Tale of Rutyr

In the beginning there was desolation. Bleak fields, sparse trees growing in small groves as the sun shone down upon the earth. Wandering these fields were two people, by name of Nith, dressed in a faded blue shirt, and Ruku, clothed in a green tunic. Nith was a human, with dark brown hair and sharp blue eyes. Ruku was Nith’s brother; though not by blood. He had lighter hair, and a calmer complexion than his more light-hearted friend. His eyes matched the clothes he wore as well, though his clothes were a bit lighter.

The two had no memory of how they arrived at this land of fields and forests, or why they were bestowed with a strange energy, named Aura by the legends and tales of it. All they could do was wander the land in search of others like them. And indeed they did; but unfortunately it was not human.

The Demon Lord had also been wandering the wastes, in search of someone who could possibly tell him why he was there. He was of the Demon race, which was tall, red in skin, and had no nose or ears; just two small eyes and their large-toothed mouths. In time, he came across Nith and Ruku, whom he met as enemies rather than friends.

Demons, like some humans, all had Aura; but theirs was different from humans’. Demon Aura was capable of much more powerful things, such as creating other bodies and pouring Aura into those bodies to create new Demons, as is their way of reproducing. The Demon Lord had already done this, creating two smaller Demons, who were less hateful than their master, but still followed his orders out of fear and loyalty to their creator.

When the Demon Lord and the two humans met, the Demon Lord sent his two pawns out against Nith and Ruku.

Nith attacked first, being the bolder of the two, while Ruku held back for a second, contemplating the safety of such a battle so quickly. Nith threw full punches and kicks at the demon that attacked him, but truly wasn’t aiming to kill; for his heart was too good for such an act against an innocent creature. The smaller and weaker demon did tire out eventually, and was knocked out with a strong blow to its chest, cracking the thick layer of bone protecting its heart.

Ruku engaged in battle with the second Demon, and quickly dispatched it with a blast of Aura generated from focus between his hands and sent outward. From there Ruku pinned the Demon’s limbs down with Aura connected to the ground. By this time Nith had already jumped into battle against the Demon Lord, and the two traded fast-paced punches, Nith taking more than the Demon Lord. Ruku scowled at Nith’s hardheadedness, and shot a few small blasts of Aura at the Demon Lord when he saw an open spot. Eventually the Demon Lord became annoyed at Nith’s impudence, and grabbed him by his shirt collar and pinned him to the ground, angling his hand, which sparked with Aura building up in it. The Demon Lord grinned at Nith’s fear, but was suddenly hit to the side by a blast of Aura from Ruku. Large roots burst out of the ground around the Demon Lord, controlled by Ruku’s Aura, and trapped the Demon Lord.

The Demon Lord struggled and tore at the roots, but they kept healing up and growing back with Ruku keeping a steady flow of Aura to them. He could not keep the healing up for long however, so he called for Nith who got up unsteadily, and told him to grab the two Second-Generation Demons and run. Nith ran over to the two Demons, and picked up one. Ruku released the Aura he had on the Demon Lord, and grabbed the other one, and they fled as the Demon Lord roared and raged.

Nith and Ruku fled, and dusk fell upon the hilly plains. They took refuge in a small cave on a hill nearby a river, and Ruku, who had regained some Aura by then, healed the two Demons back to where they could stand. The two Demons did not hate Nith and Ruku for fighting them, as they understood that Nith and Ruku had been forced to. The Demons communicated, as they did not know any language as of yet, by drawing pictures on the sandy floor of the cave. The Demons explained that they wanted to restart the race of Demons, and lead a more peaceful life. The humans and the Demons agreed that it would be best to split paths at that time, and let their respective races flourish separately. The humans left the next morning, while the Demons stayed and rested. Nith spoke to Ruku as they walked westward, about finding a place to settle, preferably with other humans if they could find any. Ruku agreed with Nith, and said they should try to find a band of humans with a leader if possible.

