

# Legend of Twilight 2

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*Continuation of a boys Struggle against Hell*

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# 1 - The Twilight

"And that's the story Sam" I said reliving everything I had just recently gone through

"Ya don't say...?" Sam said and gave me a crazy look.

"Don't worry...your not the only one who doesn't believe in the beginning," I said standing up. The boat rocked but then kept a steady course before Captain Sam spoke again.

"Aye Leon its not that I don't believe ya cause that's hardly the case what I don't so much get is why your traveling this far to go save this girl of yours...I mean ya said you only just knew her" Sam said scratching his head.

"Yeah...but theirs something really important about her Sam...I can't explain it cause I hardly understand it myself" I said.

"Err.... I believe its called love..?" Sam said questioningly," If ya love the lass lad all ya had to do was say so"

"...Its not that...like I said I hardly know her...its something else and I'm not going to let her be killed until I can find out" I said.

But then again maybe I was doing this for more than just that I thought.

"To each his own lad I need to get back to the crew" Sam said lifting up and begins to holler orders at his crewmen. After fleeing the Twin cities I caught a ride with Sam who knew the Southern Seas well. I showed him the general direction Lenneth had given me before and Sam was easily able to tell what he had been talking about. It was an island continent called Albina. The area itself was easy to find but once we got there I was on my own to find where the princess was being held. I sat there in deep thought in the scorching sun above. The cool summer winds gave me shelter to the blistering sun's rays. I took a deep breath. I felt like I had escape some type of prison except the sanction was a whole new prison of its own. I was restricted to the castle so much I had almost never in my life had to listen to so many order of someone who was supposedly above me and strength and stature. I run my life my way I thought always have...always will.

"I'm warning you now Leon" Sam said from the top of the ship." Albina is no push over.... The terrain could easily kill a man before anything that lies deep in those sands...from what you told me what your searching for could very well be in those sands I speak of"

" Yeah yeah" I answered back to him. I laid my head down on the warm wood of Sam's vessel. It had changed a good amount since I saw it last. A new interior and a lot of the outer parts had been repainted and redone over. With time I had already traveled with him and Sam's coming speed we should be there by midday tomorrow, and then another thought crossed my mind. For some reason I thought of Ariel. I still didn't even know if she made it off that ship safely. I had faith from before but it was a lot more reassuring to have heard or seen her. Another problem that just came to me would be how I'd even find where the princess was. With the money I had with me I could safely cross the desert but if I couldn't find her just by passing I would probably die out their searching since I can only hold enough supplies for a one-way trip. None of this I really thought much of when I was with the Sanction. That night I drifted asleep and the dream that woke me up late in the night wasn't something I wanted to have again. I was terrified... more then I'd have been in my entire life. The Consequences of me failing.... dieing... I'd lose everything in this world should that happen. I sighed and took a deep breath and tried to get some sleep, but the escape that we called rest didn't come to me and until dawn I was tortured in my wake of what was in the balance of my own life. Sam had sailed all the way through the night with

out much of rest and in returns by dawn we where in Albina. Neither the crew nor Sam stayed long here. They got off unloaded, rested for a few minutes, and then where back off. Sam loaned me a map of what he recollected the deserts to look like. The map was rough at best. Huge portions of it where gone and their wasn't much detail at all. If I got lost or one of the villages on this map ceased to exist at the time I needed them I would surely perish in the harsh desert. The thought alone kept me from leaving when I first arrived. All the supplies...water...food...anything I thought I'd need I doubled on. It seemed like the first time in my life I valued my life so much. I always thought if I died at least others would live on but with the world as it is now.... if I die...everyone dies.

"Leon!" A voice called from behind me.

I was startled for a second but when I looked back I was pretty relived.

"Damien" I laughed," long time".

"I hoped I'd catch up to you before you left" Damien said. He was dressed in dark robes that covered over his face like a veil and the rest of his body.

"...Aren't you gonna be a little hot in that" I inquired.

"Don't worry about me...I've been all through out these deserts," Damien said handing me a map. The map was twice the size that Sam had given me. Nothing was blank and the entire desert was filled in from the smallest rest stops to oases' placed around the large parts of the desert. Damien took a look at my bag.

"Sure is a lot Leon," He said to me inspecting it thoroughly

"Yeah.... I got to thinking pretty hard about the Twilight now...if I die...everyone else goes with me," I said to him.

"Don't think of yourself alone Leon" Damien said taking out some of the extra supplies I had packed,"

The Sanction fights with you at the front line in any affairs you have"

"Hey! What the heck are you doing?" I yelled as he began purring out the some of the food I just bought,

"Water is more important then food Leon," He said putting a more containers of water in my bag.

" You can die of dehydration in a matter of days but you only die of starvation in weeks besides there is plenty for us to hunt in the desert I assure you. You won't go hungry" Damien said giving the bag back to me," That right now is the least of our problems".

" The least?" I asked.

"Walk and talk Leon, we need to hurry if we are going to get to the princess in time" He said.

We left the small town and we started trekking across the desert. The Sands felt like embers under my feet. It took a few minutes to get use to the heat each step seemed to cost me.

" Luther and Gabriel looked through the book you found in the Twin cities and where able to make out all of it" Damien said," I take it in your hurry you didn't actually read all of it did you".

"No...I'm kinda mad I left it " I said with a grim face," If Luther couldn't have taken my words on this when the time called for it then he's no help to us" I said.

"Luther may have not listened to you but you should understand the costs of the Sanction moving from the Twin cities at any given time" Damien said," Its an important regardless of how you see it now but enough on that. The princess is in more danger then you probably know right now Leon".

"I know she's in danger cause she has something to do with the Twilight and on top of that...." My words trailed off.

"Hm?" Damien said with a questioningly face," Is their something between you in the princess?" he asked.

"No.... its nothing she's just really important to the Twilight is all" I said.

Damien had known me for a long time so seeing through an obvious lie wasn't that hard for him, but for being my friend so long bringing up things like that over and over again wouldn't help the situation. He

knew when the time was right that I would tell him everything.

"Anyway...this is just a theory we won't know for certain but we believe the princess has Twilight power as well" Damien said.

"What!?" I exclaimed and stopped walking.

"Come on I'll explain we have to keep moving" Damien said.

I kept walking but he kept a fast pace. I was starting to wonder how he was keeping cool and brisk while I was wearing lighter cloths and I was already tired.

"What we know for certain is that the book you found is the Dairy of a man Named Balphados"

"Who?"

"That's what I said" Damien said and laughed," Apparently he fought in the war along with Immorick, but when they checked the library for any reference to him their wasn't any its almost like he was erased from history, but after you hear this you will probably have guessed why. Before Immorick went to his final battle and his grave he gave a piece of his power to his best friend at the time, which is Balphados. According to the Dairy to keep that secret safe to only the ones who needed to know it, all records of him and his family where supposedly erased but actually the records weren't erased."

"Then what happened?" I asked.

"Turns out Balphados married and had a son and the power of the Twilight was transferred through his blood. His son married the Queen of Lecklonis castle before it was renamed the Twin cities combining the Castle and the port. Balphados' son changed his last name to match his wife's which is why we couldn't find any records of his son until we read it."

"What's it all mean" I said still kind of confused with all of this.

"I'll put it the way Lenneth simplified it for me...Balphados' son is King Alexander's descendent"

"Are you shooting me!?" I exclaimed in surprise.

"Nope... If you look at it now...it means that Kayla now has the power Immorick gave to Balphados and she is right now in enemy hands with no idea what power she has".

"This changes everything," I said.

"Yeah... Balphados did not tell anyone about his power not even his son so none of that family was supposed to know unless need be... we don't know how her power will work either or even how yours does. According to Luther you haven't tapped into your Twilight power even once yet".

"Say what?" I said," I used the Twilight power when I fought Luther for the first time did he forget already?"

"No...what you used on him was your Trinity power. Trinity's' are the holy ability that everyone in the Sanction must have and it is our way to defend the lives of our world and help you destroy hell. It's a coincidence that you have Trinity and Twilight powers but then again they have been helping you get this far so it's not a bad thing " Damien said.

"So wait...if I can use my Trinity power...how can I use the Twilight?" I asked.

"The Twilight like the Trinity is something you have to recognize yourself even though Luther trained all of us. Using the Trinity and mastering it was something we all had to learn on our own. I just hope that when the time comes and we need the power the most that you will have learned to use the Twilight".

"Hmm" I said thinking. I still have a long way to go I thought, but if the Twilight hasn't actually been used before then maybe I will have enough strength to be able to save everyone after all.

"So do you know where the princess is?" I asked.

"Yea..." Damien said pulling the map out again," where a little into Albina but the princess is deep in the middle where we believe according to your father's research a crack of hell is also located. I have no idea how they found out she had the Twilight power but what I do know is that they cannot kill her and will not for the time being".

"Why?" I asked.

“ Though she is the carrier for the Twilight at the moment. The Twilight activates for her according the Balphados, so for it to activate without her doing it willingly she must be at the Crossroads of life and death. That is one way he wrote the Twilight can be activated but at a cost of the Twilight holders life. If she dies in that state though the Twilight can protect her to a certain extent. The Twilight will return to its original holder should she die in this state, but...the Twilight has its limits as well...should the Twilight fade and she is killed.... the Twilight will disappear from our world forever” Damien said.

I was really taken back by this. The Twilight seemed a lot simpler before but now I wasn't even sure. If we don't rescue her in enough time then she will die on top of destroying the Twilight power that she holds. If she dies while the Twilight is protecting her however then it would return back to me but both of those scenarios revolve around her dieing and I don't want that. I want to save as many lives as possible but especially she is more then just a life right now....

“ So...if the Demons from hell attack her the Twilight in her will activate on its own...if the Twilight will use the life inside of the princess if she is attacked again and her power will return back to me...but if she is killed after the Twilight doesn't have enough power to protect her...then she will die...and the Twilight she has inside of her will disappear forever...” I repeated.

“ Yeah...you have it right...so as you can see our mission is very important I have no idea how long the Twilight can hold out. If worse comes to worst if she does die then at least it comes back to you”

“ I won't let that happen, “ I said to him.

“ Then we should start making better time” Damien said and started to briskly jog.” Catch” he threw a small fruit at me.

“ That fruit is from up north. If you put it in your mouth it will keep the heat away so we can move faster” I quickly put it in my mouth and I was finally able to keep up with Damien. It made it feel as though a cool breeze was blowing through my body and I didn't get tired even close to as often.

Every second we waste here I thought...is another chance that our last hope is being destroyed.

We traveled through the desert all day and before we could get even a little rest Damien told me to travel through the night. He said we should sleep during the hottest part of the day and move during the cooler parts to save energy. The night as predicted was a lot faster but the desert nights where polar opposites to the days. It was a lot chillier then I was use to and eventually I had to spit the fruit out to keep from freezing. As the sun started peeking up over the golden dunes of the desert our pace began to lessen. We had started going through a large canyon the following the night and since we hadn't made it all the way through it. It made an easier rest spot.

“Don't drink to much” Damien said.

“Why?” I said pouring some water in my mouth and then over my head.

“You'll sleep harder and we need to start moving when the sun starts to set so I can't use you if you're out the entire night” Damien said.

“Fine” I said taking another sip and putting the back beside me. The canyon had large crevices that provided shade from the sun but not much from the heat. It took me awhile to fall asleep. Damien was out like a light but I was worrying about the princess...more about the dream I had had. I didn't notice it before I got to the Twin cities that she was the one who was actually in my dream. It had to mean something if I dreamed about her before I even met her. Something had to have happened that I don't remember but if it where this important I don't see how on earth I forgot. Eventually torturing myself with the thought got me to sleep. As promised Damien woke me up late in the afternoon. I felt like a rock. I was stiff all over and I felt even more tired then I was before I went to sleep. It took me a moment after he woke me up for me to actually even move.

“ Come on Leon we need to make better time if where going to get their” Damien said picking up his bag.

“On estimate” I said picking up my bag and whipping my eyes.

“ How long do you think it would take us to actually get there?”

“ If where fast and make use of all of our time on the afternoon of the day after this we should make it...I don't think they will have done much to her by then but even if they have the Twilight should hold”.

“We can only hope,” I said running the catch up with Damien's small lead over me. He threw me another fruit and we started all over again. It only took a few hours before the sun went down. The twilight period between the extreme high of the desert and the extreme low was nice. I held onto the fruit this time. I couldn't get rid of it because I don't know how many of these can really be spared especially since it's a longer trip out of the desert then it is to it.

“When we get the princess out then what,” I asked.

“Well...I know for sure there is a crack at where she is. So you will have to open it before we leave. If we try and come back this way it will be swarming with new stronger demons and with this terrain and weather there is no way we can handle them. So even though it is a longer trip we will continue going west across the entire desert until we hit water. The Nearest port is only about 4 or 5 days away from the where were going anyway. Even with the princess we should be able to make good time”.

“Ok sounds good” I said jogging beside him.

The day following was basically the same. I couldn't sleep again and when Damien woke me up again I felt a lot less strength than even the previous day.

“Leon...did you even get any sleep” Damien asked.

“Yeah...but it keeps keeping me up” I answered just trying to barley keep up with him.

“ Tell me about her Leon” Damien said,” What ever is going on you need to get it off your chest because you are going to need every ounce of strength for where were going”.

“I've been dreaming Damien...even before I knew her she was in the dream before I was attacked at the Twin cities. It's almost like she's haunting me. On top of that when I got to the Twin cities Alexander said I've known her for 3 years now. I've never met her in my life but It seems like I really have, but I can't remember a thing. That entire part of my life I can't remember Damien” I said,” That's why I had to go after her even before I knew about the Twilight that had some connection to her...she knows something about my life that I have no memory of and it has haunted me ever since I met her”.

“ I see” Damien said,' don't let it bother you until we have rescued her Leon. If you keep like this then you won't have any strength when the time comes”.

“Yeah your right...I can't get it out my head though...I keep seeing her face and every odd object in this desert brings her picture back up and starts this all over again! I have constant headaches that get so bad at night that I'm rolling in pain and it feels like my head would implode!”

Damien sighs,” this is probably the one time I can't help with... just know I'm by your side on all of this Leon.

“...Good to know” I said with a smirk.

We kept walking for a while and finally some strength began to return to me. We picked the pace up to jogging and where able to make much better time. I had only had a day and at those moments I didn't have a clue what to expect going dead into a crack of hell. I knew demons could be by the hundreds and I would have to fend them off with only Damien at my side and it did worry me, but.... then again I would rather it Damien at this moment then anyone else. Internally Damien was always stronger then I was and most of the time externally as well. I knew he suppressed his emotions about Clair for the longest time and sometimes I'd almost think he'd forgotten about her but on the off times he's really quite or just seems to be lost in thought.... I can tell he's thinking of her just like I am. The distance we covered that day seemed a lot more then we had covered on the previous but it was still a sigh of relief when the sun was setting. The Fruits after several days of them being in my mouth where starting to get annoying. That night Damien made me take a short break. We sat and talked...its been awhile since we talked how we did. I knew he wanted me to get my mind off what needed to be done but at the same time he was

getting himself off the subject as if he was suffering just like I was or was just being kind enough to come suffer through my eyes. I always had respect on how Damien thought. I never had to tell him much but a lot was just assumed between us. We said more in our actions than our words could ever express, and that above all...I was most grateful for.

"Well..." Damien said picking up his bag, "We better get going at this pace by morning we won't need to walk very far to reach the crack. "

"Sounds good," I said following behind him.

