

THE POWER FORCE II

The Phoenix

A man holds the key to a legendary power so powerful that he himself cannot control it. He swears he will kill all sayans, having a grudge from his past that no one knows about. And in order to counter this threat, Tyson must find out the secret to the Fourth Stage – a level of power he's yet to master. But even that may not be enough. A new princess is born, and she alone might hold the key to the Phoenix's destruction...

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Blazer searched through the remains of what was once a city. He was astonished at what happened here. As he walked slowly, looking around, he wondered who (or what) could do such a horrible thing. Everything was in ruins. There were signs of an intelligent civilization. But there were no people here. Not even a dead body.

"Who could've done such a thing?"

Suddenly, he sensed someone close by. In fact, that person was looking directly at him. A man in a warrior's clothing and white cape. The man had white hair, and blue eyes. The two continued walking closer to each other, until they can make out each other's faces. The wind blew hard.

Blazer: "Who the hell are you? Are you the one responsible for this?"

The white haired man laughed. "Obviously. I'm the only one alive here, aren't I? But it looks like I haven't completed my job. I left out one." he said, referring to the man he is talking to.

Blazer grunted and clenched his fists. "You...did this...all by yourself? You're despicable!"

"You're a sayan, aren't you? I don't...like...sayans..." he said, and his face started to change, and he was drooling as he transformed.

Blazer gasped in horror, as he changed physically into a monster. He fired an energy beam, but it had no effect.

1: Approaching Danger! Blazer's Warning.

Contents

It was a peaceful day at school – nothing too outrageous happened. Junior didn't beat anyone up yet. In fact, he hasn't been a bully for months. Quite an improvement for him, and his friends and parents are very proud of him. Junior's parents always worried that Junior might be the one being bullied at school, since, after all, Tyson got bullied when he was in high school (although what happened to the gangsters afterwards is another story), but it was the opposite of what they expected. Junior became the bully. He's been taking out his frustrations on other kids. But it's okay now, Junior is a normal kid (as normal as it gets).

Junior himself, Amanda, and Rocket, the "notorious trio" sat under the shades of the tree, talking about stuff.

"Junior. I heard about the good news. Congratulations." Amanda said. They were all looking at the sky.

Junior took a bite out of his sandwich. "News? That I'm about to have a little brother or sister?"

Amanda: "Yes. Congratulations."

Jr: "Thanks."

Rocket: "You're gonna be an older brother now. Wow...you're not going to be alone anymore."

Jr: "What do you mean? I always had you guys."

Rocket laughed. "That's true."

Amanda: "Junior, you know this means you're going to have to be a role model, right? Gotta be a good image for your little sister."

Jr: "Well, of course. I'm a strong sayan."

Amanda smiled. "And with great power comes great responsibility."

Rocket: "So it's confirmed, right? She's going to be a girl, right?"

Jr: "The doctor says most likely."

Rocket: "Sometimes I wish I have a brother or sister. Someone I can look up to."

That's right. Faith is pregnant again, and her second child is about to be born soon. Tyson came into the room, almost slamming the door against the wall. His face was covered by the bouquet of flowers he was holding.

"Ta-da-da-da. How's my princess doing?"

Faith smiled. "Are you referring to me or the little baby inside of me?"

"Both." Tyson replied, putting the flowers on the adjacent table. "You're both going to be my princesses."

"She kicked a lot today. She's an aggressive one." Faith said, putting a hand on her stomach.

"Just like her father. So, how are things going? Any side effects or anything?"

"No. Recently I've been fine. I'm more worried about the house than anything."

"Oh don't worry." Tyson said. "You worry too much, honey. I'll take care of the house while you're in the hospital. You just sit back and relax and enjoy life."

"You should go back home." Faith said. "Junior will be home soon, and he someone needs to make dinner. And there's a lot of other things that need to be done."

"But I want to stay with you a little longer."

"I'll be fine." she said, touching his hand. "Don't worry about me."

"Alright." Tyke replied. "Sleep well." He kissed her on the forehead and left the room.

Flying about, Tyson was happy and humming a tune he heard on TV the other day. It's natural to be happy on days like these. Everything's peaceful, nothing is going wrong. And he's going to be a father...of not one child, but two. Junior is going to have a little sister, and Tyke is going to be the father of a daughter. Two kids instead of one. What an offer.

When the couple first found out, they were thrilled. Faith just took a pregnancy test and it showed a plus. It's been nine months since then. A few weeks ago, Faith experienced some pains, and she was sent to the hospital and she's been living there ever since. The doctor recommended she stays there in case of emergencies. Tyson can't believe it's been nine months already. The baby is going to come out any day now.

Tyson doesn't mind doing chores around the house. Really, he doesn't mind. He's learned to deal with it ever since Faith was sent to the hospital. He was mopping the floor while listening to his iPod.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. Tyson answered it. Nebula waved and said "What's up." and he's with Zelfire.

"Oh hey guys. What's up?"

Neb: "Here's the soon-to-be-father."

Tyke: "I'm already a father."

Neb: "You know what I mean."

Zell: "Tyson, we know how hard it can be to do all the things in the house that Faith used to do. And when your child is born, you'll have to work harder as well. So we came here to help you."

Tyke: "Well...that's really considerate of you. Thanks, guys." And they cooperated well, sharing the work. Tyson felt really good right now. Ever since other people found out about Faith's pregnancy, he's been congratulated left and right. Just like the time he announced his marriage to Faith. He's been congratulated left and right. At times like these, it's hard not to be conceited. Not that Tyson is conceited or anything. (Or at least he doesn't think he is conceited).

Lisa was typing busily at the computer. She can't help but think about Faith's unborn child. What is her name going to be? Something Spade, obviously. Mostly likely it will be a girl. Will she resemble her mother or father? Or half and half? She was smiling as she's thinking about it. Just then Angelina waved her hand in front of her face.

"Ohh, hey Angelina. Gee, when did you come in?"

"Daydreaming, Lisa Powers?"

"I was thinking about Tyson and Faith's baby."

"Oh? I see. Is she still in the hospital?"

"Yeah."

"You jealous or something?"

Lisa: "Psssh. Me, jealous? I don't even have a husband yet."

Angelina: "Maybe that's why you're jealous."

"If anyone's jealous, it's you."

And they continued their girly gossip and laughed about.

While doing work in the house, the heroes sensed the arrival of Blazer. They went outside to greet him, and they were shocked to find him in such a horrible condition – he was bruised up, and his suit was messed up with holes on it, and he looked like he was about to faint any second.

Nebula: “Blazer? What happened to you?”

Blazer: “Th-There’s no time to e-explain...we’re in danger...” He falls unconscious on the lawn.

Tyson and Neb ran to him. Zelfire watched in shock.

Not long later, Blazer woke up in a daze. “Ugh...” He found himself on Tyson’s bed. Tyson and company were in the room, waiting for him to wake up.

Tyke: “You’re awake. You had us worried there. What the hell happened.”

Blazer: “What a horrible monster I fought...”

Tyke: “Huh?”

“Call the other fighters! We are having an emergency meeting.”

Neb: “What’s going on?”

Blazer: “Do it immediately. I am not playing around. The entire planet is in danger of being extinct.”

The heroes were worried by Blazer’s nervousness and anxiety. He does not kid around about these things. So the gang met up at Macintosh’s lab.

Nebula: “So, you gonna tell us what this is all about, Blazer?”

He began to explain. “It all started on my trip to planet Z-1...”

Blazer: “Who the hell are you? Are you the one responsible for this?”

The white haired man laughed. “Obviously. I’m the only one alive here, aren’t I? But it looks like I haven’t completed my job. I left out one.” he said, referring to the man he is talking to.

Blazer grunted and clenched his fists. “You...did this...all by yourself? You’re despicable!”

“There’s nothing for me here. I’ve already wiped out all life on this planet. And I’m going to move on to my next target – planet S-3, the earth.”

[Close up – Blazer.] “What?!”

“That’s right. Why are you so worried? Why does a sayan care about what happens to the earth?”

Blazer gasped in horror, as he changed physically into a monster. He fired an energy beam, but it had no effect. The transformation was now complete; the man was now a blue-skinned, overgrown monster with fire surrounding his body.

“I won’t let you!” Blazer turned super sayan and flew and gathered the biggest energy ball he can handle, and threw it down. Kaboom! The monster not only survived, but he survived without any harm. He jumped up and shot a fiery beam. Blazer blocked. Froom!

Blazer: “I was no match for him. He’s a true devil...”

Tyson: “No way...someone defeated you, Blazer? And this person totally beat you?”

“As much as I hate to admit it, yes. That’s why this matter is urgent. He destroyed all cities on Z-1. And his next target is here, the earth. I used my full power on him, but I didn’t even come closer to defeating him.”

Zell: “Who exactly are we dealing with here?”

Blazer: “He is the legendary monster known as the **Phoenix**. According to the legend...a long, long time ago, the Phoenix, a bird engulfed completely in fire ravaged

the land." Images of a fiery bird shooting fireballs at a helpless village of people. "No one was a match for this monster. It destroyed towns and villages and cities. Many people died in the process. Seeing the Phoenix is surely a death sentence. But one day, a powerful wizard challenged the Phoenix, and they had a life and death battle. The wizard trapped the Phoenix's soul into a crystal called the **Enchron Crystal**. He sealed the crystal in a far away place so that nobody can reach it."

Joe: "So this legend has become true?"

Zelfire: "Macintosh, have you heard of such a thing?"

Mac: "I don't really know. I could look up information on planet Z-1."

Blazer: "Don't bother. That's not going to help us. If we are to defeat the Phoenix, I need everybody's cooperation."

Erika: "Hmmm...a legendary monster that can fly and shoot fireballs, eh? Sounds interesting."

Blazer: "I am not joking around. I saw the thing with my own eyes!"

Tyson: "Don't worry about it, Blazer. It's not like it's anything new."

"How can you be so calm?" said Syrus, who was scared the whole time. "Your planet is about to become extinct just like the one I've been to."

Tyson: "Psssh. If it isn't conquerors coming to claim the planet, or some empire trying to take over the universe, it's some legendary monster who's all powerful and mighty. It's nothing I haven't seen before. I've faced many strong opponents in my day, and this one doesn't sound like much."

Tyson was being overconfident, and he didn't stutter a bit. But the heroes were okay with it, at least he's being positive.

Blazer: "You obviously don't understand the seriousness of this matter."

To this, the hero shrugged. "You probably lost because you suck."

Blazer grunted.

"Don't worry man, we'll take care of this one. There's nothing Tyson Spade can't handle. No one can possibly be stronger than me."

"In any case, we should contact the Galactic Police. Can you do it, Macintosh?"

Mac: "Right away."

Tyke: "Guys, I don't want Faith to know about this. After all, she's still in the hospital."

Neb: "Fine. We'll keep it a secret. But you know what happens when she finds out she's left out."

Tyke: "That's my problem. I hope you guys can keep this a secret."

And the meeting was over. Everyone had their own thoughts and feelings about this incoming threat.

Neb: "So, we're dealing with the Phoenix, eh? What do you think, Amanda?"

Amanda: "Without any information, I can't say anything."

Erika: (The Phoenix...this doesn't sound good. If this so called monster has someone like Blazer worried, then it's something not to be overlooked.)

Suddenly, Tyson's cell phone rings. Beep beep. "Hello? What?" He shut off the cell phone.

Neb: "What is it?"

"That was the doctor. Faith...she's about to go into labor! I gotta!" He didn't even bother with the door, he just opened the window.

Neb: "Congratulations!"

"Thanks!" Tyson flew off.

Amanda: "This Phoenix is showing up at the same time Mrs. Spade is having her baby. I hope this isn't an omen."

Neb looked at her strangely. There's some truth to her words.

Running and running. Tyson almost bumped into a nurse, and he apologized without looking at her. Junior also heard the same news, and he rushed to the hospital as well. He's never "seen" someone give birth before, and he's been waiting to see this miracle of life for nine months. Sonograms are one thing, but this is going to be the real thing. In the flesh. His own little sister.

Junior was close to his mother's room. Room 223. The room he's been in and out of for a while. He was a little nervous as he approached the door. Inside was his sister. Soon, he won't be alone anymore. Junior opened the door slowly. Creeek. He stepped in, and there they are.

His mother was lying on the bed with a smile on her face. She looked like she won the lottery. Even better than the lottery. Tyson was standing up, holding the little baby, wrapped in a white cloth. "Come in." Tyson said. "Come meet your little sister."

The baby was smiling and giggling. She had the biggest, most beautiful eyes. A true little angel. Her fingers and toes were so small, they could wrap around one of Tyson's fingers.

Everything seemed to be in slow motion. Somehow, the light from the windows felt extra bright. Maybe it's all in his head. Tyson let Junior hold the baby. "Isn't she beautiful?"

Junior can't believe it. This little thing he's holding is his sister. A newborn baby. She has no idea where she is or who these people are, but she's laughing and having a good time. Who could resist a little angel like this?

Faith: "Now we have two kids to take care of, right, Tyson?"

"Yeah. Junior, say hi to your little sister, **Tina Spade**."

Nothing can possibly ruin such a historical day. Not even Blazer's message of doom and destruction. Nothing matters now. Tyson Spade forgot about all the danger and frustrations of the world. Because now he's a father of two. He has a son **and** a daughter. And he wants her to see the world as a beautiful one. He's going to raise her right and teach her properly. The Spade family now had an extra member - and everybody already loves her.

2: Arrival! The Power Clash.

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Tyson was all excited about his unborn baby, and he felt like the top of the world as everyone congratulated him left and right. But this feeling was nothing compared to the moment he saw Tina - his newborn daughter. But despite the good news, danger is still present. Blazer never lies, especially not this time.

In outer space, a space pod hurled at hyper speed towards its destination - none other than earth. Are Amanda's words true? Is Tina Spade's birth an ill omen for our heroes?

At the Galactic Police main headquarters, space station **Fortran**, Jerrell himself received the message from Macintosh. As he was checking his e-mail on the galactic server which he had some professionals set up, he saw a message from Macintosh Tori. He was quite surprised to read its contents. "What's this?" he said to himself. "The Phoenix? This sounds serious."

Jerrell pressed a button on the intercom. "Yes sir?" said the female voice.

"Bring Angela in."

"Yes sir."

Minutes later, the door opened and Angela came in. "You called for me, sir?"

"Angela, you're not currently working on any assignments, correct?"

"No."

"Good. I want you to look into something for me." Jerrell said. Angela was curious as to what the assignment is. "Have you heard about something called the Phoenix?"

"Huh? Very funny, sir."

"No, I'm serious. I just received a memo from my friends on earth. Blazer Syrus is his name. And he's an agent of the Black Hand. He's not the type to play pranks. I don't have any details of the threat, so I need you to look into it for me. Find out what you can about the Phoenix."

"Alright, sir." Angela replied.

Jerrell is skeptical as well, but curious.

Tyson and Junior were still infatuated with birth of their new family member. They stayed in the hospital all day and had lots of fun. Faith couldn't get off the bed, but she smiled happily and she's delighted everyone's having a blast.

The next day, Tyson received a call from Nebula, saying it's another emergency meeting. He really wanted to go visit, but obviously he can't. Junior was able to go, but he can't, so he told Faith he had to go to his job today.

The Earth Guardians once again meet up at the lab.

Macintosh: "I've already contacted the Galactic Police. Jerrell replied to me, saying he received my message."

Tyson was leaning against the wall, with his arms crossed, being all cool and stuff. "C'mon, stop wasting your time. The Galactic Police isn't going to spend their time on a small case like this. It's up to us to solve this problem. We have to take it into our own hands."

Blazer: "Grrr. You haven't seen what I've seen. If you were there with me--"

"If I was there with you, I'd have killed that damned thing."

Tyson and Blazer grunted and they were in each other's face.

Erika got in between them. "Okay you two, that's enough." If she didn't do it, someone else would have done it. "I don't want any more arguments, got it?"

Blazer had a smirk. "If you're so tough, you think you can handle the Phoenix by yourself?"

"Tch. Of course I can. Do you know who you're talking to?"

Neb: "Tyson, what's gotten into you?"

"Nothing's 'gotten into' me. This is how I always am. Why should I be scared of anything? It's nothing I haven't seen before."

Zelfire: "Hmmm...still, I can't help but think our enemy is strong. We are going to need teamwork for this one..."

Tyke: "Oh please, Zelfire. Spare us your sweet talk. When's the last time you've accomplished something?"

At this point, most of them just stared at Tyke in awe. He's being extra rude today. Does his arrogance have something to do with the birth of his daughter?

At this point, everyone sensed an evil force approaching. The space pod was entering the earth's atmosphere, and the person inside was resting peacefully, despite the turbulence.

Blazer: "Ugh...this ki...it's him!"

Erika: "He's here already?"

Blazer: "We have to destroy him now. Follow me!" The heroes all went to the rooftop of the lab and flew off.

Errrrwww. The space pod landed in the middle of forestry area, creating a crater.

Once the heroes got to the forest, it's planning time. "Alright everyone, we should split up." said Blazer. "We have to find out where he is. We are not to fight him, understand? Once you find the Phoenix, report to the rest of us immediately."

Everyone said they understand. Tyson was like, yeah, whatever.

So the group split up into groups of two - Tyson with Blazer, Nebula and Amanda, Joe with Zelfire, and Erika with Macintosh.

Tyson and his companion Syrus walked on foot, pushing aside bushes and tree branches. They saw the crater and the pod. "There it is." he said.

They slid down the crater. "The pod is empty." Syrus said. "He's not here. He couldn't have gone far. He came here just moments ago."

The sayans jumped off the crater and continued their search. Behind them, there was a man watching them with intense hatred. "I will...destroy."

The heroes turned around. The man had already transformed into the horrible monster Syrus mentioned - The Phoenix.

Syrus: "It's...it's him!"

Tyke: "So this is the one, huh?"

The monster was blue skinned and unnaturally muscular. Its eyes were red and so is its hair. It was wearing only pants and no shirt, giving them a good view of his body of muscles.

Tyke: "Blazer, you were right about one thing. He's ugly as hell."

The monster drooled. "I smell sayans...I hate sayans..."

Tyke: "Great...another sayan hater? That's too bad, we happen to be Phoenix hunters."

Syrus: "Don't provoke him."

Suddenly, Phoenix's eyes turned from red to white, and his eyeballs were shown. "Ohhh, what have we here? You fled our fight last time, and now you come back with a friend?"

