

Jon Kallen: A Devil Turned Angel

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Sample Chapter

Chapter 5: The Most Important Battles Are the Ones We Win Against Ourselves

After sleeping for a few hours, I awoke to find Taya standing beside me, carrying a tray of food. She smiled warmly and said, "Enjoy your meal. I made everything myself. I hope you'll like it."

"Thank you... that's kind of you. I'm sure I won't be disappointed," I replied.

Then Armo entered the room and announced, "We've arrived at the Sources of Rage."

"The Sources of Rage? But what exactly is their purpose?" I asked.

Armo answered calmly, "For two very important reasons. First, the Six Sages gather there to observe the world.

Second, it is where we can evolve spiritually, enhancing our ability to wield the bracelets."

"The Six Sages?" I repeated.

"Yes-the creators of the universe. But before, there were Twelve. Six sages created life from light, while the other six shaped matter.

Eventually, they split into two groups, each forming its own lineage."

"The Red Light and the Time Light," I whispered.

"Exactly. And they gave each lineage a gift-our bracelets."

"So how do we evolve?"

Armo shook his head. "Even I don't know for sure."

We landed on a planet similar to the one where the Red Light once lived-except here, massive volcanoes stood at the heart of the world.

We advanced toward them.

Soon we entered a great hall. Above us, three women and three men stood. All were bald, wearing red kimonos.

Armo and Taya immediately knelt.

Armo whispered, "Prostrate yourself before the 'Parents of All.'"

I did the same.

Then, in a single harmonious voice that echoed like a sacred chant, they spoke:

"Rise, our children... and tell us your request."

Armo rose and said, "Parents of All, creators of the world, divine beings... I humbly ask for your help.

We seek vengeance for our brothers and sisters, slain by a monster."

"A Time Light," they replied in unison.

"Yes. We know him. He escaped the control of the other sages and rendered them powerless before him."

"But how? How could a Time Light surpass them?" Armo demanded.

"He stole a sacred relic that amplified his power. With it, he can control time at will-but it requires an enormous amount of energy.

This tragedy began a hundred years ago. He calls himself the Time Lord. But you cannot defeat him. Stronger than you have already failed."

Armo clenched his fists. "I have a solution. We must become omnipotent. We must evolve!"

The sages' voices grew stern.

"The 'Manage Control' is dangerous, Armo. Few have survived those trials."

"I do not wish to defy you, but evolving is our only chance to defeat the Time Lord. When we are done, we will seek out the Six Sages of Time. This Time Light is not invulnerable. They must know something-something that can turn the tide in our favor!"

"You are far too confident... but your faith is sincere. That is why we will help you. If you succeed in the trials, we will grant you a fragment of our power."

"What an honor!" Armo exclaimed, his voice filled with determination.

"I don't need to evolve," Taya said softly. I understood her-her path was different from ours.

The sages removed our bracelets and said, "Very well. Let the trials begin. Good luck, Armo. Good luck, Jon."

Taya turned to me, smiled gently, and whispered, "Good luck, hero."

The ground began to shake violently. I fell into a deep chasm.

When I opened my eyes, I was back in the alley... the place where the tragedy had unfolded.

I saw the scene of my parents' death-again and again.

I tried to stop it. I ran toward them... but I was frozen, unable to move.

The laughter echoed.

Then the killer's face emerged from the shadows.

And my blood ran cold.

It was me.

It was me who killed my parents.

I dropped to my knees, trembling with terror.

My double-my other self-approached, laughing maniacally.

He pointed his weapon at my head.

I couldn't move. My hands were numb. My body was paralyzed.

I killed my parents...

But this time, the scene changed slightly.

I heard my parents' last words again: "Be strong..."

And in that moment, something inside me snapped.

I stood up.

And I struck myself.

Yes, I hit myself-immobilizing my double.

I shouted with all my strength:

"You are NOT me! You're nothing but the embodiment of my fear!"

The man stood up again, and we began to fight.

Our movements were identical. Our blows matched each other perfectly.

The battle dragged on endlessly.

I began to tire.

But he... he grew stronger.

His laughter echoed from every direction.

He thought it would weaken me.

But instead, it fueled my anger.

I swept his legs, knocking him down, and began pounding his face relentlessly.

Blood covered his features.

And then... he smiled.

"Today, you have conquered your fear," he said. "Tomorrow... you must learn to control your anger."

"What do you mean by that?! Speak! SPEAK!!" I demanded.

But his body disintegrated into nothingness.

The scenery shifted.

The world dissolved and reformed into a platform that rose like an elevator.

I emerged from the trial and found my friends waiting.

The sages stood before us.

They returned our bracelets and said:

"Congratulations. You have succeeded. Even though Armo nearly lost his life, you both prevailed. As promised, here is a portion of our power. Your bracelets have been enhanced. Your control over them is now perfect-you will live in symbiosis with them. They are now an integral part of you. And with our power, you can now fly... and teleport to any place where you have set foot. Now, go forth-to the Planet of Time."

"Of course, Master," I replied with gratitude.

When we boarded the ship, I turned to Armo.

"Why did they say that? About our past?"

Armo's gaze darkened.

"Who? The sages? Jon... when the past you've tried to bury catches up with you, it's hard to escape. I wasn't always the man you know now. I was a ruthless criminal. There was a bounty on my head in countless cities.

I stole, killed, and tortured without a second thought.

One day, I planned to rob a woman rumored to be wealthy. I broke into her home. Her daughter saw

me.

I begged her not to trigger the alarm. And she... she just gestured for me to leave.

I did.

Without realizing it, I had fallen in love with her.

I did everything I could to marry her. She accepted.

A few months later, we had a daughter-Bia. I was the happiest man alive.

But one day... I came home.

And on the floor... were two dismembered corpses.

That day, I learned that even if you remove a screw from a wooden plank... the hole remains forever.

An old gang leader I had robbed sought revenge... and made sure I paid the price through my family.

Since that day, I swore to abandon my life of crime. I chose to live only to serve the Red Light."

I placed my hand on his shoulder.

"The past is the past. What matters is the future. Let's head to the Planet of Time."