

This is a story I had in my head as a daydream for a while, and I felt the urge to put it into writing. However, I'm bad at planning stories, and decided to build a simple web app to help me with that. This is the beginning of my daydream, which has been greatly amplified with the help of the tool I made.

"Good morning, everyone! I'm so glad everyone could make it today, especially our friends from Glaxia-Bea who almost couldn't make it after a supernova forced them to take a fifty thousand light-year detour."

A golden-haired youth, dressed in a simple lab coat, stood before a group of nearly one hundred people amidst the bright, glaring lights of a presentation room.

"Now, I know all of you still have a lot of work left to wrap up before the big day tomorrow, so I'll make this brief. Up till now, since I've been coordinating things from afar, you've all looked at me as the leader of this group."

"But I'm not the one who's made this whole thing possible. No, that would be..."

He pressed a button on the podium, and turned around. With a *whoosh* a metal door slid open, and from behind rolled out an old man on a mechanized wheelchair. A murmur ran through the crowd. Every single person present recognized this man before them.

"Yes, that's right, the Trans-Dimensional Endeavor is the culminating work of Professor Al-Abadi!" The youth yelled, unable to contain his excitement. The crowd grew louder upon hearing his name spoken.

"Thank you, Andrew," a low voice echoed out. Instantly, the room silenced.

"I'm very grateful to you all, for making this old man's dream a reality. Twisting the very fundamental rules of our universe is an endeavor humanity has pursued since the dawn of time. To think that at my age, I could see the advent of another day where we shatter all our preconceived notions once more. I still remember it like yesterday, that day over 900 years ago when humanity stretched its wings to the stars. So now, let us bear witness to a day that will far surpass that one," Al-Abadi began to roll off the stage, to return to the main laboratory. Seeing this, Andrew rushed back up to the podium.

"Professor Al-Abadi would like to see the theoretical physics team and the quantum engineers in his main lab. I'd like to see the Frontline team in meeting hall D to discuss strategy. That's Miyamoto's Scout Team, Santiago's Power Team, Anya's Gate Team, and of course Rohan's Defense Team. The rest of you, keep working on your projects, and send me a message if you don't think you'll be ready for tomorrow."

The crowd began to split off as everyone left for their destinations.

Meeting Hall D:

"Alright, so I've been over the plan individually with you all before, but since this is everyone's first time meeting in person, I figured we'd go over it again to make sure we're all on the same page." Andrew took a seat at the head of the table as various members of the Frontline team streamed in.

"Once the Trans-Dimensional Gate is open, the Scout Team is going to be the first ones through. We won't send anyone else through until Captain Miyamoto gives the all clear that it's safe. That's when the Gate Team will go through and stabilize the Gate from the other side. Until the Gate is stabilized, we're going to be on a strict timer before it collapses, so this'll have to all be done fast. Once Captain Anya gives the signal that the Gate is being supported from both sides, we'll send in Captain Santiago's Power and Captain Rohan's Defense Team to begin constructing a longer term base of operations that'll be safe. The chain of command is Rohan, Anya, Miyamoto, then Santiago, but it should only matter if an emergency occurs. Any questions?"

The gathered members remained quiet.

"Alright, then all of you get yourselves ready for the big day tomorrow. All the other teams only have some finishing touches left, so assuming nothing goes catastrophically wrong, all of you will get to step into a new dimension tomorrow."

"Good. Come on team, let's go check our equipment over again." A tall, slender woman with long hair began to leave with the rest of the Gate Team in tow. Following her lead, the other assembled teams began to disperse as well, until only Andrew remained with a middle-aged, dark skinned man.

"Do you really think we're going to need all these weapons? We're sending enough firepower through that Gate to level a city," the man spoke.

"Of course we do, Rohan. There's no telling what could be on the other side of that portal."

A tall, young man with straight black hair and piercing eyes walked away from Meeting Hall D, headed back to his chambers. As he rounded the corner, he came eye to chest with a woman nearly seven and a half feet tall and five hundred pounds of bio-engineered muscle, who stood silently glaring at the man.

"So you're supposed to be my Captain?" she asked, bending over to stare at him.

"If you're Mei of the Scout Team, then yes, I am Captain Miyamoto," he calmly responded.

"I don't believe you."

Miyamoto frowned.

"Follow me," Mei spoke curtly, and turned and began walking down the hall.

Still frowning, Miyamoto followed, wondering what exactly her plan was. He knew, of course, exactly who she was. Every individual here stood at the top of their fields, having earned fame across the galaxy for their achievements. Even though very few had met in person before, they all knew the names of their fellow peers.