They journeyed far west, across rivers, through forests, and eventually encountered another human in a small forest gathering herbs. They approached him peacefully, and asked if he lived nearby. The man said yes, that he lived in a village of other humans, just northwest of there. Nith asked if they could stay at the village, and the man said that if they could work, they might have a free house or two. Nith and Ruku walked with the man back to the village, and by that time it was sunset again. Nith and Ruku met with the leader of the small village, who was just called King by the villagers, which he found a bit embarrassing. The villagers and he himself were building a large castle from stone mined from a cliff to the north, along with building more houses and farmland. The King wielded a large white sword, which looked to be crafted of some stone that glimmered in the sunlight. He talked about how the village was prone to attacks from all around, and Nith mentioned Ruku and his fighting skills. The King asked if the duo would become the village’s guards, to protect them from harm. Nith agreed readily, but Ruku had to think for a moment before agreeing.

Meanwhile, Demons grew in force, but stayed in a nomadic horde for the most part. The two leaders of the Demons, the children of the Demon Lord, and their group of Demons arrived in the human village. They asked the human king if they could settle in the Scraplands, the large expanse of protruding rocks that covered the area east of the village. The Demons accepted, and set about to carve out a place to live. The Demons and Humans lived in peace for nearly a year, trading crafts and food, along with protection.

Meanwhile, a darker force lingered in the hills outside of the village’s reach. It was a cross-species between Humans and Demons. He was created from a Human’s Aura interrupting a Demon attempting to create new Demons from itself. This being had no conscience, and only sought out to cause violence and pain. This half-breed attacked the human village just as the sun was rising the next day, and luckily Nith was already outside on his post. The half-breed came running up the road to the village, and Nith could tell it wanted nothing other than to fight. Nith readied himself as the half-breed ran closer, roaring and gnashing its teeth. It had the appearance of a Demon, except it was human sized, and one of its arms was longer than the other. Both arms had large claws on them, as did both feet. The half-breed slashed at Nith, who jumped to the side, and landed a hit on the half-breed’s lower body. Nith followed up by grabbing the half-breed’s arm, and throwing him to the ground. The half-breed roared and clawed at Nith, who jumped back. The half-breed stood up, and blindly charged again. Nith ducked, and punched rapidly with both hands at the half-breed’s torso, lifting it into the air. Nith then delivered a kick to the half-breed, and it went flying into a rock sticking out of the ground nearby.

“You won’t kill anyone while I’m here!” Nith said triumphantly.

The half-breed got up once more, holding its bruised stomach. Nith got back into a fighting pose, and began to charge Aura into his right hand. Transparent blue flames ignited on his hand. The half-breed cautiously walked in a half circle, staying an average distance from Nith. In a flash, Nith was in front of the half-breed, and it looked down in surprise.

With a yell, Nith brought his Aura-filled fist upwards in an uppercut that snapped the half-breed’s neck backwards as it was blasted away. It landed a few feet away, dead.

Nith sighed as Ruku walked up next to him, having just woken up.

“It’s a shame these creatures are brought to life.” Nith said, walking over to the corpse and attempting to lift it.

“It’s more a shame that we have to end up killing them.” Ruku answered, coming to help Nith with the half-breed’s corpse.

They brought the body over to the graveyard which was over a hill nearby the village. Suddenly, they heard yelling coming from the human village. They dropped the corpse into a pre-dug hole, and Nith left to see what was going on while Ruku filled in the hole.

Nith walked up over the hill, and saw a crowd of people pointing and staring to the east. Nith followed their gazes and saw the Demon village in the distance, many buildings raging in an inferno. The cross-breed must have lit their village on fire before it attacked the humans!

Nith took off at a run towards the Demon village, and arrived there soon. He ran through the open stone gate, and looked into the burning houses. Most had been evacuated, and a steady stream of Demons was leaving the village through a yet-unburned part of it. Nith looked into another burning hut, and saw two young Demon children huddled in a corner, trapped by a fallen support beam. Nith yelled for them to stay where they were, and wrapped Aura around his hands. He stepped into the burning doorframe, and touched the support beam. Aura curled around the beam, smothering the fire on it. He jumped over the beam, and grabbed up both children. One was struggling, and coughing; while the other hung limp and wheezed its breath. He jumped back over the support beam and ran to the crowd of Demon villagers. He gently put the limp child on the ground, and began to filter Aura into its chest.

Nith had no experience in the healing form of Aura though, so he couldn’t do much until Ruku arrived. He did shortly, and Nith told him that the Demon child might be suffocating. Meanwhile, the other, stronger Demon child was regaining his breath. He still struggled against the elder’s grip on his shoulders, trying to get over to his sibling. He yelled in Demon tongue for his sibling while the other elders tried to apply herbs to his burns.