For a lot most of the trip we had taken a lot of shelter in the Canyons that made up the desert. They provided shade but were sometimes hazardous with all of its surroundings. We were lucky there wasn't much animal activity in such a place. With all that had happened something to injure us more than we soon would be wouldn't help us much. By morning we left the Canyon and were out in the open desert again. The heat was a lot more now and without the occasional blockades of sun light from the canyon our pace slowed dramatically. The fruit had run dry and we only had a few left. I figured that after all this was through. The princess would need these a lot more than we did. The desert was more like an inferno and by midday I was barley on my feet.

"Leon...your trailing" Damien said breathing hard.

"Look at yourself" I said trying to laugh but my throat was so dry nothing came out except a harsh whisper, "You're not going anywhere near the pace we had before".

He smirks, "Where almost there?"

"Hm?" I said and looked at him.

"Look" He said pointing up a large sand dune. I was barley on my feet when I reached the top but I was stunned at what I saw.

Over the dune in a large clearing was a large Valley. The valley was a blood red color and when I looked closer I could see why. Demons filled the valley entirely and some even began moving through out the desert. The Demons were a dark blood red and with so many in so many numbers together the valley took on the same color.

"Damien...You got to be joking." I said in disbelief.

"Don't tell me the first one to take up saving her is the first to give up," Damien said taking his four-sided blade out.

"I know I said I would save her but this many...we need a fucken army!" I yelled.

"Or just a few special individuals" Damien said peering over the side of the dune. "Fighting them now would get us killed and fighting tonight is suicide as well so for the good of this attempt. We should do it tomorrow".

"Why not tonight?" I asked.

"...You've never seen what demons are like in the heat of the night time and now is not a time to test them. They live and breathe inside the darkness of night and feed on blood. We would be fighting where we are most vulnerable and there are at the pinnacle of their own individual strength. This is not a time for a rash action like that now is it?"

I stared at him and then sunk into a covered spot on the dune.

"It's looking like suicide just trying no matter when we fight," I said putting my hand over my head to shield it from the blinding noon rays from the sun.

"The way I see it is this" Damien said taking a seat beside me, "The Twilight hasn't opened because you really haven't needed it. Well...for us to go in there and actually win the Twilight is our only option. With the Twilight getting in there isn't just a possibility it's almost guaranteed but if you can't summon its power during a battle with odds like this how will you be able to use it in a battle that truly matters later. When a few more cracks are opened later...the odds will be damn near 1 in our chance of success. We will fight against an army of immortals that are hundreds of times stronger than the ones now and will

come by the million and will refuse to stop. This is no battle you will ever experience again. In some wars you can depend on your enemy only having a certain amount of soldier at their disposal...but what do you do about an army that comes one hundred times larger than yours and at a rate that never ends." I laugh a little," ...What kind of shoot did I get myself into"

" Drink some water and keep alert. We will have to get as much rest as possible if we want to stand against them tomorrow. But we must be alert for they will not hesitate to attack if they can find us earlier".

" Their going to be expecting us...but why don't they just attack us now" I asked.

" You mean send demons after you like before?" Damien asked not taking his eyes of the Demons movements.

"Yeah...they tried pretty hard to kill me before but I still was able to come out alive"

"You are not a full strength with your power but your Trinity is still something to be reckoned with. Even now Hell will have a horrible time killing you if your Twilight where to Resurrect here, but if they can kill the Princess without you getting all the power from her. Then they have won this war. They're beginning to fear your power... and they should, but with that fear they have thought their actions out more. Instead of splitting all their forces through out the desert. They will guard this place with all of their forces. If they can kill us or even divert us from saving the princess in time then they win".

" Never thought this was gonna be easy..." I said laying my head back on the warm sand.

It was already afternoon and Damien was still keeping watch.

"Are you going to go to sleep...your going to need your strength just like I will" I said.

" In this situation I am the disposable dummy and above all else I have to get you and the princess out alive. I'll die here and now for that."

"You serious!?" I said

"All of the Sanction is taught to serve only one other person other than their God...and that would be the person closest to him" Damien said.

"...Damien...if you ever say something that depressing again I'm gonna kill you." I said.

He laughs.

"I don't want you or anyone for that matter to die for me. I wish that would work the other way around but you have Clair to live for and I'd never forgive you if you died and left her alone again like I did" I said.

Damien expression turns back serious," Understood...then don't die on me either when we go".

The Desert night was especially cold on this night and every few seconds a chilly breeze would go by me and keep me up even longer. Eventually I gave up on sleep. If this actually were the place I would fall then no matter how much sleep I tried to fit in it wouldn't help me. I peeked over the dune we had been hiding at. The Demons around had grown since I had last checked. It was true what they said about Hell's numbers... they where enormous and growing still. I didn't know what Damien saw in him and me and if he actually believes this to be possible. The Twilight has to be something if it could kill everything that I could see over the dune. I sat back down again. After thinking so much about rescuing the princess I figured out what probably had made me feel so bad about what had happened. I already believed what she said about me true. I should have memory of her but I don't and if I talk to her maybe it will come back to me but I can't even remember her name. Even if I couldn't remember her from a few years ago I at least thought I'd remember her name. Before I knew what had happened I had dozed off and woke up late in the morning.

"Bout time" Damien said taking out his weapon," Take everything you need to fight with.... leave everything else.

"What about the food?" I asked.

"It will only slow you down from here. Leave it!" Damien said.



I looked at the bag a second. When it came to me it would probably hinder us I dropped it and left everything except my sword. We began walk out towards where the crack was. It felt like we where walking into hell's gates themselves...like walking to death's door only to retrieve something it had taken from us. The Demons immediately realized us and without a moments hesitation sprang at us. Ever since I had to deal with the Twilight my mind was never at ease and it was filled with thoughts of failure or success, but for this battle. My mind finally cleared it self and gave me the chance to fight with no mind restraints. A Demon on four legs leaped in the air and it was almost as if time itself had stopped for me. I took deep breaths as if they where my last and then as if someone had whispered into my hear "move!" I sprung into action. The creature missed me and I followed up by impaling my sword through its insides. Its insides drained onto my hands but never the less I kicked it from me and began charging into battle. Damien's chain lashed out at several creatures at a time slitting their throats and leaving them immobilized to fight. The strange light that had been a mystery to me for so long came upon me like a second sword, and with only a slash of my sword a wave of light ran through my path and sent demons and sand in the air with my movement. We where quick, we where relentless, and we broke through our enemies lines with no fear or doubt in our hearts. As if Damien and I where linked by mind waves we hurled ourselves into the pit of Demons. The light that had given me the strength to fight off the demons' numbers many at a time had also risen for Damien. His Sword and four-sided weapon began glowing and lashed out killing the demons before they had much chance to react. The lines of Demons fell as we fought through with no words between each other and no means to stop. The demons claws and talons ripped hard through my arm and shoulder and their tortuous poison seeped through my blood and skin, but I fought on. Every scratch I gained was a step further I felt I was getting to her.

"Leon!" Damien yelled over the Demons screams.

As if I had been suddenly woken up out of a trance I was slow to react.

".... Yeah!?" I finally made out.

"The Center of them.... Their keeping her their!" Damien said literally being tackled by the coming onslaught of demons. It was faint but I could see where the Demons where swarming from. As I expected the demons fell and ten or more could replace them. They gave us little room to fight with and even though my light repelled them from me it didn't stop them from getting shots at my chest and legs.

"Leon Catch!" Damien said tossing his sword to me.

I locked the swords in an "X" formation and charged with all my strength through them. The Trinity had given me strength over what I had ever felt and though I felt each and everyone cut bruise and slash to my body I was able to keep fighting without break or pause. I continued to push them back and Damien got behind me and fended off all the Demons that had begun attacking me from both sides. I made it to a sharp ledge and pushed the Demon off of it. I had never seen what one of Hell's cracks actually looked like. It wasn't a good sight to see. The Demons climbed up from the depths and swarmed like hundreds of ants.

"Look" Damien said fending off the Demons fangs.

"Princess..." I said dumb struck. A small platform deep inside held her body. She was locked inside an orb of pure light but the orb wasn't thick and time was running out. She was unconscious and Artemis was watching her every move while hundreds of Demons fought at us.

"Dammit.... if we fight all of these she will be dead before we get close" I said.

" Then stop worrying and lets get to her" Damien sliding down the steep walls. The demons met us as we slid down but they where knocked off as we came down and I couldn't keep my eyes off her. The pain of the injuries was catching up to me and I could start to feel it as I fought towards her. The blows to my body began taking their effect and all the blood I had lost thus far made my vision blurry and hard to keep my footing against the onslaught of Demons. Damien had already begun to slow down as well and

it was only a matter of time before he would give in. Just then I took a sharp stab through my stomach and it pierced all the way through to my back. The Trinity had kept the creatures attacks from piercing me but it was wearing down. I fell to my knees as blood seeped onto the ground where I stood.

“Leon!” Damien called before his side was slashed and it fell to his feet as well.

The blood dripped down my eyes as the demons pierced their teeth talons and anything else into me. I could see the orb that had protected the princess for so long finally fade. Aretmis stands up and his arm turns into a long blade and I expect the worst. I scream out in pain and try and reach for her but it didn't work to any extent. I watched as the large blade came down and blood splashed up. I couldn't see any part of her from where I was standing and a sharp blow to my head knocked me out. Everything went white and I couldn't feel anything.

*Will you fight?..... is this the end of this struggle.*

All was black but those words echoed inside of me.

*Will you die here? .....Or will you fight with me...*

I felt so weak and I couldn't answer.

*Will you die here.....will you protect them?.....Will you protect her?*

Strength came to me when I heard that.

I won't die here I said," I want to save her...and everyone...but I can't fight anymore...I'm dead...It's the end.

*This is the beginning and yet you die here...you won't save anything.....*

*I ask again.....will you save my people...*

I was silent and I felt cold. A chill went through my soul and I could feel it. It felt like I was falling into nothingness and an eternal pain, but the words that I had thought to say finally came to pass.

“ I will save her.... I'll save them all”.

*.....Stand..... You will be my voice.....my heart in this world ...and my judgment..... You will destroy and bring order to what the Dark and evil have left in their wake.....Now Stand!!!!!!*

As if I had been struck by lightning my body stood up and I regained consciousness. My body began to glow dimly and even the Demons around stood still. As if another person had exploded in me the light illuminated the entire place. Energy...Life...Strength in a single instant were given back to me. My body rose in the air.

“My god...” Damien choked out between spits of blood. Armor made of light formed around my body. My sword in which had broke was revitalized and began glowing with light. A pair of wings formed from

the same light on my back.

The Soul of another ran through my body. It was unlike anything I had ever experience in my life. I couldn't feel a thing.

*Raise your sword...*The voice I had heard before echoed inside of me. I took a deep breath a raised my sword in the air as it commanded. The sword took a new form and I gained control of my body again. My wings flapped keeping me suspended in the air and I had no control over them. I saw the princess body their pierced through her chest covered in blood.

This is the Twilight...I must save her...I must save everyone...I can't let them die...I can't let myself fail. I gripped tighter to the sword and as if my mind had full control over my actions without willingly moving a piece of my body I flew over to Aretemis and impaled my sword into. The Demon screamed and hissed loudly and at that all the Demons began jumping my body slashing at me.

.... Kayla..... Kayla!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

A light over through everything.

I don't know how long I was out but it couldn't have been for too long. When my eyes finally cleared the Crack where hundreds of demons had fought against me was empty. Damien and the Princess where the only ones left. Damien was on the ground beside me. I checked his pulse.... he was still breathing, but then I looked back up. The platform where the princess was was still covered in blood. I stood up and looked at her for a second not saying a word. I had failed...I couldn't save her. Then what I least expected happened. She coughed. She coughed up blood but she did come to and start breathing. A lot was still unclear about her and me but the Twilight had helped me remember something important. During the time it was taking effect she was the only thing going through my mind. I remembered a time few years ago when I was with her and I told her I loved her. I finally remembered her name.

"Kayla...are you ok?" I said dropping to my knees.

It was a happy moment for me when her eyes opened. I was afraid I wasn't going to see her beautiful smile again. She smiled at me.

"Leon...You came" She says and hugs me.

I don't know what I was really feeling. Maybe I was just so glad she had made it that I just held her and wouldn't let go. After a minute Damien came to as well. He was a bit battered up but he was fine for the most part.

"We did it" Damien said standing up. He was a wobbly but he made it over to us.

"Yeah...I was actually starting to doubt we would," I said.

Damien laughs," I was too...but you came through like you always do".

"I thought you really didn't remember me..." Kayla said softly.

I sigh deeply," to be honest...for the most part I still don't. When the Twilight power came to me...a piece of my memory came with it. It's not much...but it's enough for me".

She doesn't say anything but doesn't move.

"Well...we can talk about this later...right now Leon you need to open the Crack here and we need to get as far away as possible" Damien said.

"Crack? ... Why do we need to get as far away as possible?" She asked.

"We'll explain later this isn't the time or place for this" Damien said getting up.

"Ok...Let's go" I said standing up.

I knew she was confused and had questions for me...but at the same time I was just as confused and had just as many questions for her. Damien further down into the crack and it led us deeper underground.

"I heard their use to be a large underground city here back before the first war" Damien said walking in

almost pitch-black darkness.

Damien then lit a small stick of wood he found laying on the ground and large Stone pillars and vast wall paintings were visible.

"This is what's left of a race that was completely obliterated in hell's wrath hundreds of years ago..."

Damien said looking around.

All I could do was silently watch. I finally had her so I could ask all the questions I had wanted answered but something held me back and I wasn't able to look at her in the eye let alone talk to her.

"It should be hear somewhere...I haven't seen the seal of the Twilight" Damien said.

"Its here" I said without a moment's hesitation. There was no visible marking on the stone pillar I had pointed out but I could feel it. With one touch of my hand the pillar around my hand faded revealing a stairway down. There was a Seal of light around the door way.

"Wait here...I won't be long," I said.

When I looked back up to Kayla she still wouldn't look at me. It made me feel bad as I started my decent down the Stairway. When the stairs ended there was a large dark room. When I took a step forward an orb of light illuminated the entire room. The room was full of statues, but was dimly lit. I walked forward to the light in the center. When I got to it I stopped. It was suspended over a large hole but all I had to do was reach for it for it to come. The light flew into my chest and I felt a new kind of pain for a moment. It kinda felt like I was out for a second but when I heard a scream I instantly snapped to it. I ran up the stairs quickly taking my sword out and met Damien guarding the princess at the top.

"What is it?" I said

"Demons...new ones...stronger ones and their everywhere" Damien said with his weapon out. He scanned around but nothing was visible only barley audible noise in the darkness.

"We have to run and get out of here...we can't take this many in your current state and now that this crack is open an unlimited amount of these demons will come from here" Damien said.

Damien held the fire up as far as he could without lowering his defenses. I started hearing footsteps coming closer. I thought it was a person but when it stepped out of the shadows I was mistaken. The Demon had pearly silver skin and its hands were made out of the same material and shaped like large needles. The Creature's face was contorted and when it roared at us it showed razor sharp teeth and the same blades in its back.

"You know I told you never to try fighting these demons in the dark..." Damien said calmly.

"Yeah..." I said as I heard the footsteps of others closing from all directions.

"This is why!" Damien said and threw 4-sided weapon at the visible Demon and took off running. The demon bit through the entire weapon and began chasing after them. The Crack had only just now been open but plenty of these creatures were coming at a time. I tried to fight them off but in my current state they easily over powered me and slashed violently with their blade hands. It cut my arm but that was about it as we ran through. As I looked back at the ones that we left I could see the number of them quickly growing. As we kept running I noticed they were inching closer to us, and before I knew what was happening it was already too late to stop it. One of the creatures slit the princess' leg and she falls behind.