Miyamoto followed Mei into a large gymnasium set up as a training facility.

"Now fight me," Mei said, turning around.

"Huh?"

"If I'm going to be following orders in a completely unknown alien world, then my captain had better be at least as strong as me!" Mei roared.

"Look, I think you're misunderstanding th-"

Bang!

Miyamoto was cut off as Mei slammed her fist into the ground where he was standing, leaving a crater the size of a basketball. But as fast as Mei was, Miyamoto was her match, dodging the lightning-fast strike in a way that almost seemed graceful.

"I've heard of you. Miyamoto, the Robot. Your little neural enhancements might qualify you to be here as an engineer, but what right do they give you to stand with me on the frontlines!?"

Mei charged once again towards Miyamoto, delivering a flurry of blows, each one carrying enough weight to crush a human's bones to dust. Miyamoto ducked and weaved, evading every blow with pin-point precision as he tried to back away.

"Is running all you can do? And you thought you could help in a fight?" Mei slowly crept forward as Miyamoto found himself backing into a corner.

Clang clang clang

Mei turned her head to the door as a loud metallic banging noise could be heard. The doors to the training room blasted open, and two metallic dogs the size of horses barged in. Immediately,

compartments on each of the dogs' sides opened up, revealing four rapidly rotating miniguns prepared to fire.

"I may not be the best at hand to hand combat, but my neural enhancements give me a lot more than research abilities."

"You think these little toys are enough to beat me?"

Mei raised her arms to protect her head and charged like a bull towards the dogs.

"You asked for it." With a mental command, Miyamoto unleashed the readed weapons, sending a torrent of hot metal crashing towards Mei.

Mei's super-enhanced skin shrugged off the bullets, with only a red mark left behind. The incoming hail barely slowed her down, and she closed in on the two dogs in a flash. A single fist strike sent the first of the dogs flying with a large dent smashed into the side, and sparks flying out of the machinery. Mei raised her fist to disable the second dog, when Andrew came flying around the corner with a scrawny man in tow.

"Stop, Mei! What are you doing!?" Andrew shouted.

"This man is unfit to be my captain," she responded, lowering her fist. "He doesn't possess the strength to handle the dangers we could face."

"Maybe he doesn't have the strength to face the dangers *you* might deal with, but he's not the Scout Team Captain because of his combat abilities, though they're still quite high," Andrew explained.

Mei furrowed her brows.

"Sure, if you two walk into a dimension of Saber-tooth Tigers, you'll be doing most of the work. But if the atmosphere isn't breathable, or there's a deadly virus floating in the air, or the area is radioactive, what exactly do you plan to do?"

"Hmph" Mei snorted in response.

"His neural enhancements let him analyze huge amounts of data super quickly, so we've connected every sensor we've got to him. There's no one better to make sure your environment is safe from invisible threats. It's your job to keep him safe from any *physical* threats."

"Well, as long as you know you're not my equal," Mei snapped as she stomped out of the training room.

As she left, the scrawny man ran over to the downed metal dog.

"Alphonso, no! Damn that crazy woman! These things can stand up to missiles, but one punch from her and my baby died!" the man wailed.

"Can you get it working again by tomorrow, Luka?" Andrew asked.

"Oh, my poor baby, I'll have you working and ready for tomorrow! Oh man, and I was looking forward to my day off, too. But I simply can't leave Alphonso looking like this," Luka complained, as he loaded Alphonso onto a floating bay.

"How are the sensors and robots suiting you, Captain?" Andrew turned his attention to Miyamoto.

"Really well. I've been able to integrate them into my standard flow without much disruption. I would have brought in Cho and Kent, too, but they were too far away," Miyamoto replied. "But more, importantly, what took you so long? You watched that entire time while that crazy woman nearly took my head off."

"Ah...haha. Sorry, I just wanted to see for myself what you could do in a fight. Well, you certainly look like you held up fine. And Luka will get his 'baby' back up in no time, I'm sure," Andrew replied, rubbing the back of his neck.

"Held up fine? My enhancements give me instant reflexes, and it still took everything I had just to dodge that woman," Miyamoto said. "You know, it's not like I'm a stranger to fights. These toys of mine also give me instant learning abilities. Back when I first installed them, I learned a dozen or so martial arts just to test them out. And since everything is stored away nicely in my hard drive, I'm not even the least bit rusty."

