

Heaven Bound

Part 2 – The Trials of the Threshold

This chapter will introduce Jax's first challenge, testing his mind, perception, and willpower as he steps deeper into the unknown.

Jax stood before the Keeper of the Threshold, his heart pounding as the strange, shifting cosmos stretched infinitely around him. He had chosen to seek the truth—but the Keeper had made it clear: knowledge wasn't given freely. It had to be earned.

"You wish to cross into Heaven Bound?" the Keeper's voice echoed through the space around him. "Then you must pass the Trials of the Threshold."

Jax clenched his fists. "I'm ready."

The Keeper raised her hand, and suddenly, the ground beneath Jax vanished.

He was falling.

But there was no air, no wind—just an endless void swallowing him. His mind spun, and then—he landed.

Except... it wasn't the same place.

The First Trial – The Mirror of Truth

Jax found himself in a vast, white room, stretching in all directions, with no walls, no ceiling. Just... emptiness. In front of him stood a large, floating mirror—but his reflection wasn't normal.

It was moving on its own.

Jax stepped forward cautiously, staring at himself. His reflection grinned at him, but he hadn't smiled.

"What—?"

Then, the reflection spoke.

"Are you sure you're real?" it asked, tilting its head.

Jax took a step back. "What kind of trick is this?"

The reflection laughed—a hollow, eerie sound. "This is the Mirror of Truth. The first trial. You don't leave until you answer one question: Who are you?"

Jax's breath caught in his throat. "What do you mean? I'm Jax, a pilot from—"

"Wrong." The reflection smirked. "That's just a name. A title. A role you play in the universe. But it's not who you are."

Jax's mind raced. The words hit him harder than he expected. Who am I?

The reflection stepped forward, emerging from the mirror. Now, there were two of him, standing face to face.

"Are you the one who seeks knowledge?" it asked. "Or are you just another explorer, lost in the cosmos, pretending to have purpose?"

Jax swallowed hard. "I..."

The reflection leaned in. "Until you understand yourself, you cannot move forward."

The words echoed in Jax's mind. Then, suddenly—he knew.

Jax closed his eyes and took a deep breath.

“I am more than a name. More than a traveler. I am someone who refuses to live in ignorance.” He opened his eyes, staring directly into his reflection. “I seek truth. Not for power. Not for control. But because I believe there is more to this universe than what we see.”

The reflection smiled.

Then, it shattered into light.

The mirror faded, and the white room dissolved. Jax felt himself being pulled forward—through space, through time—until he stood once more before the Keeper.

“You have passed the first trial,” she said.

Jax exhaled in relief. But before he could rest, the Keeper raised her hand again.

“The next trial awaits.”

The ground vanished once more.

Jax was falling again—this time, into darkness.

To Be Continued...