

THE POWER FORCE II

Hardships of War

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"I am not foolish enough to go on a vendetta of revenge. It was not any one particular person who destroyed our home. It was the Empire as a whole. What do you expect me to do, fight all of them? Fight the most powerful empire in the entire universe?"

Over the past century, a lot has happened in the history of the Milky Way and its neighboring galaxies. It all began with the inception of the Dark Empire in Murai. After that, everything was history, so to say.

Now, years later, the war is over. Civilizations traumatized by the war are rebuilding their future, looking forward, not backward. However, the Great War was not one that could be forgotten, no matter how much they wished to forget. It had a lasting effect on that portion of the universe, which will be told for generations and generations to come.

Deep down in their minds, they hoped and wished and prayed and hoped that nothing like the Great War would ever show up again.

But for those in the Empire, they secretly wished that the Great War would repeat ... so they can finish what they started 30 years ago.

30: Wrath of Anubis.

Contents

Like usual, Nebulax trains hard. He punched the punching bag like it's his worst enemy. Putting all his hatred into his fist, he punched through it, and the sand leaked out. Orbital came in. "Working hard as usual, Nebulax?"

Nebulax bowed. "Lord Orbital."

The two of them walked over to a balcony to look at the black sky. On Murai, is there is no such thing as day time. It is dark all the time, although there are times when it is less dark. But never light.

Nebulax: "The God called Anubis is already awoken?"

Orbital: "Yes. You have been training intensely so you do not know. I put Sheryu in charge of this operation. He activated Anubis with only five crystals, but that alone is more than enough to fulfill our purposes."

"Anubis is the legendary God of Destruction...do you intend to destroy all life on earth?"

Orbital smiled and chuckled. "Of course not. I want to wipe out enough lives to make an impact on the leaders of earth. Obviously they do not get the message. They joined forces with the Alliance and fight against my army. If they made a smarter choice then none of this would have been necessary."

Lax: "So it has come to this. Things are escalating."

"But of course. We are not going to have a hundred year war. I intend to have this war end in less than a year."

"Less than a year?"

"You don't think it's possible?"

Lax: "No, sir. I think it is possible...with Anubis."

Nebula is tired and energy-drained. He just used the Nebulon Blast on it, a move which saved his life many times. But this time, it did not work. The other heroes are overwhelmed. They tried many attacks. If energy won't hurt Anubis, then what will?

Nebulax: "Can the God of Destruction really be controlled by a mortal like Sheryu?"

"Sheryu is a Dark Lord and he has been on this project for a long time. I put him in charge for a reason and my judgment is usually correct."

"Orbital, I can't help but feel that you timed this war with the asteroid's alliance with the earth. It is as if everything is coming together. You could have started the war anytime, but you chose now."

Orbital chuckled. "Now you are beginning to see it, Nebulax. Dark Spectre himself spoke about the day of Anubis's arising. He taught me everything I know. It is him who appointed me as Supreme Commander of Murai. Everything that has been done up to this point is Dark Spectre's will. I am merely following his instructions which he clearly laid out for me before he was assassinated. I will carry out his will to the very end. Right now, we are going to see one hell of a battle on earth..."

Nebula panted for breath. "Son of a bitch. I can't believe it didn't work. What must I do to beat this ... thing?"

Anubis opened both palms and fired. Bam! Nebula dodged. The resulting explosion caused Nebula to wince from the light. Anubis's eyes glowed.

Zell knows what its doing. "Nebula watch out!!"

Nebula fired some energy balls, Anubis fired its eye laser, destroying the balls and hit Nebula. Zap!

Amanda: "Father!"

Mac: "Nebula!"

In the middle of their training, Tyson and Adel feel Anubis's power. "Is that Anubis?"

Adel: "All I know is that...I've never felt anything like it in my life. No one person can have this kind of power. This is the power of...a God."

"Maybe a demon. Our training ends here." Tyson flew off. Adel followed.

As Nebula falls, Erika comes and catches him. "You okay, Nebula?"

Nebula coughed. "Erika?"

The heroes continue fly around the blue giant and shoot it with beams. Levinsky and some others are floating around, waiting for their turn to attack. Levinsky is checking something on her computer. Beep beep. She gasped. "That's it. Anubis is powered by those crystals on its body. If we can remove those crystals..."

Spencer: "Then we will deactivate it, right?"

Levinsky: "Precisely."

Suddenly, a beam came their way, and they flew away from it. The heroes do not have a chance to get near it, they are repelled by Anubis's firepower. It constantly shoots beams from its hands and lasers from its eyes. Zap! Zap!

Joe charges power into his fist and does a punch to Anubis's hand. Wham! Anubis grabbed his fist. "What?!" Joe shouted. Anubis swings him and throws him onto the ground. Wham! Anubis fired a laser at Joe. Blazer blocked it for him.

Joe: "Thanks dude."

Blazer: "This thing must be stopped..." He has never seen anything like this before. But one thing is familiar. Anubis is destroying a city. And Blazer has seen terrorists destroy cities, even countries, many times. He feels that he must put a stop to this. "No matter what." He screams and powers up. His golden hair turns white and he is now in the fourth stage.

All the heroes gasp at his amazing powers.

Sheryu's scouter is going crazy from computing Blazer's power level. "Tch, what is that idiot trying to do?"

Blazer flies up and shoots a beam, it hits Anubis's chest. It responded by roaring. Blazer threw energy balls like he had plenty of them, while flying up. The balls hit its legs and stomach and chest. Bom bom bom. Anubis tried to crush it between its hands, and Blazer flew up just in time to dodge them. Slam.

Anubis fired its eye laser, Blazer blocked it with his shield. Zap.

"You can't win this battle, sayan." said Sheryu.

"Is this another one of your experiments, Sheryu?"

"Experiment? Ha ha ha! This is no experiment. I'm not controlling guinea pig, I am controlling the almighty God of Destruction!"

"There is no God. This is just a freak of nature!"

Zap! Blazer dodged another laser.

Zelfire: "Everyone support Blazer!"

The heroes screamed in agreement and fired like crazy.

Blazer fired beams at Anubis's head, it blocked with its arms. Bam! "Damn it. If I can't destroy Anubis, I can still get you!" He fired a beam at Sheryu, who jumps away.

Sheryu: "Why you..."

Blazer charged into him and unleashed a combo of punches, while Sheryu dodged left and right.

"Anubis, crush him!" Sheryu flew away.

The giant's hand reached for Blazer, and he fired a bomb into its hand, which did nothing. Anubis grabbed Blazer's leg and pulled him down. "Aaaaah!"

Anubis then squished Blazer between its hands. The sayan struggled valiantly and screamed like hell.

Sheryu: "Ha ha ha ha! You fool! This is what you get for defying a God."

Blazer: "Aaagh! Garrgh!"

Bianca and Spencer grabbed one of the giant's arms, pulling as hard as they can.

Zelfire grabbed the other arm. "Hang in there, Blazer."

Subzero flew up and fired an ice beam at Anubis's face, freezing its eyes. It roared in pain. Its grip weakened and Blazer powered up and destroyed its hands. Anubis fired its eye laser, breaking the ice on it.

Blazer flew up high and gather energy for a big, electrifying ball. "This is it!" He threw the ball down. Anubis countered with a red energy ball. Kaboom! Anubis's red ball destroyed Blazer's ball like it's nothing. The sayan was shocked. There's no time to run as the red ball hits him and drains him of his power.

"Impossible! Aaaaah!" Blazer fell to the ground. He is no longer in the fourth stage.

Sheryu landed on the blue giant's shoulder. "Don't you see now that all your efforts are in vain?"

Zelfire clenched his fist. "Damn it. Blazer gave it his best and it still did not work. What kind of power do we need to take down this demon?"

Sheryu: "Now, Anubis, it is time to show them your true power. Do it!"

Anubis's crystals glowed and gathered energy into its right fist. Then it raised its fist and slammed it on the ground. The heroes watched in suspense as its fist hit the ground - Whhham!

A big shockwave is produced, tilting every building within a radius. Frooom! Not a single spot was safe from impact. Cars were flipped over, fire hydrants sprayed water, traffic lights crashed. The streets are no longer streets, but like something that went through an earthquake.

What an incomprehensible power the heroes are facing right now. They are shocked in delusion. They are not fighting a sixth sense warrior...but more like a force of nature.

Zelfire: "Impossible!"

Amanda: "No way..."

Mac: "Damn!! Is this thing out of our league?"

Spencer grunted silently. Bianca is too shocked to say anything.

In the White House, President Eisenhower is mulling over what to do. He is in his usual posture - hands folded, chin resting on his hands, and thinking deeply. "What should we do?"

Osborne: "Damn it. The Earth Guardians are fighting that thing right now as speak. Maybe, just maybe..."

Eisenhower: "I know you are friends with those fighters, Mr. Osborne. But based on what we see, what do you think our chances of winning are? I don't know where they got that thing from, but it is destroying our cities."

General: "Our forces are useless against it. At this rate, the city will be completely annihilated."

"Then we have no choice." said the president. "We have to use...a nuclear missile."

[Close up - Osborne]. "You can't be serious, sir?"

"Unless those fighters of yours can somehow get rid of that thing...it is our only option."

"There must be another way. Please reconsider. There are people who are still in that city. Are you going to forfeit their lives?!"

Eisenhower: "Once that thing destroys one city, it will go and destroy others. We must stop it now!"

"But--"

"Mr. Osborne, let me remind you that we are the ones in charge here. We decide what happens to the cities of our nation."

Tyson and Adel fly there as fast as they can. But even if they do get there, can they make a difference?

After seeing Anubis's mighty Ground Pound, the heroes are now in a desperate phase. They fly around and shoot beams at it in their usual manner. Zelfire is floating around, watching and immobilized by his emotions. (What kind of monster are we dealing with? Is Anubis really invincible?) He gets delusional, watching his comrades fight their very best. Is what they're doing in vain? Should they retreat?

Subzero dodged its beam. Anubis continued firing at him.

Spencer: "It seems like to like you especially, Subzero."

"Heh, I must be popular from where he came from." Suddenly, Subzero thought of something. "That's it! It must be the crystals." He took them out of his pocket. "It senses the last two crystals and it wants it from me."

Amanda: "If Anubis gets the last two, then it will be even worse. We have to get the crystals as far away from here as possible."

Sub: "Leave it to me." He flew away. Anubis chased him. It walked, taking giant steps and fired lasers.

Sub dodged swiftly, but one of the lasers hit him. Zap!

"Ugh!" He fell down, dropping the two Anubis Crystals.

Lisa came over and picked them up. "Let me do it."

Sheryu presses a button on his scouter. "Men, attack them and get the crystal. Do not let her escape."

As Lisa flies away, Macintosh follows her. "Lisa, there a soldiers up ahead."

She sees them. They are getting closer.

Mac: "Give me one of the crystals."

Lisa nods and throws him one. The soldiers attack them.

Anubis's eyes glowed. The other heroes are running out of ideas on how to stop this thing.

Amanda stares at it with much contempt. "Stop destroying cities and killing people, will you?"

Sheryu: "What does she think she's doing? Anubis can't communicate."

Amanda powers up and fires a bunch of purple balls at the giant's arm. Bom bom bom. Its arm was damaged, but it regenerated quickly.

"They just don't get it. Anubis, destroy them all."

Zap! Lisa knocked down a soldier. Mac fired shockwaves and beams at them. Despite their efforts, they are outnumbered. Suddenly, a foreign beam hits a soldier who was about to attack Lisa. Adel's appearance surprised Lisa. "Sister? What are you doing here?"

Adel: "What do you think?"

Soldier A: "It's the traitor. If we kill her we will be favorable in Lord Orbital's eyes."

Adel got ready. "Bring it on, then."

The soldiers flew at her and she powered up. The soldiers winced from the blinding red light. Maybe they were too arrogant to think they can match her. Baaam! The soldiers were defeated easily.

Tyson joined the heroes. Everyone turned their heads to look at him. Tyson feels what they felt when they first saw the blue monster. "This is Anubis?" he asked calmly. "The so-called God of Destruction?"

Adel, Lisa, and Mac came back to the main group.

"I don't care how big you are or how strong you are, I will not let you destroy the earth." Tyson screamed and powered up. He went all the way to the fourth stage. His hair was a vibrant white color. Then he took it one step further and became the Phoenix. Flash! He's surrounded by rings of fire.

Anubis fired its red beams. Tyson dodged them. Whoosh. Whoosh. Tyson uses the Eternal Flames – a thick beam of fire that splits into several smaller fireballs. Bom bom bom. Anubis was bombarded by fireballs. The giant let out a cry as it stumbled out of balance.

Sheryu: "Tch. Even the Phoenix has to bow down in front of a being like Anubis."

Adel: "So this is your doing, Sheryu?" She dodged the giant's hand and landed on its arm, and ran up to Sheryu, who jumped away. They shot beams at each other in the air.

"It is too late now, Adel. You cannot stop Anubis!"

"No, but I can stop you!" She fires a beam, Sheryu dodges. "Even if you do win I'll make sure you won't live to see your victory."

Sheryu fired a shockwave, Adel covered herself.

Anubis opens its palm. The gem on it glowed, just like it always does before it fires. Tyson dodged another beam and flew up. He now sees a bird's eye view of the city.

Tyson powers up and fires beams constantly. He fires them upwards and they curve down, hitting Anubis. Tyson is like a sprinkler that shoots fireballs. Anubis covered itself from the raging storm of fire. Bom bom bom. It is now a big body of fire. It roared angrily as it burned. Anubis collapses on its back.

The heroes are astounded.

Spencer: "Wow. Outta boy, Tyson."

Zelfire: "The power of the Phoenix came through for us."

Maybe they celebrated too soon. Anubis's eyes open and it stood up by grabbing onto buildings. Its damaged armor regenerates.

Tyson: "It c-can't be."

Anubis roars and almost the whole city can hear it. Tyson is now pissed off and flies down and punches Anubis on the head, making a dent. Its hands reach for him, he flies to his back and punches, making a dent, then flies between its legs and kicks its knee. Wham! Its hand smacked Tyson and he was sent flying away.

Lisa used her psychic abilities to stop Tyson's movements.

Tyke: "Thanks, Lisa."

Sheryu: "Anubis, get her!"

It looked at Adel and slammed its fist down, Adel jumped away. Smash! Its hand got off the ground and punched, Adel used her mind to make the fist stop. It took a lot of her energy to immobilize something of this size. Lisa and Amanda immobilized its legs.

Adel flew to Tyson's altitude. "Good job, you two." she said to the other psychics. "Now let's see what you're made of." Adel gather energy for an electrifying

red ball. She holds it firmly then throws it forward. Kabam! It destroys half of Anubis's upper body. Its right arm and shoulder are blown off. "Now Tyson! Destroy him before he regenerates!"

Tyson gathers energy for the Eternal Flames and he releases it. It hurls at Anubis at full speed.

Back at headquarters, President Eisenhower is still mulling whether or not to fire the nuclear missile. Osborne tried his best to persuade the president, but he has no jurisdiction here. Time is running for the heroes. Can they make it out of this predicament or will the five thousand year tragedy be repeated?

31: The Secret of Anubis.

Contents

Orbital stares into the deep black sky of Murai. Nebulax and Diamond are beside him. "Is Anubis really invincible as the legend says?"

Orbital: "Invincible or not, it will take a miracle to destroy him. Anubis is a creation of the Ko-Rashm."

Nebulax: "Really?"

"All living things are the creation of the Ko-Rashm. But Anubis was created to destroy those who disobey them. It is like their Grim Reaper."

The fiery beam of death hits Anubis, knocking it into a building. Slam! Dust and smoke were produced from the hit.

Lisa: "Is it over?"

Mac: "No. Every time we think we have it, it always wakes up. In order to destroy it we need to destroy it completely."

Levinsky: "There's an easier way, Tyson. If we can somehow remove those crystals from its legs and shoulders, and the one on its head, it will be significantly weaker."

Tyke: "I see. I have a plan. I'll distract Anubis while you guys get the crystals."

Zelfire: "Are you sure?"

Tyke: "Trust me."

Zell smiled. "Then let's do it."

The heroes dispersed. Tyson flies straight at Anubis's face and fires a beam at it. Bam! The blue monster tried to grab Tyson, who looks like a flying doll compared to it. Tyson flew around its head and threw a fireball at it. Anubis's attention is on Tyson, who is using annoying tactics. Spencer grabs the crystal from Anubis's left shoulder.

Tyson continues to fly in circles and shooting balls, as the blue monster fires at him and misses. Spencer is able to stretch his arms and grab two more crystals, and Zell and Joe takes one each.

Zell is happy that he got one. Anubis smacked him and he fell down.

Tyson: "Oh no!"

Adel: "All the gems have been removed. Now's our chance!" She gathered energy for a ball and threw it, and it blew up a piece of Anubis's shoulder. Bam!

"Flames of Fury!" Tyson throws a bunch of fireballs at the blue monster, and it roared in pain.

Sheryu: "What..."

Anubis fell against a building, crushing a part of it. Smassh. A cloud of smoke covered the street. The glow on the monster's eyes disappeared and it ceased to move. The heroes wanted to make sure that it's dead before they say anything. After ten or twenty seconds, they're pretty sure.

Erika is helping Nebula stand up. They look at the wreckage. "It's dead?"

Tyson lets out a sigh of relief and lands. His aura is still vibrant. "Phew. I'm glad that's over."

"I-Impossible!" said Sheryu in a delusional state. "How can they kill a God?" He flew down to the fallen giant. "It can't be...wake up you fool! Get up!"

Adel walked over to him. She wants to beat him up, but right now she has no intention of fighting, seeing what kind of state he's in. "The dead do not wake up. Your mistake is that you were too hasty. You activated Anubis with only five crystals. Your ultimate plan relied on the power of an unknown force. And this is the result."

"No...Anubis..."

Spencer and the others went to Tyson to congratulate him. "Oh schucks. It wasn't just me. It was our teamwork that defeated Anubis, not my power alone."

The heroes continued to cheer him on, and his modesty is making him more popular likeable. Nebula let out a laugh even though it still hurts. Tyson Spade is always the one they count on to save the day. He's always the one who gets the job done when no one else can. He's the first to do everything – the first to get married, the first sayan to reach the fourth stage, and he's the first one who achieves this kind of power known as the Phoenix. Maybe this is why the spirit of the Enchron Crystal chose him?

As everyone is celebrating, something jumped out of Anubis's stomach and landed. This being is also wearing blue armor. Actually, its body is blue armor. It has the head of a dog and stands erect, staring with its ruby red eyes. This creature is the size of an average person.

The heroes were dumbfounded, not knowing what they are looking at. But Sheryu might know. His frown turns upside down. "You...you are Anubis, aren't you? Ah...aha ha ha ha ha! You are Anubis! I knew it!"