"Kayla!" I yell and run back for her, but that one moment was enough for them to surround us.

"Leon!" She cried to me.

Her body then began to glow. Unlike me she didn't transform into an Angelic being though. A light emitted from her came over to me and with it when I used the Twilight a second time my power seemed to have been even more.

When I raised my sword a heavenly light came down on everyone and released a great explosion. When the smoke cleared the Twilight power left me.

"Un.... be...lievable." Damien said helping the princess to her feet.

"No time to talk about it this place is coming down," I said picking the princess up and carrying her out of the underground passage we were in. We didn't have time to think we just had to run the pillars were collapsing and all the support to the valley were crumbling. When we finally made it back to the part of the valley where I saved the princess a large piece of the ground above came down on us. The piece caught me off guard and I was barely able to keep the princess and myself out of harm.

"Damien!" I yelled looking through some of the debris.

"I'm alright" I heard his voice faintly.

"Where are you?" I called to him.

"The Ceiling has cut me off so I'll have to get out some other way. Take the princess and head west without me I will catch up to you in the Twin cities." He said.

"But!" I started but the ceiling of sand and hard rock above began pouring in even faster and I couldn't help but pick up the princess and get out of there. Around the time I made it out with her the entire valley collapsed inward and exploded. I knew I could fight more of the demons so I took Kayla and ran. I looked several times for sight of Damien but I didn't see any. Damien was always true to his word but sometimes I really doubted if he could keep it. For the time being I would have to trust him and keep us both alive. I ran in the scorching desert heat with the princess in my arms until my body gave out. The Twilight, the trinity, and the battle was finally taking its toll and before I could take another step I fell to my knees and passed out with only her concerned voice to comfort me.

## 2 - Heaven Cries

“So your awake...” Kayla said.

My head was gently placed in her lap. The sun had already faded behind the sandy dunes to the east and whatever light we had came from a small fire she had made.

“My head...dammit” I said sitting up.

“You should get some rest...I’m surprised you came too so fast” She said to me standing up.

I look at her. She still didn’t look me in the eye. I felt worst then I had before. It didn’t help that it was just us now and we where alone in the desert. I stood and stretched and then took a seat back down. She walked threw some leaves into the fire and sat on the opposite side of the fire.

“You ok? ... Being attacked back their in all” I said.

She didn’t immediately answer nor did she look up.

“I’m fine,” She said solemnly.

“ ...” I couldn’t think of anything to say. She was completely cold to me now that everything was over. I could tell right now she wished she were anywhere but here. We sat there in silence and listened as the cool desert winds sweeps passed us.

“ Leon...” She said and paused.

“Yeah?” I said kind of surprised she even said anything to me.

“ I wanted to know...why did you come to save me...?” for the first time in the past 10 minutes she finally looked up but still not at me.

I sighed but anything was better then the deafening silence.

“ I was confused at first...I told myself I came only because the Twilight was with you and I was sure of it...but eventually...I couldn’t keep fooling myself...I wanted to see you.” I said.

She doesn’t answer.

“ I guess I hid behind the Twilight for an answer...but the answer didn’t come...I thought that maybe you had me mixed up with someone else too ...until I used the Twilight for the first time...I honestly have no memory of you at all...” I said and paused I waited for an answer to this but it never came. She didn’t answer me the rest of the night and I felt so empty...like I had done something terribly wrong that entire night.

The next mourning we started heading towards the Sea. She still didn’t say a word to me and she walked pretty far behind me keeping her distance. I didn’t have it in me to ask about my past...more or less our past. I had to periodically look back to make sure she was ok. I learned already about the increased healing rate of the Twilight and Trinity so I know I can heal quickly, but I didn’t know about her. I didn’t want anything to happen but I was kind of scared to ask if she was ok. We had already got about 3 hours into walking. It was a lot harder without the fruits and I really hated just wearing cloths it was so hot. She had to have been feeling this...maybe even more so then I was. I turned to check back on her.

“Kayla!” I yell and run over to her. She passed out in the sand and still didn’t say a word about it. I looked her over to find out the cut from Artemis had reopened.

“Damn” I said,“ I can’t do much about this”

I learned a bit of first aid and how to treat small wounds but this looked way out of something I could handle. I knew I had to stop the bleeding and we had absolutely no water. I ripped off a piece of the shoulder of my under shirt. I rapped it around her chest tight and used a few shards I found around to keep it in place. It started bleeding through but in a matter of moments the bleeding stopped. I was glad.

The Twilight would start taking effect on her soon but water is still something the Twilight can't replace. I picked her up and lifted her onto my back. Every step from then on seemed like hell. Her body pressed down on me attracting heat and here weight made every step more difficult.

"Leon..."

I look back at her, and then smirk. She was even thinking about me unconscious.

The day was still early and it was probably just now noon. My vision started getting cloudy, and I regretted leaving all my supplies behind even though it probably would have hindered us. She is probably worst off then I am since she hasn't eaten since she was kidnapped and It explains why she was so weak. I had walked for over an hour with her on my back and it was almost unbearable to move. I found a large plant and set Kayla beside it to get as much shade as possible. She was over ventilating and it wasn't getting much better. I dropped my sword a long way back there so I ended up using my hands to try and break the plant Unfortunately it wasn't easy as it looked but I managed to get it open. I had heard that they had a lot of nutrients especially young ones. It oozed out a green slime that looked disgusting at first but was actually cool. I put some on her then tried some myself. It also wasn't bad to eat. I spent an hour trying to keep her temperature stable and her breathing. The plant sure could work wonders but it was the only one I had seen ever since I had been in the desert and without Damien's map I had no idea where I was even headed. The sun was at its hottest part of the day and its ray's almost blinded me as I tried getting us further in the desert. The liquid from the plant did well to cool us down but it had little effect in the long run. The sunrays soaked up my energy and without more from the plant I had left behind I wasn't going to be able to keep going.

"Damn" I said softly sinking to my knees. It was so hot I couldn't even keep my eyes open and before I knew it I couldn't move. I blacked out soon after that and I had no strength left.

I woke up to the sound of running water. My body was kind of soar but I managed to get up. I was in a house and Kayla was asleep next to me. I checked her temperature and she was fine.

" So I was right to assume you where a couple only question I got is why your out this far" An old man steps into the Shack we where in. The Shack was small and only had one bed and some supplies.

" Thank you for saving us but where not a couple" I said.

" You don't have to be modest about it why else would you have been with her in the middle of the desert but I'll skip all the who's and why's and get to the point" He said," If you and your wife here need a ride to the nearest village I'll be happy to give ya one bright in early tomorrow. For now you should probably rest another few hours and you two may not have even made it. I know these deserts like the back side of this old hand," The man said to me.

Their was no since in arguing with him. We where in desperate need to get back to the Twin cities so I didn't press the matter of him calling us a married couple.

" Well I figure you two are probably hungry so if you don't mind helping fix something I'm sure we could fix up something before she wakes up" The man said.

"Yeah...that'd be good," I said looking back at her sleeping. She was really beautiful when she slept.

"Give her this too" He said and threw me some cloths," It was pretty hard getting both of you here at the same time so I'm pretty sure it was my own fault for destroying what she had on. Take that as my payment for them".

"Your fine but thank you" I said.

I placed the cloths beside her and walked out of the shack followed by the man. I walked out into a small oasis that was covered in small trees that blocked the sun from coming in.

"Keeps the Suns rays off you here...my home away from home" He said and went down to the Stream. I took a sip of water. The water was as if I had never tasted and I quickly took in as much as my hands

could shovel into mouth.

"Albina is mostly desert and that's a fact but the large river that runs through it, The Decker, is really a marvel and makes this place somewhat of a paradise to live." The man said.

"How long have you lived out here?" I asked.

"Hmm...about 8 years give or take," He answered.

"That long?" I asked, "I'm not sure I could get used to living out here even for that long".

"Well... Their ain't nothing for me anywhere else out there. I figure this is as good a place as any for my last years" The man coughs into his hand.

He was pretty old and I could tell there weren't many years he would probably be living. It made me wonder what my dad would be looking like around now...if by chance he's even alive.

"Well enough standing around talking I'll need you to catch one of the fish that come by in the stream and with a few vegetables that I grow around here we should have a nice meal by sun down.

"Sounds good," I said. I started looking around for a fishing pole...a spear...anything that would help me catch the fish. I didn't honestly expect his answer when he told me.

"You need to catch them with your bare hands" he said.

"... What?" I answered back.

"You've never fished with just your hands." He laughs, "Not all of us can get fancy weapons and all that stuff from the city so we have to learn it the hard way.... here I'll teach" He said squatting down next to the stream.

"The key is to come from almost know where by not making a sound" The man had his eyes fixed on the next fish coming by. He didn't make a move and he held his breath as it was passing right beside us. And then as if he was lightning itself he struck the fish out of the water.

I blinked and stared at him for a second.

"Now you try. I'm telling ya lad its not as hard as it looks" He said stepping out the way. I stepped next to the river and waited. I spread my legs apart so I could move faster and from the corner of my eye I saw one coming down stream. I held my breath just as he had before me and waited for it to pass by. My hand was steady and didn't make a move until the right moment, and without a second of hesitation I lunged for the fish. It felt easy when I tried it but I still missed. Worst yet I fell face first into the water. The old man fell onto the tree laughing and I couldn't help but laugh too. I turned and whipped a few drops of water from my forehead and then I saw her. She was standing just outside the tent house. I almost thought I caught a smile but when our eyes made contact she quickly let it dissipate. I stood up and brushed the sand from my pants and walked over to her.

"You feeling better?" I asked.

"...I'm fine," She answered solemnly turning her back to me. She walked back into the tent and didn't say anything more to me. I watched her for a second and then went back to the old man.

"She giving you a hard time son?" He asked.

"...Don't worry about it...its nothing," I answered to him the thought of someone else getting into this put me down. It was me who forgot so I should be the blame true enough, but I still don't remember a thing so it still feels wrong I'm punished for it.

"Theirs no since hiding it" The old man said, "You can see it your eyes son. In the way she looks at you and at the way you look at her. Its clear as day to me, but the problem is you won't admit it" Admit what I thought. Its not like I chose to forget about her.

"So tell me about her then" He said.

I paused for a second and chose my words carefully.

"I can't," I answered.

"I see...is it really that bad. I've seen her type before son. They hold all of it in here" He clinches his shirt near his chest, "Their terrified and angry inside but refuse to show it. They don't want other people



to see them suffer...they don't want so show they hurt inside".

I looked at him for a second. He felt familiar. Like this most defiantly wasn't the first time we had met. His words were true enough. But what could I do?

"You have to confront her son. It's the only way"

"...How" I asked with a blank expression on my face.

The man smirks, "Well hell if I know" He said taking a seat next to me, "I mean I don't know her...but you do. I could tell she has strong feelings for you but she's like a turtle"

"Wha?" I answered.

He picks up a large coconut that had fallen from the tree. It was bruised and a small hole was visible on one side.

"Like this coconut she keeps everything special and meaningful to her inside. She made her self-hard just like its shell to protect herself. Just like the bruises on this coconut she was been hurt before in the past. She's hurting now and it's only a matter of time that like the coconut her feeling will come pouring out" He said and let the coconut juice run out into the stream.

I stared and watched it drain out.

"I don't know... I just don't have anything that I can say that can put what your saying into words" I told him.

He stood up, "I got faith in ya son. You're strong as I was when I was younger. Strong in the mind and the body but this just isn't something you can have answered. Take a step out of what your accustomed too and you'll find your answer"

We sat there in silence listening to the small stream pass by. I took a few deep breaths. This felt oddly like the Twilight, a mystery in it self.

"Anyway" He said standing up and brushing himself off, "I'll finish with the fish and the rest of dinner you just try and fix things with her".

He walked off down stream and away into the distance.

I stood up and walked back to the tent. I rubbed my neck and was about to speak when I noticed there was no one in it.

"What the hell?" I said running through everything. She wasn't here.

I stepped out the tent and skimmed around. I didn't even hear her leave. I peaked outside and I could make out a figure out running far in the distance.

"Dammit..." I said low to myself and with hesitation I ran after her.

It was early in the afternoon and the sun was blazing down on us. It felt as though the sun itself was stalking me and focusing its rays directly on me. I stumbled to one knee but quickly regained back to my feet. She wasn't far now but I wondered how she was able to run so long. Hot sweat dripped down into my eye and it burned up against my cheek as it rolled down into the fiery sand. In the distance I could barely make her out. It had gotten so hot my eyes were foggy, but at last I saw her collapse. Strength came to me to catch up to her and when I did she was unconscious.

"Kayla...Kayla" I shook her trying to wake her up. I knew it wasn't good to pass out in the desert. I felt her forehead and she was on fire. I could barely even touch it. This can't just be the heat I thought but I didn't have time to think on it. I quickly lifted her onto my back and started the long hike back. I could hear her mumbling half awake and half asleep. I couldn't make out what she was saying but as long as she was still able to talk it was a good sign. The oasis was in sight but I had almost no strength left. I was down on one knee trying to support her and my own body weight. I couldn't move and I knew it wouldn't help either of us to stand here and let the sun roast us alive. My breathing became extremely heavy and each breath felt like I inhaling thick toxic air and I could hardly breath with out coughing. My throat was so dry swallowing was hard. From the distance I could make out a figure coming our way. I could only guess who it was at this state but I was glad to see him. The old man lifted my arm onto his

shoulder and lifted her so she equally distributed weight wise on both of our backs.

"Its dangerous running out at this time of day son. It could easily get you killed," He complained to me. I knew it was dumb but there was nothing I could do about it. She was trying to get as far away from me as possible and its almost as though her life means nothing, but her life was important to her. Its true that I lost most my memory of her but the split second with the Twilight brought back flashes. I know its true now and I have to tell her that. I want to apologize cause I didn't want to see her hurting like she was. It broke my heart because I was just like that for a while. When all the pain catches up to you crying hurts so much more, and how it was going she had no one to help her.

We made back to the oasis a few moments later. We splashed water onto her, and when we went to lay her down we poured water around her cheeks and forehead to cool her down. It took awhile but she finally had stable breathing. I plopped down next to her on the floor. I laid my head back next to her on the bed and closed my eyes and a few seconds later I was out like a light.

When I woke up it was dark and Kayla had already left. My body was kind of numb from my waste down so I didn't move much for a few minutes. I could hear talking outside of the tent so I didn't make a sound and listened.

" So tell me about him " The old man asked.

"..." She didn't answer

" Their ain't much a man can do for a woman to act like this. I see it clear as day you like him...maybe more then that"

She stayed silent and even though I couldn't see her from where I was sitting I could tell what she was thinking.

" I hate him..." She finally answered.

It hit me deep. My heart almost stopped at those words.

" Is that so..."? The old man asked," Go on then...why?"

I had had all I wanted to hear from this conversation. I sighed and laid my head back down. I tuned out all of their words until I had fallen back asleep again.

When the mourning came I found Kayla nowhere in sight. I was actually happy for once not to see her. I had to be honest I was pissed. All these apologies and everything I had put myself through for just that...it just wasn't worth it to give a damn about it anymore.

"I'll just get her back to the Twin cities...that's all" I said in a low whisper to myself. I don't know why I said it out loud. Maybe I was just trying to persuade myself I was taking a path that I wanted now. If that's how she felt then there really is no need for me to carry on like this. If she won't talk to me I won't talk to her and its fine to me like that.

I stepped outside the tent to see the old man and Kayla already waiting.

" Mournin" He said

She didn't say a word and turned her glance from me.

" Mourning" I answered back to him and walked right past her without a word.