Syrus: "I won't let you harm the earth."

Tyke: "Alright lets get him!"

This time, Tyson charged first. Usually, Syrus was the reckless one. How ironic. WHACK! Tyson made a flying kick, Phoenix blocked, and Tyson flipped back and landed on one knee. The blue skinned monster screamed and powered up. Fiery flames were produced from his body, and immediately all the heroes sensed his ki.

Syrus: "This is his true power. The same thing I've felt last time. Aaah!"

Tyke felt it too, and it's getting kinda hot. But he was too arrogant to be scared. Instead he got angry. "Big deal! Is that all you got?" He turned second stage. Blazer also turned second stage.

Rings of fire surrounded Phoenix, and he walked forward. Each step he took, his feet burned the grass. Sssst. Sssst.

Blazer charged up and threw a bunch of energy balls. Pom pom pom. They had no effect at all. Phoenix opened his palm and fired a fiery beam, Blazer jumped out of harm's way. Froom! The beam incinerated the ground. Tyson charged and punched, Phoenix blocked and kicked him out of the way. Blazer flew at him immediately and punched him in the chin, he did not feel pain, and grabbed Blazer's arm and hit him in the stomach. Thud! He was knocked away.

Syrus: "We need a plan!"

Tyke: "I've got him, he's mine!"

Syrus: "No, wait!"

Tyson charged forward and dodged some fireballs, and his fist landed on the Phoenix's face. He put all his strength into that punch, but the Phoenix didn't even show a sign of hurt. "Huh..." Now Tyson was worried. Phoenix smacked his fist away, then punched, Tyson jumped up just in time.

While in the air, Phoenix appeared behind Tyson. "Huh...it can't be..."

Whack! The creature kicked him and he fell into the trees.

Syrus caught him during his fall. "You alright, Spade?"

"Let go! Just don't get in my way!"

Syrus: "Fool, now's not the time to be the hero!"

"He's mine!"

Suddenly, Phoenix appeared and fired, they flew out of the way. Kaboom! Some trees were destroyed.

Both sayans flew in the trees, as to not be seen, and suddenly they came out and hit the Phoenix. Whack! Pow! The monster was hit in the face and chest, and Blazer followed up with a kick to his face. Wham! The monstrosity only showed a slight reaction to their hits. Phoenix flew backwards, shooting random fireballs. The heroes dodged about.

By now, Syrus realizes regular attacks won't work. But Tyson doesn't realize a thing. He just wants to get this over with and go home to see his daughter. Tyson counters the fireballs with some golden beams. Kabam! The Phoenix's fire shield blocked everything.

Tyson continue firing non-stop. Blam. Blam. Blazer came and snatched his hand. "What are you doing? Stop wasting energy!"

"Let go!"

Phoenix returned fire. Kaploosh. The heroes flew away.

Tyke: "Let me do this my own way!"

Syrus: "You can't do it alone, moron!"

"I'm not you!"

"Just listen to me for once, will ya?"

Phoenix: "You die!" He fired. They dodged and flew around the fireballs.

Tyson flew down and punched the monster's chest many times, but his fist can't penetrate his hard skin. Pow. Pow. Phoenix punched Tyson in the face – and it hurt like hell. Kapow!

Syrus came from behind and kicked him on the neck. Wham! Phoenix turned around and kicked him. Whack! Even though Blazer blocked, the sheer force of the kick sent him flying backwards, smashing into some trees.

Tyson still can't believe he's losing. He doesn't even know how badly he's losing, and he continues to fight, without regard to how much he is getting hit. Wham! Kapow! The more he got hit, the angrier he got, and the angrier he got, the more he fought.

Thud! He got punched in the stomach, and Phoenix kicked him away. He went through some trees, and finally the last tree. While lying there, injured and defeated, he just realized he lost. Badly. Tyson thought he could never lose.

The Phoenix laughed as he soared up, and continued randomly shooting beams in all directions. Explosions were everywhere.

The other heroes watched the fireworks in awe. Then they stopped. They saw two figures coming from the woods – Tyson, being supported by Syrus. They were both roughed up and bleeding from the mouth.

Nebula: "No way..."

Everyone was shocked at this scene. Who would've thought **both** super sayans together would be defeated by the legendary Phoenix? What happens now?

3: A New Power. Fight, Nebulan!

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Tyson still can't believe he's losing. He doesn't even know how badly he's losing, and he continues to fight, without regard to how much he is getting hit. Wham! Kapow! The more he got hit, the angrier he got, and the angrier he got, the more he fought.

Thud! He got punched in the stomach, and Phoenix kicked him away. He went through some trees, and finally the last tree. While lying there, injured and defeated, he just realized he lost. Badly. Tyson thought he could never lose.

Tyson still cursed himself for losing. He's humiliated and angry, but he never thought for one second that it might be his fault. By now, the heroes were all back at the laboratory, reflecting on what happened.

Syrus: "I can't believe this! To think, both Tyson and I were defeated."

"So I guess two super sayans are not better than one." Neb said, adding some humor. But no one was amused.

Mac grabbed his hair and panicked. "Oh man...this sucks! Blazer and Tyson are the strongest that we have. T-This monster is stronger than both of them combined. How can this be?!"

Spencer: "Calm down, Mr. Tori. I'm sure it was just a fluke."

Syrus: "It was no fluke. This is why I was worried he might come to earth."

Erika: "What kind of super power are we dealing with? Clearly none of us can kill such a monster like the Phoenix. Isn't there anything we can do?"

Tyson stood up. "We can try again."

Syrus: "No. That is too risky. We already lost."

Tyson: "Let me make one thing clear. **You** lost to him. He just won by luck. If you hadn't interfered-"

"Stop your non-sense, Tyson. You were fighting without any to your safety whatsoever! If it wasn't for me-"

"If it wasn't for you, then what?"

Nebula wanted to stop them, but Erika grabbed his shoulder. "No, don't bother." she said. "Sayans are too proud to admit their faults. Let them talk this out."

Spencer and Zelfire and Joe were all frustrated as the two continued to argue. Like Erika said, no one bothered to stop them, let them work it out.

Syrus: "I've had it with your attitude, Spade!"

Tyson: "I never liked your attitude anyways! You're always telling me what to do!"

"Because I know what's good for you. I am more experienced on the battlefield."

"Yeah, like hell you are. You don't know what's good for me. You don't even know what's good for yourself. All you do is sit all day by your little computer and do your stupid missions. What kind of training is that?"

"This argument is pointless!" Syrus said.

"You're damn right." Tyke replied. "I'm going to terminate the Phoenix. Don't follow me." He started to turn around. Syrus suddenly appeared in front of him and jabbed him in the stomach. He was caught by surprised, and the pain made him fall unconscious.

Everyone was shocked he did such a thing. They can't believe he'd do something so outrageous in front of everyone. Should they admire him or hate him?

Syrus set Tyson down on the bed.

"What was that about?" Joe asked.

Syrus: "Sorry, but I had to do it before he goes and gets himself killed. Ever since the birth of his daughter, he has been acting differently. Being a father is getting to his head. He needs to cool down."

Nebula: "Yeah, but was that really necessary?"

Blazer: "I just saved us a lot of unnecessary trouble. At this state, even Tyson is of no help to us. I hope it's okay with the rest of you."

Joe: "Tch. As long as you don't kill 'im. We're not going to hold it against you if what you do is good for the group. But when Tyson wakes up..."

Syrus: "Then I'll handle it accordingly."

Erika: "Well...before we got on a tangent...back to our original problem. How do we defeat the Phoenix?"

Zelfire: "Obviously none of us in here are capable of doing so. We should undergo some intensive training."

Syrus: "There's no time. The Phoenix is going to destroy the earth by that time comes."

Zelfire: "But how can we fight something so powerful? Everyone felt his ki, right?"

Spencer: "How about the Elemental Crystals? And the Rainbow Crystal?"

Erika: "The Rainbow Crystal...that's a great idea!"

Zelfire: "But we still do not know how to handle its power. It's too risky."

Erika: "It's the only thing we can think of. Think about it, we went through all that trouble to get the Elemental Crystals. Why not use it?"

Syrus: "I like Spencer's idea. We might as well use it. Did everyone bring their Elemental Crystal here?"

Erika: "Yes, I brought mine."

Joe: "As I do."

Macintosh: "Mine is in the basement. I'll go get it." And he left.

Luckily, everyone brought their crystal here. They put them all on the table.

Lisa: "But that's only seven."

Spencer: "So who has the other two?"

Lisa: "Tyson has the Crystal of Fate. And Faith has the Crystal of Love."

Neb went to the unconscious Tyson and grabbed his necklace. "Oh, he has both of them." He took out the two gems and put it on the table with the rest of the gems.

Syrus: "How convenient for us. This saves us time."

Macintosh came back and put his crystal along with the others. Now the heroes gathered around the table, staring at the shiny crystals.

Spencer: "All these crystals put together will make the Rainbow Crystal. This will be the Phoenix's 'silver bullet.' The only question is...who should wear it?" At this point, everyone looked at each other.

Syrus smiled. "It's only natural that the strongest of us wear it. After all, he is the one who has the best chance."

Neb: "I agree. The strongest of us should get the crystals." He was about to grab them, then Syrus grabbed his hand.

"Hold it. I didn't say it's you. I'm talking about me."

Neb: "What? That's whack! I'm the one who should wear the Rainbow Crystal."

Erika slapped her own forehead. "Oh God, here we go again."

Syrus: "Look, why should we waste it on you? Isn't it obvious I should wear it? Only a super sayan can wield its uncontrollable powers."

Neb: "Are you saying only sayans can harness its power?"

"That's exactly what I am saying."

"You sayans and your pride. Why don't you put your pride in your pocket for once and admit who's the leader now? Tyson's out cold, and it's thanks to you. It's only natural his brother takes his place."

Zelfire: "You two, enough. How about neither of you wear it?"

Syrus: "Let us work this out. Nebula, I'm the one who knows the most about the Phoenix. I've trained in several dozen planets before. It's only natural I get the crystal."

Neb: "That doesn't mean a damn thing."

"Nebula, are you saying you are better than me?" And he cocked his eyebrows.

Neb got in his face. "That's exactly what I'm saying. Why should we give it to you? How can we even trust you?"

At this point, Syrus just smiled. "Fine, you can have it. Let's see how you do with it."

"Tch, it's about time."

The heroes were surprised to see Blazer give it up. Now, Nebula opened his palm, facing the crystals and gave it his energy. Suddenly, they started to move on their on (and it wasn't Amanda's doing). They were shaking and moving towards each other. The nine pieces banded together and glowed, making the Rainbow Crystal. The glowing object was bright, and Neb was mesmerized by its beauty. It landed in his hands.

He put the crystal on his necklace, and he's good to go.

Blazer: "I just hope you don't let it get to your head like Tyson."

Nebula: "You underestimate me." He spread out his arms and closed his eyes, took a deep breath, and powered up. Froom! He was glowing white and his power was best described by Joe's words: "He's completely different now."

Everyone was like, "Ahhh!"

Zelfire: "Amazing!"

Amanda: "Incredible..."

Syrus just watches silently.

[Close up - Nebula.] "Let's kick some Phoenix ass."

The gang goes back to the same spot they were at last time. Nebula had a feeling the monster will show up again.

In the crater, the Phoenix, in his untransformed state, was rumbling through his things in the pod. He stopped when he sensed some high energy signals. "So...they have come back for more." And his body started to grow bigger, and his mouth grew wider, his teeth sharper and longer.

Nebula and company landed in the forest. "Come out wherever you are, Phoenix? Be a good boy and come out!"

Syrus: "What an idiotic way to lure him out."

Neb: "Hey, if you've got any better ideas, let's hear them."

Syrus still had his arms crossed. "No, I'd rather not defy my 'leader,' since you are in charge." His sarcasm was obvious.

Everyone sensed him coming - they heard low footsteps, and then loud footsteps. Out came the monster, the heroes were all scared and nervous, as they see him for the first time.

Nebula: "So, he's the one."

Syrus: "Just be careful."

Phoenix: "Oh, what do we have here? Blazer Syrus...this time you brought a whole party with you? It's too bad, you just sent all these fools to their graves." Then his face got uglier. "You should've fled the planet like I told you to."

Neb: "Shut up you shit!" He fired a blast, Phoenix blocked. Kaboom. Suddenly, all the heroes went past Nebula and attacked the monster head on. The Phoenix laughed as they came, and he powered up. Froom!

Zelfire charged and punched crazily, the monster dodged everything. Erika slashed with her light saber, and Joe used his mighty fists to throw shockwaves at him. Bam! Kabam! Kaploosh! Unfortunately, all their efforts would be in vain. Nebula joined the battle, and he punched and kicked. The Phoenix moved too fast for him to keep up with. Whoosh! He was above him, and knocked him down.

Syrus just watched the fireworks with much pessimism. "No...this can't be happening. We're all going to die..."

Zap! Zelfire was hit, and his chest was burned. Amanda lifted some trees and threw them, the Phoenix jumped away. Crash! Erika stabs her saber into the monster's chest, but he didn't show any pain, and smacked her away. Joe came and punched like crazy, Phoenix kicked him away. Whack!

Then he dodged Macintosh's shockwave, and retaliated with an army of fireballs. Mac ran for his life. Kaboom! Boom! No one knows what happened to him. Amanda covered her head from the explosions. "Aaaah!" Kaboom!

Nebula got up and looked around. The forest was on fire. "This can't be happening...no!! I won't allow! Yaaaah!" He powers up to the max, and the Rainbow Crystal on his chest is glowing. Now he's full of white energy. He's finally entered the third stage. Flash!

Phoenix: "You certainly **are** different than the rest. But you will end up just like Blazer and his soon to be dead friend."

"Says you! You can't just come to my home and start destroying things. I'll make sure you receive a proper punishment."

"Buahaha! You punish me? Good one."

Nebula grunted and ran forward, Phoenix punched, Nebula jumped over his fist and punched his face. Kapow. This one actually hurt him a lot. He stepped back a little, almost losing balance. "How you like that?"

The Phoenix shot a fireball, and Neb rolled out of its way. Another one came. Froom. He rolled away. Froom. Nebula jumped away into the woods, and the monster chased him. Hop. Hop. Neb jumped from tree to tree, and suddenly the Phoenix caught up with him. "Gotcha!" he said. Pow!

Neb was punched to the ground. The Phoenix jumped down and kicked. Nebula had almost no time to react, he quickly got out of the way. Bam! His foot made a hole on the ground. The monster looked for Nebula, and saw him standing a few meters away.

"Now take this!" Nebula charged up and formed the Nebulon Blast. He threw the big blue ball and the Phoenix powered up and countered. KABOOM!

A while later, things were peaceful. Nebula panted for breath. He thought he won, but you should never count your chickens before they hatch. A figure came out from the smoke. "No...he survived my strongest move...guh..."

"Heh. I give you credit for trying."

"No!!!" Nebula jumped and punched, Phoenix blocked, uppercut him, and he was sent sky high. While in the air, Nebula was hit a dozen times. Doosh doosh doosh. Each hit comes with a bonus burning sensation. And finally, the Phoenix gives him a kick on the shoulder. Wham! Nebula fell to the ground. Splat.

The blue monster is now victorious. Nebula tried to get up, but it's not going to be easy when you're tired and hurting all over.

"Ha ha ha ha! So much for you. It's time to finish this." said the Phoenix. And just as he was about to do something, he stopped. His body was aching, and he groaned. "Ugh...no...not now! Arrgh!" His body was shrinking. Nebula watched curiously. What is going on? His body gradually turned from blue to peach, and his face became "normal." The Phoenix is now the size of an average man, without all the bulging muscles. In this form, he was wearing only a pair of pants. "I'm...out of energy already?" Areus exclaimed. "No matter, I can still kill you." Suddenly, he sensed Syrus coming this way. "Or maybe not. You're lucky this time, earthling." Areus ran away.

Nebula wished he wasn't injured, so he can kick this guy's ass. So even the invincible Phoenix has a weakness. He will run out of power eventually and turn back to his normal form. Nebula didn't even know he has a normal form. Knowledge is power.

4: Phoenix Attacks. Watch Out!

Contents

The gang is back at headquarters, pissed off that they lost. Blazer's doomed prediction became true – the Phoenix is invincible. But not as invincible as they may think.

Zelfire: "Damn it. This thing is getting out of hand. He beat up all of us."

Mac: "We're lucky to even be alive."

Neb: "There's still one chance. The Phoenix has a weakness."

Syrus: "What do you mean?"

Neb: "While I fought him...for some reason, whether he used up too much energy or what not, he turned back to his normal state."

Erika: "Normal state?"

"He's a humanoid just like us! When he runs out of energy he reverts back to his normal form. That's when he is vulnerable. And we will kill him when he changes back."

Erika: "I see."

Zelfire: "But there are some problems with that. Can we fight long enough to make him run out of energy?"

Neb: "I don't know. But we can stall, can't we? Or we can attack him while he's sleeping or something."

Syrus: "No, he's not stupid. When he is vulnerable he is probably hiding some place where no one can find him."

Neb: "We can find him. We've got enough people. Would you rather fight him while he's the Phoenix, or when he is weak?"

Zelfire: "Even if we do make a search party...it is too risky. Picture this scenario. One of us finds him, and he transforms. Then that person will surely be killed in a one on one confrontation with the Phoenix."

Syrus: "Whatever it is we have to do, we better do it soon. Because back at Z-1, he told me he is going to wipe out all forms of life on earth. And I don't think he's bluffing."

Neb already made the plan. "Alright then, here's what we do..."

"Everyone understands?" Nebula asked, confirming.

"Yes." they all replied.

"Good. Let's get going."

The gang flew away.

Macintosh: "Lisa and Amanda, watch over Tyson."

Lisa: "I will. Don't worry about me."

Amanda: "Good luck, sir."

Mac smiled. "Thanks." And off he went. Frooom.

Tyson was sleeping peacefully on the bed. He hasn't woken up since Blazer gave him that nasty punch. Lisa sighed.

"Once again, I'm stuck here waiting for them."

Amanda: "Believe me, Mrs. Powers, you are lucky. If you are out there with them you could lose your life."

Lisa: "Yeah, I know. But I just feel so left out. Everyone can fly and do all these amazing things. But here I am, not able to do anything. They even put a child as my body guard. Uhhh, no offense or anything. I'm not saying you're no good..."

"No, I understand. Maybe we can finish those lessons someday."