Tyson: "What? It's still alive?"

Sheryu turns around to face the heroes. "You fools! I told you Anubis cannot be defeated! Now you will all suffer! You will all meet your maker!"

Anubis opened its palm and fired a beam through Sheryu's stomach. Somehow, the heroes saw this coming. Sheryu collapsed and he's speechless in his last few moments of life.

The creature looked around at the people staring at it. It looked at Spencer. Spencer quickly flew away. Anubis appeared in front of him. Everyone was surprised at its speed. Bam!! Spencer was hit from point blank, and the circuits in his stomach are falling out. The three crystals he was holding dropped on the ground.

Tyson: "S-Spencer!!"

Anubis made the crystals float to him and he put them on his body.

Bianca: "You monster!" She charged at him.

Tyson: "No!"

Bianca got blasted into a building.

Tyson ran forward and punched Anubis's face with a fist full of fire. Anubis pushed his fist off and hit him in the stomach. Anubis fired, Tyson dodged. Bam!

Adel and Amanda fired beams at him. Bam. Anubis blocked with its shield effortlessly. It flew up high and powered up. It's the first time the heroes feel its full power, and it's devastating. Everything is shaking and they can't stand still. Rocks

floated up. Anubis fired a shockwave that blew up the street. Bam-bam-bam! The vertical beams went all the way to a building and destroyed it.

Lisa: "No way."

Tyson: "It can destroy buildings with one blow. What kind of phenomenon are we dealing with?" He shot a fireball and Anubis blocked. Tyson flew at it and Anubis fired a blue ball, pushing Tyson into the street. Kaboom!

"You're not a God, you're just a myth!" shouts Adel. She fires the Laser Storm. Anubis flew around the lasers and hits Adel in the stomach, knocking her against the wall. Crack. All the glass on the building broke.

Eisenhower is still waiting for his decision. Osborne makes him one final offer. "Give them half an hour. I beg of you. Just half an hour."

"Fine." replied the president. "Half an hour and not a second more."

Kabam! The heroes wince from the dust. Subzero uses his Ice Beam and freezes the creature, but Anubis unfreezes itself instantly.

Sub: "Damn it."

Anubis fires a beam, Sub prepares for impact. Bam! He was knocked away.

Blazer: "So this it...this is the fate of our planet?" He gets depressed and thinks back to when his father was still alive. Blaze wanted him to be a strong fighter and live through the tough times. (Father, you gathered all the Anubis Crystals on Guardian Planet and received Godly powers. Is this really the treasure you were seeking, father?)

Levinsky flies around in her armor and shoots bullets. Anubis blocks them and fires at him. Bam! Her suit catches fire and falls to the ground. She ends up unconscious.

Tyson pushes the rock on top of him. "Argh. I will not let this thing do what it wants. I don't care what you are, Anubis, you are going down." He powers up and becomes full of fire.

Anubis senses the threat and stares at him. Tyson and the creature hit on the fists. Wham. They exchanged energies and made a shockwave in the shape of a ring.

Amanda: "Mr. Spade defeated Anubis's first form, but can he succeed?"

Tyson is trying his best but it still is not enough. Kapow! He got hit in the face and scrapes the ground. Never in his life did Tyson think that he'd lose while being the Phoenix. It's supposedly invincible, right? He gets pissed off and charges with a fist full of fire. "Yaaaaah!"

Anubis responds with indifference as it blocks nonchalantly.

"Ugh!"

Anubis uppercuts him in the chin. Tyson recovers and fires the Flames of Fury. The crystals on Anubis glowed and it fired a blue beam. Bam! Tyson was hit and he fell down. He's no longer the Phoenix, but he's in the fourth stage.

"No...it can't be."

Anubis comes from above and does a punch, Tyson jumps out of the way. Anubis's fist hits the ground, making a crater. Craaaaash. Tyson was glad not to get hit by that one. While in the air, Tyson thinks he should fire while he can. Suddenly, Anubis blurred, surprising him. The creature appeared behind him. By the time his senses found out, it's too late. Kapow!

That hit made Tyson de-transform. He's now in the first stage. Just a normal fighter. Lisa and Amanda got in front of him and fired beams. Anubis knocked them away. Kabam. It fired a beam at the heroes, who disperse. Boom!

Tyson: "Why...why can't I beat him?"

Amanda: "It looks like we have to take serious measures. Ordinary moves do not work on it."

Lisa: "Tyson's moves didn't work either. Maybe we can crash a building on it or something?"

Amanda: "That will take too much work."

As they talk, a beam came their way, and they dodged it.

Nebula watched the fight. "It can't end up this way. This thing is going to destroy civilization?"

Bam! Amanda was hit. Bam! Lisa was next. Most of the heroes are down and biting the dust. Macintosh gets up and stares at the creature with hatred. He fires the Electro-shockwave and Anubis blocked it like it's nothing. Mac gasped in surprise. He ran for it as Anubis gathered energy. Kabam! Mac was blown away.

Adel crawls on the rubble. "Is this what Orbital was planning all along? Ugh..."

Amanda stands up and walks forward. "This is not over yet. If there's anything I've learned..."

Junior: "Wait, where are you going?"

Amanda: "To find my purpose in life. I won't work for the Great Seven anymore. Bye!" And off she went.

"...is that I must fight!" Amanda powers up to the extreme. The heroes gasped. Anubis showed no response. Zzzzzzt. "Aaaaaah!" The child is now full of purple energy. She flies up and shoots energy balls.

Nebula floats up to a higher altitude. "It's time to it. I didn't want to do this, but..." He gathers black energy into his right hand.

Erika comes and joins Amanda in the battle. They shoot non-stop at the blue creature.

Tyson can feel it. "This energy...what is it?" Then he saw Nebula far away. "It's Nebula!? But...this is the energy of the Death Star." Tyson flies to his brother's altitude. "What are you doing?"

Neb is trying to concentrate. "What does it look like? I'm trying to destroy that thing."

"How do you know the Death Star?"

"That's a dumb question! My father taught it to me!"

Tyson gasped. "Father? But he never teaches it to anyone."

Kabam! Amanda continued her rampage of energy balls. Anubis dodged them, and the balls hit the surroundings. Erika slashed with her light saber, and Anubis grabbed it and knocked her away.

Amanda: "Mother!" She dodged a beam from above. Now Anubis is on the offensive, and Amanda flies away from its deadly beams.

Nebula is charging energy into his right hand, and his left hand is holding his right to keep his grip stable. The energy he's charging is extremely powerful and hard to handle. Tyson goes to him and grabs his arm. "Don't do this. The Death Star is too dangerous!"

"Hey, let go!"

"You know it is. This is why father never taught it to any of us. He only used it under the worst circumstances. There's a chance the energy will suck you in. You can lose your life!"

"This is one of those circumstances, Tyson!"

Nebula is training with Mason on the lawn. Nebula asks to learn the Death Star. "Please, help me become stronger, father."

"The power of the Death Star is too dangerous. I do not know if you are ready to handle it."

"I can handle it! I won't use it unless I have to. Please, teach it to me. What good is a technique if you can't teach to someone else?"

Mason sighed and thought about it. "Alright...under one condition. Don't tell your brother, okay?"

"Of course."

Neb continues to gather energy. "That's how I learned the technique. I'm sorry for not telling you. I never used it...until now. We have to destroy Anubis. This is the only way."

"Even if it means your death?"

"You have to believe in me. Now let go!" Nebula shook him off and continues to gather.

Amanda: "Father is going to use that move. Once he finishes and fires, it is all over." Bam! She was hit on the back.

Adel: (That move he is using...it's the Death Star. I'm sure of it. It is one of the most dangerous moves in the known universe. It is unmatched in terms of power and it will destroy anything it touches...including the user if he is not experienced. Can Nebula handle it?)

Anubis fires a beam and Adel blocks it for her. Amanda is shocked.

Adel: "Look kid, I know we have a bad history, but right now we need to work together."

Amanda nods. At least Adel didn't call her Dark Child this time. Both of them flew at their enemy. Anubis senses Nebula's presence.

Nebula gasped.

Tyson, even though he's exhausted, turns super sayan and defends his brother. "Continue, I'll get you more time!"

A small black ball appears on Nebula's palm. It gradually grows with time. The black energy is surrounding his fist, and it's painful. But Nebula must put up with the pain until it's complete.

Tyson fires the Super Sayan Beam downwards. Anubis disintegrates the beam and blows Tyson out of the sky.

Anubis flies towards Nebula, but it stopped in mid air. Amanda and Adel both use Restriction, which immobilizes it. And it's taking a lot of energy to hold it still.

Amanda: "Father! Do it!"

Neb: "It's almost done!"

Amanda: "Hurry up, please!"

Adel: "Ugh, I don't know how much longer I can hold him!"

Now it's turned into a race of time. The tension escalates. Nebula is almost done. Anubis is releasing waves of energy, hitting Adel and Amanda constantly. Finally, it broke free of their barrier and flies forward. Nebula releases the black ball of energy known as the Death Star. Anubis blocks it with its arms, and that's a big mistake. Its arms disintegrate and the Death Star absorbs its body.

Kaboom!

Everything became white. For a few seconds, no one can see anything. Nebula has accomplished his mission, and he's exhausted. Having no energy left, he falls down. Amanda catches him.

Zell: "It's all over, isn't it?"

Joe: "The earth is safe for now."

Spencer: "That was quite an ordeal."

Tyson: "Spencer, your stomach-"

"Oh, don't worry about it. It can be repaired easily."

"I'm glad." Tyson replies. "Nebula...I was really surprised today. You actually did not get killed by the Death Star. I always was the one who saves the day, and today you did it."

"Of course." said Neb, in his usual bragging manner. "Did you expect anything less from a fine warrior like me? Now if you'll excuse me...I'm tired." He yawned and fell asleep on Erika.

Erika: "Man...he sure is troublesome."

Amanda: "He saved all of us."

Erika: "Yeah. He did."

And so, ends another chapter of Power Force. The heroes once again did what was deemed impossible and made it possible. However, the war is still not over. The High Council of Murai will not let this go.

32: The Grim Reality of War.

Contents

Coitus and the other leaders are looking at a map of the continent. He points his finger on the map. "This is where we are. This is the place where we believe the enemy's base is. To attack us they need to only cover a short distance."

Outside, Mason was training his troopers. He's never trained anyone besides his son, so it's a new experience for him. He walked by the troopers who are standing firm and tall. "Alright, men, today we will practice our energy shots." said Mason. "I want you to blow up those rocks over there. Remember, it's about aim and power."

Sarus wanted to impress his commander and he wants to do his best, and so does Mika. Everyone gathered energy and fired at the rocks. Bam!

Mason: "Well, that's pretty good, but it's still not good enough. We have a long way to go."

Margarita: "Since they are this close to us, they can attack us at any time. We should go and attack them first."

Kanus: "How can we attack them first when we have no information on them? We have to play it safe."

Margrit: "We have their location and that is all we need. Their so called base is just a bunch of crystal starships that have landed together. We cannot wait for them to attack us. If we wish to win we have to play offense."

Malin: "I once heard the phrase that offense is the best defense."

Coitus: "I know there are a lot of uncertain factors. This is our first time cooperating with his highness and his men. We will contact them and see if they want to join us in our attack."

Kanus: "The loyalists? Can we even depend on them?"

The leaders gave each other a quick glance.

"How do we know they will come help us during our time of need? The loyalists have their own motives regarding this war."

Coitus: "We have to trust them. And they are no longer loyalists and we are no longer rebels. Please remember that, Kanus."

"Hmph. Then what should we call them?"

No one had an answer for him.

Kanus: "Today we call King Neflite "his highness" but back then we called his father a tyrant. It's great they're on our side...but we cannot rely on them. We have to rely on ourselves like the way we used to."

With that said, the meeting continued.

After the meeting, Kanus is standing by himself at the edge of the valley. The wind here is cold and sudden. Coitus came and joined him. "Kanus..."

"Yes, Tyrannus?"

"Why did you do what you did today?"

"What do you mean?"

"Come on, you know what I mean." said Tyrannus. "Why are you always the bad guy at the meetings? Why are you always against new suggestions?"

Kanus shrugged. "Maybe it's the way I am. Or maybe I'm getting old and I don't like new ideas."

"We all grow old, Kanus. Do you always have to be so backwards minded? You were the one who was against Jerrell's Master Plan to create a colony on planet Mascus. And you were the one who was against his plan to create an intergalactic police force."

"I wasn't the only one against it."

"You were the one who was against it the most. Honestly, if everyone in the world thinks like you, we'd get nothing done. Well, I'm tired. I'm going to sleep." He left and Kanus is by himself again.

Jerrell just finished explaining his plan for a new colony. Kanus stood up and slammed his palms on the table. "A new colony? And you want to bring a portion of our men with you? This is your 'master plan'? It's preposterous!!"

Jerrell: "Mr. Kanus, please hear me out."

Kanus: "I think we've heard enough, Jerrell. We listened to you because you are Jeremiah's son. Your strategy is flawed."

"I admit it is a bit radical, but it's the only chance we have!"

"Listen youngster, we are doing just fine. The loyalists will be defeated and it is only a matter of time. This plan of yours will only slow us down."

"A intergalactic police force? Are you serious?" said Kanus.

Jerrell: "I am dead serious. The purpose of this organization is to prevent things like the Great War from happening."

Kanus: "Lad, you're better off helping us here rather than making something that is impossible."

During the meeting, it is decided that the rebels attack Murai's base. Margarita goes to Messiah. "Messiah, we are going to battle soon. We will make our attack on the enemy."

"I see." he replied.

"We should get ready."

"Are you ready?"

"Yes, of course." replied Margarita. "I am one of the commanders."

Messiah: "I never thought I'd see this day coming. The two little kids that I saved a long time ago are now making a difference. You are now the commander of the Zeroth Division and Jerrell is the headmaster of the Galactic Police. And your son is fighting on earth. Your father would've been proud of you, Margarita."

"He's watching me in heaven everyday."

"Still, I don't think the battlefield is the place for you."

"What do you mean, Messiah? A sayan's place is the battlefield, and I am a sayan. This is what we were born to do!"

"Yes, we are sayans are we are meant to fight...but not in a war like this. You're better off living a normal life."

"I know that." Margrit replied. "But that is not an option." She looked at the people training. "If I could choose...of course I'd live a peaceful life. And that's why we are fighting, aren't we? We're fighting to regain that peaceful life we lost."

Tyrannus and others stand on a cliff. He watched the enemy base with his binoculars. "So there they are. Our soldiers are ready?"

Kane nodded.

Tyrannus: "Then execute the order."

The order was given through their scouts. The troops flew forward. Everyone left a trail of blue energy. Now, the heroes see the sky covered up with people and their blue trails. It's starting.

Malin: "I'm going to join them." She flew forward.

Margarita followed.

Kyria: "Those damned sayans. They think they can attack us? They are getting too arrogant. Alert all troops! Tell them to go and fight!"

Muraian and Dracos were released from the spaceships in massive numbers. The Empire's forces and the sayan forces collided and the fireworks began. It's just like the Great War. Chaos and murder. Massive deaths and bloodshed.

Margarita wondered if any of this could have been avoided. But she kept her mind on the battle. One cannot afford to be distracted.

Bam!! Margarita fired white beams and Malin fired red beams. They tried to stick together since it will increase their chances of surviving. Bam! Bam! Soldiers were knocked down left and right. Margarita did not know if she hit them or someone else hit them. As long as they are hit, that is what matters. Bam! She dodged a beam and returned fire. Bam!

Mason cut to chase and turned super sayan. He fired a bunch of golden beams into the sky. Kabam! The enemy decided to gang up on him and fired a bunch of beams. Mason dodged left and right. But more of them came. He tried to neutralize it with his own beams, but they hit him. Wham! He fell.

Sarus: "Commander!" He flew and grabbed his hand. "Gotcha!"

Mika covered for him.

Mason: "Thank you, Sarus."

"No problemo."

Kanus, Tyrannus, and Kemia are fighting at the back. Kanus fired beams angrily. He has a lot on his mind, especially after his little talk with Tyrannus this morning. He thinks back to the first Great War when things were tougher. The loyalists hunted the rebels down time after time. They were living in constant fear. The loyalists picked on them all the time. And Kanus is tired of living that kind of life. Living in fear, worrying if he'll be alive to see tomorrow. Wondering how they will get their next meal. Many of his comrades died in the war. And he doesn't want to see it happen again.

Kapow! He just punched Draco in the face and grabbed his shoulders so he can knee him in the stomach. Thud! A Draco from behind fired. Kanus used the Draco he had to block it.

"Aaaaah!" screamed the Draco as he was incinerated by his own teammate.

Kanus fired at the Draco above and burned him. "Aaaaah!"

"Tch." said Kanus. "What a bunch of worthless fools."

Messiah turns super sayan and fights with super speed. The other rebels notice his power but nobody knows who he is. Muraians fire beams, he fires a golden beam to intercept it, and sparks flared. "Hyaaaah!"

A certain woman was walking on the ground while smiling. "Hmph." sneered Emerald. "Let me show you how to fight!" She flew up and attacked the rebels like they're nothing. She threw her steel fan and cut some guy's stomach. The fan went in a circle and came back to her hand. "Heh. You rebels have no chance of wining. None! Ha ha ha ha ha!"

She isn't the only surprise guest today. Someone else is here. Someone that Kyria fears. A person that even Orbital fears. Gusher flew into the sky full of fighters. Muraians saw him coming.

A: "It's Gusher!"

B: "Heh, the rebels are in for it now. Whenever Gusher appears, the balance of power shifts in our favor."

A: "I can't believe Lord Orbital is sending him out this early."

Gusher was sensing a lot of energy signals. An overwhelming number of them. And he's getting excited. A wicked smile fell on his lips and he powers up without even thinking about it. "Yes...yes!!!"

Sayans nearby sensed his power and attack him.

Gusher fired a beam and hit the first guy. The second guy punched him in the face. Kapow! Gusher showed no signs of pain, and surprised the guy. Gusher punched him in the stomach. Then he charged up energy into his fist and fired a beam at point blank, blowing the guy up. Bam!! Gusher was covered in blood but he enjoys the smell of blood.

A Draco fired a beam, and a rebel dodged it and killed the Draco. "Hah. That was easy." Then he sensed Gusher. (What in the world?) His energy felt like a tidal wave coming at him.

Gusher fired a beam, and the rebel dodged it.

"Just who are you?!"

The silent killer appeared behind him. The rebel was nervous as hell. He got angry and turned around and punched. Gusher blocked his fist and squeezed it, breaking his hand.

"Aaagh! Let go!!"

Gusher let go and blasted him into oblivion. Blam! The poor guy did not stand a chance.

Back at the capital, a scout makes a report to the king. "Sire, the rebels have made their attack on the enemy."