We spent a few minutes gathering some supplies and then the old man brought out his camel and we started our journey to town. The camel was big enough for all three of us but I just walked beside it. I was so pissed I didn't even want to be near her. Her sad face only made heat for the fire.

The old man quietly exchanged glances between both of us. I'm pretty sure he figured out I heard what they were talking about last night, and I made it pretty obvious. The Sun hadn't really risen so it was easy to move and with good enough time by the time we get to the hottest part of the day we should be in town. An hour had flown by without a single word exchanged between any of us. I kept to my side of the camel and she kept to hers. I whipped some sweat off my forehead and rubbed it off on my pants.

The sun was rising and the inferno that it was bringing was approaching.

“ Here” The old man said and handed me a jug of water. I didn’t give it a second thought when I swigged the entire thing down with out a second’s remorse and handed it back to him. He offered her some but she silently denied it. I still didn’t understand her and I cursed myself for still trying. I was forcing myself not to care about it, as if just to give my anger a purpose. Another hour flew by and we were finally coming up on the Port.

Lynalee Port...ain’t it beautiful?” He said more to himself then to any of us. Neither of us answered or even looked at each other we just kept on as if he hadn’t spoken anything. We walked into town and just like on the other side of Albina it wasn’t really crowded, a small peaceful town on the coast of the desert.

“ I’m gonna drop you two off at the end. I have a friend who owes so he should be able to get you a room for tonight at least where did you say you were going again?” He said,

“ Where heading back to the Twin cities,” I answered,” I should have enough to get us there. Thank you so much for your help. I hope to be able to repay some day “.

“ Don’t worry about it son. I’m old and there ain’t much time to good on this earth before my times up. Don’t worry about paying me back,” He said patting me on the back.

“Take care of her,” He whispered softly in my ear as he passed by. He leaped on his camel and began riding back into the scorching desert. I sat there perplexed for a second and then thought of something.

“Hey!” I called to him.

“Hm?” He said stopping the camel.

“I never asked your name...I want to remember it,” I said.

“ Benneth Young...Just call me Ben if we should ever meet up again” He said with a smile and turned back.

I watched him ride off and then I was forced to realize it was just us two now and now we would have to talk. I had a feeling in the back of my brain that Ben had planned this but it was too late now. He was long gone into the desert and until all of this is over I won’t get to see him again.

I walked into the INN and ordered a room. After I told the manager about Ben he was pretty happy and gave us two rooms on the house. I’m pretty sure we were both happy about that one. I walked up stairs and set my stuff down in my room. I kept my door open and laid back on my bed. I watched for when Kayla was going to leave but she didn’t this time. I thought back to what Ben had said to me before. I was trying to reason with myself why I was mad at her in the first place but all the thoughts mumbled together and gave me a headache. Eventually I just sat up and left. I just needed some time away from all of this to clear my head. I walked around the town for a long time. Just thinking...maybe not even that. I stopped by the Dock and stayed by the ocean watching cargo ships come and go. I ended up taking a nap out there and the time flew past me. It was pretty close to dusk and I was starving. I was about to go get something to eat but I thought about Kayla. Thoughts hit me one by one about her. I had to make up my mind if I wanted to just let us both be mad at each other or mend what was going on. It can’t just be some dumb memory I forgot and all the questions I had from back then I still didn’t have answered. I was still in the dark and I didn’t want to be mad at her. Maybe she did hate me and if I knew what it was then I could come to peace with understanding how she felt. Maybe she doesn’t hate me and is just mad and confused about this. I wanted to apologize and make things right. I didn’t want to leave this place with us like this. I took a deep breath and started a steady jog back to the INN. My heart was beating pretty fast as I came up to her door. I knocked twice with no answer. I paused for a second and then knocked again. Then in an instant I thought about it.

“She couldn’t have...” I told myself running down the stairs and out the INN. I looked around and she wasn’t in sight. If she had been running since I left there is no telling where she could be. My heart was racing at this point. Then I looked out into the desert and saw an elevated dune. It was flat and just beside the ocean. I stared at it for a second and then started heading towards. I don’t know why I

thought she was there and it seemed crazy literally but it was like I was being called there so I followed the call. I hiked up the dune to find her there.

"Hey" I called to her.

She looked at me and didn't answer.

"I wanna talk to you Kayla will you give me just a second?" I asked.

I started walking towards her but it seemed like every step I took towards her she retreated a step back.

"Please Kayla just talk to me" I said, "What are you so mad at?"

"...You honestly don't know do you...you don't remember me at all" She said.

I was shocked she actually spoke back.

"I waited...3 years for you Leon...those were the longest years of my life...I suffered hard waiting for you.

Each day that passed by I felt I was losing a part of my soul and myself and each moment we were apart I was dying inside. I'd have given anything just to have seen you back then..."

I just stood there. Any words I had prepared to say and any counter had flown out of my head. I was paralyzed.

"Now 3 years later you come back. Not a word...not a sorry...not anything...you can't even remember who am I anymore!" She screamed.

Her eyes began to water as she spoke, "You wanna know pain Leon!? None of anything in this desert Leon! My father had spent days and hours counseling me trying to get me back on my feet. I could not live without you!"

She took a second to regain her thoughts.

"I loved you Leon...with every ounce of my womanly being I loved you. I would have died at any of your commands cause I trusted you so much."

I was speechless for words. My body ached and I could feel so strongly for her right now. Her words were eating and breaking me down to an inch of my own being.

"But I persevered Leon...and yes it was the hardest thing I ever had to do!" She took a deep breath, "But I never want to see you again...I don't want to ever have to feel that pain again. I don't want you to take advantage of how I feel for you. I never want to see you again..."

It was almost like time itself stopped for me and there was nothing I could do. She started walking off the dune and out of my reach and I couldn't do a damn thing about it...but I wasn't going to let it end this way. I've come too far.

"No..." I was barely able to get out. I was trying hard not to tear up and let any of my emotions go.

"No...you're not leaving...it's not going to end like this," I said.

I didn't think...I didn't know what I was doing and by now I didn't care. My heart was acting over every impulse in my body telling me to stop. I ran over to her and I took her by the hand. Tears dripped through my eyes and I held her to me. She screamed and told me to let go of her. That she hated me so much. She banged and hit me with all her strength and I could see tears streaming down her face too, but I held her. Above all she could do to me I stood there and took it.

"You're going to listen..." I told her. I held her closer than I ever had.

"I know pain Kayla...so don't act like you know everything. My mother is dead...my Father is dead... I have seen people die to this curse I am bearing, this power I have to hold and take hold of."

I sniffed up tears and pain of my own and continued.

"I have done shoot done shoot and my life and to this day I try to make it better. I wronged you so much. So much I can't describe in any word I could ever tell you, but my memory is gone. I don't know if you're going to believe and right now I don't care. I'm sorry I hurt you Kayla...I'm sorry I was the reason my momma died...I'm sorry I couldn't save my dad. I'm sorry I couldn't protect you when you needed me most. I'm sorry I left you there to suffer on your own".

Tears streamed down my face and I fell to my knees. Nothing I had felt and held in I could hold back

now. She held close to me and the deserts brought a great storm out on us. It rained as we embraced. I couldn't let her go and for such a long time I couldn't keep my eyes off her. The rain fell hard yet gently on my back. Soothing yet strong just like she was to me now. I didn't ever want to be without this feeling now. The Heaven's cried with us on this night. It was a night I could never forget. It was one of the moments of my life where I truly felt I could understand everything I had done in my life, and that feeling alone...was something I'd never forget.

I woke up the next morning with her beside me. I had my arms around in her in bed. I stretched for a second and then kissed her on the cheek to wake her up. I stood up from the bed and began getting dressed. She watched for a second with a smile then began the same. I walked with her outside the INN and down to the port without a word. This time however we weren't fighting. I had my arm around her and I held her close to me. When we got to the docks though it was a completely different surprise. "Sorry mate...this ain't gonna get you a full trip to the Twin cities" The Captain said when I handed him all the money I had.

"You can't be serious..." I said I thought back to Damien and I was sure he would have given us enough to get here. I don't know why we don't have enough.

"However...this is enough to get you to a place pretty close." The captain said.

"Where's that" I asked.

"Ever hear of the beautiful Trinity Islands?" He asked.

I look at him in disbelief. I wanted to avoid that place at all cost, but it seems I can't really avoid it any longer now. I'm stuck going back their.

Kayla gave me a worried look.

"Ok we'll go their then," I said trying to look optimistic.

"Ok Mate we'll be leaving right away" The captain said and began shouting out orders. He reminded me a lot of Captain Sam too. When we got to our cabin below the deck I took a seat in a chair.

"What's wrong with the Trinity Islands?" She asked.

"...Theirs nothing really wrong with it...but I didn't want to drag people I didn't want hurt in this war...but it just seems more is on the line now...I can't do this war by myself and I know it now. I'm gonna need help" I said and smiled to her.

### 3 - The Trinity Islands

"Land Ho!" A sailor yelled at the top of his lungs.

I sat up and looked over to see the beautiful Trinity Islands not far from reach away. Kayla stood beside me and watched. She hadn't been far from the castle her entire life. This was a site for her to see as well.

"Are you sure this is ok?" She asked.

"Unlike a lot of people I know...they'll understand" I said.

I still didn't think including them in all of this was the right thing but I had to. I was at their doorsteps and I was desperate and now that I think of it. When all of this starts up I'd rather have them at my side until the end then to only hear about how they died and I wasn't there to help them.

The ship pulled into the dock and Kayla and I stepped off.

"It's been awhile since I've been here," I said stretching. "Hope I remember everything..." I looked around trying to find a familiar site. It took me a moment but my memory of this place started coming back.

"Come on" I said and took her hand. We walked up a small hill and onto a large pasture. The road was made of rich brown gravel and we followed it.

"What the?" I said and stopped her.

"What's wrong?" She asked.

I didn't answer. Something didn't feel right. I looked over from the tree across the road and immediately dived out the way of a flying axe.

"What the hell John!" I yelled.

He jumps out the tree and laughs walking over to me.

"Gave you a good scare didn't I" He said and smirked," your still as sharp as ever though...who's this?"

He took a look at Kayla.

"A new girlfriend?" John asked looking back to me," ...Kyoko's gonna be pissed" He sneered.

I glared at him but didn't say anything.

"Anyway...I was wondering when you would wander back Leon" He said," Actually didn't think you would turn up for a year or so...It's like you to keep someone waiting".

Neither Kayla nor me said anything back to that. I was actually worried at what she would say.

"You two are real quite" He said,"Theirs gotta be something your not telling me mate. This is just too weird for you to come back and not have plenty on your mind to say"

John studied us for a second and put his thumb on his lip.

"I got it!" He exclaimed," You went off and got married and you didn't want to tell me!... You basterd!"

John drew his sword and pointed it at me.

"John what are you doing" I asked

"How about a quick duel Leon. We haven't fought man to man in some time have we and this time we actually have stakes to the loser" John said and peered down to Kayla.

"Huh?" She said confused.

"How about it Leon? Winner gets the girl," John said backing up," Or are you not man enough to take me anymore?"

I looked for a second but then drew my sword with a smirk," I've improved a lot more then you think

John. On top of that I won't lose her to you!"

"Good. Winner gets the girl, GO!" John said and without a moment's hesitation charged with his sword at Leon.

"Wait What!?" Kayla said confused but quickly stepped away from the fight," Leon stop!" but he was already deeply concentrated into the fight.

John swung left then right and I quickly dodged and parried his last blow almost sending his sword out of his hand. He smirked and then charged differently then the first time. His sword scrapped the ground as it came up inches from my face. I staggered back on my tiptoes. He quickly ran in with an upward thrust but I had known John too long to fall for something like it. I quickly dodged to the right in time to guard his next attack and have time for one of my own. He leaped back as my sword scrapped a bit of his cloths. We had learned not to be scared of each other's swords and in unison charged each other at the same time. When our swords met it looked as though I had the upper hand and I eased up a little but John quickly took the upper hand and elbowed my hard to the face. I staggered back a bit while regaining my stance.

"Gotcha this time Leon!" John yelled as a Light went around him for his final blow. I was so astonished I didn't have much time to even think. Without hesitation I used the Twilight and repelled his attack in the Transformation. I stood there as the power enveloped me...it had been the first time I used the power when I called it and it felt good since the strain of the transformation had disappeared.

" Well I'll be damned" John said in amazement," And I thought I had a secret".

I laugh as I help him to his feet. The Twilight power fades and I return back to normal, but that light coming off John a few moments ago...it couldn't be I thought.

"Great first he shoots fire and now he's a fracken angel what's next Leon" John said slapping me on the back," It's good to see you haven't changed though...when I first saw you. You looked completely different, and I couldn't tell from the expression...maybe just how long I've known ya, but it just looked like you had some of the worst news in the world to tell us here."

I grew quite and he could tell he was right.

"John... I need your help," I said in a serious tone.

"Yeah?" He said looking around to see if anyone saw," If its something serious then I don't think we should talk in the open, besides Kyoko's gonna flip when she sees this".

John took us through the pasture and to the other side of the island. We took his boat to the 2nd of the three Trinity Islands.

"But honestly Leon. Who is she?" John asked as he rowed us to shore.

"If you believe such things...She's the princess of the Twin cities" I said.

"...Well I'll be damned Leon you're a fracken kidnapper" John said and laughed and we rowed up on to shore.

"What?" I said back.

"Word around here says the princess was kidnapped by someone from one of our enemy countries...never figured it was you" He laughed.

"...He didn't kidnap me..." Kayla said in a timid voice.

" Well don't worry about it, you can tell me later. Not like you believe every rumor you here anyway" John said leading them through a group of houses.

He pointed out a small house just before the road began inclining up a hill. We walked in the door and took a seat on the couch.

"Make your self at home princess... Kyoko should be around here somewhere," John said looking around.

"Could be awhile John you know how she is," I said.

"Yeah your right" John said and took a seat in the chair on the opposite side of the room.

"So how was it getting back here?" I asked.

"Eh not much...never really is. I just so happened to meet Sam taking a ship back here. Other than that I got home about a week after Kyoko did. " He sighs," Sometimes I really do forget how my beautiful my home really is. Its no wonder it's hard leaving sometimes".

I looked away. Dammit I thought.

"But enough on me. Its not like I do much anyway. You seemed to have seen a lot since I last saw you and how you where back their pretty much means you found out something pretty hefty back in the Twin cities right?" John asked.

The door opened just as I as I was opening my mouth.

"Well it's about time" John said," Keeping all of us waiting like that"

" Leon its good to see you" Kyoko said with a smile," and shut up John".

" I heard some words from the village that you had come back finally. I don't know so much about the kidnapping rumor though," She said setting her groceries out on the table.

"...Why does everyone think I kidnapped her..." I said in an annoyed tone.

Kayla giggles.

" Anyway what did you have to tell me that was important?" John asked.

"It wasn't just for you...I needed to ask Kyoko and Kayla at the same time...you guys have no idea what's really going on," I said in a serious tone."

"Do you two remember the light that saved us back at the Prison?"

"Yeah I remember...who could forget" John said.

"Well..." I paused. Then I started from the beginning for Kayla's sake. I told her about all the years I could remember. The years that for some reason where mostly unknown to me until now. That night in Albina helped me to remember her. I can't remember most of the places during that time period though. I told them down to the detail when I got to the Twin cities...about Alexander...Luther...the entire Sanction and their relation to hell it self. It wasn't easy to explain since parts of it I couldn't really understand. We talked about it deep into the day and until evening. I knew I told them my story because they where my friends and they always wanted to know but this time...I told them because I needed their help. I couldn't get to the Twin cities on my own and I've already made up my mind that I can protect them in battle at my side, and I don't want to lose them when their miles away in a battle they could never have won. I'm not going to joke around and say back in Albina was easy. We all almost died and if we had stayed to fight the stronger demons...we probably would have...the thought trailed away.

