age first. Then his address. Then it wanted to know where he had been standing when he saw the star. Precisely where. It asked many questions in order to pinpoint the exact place. Then it wanted to know the exact time - date and time - when Kinzu and his father had seen the star. 0.15 seconds went past and the image on the screen was exactly what Kinzu had seen the evening before in real life. With a special pointer he had to indicate the star he wanted to visit and that was very easy. In the course of one second, the machine printed his ticket - a return ticket! It had his name, address and the name of the star on it. It seemed the star was called K64.

Kinzu was given the ticket with a message that the trip would take place the following night. He had to remember to get ready for the trip by thinking about it just before he fell asleep.

Kinzu opened his eyes. It was morning. He remembered his dream and was happy. When he ate breakfast together with his parents, he told them about his dream. His dad said that he would also have liked to have had such an exciting dream. His dream was just about a walk in a desert. "You must remember to wish for what you want to dream about," said Kinzu to his dad. They smiled at each other. There will no doubt be someone going early to bed tonight!

Translated from Danish by Hurtigoversaetter.dk

Original title: Kinzu og universet

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