Neflite: "I see. So Tyrannus Coitus has made his move. Who is winning so far?"

Scout: "I cannot say for sure, sire."

Everyone on the royal hall chattered. "Silence." said the king. "The rebels are in danger, and it is our obligation to help them. We need to send a portion of our men to them."

Marus: "Sire, then we will be undefended. We need all of our forces in case the enemy attacks us."

Another scout came in and he kneeled. "Sire! It is an emergency! The Empire's forces are here!"

"What?! shouted Neflite.

Sephia got up from her seat. "Are you serious?"

Neflite: "This is sooner than we expected. All forces prepare for combat! Gather all the citizens in the city. Everyone is to help. Those with the sixth sense are to go to the front lines. Those who cannot fight help with the gun turrets." (Father, I hope I can make it through this. I need your blessings from heaven.)

The enemy's crystal starships descended from the dark clouds. The alarm sounded throughout Ethiopia. Not a single spot in the city was safe from their threat. Sayans went to the gun turrets and fired. Thut-thut-thut. The bullets do nothing to the giant structures. Muraian and Draconian soldiers are released from the ships and they swarm into the city. Never before has Ethiopia faced such a crisis.

Kabam! Kanus just made a big explosion. He's had it with all the stronger fighters getting all the praise and recognition. People like Jerrell, Margarita, and Mason are the most talked about fighters in many conversations. Kanus is ticked off. What about his recognition? He's been a leader of the Zeroth Division for more than half his life, fighting alongside Tyrannus for half a century. And what does he get for his loyalty and commitment? Nothing. Today he's going to prove them wrong.

Boom! Another guy was shot down. Kanus is proud of himself as he's counting his kills. He wants to shout out to the world. Hey I'm a strong guy too, don't forget about me. I want to show you my strength! If there's any time to thrive, it is now.

Tyrannus: "Man...this is endless."

Kemia: "We have to outlast them, sir!"

Kaboom!

Gusher showed up and killed some soldiers. No one can even get near him. Kanus saw him and fired two beams. Gusher knocked them away.

Kanus: "What?"

Gusher fired a red beam, Kanus tried to block it, but it destroyed his shield. Boom! Kanus was hit but he recovered himself in the middle of his fall. (What the hell is this guy?) Gusher laughed and fired beams, Kanus avoided them. (Damn it I won't let a lackie of the Empire get the better of me!)

Kabam. Bam. Suddenly, one of the beams hit him and went through his chest. The pain was surprising. Everything turned pitch dark for him. "Uuuugh!"

[Split screen - 2] [Coitus, Kemia].

[Split screen - 2] [Margarita, Malin].

Kanus fell to the ground. After being hit and falling like that, he knew he could not survive.

Tyrannus and Kemia stopped fighting and went to him. So did Margarita and Malin.

Kanus was in pretty bad shape. He coughed blood. The wound on his chest was beyond treatment. "Kanus, hang in there!" yelled Coitus. "Be strong!"

"C-Coitus..." Kanus mumbled, "Get revenge for me, okay? Get those bastards...ugh..." With that said, he closed his eyes.

In an instant, everything he had worked for is over. Everything that is and was Kanus is gone. He is no longer Coitus's good friend and ally. He is just a body, an empty shell that was once Kanus.

Tears streamed down Coitus's face. Kemia was crying as well. Malin and Margrit shed some tears. Kanus is their ally and friend too. "Aaaagh! No!!! Kanus!"

Kemia: "K-Kanus..."

Coitus: "Kanus. Speak to me! Speak to me!"

He continued to cry out in delusion and the others remained silent. What can they say to comfort him? The explosions and fireworks continued. But those sounds

aren't so loud anymore. They're just distant sounds...they are nothing but fireworks and bright lights. Nothing but nuisances. There is nothing more significant to them than the death of their friend. People are going to get killed. This is the grim reality of war.

Malin looked up at the sky. "You bastards! How many people do you have to kill?! Aaagh!" She powered up and flew off.

Margrita powered up and followed her friend. Watching Malin fight like a barbarian, Margrit thought of something. Mason grabbed her hand. "Margrit, calm down!"

"Let go!" she replied fiercely. "Don't tell me what to do!"

So this is what Mason warned her about? Don't let your emotions cloud your judgment? It's true; those who fight angry are not fighting logically. And they tend to die faster. "Malin, don't exert your energy! Calm down!"

Malin: "Shut up and fight with me! Aaaah!" She fired the Multi-directional Beam many times. Boom-boom-boom. Margrit grabbed her from behind. "Hey, let go you idiot!"

Coitus: "Kemia, I ask that you watch his body for me. I will give him a proper burial later." He flew off and fought. Yes, he's very pissed off. And he's going to make the enemy pay.

A beam flew at them, Margrit and Malin dodged it. Frooom. It was Gusher who fired it.

Margrit: "You!!" They met once before. Gusher attacked Margarita and her family on earth many years ago. "You're the one...you're the one who came to earth and tried to kill us."

Malin: "Yes, that's right. That face...he's the one who injured Jerrell."

Gusher: "I remember you too. Your energy is not something I can forget."

Margrit raised her fist. "I always wanted to give you payback. And today is the day. You are going to join the others in hell!"

Gusher smiled. It's been a while since he's been challenged. "Go ahead and try."

Margrit: "I'll make you open those stupid eyes of yours! I'll make them bleed!" She fires the Wrath Beam, Gusher flew around it.

The silent warrior fired a stream of energy balls, the heroes dodged them. Bam-bam-bam! Since it's an aerial fight, they can move in any direction. It takes skill to fight on the ground, but even greater skill to fight in the air...fight well, that is. Bam-bam.

Margrit and Malin fired beams and they combined into one. Gusher blocked it with both hands. Zzzzzzzzt. It didn't hurt him.

Margrit: "What the?"

Malin: "Grrrr. He thinks he's tough?"

Gusher fired a beam, it went in a curve, missed Malin and exploded. The force knocked her down.

"Aaah!"

Margrit caught her in time. "You okay?"

Suddenly, Messiah showed up. "I'll take care of this one. You two go and join the others in the front line."

Margrit: "Messiah..." She nodded. "C'mon Malin, let's go."

Malin: "But-"

"I said let's go." The women flew away.

Gusher was getting excited. "Your energy...is even better than those two. I finally get a challenge."

Messiah: (What is with this guy? Does he not feel any fear?) He's already in super sayan form and he powered up some more. "Take this!" He fired the Wrath Beam. It touched the side of Gusher's shield and Gusher flew away from it. Froom.

Messiah grunted and fired another one. Gusher blocked it effortlessly. Bam!! "What?" Messiah dodged a few beams. (Who exactly is he? He's different than all the others.) He dodged another beam. Messiah is curious as to Gusher's true powers. He only sensed a hint of it. He gathered a lot of energy and fired a spiraling beam downwards.

Gusher sneered at it and countered it with a simple beam.

(No way!! It can't be. How can anyone be this strong?) Suddenly, Gusher appeared behind him. Messiah was scared crapless. (It can't be...)

Blam! The hero was blasted from point blank. His cape was shredded to pieces and scattered to the air as Messiah fell into the valley. He screamed as he fell into the darkness, still not knowing what phenomenon he was dealing with.

The others did not know what happened to Messiah. Margarita knows he is strong and he will not die. Only a titan can even compare to a fighter like Messiah. He was the white caped warrior who saved her and her brother's lives at a young age. The original super sayan. The heroes fought hard. Coitus and Kemia are fighting with rage. Their movements and energy are completely different than before. After all, they just lost a friend.

Hours later, the battle is over. The enemy is forced to retreat. It can be a victory and it can be a defeat at the same time. The ground, like the previous battle, is filled with dead bodies. Rebels bury their friends and allies and cry and mourn. Coitus makes a hole on the ground with his energy and carries the body of Kanus and puts it into the hole. He buries his friend and puts stones on the land, to represent a grave. Tears drip down his eyes.

"Goodbye, good friend." said Coitus. Kanus's last words were: Get revenge for me, okay? Get those bastards. Indeed he will. It's a promise.

Faith walked to the balcony of her father's palace. She gazed into the deep blue sky of earth. "In war, people are going to get killed, whether they are fighting or not. We cannot predict or control who is to die and who is to survive. When hundreds and thousands are thrown into the battlefield, only the strong and lucky survive. This is the grim reality of war...it is not something we can control. All we can do is pray for those lost souls."

33: The Light that Pierces the Darkness.

Contents

Tyrannus Coitus stands on the edge of a tall cliff. The previous battle ended when the enemy retreated, the battle is not over, according to Coitus. He proposes they chase the enemy down and find their base. Thus, there is no time to rest for those who just fought. The next fight begins immediately. It is harsh, but this is war.

Margarita and her crew flew amongst the thousands of others in the sky. The soldiers look like a bunch of flying comets from far away. Mason and his crew are right behind them.

Charus comes to see Coitus. "Sir, who is watching the camp?"

Coitus: "I left Kane to guard the camp."

"Kane? Only one commander? Is that enough?"

"Kane is a member of the Elite Four like myself. Don't underestimate him." As he said this, Coitus goes into deep thought. (It's been a while since we fought like this, right, Jeremiah? You predicted something like this would happen one day, didn't you? Back then the Elite Four consisted of myself, Jeremiah, Lotus, and Kane. Today, it is myself, Kane, Mason, and Margarita. Thirty years ago our enemies were the loyalists. Today, it is Murai.) He couldn't help but think about Kanus's death. (Can we really win this war?)

Neflite: "This is sooner than we expected. All forces prepare for combat! Gather all the citizens in the city. Everyone is to help. Those with the sixth sense are to go to the front lines. Those who cannot fight help with the gun turrets." (Father, I hope I can make it through this. I need your blessings from heaven.)

"Remember, Neflite, in order to defeat the enemy, you must become the light which pierces the darkness."

The enemy's crystal starships descended from the dark clouds. The alarm sounded throughout Ethiopia. Not a single spot in the city is safe from their threat. Sayans went to the gun turrets and fired. Thut-thut-thut. The bullets do nothing to the giant structures. Muraian and Draconian soldiers are released from the ships and they swarm into the city. Never before has Ethiopia faced such a crisis.

Muraians and Dracos fight those in the front lines. They made their way through and they're now in the city. Boom! Loyalist soldiers were blown away by a Draco's beam. The loyalists trembled in fear as the scary Draco approached from the dust. "Ha ha ha. You sayans are not as strong as the rumors say."

One loyalist soldier attacked, the Draco punched him and blew him into dust. The others are scared crapless. The Draco gathers energy for a farewell beam and fires. Bam! Another beam knocks his away. "What?!"

Longinus showed up. "You will not destroy this city."

Loyalists: "Sir Longinus!"

Draco: "You punk!" He fired a beam, Longinus jumped up to avoid it. The Draco flew up and punched, Longinus kicked him away. Whack! The Draco screamed and fell somewhere.

Longinus landed with the other soldiers and fought their best.

Back at the royal hall, the king continues to receive bad news. "The enemy forces have penetrated our front lines and are now loose within the city."

Neflite: "Goddam it! I should've been more prepared for this. I'd never expect them to come from the south."

Sephia: "Your highness..."

"Our forces from other cities are not here yet. At this rate...Ethiopia will..."

Marus: "Sire, we will defend this city with our lives. This place is the pride and honor of our race."

Neflite: "Our vessels are on their way here. I'm worried about those starships. We do not have that kind of power to counter them."

Soldiers got into gun turrets and fired at the starship. Bang bang bang. It did little, if any damage. The crystal starship fires its machine guns and destroys the turrets one by one, slowly hovering towards the palace. Once in a while, it fires the mega-cannon, destroying a street block or two.

Muraians and Draconians are loose within the residential part of Ethiopia. Loyalists are fighting to defend them. Those who cannot fight go into hiding. But not all of them make it to their hiding place alive.

Draco A: "That is the Imperial Palace. We shall destroy it today."

Boom. Those in the palace felt the shaking.

Marus: "The enemy is attacking us."

Sephia: "Neflite, we must escape. Their target is you, the king."

Neflite: "But..."

Taurus: "Go, sire. We Elite Guards will remain and fight."

Sephia dragged Neflite into the dining room.

Kaboom! A hole appeared on the ceiling. Enemies dropped in, and the Elite Guards fought them.

While running into the dining room, Neflite let go of Sephia's hand. "I can't run away."

"But sire, your life is in danger!"

"I know. But so are all of us. Years ago the same thing happened. The rebels raided our palace. My father stayed behind and fought alongside his comrades and died fighting. Back then I was a child and I was helpless. But today I am the king. I have an obligation to protect my people...not just with words."

"Sire..." Sephia understands his meaning and she nods in agreement.

Enemies come into the dining hall. Neflite and Sephia beat them up. Back in the royal hall, the Elites are still fighting. Suddenly, a guy comes crashing out of a wall. It's an enemy. Neflite and Sephia come through the hole.

Maurus: "Sire?"

Neflite: "Our message is clear! When we sayans are attacked we will fight back with full force!" He flies up through the hole on the ceiling and powers up. The Elite Guards cheer him on.

Others outside see him. "It's the king! He's fighting too!" Everyone sees the king fighting and become motivated.

Neflite powers up and the amulet on his neck glows. Enemies attack him, and he blows them up with beams and bombs. "Yaaaah!"

Other troopers notice him. "Hey, that's King Neflite."

B: "If we eliminate him, then sayans will be crippled."

Troopers turned their attention to Neflite, who doesn't care. He kills them as they come. Bam bam! A bunch of beams fly at him. He blocks them, but one of them hits him and knocks him on the ground. Sephia flies to him, but is intercepted by Draconians. "Move it or lose it." she says.

The Draconians snickered. They have no intention of letting her go.

Neflite stands up. He's surrounded by a bunch of troops. One of them jumps at him, Neflite blasts him into dust. The others charged, Neflite got into fighting position and gave them some kicks and punches. Kapow! Neflite got punched in the face, followed by a kick in the stomach. "Grrrr." Neflite ran forward and hit a guy in the face. Another guy kicked, Neflite blocked. Thud! Another guy saw an opening and kicked him in the face. Neflite fell. Doosh. "Ugh."

One guy walked forward. "Heh heh. This king will not live long." He kicked him in the chin. Whack!

Neflite rolled on the ground a few times. He's battered and bruised. This is not how a king should be seen. The king should be the strongest of all sayans. But there are many sayans who are better fighters than Neflite the Second. And he's pissed off. "Father...what do I do now?" he said, holding the amulet in his hand. The amulet is the

only thing he has from his father. It is a piece of stone which he wears as a necklace. Inscribed on the stone is the symbol of the Ko-Rashm.

King Neflite I puts his hands on his son's shoulder. "Remember, this amulet is the proof that you are my son. It has blessed our family for many generations. It will protect you in times of need."

"Father, I want to be a great king just like you!" said the little boy.

"Indeed you will. You will save your race from great peril. But to become a leader and defeat the enemy, you must become the light which pierces the darkness."

"The light that pierces the darkness?"

Suddenly, his father's words make sense. He understands what he must do now. Everyone is fighting their best and risking their lives. Those on earth and those in space are fighting everyday.

And in this very moment in space, Angela is in her GPX shooting down X-Fighters and mobile suits with her team. The battlefield is intense and they're fighting like hell. One small mistake and it's all over. A battle like this requires extreme concentration. And it is tiring and traumatic. Yet they fight anyway.

Even as Neflite is thinking, loyalist troops are dying. They are dying every second. He felt extreme anger and helplessness and he wanted to help his people somehow. In his moment of need and frustration, something came over him. He felt completely different as he powered up while the amulet was glowing. His hair flashed a golden color and then remained gold. Froom! He became a super sayan.

Neflite's subordinates are as surprised as he is. He ascends to the sky and powers up to show his strength. Nearby enemies read his power level, and it's something that makes them tremble. Neflite flies at high speed and shoots golden beams, blowing enemies out of the sky.

Taurus: "He is a super sayan."

Jarus: "Indeed. He truly is the king of all sayans."

Sephia couldn't be prouder. "Neflite..."

There is no better way to motivate the troops than to become a super sayan and be a leading example of power. He truly is the light that pierces the darkness.

[B] Contents

The space battle comes to an end. Everyone's exhausted, including Angela. Her mobile suit goes back to Jamell's ship and docks. She comes out of the cockpit and lands on the floor.

Jamell comes. "You did well, Ms. Lianz. The battle is a success."

Angela does not look at him. "I'm tired. I want to go back to my room." She walks past him. Jamell wonders what's up.

Lily goes to see Angela by the door of her room. "Ms. Lianz..."

"I'm tired. I don't want to talk." Angela opens the door and closes it.

Lily wonders what's up. Usually Angela is sociable, but today she is acting strange.

Angela lies in bed and looks at a picture of herself and Jerrell. Ah, those were the good times. But now it is the tough times. When she's in battle, she kills others and avoids being killed. When you constantly put your life on the line, you start to think about things you normally wouldn't. She really misses Jerrell. They've been separated for a while. She's here, he's there.

In the café, the guys and gals are having lunch. Kiyo is still thinking about Gusher's killing spree. Lily notices he hasn't touched his food. "Kiyo, you haven't touched your food. What's the matter?"

Kiyo: "It's just...I keep on thinking about what I saw back in R-10. I can't get it out of my mind."

Orion: "Look, what we saw was horrifying, but we have to forget about it. You can't lose your appetite because of that."

Kiyo: "But how can I forget about such a thing? That guy named Gusher...he's a cold blooded murderer who kills without hesitation. Is the Empire full of people like him? How can we stand a chance?" His little speech made everyone depressed.

Lily: "Come on now guys, we have to keep our spirits up. We have to believe that we can win. Otherwise, it's going to be a long and miserable war. We have to make the best of it, right?"

Wendel: "I agree. Kiyo, try not to think about it anymore. You are not on R-10 anymore, you are with us."

Lily: "We are all friends, aren't we? Best friends, if not very good friends. We've helped each other when we were still cadets. We've always been together as we rose through the ranks. The battle in space is tough and we can't do it alone. We have to look out for each other."

Orion: "Of course."

"Alright guys. From now on we will watch each other's back. If one of our units is damaged then another one of us will help. What do you say?"

Orion: "Agreed."

Wendel: "Agreed."

Kiyo: "Agreed."

They put their hands together and swear a pact of friendship. This puts Kiyo at ease and he gets his appetite back. It's great to have friends, especially when you're depressed. Somehow they always make you feel better.

Angela decides to get out of her room and go to work on the maintenance for the GP-X. She's checking its stats on one of those outlet computers. Jamell passes by. "Ms. Lianz."

"Yes?" she says without looking at him.

"I notice today you were less talkative than usual. Is everything okay?"

"I'm just exhausted, that's all. Fighting day in and day out makes people weary and tired. You just give orders from your battleship. You don't know what it's like on the battlefield."