I knew it was hard though...especially for them...they only saw some of what horror hell could do. Right now I even doubt the sanction can stand up to what we fought back in Albina. Even if Damien were right about everyone being stronger then he was I doubt it would do much good. 6 men...can't fight a war and there was no denying that.

" Even if its true...it's hard to believe this would have happened without us knowing about it," Kyoko said.

"Think about it...if it's crazy to you...what makes another person any different. You believe me because I've known you for years and I don't lie about something I'm dead serious with like this..." I said.

The room was quite.

"You lose hope pretty quick Leon..." A voice called from the door.

I whirled around and Lenneth was standing there.

"Lenneth?"

"What, you think we would leave you to die." He said walking in shutting the door.

"Who's he..." John said.

"He's part of the Sanction," I said.

" I was walking by and decided to listen in to what you where saying. We know full well that our numbers



no matter how strong we are don't count for much against demons of hell that are endless and unbeatable, but there is hope. The armies of the world are gathering. The Twin cities are calling them. In the past the other countries wanted to ignore the threat of hell breaking loose. They hoped it was a legend and nothing more but they cannot stand and watch their people be slaughtered. The cracks of hell are opening Leon and where running out of time"

" Say what?" I said confused," We've only opened two of them and Albina and Drenora are wastelands right now".

" I don't know all of how it works so you'll have to ask Luther when we get back but the Cracks are just barriers to keep the demons down. As you open more, higher stronger demons will come and it won't just be from the crack...they'll be everywhere...soon cities...countries...continents will have to be abandoned...When the demons come...they will leave nothing alive...Its time for us to stand Leon...The War is coming weather where ready or not"

" What war..." Kyoko said.

" The Great War of our time...the great battles against hell! What ever you want to call it... The Demons are gathering Leon...And their going to strike the first place on this planet that will make us suffer the most damage...The Twin cities"

Kayla gasped.

"The Twin cities...?" I said," Why their?"

"Simple...the Twin cities is an icon that in times of war united the nations under one. The Twin cities are like the glue that keeps all the other nations together, and on top of that the Twin cities is the only city from the past war that still stands...its almost like an unfinished part of hell's plans. Since the Twin cities are like the glue however should it fall the other countries will abandon hope on uniting and flee to defend their own lands. As you will have guessed by this time several more cracks will be opened. No matter how many soldiers or civilians a nation can fight with, on their own they will still lose and be slaughtered. The only way to stand against hell is to stand together. They know this now and that is why it is important that you all come to the Twin cities.

The room was quite.

" No doubt that you noticed John's strength with the Trinity Leon...its early and even I wouldn't want to be sent in so unprepared, but we need as many as can fight in this battle. You know nothing of hell Leon but you'll soon find out. The battle...the war to come...its just the steps your going to have to take...I want to prepare you for what fractions of the lives are in the balance should you fail".

There was a slight pause before I spoke.

"What do you mean..."? I asked.

"There is a crack on this very island. When you open it...everyone left on this island will die." Lenneth said in a cold unforgiving voice.

"What!" John exclaimed," What the hell!"

"We're going to need a ship off this island because no matter how gallantly you fight. No matter how many lives go into this and how many are lost. We won't win here...its sad ...and many times I have tried to defy that one truth, but hell is unbeatable to us all...and that is something that we must come to pass with...our only hope is the Twilight and you should know or you will soon enough" Lenneth said.

The mood in the room had been killed by these words. I sat paralyzed. I knew parts of this I didn't understand but now...it just seemed as though I had been blind to the important facts. Everyone knew about the Twin cities connections to the other nations, and yet all this time I hadn't seen it or even compiled the information to think on it. This was way bigger then I was and I still felt like a pawn in a greater situation that I still didn't grasp.

"Well." John said," Sitting here ain't gonna do us much good. If what you said about the crack here is true and combined with Leon's story...no matter how we act people will die...I don't like the out come

either and I sure as hell don't want to miss seeing the war with my own eyes. So I'm coming with ya Leon to the Twin cities. You're not going to be alone this time."

I stared for a second as Kyoko stood up.

"He's right..." Kyoko said, "where going to stand and fight with you this time. For better or for worse".

I took a minute to look around the room. I glanced at John's serious face. Not an inch of him told me he wouldn't give his life or bleed for me now just like he had before. Kyoko's calm eyes reflected almost the same thing to me. I looked to Kayla who hadn't said much this entire conversation. I could see worry in her eye and I knew she had to be fearing for her home. This was coming at her just as fast as it did for John and Kyoko and soon they both will lose their homes to this war. Their was uncertainty their and I could easily see it but after taking a deep breath I knew she was ready to take on what was coming for us.

"Ok..." I said taking a deep breath, "John...go around the island and get as many sailors as you can. We need any able bodied person this place can give us. Getting back to the Twin cities ain't gonna be as simple as just sailing. My guess is that every demon in the area is going to do anything to slow us down or get us killed before we get there. Lenneth...take Kayla and me to the crack. I'll open it as soon as John is ready" I commanded.

Everyone gazed at me for a second and then immediately took to their orders.

"I'll go with John" Kyoko said, "The islands too big for him to search on his own".

John and Kyoko left the door open as they ran off into the night.

"You've changed" Lenneth said

"Yeah...you could say that" I said pulling my sword from its sheath.

"Not in body I mean...your mind set to all of this has grown. Some would have expected you to break from how all of this was coming at you," He said.

I sighed, "Its got its toll sure enough...I'm almost doomed to lose everything unless its right with me".

I looked over at Kayla and took her hand. She looked at me and then over to Lenneth. He smiled a large grin before hurrying out the house.

We quickly followed him down the hill and back into the dock.

"The Crack is in a monastery in the 3rd island," Lenneth said, "We're not going to have time to rescue anyone so don't play hero Leon. Their lives mean nothing if you don't destroy hell".

"You're really going to leave them? Kayla asked.

"Yeah...I don't like the idea either but if we don't get out of here while theirs only a few of them then we will be dead too." Lenneth said.

It didn't take us long to get to the third island. Everyone was quite and didn't feel right about what was about to happen but then again what else could they do. I was pretty sure if demons from Drenora could attack the Twin cities like they did before then the amount of demons from Albina could easily attack here... if that where to happen on top of a new breed of demon. I'm not sure even with all of the Sanction members we would be able to win.

We came up on the monastery and surprisingly it was pretty empty. I was relieved to see that people would have time to get off the island.

"The monastery is closed at this time can we help you?" There was a monk outside the monastery keeping watch. I didn't know how to go passed him without causing commotion on top of that we'd be breaking into a church.

"I'm sorry about this" Lenneth said and drew his sword. Wit the end of the sword he hit the man hard in the head. He passed out unconscious.

"I almost thought for a second you where going to kill him..." I said.

"It would have done him a great favor if I really had..." Lenneth said praying down to him. We pushed through the doors down a hall and kept careful so that we didn't attract any more attention. We were

walking down a corridor when I got a strange feeling.

"This is it," I said. Stopping at a solid wall.

Lenneth and Kayla circled back quickly as the wall disappeared and led down the deep dark spiral stairway.

"We'll be waiting for you here...hurry," Lenneth said taking his two blades from their sheaths and taking his stance. Kayla watched me as quickly jogged down into the deep catacombs of where the Twilight was kept. The room was dark with only an inch of light towards the middle. I got used to the darkness of the room and quickly proceeded to the light. As before as soon as I approached the light it disappeared into the darkness of the room and I was blinded by a holy aura of light. What seemed like I was out for hours turned out to be only minutes, but those minutes were ones I truly regretted not being awake for them. I heard explosions and screams from the floor above me. Without a moments hesitation I took off at full sprint up the staircase. When I reached the top the once beautiful monastery was a hell zone.

"Duck!" Lenneth yelled tackling me to the ground.

A large tail whipped across me inches from my body slicing clean through stone pillars.

The creature on its hind legs was covered in blood as it retracted its tail back to its body.

"Don't get by the Tail...I'm pretty sure it'll kill even us if we're caught." Lenneth said.

"Got it," I said charging just behind Lenneth.

The creature gave off an ear-demolishing screech and its tail broke through the pillars beside us. We both quickly ducked as the tail swung around just barely cutting me on the shoulder.

"frack!" I yelled as the blood seeped from my shirt.

"You ok?" Lenneth asked turning back.

"Yeah...never better" I said with a smirk.

"Look out!" Lenneth yelled as the creature's tail curved and almost cut my head clear off my shoulders. With a quick slash I dropped on my back a cut the creature's tail. I quickly rose to my feet and with a curved slash of my sword the Tail came clear off. The creature cried out in pain as it charged mouth gaping at me, but then it just stopped. I was perplexed for a second until I saw Lenneth. His two blades had been driven deep into the creature's gullet. It hollered back in pain as I could see an aura of light coming off from Lenneth.

"This is for the lives you have taken...and the many more you demons will take before this is all over." Lenneth said and like lightning thrust his two swords one after the other in and out of the creature. It curled back in pain as he followed up with two quick slashes to the face and quick sweep of its legs. The creature came down hard as blood ran on the floor. Lenneth leaped in the air and held his sword above his head. I could see an energy I couldn't even describe emitting from it and with a jerk of his blade it released and all that was left of the demon was a pile of blood. Its blood had gotten all over the room and a lot even on me.

"Where's Kayla?" I asked.

"Outside" Lenneth said, "Come on let's get out of here".

We ran through the corridor as I saw bloodstains and dead bodies of those unfortunately enough to be seen by the creature. We were quickly outside and Kayla was waiting for us as in the distance I saw fire and heard screams like never I had heard in my life. She was paralyzed there as we could only watch as the other islands took attack by the new demons. Innocent people were butchered on the spot in a conspiracy they didn't even understand and I felt for them...I felt strongly for their loss.

"Don't let it get to you" Lenneth said to both of us.

"This is war and that's a big part of it. So we better get moving now...if we don't, a catastrophe 100 times greater than this will occur and it's something this world won't be able to bounce back from."

I swallowed my guilt and emotions from the time on and held Kayla's hand as I led her to the boat. It was docked just below the monastery.

"Everyone here?" I asked as we got on board.

20 to 30 people were on the boat when I got on. Mostly civilians that they managed to get off the island. I was glad to see we could actually save some people. Then I looked around a bit closer.

"Where's Kyoko?" I asked.

"shoot!" John exclaimed hitting his hand hard on the boat," I knew I was fracken missing something!"

"Don't worry we will go back for her" I said.

"Leon we can't. You've seen the other islands and there is no way you can fight against so many at a time on top of that I told you before that we couldn't rescue anyone and to not try and be a hero. I know its hard leaving your friend but you have to do this for a greater good!"

I stared at him for a second. I couldn't believe what he was asking me to do and it seemed impossible. I couldn't possibly leave her it was like leaving my soul on this island to burn into hell itself.

"I know you said not to be a hero or go rescue someone...and your right it I should stay and finish this war quickly for the greater good...but my family **IS** my greatest good and don't you dare tell me to leave her" I said in a cold choked voice, and without another word I jumped off the ship and began the long swim towards the carnage and killings. The distance from me and the island looked small on the boat but when I actually got there it felt more like I had swam miles instead of that short distance. Fires had broken out and I can see and watch people run around in the night fleeing for their very lives. I didn't pay much attention to them though. I knew I couldn't save everyone but I know who I do want to risk my life to save.

I quickly glanced around for site of her but I couldn't find her. I ran around Frantically screaming her name but I didn't get an answer. I saw a dead body lying only a few feet away from. I froze and then worked up as much nerve as I could to go over there. I walked slowly until I was only a few inches away. I turned the body over to see it was in fact a woman but it wasn't Kyoko. I said a prayer in my head as I left her body down gently and continued on. I ran up the hill to the clearing I had met John in and I was ducking in and out of attacks from the creatures from before. They were more preoccupied with the other people than me at the moment until I got up to the hill on the edge of the island. I could see Kyoko holding in her arms small child as the creature inched closer to them. The Twilight power came over me instantly as the creature raised its tail for an attack. In a heartbeat I was over their fast enough to counter the creatures attack. I was stunned at how much faster I'd become in such a short while. As I raised my sword the light of Twilight incinerated it.

"Kyoko are you ok?" I asked.

"Yeah...I'm fine," She said standing up and taking the child by the hand.

By now a large group of the demons had made their way to us. I stood ready to fight as the wings of the Twilight gaped open. The creatures gave out a final roar and all I could see where their tails spiraling at me. I was able to dodge the first few as with one false blow I put one the creatures down but the tail pierced through the Twilight and got me deep in the chest. The Twilight had protected me from some of the blows but as the came down on me there wasn't much I could actually do. I heard Kyoko's voice as their tails came down on me time and time again. The Twilight I could feel was fading and fast, If the Twilight faded and they where like this then I'm a dead man I thought. Then suddenly a creature was sent knocked back flying back.

"Leon!" I could here Lenneth yell as he came over to me.

John came to and defended the creatures off me till I could regain my footing.

"Get Kyoko and let's get out of here!" John commanded and cut deep through the demon to my side.

John took Kyoko by the hand and tried leading her down the hill but more and more of the creatures kept coming. They came and came and no matter how fast we killed them, more easily replaced them until eventually they had us cornered to the hill. I looked over my shoulder at the almost 400ft drop to the sea.

"We have to hold them off!" I yelled.

“Leon we can’t there is way to many we have to find another way off” Lenneth yelled.

“There isn’t another way off!” I yelled between swings,” If we jump I’m sure I’ll live but you guys won’t”.

A demon from the rear swung its long red tail just above me and then another used its tail to pin my arm to the ground. My sword was knocked from my arm the tail pierced through my bones.

“Aw frack!” I yelled out in pain.

Lenneth tried to help out with John but it wasn’t any use. They had reached the end of their limit and they where running quickly out of options.

“I’m sorry Leon!” Lenneth yelled.

“What?” I said but before I knew anything Lenneth rammed into me and took the blow I was going to take in the shoulder. He grabbed me and threw me towards the edge of the hill.

Both of my arms had been seriously injured and bleeding had become almost unbearable. I could barely hold on as the fight went out of control. Lenneth knocked John off the cliff but before he could help again the creature to his left impaled its long tail through Kyoko and the child.

“Nooo!!” I yelled reaching out to her.

I tried furiously to get back on the hill but my arms could barely move. Her scream echoed in my ears and rang inside me like a parade of trumpets.

With a swift kick to my shoulder from Lenneth my arms couldn’t support me and we fell next to each other. Her screams and a flash of light was the last I saw or head of her.

I hit the water hard and if not for John and Lenneth pulling me onto the boat I’m pretty sure I would have drowned. I coughed and wheezed as I tried to catch my breath, and then without even thinking I hit Lenneth hard in the face.

“What the frack did you do!?” I yelled.

I rammed into him and knocked him to his feet as I hammered away at his face. The Twilight hadn’t completely faded and I used every ounce of strength to hurt him as much as I could.

“You left her to fracken die you fracken basterd!!”

“Leon calm down!” Kayla yelled trying to grab me off Lenneth,” John help me” She looked back at him but the lose had already taken his toll on him. He stood their and then dropped to his knees as his eyes watered.

