

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, by Grace Linn

In the valley of Fruitless Mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man of the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man of the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.

*Illustration at start of each chapter. Many feature items in our collection.

Lots of information is available at the author's site for this title:

<http://www.gracelin.com/content.php?page=wherethemountainmeetsthemoon>

Themes:

- Goodness of a story
- Hope/belief/faith that things can improve
- Value of attempting the impossible
- Import of a good attitude
- Anger and greed as destructive - green tiger, dragon mother
- Value of intelligence and observation (outwit monkeys, identify prince)
- Fate
- Import of names: Minli "Quick Thinking", Fruitless Mountain, Dragon
- Regret
- Friendship
- Poverty
- Gratitude
- Family
- Interconnectedness of all people
- Life in all things

Potential Artwork for WMMM Tours

Gratitude

(G370) **Untitled**, Cy Twombly - the one word for happiness is *Thankfulness* (p. 81-86)

Wealth/Poverty

(G201) **The Money Tree** - their living conditions (p.2-4)

Luck/Fortune

(G207) **Zodiac** - affecting your fortune - (p.132-142) The Book of Fortune (p.165)
(p.259) appreciation of what she has (p.267)

(204) **Tang Rabbit** - her bowl, rabbit = longevity

Family

(G240) **Family Portrait**, Sengel - problems and conflict, obedience

Friends/Loyalty/Interconnectedness

(G380) **Pulse**, Cragg and (G261) “Untitled” Whiteman— red threads (p.21) (p.246 -250 web of threads) (p. 105-114) Buffalo Boy, (p.147-149)149) and (p.25) (p.220) (p.222) - the borrowed line

Generosity/Greed

(G365) **Conscience**, Bahnsen 1941

(G331) **Oddfellows Objects** - (p. 81-86)the one word for happiness, values of wisdom, honor, truth, love, faith, gratitude (p. 72) Story of the Monkeys (p.174-8) Story of the Green Tiger

The Importance of Stories

(G215) **Fusang Tree** - Creation story - (p.227-230) creation of the moon, (p.262) creation of stars and Dragonwell Tea (p.4-8) creation of Fruitless Mountain/rivers

(G201) **The Money Tree** - wealth (p.239-243) story of Wu Kang

(G201) **God of Literature** fish becoming a dragon (p.93) carp turn to dragon (p.92-93) Dragon gate

Dragon

(Lobby) **Ahab**, Calder - for scale, doing the impossible (Minli and Calder)

(G204) **Dragon Jar** - playful

(G217) **Imperial Portrait of a Prince** - many dragons

(G210) **Moonflask with Dragon** - pearl - (p.271-8) gave away the pearl (p.206) origin of Dragonwell Tea

(G217) **Ink stones** - creation of dragon (p.51 - 57) - Treasures of the Scholar’s study - stone, ink cake, water dropper, brush.

(G217) **Moon Gate** - wealth, health, longevity

Additional Works

(G201) **Numinous Treasure Emissaries**

<https://collections.artsmia.org/index.php?page=detail&id=91031>

Impressive tiger and dragon as powerful balancing forces, the treasure are 2 books. Painted on silk

(G217) **Screen** <http://www.artconnected.org/resource/12922/134/screen>

Marble evokes mountain landscape and dragons float throughout the beautiful wood carving.

(G215) **Wedding Procession** and **Roof Ornaments**

<https://collections.artsmia.org/index.php?page=detail&id=3865>

<https://collections.artsmia.org/?page=detail&id=12707>

Dragon roof ornament like story’s Dragon Gate. God of Marriage was author’s inspiration for Old Man of the Moon.

(G201) **Pictorial Hanging Illustrating the Feast of Peaches**

<https://collections.artsmia.org/index.php?page=detail&id=16871>

– many story elements (peaches = immortality, rare occurrence, Figure like the old Man of the Moon, Taihu rocks, occurs in sky, woven of silk)
Also see newly displayed **Picture Hanging** (G217)

(G301) **Black Place 1**, Georgia O'Keefe.

<https://collections.artsmia.org/index.php?page=detail&id=119128>

Compare to Fruitless Mountain, beauty of home

Wallpaper in the **McFarlane Room** – vision of a celebration, image of life after Fruitless Mountain revives.

Jade Mountain, Guardian Lions (puddingstone and at entrance), Scholar's Garden, Scholars Rocks