Jamell took offense to that. "Don't know what it's like? I've fought many battles...I fought during the Great War."

"Uhh..."

"And for your information, I am able to go second stage. I may not know how to pilot a mobile suit or fly an X-Fighter, but I have fought with my bare hands."

Angela's E-Reading says he's telling the truth. "Look, I'm sorry. I just blurted something out. It's just that...the person I care about is far away. He's not here and I have to fight alone."

"And you think you are the only one who is in that situation, Ms. Lianz? My sweetheart Tanya is fighting on earth while I am here. She is better at fighting than anything else. If I wanted to I would've had her stay with me. But what will she do here? I could've joined her in the battlefield...but I realize that I am more valuable as a commander...with the Alliance. I did not pick the selfish decision, but I did what is best for the Alliance. This is probably how Jerrell thinks. He could've had you stay with him...and yes it'd be easier, wouldn't it? For the two of you to be together during these rough times."

Angela gasped. What he says is true.

"Jerrell sees that you are more valuable as a mobile suit pilot and a commander. That is why he sent you here to lead the Galactic Police."

Jerrell said something like that. "Sorry..." she says.

Jamell walked past her. "I understand your frustrations, Ms. Lianz. But your problems don't make you special." He walks away.

Kiyo is daydreaming about his early days at the GPO. He was once a member of the Rebel Faction on planet R-10. They fought against Enyzme and his corrupt army. He is tired of fighting and hears about the Galactic Police from one of his friends. Kiyo himself, and his comrades Orion and Chloro all applied to GP together. Unfortunately, Kiyo had to take the first test alone since the others were busy.

The test consisted of combat in the Simulator, a machine that creates virtual environments and fake enemies. Kiyo and a bunch of other would-be GPO's had only one gun and they shot cyborgs.

Bang! Bang! Kiyo dodged a missile and fires. He blows up a cyborg's head. More cyborgs jump out of trees and Kiyo shoots them with lightning accuracy.

He ended up finishing with above average scores. He went from cadet to officer, then to corporal and finally to sergeant.

Kiyo remembers seeing all the horrors of a dictatorship. All the suffering and starving people, all the bloodshed and wars. And it's because the government doesn't care about its people. The cadets are lined up and they salute the headmaster. Jerrell walks by each one. "Why do you want to become a Galactic Police Officer?" he asks each one.

Kiyo prepares his answer mentally and answers when it's his turn. "Because I want the world to be a safer place to live in. On my home a tyrant rules the planet and when people rebel, he eliminates them. A lot of people have suffered and died under the hands of Enyzme. I want to make sure I free my people from such tyranny. I want the people to experience what is justice and freedom!"

It is a great answer and Jerrell likes it. "Then you are at the right place, lad. This is exactly what the Galactic Police is about."

Jerrell misses a certain someone, so he calls the Alliance spaceship. Beep. Jamell answers on the other end.

"Hello?"

"Jordon Jamell, how are things going over there?"

"Ah, Headmaster Jerrell, I expected you to call sooner or later. Things are looking just fine. Our forces are strong and motivated."

"Are Angela and the GP forces cooperative?"

"Oh yes, they are very well coordinated. At first I thought there'd be a problem with them integrating with our units. But the Galactic Police is good with teamwork and combat tactics. Commander Lianz separated the forces into seven teams, and five of them are offensive and two are defensive. You trained them well, headmaster."

"That's good to hear. How is Angela doing?"

"Uhhh, she's doing fine. She's full of energy and enthusiasm."

"Tell her that I miss her."

"Consider it done. I'll make sure she knows."

"Thank you, Jamell. I have to go now."

"Okay. Bye." Beep.

Suddenly, the alarm rang. Aeeeeer! The room was flashing red lights.

Everyone on the spaceship hears it. Kiyo's thoughts are shattered as he is surprised by the loud alarm.

Jamell immediately calls for an emergency meeting. Angela and Milo show up and Soroku shows up two minutes later.

Jamell: "Sorry to call you here all of a sudden, but apparently we have an emergency." He presses the button on the computer and a hologram shows up. It shows a picture of the enemy forces. "The Muraians just launched three more crystal starships and they have a total of five."

They gasped. "Five?" said Soroku.

"They just showed up on our radars. They look like they're ready to attack."

Soroku: "We can barely destroy one of those things, and now we must fight five?"

Milo: "If done enough damage, we can paralyze those superstructures."

Jamell: "We fought hard to maintain this position, and I do not want to retreat. The Muraians don't want to be pushed back either. We must fight."

Everyone agrees and runs out of the command room. Soroku goes back to his spaceship the Liberator. Angela goes to her mobile suits and get into the cockpit. So does Kiyo, Chloro, Orion, Lily, and Wendel.

Kiyo's mind is distracted as he is in the cockpit. "A lot of people have suffered and died under the hands of Enzyme. I want to make sure I free my people from such tyranny. I want the people to experience what is justice and freedom!"

["Unit zero six, are you ready for launch?"]

"Huh? Oh yes, launch me!" he replies.

Mobile Suit Unit-6 launches and flies into space along with thousands of others. His unit goes to the front lines, where things are exploding like crazy.

Some units have already broken through and attacked one of the crystal ships, but they were destroyed by the ship's defense systems.

Angela's GP-X goes to the front lines and she begins combat. Lily is giving her support. Wendel and Kiyo, along with Orion, are within close range of each other. Enemy X-Fighters come and they shoot them down. Kaboom!

Kiyo pulls the trigger like it's the only thing he can pull. His mobile suit, Unit-6 fires its machine gun. Thut-thut-thut. It shot down an X-Fighter. Kabom! An X-Fighter comes from behind, and Lily shoots it down.

Kiyo: "Thanks."

Lily: "No problem!"

They continue to shoot. Kiyo is sure that the war will end soon. All he needs to do is have patience. Just a little more...

Soroku: "Jamell, the Liberator will move to the front lines."

Jamell: "Alright. Go ahead."

Soroku gives orders to his operators, and the ship moves forward.

The battlefield expands and units from both sides are everywhere. This tends to happen and results in mass confusion. One has to be aggressive enough to attack units from all directions, and at the same time careful enough to not shoot down friendly units. Luckily, their mobile suit technology identifies friendly and unfriendly units.

Kiyo continues to fight but he keeps on thinking about the war and he's distracted. Suddenly an enemy mobile suit appears in front of him. He gasps. What now? The GP-X comes and blows up the enemy. The explosion pushes Unit-6 away. "Ugh!! Aaaah!"

Angela: "Kiyo, are you okay?"

"Yeah. I'm fine. Thanks."

Three X-Fighters fly at them. Angela flies into them and they dispersed. Kiyo goes after one of them and follows it and tries to get a lock on. Beep beep. He aims carefully and fires missiles, and one of them hit the X-Fighter. It blows up and looks like a bright circle. Bam!

Angela: "There's another one above you!"

Unit-6's sensors detected the enemy. Unit-6 dodges a missile and flies at the X-Fighter and grabs its wing and tears it off. Then he fires at the ship at point blank and jumps away as it blows up.

Lily: "Nice job!"

Kiyo: "Thanks!" He gets overconfident and fights more aggressive than usual. Yes, today is the day he will show them his true skills. Enemies will cower in fear and allies will praise him. He might even get a promotion or two. But more importantly, he is doing this for his home town.

Mobile suits fire at Unit-6, and it dodged some beams. Kiyo screams and fires while spinning his mobile suit backwards. Bam bam. Enemy units blow up. Kiyo is sweating but he relaxes for a few seconds. That was a close one. (Yes, just a little longer. I just have to put up with it a little longer.)

Suddenly, a beam comes from below and hits Unit-6. The laser goes through the mobile suit. Kiyo's cockpit is falling apart, and he sees a white light. Kaboom! Unit-6 is destroyed. Nothing was left.

[Split screen vertical - 2] [Angela, Lily].

Lily is shocked. "Kiyo?! No!! Kiyo!!"

Angela is just as shocked. "Kiyo...is dead?"

"Kiyo!!!!!! Aaaaaaah!!!" screams Lily as her tears float in the air. "No!!"

Chloro and Orion also notice that Unit-6's signal has disappeared. They just lost a good friend.

How can this be? Everything is going well and all of a sudden Kiyo disappears from this world forever. It is a reality too harsh for them to face at this moment. Angela was pissed off at the tragedy of Boaz, and it's okay since she isn't personally attached to anyone there. But this is different. Kiyo is one of her best GPO's and he was a great friend. And he is gone. And so are his hopes and dreams.

Angela is outraged and she goes berserk. GP-X flies into the lines of fire and shoots like crazy. Bam bam! Angela uses half her ammo like it's nothing. "Damn you...this is all your fault!" she says to the enemy. Bam! Mobile suits are shot down left and right.

Lily has ceased fighting and grieves for her lost friend. This is the grim reality of war. Kiyo can no longer be a light that pierces the darkness...he is now a star in the sky.

34: The Next Generation.

Contents

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Lily is in shock. "Kiyo...it can't be. He's dead?" She stops everything and her mobile suit floats there and doesn't move. Enemies notice her mobile suit and fire.

Chloro: "Lily, what are you doing? Move!"

The computer beeps like crazy and Lily snaps out of her trance. Her mobile suit dodges the beams.

One of the Alliance vessels gets close to the enemy's crystal ship. The crystal ship fires its mega-cannon and destroys the side of the vessel. Bam!

Soroku: "That battleship is moving too far from the fleet."

Operator: "It's currently engaged in combat with crystal ship number one."

Soroku: "Tell them to back up!"

The vessel continues to charge forward and fire lasers, damaging the crystal ship. The two continue to fire at each other, destroying each other slowly.

The Muraian captain is shocked. "They're coming closer! Fire the mega-cannon again!"

Operator: "It will take sixty seconds to recharge."

Captain: "Damn it!"

The Alliance vessel crashes into the starship before it fires the cannon. Both of them explode. Kaboom!

Everyone notices the explosion.

Soroku: "We will end the battle for now. Signal all units to retreat."

After the GP-X docks into the ship, she gets out of the cockpit and walks over to Jamell and Soroku. "What the hell was that?" she says. "You sent that ship on a suicide mission. Is that how you treat soldiers, Jamell?"

Jamell: "I did not order the captain to do such a thing. He wanted to do it on his own."

Angela is still angry. She walks away.

Soroku: "What's her problem?"

Jamell shrugs. "Beats me. Right now we need to rework our strategy, Soroku."

Angela walks in the hallway where there is a view of space. The window is stretched throughout the hallway so that people can walk by and look at space.

Lily is sitting on a bench and crying sadly. "Kiyo...he's dead..."

Angela wants to go over there and comfort her, but she decides not to. Her heart feels like a ton of bricks right now. Kiyo was one of her best subordinates and a great

friend. His enthusiasm adds a lot to the team spirit. Angela walks away, feeling sad and depressed.

In a dark room, Kyria asks Gusher to fight alongside the army. "You will join our forces in our assault on the capital, won't you?"

The silent warrior responded: "I've had enough blood for one day. No fighter here is worthy of fighting me." He walks away.

Kyria is ticked off. "Why you..."

The captain touches Kyria's shoulder. "Don't mess with Gusher, sir. He's bad news."

Kyria: "He won't cooperate, eh? Who needs Gusher? I still have the Great Destroyer. We will commence our attack on Ethiopia, the capital of Arlia, in one hour. Order all units to be on standby."

The captain saluted him. "Yes sir."

Meanwhile, the rebels are fighting at some base. Coitus is in charge and he gives orders through their scouters.

Charus comes to see Coitus. "Sir, who is watching the camp?"

Coitus: "I left Kane to guard the camp."

"Kane? Only one commander? Is that enough?"

"Kane is a member of the Elite Four like myself. Don't underestimate him."

In the old battlefield, a hand reaches out from below and grabs onto the land. Messiah crawls up and pants for breath. He's bleeding on the head and various places.

The Empire's army is now released into the sky. It consists of Muraian and Draconian forces. The Draco-Muraian army makes their second attack on the city of Ethiopia. This time, the loyalists are prepared. The troops scrambled to their posts to defend.

While most of the rebels are away at battle, Kane and his crew remain at the camp. A scout comes to report. "All the weapons are functional, sir."

"Good. Our camp is safe." replied Kane. "Let us wish them luck."

Somewhere not far away, Chrome and his crew arrive. The scout's scouter beeps. "Oh no! Enemies approaching from the east!"

Kane: "How many?"

"Ten. No, twenty."

"Tch, damn it." said Kane. "For them to attack us when we are weak. They are not stupid. Sound the alarm! Get everyone to fight." Kane runs throughout the tents. "We are under attack! Defend the camp!"

Everyone hears him and runs to the east.

Zap! Some guy was fried and he collapsed. Chrome just finished sapping his energy. He and his Muraians are laughing evilly.

Chrome: "Since the main force is gone, it is our chance to destroy their base. Show no mercy and kill everyone. Women and children included!"

Suddenly, a beam came at him, and he blocked it. Kane was the one who threw it. The two did the stare.

Chrome smiled and fired his zapping beam, Kane dodged by back flipping away. Zap, zap. Chrome fired at the wall behind him, and a bunch of rocks fell down. Kane covered himself for the impact. Crash.

Ethiopia is now a battle zone. The reinforcements from other cities have arrive

and they are fighting the Draco-Muraian army. Neflite is pleased that they are here.

"Good. This time we will defend our city and let them escape." said Neflite. "All of us will enter the battle as well."

Sephia: "Neflite..."

"It is inevitable. I must not run away from my responsibility. At the end of the day, I am still a sayan."

The Elite Guards bowed and stood up. "We will protect you with our lives, sire." said Longinus.

Everyone flew out of the palace and started shooting beams immediately.

At the other side of the city, the Great Destroyer is wreaking havoc on the loyalist forces. The explosions he made blew up buildings and knocked soldiers away. Kaboom! A bunch of loyalists were blown away. A lot of them lost their arms and legs.

Kyria: "Ha ha ha ha! That's right! Teach them a lesson, Great Destroyer. Those who oppose the Empire will suffer and meet their fate." Just then, his scouter detected something. "So there he is...King Neflite. Come, Great Destroyer." He flies to the center of the city and GD follows.

Longinus is hit by a beam from Mencia, and he falls into the buildings. Crash.

Neflite is shocked. "That is...the Great Destroyer." Memories come back. Mencia is the one who killed his father at end of the Great War. Back then Mencia was part of the rebel forces.

Neflite flew backwards, watching his target. Suddenly, GD appeared behind him. "Huh?" He was sweating nervously. Neflite turned around and punched, GD dodged. Whack! Kapow! Wham!

Neflite: "Die, you vermin!" He gathered energy and fired a ball, but GD's fist broke through the ball, and hit Neflite in the stomach. Zzzzzzzt. His fist was full of electricity, and the hit went through Neflite's stomach. The king gasped in disbelief, and fell slowly to the ground.

The Elite Guards went to his aide. "Your highness? Are you alright?"

It was too late, he's already dead.

The Great Destroyer laughed triumphantly, and his voice echoed throughout the battle field.

That was the death of Neflite I. And now, Neflite II is facing the very same opponent who faced his father. It sure is convenient that Mencia is on Murai's side. Now he can take revenge without remorse. But will history repeat itself?

Neflite fires a beam, Mencia blocks it and throws a wave of energy. Neflite is hit and falls into a building.

Sephia screams as she watched. She fires at Mencia, who disappears. Kyria fires a beam and knocks her down. Crash!

Neflite comes out of the rubble. He turns into super sayan mode. Mencia is excited, seeing someone turn second stage. He himself turns second stage. Flash! The two fighters with golden hair stared in hatred.

"You...you killed my father."

"Your father? Your father was destroyed and so shall you! Ahahahaha!"

Neflite grunted and fired the SS Beam. Mencia's golden shield deflects it. Pom!

"What?" said Neflite in surprise. "It didn't work?"

Kyria laughed. "If it isn't your highness. Why are you fighting us anyway? Aren't we all on the same side?"

"Kyria you scoundrel. You tried to use Sephia to make me turn on my own people. And you criticize me for defending my city even though you guys are attacking us."

Kyria: "That is because you will not listen to reason. We gave you a chance to join us, but you refused. What a foolish mistake. The loyalists are supposed to crush the rebels. Yet you are fighting against the Empire."

"Look who's talking, Kyria. You were once a rebel but now you are part of the Empire. You're worthless traitor."

"Hmph. We'll see who is worthless. Great Destroyer, kill him."

Mencia screamed and powered up. Neflite winced from the excess light. Mencia fires a bunch of beams, and Neflite dodges. Kaboom-boom. The ground is now a bunch of craters.

Bam! Kane is knocked against the wall. Chrome smiles as he fires his beam. Kane dodged, and the beam blew up the wall. Kane makes a direct attack and Chrome kicks him away.

"You are one of the Elite Guards, aren't you?" said Kane.

"So what if I am? That is none of your concern!" Chrome fired his zapping ray, and Kane is hit. His energy is being drained and going into Chrome's gems.

Kane struggles and walks forward, surprising Chrome.

"You...what are you doing..."

"You b-bastard!" Kane grabbed his arm and punched him in the face. Kapow! Chrome fell.

"You're supposed to guard the king. And you betrayed him and joined the Empire. You took the coward's way out."

Chrome got up and wiped the blood off his mouth. "Heh. You're one to criticize, Kane of the Elite Four. You're the one who ran away from the First Great War. You're just like me!"

Kane powered up. "Don't ever compare yourself to me!" Bam!!

Chrome was hit by a powerful beam, and all his gems broke. Crack! "You bastard!"

The Muraians troops are getting beat up by the sayans. Chrome issues an order to retreat and he flies away. They are now safe. Kane is successful in defending the camp and the honor of the Elite Four.

Whack! Mencia kicks Neflite in the chest. Kapow! Neflite is punched in the face. He falls down and bites the dust, literally. "Ugh."

Kyria: "How pathetic. I'm afraid this is where you die. It certainly is fitting...for the son of Neflite the First."

Neflite gets up on his knees and pants for breath. He proceeds to stand on his feet. "Not so fast..."

King Neflite I puts his hands on his son's shoulder. "Remember, this amulet is the proof that you are my son. It has blessed our family for many generations. It will protect you in times of need."

"Father, I want to be a great king just like you!" said the little boy.

"Indeed you will. You will save your race from great peril. But to become a leader and defeat the enemy, you must become the light which pierces the darkness."

"The light that pierces the darkness?" the boy responds curiously.

Ethiopia City is under attack by rebel forces. This is the final battle of the war on Arlia. King Neflite I puts his hand on his son's shoulder. "Listen son, go as far away as possible. I will join you soon."

Prince Neflite the Second, at the time, was just a boy of twelve years old. "But father..."