The emotions for Kyoko I felt at the moment could only be matched by how I felt for Kayla. When they where able to get me off Lenneth I was already screaming in pain of the loss. Lenneth didn’t fight me back and it showed when he stood. His face was severely bruised and his nose was broken and bleeds from both sides. At that moment in time I probably would have killed Lenneth with my bare hands. I would have dropped everything for it. I regret it now after seeing him. He felt bad about it and I could see it soon after the boat sailed away from the island. I don’t care that I lost sight of the greater goal and I don’t care that he’s in pain. He won’t ever feel what me and John felt that night. He can mourn over the lives he left but losing family isn’t just a life. I stormed off down into the cabin and didn’t say a word to anybody. Even when I got there I was still mad. Without even thinking I punched a hole clear through the side of the wall. I sat down on the bed and had my arms over my head. I was so angry I had a headache and it was throbbing out of control. It pounded against my head until suddenly there was knock on the door.

There was a slight before she spoke.

“Leon...can I come in?” Kayla asked.

I didn’t answer. I really didn’t care about anything at this point.

She entered anyway and sat next to me.

“Are you going to be ok? She asked.

I took a second then just plainly answered no.

I know she was thinking about something to say but there wasn't anything I wanted to hear.

"I can't say I can begin to know what you're going through but...I just want you to know you're not the only one who's suffering," She said.

"What the fuck would he know? What the hell does any of the Sanction know about how it feels...cold @\$ basterds".

She sighs" You don't think he feels bad about this do you? He had to make a choice to leave someone ...or save someone for the world and he chose the one for the world. He knows it's not far he couldn't save her and blames himself for her death even more than any of us, but Leon...you can't just blame him for it...like he said before...plenty of people are going to die and...we just gotta try hard to make it through all of this".

I didn't answer and she was expecting it. She sat at my side even though I didn't say a word to her. We just sat there in silence listening to the waves. It took time but my anger began to dissipate and my reasoning returned. I resented the fact she was right and I couldn't blame him. Who probably did know the odds more than me and hated more to admit it. But...leaving her just wasn't an option she was family to me, both John and Kyoko were the closest to family I had had. Losing even one felt like I left fragments of me on that island and I could never go back. Eventually I took some time away from everyone. I told Kayla I wanted some fresh air and some alone time and she understood me. I stroked my brow, as I stood tall on deck. I could still see the fires and that hill from the distance. Then I noticed John. He was looking as bad as me only...he was taking it a lot worse.

"John...you ok man?" I asked going over to him.

He was crouched down with his hand over his face. His voice was tight and choked and I could tell he didn't want his hurt to show but I saw through it. The tears went through everything no matter how hard he held back. No matter what feelings he wanted to suppress they came out in full force. I know no words could explain how he felt but what he handed me gave me clear definition. He whipped his face and turned his back as he rolled a shiny object to me. I picked it up and stared at it point blank. I stared for a long time and even though its meaning came to me the second I saw it I couldn't believe it and the pain just came back. Now I was hurting him for him and me. I hurt and felt worst about all of this now. I knew what it was so clearly, and it made me burst into tears to think about it. I placed on the boards of the ship a gold wedding ring and I couldn't look at it without all the thoughts burning from my insides showing to everyone who approached.

## 4 - The Crossing

The very next morning, everyone on the boat attended a service for all who had died on the Island. The service only lasted an hour but a lot went on in such a short amount of time. Kids were left with neither mother nor father only relatives nor sometimes only neighbors. Parents lost children land and everything they ever owned. I refused to shed a tear as others did. I had to think of myself better...stronger...what hope am I if I cry? I thought to myself. I saw Kayla cry as the ship passed flowers and anything else of memory of the people diseased were thrown behind us. From another fisherman's view it looked like we were polluting the sea with garbage but from where I saw it all the hurt and pain and suffering was being poured off the ship. John came but only stayed for the first few minutes. He couldn't bare being around anyone not even me presently. Even if I didn't want her around Kayla stood by me. Sometimes I'd get pissed and yell at her, but it passed. She knew I just needed time and when it came down to it I'd want her back. I always had suffered alone even when I had family to suffer with. It always felt like only my burden to bare. Eventually I did reach out to talk to her. The day was hard and evening came slowly. I was walking around the deck getting some air and trying to cool my head when I saw John staring off into the horizon. If he felt anything like me I thought then he's gonna need someone to lean on too. I walked over to him but I didn't say a word. Like Kayla did to me when the courage and the words came to him he spoke to me. I just gave him the mental awareness that I was there.

"It'll be hard going back...with her gone and all" He finally worked up to say.

"Yeah...when it's all over...I wanna give her a proper burial..." I said.

"It's funny...for the longest time I didn't think much of her...not past a friend or an annoying neighbor it wasn't till around the times in the prison until I really noticed her." He takes a deep breathe and pauses," I thought I had all the time in the world to ask...and now...I won't know".

I stood there as the wind went through my hands and feet.

"I don't even think I'll make it past all of this...for a while after yesterday...I seriously contended if I believe in god or not...he left her and she was one of us" John said.

"One of us?" I repeated.

"Yeah...The Sanction you said had abilities called Trinities and you said I had them too...Well...She had them as well" John barley made out. His voice was cracking in again and even thinking about her so soon was hurting him.

I decided to drop the subject because it wasn't helping any of us. I've got so much to lose in all of this I thought. Now thoughts of the same thing happening to Clair or Kayla popped into my head. The scene with Kyoko was almost burned into every second I closed my eyes. The idea of it happening to Kayla or Clair was mind-boggling. I couldn't take losing anyone else.

"So how do you feel about the Twin cities?" I decided this was as far off subject I could think of.

"Well...at first fighting in some unholy war sounded well...kinda scary to be honest...I mean how you described it. I'd be fighting a shoot load of things putting my life on the line and to know they are infinitely coming and theirs no way to win eats at ya...I don't really want to die and I had no reason to really fight but now...I'm not just fighting for me anymore" He said and tried to force a smile. A tear rolled down his cheek and his breathing got heavy. I knew it was my time to give him space as Kayla gave me. I took a glance back when he had leaned his right arm over the side of the boat for support. I stood there a second gazing at the pink, orange, and red sun set before finally going back below the deck. I hadn't spoke to Lenneth since that time. Even if I happened to walk passed him I didn't even

acknowledge his existence. Right of wrong I hated him right now. I passed down the hallway into my room. It was getting late and I was tired from the previous night. I noticed that whatever wound I got healed in a matter of hours. I guess the Twilight has some advantages I thought and smirked. I laid my head down and was instantly asleep before I knew what even hit me.

There was a loud thunderous noise that woke me hard that night. I woke up with a fright as I could here yells and screams from above. Damn I thought my heart racing grabbing my sword and almost breaking down the door. There was a dim sheet of water on the ground as I made my way to the deck of the ship. A large wave hit the boat and shook it hard. I grabbed the side of the ship for support.

“Leon!” John yelled slicing in two a small creature.

Then from the side of the ship other bigger version of the scaly demons reached onto the ship. They were followed by the creatures from Albina. Clearly there wasn’t anyway to stop them. The ship leaned hard to the right knocking to my feet and I slid along with others.

“Hold the Damn ship steady!” John roared as he knocked the man in charge of steering out the way. Other men had taken up arms against the small creatures but just fell pray to the might of the bigger ones from Albina. The creatures long silvery skin glistened in the rain as it from into a sharp blade and with a deep cry ran over and sliced at me. I dodged it barley as it cut through the side of the boat down below. I sliced it quick in the leg and then with a flash of light shoot it clear off the side of the boat. Others quickly followed it as the men stood off and fought and the women took shelter down below. I was doing fine holding them off from the civilians when a loud screech knocked me off balance.

Everyone stopped in his or her tracks as it sounded off again. We listened and then without warning a large tentacle erupted from the center of the boat and sent men flying off the ship into the water. The water boiled a dark red seconds after they had entered.

“Leon!” Kayla screamed as a large wave sent her flying across into the railing of the ship. The railing collapsed from the tentacle she was holding for dear life.

I froze for a second remembering painfully back to the island. It all played in my head and I didn’t even need to think to act this time. I slid and grabbed her arm just before they gave out but with another hard wave to the side of the ship I was slipping too. I held her arm with both arms but I couldn’t pull her up nor could I keep my own balance on the ship. I was slowly slipping to her weight and my own just before I fell and I felt a strong grip on my shoulder. I looked back to see Lenneth had grabbed my shoulder and grasped my hand just before I dropped into the water. Now I only supported Kayla with one arm.

“Don’t let go!” He yelled.

“Like hell if I’ll let another die” I retorted back to him.

He ignored my words as a wave hit us all hard in the face. I looked up to see his leg was wedged between a crack in the side of the ship. I couldn’t even see what was going on the deck since we were only feet from the ground.

“Pull us up!” I yelled to him.

“I can’t!” He said squinting. I looked back up and his leg was dripping with blood because of our weight.

Its not gonna hold for much longer I thought to myself. I could here the ship crack and it almost sounded like his leg as the storm raged and water dripped onto my face. I held Kayla’s hand tighter as I looked down to her face. She was neither scared nor afraid and looked at me with hope, and I wasn’t going to let us die if it killed me. Just then the wedge Lenneth had had on the ship broke and we began falling. I hit the water hard, as I didn’t break my grasp on Kayla’s hand. I barely managed to swim to the surface as I tried to keep her afloat. I could tell she hadn’t swum before because she panicked and clung to me just like Kyoko so long ago it seemed.

I could make out the outline of the Tentacles moving under us.



I debated using the Twilight but if I did then I'd have to leave someone. I couldn't carry Lenneth and Kayla and I knew that if I tried and failed there wouldn't be any winners. Lenneth swam over close to me with his blade in his hand.

"What ever happens Leon...I'll fight, bleed, and die to keep you and the princess safe?" Lenneth said to me.

I was not in the position to argue nor did the situation call for it. I nodded, as I kept afloat for both our sakes. I felt something grab my leg and instantly I was pulled down into the towering depths of the Ocean. I could make out Lenneth's body trying to fight back under water but failing. The Tentacles constricted the life out of us and pulled us deeper and deeper as its grip on us got tighter. For the one instant I let go of Kayla's arm so she wouldn't be dragged down with me. Then I heard a large sound as the last of my air faded from my body I could make out a large spear in the water as the center of the beast's blood ran with us in the water. The tentacles grip on me lightened up as my body gave way. I saw Lenneth and Kayla just before my vision went black and my lungs collapsed. Her lips fell soft on me and it was the warmest feeling I had ever felt. My body took its last try for air as my I passed out.

When I came to I was coughing hard the salty water of the sea. I turned over to my stomach and it felt more like I'd hurled everything I'd ever eaten. I could barely breath for a few seconds. I looked up to see everyone standing around me.

"Mr. Leon I presume?" A man dressed heavily with badges and stars of all kinds said to me offering his hand.

I took it gratefully and answered yes.

"We have orders from the King to Escort you from here to the Twin cities and their you will immediately be asked for a meeting with the King himself understood?" He said.

"Yeah...where is everyone else?" I said looking around at the circle of soldiers.

"The Female and man that swam you up to us are resting but are looking as bad a shape as you. Other then a number of survivors off the ship that was attacked everyone else perished to the creature before we could bring it down" The man took off his hat and bowed. The other soldiers copied and did the same.

I stood up and pushed through them and went below deck. I looked through the doors quickly and found John sitting on a bed with a towel.

I took a sigh of relief when I saw him.

"Your awake already" He said to me," Didn't actually think we where going to make it through all of that".

"Your not the only" I said taking a deep breath.

"Where's Kayla?" I asked him.

"The princess? She's a few rooms down. She passed out not long after they got her on the ship. They almost had to pry her off you" He said with a smirk.

I smirked," Is she ok?"

"Go see for yourself but last I saw she was just resting" John said.

"Thanks" I said about to hurry down the hall but I thought for a second and turned back into John's room," Are you going to forgive Lenneth?"

The room had an awkward silence before he spoke.

" I don't blame Lenneth for his...I blame myself and my weakness to save her. He did what was right and it was me who didn't secure her safety before any others...I just couldn't leave all the those people on the island to die...turns out that most of them died only a day after we got off".

John looked grim" How many actually made it off?" I asked.

"Counting me...2 or 3" He answered solemnly.

My heart almost skipped a beat with that lose,” Damn”.

“Don’t worry about it” John said,” You did what you could...But we have to finish this. More are going to die and I don’t want kids to lose their parents or Parents to lose their kids...it’s just a vicious cycle of death and it’s following us where ever we go”

“It follows me...and the people who wield the Twilight,” I said in a deep voice.

“Well...Even with that said...it’s not just your problem anymore” John said raising his sword to his shoulder. He stepped out of the room and went back up to the top deck.

I went down the hall checking every room until I got to her room. I walked up to her bed and took her hand. She was sleeping peacefully and I stayed by her side. I laid my head back on the bed next to her. I closed my eyes and after a few minutes began to hum a song from when I was younger. I didn’t know the words but I knew how it sounded perfectly. The song rang in my ears and I didn’t even notice for a few seconds someone was calling my name.

“Leon” I heard a voice yell.

I instantly came back from daydreaming when Lenneth came into the room.

“We’ve made it” He announced,” You should probably come see for yourself”

He walked out without another word and after a glance back I followed shortly behind him.

When I got back on deck everyone was eyeing the city. It had changed a lot since I had last seen only about a month ago. Building had been torn down and the city was armed to the neck with every weapon available to man. I could see ships arriving from almost every direction.

“Theirs not many gathering like this is there,” John asked.

“No...there isn’t going to be a battle like this again. Whoever wins will win this war,” Lenneth said.

“Then we better be ready,” I said as the boat docked in the Port. Kayla got up a few minutes after we docked in the port. I could tell she was happy to be home but she didn’t look like it. She almost looked like she didn’t even want to be here. I wanted to ask but it just didn’t seem important. I had questions for Luther and everyone else. How where we going to win a battle when no matter how many soldiers die the tide of battle will not change or even waver. There was something they hadn’t told me and a lot of things they never mentioned. I was tired of being left in the dark so I was going to go get answers for myself at whatever cost it took. It looked like we marched as all five us entered the secured castle walls together. We where immediately greeted and welcomed. If they sent Lenneth then they obviously did expect us I thought. Kayla was taken away to her chambers and it sure did look like it too. It looked like she was dragged. It really looked like something she wasn’t telling me but I’d have to worry about it later. Lenneth led John and me down to the Sanction Chamber. We briskly walked down the spiral stairway that led to the Chamber below. We could already here shouts, murmurs and other conversation before we even entered. We stopped at the door for second and then walked in to see where this war was going to take us.

## 5 - Truth and Reconciliation

"This is ain't gonna settle a damn thing!"

"Well if you got a better idea then speak the hell up!"

"Don't get ignorant, neither of you two even have the slightest idea of how to create something even worth listening too"

I stood there for a minute just observing the huge congestion of people screaming and hollering to talk over the others. Luther and Gabriel where sprinkled into the larger selection of people that I didn't know so I went over to them.

"What's going on?" I asked.

"Glad to see your both back in one piece" Luther said to Lenneth it was almost as though he ignored me.

"Your reinforcements couldn't have come a second to soon. I'm pretty sure we wouldn't have made it without them" Lenneth said.

"Alexander couldn't spare many and we've been receiving armada's by the hour. Where close over 172, 000 soldiers." Luther said proudly.

"Is that enough?" Lenneth asked

"Hardly...we'll need twice this much and maybe more to even last past the first day ...but it's a good start," He answered.

I ignored them for the time being. There wasn't any since in going off on him now. I had questions still and risking never getting the answer out of him would hurt more then anything I could throw at him.