Lisa smiled with a new hope. "Yeah definitely. You still have a lot of things to teach me, right?"

"Definitely."

Tyson moaned and woke up. There was an ice bag on his head, and he sat up it fell off his head. "Ugh...damn..."

Lisa: "Tyke? You okay?"

Tyson's first reaction was touching his stomach. Even the slightest contact caused him pain. "Ouch. Blazer, that son of a bitch..."

Lees: "Tyson, he did it for your own good. You were-"

"Yeah, I know." he said, finishing her sentence. "I was acting like an idiot. I don't blame him for what he did. All those things I said, all the things I did...I let my ego get the better of me. But now that I think about it calmly, I was a complete idiot."

Lisa touched Tyson's hand. "Tyson...you **should** feel good that you have a newborn daughter. And it's okay to feel like you're the top of the world. But that doesn't make you better than anyone else. You of all people know that."

"I know..."

"We grew up together. And I've never seen you so rude and...arrogant before. It was so unlike you."

"Everyone has their weaknesses. But I'm not going to let my ego get the better of me anymore. Nosiree. Not me."

Meanwhile, hiding in some cave, Areus, he who has the Enchron Crystal, is looking outside. He was thinking angrily about the ones he fought. "I'll get you...all of you! Starting with the sayans..."

Zelfire, Joe, and Spencer are on one team, while Macintosh, Syrus, and Nebula are on the other. "Any sign of them?" Spencer said into his ear piece.

"No." replied Nebula's voice from the other line. "Nothing yet."

"Alright. We'll keep looking."

"Roger."

Joe: "If I were the Phoenix, where would I hide?"

Zell: "Hopefully we can find him before he transforms. But if he is in his normal state, and he is suppressing his ki, it will be hard to find him in this forest. It's like a needle in a haystack."

Joe: "If he doesn't want to found, then we won't find him."

Suddenly, the heroes sensed something – it was the ki of the Phoenix.

Spencer: “He’s nearby, isn’t he?”

Joe: “Yeah. I think he’s out for more blood.”

Zell: “Just remember our mission, guy. We are to stall and make him waste his energy.”

As they wait, the fiery monster showed up. “Only three of you this time? Did the others run away scared? Ha ha ha ha!”

Zelfire: “Now!” He fired a beam, Spencer and Joe flew to the side. Blam!

The Phoenix got hit, but he wasn’t hurt much. Joe and Spencer hit him with all they’ve got. The heroes did their best, but they did not last long.

By now, Zelfire was messed up all over. “ *Pant pant* We have to keep fighting...and make him use his energy.” He powered up and fired beam, the Phoenix screamed and blocked it. Kaboom.

Neb: (I hope they can survive.)

Mac and Blazer waited impatiently. “Shouldn’t we go help them now?”

Neb: “But if we go now, the plan will be ruined.”

Mac: “I don’t think this was a good idea to start with.”

Neb: “It’s our only chance.” He looked at Blazer, who did not say anything or pay attention to them.

Joe was lying on the dirt. Zelfire sat against the tree, and his body was smoking with burns. Spencer’s circuits were damaged and electrifying. The Phoenix left the area and went to the other group. Once he showed up, they were ready for him.

Phoenix: “So...who’s next?”

Tyson was walking slowly towards the hospital. Just two days ago, he felt like the top of the world. Tina was born and there’s nothing he can’t do. If he can make a baby, he can do anything. But he was walking slowly in despair, due to his failure to defeat the Phoenix. Now that he thinks about it, he’s been acting arrogant this whole time. Phrases like “Tch. Of course I can. Do you know who you’re talking to?” and “Oh please, Zelfire. Spare us your sweet talk. When’s the last time you’ve accomplished something?” were just not him.

I was so stupid. It’s no wonder no one trusts me. I thought I was the shit. I talked the talked but I accomplished nothing.

The ground was sizzling, and Nebula was beaten up badly. He stood limply with one eye open. “Ugh...uhhh...you son of a bitch...” The Rainbow Crystal glowed a dim color.

The monster had an evil smile. “So much for you. You were no challenge at all. Did you think you can make me waste all my energy?”

Neb: “You know what were trying to do?”

Phoenix: “Of course. Isn’t it obvious?”

Nebula fell down. “Ugh...”

“That’s too bad. Now I will go and destroy your cities.”

Neb: “No...don’t...”

The monster flew off. Frooom.

Still walking slowly, Tyson sensed a faint presence...and the signal is getting stronger. Which means, it’s coming this way. The Phoenix. “Oh no!” he shouted, and ran to the hospital.

In room 223, Faith was resting peacefully in bed, holding her baby. Junior was playing Visual Game Boy, and he's excited as he titled his video game machine, mashing buttons, hoping to beat this level. When he sensed the Phoenix's presence, he suddenly stopped playing. He didn't care about losing. There's much more to lose if the Phoenix actually gets here. He was so shocked by the monster's power he actually dropped the Game Boy.

Faith: "Junior? What's wrong?"

"Mother...there's a horrible presence out there! And it's getting closer."

"What presence? I don't sense anything." she said blankly.

"What? How can you not feel it?"

"I don't know what you mean?" Faith said. She looked at Tina sleeping. She was so peaceful and tranquil. Nothing can possibly happen on a day like this.

Even Tina felt its presence. She started crying. Faith was like, "There, there. It's okay. You made your sister cry, Junior. There, there. Hush, hush."

Junior was shitted now. (How can mother not feel this presence? Is she denying it?) What to do, what to do?

The Phoenix made its way to Network City. He was delighted – there are a lot of things to destroy. He started with the buildings. Kaboom! Boom! It was just like Z-1, he thought. Everyone is powerless to stop him. And soon, all life forms will be wiped out. Every single one.

Amanda and Lisa were still at the lab.

Lisa, for the first time, felt a sense of danger. She can't quite describe it, but the feeling is there. A gut feeling. A feeling of certainty. Certainty that the Phoenix is coming. She's never seen the Phoenix before, but she knows it's coming. Coming closer and closer. It's like a different sense...a sixth sense.

Amanda ran into the room. "Mrs. Powers! We have to leave right away! I sense the Phoenix is in the city. He is coming this way."

So, I was right, Lisa thought. "If we got outside, won't we be in more danger?"

"And of he destroys this building? I will not be able to hold onto the ceiling."

"True. Let's go!"

So they ran outside. Boy, were they shocked to see this wrecked city. Water squirted out from a hole on the ground, a place where the fire hydrant used to be. Cars were smashed, others were upside down. There was smoke all over the place. Cracks on the ground. A dead place.

Lisa: "Oh my God. Is this how the earth is going to end up?"

Amanda: "I don't know."

There was a dead silence. Suddenly, explosions were heard. The girls ran for their lives. The Phoenix flew around the block and saw them.

Lisa: "Oh no, he found us!"

Amanda: "I'll handle this!" She powered up and threw a pis beam at the monster. Bam. Nothing. The Phoenix opened its palm and released a tremendous shockwave. The ground cracked apart like it's nothing. Amanda's shield could only do so much. "Aaaaah!" Craaaaack. Amanda and Lisa fell.

Phoenix: "Heh. What can a little girl do?"

"I'll show you what a little girl can do!" Amanda charged electricity into her palm and ran forward. Whooosh. She stabbed her fist into his chest, and he screamed as the blood came out. "Yaaaah!"

"Aaaaah!"

Zzzzzzzt.

The Phoenix grabbed her head and lifted her up. His chest began to heal by itself.

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

The monster screamed her head and burned her and she screamed in pain.

A rock was thrown at his head. "Hmm?"

Lisa: "Let her go, you creep!"

The Phoenix held Amanda to his side, and jumped up. Lisa ran like hell, but she tripped over a rock. What luck. Now the monster is above her, about to shoot fire. Lisa screamed and covered her face. Suddenly, she felt that feeling again. That need for survival and power – and the Phoenix was hit by an invisible force released from Lisa Powers. He landed.

"I...I did that?" Lisa said in disbelief. This was the same thing that happened at the lab, when a giant piece of metal was falling on her and Macintosh. Somehow, she used psychic abilities to save them.

Phoenix: "Another power user?"

Suddenly, Amanda regained consciousness. Her eyes glowed, and the Phoenix struggled to hold her. He grabbed her neck, but was pushed away. Amanda landed on one knee.

Suddenly, Nebula showed up. He was behind the Phoenix, and he charged with his sword, Phoenix turned around and punched. Slash! His arm was cut off.

"Aaaaagh!! Aagh!" it screamed.

Neb: "Hah. Now you're unarmed."

Phoenix flew away.

Neb went to his daughter. "Amanda. Lisa."

Amanda: "Father..."

Neb: "I'm going to go after it."

Amanda: "No it's too dangerous."

Neb: "I just cut off his arm. Now is the perfect time to kill him. I'll be back." And off he went to look for the monster. He went around the corner and hid behind the wall.

The Phoenix groaned in pain as his severed limb is bleeding. But as Nebula looked closer, his arm was growing back little by little. It was getting longer and longer. The biceps and muscles were already replaced. And then the elbows.

Nebula revealed himself.

Phoenix: "Are you impressed? I have the ability to heal myself by regenerating lost cells. Even if it is a limb."

Neb: "You are a freak of nature!"

"You think so?" By now, his arm has been regenerated up to the wrist.

Neb jumps up and fires a blast. Bam. The Phoenix was out of sight.

Tyson rushed to the hospital. Running up the stairs. Down the hallway, and he bumped into lots of people, and this includes the doctor who's responsible for his wife. "Whoa? Mr. Spade? What's the hurry?" he asked.

Tyson didn't even turn around to look at him. He ran into room 223. "Faith, Junior. We're leaving."

Faith: "Tyson? What's the matter?"

"No time to explain." he said, sweating. "This place is not safe anymore. We have to go." He dragged her out of bed, and she resisted.

"Stop! We can't go outside! What about Tina?"

"Bring her along!"

"She's not ready for the outside world yet!"

Tyke: "Damn it Faith, don't you sense what's going on out there? There's a monster on the loose. If we don't leave we're all going to die." He grabbed her arm and dragged her out of there. Junior followed.

Doctor: "Whoa, Mr. Spade? What do you think you're doing?"

Tyke: "There's no time, doctor. The city is under attack by a dangerous creature. I suggest you evacuate the hospital." He dragged his wife, going past the doctor, and Junior followed.

Once they were outside, they thought they were safe. Wrong. With his arm completely regenerated, the Phoenix was firing beams left and right. Areus sensed a familiar presence - Tyson. He flew in their direction and saw them on the ground.

Tyson: "Oh crap!"

Faith: "What in the world is that thing?"

Tyson stood in front of his family in the fighting position. This was grim situation for the Spades. Each step the Phoenix took is a step closer to death. Faith and Tina are defenseless and Junior's just a kid. It's up to the man of the house to defend his family.

Phoenix: "Oh, it's you again. Along with the family."

Tyson grunted. "You leave them alone. This is between you and me." He turned second stage and jumped and punched. Pow! A direct hit on the forehead, but it had no effect. Tyson followed up with a punch to the face, which made the creature go back a few feet. Tyson kicked its face, and jumped back to land. Phoenix charged and punched rapidly. Doosh doosh. Tyson couldn't block them all and got punched away.

Junior turned super sayan and fired a bunch of little energy balls. The Phoenix just walked through them. Junior gasped in surprise. He jumped up and punched its chest like crazy, but he didn't even budge. Phoenix kicked, Junior ducked and jumped back. Phoenix appeared in front of him and kicked him. Whack! The kid was down.

Faith, holding Tina tightly, ran for it. The Phoenix flew over her and landed. "Going somewhere, my dear?"

"Aaah! Stay back, you fiend!"

Tyson grabbed the monster's leg while on the ground. "Don't hurt them...or I'll kill you."

The Phoenix shook him off and kicked him away. Then he fired a blast at the woman and child. Faith formed a pink shield. Bam! The beam was too much, and Faith fell on her knees. "Ugh." she yelled.

"Time to die!"

"No, no!" Faith screamed.

Tina was crying. "Waah! Waah!" Unbeknownst to her parents, she was a special child. Even if she's a few days old, she can sense danger. And she cried louder than usual, with tears streaming down her eyes. Energy waves were released from her body, and her voice became a loud vibration of echoes.

Faith was shocked, sensing such energy coming from her little baby. Her daughter is doing this? The sound was so horrible the Phoenix shut his ears and moaned in pain. Tyson and Junior also had to cover their ears.

"WAAAAAAAAAAAAAH WAAAAH!"

Every person within the perimeter heard the sound and they all wish they were deaf.

Phoenix: "What is that blasted sound?! Is the child doing this?" He was barely able to concentrate or even see. He opened his palm and focused.

Tyson saw this as a golden opportunity. He flew forward and kicked. Whack! While the Phoenix was down, Tyson grabbed Junior and grabbed Faith by the hand, and they flew away. Frooom.

Luckily, the heroes were able to make a clean getaway. They didn't even have time to understand what Tina is capable of. Right now, their priority is safety. Time to regroup with the others.

5: The Refugees.

Contents

The Phoenix's attack left the city devastated. By the time the army's forces arrived, the monster was gone. One particular soldier, riding on a jeep, observed the crater on the street. It was so deep it's bigger than his house.

"My God...what could have done this?"

"Probably a devil." replied the driver. "A true devil."

The heroes regroup at the lab. By now they realize it isn't safe anymore. Anywhere. They needed a safer place to hide for the time being. Macintosh suggested a place in the suburbs. The entire group of heroes flew over to the place. Spencer went back to the Special Corps.

The heroes showed up to an abandoned factory in a remote place. They went past the gate, and everyone was curious about this. Macintosh went to the front door and put in the combination. "I hope this still works." he said.

Beep beep. The door opened. All the heroes followed him inside, and they were in a big, empty dark room. Mac went to the control panel and flipped the switch. Twang. The lights turned on. They saw the room and it was crummy. Pipes were on the ceiling and walls. The walls were slimy and dirty. Spider webs were all over the place. This place hasn't been cleaned or inhabited in years.

Macintosh: "Well, what do you think?"

Neb: "Uhhh...dude, it sucks."

Faith: "My baby can't live in a place like this."

Zelfire: "I hope you are joking about this, Macintosh. If we are going to stay here, why not stay at the lab in the city?"

Mac: "No matter where we go, we will be attacked. At the current moment, none of us have the ability to defeat him. But this place is safe."

Neb: "What makes this place safer than Network City?"

Mac: "Years ago I used to work in this laboratory. My partners and I were working on a top secret project. In order to make sure we had complete privacy, we installed an electro-magnetic field - it covers this entire building, and it is activated by the inside. This shield will protect us from intruders. Not even the Phoenix can penetrate it."

Joe: "So...show us."

Mac typed some code into the computer and pulled the switch. "That should do it." The factory made some mechanical noises. Outside, the generators on the ground produced the shield. Zzzzzzt. A round bubble surrounded the area, with the factory inside of it.

"Ohhhh." said everybody.

Tyke: "We are going to be safe, right?"

Mac: "As long as the generators have power, we should be fine. Although I can't guarantee anything."

Erika: "Well, let's make ourselves at home."

Faith: "We really have to live here?"

Tyke: "Unfortunately, yes. Until we can find a way to defeat the Phoenix."

Reality is harsh, but they have to deal with it. Everyone went to different sections of the factory. Erika found an unused room where wheat used to be store. "This room's mine." she claimed.

Macintosh continued his surveillance of the generator's output at the computer. Lisa stayed with him, and she's bored as hell.

Faith and Tyson found a room of their own. "I can't believe my daughter has to live in a place like this right after leaving the hospital. She didn't even get to see our home."

Tyke: "Don't worry. She can't remember things anyway. Once this problem is resolved, Tina can live in a happy home with a happy family."

"You call this a 'problem'? This is a catastrophe! We're being hunted down by some demon and we have to run away from him and hide here. There isn't any milk. She's going to starve." She looked into the baby's face and grew really worried.

"Faith...don't worry so much. I'm sure there's food around here. Even if there isn't, some of us can go outside to buy some."

"You are right, Tyson. I've been in a panic ever since I left the hospital. I guess...I just want the best for our daughter. It almost seems like an ill omen..."

"Ill omen?"

"The Phoenix appeared during the same time Tina was born."

Tyke: "C'mon, I don't believe in those things. We'll be fine. We've been through so much. This is nothing." He put his arm around her, and she rested against his shoulder. It's nice to have someone to lean back on when you're down.

Night time came. Everyone is tired and most of them were sleeping. Blazer, however, could not sleep. He was still thinking about Areus's message of doom. That little encounter on the foreign planet caused him to have many sleepless nights. However, a warrior needs his rest. Nebula fell asleep rather quickly, since he used up a lot of strength fighting. He slept lying against the wall, covered by a green blanket. And he was holding onto his sword. Amanda slept on a pile of rice bags, with a green cloth as a blanket.

Lisa tossed and turned. She's not used to these kinds of conditions, just like Faith. If she had a choice, she'd stay home, but the Phoenix saw her face, so now she's a target too. Lisa couldn't help thinking about that time when she accidentally used her powers. The Phoenix was surely going to get her, and in that moment of need, she attacked him with an invisible force. A psychic force. Just like her sister Julian. But does she really have psychic potential, or was it just a stroke of luck?

Spencer walked into the leader's office. "Sir, what are we going to do about this Phoenix?"

Commander White turned around. "It is too dangerous for us to handle. We have to leave it to the military forces."

Jerrell sat about in his office, doing some paperwork. Just now he received a fax from the president of the United States. "What's this?" he asked. "No way..."

Angela came into the room and saluted. "Sir."

"Commander? What is it?"

"I searched the entire database and I was not able to find anything regarding the Phoenix. However, one of our agents has heard of folklore about the Phoenix and it has something to do with the Enchron Crystal."

Jerrell: "Enchron Crystal? I've never heard of it. However, I know for sure this thing is real. I just received a memo from earth. It almost destroyed a whole city."

"Really?" Right now, she looked gloom. "Sir, there is one more thing. I sent a few of my agents to the planet of this creature's origin, planet Z-1."

"And?"

"And...everything was destroyed. Everything. The damage...was unbelievable."

Jerrell was shocked. "No way..."

The sun rose. Birds chirped. The bubble shield was still in effect. Tyson yawned and stretched his arms. He looked to the right and saw Faith and Tina sleeping peacefully. This is exactly how a mother and daughter should look. They are so peaceful and innocent, yet they have to be dragged into these meaningless battle. To Tyson's left was Junior. A kid with quiet intensity and a burning rage. But he's also innocent.