Ruku poured Aura into the young Demon who lay on the ground, and his breathing momentarily returned. His eyes opened for a second, and he reached up and grabbed Ruku’s arm. Ruku realized he was in pain, horrible pain, and that human Aura could only go so far in healing such wounds. Ruku closed his eyes and stopped the flow of Aura into the Demon child. He stepped back, and tried to keep himself from crying. Nith yelled at him to keep healing him, but Ruku didn’t answer back. The young Demon boy screamed even louder, and scratched at the elders, yelling in Demon tongue for someone to heal her.

The Demon child’s arm fell back to the ground, his eyes closed, and his breathing turned shallower and shallower.

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The Demon boy, named Kuioko, who had survived fell unconscious shortly after, and was put in a bed to rest. He rested as the seasons changed, and he thought. In his thoughts he came to hate Nith. He saw Nith as a man that forced him to live life in torment at the loss of his sibling. Hatred for Nith was not enough; Kuioko came to hate all of the human race, and even specifically Demons in his village who he thought did not help his sibling because they wanted him to die.

Kuioko’s hatred grew and grew, and he allowed his Aura to grow out of control with his rage. One night, when both villages were deep in sleep, Kuioko’s Aura burst, and in its intensity healed his wounds and scars. Kuioko left the village that night. He ran far away north, as far as he could until he reached the mountains that bordered Rutyr from Gunudur. Kuioko could not climb these steep cliffs, so instead he ran east, finding many small villages along the way. His hatred fueled his power as he savagely destroyed any life he found without a second glance. Kuioko’s power grew and grew, and his body slowly morphed over the seasons; growing exceptionally large, nearly ten feet tall, and large plates of bone formed over his chest, arms and legs. Spikes of bone protruded from his shoulders and back, and all of his skin and bone took on a black, shined color and texture. Kuioko also began to grow horns out of his head.

Horns in Demon culture acted as advanced manipulators to Aura, and improved Aura potency and precision. Only a Demon that had gone through extensive training or hardship would grow horns, and they showed that that Demon had exceptional skill and power. Kuioko became a legend; a reason to not travel at night, for fear of possibly meeting this monster.

After many seasons, Kuioko had traveled to the northern mountains of Rutyr, searching for anything to destroy there. The locals; Rock Elementals from the farther North, instantly attacked Kuioko; not to say he wouldn’t have attacked them as well. Needless to say, this enraged Kuioko and he attacked their small hamlets with even more rage.

During one of his fights against a leader of a village, Kuioko suddenly felt an intense and sharp pain in his head. He yelled and doubled over, holding his head in his hands. The leader of the village saw Kuioko in pain, and thought that someone must be attacking him mentally; so he dashed towards Kuioko, weapon drawn.

The pain in Kuioko’s head increased tenfold, and Kuioko arched his back in pain, and looked toward the sky. Aura suddenly exploded out from between his horns, and concentrated into a gigantic translucent eye. This specter then condensed as more Aura flowed into it. The eye was made of black stone, and the inner part was a dark purple. An earsplitting crack echoed through the area, and the eye snapped in half long ways. One half of the eye dissipated into Aura and evaporated into the air, while the other part dropped down into Kuioko’s hand. The half of the eye morphed into a curved weapon that Kuioko lifted with no effort at all.

The weapon was a scythe, but had an extremely large and greatly curved blade. Kuioko held it by the hilt, and if he extended his arm fully forward the blade curved around to his side a good few feet next to him.

Kuioko’s Aura also changed, and become opaque instead of translucent as is normal. It flared up around him as the leader of the village dashed toward him. Kuioko was gone in a flash, and the leader of the village came to a sudden stop. In another flash, Kuioko appeared behind the leader, and slashed horizontally with the new weapon. Two halves of the leader’s body fell to the ground.

To Kuioko, this Demon Eye and the new weapon that had been given to him were both divine gifts from the First Demon himself. Kuioko took this as a signal that he was ready to fight against Nith and Ruku, and destroy them once and for all.

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It was another average day in the human village. Nith and Ruku, who had become far stronger over the past few years, stood guard at the front of the village gate as always.