"I will join you soon. Just go."

The boy was accomplished by two other soldiers.

King Neflite: "Watch over him."

"Yes sire." The soldiers took the boy down the hallway, as the prince kept looking backwards, walking reluctantly.

King Neflite fought to the death with the Great Destroyer, and in his last moments of life, he was thinking only about his son. He sees a vision of his son, a bright boy with a bright future, and then he closes his eyes forever.

The prince senses his father's energy signal is gone. He knows that his father is dead and grieves silently. A prince is not supposed to cry, but how can he not?

Kyria: "What a stupid king you are, Neflite the Second. You could've saved your people a lot of suffering had you decided to join us. If only you chose the right path."

"No! The "right path" that you speak of is the easy way out. That is the path my father took and I will not repeat his mistakes. He sacrificed his own principles to please Dark Spectre. He caused a civil war amongst us. And it's all because he did what he thought was best for our people. But I am different. This generation is different. We are going to fight back and not be suppressed. We are fighting for our generation and the next...so that the next generation does not have to suffer like our parents did."

"Hmph. What a waste of life you are. Great Destroyer, finish him off."

Mencia approached with his golden aura. Neflite screams and powers up like never before. The amulet on his chest glowed. Kyria does not like this, and neither does GD. Sephia is able to stand up.

Neflite: "I am serious. From now on, my goal is to unite our race, rather than divide. Our race has a violent enough history. You were right, Terry, the war is over. There's no difference between Loyalists and Rebels. We're all sayans."

Terry: "As long as you learn your lesson. I'm sure the people will prosper with their great king."

Neflite: "And I shall be the best king Arlia has ever known."

Terry: "And if you go back on your word, I'll come after ya. You can count on it." He smiled.

Neflite smiled as well.

Neflite will not give up his principles no matter what. How can he forsake his promise to Terry Spade? He can never go back on his word. Not as long as he lives. For he is the light that pierces the darkness. "AAAAAH!"

Mencia grunted and fired a bunch of golden beams. Kabam-bam-bam. How can Neflite be defeated in a place like this? What kind of king will he be if he loses to one measly opponent? His closest people - Jarus, Sephia, Longinus, Taurus, and Marus - are fighting with their lives. How can he let their efforts go to waste?

Kabam-bam. Neflite flies through the explosions and gathers energy into his fist. Kapow! He punches the Great Destroyer in the chest with a power packed punch. Mencia is overwhelmed and the pain was too great to bear. His chest was bleeding heavily and he collapsed. Thud. The Great Destroyer is no more.

Kyria is scared crapless. "No, no...it can't be."

He turned around and flew away. Sephia fires a beam through Kyria's chest.

"Ugh!" He fell to the ground, and in those few seconds, he took a good luck at the sky. Kyria always thought he was lucky and he'd never die. But reality sinks in. He's going to fall to his death in mere seconds, and he regrets his whole life. Splat!

Sephia comes to the super sayan. "Your highness, I heard everything that you said. It is all true. What is important is the next generation. We need to set an example for them."

Neflite: "We are all tired of fighting. So let this war be our last!" He raised his fist to the air and flew up. "Hyaaaah!" He powers up to let the others sense him. It is a motivational message to the other troops to fight their best. What better way to motivate them than to use the energy of a super sayan?

35: The Price of Victory.

Contents

Things are quiet in a certain mountain range. After searching for a while, Centilian troops return to their captain. "Sir, we did not find them yet."

Captain: "Keep looking. We will search all day if we have to. They could not have gone far from us."

Deep within the valley, two people are hiding behind boulders.

"They're on to us." said Aries.

"We have to lose them somehow." replied Rasha.

They can see the troops flying around.

"If they find us we have no choice but to fight." said Aries.

"How did we end up in this mess?"

Deep within the confines of the crystal palace, the royal family members are having an important meeting. Prince Dmitrus is now the ruler due to his brother's absence. He is wearing a crown and a red cape. "Despite what other people are saying," said Dmitrus, "Planet Centilia will not partake in the war. We have many economic problems which we must face."

Suddenly, Diamond shows up, startling everyone.

Vertigo: "Prince Diamond..."

Melinda: "He's not dead."

Dmitrus: "Brother?"

"Of course I am alive." said Diamond. "I do not die that easily. I am a top class warrior." He walks through the people and to his brother. "Since I am still alive, I am still the supreme ruler of the royal family." Then he looks at Aries. "You're still here? What are you doing here? You failed, Dmitrus. How can you let this piece of garbage into my palace."

Dmitrus: "But--"

Aries: "We thought you were dead."

Diamond: "Dead or alive, you are not welcome here, traitor." He opened his palm and fired a beam. Bam!

Aries was knocked against the wall. Choom. Rasha got in front of him and spread out her arms. "No, Prince Diamond."

"You are helping him yet again. Then both of you can die!" Diamond fired a beam. Rasha gasped. Aries grabbed her and ran away. Kabam! Everyone winced from the smoke. "Aries and Rasha are now traitors. Find them and eliminate them!"

Vertigo, Melinda, Arkady, and Dmitrus bowed. "Yes, sire."

Ever since that day, they have been on the run. "Sorry I dragged you into this, Rasha." said Aries.

"Non-sense. I did it out of my own free will."

"Is it because we used to date? You still care about me after all this time."

"Don't misunderstand." she replied, embarrassed. "I'm doing this for old time's sake."

Suddenly, the troops discover them. Rasha and Aries dodged some beams. Kabam! Rasha powered up. When she powers up, she floats and produces a vertical beam of energy, and she puts her palms together to form a ball. Then she can throw the ball at the enemy and it explodes. Kabam!

Aries uses his Sanctum Beam and shoots guys out of the sky.

The enemies are gone, but they know more will come.

Aries: "We can't keep this up forever. We have to move away from Centilia."

"But where can we go?" asked Rasha. "Prince Diamond controls every person and town on this planet."

"Then we can go to another planet. Like the earth."

"The earth? Of course. It is where Tyson Spade lives."

So it is decided. They will steal space pods and go to the earth to find the Earth Guardians.

In a city called Chicago, crystal starships are destroying buildings and streets. A starship fires its mega-cannon, scraping it on the ground. Zzzzzzt! The street is torn apart, and all the cars near the beam are flipped over and burned. Entire buildings are cut in half by the beam. Most of the EMF's in this city are already destroyed. It's a battle they lost and a city they abandoned.

On the ground lay upside down tanks, and they're on fire. Dead bodies are a common sight. The sky is filled with crystal starships, and they're wrecking havoc.

A screen of Chicago shows up on Eisenhower's hologram projector. His officers are distressed at the sight. "Gentlemen," says the president, "It is clear that this city is a lost cause. The Muraians have wiped out our forces stationed in the city. They are now destroying the city and eventually it will be gone. I am seriously thinking about using a nuclear missile."

The officers are shocked. "Nuclear missile?"

"I did not want to do this, but after much thinking I realize that this is the optimal solution," said the president. "We have already lost the city. If we can use a nuke, then we can wipe out half the enemy's forces."

Osborne: "No, sir. There might be still people there."

Officer A: "We already ordered them to evacuate. We cannot afford to rescue whoever is left behind."

Officer B: "It is still too drastic a measure to take. We are practically destroying our own city."

Eisenhower: "I understand your concerns. We did put up a lot of money to make these missiles. We are saving them up for an emergency, right? And this is the emergency. If we leave those ships alone, they will move to another city and take more lives. We are destroying one damaged city to save the rest. Sacrifice the few to save the many."

Osborne: "I am still against it."

"Mr. Osborne, might I remind you that we are the ones in charge here. I will consult the United Nations as to whether or not to use the missile. We determine what happens to our cities."

As he said, Eisenhower speaks to the UN representatives, and the majority votes yes.

The nuclear missile is launched from the base. Froom! It lands on the city and it is wiped out. KABOOM! Everything is wiped out in an instant. The people had no chance to run away. All the starships disintegrated along with everything else.

Two soldiers see the big explosion and salute those lives who were lost. The city is now a giant mushroom cloud.

Jurai: "The earthlings actually used a nuclear missile on their own city. I underestimated them."

Orbital contacted Jurai. Beep. "Jurai. I am surprised at their actions too. We lost a significant amount of our forces and you will need to wait for reinforcements."

"I'd never expect them to do such a thing."

Orbital smiled. "It looks like we're not the only ones who are willing to sacrifice a few lives here and there. This is the price they are willing to pay to achieve victory."

Macintosh just heard the big news and he runs down the stairs, almost tripping. "Guys! You have to hear this." His tone of urgency got everyone's attention. He turns on the hologram TV, showing the nuke hitting Chicago. "The Earth Military Forces used a nuke to destroy the enemy...but in the process they destroyed Chicago."

The heroes were shocked beyond words.

Nebula: "What?"

Zell: "How could they? How could President Eisenhower do such a thing?"

Tyson: "Is this the kind of war we are fighting?"

The others are silent, but they felt the same way.

Nebula: "Even if it does cripple the enemy, it is just wrong."

"Everyone, you have to understand," said Faith, getting their attention. "This is war, and war is not meant to be fair. This is the price they paid for victory. The United Nations had a hard decision to make. I am sure Eisenhower thought it over and over, and had many sleepless nights over this. This is the conclusion they came up with. We cannot do anything about it."

What Faith said brings some logic to the table, but it still doesn't change the fact that they're depressed.

Suddenly, the news changed. "There's another battle." said Macintosh. "A city in the Middle Quadrant."

Tyson: "Come on, we have to help them. Otherwise they'll nuke this one too."

Everyone runs out of the building in a flash.

Zell: "Hey, isn't someone missing?"

Neb: "We can worry about that later."

After the battle with Anubis, the Anubis Crystals have been collected by Blazer. He is somewhere far away from civilization. The seven crystals are laid neatly on the ground in a circle, and he is standing at their center. "Come on! I thought that whoever has all seven of these Anubis Crystals will gain ultimate power? Well, where is the ultimate power?"

Rasha is sitting on a bench in some park. She noticed that beautiful trees like these exist on earth. And it's in the middle of a city. No wonder it's called the Land of Paradise. Aries comes back with some earth food. "Here." He hands her the brown bag.

"Oh, what is this?" Rasha asks.

"I don't know. The guy who sold it to me said it's a donut. Anyways, eat it while it's fresh."

Rasha takes a bite out of it. "Mmm, it's good."

"It sure is. I wonder why they made a hole in the middle?"

Suddenly, they sensed danger. "They found us. They're faster than I thought." said Aries. Now they have no appetite.

Diamond and his crew approached. "So there you are." Diamond and Dmitrus are in the front. Melinda, Vertigo, and Arkady came from the back. The fugitives are surrounded and they got into fighting position.

Diamond: "Do you really think you can escape by running to this miserable planet? Now you two will suffer your fate."

Rasha: "Your days of tyranny are over, Diamond!" She powers up. Like usual, she floats up and produces a vertical beam of light. "Yaaaaah!" This time her eyes are glowing.

Aries powers up and the gem on his head is glowing blue.

"Get them!!" says the angry prince.

It turns into a messy group battle. Rasha fires a beam at Melinda. Bam! Dmitrus appears. "I am sorry about this." He fires a beam, Rasha dodges.

Aries dodges a beam from Arkady and charges at Vertigo and punches him. Kapow. Diamond blurs, appears in front of Aries and kicks him in the stomach. Thud.

The prince powers up and the gem turns from blue to gold. "You see now? I can still transform into a gold-class fighter! You have no chance to survive."

Rasha comes to his aide. "Are you alright, Aries?"

"Yeah. Let's do this." Aries threw an energy balls onto the ground, making an explosion and a cloud of dust that blocked everyone's vision.

Diamond and others coughed.

Aries and Rasha flew away.

Diamond: "What kind of idiots do they take me for? Get them!"

Aries and Rasha are away from the enemy, but Aries knew they cannot outrun them. "Rasha...listen, they are going to catch up sooner or later. I'll distract them and you go ahead."

Rasha's eyes widened. "No, Aries. We must escape together! I can't go alone!"

"Listen, at this rate both of us will die. I will distract them and buy you some time."

"But!"

"Look, I will be fine. I'll come back for you, okay?"

Rasha hesitated. "Uhhh..."

Aries put his hands on her shoulder. "Just go, okay?" He walked a few steps, then turned back to look at her and smiled. "I'll be fine. Just go." He turned away from her and flew back to where they came from.

Rasha has to go ahead and not look back.

Aries stands on his spot and waits for them to come.

Vertigo: "Why is he still here?"

Diamond: "That fool. He is stalling for time so Rasha can escape. Since he has a death wish, we will grant him that wish!"

Aries is actually smiling. "I am here, you spoiled prince! Come and get me!" He powers up to the fullest.

Melinda: "You vermin! You die!" She fires a beam while flying downwards. Kabam!

Aries appeared on top of her and knocked her down. Bam! Dmitrus opens his palms and fires a beam, Aries dodges and punches him in the stomach. Thud! Vertigo and Arkady fires zapping beams and hits Aries, and he screams in pain as he is suffering. The beams are burning him constantly. "Aaaaah!" Aries powers up and a shockwave is produced, knocking Vertigo and Arkady away.

Aries flies up at top speed, gathering energy into his fist. His aura is that of a dragon, fiercely ascending upwards. He is going to give it his all to Diamond. Pow!! Diamond blocks his punch and grabs his fist.

Aries: "What?!"

Diamond: "You fool." He squeezes his fist and punches his face. Kapow.

Aries falls into the ground, making a crater.

"This is something I should have done years ago." says Diamond.

Aries comes out of the pit. His head is bleeding and one of his eyes can't open. His right hand is broken. Yet he still has to fight alone.

Vertigo, Melinda, Arkday, and Dmitrus fire beams constantly at him. Aries makes a big blue shield and screams as he does. (I know what I must do now. I must kill these bastards if I have to use every last ounce of my energy!) The gem on his head glowed like never before. (Sorry, Rasha. I'll see you again, one day.)

Diamond fires a gold beam downwards, and it shattered at Aries's shield. "What? What is trying to do?"

All the Centilians winced from the vibrant light. Aries gives it everything he's got. "AAAAAAAAAAH!"

Everyone is caught in the explosion. A big blue sphere of energy covered the horizon. Aries's body disintegrates. He gave it his all. All the Centilians scream as they are about to face death. Kaboom!

Rasha senses what happened and she stops flying. The big bubble of energy is his doing. There is no use denying it. With that last attack, Aries has left this world. He sacrificed his life so that she can live. Her tears sparkled in the air. "No! No!"

There is nothing she can do but live her fate. Her fist is clenched tightly. No words could describe the anger she is feeling at the moment. But she must escape and not look back. Ever.

Nothing is left of Aries. Not a body, not his clothes. The only thing that remains are just sparkles of energy remaining from the explosion, and memories of him.

The dust is clear. A hand reaches out from the dirt. Diamond gets out and breaths hard. He's dirty all over. Arkady and the others are alive as well.

"That fool..." said Diamond. "Does he really think he can kill all of us with that one attack?"

Melinda: "But we are weakened, sire. And Rasha has escaped."

"No matter. We will find her eventually. Aries just lost his life. What a meaningless death for him."

Rasha is wandering around the forest in a confused state. She might as well be in the twilight zone. Aries is gone, and she's just wandering directionless. By sheer luck, she sees the imperial palace in front of her. Her vision gets blurry and she collapses.

Junior and the other kids are playing ball. Rocket kicks it too hard and Junior has to go retrieve it. As he picks up the ball, he sees a lady on the ground. That's not something you see every day. "Hey, miss, are you okay?" he said, shoving her.

Tina and Rocket run over here. "What's wrong Junior?"

"Get mother here quickly!"

Rocket was about to ask why, but then he saw the unconscious lady and understood.

Faith shows up. "What's wrong, children?" She sees the fallen lady and turns her over and gasps. "It's Rasha..."

Rasha wakes up and finds herself on a strange bed. There's a wet cloth on her head. She sits up and the cloth falls onto her lap. She picks it up. Someone must've taken her in. Maybe some earthlings.

Faith comes into the room with a glass of water. "Ms. Rasha."

"Faith?" She almost had a heart attack. "It is you who brought me here?"

"Of course."

"This is your place?"

"Yes." Faith said, smiling.

Rasha just remembered something, and she checked her chest and stomach.

"What the?"

"Oh, I took the liberty of healing you while you were asleep. Your injuries are completely gone."

"I see. You really are a miracle worker. Thank you for everything you've done." She gets up.

"No, Rasha. You are exhausted and you still need to rest."

"I'm fine. You said you healed me, right?" Rasha walked over to the window.

"So, how did you end up on earth?"

"Aries and I were blacklisted by Prince Diamond."

Faith was surprised. "He's alive?"

"We had the same reaction. Diamond just showed up out of the blue one day. Prince Dmitrus took over the throne due to his brother's absence, but now, everything has changed. Under Dmitrus, we would not enter the war. But Diamond thinks differently. Aries and I had to run away because he branded us as fugitives! We were two of his most loyal subordinates and this is how he treats us!"

"You and Aries came to earth, right? Where is Aries?"

Rasha was silent. Faith realized she asked the wrong question. "He's...he's dead."

"I'm...sorry."

"He died so that I can live. Diamond and his bastards killed him. It's his fault!" Rasha said with hatred. She shut her eyes and tears of pain and anger dripped down her face. "I...couldn't *sob* do anything to help him!"

Faith put her arm around Rasha. "I know it hurts. I know nothing I say will bring him back. But you must be strong and fight."

Minutes later, Rasha wipes her tears as if she never cried. "Sorry about that. I should not have told you my troubles. So, where are the other Guardians?"

"They are not here as of the moment. They are fighting a battle in another city."

"I see. I will have to leave."

"But you just got here, Ms. Rasha. You should rest some more."

"No. I appreciate your hospitality, but I do not want to be a bother to you. I still have a mission to fulfill."

"Ms. Rasha..."

Rasha flies away from the palace. There is only one thing on her mind, and that is revenge. The thought of revenge is so strong that she will do anything, absolutely anything to obtain revenge. Even at the cost of her own life.

Faith is now by herself again. She's on the rooftop and leaning against the fence. Midas comes to join her. "Was she a friend of yours?" he asked.

"Yeah. Her name is Rasha and she is from Centilia."

"She looked very troubled. Something must have happened."

"Rasha just lost the most important person in her life. She is full of her personal feelings and I don't blame her for it."

"Revenge is clearly on her mind." said Midas. "Nothing we can do or say will stop her from feeling this intense hatred."

"This is the price for victory." said Faith. "President Eisenhower's price is the willingness to sacrifice a city to save the country. Prince Diamond's price is blacklist two of his strongest warriors and have them hunted down. He is a foolish man. Right

now, Rasha has to find her own path, and it will not be an easy one. May the Great Spirit watch over her."

