Chapter 79 : What is Right

Dolg, leading the way, turned left at the fork. After walking about three feet, he stood to the side to signify that the others were to pass him. Atsuma was the next. After Atsuma came Koroko and then Pandora. Baas began to turn left when a hand placed itself firmly on his chest to stop him from moving. He looked up to see the Zordo guy with his hand sticking out. Zordo then signified for Baas to turn around. He turned and looked to see that the woman called Magatha was standing to the side of the right turn of the fork. Baas understood. He turned around, away from where Atsuma was heading, and walked past Magatha. Vatti and Sheina followed him solemnly. After all three were in front of them, Zordo and Magatha followed them.

“Hey!” Baas heard being shouted from behind. He turned to see Atsuma yelling in anger. He tried to approach Baas, but Dolg stopped him.

“Keep walking.” He said sternly.

"Why are they going that way?" Atsuma asked upset.

"That's none of your business. You worry about yourself."

"What are you going to do with them?" Koroko stepped forward.

"They're kids!" Pandora said terrified. "You can at least let them stay with us."

"Keep moving." Dolg warned.

“Not until…” Atsuma started, but he wasn’t able to finish. What occurred next was Baas witnessing the elders of team Atsuma receive a beating he did not think they were capable of receiving. It always seemed like these guys were invincible. To see them go down so easily, instilled a moment of fear in Baas.

"Try something like that again and you won't get off with just a beating. What we do with our prisoners is our own business. Now get to marching or I'll kill you right here and now." Dolg said sternly.

Baas watched as Atsuma and the others gathered themselves up and surrender to the Gold.

“Would you like to try anything?” A voice came. Baas turned to see Zordo. Although there was no sign of a smile, Baas could feel the smug cocky attitude coming from the man. Could Baas and the girls beat him if they tried. Analysis. It’s what they trained Baas to do best in the Center. Zordo may have been standing in a position that looked vulnerable, but he was ready. Though his arms were folded, they were done so in a way that should need be, he could easily reach his sword. And if his strength and speed were anything like that Dolg guy, there was no way Baas could lay a hand on him successfully.

“No.” Baas said solemly. He turned forward to continue his march down the hallway. Zordo took his position in front of him. Vatti and Sheina followed the Orange Leader’s example and marched behind him. Magatha was the last to go. However, before the group disappeared around the corner, Baas took one last glance back at Atsuma. As if on cue, Atsuma did the same thing and Baas saw a sight that stuck in his head. Atsuma was scared.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The march seemed to last forever to Baas, although he was keeping track of the time in his mind and it wasn’t as long as it felt. Still, he was bored. He let out a sigh to show everyone his anti-enthusiasm. No response. Well, there was one thing that always worked in times like these. It was a classic among classics for annoying humor, and anything that was both annoying and humorous, Baas was willing to do. He took in some air, prepared to ask his question...

“Before you start that annoying cliché, no we are not there yet.”

Well that completely killed it.

“Baas.” Vatti asked. “You were actually going to say that annoying thing.”

“Um… no…”

“You haven’t changed a bit.” Vatti noted. “I can only imagine poor Sheina here, having to deal with you all the time.”

“Indeed.” Sheina agreed. “Often times when we go somewhere, Atsuma needs someone to watch over this child. And who do you think gets stuck with the job?”

“I do NOT need babysitting.”

“Yes, you do.” Both Sheina and Vatti said at the same time.

“There seems to be more to this relationship than meets the eye.” Magatha said with her calm smile. “I know that Blues and Oranges can often see eye to eye, but you three act like you’ve been friends for years.”

“Center friends!” Baas said proudly. He loved that he was one of the special few who had found his friends outside the Center.

“How nice that must be. And you still act so civilized to each other even though you’re now enemies.”

“What are you talking about?” Baas said with a huge smile. “Vatti hasn’t been civilized since the day she was born.”

Vatti began to lunge at Baas, but was halted by Magatha.

“Ah ah ah. Friends you may be, but you’re still prisoners.”

Knowing what that meant, Vatti settled herself down and continued walking. Baas ceased the opportunity and stuck out his tongue, knowing full well his friend could not do anything about it.

“It must be nice.” Magatha continued. “To have such a naïve sense of things.”

“I’m sure you’d feel the same if you ever met someone you knew from the Center.” Sheina suggested.