Spade can't help but feel guilt and remorse for what's happening. And somewhat responsible.

The earth's warriors gathered together at the room where the computers were controlling the generators. They need a solution fast.

Zelfire: "Alright guys, I hope we all had a good night's sleep. The first thing we need to discuss is how to defeat the Phoenix?"

Nebula: "Obviously the Rainbow Crystal isn't enough."

Blazer: "Of course, because the user doesn't know how to use its powers."

Neb: "Oh, and I suppose you know better?"

Zelfire: "Enough, you two. If you make a ruckus we'll make you wait outside. It's clear the Phoenix is out to get us. He has the ability to summon fire and his powers are almost God-like. I've never felt a force like this one in my life. To be honest, I'm scared. I'm sure some of you are too."

Mac: "All we have to do is wait. The Galactic Police knows about this. So does the police and the military. I'm sure they will find a way to eliminate him."

Tyke: "What if they don't?"

Mac: "If worst comes to worst, the United States might use a nuclear missile."

Neb: "A nuke? For such a small target? That's highly unlikely."

Mac: "I can't think of any other way. We've tried everything you suggested, Nebula."

Tyke: "There's still one more thing we can try." Everyone paid attention to him. "The other day when the Phoenix was about to attack us, Tina pulled through for us. I don't know if you felt it, but that time when Tina cried, she made the monster crumble on his knees. It's like she's a savior child or something."

Erika: "Impossible. That energy was Tina...your daughter?"

Joe: "You're pulling our legs?"

Faith: "No, it's true. Right, Junior?"

Junior: "Yeah. She's awesome."

Neb shrugged. "Well well. That's Tyson Spade's daughter after all."

Tyke: "When Tina cried, the sound she made was so powerful it made us all cover our ears. We still have a shot. With Tina's help, we should be able to win."

Faith: "Wait a minute, are you suggesting we put our daughter in front of that thing again?"

"Uhhh..."

"You want to put Tina in danger?!"

Tyke: "But Faith, honey...this is the only solution we have so far. We'll all be here to protect her. We can win!"

Fay: "No! I absolutely refuse! Our daughter is not some tool of war. She's a living, breathing human being."

Tyke: "But all of us might die."

Fay: "As long as we stay in here, it's fine, right?"

Everyone was frustrated with them arguing. Nebula slapped his own forehead and walked away. Blazer and Mac walked away. And one by one they left them alone to yell at each other. And their argument only escalated.

Tyke: "It's not what it seems like. Faith, didn't you see what Tina did yesterday? It was amazing!"

"It's not amazing enough to get killed. I don't want her to get involved in all this fighting. I don't want her to grow up like us, Tyson!"

Tyke: "You think that we fight by choice? You think that I called up the Phoenix and told him, "Hey come and attack me and my family." I'm doing this for the good of all of us!"

Faith: "Good for us? You always hide things from me. You didn't even tell me about the Phoenix until the very last minute."

"I didn't want you to worry, that's all."

"You always say that."

Tyke: "It's the truth."

Faith: "It's the truth that you always hide from me."

Tina was crying by now. She could sense the tension between her parents. This was an unpleasant feeling. "Waaah! Waaah!"

Tyke: "You know what, why don't you shut up for once? You've been complaining ever since you left the hospital."

"S-Shut up?" Fay said, a bit shocked. "How about **you** shut up!"

"Why are you always so ungrateful! Everything I've done is for you and Junior and Tina. Everything!"

"You think you're so tough and mighty. But you can't do anything right! You're a worthless husband and a worthless father!"

Everything turned black and white for Tyson. **Worthless?** That's a harsh word. Faith grabbed Tina. "I don't want to talk anymore." She left the room.

Tyson stood there in the dark, empty room, still shocked at what she said. Yes, it was a bitter argument, probably the worst one they ever had. They rarely argue, and Faith usually uses nice words. Which makes this last statement even more powerful. A worthless husband and a worthless father. At this point, he really felt worthless. He started to think all the times he's failed at something.

Areus rests in a cave as he recharges his energy. He was angry and his power was out of control. Blood veins popped up as he struggled to keep himself from falling apart. His hand was covering half of his face, and he was making a grimace. There was bloodlust and revenge in his eyes. "Kill you...I will kill you all...cursed sayans."

Yes, that's right. His goal is to destroy all sayans. First Z-1, then S-3, the earth, and finally T-2, Arlia. The home of the sayans. Oh, how he hates sayans. It's all their fault, they started all this. It's all their fault...

Back on Z-1, Areus was actually a normal man. He had a lot of anger issues, and he didn't get along with the villagers very well. Being an introvert and anti-social doesn't help. But he managed to live fine with the way things are. Until one day...the sayans came. They should've kept their noses out of his business, but they had to butt in.

Pow! Areus fell down with a red face. "Stop it!" he yelled frantically.

The three warriors were beating him and mocking him. "What's the matter, weakling?"

B: "You call yourself a man?"

A: "What a pathetic excuse for a fighter."

Areus got mad and charged, Fighter A punched him in the stomach, then elbowed him on the back. Wham. While lying down, they kicked him non-stop. He coughed blood and groaned in pain.

The villagers did nothing to help him. They just watched, not wanting to get involved. When the fighters were done, Areus was in pretty bad shape. He coughed blood, and bruises were all over his body. The three fighters left him, making some more remarks.

What happened over the next few hours, Areus did not remember well. He was hit on the head and bleeding from the head. But nobody helped him. They were all a bunch of cowards. They deserved to die.

Hearing of the legend of the Enchron Crystal, Areus decided to investigate it. This could be his one chance at revenge. He went into the mountains and crawled through holes, and went through many dangers. Finally, the bright, glowing crystal was in front of his very eyes. The answer to all his problems, the solution to all his turmoils, the light at the end of his tunnel, the Enchron Crystal. No longer will he be made fun of. No longer will he be picked on. Because he now wields its power. He touched the crystal and it went into his chest. He was like, what the hell? He's scared now, not knowing how to get it out.

Then his body started to change – he turned into the ugly blue monster known the Phoenix. The rest was history. He found the three sayans and killed them brutally. And then he destroyed the entire village. And soon, the whole planet. All of civilization. That was the fate of Areus's home planet. And soon, earth will end up the same way.

Tyson can't sleep. He stayed up all night, thinking about the bitter argument. He tossed and turned.

6: Double Trouble.

Contents

Areus flew about the sky, searching for more things to destroy. He was still thinking about his past. Those three sayans who beat him up deserved to die, alright. He could still remember their bloody faces just before he killed them. They sure had a gruesome death. Which is fitting for them.

He sensed a strange energy nearby. It's not the energy of a person, but rather, the energy in the environment. Flying over what used to be the Castle of Doom, he lands on the ground. "What's this?" There were electric sparks in the air. Something is trapped here, and it wants to be released.

Areus got curious, so he opened his palm and focused. Maybe he'll find something interesting here. He released energy from his palms, summing energy from the Enchron Crystal inside his chest. It glowed. Suddenly, there was a large influx of energy, and Areus winced. Smoke covered the area.

A dark figure emerged. The smoke cleared out and Areus saw the man he released. It was a man in a green gown and robe, with long, black hair.

"I am free? I am free at last!" said Paradigm.

Free? What does he mean? Areus thought. "Who are you?"

"My name is Paradigm. And you must be the gentlemen who freed me. I humbly thank you for your service. I owe you one."

"And I am Areus, also known as the Phoenix. Now tell me, who are you and why were you trapped in that dimension?"

Paradigm chuckled. "It's a long story. But I am an old demon who used to wreck havoc and cause fear on this land. My power was one that was unrivaled."

"Interesting. Since I freed you, you shall become my servant."

"Sorry, but Paradigm does not take orders from anyone."

"Why you..."

"I do thank you for freeing me. So I will repay you the favor...by freeing you from this world." Paradigm fired a blast, and Areus screamed for his life.

"Aaaah!" Kaboom.

Paradigm thought he was eliminated, but he was wrong. Very, very wrong. Fire shot out from Areus's body, and he transformed into the Phoenix. "What in the world are you?!" Paradigm exclaimed.

"Your worst nightmare!" Phoenix opened its palm and shot a fire beam, Paradigm winced and blocked it, but it burned him completely. "Hmph. That was a waste of time." he said, and flew off.

Seconds later, Paradigm appeared, and his clothes were all messed up. "That demon...was no ordinary demon...ugh..." He collapsed.

A light class ship landed in the Marconion Forest. The door hatch opened, and out came its passengers – Jerrell and Angela.

Angela: "Jerrell, our officers will arrive in two minutes."

Jerrell: "Good."

Angela: "You haven't visited your nephew in a while, isn't that right, sir?"

Jerrell: "Yes, but we did not come here for that reason. We came here for the Phoenix. I wonder what he looks like."

"From the description they gave me, he's probably hideous."

Two other people showed up. "Ohhh, you're here too, Jerrell?" said Terry, standing next to Margrit.

Jerrell: "Ohhh? Terry? Margarita? How did you know I'm here?"

Margarita: "News travels quickly. I want to meet this legendary monster too. Not even my son can beat him. I want to see how strong he really is."

Terry: "Same here."

Jerrell: "Oh by the way, have you two met Angela Lianz? She's the High Commander of the Galactic Police."

Angela bowed. "Pleased to meet you. So you are the sister and brother-in-law Jerrell has been talking so much about."

Margrit: "And you're the commander he's been telling us about. You can fight?"

"Well, not as good as a sayan. But I can fight."

"Good." Margrit said, smiling.

The second light class ship landed nearby. The officers all stood in a straight line.

Jerrell: "Alright officers, we need to find the Phoenix. He destroyed half a city in one day. Do not fight him. Just report back. Understood?"

"**Yes sir!**" they shouted. And they flew off.

Margrit: "I'd like to join the search too."

Terry: "Me three."

Jerrell nodded.

Meanwhile, back at the factory, the heroes were still depressed over their situation. Blazer and Nebula tried to make the best of it as they spar with each other. They're careful not to use energy attacks, lest they might break something.

Tyson still tossed and turned while lying down. He was still thinking about his bitter argument with his wife. They haven't spoken to each other since then.

In the other room, Faith fed Tina a bottle of milk. Luckily, there was some in the refrigerator. This should last a while, but not long.

Margarita and Terry flew around in the air, searching the area above the trees. "Hey Terry. Do you think this guy is really as strong as they say?"

"I don't know. I think it's just some silly old legend."

"Good. I was thinking the same."

"Don't get too carried away though. We can't underestimate him."

"Of course not." Margrit replied.

Areus, standing on a tree, watched as a couple of GP officers flew by. "So, they are looking for me. I'll give them something to look for. He had a wicked smile on his lips, and his skin started to grow veins and change color.

Margrit and Terry returned to the ship. "Find anything?" Jerrell asked.

"Nothing." Terry replied. "It's going to be hard to find the Phoenix when you don't even know what he looks like. Plus, I don't sense a presence anywhere. It's like looking for a needle in a haystack."

Jerrell: "But we have to find him. We can't wait until he attacks again. Who knows what kind of damage he'll do?"

Margrit: "Don't worry about it, brother. He'll show up eventually. He claims he wants to destroy the earth, right? He has to start somewhere. And I'll dispose of him the old fashioned way."

Angela: "I cannot wait to see Mr. and Mrs. Spade's fighting skills."

Margrit: "You won't be disappointed, that's for sure."

A man walked towards them. He was wearing ragged clothes. A worn out gray shirt, black pants, and boots. Although he was having trouble breathing, Areus still had that wicked smile. "You...are you sayans?"

Jerrell: "Sir, are you lost?"

"No. You are looking for me, aren't you? Headmaster Jerrell Florencia."

Terry: "Are you the Phoenix?"

"Ahahahaha! So you figured it out! At least you're not stupid!"

Terry: "I kind of imaged you to be...bigger."

Areus's face started to change. His teeth grew sharper, his mouth wider, and his eyes bigger. His skin turned dark blue and his muscles grew twice as big. The heroes were shocked as they witnessed this transformation. Energy was being released, and rocks floated up.

Margrit: (So, he's showed up at last.)

Jerrell: "This is his true form?"

"All sayans...must DIE!" The Phoenix charged forward, and the heroes jumped away. Flash.

Angela fired her gun. Bang, the creature blocked, and shot a fire beam. Jerrell blocked it for her. "Let me take care of this! You just find a safe place!"

Angela: "But sir!"

Jerrell: "I got this!!"

All three sayans shot energy balls, and it didn't hurt him. The Phoenix screamed and powered up, shocking them.

[Split screen - 3] [Margrit, Terry, Jerrell].

Jerrell powered up to his fullest, and his body became full of electrical shocks. Margrit powered up and she's full of white energy. Terry turned second stage. Flash! His hair radiated a golden aura.

Margrit: "Let's go, monster!" She's the first to go, the others followed. She punched the monster's face. When she realized it had no effect, she kept on punching, the Phoenix drew back his fist, Margrit dodged it, almost getting hit. He kicked to the side, and hit her against a tree.

Terry charged and punched him in the guts. He thought it'd hurt him bad, but he's shocked that it didn't hurt him at all. The Phoenix grinned, then punched him in the face. Jerrell appeared from the side and used Electric Storm. The Phoenix screamed in pain as he's electrified. He fell down.

The heroes landed and surrounded him. The Phoenix got up, angrier than ever.

Margrit: "Damn!"

Terry: "Regular attacks have no effect on him. Is he immune to pain?"

"I don't think so!" Margrit charged recklessly and kicked him in the chin. Wham. He blurred, and appeared above, and kicked on the shoulder. Whack! She fell.

Terry: "Margrit!!" He caught her, but the Phoenix appeared behind and burned them. Frooom.

Angela, hiding behind a tree, watched the whole scene. "Everyone...please don't lose."

"Die! Die!" Jerrell screamed as he went on the offensive. The Phoenix dodged his attacks while flying backwards. Jerrell used the Power Punch, Phoenix flew to the side, and Jerrell ended up breaking a tree. Timber.

Margrit got up. "Damn it. I won't lose."

Terry: "We have to fight carefully. This one is more dangerous than we thought."

Pow! Jerrell was hit and he scraped the ground. Scrrrrr. Margrit and Terry flew forward. The Phoenix blurred and appeared in front of Terry, catching him by surprise. Pow! The super sayan was hit against a tree. That hit made him turn back to normal mode.

"Die you shit!"

Margrit kicked him on the head, but it still didn't hurt him. The Phoenix turned around and punched, Margrit flew up and charged up for the Super Energy Bomb. She threw it down, and the monster flew up to it. Kaboom! It was bright and everyone winced.

"See? I told you I could do it." Margrit said arrogantly.

"Do what?" said the Phoenix.

Margrit was shocked. "He's still in one piece...after all that?"

Jerrell was injured. "Margarita...run!"

She flew away. The Phoenix grew wings on his back. They were red and full of feathers. "Hyaaaah!" He flew high speed and chased her. Margrit shot an energy ball, and he blocked it with his bare arm. Bam. He grabbed her leg and pulled her and punched her in the stomach. Thud. He let her fall, and punched her as she fell. Thud thud thud. Crash!

The Phoenix grabbed Margrit by the neck. "You must die..." Bam! An energy ball hit his back, making him drop Margrit.

Jerrell: "Let her go, you fiend."

The monster smiled. "All sayans must die." He powered up to the max and released his energy. Everybody winced.

Kaboom!

It was a force that no one could miss. The heroes at the factory felt it, especially Tyson. "Mother...father..." He wonders if they're dead.

Nebula was wondering the same thing. Blazer saw an opening, and punched him in the face. Nebula did not react to Blazer's fist on his cheek.

"Ha ha ha ha ha!! Ha ha ha!" The Phoenix had won. He flew away from the battlefield. The area used to be full of trees. Now, there is a big crater in the center of it.

7: Farewell, Hero.

Contents

It's already been two days since the heroes lived in the factory. Too long. They were already miserable and bored out of their mind. Macintosh checked the generators, making sure they produced enough output to keep the bubble shield on. Lisa was sitting with him. She didn't understand these computers, but she understood that she did not want to die.

She was still thinking about the incident that time when she accidentally attacked the Phoenix. Well, it wasn't exactly an accident. She was scared to death, and she wanted to hurt him. And she did. But how? How can she control her powers? "Hey, Macintosh."

"Yeah?" he said without looking at her.

"The other day you said I had psychic potential, right? Something about the K-factor."

"Yes."

"I'm wondering...is possible that it's hereditary?"

Mac: "Lisa, the **only** way to gain psychic powers is through heredity. You have to have the genes for it. Only one in a billion have that gene, though. It's very rare."

"So if I have it, then there's a strong chance that someone in my family has it?"

"Yes, that's a strong possibility."

She flashed back. It was the first time she's seen Julian in many years. She can't believe that her sister has changed so much. It's like she died and became a different person. It makes sense now – her sister has the gene and thus she has the gene.

Lisa: "But there's a chance that someone who has the gene does not know, right?"

Mac: "True. There's a chance someone may not realize it his entire life. There's still a debate on how someone acquires psychic abilities. Not only do you have to have the gene, but you have to know how to use it. The ability remains dormant until you use it."

Nebula sat by the window, staring at the bubble shield. At first it was cool that this shield protects them from the Phoenix. But now, this shield is something that keeps him from leaving. He reached into his shirt and held the Rainbow Crystal tightly in his grip. (When I used it, I felt so much powerful than before. It's like I reached a third stage or something. But I still lost to the Phoenix! Maybe it's not the crystal's fault. Maybe it's me.) He started to grunt and get angry.

Morning comes. Tyson was still thinking about Faith's harsh words. It never left his mind. Perhaps Faith is right, he is worthless and selfish. He hasn't done much for his family. Sure, he's a strong fighter and all, but this world is not all about fighting. His ability to earn money isn't that great. He didn't even go to college.

Thinking back, he realized he's done many stupid things in his life. Especially after the Phoenix showed up. He talked a lot of shit and didn't even do what he say he's going to do. But maybe...if he had one more chance, he thought. Just one more chance to prove himself worthy. Worthy to be Junior's father. Tina's father. Worthy to be Faith's husband. Worthy of the name Tyson Spade.

"Our daughter isn't some tool of war!" True. Why should he put Tina in danger when he can do the job himself? "What have you done that is so great?!"