There is always a price for victory. The question is, are you willing to pay the price?

36: The Remains of a Battlefield.

Contents

The main headquarters of Murai has a secret section that consist of a laboratory. In here, all kinds of secret experiments are being performed that no one else knows about. Only the most trusted officers can even enter this place. This is the place where dark energy was developed and harnessed and made usable. Many things have been developed in this dark laboratory, and Lord Orbital was walking through them today to check on the status of his newest experiments.

This room was filled with liquid chambers with unconscious creatures inside. A captain came over. "Ah, look at this, captain. These are the ancient Siths of Arlia." said Orbital.

"I heard they were impressive creatures."

"Certainly. They once ruled dominated Arlia before Arlians took over. Out of the three races they are the strongest. But due to their lack of intelligence, they are now almost extinct. It's hard to find one nowadays. This is why we are creating our own Siths."

"They sure have a mean look to them." the captain commented.

Orbital continued to look at one of the subjects with much interest. "If properly processed and trained, these creatures can be the ultimate weapon. They will be the key to the destroying the sayans." While staring at this hideous creature, the commander was thinking about the past.

Three warriors came to the desert to challenge the one known as Gusher. He's been known for his strength, and they want to prove something by defeating him. They stood together and powered up. Gusher didn't even care who they are or what they want. He powered up to the extreme, and the warriors could feel his enormous power. The sand flew up and the ground cracked apart. Everything exploded and became white. The warriors were destroyed instantly, and nothing was left of their bodies.

And this was the person that Dark Spectre wanted to kill. He was still a human and a top commander in Murai at the time. He was a man of big ambitions. Spectre took Orbital, King Diamond, and a few others with him. Back then, Orbital still had black hair. He was just a novice starting out and he had no idea what he was getting into.

Spectre landed in front of the blind warrior. "Are you the one called Gusher?"

"Who wants to know?" he asked.

"I am Dark Spectre, top commander of the Muraian Empire. I heard that you are the strongest on this planet, and I come to prove that I am the strongest fighter in this galaxy. Prepare yourself!"

Gusher does not say much. He always keeps his eyes closed, but he gets excited when a strong fighter challenges him. The other commanders were given orders not to intervene. They just watched on the sidelines as Spectre and Gusher duke it out. Bam! Bam!

Their energies attacks blew up everywhere. Everyone was surprised at Gusher's power, especially Orbital. Spectre and Gusher fired their toughest beams and when they touched, a big explosion erupted. The commanders were all knocked away.

Spectre was critically injured, and he was bleeding heavily. He collapsed on the ground, with blood all over his face. Gusher was still standing. He was bleeding too, but he did not show a bit of pain. "You are not worth killing." said Gusher, and he flew away. Orbital and others came to Spectre's aid.

That was Spectre's most humiliating defeat of his life. It was also the worst in terms of injuries. Because his injuries were so severe, he could not breath without the aid of machines. As a result, he had to wear a helmet and body armor to survive, much like Darth Vader's situation.

Arkady made a report to Diamond. The prince was pissed that they did not find Rasha yet. "Damn it. How hard it is to find one person?"

Arkady: "One more thing, highness, Nebulax and Ostrovsky are scheduled to arrive today. We should meet with them."

Nebulax and Ostrovsky exited from their space pods. Diamond and Arkady, as well as Jurai, came to their landing site. "Ah, greetings, Prince Diamond." said Nebulax.

"Let me make something clear." Diamond said, "I have my own agenda here. I don't like to work with others so just stay out of my way and we will all be happy."

Jurai: "We must work together. It is an imperial order from Lord Orbital."

Diamond: "Tch. What is that old man thinking?"

Bam! Rasha just blew up a rock with her energy blast. She was pissed off more than any words could describe. The most important person in her life is gone, and she does not have anything to live for other than revenge. She knows the difference between her strength and Diamonds, but right now she did not care. She trained and trained like hell.

The war has already started and things are happening faster than expected. Orbital is main mastermind behind the war, as he's been planning it since the previous war. The Muraians on earth are not doing too well, so Orbital decides to make a trip to earth to coordinate the battles. Even though he likes to do things behind the scenes, he can no longer just sit here and wait for the news. He doesn't trust the Council members to do their job, so his personal appearance on earth might make an impact on them.

A troop comes into his room. "Commander Orbital, your space pod is ready. We have prepared three mobile suits to fly with you, as you ordered."

"Good. Get ready in five minutes." he replied.

Five minutes later, Orbital got into his space pod and it took off. The flight will take half a day, so it will be a lengthy trip. Since he's in here, he started to think about the past.

After Dark Spectre's miserable defeat at the hands of Gusher, he recovered, but he was never the same person again. From that day on, he had to wear a helmet which covered his whole head, which aided his breathing, and black armor on his body. Because of his loss, he learned a valuable lesson, a lesson that cannot be taught any other way. Spectre became a top commander in the army, and eventually, he became the supreme commander, the highest position of power on Murai.

Years later, he started wars and conquered planets, but it was still not enough. That defeat was still in his mind, and he had to find resolution.

"No, sire!" Orbital shouted. "I highly recommend that you do not go back there! Last time Gusher almost killed you!"

"Last time was last time." Spectre replied. "This time, I am powered by dark energy, and I am much stronger than before. My mind cannot rest until I defeat that warrior named Gusher!"

"Sire..."

"I have already made up my mind. If you are afraid, Orbital, then you do not have to go with me."

That was clearly an insult, and Orbital really did not want to go, but he went anyway. Oh yes, the second duel between Spectre and Gusher was another big one. The entire desert felt their power struggle. Orbital could never forget the fight. He remembered every detail of it, including what they said.

Gusher stood there in the middle of the desert. Sensing energy signals, he looked up. The fighters landed. Spectre walked forward. "You are Gusher, I remember you clearly. I have come back for you."

"You...I remember you..."

"Oh, you do?"

"Back then you were weaker, but today...your energy is pleasant. I like it!!" said Gusher.

Orbital: (He remembers people just by their energy alone? How remarkable.)

Spectre and Gusher charged into each other and their energies collided. Orbital and other troops winced from the immense energy. They've never felt anything like it before. Bam! They both landed.

Gusher: "Your power is amazing! I never imagined that you would be the one...to make me open my eyes."

Spectre: "Go ahead."

This was the most intense moment Orbital could recall in his life. No words could describe the power he felt when Gusher's eyes opened for the first time. Froom!! His eyes glow a blinding light. His power surge could have caused an earthquake.

Orbital: "Amazing! This is unreal! Aaaah!"

After hours of battling, both fighters were exhausted. Dark Spectre's armor was cracked all over. Gusher was the first one to fall. "I never thought I'd lose to a stronger fighter...it is possible after all."

Orbital and others leaped into the crater. "Now's our chance, sire. We must kill him."

Spectre: "Hold it. It would be a waste to kill a warrior of his caliber."

Orbital: "What are you saying, sire?"

"Gusher, I am the one who defeated you, and you will now work for me. You will serve the Dark Empire under my command."

"But Dark Spectre..."

"This is my order." he replied, despite Orbital's wishes.

Since that day, Gusher worked for the Empire. Even after Spectre's untimely death, Gusher continued to obey, because Spectre ordered him to obey Orbital.

"I want you to obey Orbital as if he was me, Gusher. Understand?"

Gusher walked into the darkness without saying anything. Silence means consent, and Spectre knew his answer without him having to say anything. The relationship between these two is one of respect and power, and that's how they have always been.

Orbital opened his eyes, and he's back to the present. Oh yes, he can never forget the scary feeling he felt when Gusher got serious. And he never feels scared except for that one moment in his past. Hopefully, he won't have to see it again.

Angel's mobile suit was in the launch way.

Operator: "GP-X, signal green!"

The GP-X launched into space. Frooom!

Angela walks in the hallway where there is a view of space. The window is stretched throughout the hallway so that people can walk by and look at space.

Lily is sitting on a bench and crying sadly. "Kiyo...he's dead..."

Angela wants to go over there and comfort her, but she decides not to. Her heart feels like a ton of bricks right now. Kiyo was one of her best subordinates and a great friend. His enthusiasm adds a lot to the team spirit. Angela walks away, feeling sad and depressed.

But this is no time for regrets. Angela has a team to lead, and she must show strength, not weakness. The GP-X charged at full speed towards the enemy – the crystal starships. "Let's show them what we're made of!! Yaaaah!"

Seconds later, Lily's mobile suit launched, followed by Kiyo's. Out of all the people, Kiyo missed Chloro the most. He was his best friend, and his death was devastating to Kiyo's mentality. Lily cried out loud in the hallway, but Kiyo kept everything to himself. No one knew what he felt about this, and no one knew that he locked himself in his room and punched the wall until there was a crack on it.

The two forces of mobile suits clashed into each other, and the explosions began.

Jamell: "This one is going to be a major battle. Neither side will back off."

Soroku: "I agree. Both sides are pretty even, unless if they fire those mega-cannons again. But they have overused it last time, so I doubt that they will use it this time."

It's easy to just watch and analyze the battle as a bunch of statistics and numbers, but they must take into consideration the lives of the pilots who are fighting at the front lines. There are five assault teams and two defense teams, and every single pilot is important.

Jamell: "If both sides are even, then the battle will go to the army that has the stronger will...the one with the stronger desire to win."

Mobile suits and fighter ships shoot each other. Chloro screamed in the battlefield and fired like crazy. "I'm doing this for you, Kiyo! Yaaaah!"

He shot down an enemy mobile suit. Kaboom! Then Kiyo moved on to the next one. And the next one.

Angela: "Kiyo, you are moving too far from our main forces. Stay within range!"

Kiyo: "I know what I'm doing!" He ignored her order and continued to fire like a madman. Blam! Blam! The more units he destroyed the more reckless he got.

Angela: "Kiyo, stop it!!"

Two mobile suits flew at him. He fired missiles at one of them and it blew up. "Ha! Take that, you damn Muraians! Ha ha!" he yelled.

A mobile suit came out of the explosion and fired a missile at Kiyo's mobile suit. The bottom half of the suit was blown off. Kiyo was in disbelief. "No...this can't be...no!" The mobile suit exploded. Kaboom!

"No! Kiyo!" Angela shouted. "Damn you all!" She got mad and shoots like hell.

Lily was in shock. She's going through déjà vu. "First Chloro, and now Kiyo? How many more people have to die?"

Wendel had nothing to say that could possibly comfort her. He just grieved in silence with his friend.

The crystal starships fired all their lasers and missiles. Many mobile suits were destroyed in their line of fire. The Alliance vessels also let out everything they have. This battle is going to be unlike any other, because neither side will back off. Both will fight until every single unit is dead.

Angela's wrath clearly showed in her fighting. But she did not get reckless and charge in by herself. She still had a team to lead, even if she loses someone, she must continue to be strong.

The mobile suits and ships continue to explode, and certain parts remained and became space garbage. Soon enough, the battle took place in a bunch of space garbage, the remnants of the dead.

The Alliance soldiers fought on and never stopped. They fought for the honor of those who died at Boaz. Many GP Officers lost friends and relatives at Boaz, and this war is their personal campaign of revenge. Others fight simply to end this war, and others fight simply because they are told to do so.

Jerrell and others wanted to prevent a war, but now, it is clearly unpreventable. Things have already escalated to such a level that it cannot be stopped. The only way to end this war is to achieve victory.

Eventually, the battle ended. At first, the area was empty, but now it is full of space garbage. The main Alliance vessels were still intact.

The GP-X was damaged and remained motionless in the middle of all this junk. Angela was unconscious bleeding on her forehead.

Lily and Wendel traversed this pile of garbage. "It's over...isn't it?"

"This is all that's left..." said Wendel.

"Wars are horrible." Lily said. "People lose their lives...and for what?"

"Kiyo died for the honor of the Galactic Police."

"What honor is there when you're blown up to smithereens!" she yelled. "We can't even bury him." Then she calmed down. "I'm sorry."

"Lily...it's perfectly okay to feel what you're feeling." Wendel replied. "No one said that battles would be pretty. I just hope that we find Commander Lianz."

"You think she's still alive?"

"Absolutely. We mustn't give up until we find her."

Jamell, Soroku, Milo, and every operator on the ship stood and saluted as the ship passed by the space debris. They can't do anything for the dead but acknowledge them for the sacrifice they made in the name of peace and freedom. Things get quiet after a major battle, but Angela's mobile suit is still missing. Will they find her before she runs out of oxygen?

37: Wandering Souls.

Contents

The battle between the Muraian and Alliance space forces has ended for now, and this marks a major turning point in the war. But Commander Angela is still missing amongst the space garbage. Lily worries about her the most, because she already lost two friends, and she does not want to lose another one.

"We were unable to find Angela's GP-X." Lily reported.

"We've already searched for half a day." said Jamell. "We've already found most of our missing people. In this case I will have to assume the worst...that Commander Lianz could be dead."

Lily: "Until I find a body, I refuse to believe such a thing."

"There might not even be a body to find." Jamell said.

Lily was upset, but she did not let it out. After all, he could be right. "I did not see her unit explode. With your permission I'd like to be in charge of the search party. Commander Lianz is a significant leader of our Galactic Police forces. If she is gone then the morale of our officers will drop."

Jamell had to think about it.

"Look, I know that we are short on people right now, but the battle is over. I just need a few to look for Angela. In a few short hours, her oxygen supply will run out. Even if she's still alive, she'll die for sure."

"Fine." Jamell replied. "Find her."

Cuzzy came into the main office and saluted. "Sir. The battle is over. Both sides have sustained heavy losses. But the Muraian have retreated from that location, resulting in a victory for the Alliance forces."

"That's good news." said Jerrell. "What about Angela? How is she doing?"

"Uhh...she is MIA."

"MIA? Missing in action? How can she be missing?"

"They have not found her mobile suit."

"What?" said Jerrell in shock.

"Sir..." said Cuzzy, "I believe that she is alive. She's got a strong will and she is not one to die easily. That much I can say for Commander Lianz."

"Alright. I have work to do, you may leave now."

Cuzzy, on his way out the door, turned around to take a quick glance at Jerrell. The headmaster was usually calm, but today, he is worried sick about Angela. There's nothing more painful than not knowing if the one you love is dead or alive.

The GP-X was built especially for a pilot like Angela. Its armor is stronger than other regular suits, so it won't be destroyed that easily. But it is heavily damaged and not functional. Angela just woke up. She saw red liquid floating in the air, and realized that it's her own blood. She touched her forehead and saw blood on her hands.

"Ugh..."

Hours ago, she was fighting like crazy and screaming at the top of her lungs, due to her anger over Kiyo's death. But now, her emotions are tame and calm. All she saw out the window was space dust and deformed bodies. Countless people have died in the previous battle, and each and every one is important to her. But she can't possibly grieve for everyone who dies in this war. Wars are cruel by nature and it is a fact that must be accepted.

As planned, Lily led the search party in her mobile suit. As her unit slowly drifted in space, she was thinking to herself how much Angela impacted her life. Each mobile suit is equipped with twenty four hours of oxygen, and it's been twenty three and a half hours since Angela was missing. (I must find her no matter what. I don't want to lose another friend.)

One of the officers contacted Lily. ["Officer Lily. We found the GP-X."]

"What? Are you sure it is the GP-X?"

["Yes, there is no mistake about it."]

Lily was overjoyed to hear this.

Angela was too weak to say anything. She couldn't even open her mouth to speak. "I'm here..." she whispered. "I'm here guys..."

Jerrell was checking some stuff on the computer silently. He seemed to be distressed and thinking about something else. Cuzzy had an idea of what, or who he was thinking about. It's pretty obvious.

A GP officer entered the room. "Headmaster, I have good news! They found Angela and she's alive!"

Jerrell's facial expression completely changed. He was actually smiling. "They did? Thank God."

The worst is over. Angela was brought back to the battleship the Liberator. She woke up and found herself on a medical bed. "Ugh...what a headache." She touched her head and indeed it hurt. Angela got off the bed and looked around. There's nothing but machines in this room.

The door opened itself and Jamell walked in. "Ms. Lianz, are you alright?"

"I am fine. Thanks for your concern."

"You almost didn't make it, if it wasn't for Lily's persistence. When the search party found you, your mobile suit had only half an hour of oxygen left."

"I see." Angela replied. "I must personally thank her. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be here on this bed."

"Oh, one more thing, Ms. Lianz. Headmaster Jerrell requested that you go back to Galactic Police headquarters."

"Go back to Fortran? But my job here isn't finished. I still have lots of battles to fight."

Jamell: "He didn't explain why, but this is the very last message he sent me. I'm sure he has his reasons. Well, I won't disturb you any further. You need to rest." He walked out of the room.

Angela sat on the bed and continued to think.

When Angela arrived at Fortran, Jerrell and Cuzzy were there to greet her. "I'm glad you are alright, commander." said Cuzzy. "You had us worried for a moment."

"I'm sorry..." she replied.

"Angela..." said Jerrell. "I am happy you are safe. Welcome back."

"Thank you...I missed you." she said, and they hugged.

Cuzzy smiled as they embraced. Seeing his boss suffer made him feel bad, but now that they're back together, it's a heartwarming scene.

But some other people are not as fortunate. People like Rasha, who lost her significant other. She continued to wander in the wilderness, not knowing where to go. She had no place to go to on this planet. Aries brought her here, thinking they could escape from Diamond's forces. But now he's gone. She lost her position in the royal family, and now she has nothing to live for but revenge. All she can think about is her final fight with Diamond. Nothing else matters.

She wasn't the only one training alone. Blazer was training with the Anubis Crystals. After the fall of Anubis, he retrieved the crystals since no one objected. The seven crystals were put into a circle, and he stood in their center. He has yet to figure the secrets to their powers. (I must find out how to use these Anubis Crystals, otherwise, I won't stand a chance against the Empire.)

The other heroes are taking a break and enjoying the temporary peace. With all these hectic battles going on, peace is rare, and they must take advantage of all the time they have.

During one of their battles, Tyson and Nebula were hiding in an abandoned building and they stayed up all night to talk about their significant others. Tyson mentioned how he met Faith and how much she has changed his life. For Nebula, there is Erika.

"It would be nice if this war wasn't here." said Erika. She walked to the crib and tickled Risha and she's smiling and giggling. "A lot of people are unhappy about this. The whole nation, to be exact."

"We're doing what we can. Sixth sense fighters from all over the world are joining the fight. This increases our chances of winning the war. The Empire will see how determined we earthlings are."

"When I was in the shelter with Risha, I was lonely. Luckily I had company."

"I'm sorry that I took so long. I had no idea what shelter you were in." Nebula replied.

"It's over now." said Erika. "I still remember the day we met...it's strange that we started out as enemies."

Erika turned around and the heroes saw her face for the first time. Nebula stepped forward. "What's up? My name is Nebula."