"Hah! I bet there's very few places you could talk about those implants as openly as you can here," Andrew chuckled. "At least your enhancements are a lot easier to hide than Mei's. Most of the people here stick with secret labs, though."

"I doubt someone like her cares. Are there even security forces in this galaxy strong enough to capture her?"

"Haha! If there are, they're probably in this building," Andrew looked around as he began walking back to the door. "Well, I've still got a lot of people to check up on, so I'll see you tomorrow."

The Next Day

“Generator Team, give me a status report.” Andrew stood directly behind a glass pane, looking out at a large courtyard covered in machinery.

“Our output is at 101% of the required. We’re ready anytime.”

“Good. Systems Team?”

“Everything is green.”

“Then let’s begin. Open the power lines!”

The machinery began to buzz with energy as numerous systems began charging up.

“Flux Capacitors at 10%! 25%! 60%! 90%! 100%”

“The Ion Weave has reached critical mass!”

“Starting rotations of the Tunneling Sphere!”

In the center of the courtyard, a small speck of black light appeared. It quickly began to spin and expand, looking like a bottomless hole that could suck in even the surrounding light. Within in a minute, it grew to nearly 10 feet in diameter.

“Status!” Andrew barked.

“Spatial stability has been reached! Our power reserves are at 75%! The Gate will hold for approximately 72 more seconds!”

“Less time than expected...” Andrew murmured. “Send in the Scout Team!”

Miyamoto and Mei, flanked by three large robotic dogs and a single flying robotic bird, quickly made their way up to the black hole. Two of the three dogs leapt in, followed shortly by Miyamoto, Mei, and the final two robots.

A lush forest appeared before the eyes of the two humans. A short distance away, rolling hills covered in towering trees dotted the landscape. The sun gently spilled through cracks in the forest cover, revealing a deep blue sky. As the Scout Team stepped out, several small animals scattered and fled.

Miyamoto instantly began processing the data coming in to him through the sensors that had been hooked to his belt. Mei began to patrol the area around where the black hole they emerged from still silently rotated.

“The atmospheric makeup is almost identical to Earth’s...” Miyamoto murmured to himself.

Nearby, Mei gently touched one of the trees.

“Did we really come to a new dimension?” she asked.

“All the data is remarkably similar to Earth’s conditions. Still, something feels off... but that’s just my gut talking, not the data,” Miyamoto replied. “We should send the all-clear,” he said, tossing a green fluorescent stick back into the hole. Almost immediately after, Anya and the Gate Team poured through, along with floating bays carrying large equipment.

“Guard me while I stabilize the Gate,” she said to Miyamoto and Mei.

“Got it,” Miyamoto responded, sending his robotic bird high into the sky to scout for potential danger. His three attack dogs roamed silently around the perimeter of the area, continually sending audio and visual information directly to Miyamoto’s brain.

Bzzz!

The black hole, which had been slowly shrinking, re-expanded to its original size. One of the Gate Team members went back through, and the Power and Defense Team began to pour through shortly after.

“Alright Scout Team, Big Bad Rohan is here! Why don’t you two head out and live up to your name?”

“Roger that!” Miyamoto shouted in response, as he joined up with Mei and the two began to head deeper into the forest in the directions of the hills along with two of the attack dogs. “I’m leaving behind Alphonso so I can keep track of what’s going on here.”

With that, the two began to explore the unknown environment. Miyamoto continued to comb through the data available to try and distinguish what, if anything, made this new dimension unique.

“There’s a river over this way,” Miyamoto said, changing course.

“So you really can see through all of those robots at the same time?” Mei asked as she shot Miyamoto a glance.

“Yes. My enhancements let me split my consciousness, so multitasking is trivial for me. And if I really needed to focus, I could let my purely computer parts handle the robots. I made sure to prepare a simple AI script that’ll control their behavior just in case,” Miyamoto explained. “And since we’re sharing our secrets, what’s your secret compound you invented to get that tough?”

“Ha! So you're interested in organic chemistry, now? You just want to add my research to your little compendium, don't you? Andrew told me all about how you only agreed to help in exchange for the Gate schematics. What do you even plan to do with them?”

“Not anything, really. But I've already got all the publicly available technology downloaded to my storage, so I guess I'm just a bit of a collector. I can't help but get my hands on all that research that the government won't allow, so this opportunity really was like a gold mine. Andrew almost didn't agree to give them to me in advance, but I really pushed for it.”

“Not gonna do anything with it? You're still pretty young, I suppose. What are you, 50? 60?” Mei asked.

“I'm 54 years old. And you say that as though you're old, but aren't you only 100?”