"Tyson, I'm your wife! And I'm always the last one to know these things. Why do you always hide things from me?" Faith yelled with tears. Tyson apologized and they hugged.

"You're a worthless husband and a worthless father."

He sat up. It was late at night and everyone's sound asleep. Good, Tyson thought. He already made his decision. Sneaking into the main room, he turned off the bubble shield for thirty seconds, allowing him to exit the factory.

Now he's standing on the rooftop. The sun was about to come up. Suddenly, there was a gust of wind, and he looked to his right and Blazer was there.

"Blazer? What are you doing out here?"

"I can ask you the same question. I'm not about to let you go alone."

"I've already made up my mind. I have to do this...for everyone. I don't want them to be involved. The Phoenix says he hates sayans, so let's give him some sayan action."

"Fine."

They flew towards the sun. "Farewell." Tyson says, knowing he might not come back.

Faith woke up and yawned. The past few days have been hell. But maybe today...today will be better. Junior and Tina were sleeping next to each other, with Junior hugging Tina. What an angelic sight, Faith thought. She walked out of the room quietly as to not wake them up. She went to Tyson's room and she was about to knock.

She wanted to apologize for acting so rashly the other day. Faith is usually polite and reserved, and she's always nice to Tyson. But when they argued, she just got angry, which is extremely rare, and said all those things which she didn't mean. She opened the door and no one was inside. "Tyson?" she said. Not a ghost of a sound.

Areus sensed the two warriors coming so he transformed. By the time the heroes showed up, the blue monster was ready. "So, you two came to die?"

Tyson: "Probably. But at least we're taking you with us!"

"I doubt that very much."

Tyson turned second stage, as did Blazer. Flash! The Phoenix shot a fireball at them, they ran to the side. Kaboom! They square off with the Phoenix, more determined to win than ever.

Faith was looking frantically for her husband. By the time everyone on the "base" was gathered together, they noticed two members missing - Tyson and Blazer. How "coincidental."

Mac: "Damn it! I told not to leave this base. It's too dangerous. Can't they follow directions?"

Zelfire: "I hope that for the love of God they didn't go after the Phoenix."

Lisa: "knowing Tyson and Blazer, they probably did."

Neb pounded his own fist. "What's wrong with them? Acting on their own like this? I thought this was a team effort!"

Faith: "Tyson...why are you doing this? You don't have to prove anything!"

Tyson and Blazer fought with full force, attacking left and right, not letting their opponent have a chance to retaliate. They both assaulted him with a storm of fists, and the Phoenix blocked and got pushed back, breaking some trees along the way. Smash! Then Tyson and Blazer punched him at the same time, and he was pushed far away. The sayans continued their onslaught with a bunch energy balls, followed by a big explosion.

It looked like nothing could survive that. Nothing but the Phoenix, that is. He walked out of a wall of flames. His body was bleeding at various places, but his wounds healed automatically as he walked forward. The heroes were devastated at the sight. All their efforts were in vain. They came out here, thinking they can make a difference.

Blazer: "I don't believe this! What does it take to bring him down?"

Tyson: "We have to keep trying."

Blazer charged forward, but he got punched away. Tyson charged and punched the Phoenix on the cheek, and the Phoenix returned a punch to his chest. Kapow. Blazer, while in the air, opened his palm and fired a golden beam. Bam! The Phoenix jumped away from it. Blazer kept on firing and hit him. The Phoenix screamed and wings grew out of his back. In a fast sweep, he flew towards Blazer and hit him against a tree. Wham.

Blazer was panting for breath, and holding onto a tree for support. By now it was clear he can't win. "It's all up to you now...Tyson..." he said and collapsed.

Now, the two remaining warriors stared at each other in the open woods. They both hate each other to the death and they're angry. Tyson had a feeling he's going to lose, but he won't go down without a fight.

They waited a while, and suddenly charged. Wham! Each time they hit, a shockwave was produced. Wham. Wham. It was a contest of sheer force. Wham! Tyson fired a bunch of energy disks down, the Phoenix blocked them as he flew up, and fire surrounded his body and he punched. Tyson blurred, appeared from behind and blasted him on the wings. Zzzzzt. The Phoenix fell and Tyson flew down to him, grabbed him by the wings, and made sure he falls all the way.

Crash! The impact made a puff of smoke. Tyson couldn't see a thing. The Phoenix roared angrily and beat him up. Kapow! Whack! Tyson was thrown on the ground. Thud.

While on the dirt, Tyson was really depressed. "Did I come all the way here...just to lose?" Just now he saw his parents - or rather, images of his parents. "Mother...father..."

Margarita raised her fist. "Tyson, are you just going to let him beat you up like this?"

Terry: "You can do it son. The power to defeat this monster is inside of you."

Margrit: "When a warrior falls, he must stand up again! C'mon, get up and fight!"

"Mother...father..." He forced himself to stand up, although he could barely balance himself.

Phoenix: "Ohhh, still standing after all that?"

Everything starts to get bright and blurry.

Tyson: "I must...win..." At this point, his hair turned from gold into a bright, white color. He finally entered the fourth stage, but the Phoenix did not care. He only cared about destroying his opponent. Tyson's vision was distorted, and he only saw the Phoenix. Everything else – the trees, the ground, the sky, was blurry. Tyson screams as he releases all of his energy, as did the Phoenix.

The two titanic forces clashed, making one big explosion. **Kaboom!** Tyson didn't even block it, it hit him, and everything turned white. The explosion destroyed a good piece of the forest.

All the heroes in the factory sensed it. Tyson's signal has completely disappeared. They were shocked beyond words, especially Faith. She just falls on her knees.

Nebula: "No...that's not what I think it is..."

Zelfire: "Tyson..."

Nebula: "Tyson Spade...why did you do it? Why!?" He punched one of the gears on the side. "Damn it!!" He was full of tears and spite.

Everyone else was silent. Amanda looked at Junior, who was totally spaced out from the shock. His eyes were shaking, and his mouth was wide open.

Lisa looked at Macintosh. "He's not dead, is he? Tell me!"

Mac looked at the floor. "Sorry..."

Faith started to sob and scream. "No! NOOOOOO!"

Far away, in the Imperial Castle, Midas, Ace, and Marianna sensed the explosion as well. King Midas just stared the sky, wondering if it is true. Is Tyson really gone for good?

8: Dead Or Alive? Come Back, Tyson!

Contents

At the brink of dawn, everything was peaceful in the forest. Darkness turns to light, and despair turns into hope. Inside the carrier spaceship, Angela rinsed a wet towel. Margarita, Terry, and Jerrell were unconscious, lying next to each other. They haven't woken up since their fight with the legendary monster. Angela has been taking care of them all this time, and she's really worried. She put a wet towel on Margrit's head and she moaned slightly.

Angela was really worried about the fate of these people, as well as everyone on earth. The reports she received from her agents was too much to describe in words. An entire civilization destroyed...by one monster?

Margarit moaned and opened her eyes. She's the first one to wake up. "Where is he?"

"The Phoenix is not here. You three have been unconscious for a whole day."

Margrit: "Damn it. He was stronger than we thought. We weren't even close to beating him. I'm going outside to get some fresh air."

"Okay." Angela replied.

Margarita stepped outside, looking at the trees and sky. The sight was soothing. Angela says she's been asleep for a day, but it felt like a week. She wonders how a monster so powerful can exist.

In the abandoned factory, the atmosphere became tense. One filled with death and sadness and regret. "No..." Faith shrieked. "He can't be...dead...it can't be!"

Erika walked over to her. "Faith...I'm sorry..." Erika herself couldn't help but shed some tears.

"No! No!" Faith screamed. She kept on screaming, while the others just watched, not knowing how to help her. There's probably nothing they can do to soothe her at this moment. "Nooooo!" She suddenly couldn't handle it anymore and fainted. Everyone was shocked.

Erika and Lisa brought her back to her room.

Nebula was extremely sad and angry. He had to let it out and started punching the wall like crazy. "Aaaagh! Aaagh! Damn it! Why'd you have to die!? Damn you!" He was filled with tears and spite and he continued punching and sobbing.

Zelfire: "Tyson and Blazer are both dead. Now who's left to defeat the Phoenix? How do we beat this thing?"

Amanda looked at Junior, who was grunting and tightening his fists. "Junior..."

"I'm fine! Really, I'm fine." he said in denial. "He never let me do what I want. He always tried to control me and ruin my life. And he's never there for me when I needed him. Why should I care if he's gone?!" he yelled. "Why?" And then he closed his eyes and let the tears spill out.

"Junior, it's okay to cry. It's alright..."

Junior hugged her and sobbed on her shoulder. Amanda was crying as well, but she held it back. It's times like these when Junior needs a friend. This reminded her of the time she lost her parents. She knows how he feels. She knows too well.

Everyone had their own thoughts and feelings about Tyson's death. Some cried, some screamed, others grieved in silence.

"How is she doing?" Erika asked Lisa.

"I don't know." Lisa replied honestly. "I don't know if she will get over this. She just lost her husband. And I lost one of my best friends." She walked away.

"Are you okay?" Erika asked Nebula.

"Yeah, I'm calm now. But I know the Phoenix is going to get it. I swear it. If it's the last thing I do."

"I can't believe he will do something so reckless."

"He shouldn't have done it. What was he thinking?" Neb said, slamming the wall.

In Capital City, The heroes walked into the central room, and Erika turned around and met Tyson for the first time. "Greetings, friends!" she said. And she shook their hands and Tyson introduced himself. "What brings you here to Nebulon?"

"I'm looking for the one I love." he said.

"I do hope you find her." Erika replied.

Next flashback: Tyson and Prince Mulder have their showdown, their respective gold and red beams collided and struggled to push each other. Tyson's beam eventually overpowered his, and it incinerated him. Frooom! "Aaaaaah!" he screamed.

Erika was so shocked and angry over her brother's death that she acted illogically. She took out her saber and charged at the tired Tyson. He dodged, and Faith got in her way.

"Stop this Erika. You are mad!"

"Out of my way, Faith."

"Very well, then, friend. If you insist on stopping me." Erika slashed. Faith blocked. They kept on slashing, their swords collided.

Faith: "You have always been a good friend to me, Erika, but I cannot allow you to kill this man."

Erika noticed how every one is sad over this man's death. The man she used to hate. She didn't even know whether she hated him or not. She definitely didn't like her brother. He did all these shady things. Only near the end of Mulder's life did Erika find out what a scumbag he was. But now, she no longer holds a grudge that he killed her brother. Rather, she's amazed at Tyson's bravery. Not many would have done the same, given his situation.

Faith woke up in cold sweat. Lisa came in with a drink, and she put it on the table. "You must be thirsty." she said. "Faith? Speak to me?"

Faith looked at her with cold, blank eyes. "He's not dead...he's alive."

"Faith...I know it's hard on you, but he's dead. We all sensed it."

"No! He never dies! He always comes back!" she yelled.

"Faith..."

"I know he's alive. The Great Spirit always protect the good people. You believe me, don't you?"

Lisa didn't say anything. How can she soothe a woman in denial?

"You don't believe me, do you?" Faith said, offended. She got up and walked away.

"Wait!"

"Don't follow me."

Lisa went out of the room, and Nebula was in front of her. "How is she doing?"

"Not so good." Lisa replied, and her answer made Nebula more worried.

The others were having a meeting. They're all pissed off, but they had to control themselves. "I know we are all upset over the loss of two of our allies." Zelfire said. "But we must plan our next course of action."

Macintosh: "I should've known. I should've put a password on the generators, so then they wouldn't have been able to leave."

Zell: "Macintosh, what's done is done. This is no time for would haves and should haves. We have to ensure that **we** survive. We still have other people, two kids, and one baby. It's going to be hard on Junior and Faith, I **know** that. But the least we can do for Tyson is have his family survive."

Joe: "True. We should not act rashly like they did. Although what they did was wrong, they did it for us."

Faith went into her room, sat on the bed and leans against the wall. She's in a state of shock and disbelief. She was having flashbacks of the times she spent with Tyson Spade - the man she's loved for many years. She can never forget the first time she laid eyes on him. They didn't start out as a couple, but as enemies. But they became allies and eventually lovers.

It's too bad the last time they spoke to each other when they had an argument. And she said all those mean things to him. Her very last words to him were "worthless and useless." She really regretted saying those things. Faith wanted to apologize, but now she'll never get to.

He was the reason for her life. Now that he's gone, what purpose does she now have to live? Faith was really depressed. But she keeps on thinking he's alive. She already told Lisa, and she believes it firmly. No matter what other people say.

While the heroes continued their grieving, Vespene City was under siege by another monster known as Paradigm. Floating above the streets, he shot energy beams at the ground, blowing things up. By now, the area has already been deserted, those who were alive escaped, and the rest were dead.

"Ha ha ha ha!" laughed the demon. He flew away to another area to continue his rampage.

After he left, three people came to see the ruins.

Ace: "This is terrible. Father, is that the demon who killed Tyson?"

Midas: "No. Their energy signals are different."

Marianna: "Whether it's him or not, we have to prevent him from doing any more damage."

Ace: "I second that."

Kaboom! Paradigm just blew up a car. Then he turned around. "Hmmm, what's this?"

Ace: "Do you enjoy destroying things, demon?"

Marianna: "You've done enough. Now it is time to pay back for the damages."

"Ha ha ha ha!" laughed the demon. "Why are there always mortals foolish enough to challenge my power?"

"Shut up you!" Ace shouted, and swings his sword forward, making a shockwave.

Paradigm blocked it. "Now you've done it." He transformed into his demon form. The heroes gasped at his power and hideousness. Marianna loaded arrows into her bow and shot it. Paradigm blasted the arrow into dust, Ace jumped up and slashed. Paradigm blocked with his bare arm, and punched him away.

Midas shut his eyes and began an incantation chant. The demon's body was burning up and he screamed in pain.

"Arrrgh! Uuugh! Why you..." He powered up and his energy hit Midas.

"Ugh!"

"You're going to get it now, old man." He approached Midas, about to open his palm. Ace kicked him on the back, and he smacked him away. Whack! "On second thought, I'll finish you off first!"

Suddenly, energy balls came from above and hit the ground and Paradigm. Bam bam! Go Hei jumped down and grabbed Ace and ran out of there.

Paradigm: "Argh! Who dares?" Just then, he sensed something familiar. He forgot about the others and went towards the strong energy signal. He and the Phoenix faced each other in the air. "It's you..."

Phoenix: "Fancy meeting you again. You actually survived my attack."

"You underestimate me, warrior. Now here is my repayment for freeing me!" Both monsters powered up and hit each other. Bam!

Marianna and Ace and Midas were surprised that they're still alive. A man in a straw hat saved them. "Thank you, sir." Ace said.

"No problem. Let me introduce myself. My name is Go Hei."

Midas: "You are one with the gift, correct?"

Go Hei: "Aye, indeed. And I know that it will take more than courage to defeat this demon. We need proper planning."

Back in the GP spaceship, Jerrell just woke up. As he sat up, the wet hand cloth on his head fell off. "Uhhh...Angela?"

"Sir, are you feeling okay?"

"I guess. I feel kind of tired."

"It's no surprise. You've been sleeping for a whole day."

"Damn it. We all lost to the Phoenix." He started to think about the battle. Every move they made did not work on the Phoenix. He was too strong, too fast, and too good. "Nothing we did worked. How can this be?"

"Was it really that powerful?"

"I hate to admit it, but we were no match for him." Jerrell said. "Angela, we have to call off our agents. He is too dangerous." Then he looked at Terry, who was still unconscious. If a super sayan like him can't beat him, then who can?

Back at the Galactic Police main station, Fortran, Osborne just received a message from Jerrell. "Yes sir, right away." He hung up the phone. His orders were to find out as much info as possible on this Phoenix. This has now become a code red situation.

Faith was still in the same position as before, lying against the wall, staring at nothing. The others were afraid to approach her, fearing she might yell and go crazy. They really wanted to help her. As a friend.

"He's still alive...he's alive..." she ranted.

Midas thinks so too. He's always believed in that "young lad." He never disagreed to Tyson being his daughter's suitor, and then her husband, and the father of his daughter's children. For good reason. Heroes don't perish easily.

It is a tragic loss indeed for the heroes. They always believed in him, after all he's done for them. They've been together for their whole lives - Tyson, Nebula and Lisa. They were best friends and no one could separate them. But now he's gone for good.

Faith met Tyson as she traveled to this world. They've been through so much together. Vega, the Magnificent Seven, Labyrinth, Vegeta, Mulder, the Great Seven...these were all victories they couldn't have done without him. Who would've thought he'd get killed by someone stronger?

"Promise me you'll stay with me forever."

"I promise."

But how can he keep the promise if he's dead?

9: The Barrage.

Contents

Tyson Spade and Blazer Syrus, now believed to be dead, will forever remain in their memories. Macintosh just fixed his TV, and the others came to watch the news. What they saw did not make them happy at all.

The reporter said that there are two monsters on the loose, each attacking a different city. It showed a split screen of Paradigm and Phoenix.

Nebula: "Paradigm too? Didn't we take care of him last time?!"

Zell: "Someone or something must've freed him."

Joe: "Great...now we have another asshole to worry about."

Neb: "Can this get any worse?"

The other group of heroes, consisting of Midas, Ace, Marianna, and Go Hei were hiding in different places. As Paradigm (in his transformed state) blew things up, an arrow flew at him, and he dodged it just in time. Suddenly, Ace jumped out from a

building and raised his sword high to slash. Paradigm evaded and flew up. Suddenly, Go Hei kicked him. Whack! Paradigm landed and he's surrounded by them.

"So, it is you again? This time I will not let you escape." said the demon.

Go Hei: "Those are our words, demon." The four heroes gathered energy and fired at him. Kaboom!

[Split screen - 2] [Marianna, Ace].

Ace: "Did we get him?"

Suddenly, Paradigm jumped out of the smoke and attacked Midas. Midas punched him in the stomach, but it had no effect against this demon in his full form. Paradigm punched him and he fell.

Marianna loaded an arrow and shot it. "Celestial Arrow!" Twang! Paradigm caught it in his hand and crushed it. "Your weapons don't work on me."

Marianna ran to the side and kept shooting. Paradigm jumped away from it and kicked her. Wham. Ace charged at him and attacked, he blocked it.

Go Hei fired a beam, and he jumped away from it. Suddenly, Paradigm split himself into two copies, one attacked Ace and the other one attacked Go Hei. They were taken by surprise.