"Welcome to my city, fellow friends!" she said enthusiastically. "My name is Erika, which I'm pretty sure Cyclone has told you already."

Tyson: "Yes, in fact he told us a lot about you."

Nebula: "Oh yeah, this Tyson Spade, Macintosh Tori, and Zelfire Lang."

Mac: "It's a pleasure meeting you. You've done a great job working on this city."

Erika: "Thank you. I knew one day my hard work will pay off. Ah, so you are Nebula, the one I heard about."

But later on, the heroes discovered there's more to Capital City than meets the eye. Nebula met a rebel group led by the one named Adrian. Adrian told him about the corrupt side to Erika's prosperous city, and that made Nebula change his mind about. He was still not sure who to believe, so he went to ask Erika herself. But her answer was clear.

Nebula and Erika confronted each other with their weapons intact.

"This is meaningless. Let it end now."

"Oh yes. It ends when you die." She gathered energy. Her hair was waving a purple barrier surrounded her.

Nebula knew a big one was coming so with one hand he had left he gathered energy for the Nebula Blast. Erika fired first, then Nebula countered. The explosion pushed them both away. The computers were on fire and exploded. The entire dome exploded in one gigantic blast.

Small pieces of the dome fell on the floor. Nebula was covered in dust and he coughed.

Erika was half conscious. "Why you Nebula..."

Suddenly, the column was about to fall on her. Erika watched in horror as it fell towards her.

"Watch out!!!" shouted Nebula. He ran and pushed the column out of the way. He collapsed and caught his breath.

Erika stood up, shocked that she is still alive. "But why...why did you save me?"

Nebula walked away from her, thinking he did a good thing. But Erika remained confused about it. Neither of them predicted that they would meet again on planet

Volteron as enemies. When Prince Mulder was killed, they once again departed, not knowing if they'll ever see each other again.

Fate allowed them to see each other again, when the terrorist group the Great Seven came to threaten the earth. It was during these hectic times that Nebula realized his feelings for her, and he did not know how to tell her. He's always been bad with sensitivity and dealing with his emotions, but so is Erika. They did not have a defining moment until they met again in Volteron.

"Capital City is doing well. You need not worry about them. Your efforts have not gone to waste."

"I see. So why did you come here?"

"I was worried about you."

Erika was shocked to hear these words, and her heart was beating faster than usual. What's this uncomfortable feeling? Usually, her heart beats fast when she's anticipating something exciting, or her life is in danger. But in this case, it's neither? What is this irrational emotion she's feeling?

She was at a loss of words. "Worried? Don't be stupid. I won't get injured that easily."

"I know. But I came anyway."

"Thank you." Erika replied.

Nebula stared out the window. Those events happened a long time ago, but it all happened for a reason. If he didn't go to Volteron, he wouldn't have met Erika, his current wife. They even have a child now. He never thought he'd get married, but hey, people change, don't they?

Faith came into the room, holding a tray with a cup of orange juice. "Tyson, I thought you might be thirsty."

"Oh. Thanks." he replied without looking at her. He was looking out the window, watching the kids play. Rocket, Junior, and Tina were playing Frisbee. "Look at the children...they're fighting as if there is no way. I use to be carefree like that."

"Tyson..."

"But we adults cannot be so simple-minded. We always complicate everything. That is why the Empire is attacking us, isn't it?"

Faith walked over to the window. "Tyson, don't think too much about it."

"Then what else am I supposed to think about? How can I get my mind off the war?" Tyson replied, looking at her with serious eyes. "How can I enjoy my life, knowing it can end the very next day? Even if I'm the Phoenix, I still fear death. Sure, there are times when I fight like I don't care if I'm going to die, but deep down inside, I don't want to die. I have a wife and kids, and if I leave this world, what will happen to them? That's what I think about all the time."

"We haven't had any time to ourselves since the war began. Macintosh told us that another space battle just ended. The Alliance has earned another victory."

"At what cost? Their soldiers' lives? After the Great War, it was supposed to be over. But those damned Muraians have to do this to us again. Did my parents fight for nothing?"

"No." she said. "They did not fight for nothing."

"I'm thinking that even if we win this war, Murai will start another one in the future. We have to eliminate them completely. It's funny, isn't it, Faith? In order to beat them we have to think like them."

"That's enough already." Faith hollered. She hugged him from behind, leaning her head on his back.

Tyson was surprised.

"Enough...each victory that we win...is on more chance that we will live to the next day. That's all that matters to me."

Faith walked out of the room and went to see her father.

"How is my son in law doing?" Midas asked.

"He is fine, but his mind is affected by the war, just like everyone else." Faith replied.

"Things are tough on the battlefield. He may act tough but he really needs you during times like these."

"I know." she replied. "It seems like that we are always fighting some enemy. Every time we think we attained peace, something else comes to threaten it. It is the fate of those who have the gift? Sometimes I just wonder if misfortune finds us...I worry most about my son and daughter."

"Daughter...just be thankful we are all together. Some people are not as fortunate as you are."

"You mean Rasha?"

"Rasha and countless others." said Midas. "Everyone is trying to find their place in the world, like wandering souls."

Faith looked up at the clouds. "Just like wandering souls..."

Kaboom! The city was facing another bloody battle. Once again, the heroes charge into the battlefield to defend the city. Tyson wasted no time and turned into the Phoenix, and blew away the Muraians.

Nebula and Zelfire fired beams into the sky. Kaboom! Other six sense fighters fired their beams. They don't even know each other, but they are fighting on the same side. There's no greater feeling of unity than this.

"Alright!" Nebula shouted, "Let's show them what we're made of!" He fired the Nebulon Blast.

Nebulax and Ostrovsky watched the battle from a crystal starship. "These earthlings are impressive." said Nebulax. "They have more capable fighters than we think."

"Complimenting the enemy, Nebulax?" Ostrovsky commented.

"I am just stating my observations."

"Looking at this from a purely numerical standpoint, earth's population is higher than any other planet. But their K-factor is much lower than Murai's. We have less people but we have more fighters with the K-factor, and by the fact alone we will win the war. Earth's fighters aren't even part of the standard military. They will fall apart sooner or later."

"It's not earth I'm worried about." Nebulax replied. "I'm more worried about what's going to happen to Arlia." He remembered a conversation he had with Orbital earlier on. Orbital wanted to release the Siths into Arlia to fight the sayans. Nebulax had a chance to see the horrible power of a Sith. They are much more violent than Arlians and sayans. He thought that if these horrible creatures are released into the battlefield, a lot of people will die.

Kabam! Tyson shot fireballs like crazy. "This war must come to an end!" He shouted while firing.

The earth's fighters are beating the Muraian fighters, and they retreated. The earthlings shouted and cheered over their victory. There's no better sight than watching the crystal starships leave the city, disappearing into the sky.

38: A Brother's Qualifications.

Contents

After the first Great War, the Alliance hoped and wished and prayed and hoped that nothing like the Great War would ever show up again. But for those in the Empire, they secretly wished that the Great War would repeat so they can dominate the galaxy. And their time is now. Everything they've been planning for the last thirty years comes down to this war, which they predict will last less than a year. Will the Empire succeed and suppress the earth?

Nebulax and Ostrovsky both bowed to their master. "Supreme Commander Orbital, it is a pleasure to see you." said Nebulax. "Your appearance here surprises me, I thought you'd continue to give orders from Murai."

Orbital: "It is true that the Alliance is attacking Murai directly, but I have confidence in my generals. They've been thoroughly trained for situations like these. I am worried about our progress here. We should be able to conquer half the planet by now."

Ostrovsky went to the computer and pressed a button, and the LCD screen showed several images, divided into sixteen parts. Each part showed a war image of a different part of the world. "Sire, we are meeting more resistance than we expected. Those with the gift are standing up to us and giving us a hard time."

Orbital: "I see. That is because you divided up your armies and made them weak. I want to combine our armies to make them stronger."

Nebulax: "But sire, that will slow our progress..."

"I think not. We should combine two or three armies to make one really strong army, one that is guaranteed a victory. Then we will move to the next city until we have the whole country."

"But that is reckless!"

"Why don't we try it out, Nebulax?" said Orbital. "Instead of fighting several battles in which we have only a fifty percent chance of victory, why not fight one battle where we have ninety nine percent chance of victory?"

Macintosh ran down the stairs. "Everyone, there is another battle going on nearby." All the heroes stopped what they're doing. That's how their lives have been lately. If they aren't battling, they are training or doing some other stuff. And the second that they know of a battle, they will go immediately as a group.

"Everyone, before we go I'd like to say something." Tyson Spade announced. "We've all been through a lot, and we're practically family here. The next few battles could decide the fate of our home, the earth, the Land of Paradise. My mother and father fought long ago and they came here to seek a better life, but the Empire wants to take this away from us. It is our job to make sure they can never have it."

Everyone listened to his speech with all ears.

"My parents had a rough life...they were born into war, but they fought with their lives so that their children don't have to go through the same thing! But what they fought for is being taken away from us by the same enemy. We must fight for the next generation and make everlasting peace! We will end a hundred years of fighting today!"

Nebula: "Absolutely! I'm with you one hundred percent. For peace and freedom!"

"For peace and freedom!" everyone shouted in unison.

The gang of heroes show up in another city being attacked by Muraian troops. The city is deserted by now, all that's left are the soldiers defending it. Tyson led his group and he turned super sayan in the air. He shot energy beams at the enemy. The Muraians were blown up. Kaboom!

Not so far away, Adel and Subzero watched the battle. "Tch, these people are fighting over and over. Don't they get tired of this?" said Adel.

"Maybe they have something to fight for." Subzero replied, thinking about his experience with Nebula the other day. He was searching frantically for his wife and child, who were stuck somewhere in the underground shelters. He would not stop until he found them. Subzero is not exactly sure why Nebula did that, or what his mental state was at the time, but Subzero still understands what it's like to have a family, to a degree. He had a family once, but that was a long, long time ago.

"Something to fight for? You mean their slogan 'for peace and freedom'? It's meaningless."

"Hey, at least they believe in something. It's not so bad to believe in something."

One of the crystal starships fired the mega-cannon into the middle of the city. Everyone winced from the bright light. The explosion destroyed many buildings. The heroes flew away from the danger zone, and everyone tried to stay together, but a few of them went astray.

Kablam! A soldier was hit by Nebula's beam and he was fried, and he fell to the ground. Smoke was coming out of Neb's palms. Suddenly, he sensed more troops nearby. They were coming from behind. He realized that he got separated from the main forces and he's alone. He had to fly away to avoid fighting too many opponents. The soldiers detected him and chased him. Froom.

Nebula went to the part of town that's empty. The soldiers continued their pursuit.

Suddenly, Nebulax felt something. (It's him. He's close by.) He turned to the captain. "I am going outside. You're in charge."

Captain: "Ostrovsky has already left the ship. Aren't we supposed to wait for his return."

"I still have important matters to attend to." Nebulax replied. He flew out of the ship.

Nebula was hiding behind the building. Muraians showed up. "There you are, punk." said troop A. "We've got you now."

"You shouldn't have followed me." He took out sword and charged at them. Slash! Slash! He cut all three of them at their stomachs and they collapsed. "Hmph."

"Very good." said Nebulax, who was standing on the roof." He jumped down to ground level.

"Nebulax?"

"Your skills are impressive, dear brother. I am happy to have come to this planet."

"Nebulax...you tried to persuade Adrian to join the Empire."

"And you ruined my plans. You tricked him into joining the Alliance."

"I didn't trick him!" said Nebula angrily. "I told him to do the right thing."

Nebulax let out a short laughter. "Ha ha ha. The right thing? If planet Nebulon joined the Empire, they'd be guaranteed their safety. But what you did endangered them."

"Safety? Safety from what? Your stupid Empire?"

"Watch your tongue, Nebula. The Empire is not to be mocked. They will be the ruler of this entire galaxy! I, Nebulax, as one of the Council members, will have more power than you can ever imagine."

"I just don't see it."

"You've always been a fool, brother." Nebulax powered up.

"You and I are different people. Earth is my home but I can't let you take over the earth." Nebula powered up.

Their energies resonated and cancelled each other out at the center.

"Now I'll show you what I learned from the Empire!"

Nebulax and Nebula fired their beams and they crashed at the center.

Kaboom!

Erika walked through the empty streets alone. Then she looked up. "I know you're there, so show yourself!"

Ostrovsky came out from hiding. "Very good, my dear. Your senses are keen."

"Ostrovsky?! You're supposed to be in prison!"

"Heh, I was released from my sentence from Boaz during the attack."

Erika made a grimace. "You're responsible for the destruction of Space Fortress Boaz?"

"You could say that, although I can't take all the credit for it."

"You...you bastard..." Erika sneered. "I will make sure you receive a painful death."

Ostrovsky smirked. "Is that so?"

Nebula ran to avoid a bunch of energy balls coming his way. They all blew up around him. Kabam! He kept on running and covered himself. Bam! Nebulax ran parallel to him and throwing balls. Nebulax threw a ball at his feet, Nebula jumped over it and rolled a few times, and his sleeves were burned.

"Ugh...you..." Nebula threw a beam, and Nebulax blocked it. Bam. Nebulax threw another stream of balls. Nebula avoided the first one, and the second one hit him on the shoulder and he screamed in pain. "Aagh!" He landed in a crouch.

"Now do you see the difference in our power?"

"We haven't even started yet!"

Nebulax smirked. "To think that my brother would still go against me, you sure are a stubborn one. You're probably curious as to what happened to our family, aren't you? It all began on that day..."

Nebula was still a baby when the horrible incident happened. Nebulax was a few years old, and at the time he could barely understand anything. While running away, he saw his house set on fire. The troops were firing at the front, while he escaped from back. He lost everything in one day. His mother, father, his home, his whole life. His identity. All gone.

"Our father was a government official and he denied the Muraians access to our lands. Muraians are known to be violent, but he didn't care. As a result, they came and destroyed our home and our family. Mother and father died in that shooting. I was not able to save you, and one of our servants took you away. That was the last time I ever saw you."

Nebula was shocked. Who wouldn't be shocked to hear their origins like that?
"The Muraians did it?"

"We could've been one big happy family, if father had only obeyed them like he was supposed to."

The troops opened fire at the house. The bullets broke the walls and the glass. Crack. Crack! The people inside ran for their lives. One soldier threw an energy ball at the house, and it burst into flames.

Nebulax ran out of the house and into the woods.

Running running and more running. He was nearly out of breath. He tripped over a log and continued to run. The troops were behind him, he can feel it. He was only seconds away from death. Suddenly, a man dropped in from nowhere and destroyed the troops in an instant. Not even a shard was left of them. Little Nebulax was shocked. This man in a cape had such power. That's when he realized that power means everything in this world. It means the difference between survival and death. The difference between keeping your life and being eliminated.

"Mister...thank you so much."

The man turned around to face the boy. "You're welcome. It's dangerous out here. What's your name?"

"My name's Nebulax."

"And I am Nemesis. I am fighter with the sixth sense."

"What you did was amazing! I want to be just like you."

"Very well then. Follow me, boy, and I will show you the world."

"Understand now, Nebula? The fact that I met you on earth twenty something years later proves that it is fate...our fate as brothers binds us together."

"I think of it more as coincidence."

"Say what you want, but the fact remains. Now, how about we end this futile struggle and join me?"

That's the last thing on Nebula's mind. "The Muraians were the ones who did this to us, yet you joined the Dark Empire, the very people who ruined our lives. What the hell are you thinking?"

"Then what am I supposed to do, Nebula? Fight against them, like you are foolishly doing right now? If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

"You disgust me, Nebulax."

Nebulax's smile turned into a frown.

"Is this how you repay our late mother and father, and all those who died in the massacre? Don't you have a conscience?"

"I am not foolish enough to go on a vendetta of revenge. It was not any one particular person who destroyed our home. It was the Empire as a whole. What do you expect me to do, fight all of them? Fight the most powerful empire in the entire universe?"

"It's certainly a heck of a lot better than what you're doing. You sold your soul to them, Nebulax. I am not going to join you. As long as you remain in the empire, we are not brothers, but enemies."

Nebulax sighed. "You disappoint me again, Nebula. And here I was, thinking that you might actually change your mind, since we have the same brains. But apparently we do not. Your stubbornness will be the cause of your downfall."

"Say what you want."

Both fighters go into fighting stance. They leaped into the air and hit. Wham! They went past each other landed, and turned around and charged and hit on the fists. Kapow! They just punched the shit out of each other, hitting on the face and chest. Pow! Pow!

Nebula was knocked down, but he got back up.
"Your foolish resistance is nothing to us! The earth will perish, along with you!"
"Like hell it is." Nebula fired the Energy Bomb.
Nebulax jumped away from it, and it blew up half a building.
"The earthlings are putting up a fight. You just won't admit it."
Nebulax grunted angrily. "We are not going to lose this war! We've been planning this for decades!"
"Sorry to break this to ya, but that doesn't mean shit!"
Nebulax and Nebula fired their biggest blue beams and they crashed at midpoint. Kabam!

Ostrovsky: "There is no reason for us to be fighting each other. We are on the same side."

Erika: "Like hell we are."

"Oh that's right, I almost forgot, you betrayed your brother. You're nothing but a traitor to the Mulder family!"

Erika: "He was no brother of mine he tried to turn me into a mindless slave."

"That's because you were already a traitor to start with. I can't believe you let Nebula and Tyson pollute your mind with their thoughts."

"They didn't pollute me, and you have no right to talk about them that way!"

"Heh, I guess it's already too late to save you. Let me finish you off here."

Ostrovsky charged forward and kicked. Whoosh! Erika jumped out of the way and landed elsewhere. Ostrovsky charge and punched, and Erika dodged, ducking and tilting to avoid his fist. Whoosh, whoosh. Ostrovsky increased the speed of his punches and they were so fast it hard to see with the eye. Erika blocked them to the best of her abilities. Whack! Whack!

She jumped back to a safer distance. Ostrovsky threw a beam, and Erika dashed behind the wall. Bam! Ostrovsky continued to fire and Erika kept on hiding behind buildings. Suddenly, she appeared from behind and fired a beam, and Ostrovsky saw it and jumped away. Bam!

When the smoke cleared, he was nowhere to be seen. Erika traversed the hallway cautiously, using her sixth sense as a detection tool. Suddenly, Ostrovsky crashed through the brick wall and grabbed her by the neck. "Gotcha!" He slammed her against the opposing wall.

"Ugh! Uh!"

"Heh, this is what you get for betraying your own brother!"

Erika opened her eyes. "He...was not my brother...and you're nothing but a shadow of him!" She grabbed his hand and pulled it off her neck, and punched him in the stomach, and he jumped back.

"It looks like I underestimated you."