"Everyone take your seats. We are ready to begin" An older man took the front seat at the table as everyone crowded down to their seats, beside him in the table where Luther and Alexander followed by Gabriel and the rest of the people who where new. I was still wondering what was up with so many people down here. The Sanction hadn't been open to civilians and from what I could tell it was held in the shadows of all of this.

"Welcome all Sanction members. It has been a long 3 years in preparation of this day. A grand meeting of all of us has not happened in many years and is a glorious day to see all you here" The older man spoke. He had a dark brown beard that came down to his chest and wore a white chain mail that dragged down to his knees. Beside him knelt a long spear resting beside the large armchair in the front of the table. Everyone murmured at his words, but they pissed me off. Luther never mentioned that their where more of the Sanction members. I clinched my fist but didn't say anything. I glanced back over to John who looked over at me at exactly the same time. He didn't look too pleased at how they treated him either. We didn't take a seat; instead we leaned on the wall in the back and listened. Their was bound to be something more he was going to say that could answer some of the many questions I was going to get out of him anyway.

"As you all should very well know the wars will soon be upon us, and this is only the beginning. This Bloody war will rage on and the battles we will not be able to win, but this battle we must win. This city must hold! Let Hell and every bit of its Damnation that walks and destroys the fruits of our land pay head to this mighty fortress of god. We will stand together with the brothers and sisters of our lands and for this battle at least! Will Hell know exactly who it is up against and until it is destroyed it will know to fear from this world and all that stand up and fight for it!" The old man's words echoed largely in the hall as everyone cheered and applauded. I had heard enough and walked over to Luther.

“Why didn’t you tell me about them” I asked in a harsh voice.

“You didn’t need to know. It was not important and had you had stayed you would have had the chance. There is no room for recklessness in this war Leon and though you may control the Twilight and it may have awakened in you. You still are incapable of using it to any extent of its potential.” Luther said.

Everyone turned to his words and stared at me like I had committed some type of sin and I was to be exiled just by my very words.

“I’ll take you up on that claim,” I said drawing my sword and putting it up against his neck.

“You know not who you draw your sword too. Put your weapon away there is no since in spilling blood in this hour of need” Luther said ignoring my threat.

“I know damn well who I’m drawing my sword too, and I intend to beat the living shoot out of you until I get every question I have answered and you will not tell me a lie or I will spill every drop of blood” I said holding my blade even closer to his neck.

“Put it away son we can solve all this in a few moments time I-“ But the old man was cut off when John drew his blade and held it at his neck.

Instantly the entire table drew their blades and they where either aimed at John or me. I froze.

“At ease” The old man said

They stared at me for a few seconds but slowly put their weapons away never taking their eye off me.

“I have heard about what has happened to the Trinity Islands, and I know that is what’s been causing you to act so reckless. I didn’t tell you about all of this because I knew you would take reckless actions that endanger lives and more importantly your own” Luther said so straight forward it was almost as though he didn’t care about the situation or that I had his life in my hands.

“ You knew about the crack in the islands and yet you didn’t tell me until I got there. Because of that lack of being prepared for it many lives where lost...and the blood of family that night.” I said lowering my head but keeping my blade ever closer to his neck.

“Not telling you in time was our mistake indeed it would seem, but blaming me on your inability to save your own is selfish and-“ Before he could even finish his sentence my fist hit him square in the jaw and sent him staggering backwards. Blood seeped from his mouth and without a second’s delay I was on him throwing blowing after blow at what ever I could reach. The room became uproar as the men violently threw me off to the side and helped Luther to his feet. Several of them had kicked me many times in the face and I could taste the warm blood in my mouth as I got to my feet. John stood beside me half beaten while we awaited their answer to this.

“ Is this really your answer Leon? Why do you think we would have held something this important if not to save you from going into a rage like fit like a childish little boy.” Luther said.

“Shut the hell up! Don’t give me anymore of your fracken bullshoot. I don’t give a damn about the Sanction or any of you. I will fight this war, but I will fight with the people I can trust.” I yelled and stormed out of the room.

There wasn’t a sound as I left and not a soul tried to stop me. John walked briskly behind me without saying a word. He had never seen me go off like that before and I was surprised to recall what I had said before too. The Sanction had been holding out on me and it was clear now they didn’t trust my decisions or me. They had every intention on taking plans into their own hands and just using me like a tool in it. I couldn’t believe I was fooled so badly. Blinded only of the sheer mass of what was going on, but as far as I was concerned I meant what I said about the Sanction. I don’t care what plan of action they take but they won’t be using me for what ever it is. I’m a free man and free to make my own decisions and I know what I have to do with this power. The Sanction in general I didn’t trust but there were a few inside I could still trust. I took a few deep breaths trying to cool myself down. John kept from eye contact for fear of starting any more trouble. I tried to calm myself down but the thought of even

being around the castle and potentially seeing any of them sparked my nerves and my anger was like a short fuse waiting to go off. Eventually I gave up and left the castle. Right now it was only full of stress and anger. I stomped all the way through the city and down to the dock. It seemed that only water-cooled me off when I was like this. Maybe it was because of how I grew up on Drenora or just because I always liked the water. Whatever the reason it still helped. I wanted to go get Kayla and talk to her but now I didn't even have the nerve to go back. On top of that I was still too pissed and upset to have probably come up with anything of any use to say to her except words of hate and malice towards the Sanction. I took a seat at the dock and let the cool ocean water run through my shoes. I watched out far into the sea as ocean liners and other huge vessels were coming in only a few minutes apart. I splashed myself in the face with a bit of water to help slow my breathing. I was tense and all of what had happened was still getting to me. It was just building up from one incident to another and I just couldn't control it. I rested my head in my arms and sat there and thought a moment. I didn't see why they didn't trust me. I hadn't given them any reason since I first met them to give them any reason not to trust me. It just seemed out of the question that I would think to betray them. The warm rays felt good to my aching body now hurt physically and mentally. I still wanted to know how this war was going to be fought and the determining factor in this fight. It felt like the city had just become a place full of enemies and people out to hurt me. Only a number of people I could really trust and now even that number is slimmer. What I knew for sure was that I needed answers, and there was only one person inside all of this and at the head far enough to give me answers and dependable ones at that. I looked back up and started back to the castle.

"The Evacuation is starting..." John said looking towards families quickly abandoning their homes as soldiers ripping them to shreds for more battle room. I didn't expect to see such a beautiful city torn down like this even for war. I expected a battle like no other but are the odds that far in the enemies favor? I thought. Soldiers scrambled around the city blocks as we walked by taking orders and setting up siege equipment. I've never seen a city take so many precautions. This just made me want to speak with him even more. Even if it's bad I trust him to tell me.

We walked up the castle steps and into the main hall. We walked briskly up the stairs 4 floors up to the king's quarters. The castle was full of people and not like I'd ever seen. The hallways were packed almost to the point of no breathing space and people either carried all their belongings and waited in line or were trying to muscle their way through the crowd. I pushed through the line of people and went directly into the King's quarters ignoring anyone who had an audience before me.

"Leon...I had a feeling you would come" Alexander said, "Give me a moment and I will be with you". I waited at the edge of the room as the king listened to an old man's family's complaint. They asked to take shelter in the castle during the battle but he refused. He told them that it would be best to get as many people to safe locations as possible. The man looked glum at the king's reply but stepped out without another word.

When I stepped up to Alexander I noticed the gleaming plate mail and royal sword he had at his side. It was like he expected hell to come on us at any second.

"I know why you're here Leon so I should probably get to the point. We've left out of this because you only have one matter to focus on. I apologize but saving humanity is your job... saving these people and fighting this battle is mine." Alexander said.

I held my tongue to resist from saying anything I shouldn't and I continued to let him speak.

"Leon the countries beyond this border aren't safe anymore." Alexander said stepping over to the large world map in the corner of the room. "The Twin cities lies in the middle east of the map a perfect crossroads of north and south. Anything south of us however has been completely taken over by hell. They are literal wastelands Leon, nobody is alive down there."

I looked through the map at all the places I had been.

“What of Drenora? What of my sister” I asked in the wavering tone.

“Drenora was attacked early in this. After I got word that this had begun I started the evacuation. We’ve been evacuating the south for 2 months now...but countries don’t believe until they see it for their own eyes ...and by then it’s much too late. Villages are gone in a heart beat...whole cities burn to the ground in a night...Whole islands conquered in blood within days...Their moving Leon...on a bloody war path that hasn’t left a single life not taken.” Alexander’s voice was choked when he said all of this and I couldn’t imagine how it had to feel to be there and not know.

“If you actually thought of it...and I hate to admit that we knew about this so early in advance but we weren’t able to do anything...But we’ve already lost over 5 million lives and not a single army has been brought up to defend those people...It makes me just feel like I left all those lives to be condemned and I was too selfish to lend a hand even though I knew O to well of what might happen.”

“So my sister is dead...” I said in such a low whisper it could barley be made out. I didn’t look at him.

“Damien has been ordering the evacuation for some time now...but we haven’t heard a word from him ...so I wouldn’t know” Alexander’s voice trailed off into the murmurs of the castle walls.

There was a pause before I spoke again, “I trust him...I trust Damien to protect her just like he protected me...I see now why he couldn’t come with us back in Albina” I said.

“Albina...He went to Albina?” Alexander said.

“...Yes...I wouldn’t have been able to save Kayla if not for him,” I said.

He didn’t speak anymore on the subject but instead went to something different. I noticed it immediately but what he had to tell me afterwards almost made me forget about it completely.

“I’m not going to lie and say that not telling you wasn’t in my interest...As for the Sanctions decision on how much they would tell you from its end I did agree you had a right know...but others didn’t see it my way...I won’t mention those names because I don’t want anymore disputes within the Sanction...I believe we have held enough from you and you need to grasp what is happening all around you... The Sanction is gathering all of its members... The ones you met earlier on your first visit were only a fraction of them. Deep within the mountains to the north there is a sacred place. Alden the holy place...it is a city where the Sanction was first formed and is where the Sanction takes birth. The Sanction is much larger than a few members...it spans over 200 qualified and equally strong men and women. All blessed with holy talents to end this war. The main members you should have met when you first arrived. They are one of our strongest cards to play in this war and when the entire Sanction has been summoned we maybe able to hold our ground in this fight...but for us to win...we need our Trump card...that’s you”

“So I’m just a piece in this war like everyone else...well sorry...I’m not taking a command from any of them. I will fight, but not with them.”

“Leon you must understand...holding the information like this was so that you could focus on the main goal...which is to use the Twilight to win this war. At this point...every life is disposable to reach that goal...even mine or any of the sanction members...the only one whose life actually matters...is yours and yours alone”

“Alexander...your wrong...no life is disposable...and all life is precious. I’m not here to win a war...nor am I here for anything the Sanction has planned for me...I’m here to save lives and give us a shot at a future. If you really cared for your people then their lives would mean as much to you as they do to me” I clinched my fist and walked out after a moments pause.

“I’ve had enough of you Leon and if someone hasn’t told you the truth or you’ve been too damn thick to notice it. Then I damn well should be me the one to get it through your skull. First DON’T YOU EVER! Contest my faith and love for my people. I have suffered more humiliation more pain more suffering than anyone of your ignorant stature could comprehend. What you haven’t gotten through your damn head is that this war is breaking us apart. If the actions the Sanction and I have set down do not come into play

even if you destroy hell there won't be anyone left for you to save! I did say lives were disposable but I did not say they weren't precious. How do you think it feels Leon to have to send thousands and thousands of men to their death!? Could you even imagine how that even affects someone!? I know their going to die! Every one of those lives I have to put into that battle so we can secure a future will die. These men know and I know that for us to be able to have a future. For our families to have any hope of seeing past another few weeks we must stand and lives must be lost for the higher cause. You think just because you lose someone that others haven't Leon!"

I was silent as for the first time in my life I watched and listened as the king went on a rampage and lost his cool.

"I heard about the Trinity Islands. I know the lives that were lost and how it affected you and Lenneth...I know it hurts, but don't be selfish. In this war no one single man I can reach can make a single difference in this war. I could send a million men to their deaths and never come close to the results you would have with a power that you don't even deserve. It's sad when I when I look back at the men I have already had to send to an early grave. Children Leon...no older than my own daughter were sent to fight a losing battle and give their lives. We can't even defend our own women...Women are actually being drafted in some countries and nations because there aren't enough men to serve...You have to understand Leon...the Sanction isn't looking out for themselves...They're trying to save lives but no matter how hard our efforts were losing more than we can save. Ask anyone Leon...the only good luck is this war for us now is if more people die. If they hadn't been people in the southern sections of the world. If those people's lives had not been taken...the Twin cities would have already fallen, and we would have already lost this war"

After that the room was quiet and neither of us spoke. The king's eyes were like cinders piercing into my own heart with rage. Sure...I knew lives had been lost but it's always a lot more shocking when you actually hear the number. I walked out without a word and shut the door immediately before someone else tried to barge in. John just glanced at

me and kept quiet.

"What now?" He asked.

"I need to find Damien," I said not looking back to him.

"About your sister?"

"That...and I need help"

I walked down the narrow corridor down into the Sanction chamber. When I got there most of the people had left but a few did remain, mostly the ones I didn't actually know. They gave me weird glances but I ignored them I went directly to Lenneth.

"Where's Damien?" I asked.

"He hasn't returned yet...By the way...you mentioned you saw him in Albina correct" Lenneth said.

"Yeah...he helped me rescue the princess..." I said eyeing him.

"We haven't heard from him since he left for the evacuation. He didn't mention anything in a report about helping you"

"I guess some people are still loyal now aren't they?" I said and walked off.

I quickly walked back up the corridor and waited outside the castle.

"Was saying that suppose to make you look better in the Sanctions light?" John asked.

"No...but at least he'll know how it feels," I said leaning on the wall of the castle steps.

"Leon. didn't expect to actually see you on time" Damien said coming up the steps of the castle.

"Damien I need your help" I said pulling him over to the side.

"With what? Can it wait I have something important that the sanction needs to hear about." He said.

"It's important." I said.

He answered ok and followed me across the courtyard and around to the back of the castle.

"What's this about?" Damien asked.

"First...Is Clair ok?" I asked with a serious face.

He smirks," She's fine...She should be on the next boat here. So she should be getting here in about a day or so".

I sighed with relief. At least something went right today I thought.

"And next..." I said drawing my sword," I need you to show me how to use my Trinity."

"...Ok...but why me?" He asked," Luther or Gabriel would be better suited since they were the ones who taught me" He said.

" I can't trust the Sanction...They've lied and kept far to much from me. They have never trusted me...but I've known you for years...and since you helped me in Albina against orders...it means you were not with them in the decision to hold back the information from me." I said.

"I see..." He sighs," Ok...I'll try and teach you as much about the Trinity as I have learned so you better listen. First, it may not pertain directly to all of this...but the book you found from your father was almost identical to another set of his notes that I found in the South."

"Say what?" I said lowering my blade.

" It tells a lot about the original history behind the Twilight and Immorick...You already have put together that the princess has a part of the Twilight inside her or you wouldn't have gone to Albina so quickly...His name was Balphados...Just before Immorick went into his Final battle and sealed Hell away for all this time...he gave some of his power to his close Friend Balphados in the hopes that if he couldn't finish hell then Balphados would. Balphados accepted the power but not without regret especially after Immorick sacrificed himself to end the war. Balphados wanted to make sure all of what had happened stayed alive so that the day that hell brakes lose again his descendents could destroy it this time. Balphados founded the Sanction of Immorick and passed down some of his power to 7 men who where to keep all of the knowledge of hell and Immorick safe and help destroy hell when the day came. As you know Immorick married the widow Queen of the Twin cities some years later making King Alexander a direct descendent of Immorick but more importantly the princess. The Twilight was passed down to one of Balphados' kids per generation, but the 7 Sanction members' families all inherited some of the power. That is why the Sanction is 200 and counting members instead of the original 7...and in case you haven't noticed Leon, you are a descendent of one of the 7 making you part of the Sanction you despise right now"

"My fathers notes said all of that?" I asked.