The Phoenix was flying around, looking for things to destroy. Suddenly, he sensed not one, but many energy signals in one place. He flew over to the middle of nowhere to the factory in the bubble shield. "So there they are." he said to himself.

The heroes, of course, sensed him coming.

Joe: "He's here."

Zell: "He found us."

The Phoenix flew at the shield, and it electrified him. He backed away and let his wounds heal. He got pissed at it and fired a beam. Bam! The people inside heard the explosion.

Macintosh: "He can't get through. Trust me."

Joe: "Yeah, but I wonder how long the shield will last?"

Mac: "Well...the machine is pretty old, but it can withstand punishment." Bam. The entire place shuddered.

All the others came to the room.

Faith was holding Tina, clutching her tightly. "What was that sound? Is the Phoenix here?"

Joe: "Don't worry Faith, we're safe." Bam!

Everyone almost fell.

Faith: "Safe? You call this safe?!" She backed away to the wall. Bam. She shrieked in fear.

Outside, the Phoenix kept on firing beams at the shield. He's determined to break it, even if it means using up all his energy. The more he fired, the angrier he got.

Bam. Bam. Everyone held onto something. The shakings grew worse.

Junior: "Are we going to die?" Bam!

Neb: "No way, kid. I'm not letting anymore people die." Bam!

Faith was the most scared out of the group. She shrieked and screamed with her eyes shut. Just like everyone else, she just wished the monster would go away. Go away and leave them alone. Tina was crying as well.

Things were falling apart. Pieces of the ceiling fell. Pipes broke. Bam.

Mac: "C'mon, just hang on a little longer." Bam.

Amanda: "Everyone to the center! Quick!" She formed a psychic shield, and thus, everyone that's inside of it was safe from falling objects. Macintosh and Lisa ran to the

center, but a piece of the wall was falling towards them. The two watched in suspense as everything was in slow motion.

Suddenly, Lisa got that feeling again. The need to protect herself and someone else. She screamed and opened her palm, and the concrete was floating above them. She used Push and the concrete moved away from them and fell on the floor. Thud.

Mac, along with everyone else who saw it, was amazed. But there was no time for compliments or wows. Bam!

Amanda did her best to keep the shield alive. The Phoenix did his best to try to break the outside shield, but he saw no progress. He panted for breath. Is there another way to get inside? Regardless, he kept on firing at the shield non-stop.

Only Nebula and Erika were outside of Amanda's psychic shield. As things kept falling from the ceiling, it's hard to get to her.

Joe: "Hurry and get here!"

Neb: "I'm fine!" Bam! He fell on his butt. "Ow..." Suddenly, a large piece of rock fell from the ceiling and landed directly on him. Kaploosh!

Erika: "No!!"

Amanda: "Father!"

Bam!

The Phoenix was almost drained of his energy. Even though he's still illogical and angry, he knows when to stop. He flew away, deciding that he'll get them next time.

Inside the factory, there was a silence for a few seconds. Then ten seconds. The heroes started to get hopeful. Maybe the monster left. Amanda lifted the big piece of rock off the floor, but she did not see Nebula. He vanished. "He's not here. Where did he go?"

Zelfire: "Erika is missing too."

Joe: "Oh no. Don't tell me that they..."

Nebula was flying fast. Erika caught up to him, to his surprise. "What are you doing out here? You should go back."

"Shouldn't you?" she replied cunningly.

"I've already decided to get revenge for my brother. Don't try to stop me."

"I'm joining you."

"Are you sure? You could die." Nebula said seriously.

"What good is my life if I don't make something of it?"

The Phoenix landed in some mountainous area. He sensed two signals following him, and he smiled as Nebula and Erika landed in front of him. "So, you two must have a death wish. You come to take me alone?"

Neb: "You should be running out of energy by now, so you're going to die!"

Areus: "Aren't you a clever one?" He powered up, becoming full of burning flames. His body was surrounded by rings of fire. His eyes glowed red.

Nebula powered up, and the Rainbow Crystal glowed from within his shirt. "Yaaaaah!" He charged, followed by Erika.

They had a fight to the death. Nebula fought with pure anger, thinking about his brother every second. Every punch and kick and every drop of energy he used is for his brother. For Tyson Spade. Pow!

The Phoenix punched him in the stomach and snatched his sword from his hands. "I won't let you cut me like last time."

Erika charged with her saber and they hit on the blades. Clang! They kept on slashing, and he stabbed her in the chest. Blood squirted out.

"Noooo!" Nebula yelled as the woman he cares about is dying. "You son of a bitch!" He fired the Nebulon Blast. Kaboom. The entire area was burning. The Phoenix lost an arm as he blocked the energy. Nebula charged at him and attacked, and with his remaining hand, the Phoenix punched him in the stomach hard. It wasn't a regular punch, since the Phoenix put his energy into it. And Nebula felt it good and he coughed blood.

The Phoenix walked away from the battlefield and he turned back into Areus once his energy was up. Nebula and Erika's energy signals have disappeared, just like Tyson's and Blazer's.

The refugees at the factory noticed this, and they prepared themselves for the worst.

Far away, there was a mountain where monks lived. Inside one of their rooms, a person was resting on a bed that was a horizontal piece of stone. Two monks examined Tyson's body carefully.

Xora: "How is he, sir?"

Zenon: "Hmmm, he's breathing, which means he is alive. But he is not able to wake up. He is a vegetable."

"Is there a chance he can be revived?"

"I don't know."

10: Truth or Denial? Faith's Mission.

Contents

By now, the heroes were disillusioned. Joe punched the wall. "First Tyson and Blazer, then Nebula and Erika? How many more people have to die? Argh!" he said. The others let him complain while they remain silent.

Amanda was upset and feared that this will be a repeat of the past. She's already lost her parents once. "Mr. Nebula" was nice enough to adopt her, but he's gone too. And it's all thanks to the Phoenix. The heroes swore he will pay dearly for this.

In the forest, an injured man walked limply. He saw the GP spaceship and became hopeful. "There they are..." Blazer said, moaning in pain.

Angela was standing with Jerrell, and she recognized him. "Blazer? It's you?" she said, pleasantly surprised.

"Help..." he mumbled, and collapsed. They quickly went to check him.

"Do you know him?" Jerrell asked.

"Yes. He's the one who helped me on C-16."

"Oh. He's a sayan as well."

Blazer was lucky enough to stumble across the ship by accident. At least he doesn't have to die yet.

Inside the ship, Margarita was taking care of Terry. He assured her he's fine. "Margarita. Did anything happen while I was unconscious?"

"No. Why?"

"It's strange. But I felt Tyson was in danger. And Nebula too."

"Don't be silly. How can you sense them while you were unconscious?" she replied.

"It's just this feeling I have. I hope they're okay."

"They should be at the base, safe and sound." Margrit said. "Don't worry about it."

Nebula woke up in cold sweat. He had a nightmare about fighting the Phoenix, and when he woke up, he thought he was still fighting. But he realized he was in some bedroom. It wasn't his own, or one that he recognized. But looking at the surroundings, he recognized it as King Midas's castle.

Erika came into the room. "Nebula, you're awake. Thank goodness. I thought you'd go into a coma or something." The others came in.

Ace: "You were lucky you survived."

Marianna: "That is because he is stronger than average."

Neb: "Thanks guys. I owe you one."

Marianna: "You should really be thanking Master Go Hei."

Go Hei: "We found you and your companion unconscious so we brought you here."

Erika: "It looks like our life has been extended. Isn't that wonderful, Nebula?"

He suddenly got up and hugged her, and she gasped in surprise. Her face was blushing, but he didn't see it. No one's ever embraced her like this before. Not even her family. "Thank goodness. I thought we were dead. I thought you were dead..."

Ace and Marianna looked at them, then at each other and smiled.

The monks sat beside the sleeping Tyson, meditating. They've already discussed it – the only way to contact him is through the spirit world.

Tyson was running alone in the darkness. He's been running for as long as he remembers. He doesn't know why he's doing it or where he's going, but he's running away from something. Something's chasing him. Suddenly, a voice from the above called out to him. The darkness turned to light and he was standing on a field of grass.

"What the?"

Xora and Zenon appeared. "Tyson Spade."

"Who are you? How do you know me?"

Xora: "You should show respect to your elders, Mr. Spade. We were the ones who saved your body."

"Saved my body? You mean..."

Xora: "Correct. This is the spirit world. I'm sure you are familiar with this place."

"Spirit world? But I don't belong here. I should be fighting something... something called the Phoenix."

Zenon: "He is the least of your problems, Mr. Spade. You almost died while fighting him. It is nothing short of a miracle that you survived. Using our knowledge of herbs and medicine, we are able to keep your body alive. However...you will be a vegetable for the rest of your life."

Tyson was shocked. "Vegetable!? I can't be a vegetable! I still have many things to do! This can't be happening."

Zenon: "It is the reality that you are facing, Mr. Spade. I suggest you accept it rather than deny it."

Tyson felt so lost and confused and hurt. All these emotions he felt at once were overwhelming. He fell on his knees. "Please, Mr. Monk, you have to help me. Isn't there any way I can recover?"

The two monks glanced at each other. "When we found your body, it was badly burned. Your muscles are severely damaged and beyond repair. This is the best we can do for you, sir."

A living vegetable. How humiliating for a once valiant warrior like Tyson. He just couldn't accept this reality, no matter how real it is. "Not even the best doctors can help me?"

Zenon: "Technically, you should be dead. But luckily we were able to keep your heart rate and breathing intact. I'm afraid there is not much we can do. We are not miracle workers."

Miracle? Tyson thought. Of course. "Wait! There **is** a way."

The two monks gave each other another glance.

Tyson: "Hear me out. There's this one person – and only one person in the world who can heal me. She's not a doctor or a psychic, but a regular person with an extraordinary gift. Her name is Faith...she's my wife. You gotta find her and bring her here."

Zenon:s "Extraordinary gift?"

"She has the ability to heal physical injuries." Tyson said proudly. "All she has to do is touch them and poof, the injuries are gone."

Xora: "Mr. Spade, there is no human in this world who can do such a thing."

Zenon: "No human can do it. But maybe a **Phenalian**."

Xora: "Mr. Zenon, Phenalians are extinct."

Tyson: "They are extinct, but the one I'm referring to is half Phenalian and half human. You may have heard of her."

The monks gasped. "You mean-"

Tyson: "She's Princess Faith Midas of Almerak."

Zenon: "**The** Princess Faith! The one known as the warrior of the spirit and the one appointed as paladin."

Xora: "That's right! If we can bring her here somehow."

"Unfortunately," Tyson added in embarrassment, "She's in a place where you can't reach. She's being targeted by the demon known as the Phoenix. If you run into him you'll be dead meat like me."

Zenon: "There is another way we can contact her. We have to do it telepathically."

Paradigm flew about the area and discovered something interesting. The headquarters of the Holy Monks of Amon. One of the monks sensed his presence and alerted the others immediately.

Zenon placed his hand on Tyson's shoulder. They closed their eyes to concentrate.

Faith was sitting on her bed, not moving. She was covered by a blanket. She didn't eat or sleep since her husband died. No matter how much Lisa and Nebula tried to help her, she ignored them. But an image of Tyson appeared, and suddenly her eyes had some life in them.

"Faith..."

"T-Tyson? Is that really you?"

"Of course. Why the sad face? You look like someone just died."

Her eyes began to fill with tears. "Tyson...I finally get to see you again. Are you an illusion?"

"No! I'm real...kind of. I can assure you I'm not a ghost." said the image. "I'm not really dead. Time's running out, and I have to tell you something."

"Tell me what?"

"You have t-to f-find t-the-" Tyson's image was blurry and his voice was muffled. "F-Find the-"

"Tell me what?!" Faith repeated. She can't make out what he said. He disappeared completely, and she reached for him, touching nothing but air. "Tyson!"

Kaboom! An energy beam hit the cave. Tyson and Zenon opened their eyes. "What the hell? I'm not done." Tyson said.

Zenon: "There is interference." Suddenly, the entire spirit world was shaking. Thud.

Xora: "Sir, we are under attack!"

Zenon: "Sorry Mr. Spade, but we will continue this later."

Tyson: "Wait!" The images of the monks vanished. Now he's alone again.

Back in the physical world, the monks sat in a circle and began to chant something. Golden energy was released from their bodies.

"Huh? What's this?" Paradigm exclaimed as he saw a golden shield surround the cave. He fired a beam at it, but it dissipated at the surface of the shield. "Grrr..."

The monks were chanting continuously. They sat on the floor and held their hands in front of them with their eyes closed. A group spell like this requires extreme concentration.

Xora: "We should be safe for now, right, sir?"

Zenon: "Indeed. He can't break through our seven layer seal."

Paradigm kept on firing beams in vain. He even transformed into demon form and fired beams. But nothing worked.

The two monk leaders waited. The silence grew longer and longer.

Xora: "Has he finally given up?"

Zenon: "At least he knows when to stop."

Faith burst out of her room, bumping into Lisa. "Where are you going in such a hurry?"

"Tyson's alive! He's alive!" she exclaimed.

"Huh? How do you know? Did you sense him?"

"No, but I saw him! He was real!"

"Saw him?"

"He was in my room just a moment ago. He's alive, don't you see?"

Lisa looked at her strangely. "Faith...Tyson is dead. I know it's hard, but you have to accept that fact. Dead people don't magically come back to life."

"You don't believe me, do you?" Faith said, disappointed. "Fine! Other people will listen to me!" She walked away.

Lisa grew more worried. Her mental condition is getting worse.

Faith went to the other room, where Amanda was taking care of Tina. "Are you feeling better?" Erika asked.

"Yes." Faith replied.

"I know how hard it may be for you, but we are here for you, Mrs. Spade."

"What do you mean? Tyson's not dead. He's alive."

Amanda and Zelfire cast a quick glance at each other. Zelfire stood up. "Faith..."

"He's alive! It's true! I saw him in my room. He was real!"

Zell: "Faith, if he appeared, then we would have sensed him."

"You don't believe me either?" Faith said.

"It's not that." Zell replied. "Faith, we want to believe you. But you can't live on false hope. It may be hard to accept, but-"

"I don't want to listen anymore." Faith said, and left, slamming the door.

Zelfire and Amanda looked out the window. "I wish there was some way I can help her."

Amanda: "We never give up, right, Mr. Lang? Even if there is some small, slim chance he can be alive, we still have to find him."

Zell looked at the kid, and she's serious about what she's saying. He didn't know how to reply. He's caught between accepting the harsh, cold reality, and living on thin hope. Maybe Tyson is alive. He's survived countless dangers. But no one is immortal. Not even a super sayan like him.

11: Fit Of Rage.

Contents

After seeing Tyson's image talking to her, Faith tries to convince everyone that he's alive, but they think she's going crazy. Faith is hurt that no one believes her, but she still believes in Tyson. That's all that matters to her. Somehow she has to find him, but he didn't finish his message. "You have t-to f-find t-the-" Find the what?

Areus was once again resting in his cave. He was sleeping and he had a dream.

After Areus grabbed the Enchiron Crystal, he thought he had the answer to all his problems. The crystal went inside of him and became a part of him. Consequently, he experienced horrible pain. His body became full of fire and it was too hot to handle. He remembered that feeling too well. His body was nearly torn to shreds because of the excess power. But then his body, in order to hold the crystal's power, transformed into the hideous beast known as the Phoenix.

In that moment, he went from a weakling to the strongest warrior in the galaxy. The first place he went to was his village. The three sayans who beat him up were still there, acting like they own the place. Areus landed in front of them.

A: "Well, well, if it isn't that guy. Did you come back for another beating?"

Areus didn't reply. He transformed, scaring the shit out of the warriors. He killed them brutally, making sure they have an agonizing death that they'll remember in hell. He remembered them screaming and begging for mercy. And the blood. It was everywhere. On the Phoenix's chest and hands. He remembered how their heads felt when he squeezed them. They felt like squishy watermelons.

So, the earthlings have a nice hiding place that I can't break through, he thought. I will definitely crush them next time. I will make sure of it.

Lisa wanted to help Faith with her problem, but Zelfire convinced her not to. It's still too early to help her. And Lisa thought about it and decided to take his advice. Right now, she has to train her psychic abilities. She didn't mind being trained by a kid like Amanda, who's an expert on these things.

"Okay, Ms. Powers, let's try another exercise." Amanda said. She looked around for an object not too small, but not too big. "That one. Concentrate on that thing."

Lisa stared at the pipe on the ground.

Amanda: "Concentrate on that object. Imagine that object being lifted off. Focus. Put your mind to it. Put your energy into it."

Lisa concentrated really hard, but ended up looking constipated. "Uhhhhh, uuhhh. It's not working."

"Hmmm. You only activated your powers when there is danger, right?"

"Yeah. I didn't even think about it. During those moments, I really, really needed to protect myself. And somehow I used my powers."

"So it comes out of a need."

"Yeah. Exactly. But I really want to have these powers. I know I'm not match for the Phoenix, but I just want to do something to help. I'm tired of hiding and running away all the time."

Amanda: "Don't worry Mrs. Powers. All it takes is time and some practice."

Zenon: "Is the demon gone yet?"

Xora: "Not exactly, sir. He is still within the area."

"He will not be a threat to us. We do not have to worry about him. Let us go back to the spirit world to talk to Mr. Spade."

"Right away, sir."

They meditated, doing their usual routine, and entered spirit world. "Are you ready, Tyson?" Zenon asked.

"Yes." Tyke replied.

Faith was standing by the window, staring outside. This place is supposed to protect them, but it felt more like a prison. Just days ago, her daughter was born and everyone's happy for her. She had a thriving, happy family. But the appearance of this fiery beast made her world fall apart. She lost everything. All because of him. An image of Tyson appeared behind her.

"Faith!"

"Tyson! Oh, I knew you'd show up again. No matter how much I tried to convince the others, they won't believe that you are alive."

"Alive? Hah, I don't die that easily. Come on, I'm Tyson Spade."

"Do you know how worried I was about you? Where are you?"

"Listen, you have to come to the Temple of the Holy Monks of Amon. I'm over there right now, and I can't wake up. I'm contacting you through the spirit world. I'm not used to this kind of transmission thingy, so I don't know when I might lose concentration. My body is kept safe in the temple, but I can't wake up without your healing hands."

"But what about the Phoenix? And Paradigm? They're both on the loose."

Tyson: "Tell the others. It's safer if you travel together. Hurry, cuz my body can't stay alive for that long!"