“107, actually. And didn't you know it's not polite to ask a lady her age?”

“Of course, I'd never ask a lady her age. But whatever you are, it's certainly not a lady.”

Mei grinned. “Oh yeah? You're lucky I don't pound your face in for that comment. If you-”

“Oh!” Miyamoto interjected. “I found a village!”

“What? A village?” Mei exclaimed.

“Yes! It's about 20 miles downriver. And it's filled with humans... At least, they look like humans. But that can't be right, can it? We come to a new dimension, and the first thing we find are people...?” Miyamoto trailed off, confused. “I'm beginning to analyze their language, and I'll stream it to your Universal Translator. I'll leave Cho there, we should head back to base camp and report this.”

“Fine. All these trees look the same to me anyways.”

With Miyamoto and Mei hurrying, they were able to quickly close the distance back to the Gate. Cho continued to listen to the villagers, and the stream of information allowed Miyamoto to easily decode the language more completely.

“We should be in range of the short-range radio from the top of this hill.” Miyamoto gestured towards the peak of the hill they were climbing. Mei began to race ahead, leaving behind Miyamoto as she quickly closed in on the peak. However, just before she could reach the top, a thundering voice echoed out.

“The Black Clouds Roil!”

Both Mei and Miyamoto were shocked as they realized they could only understand the voice thanks to their Universal Translator's new language.

"Foolish Trespassers, I, Silla, demand you submit at once! The penalty for remaining here is death!"

The Gate Base Camp

"What's he saying!?" shouted Anya, her eyes locked on a man atop a hill, nearly half a mile away, dressed in a black cloak that whipped wildly in the sudden wind. Dense black clouds in the sky seemed to seethe with anger, and every member of the Frontline team could feel the tremendous power poised to come crashing down.

"I don't know, but it can't be good!" responded Rohan. "Power up the Phaser Array!"

Sensing the building energy, the strange man narrowed his eyes. Seeing that the trespassers would not leave, he gestured with his right arm towards the sky, and then waved it back down. A thunderous boom split the air, as a streak of black lightning surged towards the power generator and the nearby Santiago.

"Fire the Phaser Array!" roared Rohan as he raced desperately towards his temporary command station.

Twelve beams of light shot out, merging into a singular ray of destruction that flew up to match the black lightning. As the two blasts collided, the surrounding trees of the forest began to collapse, and any Frontline Team members unlucky enough to not have something to hold on to were sent flying. Rohan, clinging desperately to the railings on his makeshift command station, continued to bark orders to those around him.

"I need all hands on deck! Power Team, power up the Energy Barrier! Gate Team, reset the Phaser Array! Defense Team, open fire on that man!"

The Frontline members all sprang to action in response to Rohan's orders. The Defense Team members, each equipped with a personal mag-rifle, all began to unleash a spray of bullets at the cloaked man. However, before any of the bullets could reach him, a bolt of black lightning would fly out from his cloak to strike it down.

"That won't be enough to break my armor!" shouted the man as he analyzed the completely foreign incoming attack.

At that moment, amongst all the chaos, only Gate Team Captain Anya noticed the incoming notification from the Universal Translators.

“Mei sent us a new language?” she wondered, but barely had time to consider it before a now-understandable voice reached their ears.

“So I underestimated you, hmm? It seems you have a capable Runesmith amongst you. But do you fools think that’ll be enough!?”

“Black Lightning Rain!”

Once more, a thunderous voice, charged with energy, rolled out through the forest. Under its command, the remaining black clouds overhead condensed into balls of black lightning that began to rain down over the entire base camp.

“Deploy the Energy Barrier!”

A translucent dome of energy rose from the ground and enclosed the base camp in a gently glowing shield. The rain of black lightning began to pound into the barrier, and cracks quickly became visible.

“I need more energy, Santiago!” roared Rohan.

“I can’t, it’ll close the Gate!” “We’re going to die if you don’t!”

Just as the barrier showed signs of breaking under the pounding lightning, a surge of energy reinforced it. The previously stable Gate began to spin more rapidly, shrinking as it did.

“If this goes on much longer, the Gate will collapse!” shouted Santiago.

Despite the energy boost, the barrier managed to only hold out a few more seconds before collapsing, and the sparse leftover black lightning fell into the collapsed trees, lighting the forest alight.

“The barrier is overloaded!” shouted a member of the Power Team.

“Shit! We need to-”

“Black Flash”

A black streak extended from the peak of the hill to the center of the camp, as Silla appeared before Rohan.