“No. I’ve met some of my old friends from the Center. After our meeting, they were no longer breathing.”

A chill was sent down the teenager’s necks simultaneously. At that moment, Zordo and Magatha stopped walking. They had reached the end of the hallyway. The only thing that existed there was a door.

“Magatha presents a point.” Zordo spoke as he opened a door. “Your friends are not necessarily your allies. Once you realize that you are fighting for two different causes, you must choose. Do you betray your friend, or do you betray your allies?”

The door opened. “Step inside. Baas first.”

Baas stepped inside. It was a tower. A tall tower with only one window at the top. It would take 17.32 Baas’ to reach the top. The window shined a golden orange to signify that the sun was setting. There were… metal constructs… small ones linked to each other dangling down from the walls. At the ends were metal loops much bigger than the chain of metal. It looked as though they were meant to hold something.

Baas was brought to the chains across from the door. Zordo loosened the ropes around the Orange’s wrist. Any thought of escaping that may have entered into Baas’ head immediately left when he remembered his friends were still bound.

“Lift your arms.” Zordo said.

“You’re not going to kill us?” Baas asked.

“Not yet.” Zordo replied. He locked the metal bracelets around the young Leader’s wrists.

“Vatti you’re next.”

“What in the Wig are you doing?” Vatti asked. “What’s the point of this? Why don’t you just kill us?”

“Blindly killing what could possibly be good assets to help... that definitely sounds like the thoughts of someone who’s losing the war.”

Again with the insults. Vatti really wanted to teach Magatha a lesson, but the sound of Zordo fastening her chains ensured that that idea was pointless. With the others safely secure, Magatha brought the final prisoner inside.

“We Golds know that the point of all this fighting is for our country to win this war. Rather than just kill you barbarically, like an Orange, we’ll give you twenty-four hours. If by then, you are willing to reveal anything about your country that will aid us in the war, we will let you go. No questions asked.”

“That’s stupid.” Vatti retorted.

“Spoken like a true Blueser.”

“What will happen if we don’t.” Sheina asked. Magatha’s focus had turned to Vatti, but hearing Sheina, she turned back to her.

“What will happen if we don’t say anything in twenty-four hours.” The Orange repeated?

At that moment, Magatha finished fastening the locks around Shiena’s wrist. A small \*clink\* was heard as the room got quiet. Magatha looked at the Orange in front of her to display her evil smirk.

“Then we’ll kill you.”

Sheina could not hide her expression. The atmosphere that Magatha had tried to create had succeeded. Sheina was beyond terrified.

“Don’t fall for it Sheina!” Vatti called out. “It’s a classic tactic used against rookies. They read your emotions to see what you want and what you fear. Then they use those against you.”

Magatha and Zordo looked at Vatti emotionless. Then, without a second going by, Magatha’s smirk returned.

“My my, seems someone’s a little experienced. Given that you’re a Great One, I should expect that.” The Gold began to approach Vatti. “I take it you’re not afraid that your life is in danger.”

“Of course not.” Vatti said looking serious. “Death is a part of war.”

Magatha and Vatti’s eyes glared at each other for a moment. It was silent, as though there was some battle going on that could not be seen.

“Indeed.” Magatha said. “You’ve seen enough death to accept this fact. A very rare quality in someone so young. Even more rare given the fact that you’re a Blue.”

Magatha pulled out her sword from her side and walked away from Vatti.

“You’re life is no longer the highest priority for you. But I wonder, what about his?”

Without warning, Magatha extended her sword, just enough so that the point almost touched Baas’ throat. It was a good thing Baas had seen it coming and lifted his chin. Though her sword was pointed toward Baas, Magatha’s attention was still on Vatti.

“Does his life matter to you?”

Vatti eyes widened. Her facial expression changed completely. The confidence that had existed only seconds ago was gone.“Why you...”

“Looks like we have a winner.” Magatha began to circle Baas, changing from a stabbing position to a slicing position.

“Leave him alone!” Vatti shouted.

“Now how could I possibly do that? He is my prisoner too after all, but much more he is special to you, even more so than your own life. Do you understand where I’m getting at?”

Magatha put her free hand around Baas as though preparing for the kill.

“If you don’t get your hands off of him I’ll…!”