The Phoenix showed up at the base, and he fired a beam. Kaboom!

Faith stuttered, and Tyson's image got blurry. "No! I won't lose you again!" Faith reached for Tyson, but her hand went through him. He disappeared and turned into sparkles. "No!!" Kaboom! She fell. "Tyson..."

Everyone gathered at the control room.

Joe: "He's at it again."

Mac: "He won't get in. I'll make sure of it."

Bam! The monster kept on firing beams, and this time he's determined the break the shield. Bam. Faith went to the control room, stuttering each time the base was hit. This time, she's more angry than afraid.

Zell: "Everyone hang onto something!"

Bam. Like last time, things fell apart. Computers broke. Bam. Suddenly, the main computer showed the shield's power. [Power - 80% Remaining.]

Macintosh was surprised. "No...it can't."

Bam! [Power – 60% Remaining.] Even a supposedly invincible force field has its limits.

Zell: “Is something wrong?”

Mac: “The shield is going to break at this rate.”

Zell gapsed. “Say what?” Bam!

The red bar on the screen slowly got smaller. [Power – 40% Remaining.]

Mac: “Oh God. This is not good!”

Joe: “Jesus, doesn’t he get tired of doing this? How much more people does have to kill?”

The Phoenix got more excited, seeing the dents on the bubble shield. He kept on firing energy balls. Kabam-bam-bam. “Ha ha ha ha! Ha ha ha ha!”

The people inside the base waited in horror for their fate. Will they end up like Tyson and Nebula and the others? Amanda doesn’t think so. She did her best to keep the falling objects from hitting the others.

The words on the computer flashed. [Danger – 0% Remaining.]

The Phoenix gathered energy into a big ball and threw it down. Kaboom. The shield was gone. The generators were out of power. The base is now exposed.

“Now, you all die.”

“Not so fast!” Faith shouted.

Areus turned around, surprised to see her at his altitude.

Faith has never seen the Phoenix until this point. But he’s uglier than what Tyson and Blazer described him to be. Much uglier. Inside and outside. “So you are the one responsible for this. If you’re gone, everything will go back to the way it was!”

“Keep dreaming, little woman. I am going to kill the earthlings now.” He aimed at the base, Faith charged and punched him in the face. Kapow! “Why you-” She kicked him the face. Whack! She punched and he blocked. “I don’t think so.” He gave her a good punch in the stomach, pushing her away. Then he fired at the base. Kaboom!

Inside, the ceiling fell down. Everyone braced themselves for the impact.

“Noooo!” Faith screamed. She fired the Energy Blast, the Phoenix knocked it away like annoying fly, and he countered with a hot, fiery beam. Froom! She fell into the forest.

Tyson, inside the spirit world, exclaimed: “Damn it! I was so close.”

Zenon: “You delivered the message. You did what you set out to do. Now all we have to do is wait.”

Tyke: “I hope she gets here safely. Along with my son and daughter and everyone else.”

Xora: “I hope so too, Mr. Spade.”

Faith recovered, and she’s full of dust. The fiery monster approached slowly. “Heh. You will be the next to die. Just like Tyson Spade and Blazer Syrus. Those morons died for nothing.”

Faith rarely ever gets angry, but if there’s any time to be angry, it’s now. He not only destroyed her husband, but the base as well, with everyone she knows in it. Her eyes were glowing and she stood up, full of electricity. Areus noticed a sudden change in her energy. It was gradually rising. “This is...all your fault!” shouted Faith in a mighty rage. Electric sparks flared from her body. She was a glowing pink ball of anger. “It’s all your fault! You should be eliminated from this world!! Aaaah!” She summoned the Soul Sword.

The Phoenix replied to her threats with screams and grunts. She charged forward, pointing her sword at him. He made an energy shield and her sword hit it.

Zap! She kept on pushing and the sword went through the shield and into his chest. Schleb! The monster screamed in pain, surprised she's this powerful. "Ughhh! Aaaaah!" He shot a fireball at her stomach point blank, and she was pushed into a tree.

The monster pulled the blade out of his chest, the blood poured out. His wound slowly healed, but it still hurts like a bitch. "Ugh...you..." He collapsed.

Faith wasn't doing so well herself. But now it's her golden chance to escape. Froom. She flies away. Once the Phoenix was healed back to full health, he went after her.

The heroes can't believe they survived the explosion. Zelfire helped Joe get out from under a pile of rubble. Amanda was holding Tina. Junior was fine, despite some scratches. Everyone was okay, but one person was missing.

Zelfire: "Where is Faith?"

After a while of flying, she got tired. She landed somewhere in the forest to rest. "I'll come for you soon." she said. Just then, she saw Tyson again, but this time it wasn't really him. It was an illusion in her mind.

"Faith...you can't give up. I'll be waiting for you." said his angelic voice.

She was so happy to see him, and she really wanted to hug him. But he disappeared before she could say anything. Just then, she sensed the Phoenix approaching. It's time to move.

After some more traveling, she finally saw the temple. She ran to it, but saw Paradigm there. "Paradigm?"

He turned around. "Oh. If it isn't you, Princess Faith. What a coincidence."

Faith just stood there, frozen with fear. In front of her is Paradigm, one of the most dangerous demons of all time, and behind her is Phoenix, another powerful demon. There's no place to run. Is this end of our heroine?

12: Spiritual Battle. Wake Up!

Contents

Paradigm: "Oh. If it isn't you, Princess Faith. What a coincidence."

Faith just stood there, frozen with fear. In front of her is Paradigm, one of the most dangerous demons of all time, and behind her is Phoenix, another powerful demon. There's no place to run. She fell on her knees, thinking it's the end.

Paradigm sensed Phoenix nearby, and he looked in that direction. "Ohhh, it's you again?"

Phoenix: "It's you Paradigm? Why are you always in my way?"

"I should be saying that. I'll deal with you after I kill the woman."

"I saw her first." replied the Phoenix. "Stay out of this."

Paradigm opened his palms, and Faith was lifted off her feet by an invisible force. The Phoenix threw a fiery beam at him, and he got burned. Faith fell on the floor and ran to the temple.

Paradigm was burning like hell, and he transformed into his demon form. "You fool." He fired a blast, and Phoenix blocked it. "You don't have what it takes to rule this planet. I was here first!"

"Yet you failed. You were imprisoned by the humans!" replied Areus.

Faith watched in fear as these two were duking it out. Things actually turned out in her favor. It's too bad she can't get into the temple because of the shield.

Paradigm: "You're 800 years too early to challenge me, Phoenix."

"I was able to do something you could not. I killed Tyson Spade."

"That's where you are wrong. He is still alive. In fact, he is inside this temple."

"That's a lie." said Areus.

"It is the truth. The Monks of Amon are keeping his body intact. You're such an amateur. I will finish what you started."

"Grrrr. So what if he is alive?! He can't do much after I did to him. I will finish him off, along with all the monks."

"Hello? Let me in!" Faith shouted to the above. "I'm not an enemy!"

Inside, some of them heard her voice. "What now, sir?" asked Xora. "If we let her in, we will have to turn off our shield, and if we do, those two demons will come in."

Zenon: "She's not safe out there. We have to disable our shield and let her in, then re-enable it immediately. Got it, men?"

"Yes!" replied the monks enthusiastically.

Faith was finally able to get in, and the two demons didn't even notice the shield was down as they argued. Once Faith got inside, the monks re-activated the shield.

Phoenix: "I will be the one to finish him off."

Paradigm: "Is that so? Not even I can break their seven layer shield."

"That's because you are incompetent. Just stand back and watch how I get the job done."

Paradigm smiled. "Interesting. Please, be my guest."

Faith came into the room where Tyson was. The monk leader and his assistant greeted her politely. "Princess Faith, it has been a while."

"Yes it has, Mr. Zenon and Mr. Xora. I haven't seen you two in ages." And she directed her attention to the body on the slate. "T-Tyson? You're here!" She ran to him. "Tyson..."

Xora: "We found him like this on the ground. So we picked him up and brought him here. I'm afraid he cannot wake up in this state."

Zenon: "His body is damaged beyond repair. He is not in a vegetable like state. But we were able to help him contact you through the spirit world."

Faith: "I see. So those images that I saw were real."

"Yes."

Faith bowed. "Thank you so much. I don't know how to repay you."

Xora: "No, you don't have to thank us. We are helping out a fellow ally."

Meanwhile, Tyson is in a spiritual nightmare. He was in absolute darkness, and the only thing he saw was the burning Phoenix. He was in super sayan mode, fighting for his life. He charged and punched, while the demon dodged like a ghost. Whoosh. He kept on punching in vain, and the Phoenix set him on fire. He burned like hell.

Faith began the healing ritual immediately. She can sense that most of his nerves and blood vessels were broken. This is going to take a while, she thought. And also, it's going to take a lot of energy. As she healed him, Tyson was able to feel her presence in his dream.

As Tyson continued fighting his worst enemy, he hears Faith's voice. She was very distant, yet very close. He could not reach her. "Tyson, do your best!" she said, cheering him on. The Phoenix attacked, and Tyson blocked. Pow!

The real Phoenix was throwing fire balls at the outer layer of the seven layer shield. He kept on firing like crazy, thinking he'll break it like he broke the base. As he

continued his rampage, Paradigm meditated from a safe spot. He's still thinking of a way to get into the temple. He thought the Phoenix as foolish, wasting his energy on something he cannot break. Maybe he'll run out of energy, and Paradigm will swoop in to kill him. So he waits patiently for that moment.

Paradigm: (That fool is wasting his strength. The seven layer seal cannot be broken by sheer force alone. These Holy Monks of Amon are not that simple.)

Inside the cave, rocks from the ceiling fall. Bam! Faith was distracted by the noise and shaking, but she continued healing him. She's done with the head and neck, and now her hands were hovering over his chest. "Tyson, wake up! Come on, Tyson!"

Xora: "Ugh! He is destroying our temple."

Zenon: "Not to worry, he can't break our seven layer seal." Bam!

Xora: "But our temple might be destroyed before the seal is." Bam!

The two monks made a shield to cover themselves and Tyson and Faith. Now the rocks that fell on them were bounced away.

Xora: "Princess, please hurry up."

"I am doing the best I can." Faith said. Healing is a delicate process and it can't be rushed. Especially if the person is her husband. Bam! More rocks fell.

Tyson's nightmare continues. He sees his family calling out for him. Faith was holding Tina, and Junior was next to her. "Tyson!"

Junior: "Faith!"

Tina cried.

Suddenly, the Phoenix was behind them, and he burned them. "Nooo!" Tyson screamed. He ran as fast as he could, but the Phoenix was faster and he punched him in the stomach, paralyzing him. "Ugh! No!"

The demon laughed sinisterly as his family screamed like hell. They were all burning alive. No matter how hard he tried, he could not stand up. He crawled forward and reached for them, but they were still far, far away. He felt like he never tried this hard in his life. He crawled and crawled desperately, he had everything to lose and nothing to gain.

He wants to be just like his father, the great and famous Terry Spade. The one who lives and dies by his principles. But he's a family man first. Warrior second. If there's any moment he needs the Fourth Stage, it's now. He can't stand watching them burn alive.

Faith is his wife, and she's been with him for as long as he can remember. He couldn't imagine life without her. Before he met her, his life was boring and uninteresting. But when Tyson met Faith, everything changed. Junior is his first born son. The boy who was neglected. He promised over and over to spend time with him and make up for lost times, but he can't keep his promise if his son is dead, right? And Tina, the little angel who was recently born. What kind of father is he if he can't even protect a little baby?

This nightmare is so real to him he thought it was the real thing. Tyson can't stand it anymore; he got so angry at the enemy for doing this, and angry at himself for being helpless, he screamed. He stood up and powered up like crazy, expelling bright white energy. FLASH!

"AAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!"

Absolute Zero: "The ability to transform comes out of a need. The need to survive."

Indeed, the need to survive. Including the need to protect one's family. One's kin. The ones he loves the most. His wife, son, and daughter.

Faith: "...You're a worthless father and a worthless husband!"

But everything I did was for you!

Faith: "What have you done that was so great?"

Phoenix: "All sayans must die! Die!"

Suddenly, Tyson woke up, and found himself in the real world again. He saw Faith with the monks making a shield. He tried to sit up, but his muscles were weak and his body was flimsy after not being used for so long. He fell splat on the floor.

Faith gasped. "Tyson! You're awake!" She hugged him. Bam! "Aaaah!"

Tyson: "What's happening?"

Xora: "We're under attack by the Phoenix! Just hold on." Bam.

Finally the Phoenix grew tired. His chest glowed, showing he's running out of energy. "Damn it." he said, disappointed. The Enchron Crystal is what hold's the Phoenix's spirit. And when it glows, it means he will run out of energy and de-transform. And Areus certainly doesn't want that to happen. He flies away before he returns to normal.

Paradigm watches him leave, and he predicted this will happen.

Faith hugged her husband and cried on his shoulder. "Tyson! I thought you were dead! I was so worried!"

"I'm sorry." Tyson said. "I did something stupid. I thought I'd win for sure."

The two monks looked at each other and smiled. There's nothing more emotionally satisfying than a husband and wife being reunited after facing many hardships.

13: Back From The Dead. Train Hard.

Contents

Paradigm was still meditating in his human form. He was floating a few inches above the ground in a sitting posture, with fingers folded. (There must be a way to break the seal. I don't care how long these monks have been training in this art, I will find a way.) He was still thinking of ideas, and one particular idea came to mind. (The monks are making the seal by using an incantation spell. And every spell has an exact opposite spell. If there's a way to find the spell somehow...)

Tyson and Faith finally let go of each other. Tyson faced the monks and thanked them properly.

"No problem." Xora replied in a humble tone. "Any friend or husband of the princess is a friend of ours."

Tyson: "I take it you three know each other?"

Zenon: "Aye, indeed. We teamed up with her and her father while fighting the Dark Society."

"Ohh." Tyson said. "The Dark Society led by Vega. It's too bad I defeated him. I mean, Faith and I defeated him together."

Zenon: "Yes, we know. We've heard a lot about you, Mr. Spade."

"Please, call me Tyson."

"Tyson."

Faith: "We can't let our guard down just yet. The Phoenix is still outside, and so is Paradigm. Those two are more than we can handle."

Tyke was depressed. "Isn't there any way we can defeat this monster? At my current level of power, it's impossible for me to do so. I have to reach the Fourth Stage somehow."

Zenon: "Fourth Stage?"

"Yes. I did it once or twice, but I don't know how to use it when I need it."

Zenon: "Then let us train in the spirit world. We will train your mind and your body."

And so, the couple decided to hang around the temple for a while, since they're not going anywhere anytime soon. With those two demons outside wanting to break in, it's best to stay inside.

Tyson and Faith are now dressed in the same clothes as the monks. "We're ready, Mr. Zenon."

The four of them sat on the floor in a circle. "Let's begin." said Zenon. They all began to meditate.

Once they entered the spirit world, they began sparring. Tyson fought Zenon, while Faith sparred with Xora. And that's what they've been doing ever since Tyson woke up. They train from morning to night, day in and day out.

Areus is once again back at his cave. Oh, how he hates being weak. When he's in his human form, he is weak and vulnerable to attacks. But when he's the Phoenix, he is almighty and invincible. But his Phoenix form doesn't last forever, there's a time limit. And he hates having to fight under time constraints. As he fell asleep, his soul was sent to the spirit world.

There, Areus was in a dark and gloomy forest – an accurate reflection of his state of mind. The glowing Enchron Crystal spoke to him. "Areus, you cannot keep on killing people. Stop this senseless violence."

"Shut up!" Areus replied fiercely. "You are mine now and you belong to me! You will obey me because I am your master! The Enchron Crystal lives inside of me, and that makes me your master."

"If you continue your senseless killing you will get us both killed."

"Get killed? Ha ha ha ha! The Phoenix is invincible, and you **know** that. I'll be remembered in history as the most powerful being who ever lived. People of the future will be saying that about me...**if** there is a future."

After a long day of training, the heroes were tired. Even training in the spirit world was tiring, despite the fact they don't move physically. The couple had their own room.

"Phew, I'm beat." Tyke said. "But at least we're making progress, right?"

Faith was sitting on the bed. "Yes. I still can't believe this..."

"Huh?"

"To be able to train with you. I never thought this day would come. Did you think as much about me as I did about you?" she asked.

"Of course. My family was the only thing I was thinking of when I was in that half-dead state. It was a pretty bad feeling." He sat down.

"I was so sure you were dead. Are you really alive?"

"I'm alive enough to do this." And he grabbed her right breast.

"You're still naughty."

And they kissed. Tyson put his hands on her back and caressed them, as they kissed slowly, enjoying the taste of each other's lips. Then Tyson kissed her neck. Then

he grabbed her collar and pulled it down to her arm, and everything above her breasts was revealed. They lay down and continued making love.

The next morning, they went back to their normal routine – they had breakfast and meditated to train. It's too bad they didn't get to know the monks a little more, since time is running out. They felt very welcome there, the monks showed them much hospitality, as expected from these spiritualists.

Paradigm came onto the fields of the Imperial Castle. The wind blew hard against his clothes. He entered the castle without being detected. Since there's very little people inside, he got in easily, going into the dungeon. Here was Midas's library, a place forbidden to anyone but King Midas. Paradigm searched for the right book and he found it – the book of spells.

"Aha. This is the one."

"Hold it!" said Midas. "Tis you, Paradigm?"

Paradigm fired a blast. Bam! The king was knocked down. "Sorry, your majesty, but I am in a hurry." Once he got to the first floor, the others were waiting for him.

Nebula: "Not so fast, bastard."

Ace: "You cannot expect to come into my home and leave, do you?"

"But I do plan to do so." He opened his palm and gathered energy, Marianna quickly shot an arrow at him, and he dispersed into five copies of himself. Flash. All five heroes were occupied with their own Paradigm. Energy beams and balls and arrows were flying all over the place.

Nebula sliced and diced, while Paradigm A dodged. Whoosh. Whoosh. Nebula got pissed off at his quickness. Just then, he saw a sixth Paradigm, and he wasn't fighting anyone. He was chanting something with his eyes closed. Nebula charged at that one, and suddenly his eyes opened, and Nebula was trapped inside a yellow sphere. "What the hell?"

A: "Ha ha ha ha! I have you now!"

Ace: "What kind of spell is that?" Ace got punched and he fell. Paradigm chanted the same spell, and Ace was trapped in a yellow bubble thing. The bubble floated up into the air.