“So you’re their Runesmith?” he asked, as he turned over his palm. Another resounding boom echoed out as a bolt of black lightning leapt from his hand, blasting a hole through Rohan’s chest.

“Rohan!” “No!”

With a dull thud Rohan collapsed to the ground. As the cloaked man turned to examine the panicking people around him, a large metal dog leaped from behind a tree towards him.

“Ridiculous.” Three black bolts of lightning sprang automatically from the man, blasting the dog into pieces. As the smoking remains of the destroyed robot fell to the ground, he turned his attention to the black Gate that was now spinning wildly out of control.

Before he could do anything, however, one of the remnants of Alphonso lit up and began to hum loudly. Silla barely had time to react before a large explosion rocked the base camp from beneath his feet.

“Master!” Several men and women clothed in simple white robes rushed towards the location of the impact.

“Kill them all!” bellowed a voice from amidst the smoke of the blast. Silla stumbled out, with tattered robes and several small scratches adorning his body.

“Rahhh!” they bellowed in response, charging into the base camp.

“Defense Team! Fire at will!” shouted Anya, assuming command. “We need to get back through the Gate!”

Before she could move, however, a silver, ephemeral bolt impaled her through the head. Blasts of energy from the robed attackers rained down on the helpless foreigners, as the Frontline began to crumble like ash. One member of the Defense Team managed to bring down his attacker, before being killed by a tongue of flame. Try as they might, the Defense Team didn’t have enough firepower to match up to these unknown combatants.

Nearby, Santiago fell to his knees, in a daze as he watched his teammates and comrades getting slaughtered.

“How could this be happening? Magic can’t possibly exist, can it?”

Confusion was the last feeling experienced by Santiago.

“Are you okay, Master?” One of the white-robed assailants approached Silla.

“These trespassers were strong enough to damage me through my Lightning Shroud,” he said. “They were probably here to interfere with my Cloud Rank promotion.”

“Master, we won’t allow anything to interfere with your advancement,” the man said as he bowed.

Mei pushed herself to ascend the hill even faster upon hearing the hostile shout. As she reached the peak, she felt a wave of energy roll over her as a thick bolt of black lightning and a beam of light collided in the distance. She quickly transmitted the language data gathered by Miyamoto to base camp, and prepared to race down to help. Before she could, however, a new voice reached her ears.

“What’s the rush, pretty lady?”

Mei whipped her head to the side to see a man emerge from the treeline. He was as tall as she was and just as thick, dressed in a simple white robe with a greatsword resting on his shoulder.

“Who are you, asshole?” Mei shouted back.

“Oh ho! Pretty, and feisty! You know, girls like you are a rarity. I made Anik go take on your friend so I’d have you all to myself. The name’s Tulimak, by the way.” The man gave a friendly smile, as though he was asking Mei out on a date. “I’ve never been able to fight a woman in an equal match! Sure, I killed that Smoke Rank mage, but mages are so squishy, they’re no fun to fight.”

“I’m going to close that obnoxious mouth of yours permanently!” Mei raised her fists and charged, closing the distance in a flash. The swordsman swung his sword down to meet Mei’s charge, and she met it head on with her fist. Both Tulimak and Mei stumbled backwards, as a thin line of blood trickled from Mei’s fist.

“Wow! Not even my uncle hits that hard! Dance with me, baby!” Tulimak closed the distance between them with a flurry of blows. Each blow carried enough weight to leave deep craters in the ground, but Mei deflected each one with barely a mark left behind. However, Tulimak’s reach continued to keep Mei on the defensive as he slowly pushed her back.

Bang!

Mei slammed her foot into the ground, sending up a cloud of dust. Tulimak swung his blade to disperse the dust, and Mei took advantage of the opening to deliver a straight right to his temple. Tulimak stumbled backwards as Mei pushed her advantage, preparing to deliver a killing blow. As she drew near, a strange energy began gathering on the blade of Tulimak’s greatsword.

“Brilliant Crescendo!”

A beam of light erupted from his blade and slammed into Mei, sending her flying backwards. She slammed into a tree and collapsed to the ground as blood oozed from a large wound in her chest.

"Now, why don't you show me your weapon art, my fair lady?" Tulimak smirked as he regained his footing.

Mei slowly picked herself up off the ground and glared at Tulimak.

"Why are you attacking us?" she asked.

"Ha! You trespass on our territory and ask why we attack? Everyone knows that this is where my master, the great Black Lightning Mage Silla lives. Did you think you could provoke him and get away with it?"