“Watch as I spill his slit his throat?” Magatha finished. Vatti stopped herself.

“You still don’t get it, do you? Well what if I make you this offer then? Normally it’s one confession per life, but if **you** give us information, miss Vatti, I’ll let all 3 of you go.”

Vatti let out a small gasp. She held her head down. She could no longer look at Magatha. The Gold had bested her.

“Hard to face, isn’t it?” Magatha said. She lowered the sword away from Baas’ neck. Her gaze shifted away from Vatti and over to Sheina. The Orange was looking away with tears in her eyes.

“Her too? My, aren’t we the popular one.” She said to Baas.

She stabbed her sword into the ground and walked slowly toward Vatti.

“When I threatened your friend with her fear, you told her to face it. When I threatened you with her fear, you stood your ground. But her fear is not your fear. When I faced you with your fear, the fear of that boy dying, you were vulnerable. Then I presented an easy way out, and you were tempted to take it, so long as you didn’t have to face your fear. Not being afraid of something is not the same as being brave. You can easily tell someone else to face their fears, because you’re not afraid. Only when you face your own fear, can you truly understand. Understand?”

Vatti did not respond. She kept her head hanging down. It was as though the life had been drained from her.

“I think I broke her.” Magatha raised her hand in preparation to hit the girl. “Time to wake up.”

That was all Baas could stand. Next to him was Magatha’s sword. Using his left foot, he kicked the sword out of the ground into the air. As it came down, making sure not to touch the blade, the Orange Leader kicked the sword towards Magatha’s direction.

Magatha heard the noise, but was much too slow to do anything about it. She only had time enough to turn her head to see the sword come at her. But before the blade could hit her, it stopped in mid air. Magatha, frozen in place, looked to see Zordo holding the sword that should have come to her.

“Careful Magatha.” The other Gold said “Your weapon was used against you.”

Magatha snatched her sword away from Zordo without saying another word. The Leader ignored her and began speaking aloud.

“You should know that giving information is not the only way to relieve yourself from death. If you were to join our country, you would also be spared. Of course, that is reserved only for those with particular skills of interests. Either way, in twenty-four hours, you have a decision to make. We await your response.”

And with that, the Golds made their exits from the tower. They didn’t speak immediately as they walked down the hall, but once out of hearing distance, Magatha couldn’t help but speak her mind.

“I can see why you’re interested in him.”

“Pardon?” Zordo replied.

“Mentioning that he could join the Golds yet again when you know that is highly unlikely. You can’t hide how much you want Baas in this country”

“My comment was made into the atmosphere to all those kids. And with my reputation, I’m sure I could convince the Commander if need be.”

“But it is Baas that you’re particularly interested in, correct? After all, you called him by name.”

“If you’re memory were working, you’d realized that I called Vatti by name as well.”

“Its okay Zordo, I know why you’re interested. That thing he did with his feet, kicking a sword that high out from the ground takes massive leg strength. One you wouldn’t normally find in a white band. And on top of that, his aim accurately sent the sword in my direction using only his feet. That’s not something a lot can do, let alone a sixteen-year old Orange. I’m not even sure I could do that. Can you?”

“Perhaps.” Zordo said plainly. “I’ve never tried.”

“Of course, the mighty Zordo can do everything.”

“I’m not very good with a bow.”

“So you say, but I’ve learned there’s always something secretive behind what you say.”

“A teammate who doesn’t trust me... I couldn’t have asked for more.”

“I trust you, just not what you say. You saved me from the sword didn’t you?”

“You should be more careful. Even if Baas hadn’t stopped you, I would have. Hitting someone who is already bound and not showing resistance could be considered torture. The Discretes are enemies I wouldn’t be able to help you with.”

“You’re giving me the run around to avoid talking about Baas, aren’t you?”

“Just because you think something, doesn’t make it true.”

“And just because you say it might not be true, doesn’t make it false.”

Zordo remained quiet after that comment.

“ Fine then, but at least you can agree with me that Baas is naïve. To believe that he can live in a world with his enemies as friends.”

“Everyone believes that their way of living is best. That’s why we’re fighting this war. If everyone agreed on one way, there would be no reason to fight. We see our way as best, he sees his way. Which way is right... well... perhaps we’ll never agree on that.”

Chapter 79 End