Marianna: "I'll get you down!" She jumped and slashed the sphere, but was bounced away by its energy.

All the Paradigms combined into one. "Ha ha ha ha! Bunch of fools!"

Go Hei did a jumping kick. Whoosh. Paradigm blurred, appeared behind him and knocked him against the wall. Wham. Now Go Hei was inside one of the spheres as well. Erika fired a beam at her target. Kaboom. She missed. Erika and Marianna stood together, looking for their enemy. Suddenly, they were both incased inside the spheres.

Paradigm: "Ha ha ha ha! So much for you."

No matter how hard Nebula banged his fist on the sphere, it won't budge. "Damn you. Why don't you fight fair, you coward?"

"Heh. Fight fair? If I wanted to fight, I would've transformed and killed all of you. But I have no time to play around."

Nebula powered up.

Paradigm: "It's useless, you can't break it. The spell will last about twenty four hours. Enjoy your stay." He walked away with the book of spells.

Ace: "Hey! Stop! Come back."

Wham! Tyson and Zenon just went past each other in the air. They landed and turned around to face each other. Both were tired and exhausted, but they continued

fighting. Wham! Pow! Zenon showed much tenacity for an old man. But this is the spirit world, so his strength in here is not his real strength in the physical world. But Tyson is quite surprised by his swiftness and his moves. As expected from the leader of the Holy Monks.

As they trained, Faith was talking with the other monks, showing off her healing abilities. She just healed someone's cut, and they clapped. She laughs in embarrassment.

Tyson and Zenon just woke up from meditation. "How do you feel, Mr. Spade?"

"I feel much better, actually. Each time I train, I feel like I'm a step closer to reaching the Fourth Stage."

"That's great. It's unfortunate I am not a sayan, so I cannot help you in this matter. But I can help you get stronger."

Indeed, Zenon has been very helpful so far. In these past few days, Tyson has learned a lot more about the Fourth Stage than if he was on his own. He's been intrigued by this stage ever since Absolute Zero told him about it. And he never forgot his conversation with Absolute. It was so insightful and it made sense. The evolution of species. Survival of the fittest. The second stage. Survival mode. The K-factor. The Gift. They are all related with one another.

The other heroes no longer have a place to stay in. The base was destroyed, and so is their temper. Standing on the remains of the base, they plan their next move – and it can be their last move.

Zelfire: "I've had it with waiting around. We've been hiding for too long."

Joe: "Damn it. Why did those idiots have to leave? They should've stayed like we told them."

Zell: "It's too late for that now. Right now, our goal is to destroy the Phoenix even if it costs us our lives."

14: Reborn! The Princess's Cry.

Contents

Tyson and Faith were talking with Zenon and his assistant. "You two have improved much over your time here. If only you had more time, you could improve even more."

Tyke: "We're very grateful for what you've done for us." He and Faith bowed politely in monk style – with head facing down, and one hand in front of their face.

Paradigm came back to the vicinity of the monk's temple. With the book of spells in his hand, he feels invincible. He's practiced the specific spell a few times before coming here, so now it's show time. He opens the book to the correct page and starts reading it in a chant.

The monks, now sensing his presence, immediately sat on the floor and chanted, activating the seven layer seal.

"This time, I will break in." said Paradigm. His energy was being released.

Xora noticed that one of the monks was getting dizzy. He was losing his energy and is about to collapse at any moment. "Are you alright?"

The monk struggled to chant and keep the evil force out, but it was too strong. He fell down.

Xora: "What is happening?"

Paradigm's spell was getting to them, and the monks fell one by one. Already, the first seal – the outer seal was broken.

Zenon, Tyson, and Faith came.

Xora: "Sir, this is bad! Our men are falling."

Zenon: "So, he found a way to counter our seal. Come, we must help them."

Xora nodded. Now, these two chanted with the other monks. The seal was strengthened, but it's still no good. Another seal was broken. Paradigm continue his chant, while the people inside the temple struggled in futility. Another seal broken.

Tyson and Faith were stumped. "Tyson, what can we do to help them?"

"We can't do anything right now. But worst case scenario, we'll fight Paradigm head on."

Another monk fell victim to its power. Paradigm continued chanting, while releasing beams from his body. It hit the seal. Bam! Now, only one seal layer was left. The remaining monks struggled against Paradigm's evil power, but even Xora collapsed, followed by Zenon. The final seal was broken, and Paradigm blew up the entrance. Kaboom!

The monks defended their home, and they waited as the figure in the smoke appeared.

"It's him – the demon!" said one of them.

Suddenly, kaboom!

Xora came to the scene, and he gasped. There were monks laying everywhere, and chunks of rocks on the floor. Paradigm appeared and blasted him. Bam!

Zenon showed up, and Paradigm turned into his demon form – the bulky, black demon. Zenon made a strike at its chest, but it had no effect. The demon smacked him away.

"Now, I will destroy all the Holy Monks of Amon. Ha ha ha ha!"

"In your dreams!" said another voice. Suddenly, Tyson came out crashing from the wall, and kicked Paradigm into the wall, and they went through it. Crash, crash. The kick was so good they both went out of the temple.

Paradigm: "Why you little shit! I'll pulverize you."

"Hmph." Tyke wiped his nose. "I'm not the same Tyson you fought last time."

"Grrrr." The demon fired a blast at him. Kablam.

It didn't even faze him. Tyson screamed and transformed into the Fourth Stage – at last. It's the first time he consciously made it happen – the ability to transform at will. He had trouble with this stage just like the second stage. At the very beginning, he had trouble controlling this power, and he only transformed when he felt an extreme emotion. But eventually, he learned to enter the second stage consciously.

But the 4th stage was much more difficult. At first, he didn't even know if it exists. The very first time he transformed was when fighting the Nameless warrior. And boy, did he feel good. He was confident of himself, not unconfident, but not overconfident. It was just right. Tyson felt he was in control, just as he is right now.

Paradigm noticed the change in him, and he's worried. But that worry turned into anger. (His power is different than before.) But it wasn't just the power. It was the look in Tyson's eyes. Even a demon is freaked out by his eyes. He fired a beam, Tyson blurred and appeared from above. The hero fired a golden beam, Paradigm got hit and flew away. Whoosh.

"You're going to get it now!" Paradigm released beams from his back – but they weren't exactly beams – they were skulls with no bodies. The ghouls flew towards their victim and screamed excitedly.

Tyson remembered this trick when they fought last time. But this time the ghouls didn't affect him. In his Fourth Stage, Tyson won't be fooled by such mind tricks. He

knows it's a trick, and he remains still as the ghouls circled him. He powered up and they disintegrated. "Nice try. They won't work on me."

Now Paradigm was really worried. "What the hell? That should've worked. How did you improve so much?"

"Because I'm Tyson Spade. Don't forget that." Tyson flew forward and punched. Kapow! It was a good one. Followed by an uppercut. Whack! Then Tyson flew above him and slammed his foot on his shoulder. Wham! The pain was numbing as Paradigm fell down. Crash.

While they fought, Faith went to heal the injured monks. (Tyson...I've never seen him fight like this before. Is this the power he gained from his trip to Arlia?)

The two warriors started the fireworks. Kaboom! They fired beams like crazy. It was the last thing Paradigm could think of. Kaboom! Bright, flashy circles appeared in the sky. But it was clear who's winning. Paradigm kept on firing desperately, and Tyson flew through the beams like it's nothing.

"No! You will die!" he screamed.

Tyson kicked him in the chest, and he followed up with a combo. Kapow! Whack! Pow! Both warriors landed to catch their breath. Paradigm had no choice but to flee and he did. The hero went back to Faith and the monks.

"Are they okay?"

Faith: "They'll be fine."

She just finished healing Zenon. He stood up and grabbed Tyson by the shoulders. "That was the power you have been yearning for. Right, young man?"

"Yes." Tyke said, nodding.

"In all my years, I have never seen a power quite like yours. Now that you finally learned to control it, you can do anything you want. The sky is the limit."

"I couldn't have done it without your help, Mr. Zenon. C'mon Faith, let's go. We've got a Phoenix to hunt."

Faith nodded and went to her husband. They waved goodbye to the monks and flew off.

The heroes in Midas's castle were finally free from the trapping spell after Midas woke up and used the spell to set them free. They flew off to find their enemy, but instead found the other heroes, Zelfire's group. Now, all the heroes except two were together. Everyone is glad Nebula and Erika are still alive.

Joe punched Nebula's shoulder. "You had us worried here."

"Sorry for doing something reckless." Neb said.

"Me too." Erika replied.

Zell: "You did it for us. We know that. Just don't act on your own again, Nebula. You tend to be impulsive."

Neb was embarrassed. "Ahaha, yeah. That's true."

Amanda was almost crying as she ran to her foster father and hugged. "Father..."

"Amanda...it's alright. I'm fine. See? Still strong as ever."

Lisa was holding Tina in her arms. "I'm glad. Everyone's okay. I wish Tyson and Faith were here with us."

Suddenly, everyone sensed two gigantic forces nearby.

Paradigm was injured from his fight with Tyson, and now the Phoenix is in front of him. "Humph. You couldn't break the seal either? Pathetic."

"Of course I did! An idiot like you could never have done that." Paradigm replied.

"Yet you got yourself beat up. You're worthless. I never should have freed you."

Paradigm grunted and they fired a beam at each other. Kaboom! Paradigm fired a beam at Phoenix's chest, but it didn't hurt him. Phoenix shot some fireballs, and Paradigm jumped away. Suddenly, Phoenix appeared in front of him and punched him. Kapow!

Paradigm got angry and charged forward and punched, Phoenix grabbed his arm and twisted it. "Aaagh!" Paradigm's arm was caught on fire, and the fire spread throughout his body, and he screamed in pain. The Phoenix punched him in the stomach hard, and energy went through Paradigm's back. Paradigm stepped back as he continued burning.

The heroes were watching everything from above. They were shocked as Paradigm screamed and disintegrated from the painful flames.

The Phoenix laughed like hell, then he saw the heroes.

[Close-up - Nebula]. "He sees us!"

Now, the final fight begins. Who will be the victor?

A lot has happened so far in the earth. The heroes have been through hell and back, and for Tyson, it's literally hell and back. Blazer was the first to experience the legendary Phoenix's power on a remote planet. The Phoenix arrives on earth around the same time Tina was born, which was an ill-omen.

Now, Paradigm is dead. Only the Phoenix is left, and the heroes plan on having one final fight, one last chance against this threat. They're going to risk everything to save their lives and their planet. Who will be the victor?

Phoenix: "So, all of you survived my last attack? It's too bad, because you will all die right here, right now."

Neb: "Yeah, in your dreams. We're going to kick your ass!"

"Oh? You sure sound tough for someone who almost died."

Neb grunted. "Shut up! We'll exterminate you today!" He blurred, and so did the other heroes. Only Lisa (holding Tina), and Macintosh stayed behind.

The heroes did their best against the monster, but just like any other time, they were losing badly, despite their advantage in numbers. Everyone surrounded him and fired their beams. Kaboom!

[Split screen - 2] [Nebula, Erika].

Erika: "Did we get him?"

The fiery creature walked out of the smoke like it was nothing. He attacked Erika, punching her away. Nebula's crystal glowed, and he punched up and punched the Phoenix's chest. Pow. Their energies collided, and Nebula was bounced away. Phoenix appeared in front of him and hit him. Wham! While Nebula was falling, the Phoenix chased him, hoping to make another hit before he landed. Suddenly, Amanda used Restrict and Areus was trapped inside a psychic bubble.

"What's this?" He tried breaking free, but Amanda struggled to keep the shield alive. With this chance, all the heroes fired frantically at the helpless Areus. Kaboom!

Areus screamed like and his wings grew out from his back. The heroes were shocked; some of them never saw this ability before. With this wings, he flew faster and was more agile than before. Zelfire came from behind, and Areus dodged, turned around and hit him away. Joe flew up and punched a dozen times, Areus did a flip kick and hit him. Whack!

Then Areus dodged some arrows, and fired a blast at Marianna. Bam! Ace and Nebula attacked him together. Apparently, the Rainbow Crystal is still not enough.

As the fight dredged on, Blazer was watching from far away. He saw a bunch of explosions in the forest. He could sense their energies. He wonders if the good guys stand a chance.

Kapow! Ace was knocked out. Wham! Joe was down for the count. Kaboom! Nebula dodged a beam. He panted for breath. He was tired, and he's one of the few left standing. "Son of a bitch...I won't let you win. No way..."

The Phoenix fired a blast at Amanda, and Erika jumped in and grabbed her out of the way. "Thank you...Mrs. Erika."

"No problem." she replied.

Suddenly, Phoenix appeared behind them and blasted them. Nebula charged up and released the Nebulon Blast. He figured, what the hell, it's worth a shot. The Phoenix fired a beam with both hands, and it destroyed the big blue Nebulon ball. Kaboom!

Nebula panted for breath. He knows he's in deep shit now. The Phoenix flew at him, and he jumped up, his enemy appeared in front of him and hit him. Kapow! Whack! He was biting the dust.

Lisa: "No...I can feel them...their energies are decreasing. Does that mean they are losing?"

Midas: "Can this really be the end? After all we have been through..."

Nebula crawled forward desperately. He thought he was a goner for sure. But wait, he sensed another energy signal – actually two. Tyson and Faith showed in the air, and flew past the fallen heroes. Everyone was delightfully surprised.

Erika: "It's them..."

Neb laughed. "They're alive...they're alive!"

"It's always darkest before dawn." said Midas. "I knew they'd come through."

Mac: "Heh. I knew it too."

Lisa: "No you didn't."

Areus was not happy. (So, they have returned. They finally came out after hiding in that damned monk place.)

Tyson and Faith landed in front of their enemy. This time, they felt different, and their feelings reflected in their eyes. No longer will they be afraid of an enemy stronger than they are. Because now they are together. Tyson's been through life and death, and Faith has been through many struggles. They always had each other, but they never really appreciated each other until now.

"Heh. You came in just in time," said Areus, "-for your funeral!" He powered up, and became full of fire.

Tyke: "Let's do this!"

Faith powered up, becoming full of electricity, and Tyson powered up, showing his second stage, and then he continued powering up, going to his fourth stage. The Phoenix was not impressed with his new power. The warriors blurred and hit each other in the air. Wham.

Tyson flew at the enemy and let out a fury of punches. The Phoenix dodged and blocked. Kapow! Tyson punched his face, and Faith followed up with a kick on the face. Wham. As Phoenix was falling, he recovered and flew back up. Tyson and Faith fired their respective beams, the creature knocked them away and hit Faith. Whack! Tyson fired a bunch of discs, and the Phoenix dodged them. Whoosh. One of them cut his left wing.

"Argh! You will pay!" he shouted angrily.

"No, **you** will pay." The two fired beams at each other.

Midas: "Tyson Spade...he is actually doing well against the demon."

Mac: "He's reached a new level of power. I've never sensed him like this before."

Lisa: "He's always surprising us. That's just the kind of person he is. You're lucky to have a father like that, Tina." And she looked at the baby, who was crying sadly.

Kabam. Tyson back flipped to avoid some deadly beams. The beams burned the ground. Much of the forest is caught on fire. But the fighters don't care. They only care about killing each other. They did the stare for a while, and then charged forward. Whoosh. They exchanged moves lightning fast, and Tyson saw an opening and kicked him up. Whack. Then Tyson punched him, and then slammed his kick on Phoenix's shoulder. Thud. And then a high kick on the neck. Thud. The Phoenix was knocked against a tree, and he got mad. He shot fireballs like crazy, and Tyson had to fly away from them. Bam bam bam.

Tyke was in mid air, and a bunch of fire balls went past him. Froom froom. Suddenly, one of them hit him and he landed in a crouch. Faith came to him. "Tyson, our power is still not enough. Let's use the Spirit Bomb."

Tyke nodded in agreement. It's time to use the move they haven't used in a while. The couple stood back to back, raised their arms, and gathered energy into big ball - its color was blue and pink combined.

The Phoenix opened its palm. "I won't let you do it." Just when he was about to fire, Tina cried. Once again, everyone within the area had to cover their ears. Macintosh and Midas were closest to her, and they fell on their knees and covered their ears. Lisa fell on her knees, shocked at the child's power. The Phoenix screamed in pain. "Arrgh!"

This gave them time to finish their Spirit Bomb. Once it was done, they threw it forward. The Phoenix fired an opposing fireball of the same size. The two energies collided. KABOOM.

Everything became white. The Phoenix's body was destroyed, and the Enchron Crystal was free. Tyson and Faith were blown away as well, and they remained suspended in the air. Everything was frozen, as if time stopped.

Tyson opened his eyes. "Huh? What?"

The Enchron Crystal spoke: "Tyson Spade. I must admit, I did not think you can defeat the power of the legendary Phoenix. I must commend you."

"You are..."

"I am the spirit of the Enchron Crystal. He who possesses me possesses the power of the Phoenix. It was unfortunate that my power fell into the wrong hands. But I believe you will make better use of my power."

"You mean..."

"Yes. I have chosen a new master, and that is you. Summon me when you need me, Tyson Spade." The crystal went into Tyson's chest, and he felt a strange tingle.

Suddenly, time moved again, and Tyson grabbed Faith and landed. She woke up. "Is it over?"

"Yes." he replied. "It's all over."

Junior, Lisa, with Tina, and Midas, ran to them, laughing happily.

Lisa: "Tyson! You did it!"

Tyke: "I couldn't have done it without Faith."

Fay: "No. We couldn't have done it without Tina." She took the baby from Lisa's arms. "If she hadn't distracted the Phoenix, who knows how things will turn out? Our little angle...is a savior child."

Tyke: "She's our daughter, alright. One day she'll grow up to be the strongest fighter alive."

Junior: "Second strongest."

Tyke: "Of course."

The Holy Monks, back at the damaged temple, sensed the disappearance of the demon. They know the heroes have won. Zenon and Xora stared in the direction of the battle. All the training they gave Tyson and Faith was worth it.

As for Tyson, he decided to not tell the others about the Enchron Crystal being inside of him. It's his little secret.

The End.

Finished 4/15/2007

Characters		
Name	Role	Personality
Protagonists	The main characters	-
Areus/ Phoenix	Kill all sayans and all life	A
Paradigm	Demon released from his prison	A
Holy Monks of Amon	Spiritualists	-
Zenon	Leader of monks	S
Xora	Old man, assistant to leader	R