Tulimak readied his blade for an attack. However, Mei acted first, blasting off the ground straight towards Tulimak. His blade swung straight down to meet her, but Mei was ready. Reading the attack, she turned to the side, narrowly avoiding the blade. With lightning speed she lashed out, grabbing onto Tulimak's right arm and yanking it straight out of his shoulder with a vicious shout.

"Ahhh!" Tulimak's eyes went wide as he screamed in pain, and desperately swung his greatsword once more.

However, with only a single arm, he couldn't generate the power to stop Mei. She easily stopped his blade with her right hand while delivering a blow to his chin with her left.

Tulimak reeled, and shouted "How!? You took my blade art head on! How can you still fight like this!?"

Mei responded by grabbing the back of his head, and destroying it over her knee like a watermelon.

Miyamoto paused as he chased after Mei up the hill.

"It's pointless to hide," he said, directing his gaze to a nearby cluster of trees on the hillside.

"Well done. My name's Anik. There aren't many who can detect me through my wind cloak," said a young man dressed in a white robe as he stepped out into view.

"What do you want?" Miyamoto spoke calmly, as he monitored the situation at base camp through the eyes of Alphonso.

"My master told us that two of the intruders would be here. He's given us the chance to prove ourselves, and I have no intention of letting him down. So, you'll have to die for me, intruder."

Anik raised his hand, and a blade of translucent green energy flew towards Miyamoto, who casually leaned out of the way.

"Can't we talk about this? We really don't have any malicious intentions," Miyamoto said.

"Our master has already given us our mission. Leaving you alive would be akin to betraying him."

With that, Anik threw his arms wide as he gestured towards Miyamoto.

"Cutting Wind"

Countless amounts of the previous small blades of energy descended upon Miyamoto. With no way to dodge, he quickly lept backwards, but the blades of energy were even faster as they bore down on him. Just before they hit him, a metal dog burst out of the foliage and intercepted the blades, receiving severe damage in the process.

At the same time, a second dog appeared behind Anik, miniguns unleashing a torrent of bullets.

"Wind Wall"

Energy swirled around the mage, bending the trajectory of the incoming bullets away from him. With the mage's attention diverted, Miyamoto turned and fled into the woods. Seeing this, Anik pushed both arms outwards towards the dog, and the energy that had been swirling around him formed into a wall in front of him that raced forward. The raging torrent of energy charged forward heedless of the stream of bullets to slam into the attack dog, and a mighty boom erupted as wild energy ripped the attack dog to shreds.

"This isn't enough to get away!" Anik roared.

"Tailwind"

Energy rushed from behind him as he accelerated at an incredible pace in the direction Miyamoto ran. He quickly closed in, and began to fire off wind blades towards the fleeing Miyamoto. Miyamoto evaded each one as though he had eyes in the back of his head, but Anik swiftly closed the distance. Surrounded by swirling energy, he flew with a kick towards Miyamoto, grazing his face.

It only took that single fly-by for Miyamoto to notice the sweat covering Anik's face.

“Using this many impressive abilities in a row must take its toll. Now’s my chance, before he does something drastic to try and end the battle,” Miyamoto thought to himself.

Anik, still hurtling through the forest at incredible speeds surrounded by energy, circled back for a second attack at Miyamoto.

“I won’t miss this time!” he shouted as he beared down on Miyamoto.

Miyamoto raised his arms to block, not dodging out of the way. Anik slammed into him with tremendous force, sending Miyamoto flying as raging wind currents finally came to a stop. Miyamoto slammed with a dull thud into the ground, rolling a few times before not moving. Anik stood, watching carefully, ready to ensure that his foe wouldn’t get back up again.

Seeing Miyamoto continue to lie still, Anik cautiously began to approach. Before he could get near, however, the bushes parted as a metal dog collapsed from its damage. Anik instinctively launched a wind blade towards it, but before it could reach, the metal dog erupted in a ball of flame, consuming Anik and the nearby foliage.

“Damn, Francis was barely able to make it even with all the damage it took.” Miyamoto breathed a sigh of relief. “I don’t know what I would have done if Francis and Kent had gone down.”

Just as he was catching his breath, Miyamoto heard a rustling near him. Jumping into a defensive posture, he prepared to flee. However, before he could run, a hulking figure popped out and rushed towards him.

“Mei, you’re alive!” Miyamoto released his tension.

“I saw it from the top of the hill. Base camp was destroyed. It’s just us now.” Mei said bluntly. “What do we do now, Captain?”