Erika took out her light saber, and Ostrovsky had one of his own. His color was red, and Erika's color was purple. They charged into each other and slashed. Clang! They stared in hatred as they pushed each other.

"Just give it up, Erika Mulder!"

"My name...is Erika Spade!" She pushed him away, and they both jumped back.

They continue to slash each other with their light sabers. Slish! Erika slashed Ostrovsky's arm, making a scratch and it was bleeding. He got fed up. "That's it, playtime is over!" He threw the saber, and she ducked. It got stuck in the wall.

Ostrovsky gathered energy into his hand and it looked like his hand was on fire. He leaped forward and pointed his fist at her. She dodged, and his fist hit the wall, cracking it into bits and pieces.

Erika just saw the effectiveness of his move and got worried. Ostrovsky continued his assault. Erika dodged, but she got hit in the face. Kapow! She was hit and got the bonus of a burning sensation from his fire fist. She fell and scraped the ground.

Ostrovsky formed a ball and threw it forward, and she dodged. Kabam! It blew a hole on the ground. Erika returned the favor with a beam, which Ostrovsky dodged.

Erika charged forward and punched, and Ostrovsky blocked it and grabbed her fist. "What?"

"Heh." He squeezed her fist tightly and she moaned in pain. He punched her stomach with his free hand. Thud! The pain came as a surprise, and her eyes were wide opened and she spit saliva. He kicked her and knocked her down. Wham.

Erika wasn't done yet. She got up and did the stare. This fight is not over yet, not by a long shot.

In the same fashion, Nebula did the stare to his brother. He was injured but Nebulax barely had a scratch. The odds are against him, but this is one fight he cannot walk away from. Fate has led them to this crucial moment. While the earth's forces are fighting the Muraian, they are having their showdown. Will the heroes be able to overcome their toughest obstacle yet?

39: To Move On. Contents

Nebula and his brother Nebulax are bound by blood, but they are as far away from being brothers as night and day. After their family was murdered in the shooting incident, Nebula was raised by Jack, and Nebulax was raised and taught by Nemesis. Jack taught Nebula the meaning of justice and courage and to fight for one's beliefs. Life is the most precious thing in the universe and it must be treasured. On the other hand, Nemesis treats life as insignificant and dispensable and the strong control the weak. The only justice is the justice of power. Had they been raised by one person, they would've lived the same life and have the same beliefs, but their values are already embedded into them; it is too late to change that. Because of that one event, their lives were changed forever, and they lived their separate lives.

The battle for the city was pretty intense. People were killed left and right, not a single spot was safe. And in a certain street corner, a very important battle was taking place. Bam! Bam! Nebulax continued to put on the pressure, firing beams from the air.

Nebula back flipped away from the explosions. Bam! A scrap hit his leg and he was down. His leg was bleeding and he stood up. He got pissed off and fired a blue beam. Bam! It was neutralized by Nebulax's shield.

Nebula was shocked. "What?!"

His brother laughed. "Do you like it? My new power...fueled by dark energy."

"That explains it."

"It is the most precious substance in the universe!"

"This is where your so called "powers" come from? You sold your soul to dark energy." said Nebula. "I can never respect you. Tyson would never do that to himself."

Nebulax grunted. "Grrr, you still think of that damned sayan as your brother? Then you need to be taught a lesson!" He powered up.

Nebula charged forward and punched him in the face. Nebulax's head tilted to the side a little, and he returned the favor with a punch to Nebula's stomach. Thud! Nebulax was flying to the wall.

Nebulax walked forward slowly. "A Nebulan and a sayan, brothers? Don't make me laugh. Your family is the biggest disgrace of all time!"

"At least I didn't sell my soul to the devil! What you're doing is beyond wrong!"

"Hahahah! You still believe in that peace and freedom non-sense that the Alliance is spouting? It's nothing but hype to keep soldiers motivated. There **is** no such thing as peace and freedom...without victory." Nebulax looked up at the sky. A crystal starship was slowly descending to the city. "It looks like our victory is near. All the struggles your planet has gone through were for nothing. If only your leader was smart enough to see how many lives were wasted because of this silly resistance."

Nebula stood up and became charged with a glowing aura. "Their lives were not wasted! They died for a cause! To prevent the Empire...and people like you from getting what you don't deserve." The Rainbow Crystal was shining, and it floated up on its own.

Nebulax squinted from the light. "So you've gained a new power. Impressive, but not good enough!"

"I didn't want to use this power. But after hearing what you've said, I have no choice but to end this here and now."

"You think that little crystal is a match for my dark energy! You fool!"

"You wanna bet?" Nebula gathered energy for the big one.

Nebulax knew what he was doing. "You think you're the only one who can do that?" He gathered energy the same way. "I know the Nebulon Blast too!"

It was a race for time as they watched each other do it. The pressure is on, and the faster one wins. They finished at the same time and fired their big, blue balls known as the Nebulon Blast. The two forces collided, and the explosion was enormous. All the buildings near the explosion were destroyed.

Both warriors were knocked away by its force. No one knows if they're dead or alive.

On the other battlefield, the fight between Erika and Ostrovsky intensified. Erika dodged some balls here and there. Ostrovsky opened his palm and fired several at a time, and Erika jumped away from them.

"Erika, your time is now!" Ostrovsky fired more energy balls. Kabam!

She suddenly leaped out from the smoke, getting ready to fire a beam. "You're just a relic of the past!" She fired. Bam!

Ostrovsky jumped away. "Still so stubborn? The Volterons have joined the Empire. Yet you still resist!"

"Not everyone on that planet thinks the same way. There is still a civil war going on."

"The Rebels are going to lose. They have nothing to keep them going on but false hope!"

"You're wrong!" she said.

Ostrovsky got mad and fired a bunch of beams. She blocked them with her shield.

"As long as one person still fights, we still have hope." She charged forward. "Even if every single one of us dies, the remaining soldiers will keep fighting for peace and freedom!" Kapow! She hit him in the face.

Ostrovsky wiped his mouth and he stared angrily. Erika panted for breath. They're both tired, but being tired is not an option at the face of death.

It's finally Rasha's time to enter the battlefield. She's been preparing for this for a while, and now it's time to shed some blood. Muraians and earthlings were shooting

beams at each other. Rasha took flight and shot some beams and hit some guys. Bam! Bam! They were fried instantly and they fell down. There is no room for mercy in this place. One mistake, one slip, and you're dead.

Melinda sensed a familiar presence. "It's her? This could be interesting. Everyone, follow me!"

Vertigo, Arkady, and Dmitrus followed her as she took flight.

Zzzzzt. Rasha just fried another soldier. "Are Muraians this useless?" she mumbled to herself.

"Of course someone like you would feel that fighting foot soldiers is useless." said Melinda. Rasha looked up. The four members of the royal family were here.

"You!"

Melinda: "Since when you did become so impolite. You should bow down to your superior and address me properly."

Vertigo: "We have orders from the prince to eliminate you."

Arkady: "You're a traitor, so we have no more use for you."

Rasha: "Traitor? You all were responsible for Aries's death! He did nothing but try to help us, but you took Diamond's side like a bunch of cowards! You're the real traitors!"

Melinda: "We don't have to listen to this talk from you." She gave the signal and everyone attacked.

Rasha powered up to the maximum. When she powers up, a vertical beam appears with her body as the base, and she floats up with an energized body. The crest on her forehead turned to a dark blue color. The royal members are aware of her powers, but they know they outnumber her.

Rasha flew around them and fired beams and dodged their beams. Bam. Bam. Vertigo's beam hit her on the back and Melinda kicked her, and she fell to the ground. She got up and panted for breath.

The four fighters surrounded her.

Melinda: "Heh, it's a fitting end for you, Rasha."

Rasha was pissed off, and she's in a tough situation. Suddenly, two other fighters showed up. It was Sorell and Mai.

Melinda: "More meddlers!"

Vertigo: "I am not surprised that the Black Hand is here."

Sorell: "Sorry to break the party!" She threw a beam into the group.

Everyone jumped out of the way.

Arkady and Mai hit each other in the air. Vertigo fired a beam and Sorell flew around it and hit him. Wham!

Rasha charged at Melinda and attacked. Wham! They hit and went past each other.

Dmitrus: (This is wrong. We shouldn't be fighting each other.)

Melinda: "What are you doing, Dmitrus! Fight her!"

Dmitrus snapped out of it and fired a beam down. Rasha dodged it. Melinda got frustrated and chased her. Froom.

Wham! Erika and Ostrovsky went past each other. Ostrovsky looked down and got a scar on his stomach. Erika got a scratch on her shoulder. They turned around and stared. By the way this fight is going, those scratches are the least of their problems. They got a fistful of energy and hit on the fists. Their energies crashed and they just pushed each other, screaming and grunting the whole time. When they had enough, they jumped away.

"Erika, I never thought you would betray your own brother. You destroyed the very empire which he built. And this is all because you were brainwashed by someone named Nebula."

"Quiet you! You have no right to judge him. Prince Mulder was a cold blooded murderer. He'd kill innocent people without even a second thought. It's only later that I caught on to who he is really is."

Ostrovsky: "The bottom line is you joined the man who killed your brother. You are a disgrace."

"Shut up!!!" Erika fired a purple beam, Ostrovsky dodged it.

"Luckily, he has already chosen a successor, myself. You failed him, and now I will take over what he once had."

"I'm not a disgrace, I did the right thing..."

Mulder let out a scream and a burst of energy came from his palms. It pushed the golden beam down below the midpoint, close to Tyson.

"Aaaaaah!!!" Tyson was losing. He pushed and pushed no matter what.

"Yaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhh!!!" With a mighty scream he made the beam thicker and pushed the red beam up.

"NO, NO! IMPOSSIBLE!" Mulder was hit and pushed into the air. His body started to disintegrate.

Erika fell on her knees, her hands on the ground, crying. Nebula saw her and went to her.

"Are you okay?" Nebula asked.

Erika pushed him. She got up and took out the light saber. "You killed my brother!" she yelled.

"Volteron is not my home any longer. I have a new home, and that is earth!"

"Don't make me laugh. Earth is a hopeless planet. It's a lost cause."

"Not the way I see it." Erika powered up, and her hair was waving up from the energy, and she was surrounded by a purple aura. "I have a new life and a new family, and I will not let you ruin it!"

"How touching!" Ostrovsky said sarcastically. "You are no longer useful to us any longer. I will eliminate you." He charged his fist full of fire and charged forward and punched non-stop. Erika dodged. Whoosh, whoosh.

Ostrovsky made a strike, Erika blocked. Whack! He kicked her in the stomach, knocking her back. He charged and did a kick, she ducked and got out of the way.

She saw her saber on the ground from the corner of her eye and went for it. Ostrovsky was quicker and threw a ball at the ground. Bam! The saber was thrown in the air from the force. Erika jumped for it and Ostrovsky kicked her against the wall.

She recovered.

When Erika was younger, she met Ostrovsky once in the mansion. She and Ostrovsky saw each other in the hallway. "You must be Ms. Erika. I heard so much about you." he said. "How are things going in Capital City?"

"The city is prosperous under my leadership."

"That is good to know. Perhaps one day I will lead the Elitists." said Ostrovsky.

That was past, and it means nothing now. Erika has a new purpose and a new life, and she's not about to lose it because of her previous life. She charged and kicked. Ostrovsky did the same kick and they hit on the knees. Whack.

Erika could never forget the horrible experiences she had when trying to help the villages who were the victims of Mulder's rule. She went from village to village, helping the folks with fetching water and bringing them food. But in one particular village, her identity was found out.

The woman in the hood handed a bag of water to a thirsty kid. He gladly accepted it. "Thank you lady. You sure are very kind."

"No problem." Erika said.

Then the child's mother recognized her and grabbed the kid. "You're Erika Mulder...the sister of Prince Mulder!"

The others nearby heard it and they gave her accusing looks.

A: "Haven't you ruined us enough? What are you doing here?"

Erika: "Please, listen...I don't have any harmful intentions. I just want to help."

B: "Help? Don't kid me. We don't need help from the likes of you!"

A: "Leave our village at once. You're not welcome here!"

People started to throw things at her, and she ran away in shame.

Erika could never forget that feeling. She tried so hard to help the poor villagers, but the second they heard her name, their attitude changed completely. Just the mere mention of the Mulder name could bring out the deepest hatred from even the kindest person. How can she be proud of a name like that?

Kabam! Erika just dodged a fireball.

"You're nothing but a nuisance to the Empire." said Ostrovsky. "So disappear from this world!" He fired a beam.

Erika jumped over it. "Sorry to be such a disappointment." She dodged some balls and dashed to the side. "But you are going to pay for all those lives you took at Boaz!"

"The Boaz massacre was a warning to other planets not to interfere with us. It showed the Empire's strength."

"No, it shows the Empire's brutality!" Erika ran for her saber. Ostrovsky shot some balls at her. Bam! She rolled on the ground and picked up the saber.

Ostrovsky gathered energy and fired a beam. Bam! Erika took a big leap forward, jumping over the beam and she raised her arms high, getting ready to slash. Ostrovsky made a shield and she hit it just before she hit the ground. Zzzzzzt.

Erika struggled and forced her way in. "Yaaaah!" She broke through the shield and stabbed Ostrovsky in the stomach. Schleb!

"No...impossible!" His defeat came as a surprise and he fell backwards. Splat.

Erika dropped her saber and panted for breath. She finally takes a sigh of relief. Not only did she defeat her enemy, but she defeated her past. She can never change the past, but she can certainly learn from it. Now, more than ever, Erika looks forward to seeing Nebula. But right now, he still has his own obstacle to overcome.

After the major explosion, Nebula coughed from the dust. Nebulax walked out of the smoke. His face and clothes were dirty, but he wasn't harmed. Nebula was surprised, but he also expected this.

"It seems that our powers are even." Nebula announced.

"Even? Don't compare yourself to a higher level being like me! I am a Dark Lord, a warrior who is enhanced by dark energy. What are you? You are nothing!"

"You're nothing without your precious dark energy. Without it you are just a weakling!" Nebula gathered energy for another attack.

"I'll show you the true value of dark energy." Nebulax charged up a dark ball and threw it.

Nebula used the Target Energy Bomb and it disintegrated the dark ball. Nebulax dodged it, but the Energy Bomb flew in an arc, making a round trip. Nebulax looked at it in surprise as it hit his back and blew up. Boom!

"That was a nice trick." said Nebulax, getting up. "But that's about all you can do."

Neb relaxed his hand, still keeping his guard up. "What exactly do you want?"

"That is a very good question." he said. "I have something extremely important to tell you, Nebula Spade. Whether you believe it or not--"

"Get to the point!"

"Straightforward indeed. You are truly my brother."

"What?!" Nebula was totally shocked. That was the last thing he expected to hear from his enemy. "What did you say?!" His legs lost all strength and trembled. His face grew pale.

That was the first time they met each other and discovered the truth. A lot has happened since then. By fate they met time after time, and their increasing hatred towards each other is going to be resolved today. Only one will walk away the victor.

Nebula powered up, and the Rainbow Crystal continued to glow like it usually does. He's surrounded by energy waves.

Nebulax powered up with dark energy. "Play time is over! Let's see what you can do against my dark energy! Hyaaah!" Without warning, he charged forward and kneed Nebula in the chin. There is no way he could've prepared for that hit.

From here on they just beat the living shit out of each other. Punches in the face and chest don't mean anything anymore to these two. They just punched and kicked without regards to their own physical well-being. Nebula's blood is boiling over, and he's determined to win, just as his brother is.

Pow! Whack! Kapow!

Nebula charged up his fist with energy. "Power Punch!" His fist hit Nebulax's dark energy shield and it won't go through. "What?"

Nebulax kicked him in the face. Whack! Nebulax followed up with an energy ball, hitting Nebula's shoulder, leaving a burn and smoke.

"Ugh...you."

"We can clearly see who the superior one is. I'm afraid your time is up." taunted Nebulax.

"I'm won't be so sure about that."

Nebulax fired a beam, Nebula flew below it, and grabbed Nebulax's foot, and threw him against a wall. Of course, it cracked on collision.

Nebulax: "It's that damn crystal! Once I get rid if it you'll be powerless." He powered up and flew up to his opponent's altitude.

Nebula fired a beam, Nebulax charged straight into it, and he actually went through all the burning energy. He grabbed Nebula, using the momentum of his speed to push him against the wall. Wham! He grabbed the Rainbow Crystal and yanked it out of his neck. Nebula punched him in the face, making him drop the crystal. Clonk, clonk.

In the background, the crystal starship was lowering itself to the city buildings. Its lasers fired, making explosions.

Nebulax: "You don't have it anymore. You're worthless now! You're nothing without it!" He charged forward frantically.

Nebula turned around, dodging Nebulax's punch, and did a round kick to Nebulax's stomach, knocking him to the ground. Nebulax was pissed off and frustrated. "Argh!"

Nebula took flight and waited for his opponent to come. "This is the end!!" He gathered energy into a white ball. Nebulax flew up diagonally, screaming like a madman.

"You die!!"

Nebula fired the beam, making a direct hit on Nebulax. Zzzzzt.

“AAAAAAH!” Nebulax didn’t know what hit him. He was electrified and he fell to the ground.

Nebula landed. Nebulax stood up and glared angrily. Much of his skin was burned and he was bleeding in many places. His hatred still showed in his eyes, but his physical wounds got the better of him. He just let himself fall face flat.

In that moment, Nebula’s battle instincts told him that he won. His opponent will not be able to stand up again. Nebula went over to pick up the Rainbow Crystal. It’s sad, really, how Nebulax relied on dark energy. He thought that Nebula relied on the Rainbow Crystal completely, but that is not the case. It only helped enhanced his powers, it was not the source of his power.

It is a victory, although it’s not exactly a pleasant one. Nebula walked away from the fighting area, walking his own path and living his own truth.

This epic battle has ended, but the fight for earth continues. Will the others triumph or will their Land of Paradise be taken away forever?

Next chapter: Forgive or Forget

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Characters	
Earth Guardians	Tyson, Nebula, Lisa, Faith, Midas, Joe, Zelfire, Blazer, Subzero, Amanda, Erika, Macintosh
Others on earth	Adel, Spencer, Bianca, Levinsky
The Alliance	Stone, Jamell, Angela, Milo, Sephia, Soroku, Taisoku
Arlia – Rebels	Margarita, Mason, Tyrannus Coitus, Kanus, Kemia, Malin, Mika, Sarus, Charus, Kane
Arlia - Loyalists	Neflite II, Sephia, Longinus Flair, Marus, Jarus
GPO	Jerrell, Angela, Cuzzy, Osborne, Kyio, Orion, Chloro, Wendel, Lily
Empire Council	Orbital, Providence, Nebulax, Jurai, Diamond, Kyria
Others in the Empire	Gusher, Ostrovsky, Emerald, Great Destroyer, Flaris

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