

The Enchanted...

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Where should it start? From the day the mystery leaf dropped from between the page of a half read book, where it was kept as a book mark? Or when the half drowned leaf in a glass of a water spreads roots? Or the time of shifting the leaf with roots from the glass into a pot with a hope to see it's further progress. However this mystery leaf has the enormous ability to fight and survive.

It takes time to overgrown the pot with more and more leaves and branches. It needs a bigger pot now.

At this stage I tried to get some new plants from the leaves of original one. Amazingly it really works. Not only one but some more pots are there with new plants. Months after months, years after years sadly past no flower or even no bud of the flower are seen in any one of the plants.

As I am not blessed with green finger, no doubt I have to keep up hope with patience. Started searching information on this particular cactus, named night queen. Asked people about it.

This flower night queen is found in south western United state, south western Mexico, also in Arizona and California. At Arizona there is largest collection of night queen in the world. The number of flower bloomed in one night is 174 in 69 plants in Tohona Chul Park, Tucson Arizona.

Eventually learned that it will take time to flower. People with experience of night queen flower told that it will take at least three or three and half years to get flower in

night queen cactus. Ultimately my patience was rewarded. In my case it took more than four years to flower. At last on January 4th 2015 the night queen flower appeared in the dark of night.



The name night queen is only appropriate name for this flower. The beauty of this wonderful flower with it's heavenly aroma for those who can endure sleeplessness, able to get awake till mid night to see this flower of Eden. She only blooms for one night.



As night going to its end the flower come to shut its fully bloomed existence and fall asleep. It never met the sun or the sun never had chance to look at her beauty.

Poet Wordsworth wrote poem "Daffodil" on flower daffodil, in my imagination I wonder if the poet ever saw the beauty of night queen definitely the miracle would take place.

*Photo by Shahana