"He recreated the Timeline of what happened in Immorick's time and what is happening now...he truly was a great man and even though we have no idea what happened to him...he is still helping man kind where ever he is" Damien said.

"Hmm" I said as I raised my sword from my side," When this is over I will find my father...but until I can sort out all of this, it'll have to wait"

I swung at Damien just before he raised his blade to block it.

"You have to understand" Damien said catching me off guard with a slow swing of his blade to my shins. I easily stepped back and watched for a counter reaction to my movement." The Trinity and the Twilight are one in the same. You didn't come to me to learn how to use the Trinity, you came because there are still parts of the Twilight that you don't understand how to use".

"So what if it is?" I said rolling to the side as Damien's blade came down quick and smoothly on the wall I stood only moments before.

" Its something you will have to come to pass with like so many other's in the Sanction. It's nothing that the Sanction can help you with and I actually do think that all of this is making finding that answer all the more difficult but you have to be strong. People look to you as support and will soon look to you as a savior because *you will* carve us a way into the future...or we are doomed not to have one at all".



Damien returned his blade to its sheath on his back and looked back to me.

“ I'll admit the Sanction's actions aren't always in your best favor but they are trying their best with what they have. In case nobody has told you, you were destined for greatness Leon and it was no fluke that the Twilight did become yours to bear. It's not something in normal man could ever hope or dream to be able to hold, and it certainly will not go without hardships...but be strong...I have seen you fight with heart and soul for the people who are close to you and I have no doubt in my mind that you will fight for all of these people that look to you as their last hope”.

I sighed and put my sword away.

John smirked at my reaction to Damien's words and it wasn't often as I could remember that he did compliment me.

Lord knows I needed though I thought.

“There will be an assortment of meetings before the battle begins and I hope we can be as prepared as ever when it comes. I want you to come and rely on the Sanctions intentions with your own eyes. They are people just like you trying to make it in a war they know will overwhelm them...No matter how you look at it they will all depend on you” Damien said and walked back up the castle steps.

I took in some of the fresh air and followed behind Damien back into the Sanction chamber.

Kyoko...I thought to myself as we headed back down the narrow corridor back to the place I had been so many times. I hope that someday you will forgive my weakness...I'll get stronger...I'll find away to win...people need me...and its tough, but I'll pull through... and one day soon.... I hope...I can return back to the land's me you and John walked...and lay rest to your memories that I cherished and experienced... so long ago...

“I see...” Luther said in anguish,” They can't come...but why?”

“ The demons' movements are scarce but they have been attacking where we are vulnerable...The Sanction will not remain whole if we cannot recover the ones that are still protecting Alden” Numus said.

“Why can't they come? This battle is one of the most important of this war...and yet they're defending a mere place that will soon be demolished anyway?” Reaverer said putting his arms on the table.

“Watch your tongue!” Lore yelled standing up.

“Sit down Lore its not important” Luther answered back to her.

“We still need negotiations to get Alden to release enough of us but we don't have the means to travel there and then bring the entire Sanction back...” Lenneth said.

“The trip is only about 2 days... I'm pretty sure one of you could be up to the job?” Langston said looking around,” ...Guess not...”

“Negotiations could take days, and I've spoken with them myself with no resolve” Damien said.

“Who are these guys?” I whispered to Damien as everyone else disputed.

“They are the main branch of the Sanction at this point in time...the best and minds of it you might say but they still are nothing compared to our counsel” Damien whispered back.

“Counsel...?” I tried to ask further but we were interrupted with more shouts and, as he got deeper into the conversation I could tell I wasn't going to be able to drag him out.

“That's enough for now” Luther said,” We will meet at the end of the day to discuss our strategies for this war...I hope you all come with a better head on your shoulders”.

Everyone was slow to finally leave the room. It left only John me, Luther and the old man from before.

“Leon, this is Antwan” Luther said,” He is the true leader of the Sanction”

“Its nice to meet you on friendlier terms this time” The man said and held his hand out to me.

I was tempted not to shake it from yesterday but I didn't want to bring upon more suspicion than what I

had already drawn so I shook it.

“Young man, all of our efforts will be in vain if not for your stand in this battle. It isn’t something we can win on our own so we will depend heavily on your support. I hope this comes out better than expected” Antwan said with a cough and then left followed by Luther close behind.

It was late now. The meeting had gone late into the night and half of it I didn’t even understand. The other half pertained more so to them than to me so I didn’t truly pay attention. I had one more stop before I called it a day and I wanted just to see her off if it was the least I could do.

I knocked softly on her door, as I heard her stir and quickly come to answer it.

“Leon’ She smiles,” come in”.

I take a seat on her bed and seeing as though the last time I was actually in her room it was doing something for the Sanction. It felt different actually being invited in.

“ I have to step out for a second just wait here ok” She said and hurried out the door.

What was that about I thought?

I waited for what seemed like an hour and she still hadn’t come back. I’d managed to make myself comfortable but I was tired from how the day had gone, and I had already caused enough stress on others so I wasn’t going to try anything.

I sighed and walked out closing the door gently behind me. The room I had been given was only a floor down so if she did come back tonight she knew where I’d be.

When I got to my room and actually laid down the bed felt so much better than it had ever felt. Once I was down I couldn’t find the strength to get back up again in a matter of moments I was asleep. I had trouble getting up the next morning though. My back was strained and it felt like all the life and energy from my muscles had been sucked dry. I limped and fell to the floor trying to get to my feet but it didn’t get me anywhere. I’d never been so sore before and after awhile I couldn’t even move.

Was this some type of side effect of the Twilight I thought to myself closing my eyes trying to get as much rest in between my aches of pain.

If it was I said to myself I’m pretty sure the Sanction purposely left it out. I smirked and then immediately winced in pain when I heard a sound on my door.

“Yeah?” I answered.

“The King is calling a national gathering” A voice said from the door,” He requests your assistance and cooperation in this matter”.

“Gimme a minute” I said rolling out of the bed.

I tried getting to my feet again but my legs buckled from my weight and I almost landed flat on my face. This is bullshit I thought what the hell is wrong with me.

It took me a few minutes to finally be able to support my own weight and it felt weird. It almost felt like I was learning how to walk or move for that matter for the first time.

I inched over to the door and opened it taking deep breaths just to hold my balance. The halls and corridors were empty and it was almost odd compared to the over whelming number it was only a day before. I took the stairs slowly but as time went by I finally regained enough strength to move normally with a little strain of course. I didn’t exactly know what I had to do with a national gathering but damn was I shocked when I found out. I took only one step outside the castle walls to see an entire city full of people at the castle steps. They cheered and applauded as I could hear even from where I stood the King’s bold words echoing through out the halls. The King was in the center of the crowd and beside him was the entire Sanction as he introduced them to the people. I saw Kayla too, but it was like before. She didn’t smile and she looked sad and almost angry at the same time. I moved quickly through out the crowd of people until I heard my name called and every person within a meter of me back away. I looked around confused as they clapped and cheered and applauded me for some strange and unforeseen reason. Alexander extended his hand to me and I took it and was pulled up to the platform

where he spoke.

“This man is our savior and with his help Hell will not step past these borders! They will no fear! Because we will fight and we will crush every opposition they through before us!” Alexander yelled raising my hand up high as the crowd let out even more cheers and applauds.

I looked out into the crowd, but I couldn't see its end. The entire city was full of people and for as far as I could see I saw people cheering for me. Hoping that I would be the one who defended this city and putting all of their hope and compassion and will to live inside of me. I looked over to Kayla who said nothing and looked away and then over to the Sanction where everyone in it also applauded for me. I don't know out of respect or of actual hope but they cheered just as loudly as anyone. Their cries of pride and hope and joy where almost above anything I had ever felt. It was overwhelming and at first it felt good, but later on that day it came crushing down on me with double the force in which it came. I sat in my room thinking of how many lives could be throw away should only the slightest thing happen, and how it would have solely been my fault because I'm the only one who can make a difference. No single man as Alexander had said to me will ever be able to make a difference like I could. The thought haunted me...it worried me...it terrified me inside. I couldn't bring myself enough strength so save who I wanted...how would I pull the strength to defend so many others. My stomach tightened and my mind became nothing more then a spinning orb of questions with no answers to them. I felt alone and empty. Alone in an empty world with no one to comfort me. The hours ticked by and it was already late afternoon and the sun was setting. I climbed off my bed and prompted my arm on the window seal and looked out. I could see almost the entire city from here and all of its glory that would never be lost. I watched the sun steadily creep below the horizon when I felt a drop of water hit me on the arm. I looked at it for a second then looked back up. I had never noticed that her room was directly above mine only a mere coincidence, but I could see her from here, not clearly, but I saw her on her knees and I knew immediately something wasn't right.

I hurried out my room and to the stairs and immediately up to her room. Her door wasn't locked, and it was slightly cracked. I debated if I should knock but I quickly decided it wouldn't serve much good. I crept through her room into the balcony. She hadn't moved an inch. I stood there and I could almost hear every drop of her tears as they slid from her face to the ground.

It took me a moment but I finally worked up the courage ask her what was wrong. I held her in my arms as she cried deeply into my chest. I didn't need to know what was hurting her I just wanted to be here for her like she had been their when I needed her. It made all the difference to both of us that we had each other.

“ I can't be with you” She barley made out in such a soft whisper that I barley heard it.

“What?” I said back.

“My dad...with the war and the Twilight I can't be anywhere around you”.

“What!?” I yelled and looked dead into her eyes.

She looked away.

“Why?” I said

“He doesn't want me to get hurt...physically or mentally...”

My heart stopped. I froze for a full second of my life. It all finally made since to me. All of the things he had said and done up until now rushed through me. When I first met the Sanction... up until the time we had talked and national gathering. It was as if he had planned to take everything from me from under my feet, and the only thing that returned when I unfroze was pure hate for the man I had trusted so dearly before.

She looked at me worried for second just before I stomped off out of the room. I drew my blade and the second a guard approached me for a reason I still don't know my blade went through him with such intensity it made his entire body rock. He screamed in pain as other guards who where stationed not far

started gathering. It didn't matter to me because my brain and all reasoning had already shut down from pure malice and distortion that I was feeling. Anyone who approached me, whether I knew him or her or not I cut them down. Before I had made it to the king's chamber I had already gone through 10 guards. I punched the door with such force it echoed through out the hall way and when I slammed the door closing out in opposing reinforcements I could tell he had been waiting for me.

I didn't talk to him nor did I we exchange looks. I clinched my sword tightly in my arms and when I swung it almost cracked through the blade he had drawn to defend it. My slashes were hollow and without heart but they crushed through anything. When I had aimed his gut he swiftly dodged causing me to cut through his entire throne with one clean slice. When our swords matched their sounds echoed through out the entire castle.

Suddenly the room door broke down and several Sanction members came in full blast with weapons and tackled me hard to the ground. I ripped and struggled elbowing, punching, biting, anything I could do to get to him. They tried to constrain me but I inched closer and closer to him. Then Luther came and pinned my neck to the ground and with the help of everyone else I finally couldn't even move.

"You Son of a dog you can't fracken run from me!" I yelled, "I know what you've been doing taking everything from me and stripping all bear just for your kingdom and yours wants. I'll kill you! I don't give a damn if you are King!" I yelled as he dragged me out of the King's chamber.

Once I was out of the room Luther slammed me hard into wall.

"What the hell is your problem!" Luther yelled hitting me square in the jaw.

I tried to strike back but the other Sanction members held me down.

"You just tried to assassinate the king you basterd! Do you know what that would have done at a time like this!" Numus yelled.

"Leon I don't know what the hell is wrong with you, but stop acting like a damn immature kid and fracken grow up! People need you out there and all you can think of is your damn self!" Luther yelled.

"...So what are you going to do because I'm actually" I said in a sarcastic tone, "You going to lock me up? Try and put me in the dungeon till the fight starts and just release me like a fracken attack dog is that it!?"

"I've had it to hear with you kid!" Numus yelled grabbing my shirt and pulling me closer to him.

What a damn time for the Twilight or the Trinity not to work I thought. I'd been trying all this time to use it but it just wasn't coming.

"Leave him alone!" I heard Kayla's voice beyond the crowd of people that had now gathered around this scene.

"What did you do?" She said holding onto me as a tear dropped from her face.

My body stopped moving with her embrace and the Sanction members started heading back into the King's chamber.

"I'll take him to his room. You guys keep watch just incase" Luther said almost pulling me to my feet.

Kayla held my arm as Luther dragged me back to my room and the rest of the Sanction got rid of the people that had gathered.

None of us said a word even when we got to my room. When Kayla and I walked in he closed the door.

I didn't even move. My failure to even touch the king was now sinking in deep.

Then without warning Kayla reached back and slapped me senseless.

"What were you thinking!?" She yelled at me.

I looked away.

"Leon Why!? How was trying to almost kill my father going to solve this!?" she said as tears streamed down her face, "you don't think I've been through enough today..."

It was an awkward silence following that comment. I really didn't know what to say. So much of what had just happened was so...I don't even know how to really explain it.

We just stood there as Kayla tried drying her tears and claming herself down.

I started thinking again...and then...I think I asked 1 of the most self-impacting questions I ever asked ever.

"Will come with me?" I asked in a low voice.

"What?" She answered.

"Come with me...leave all of this behind and lets just go right now" I said and took her hand," Just us". She looked dead into my eyes and I didn't waver when I asked but then she put her hands on her lap and answered.

"I can't..." She said.

I didn't answer for a moment

"Why?" I finally made out.

"I'm all that my father has to hold on to...and my country needs me just like they need you"

I stopped and the air became increasingly thick.

"So you take a lying man and a country that held everything from me and in one instant tried to take it all away...you'd stand by that?" I said.

"No, Leon" She tried to take my hand but I pulled it away.

"I don't know you" I said harshly," I thought a woman I loved, and I thought we could be happy together...maybe she died before I ever did make it back to the Twin cities"

She was extremely taken back from what I said but I didn't say anything past that. I stood up and left the room.

I should have known...I thought to myself as I reached an empty room on the 2nd floor. I should have known I couldn't trust anyone...anybody... It's only been me...its always been me.

I took a step back and then jumped from the window all the way down. I landed hard as I heard something crack in my leg. I clinched my teeth, but I kept moving. I heard voices from the castle but I ignored them. I couldn't figure out why the Twilight would not come. Even when it seemed my life was in danger it still would not come to my aid. I had made it past most of the guards who where stationed and I was making my way through a dark clearing in the city when I heard a voice tell me to stop.

I turned around to see Luther...but not just him...the entire Sanction was there, and in only a few seconds other soldiers started coming forming a large circle around me. The number of soldiers that had come was enormous and I hadn't seen so many men ready to fight.

"Are you going leave these people Leon" Alexander said," Your going to run away from all of this and betray us all...leave us condemned on a battle field in a battle we would never win".

"Now you know the feeling," I said in a deep voice. I drew my sword and with this many of the soldiers and Sanction members did too.

"You're going to fight all of us?" Luther said," Stop playing with these peoples lives Leon!"

"The only person who's been playing with lives is you people!" I yelled at him making sure that no one came any closer to me.

Then it came...from under all my sorrow and hurt the power to finally retaliate came to me. The Twilight over took my body and sent many staggering back in its glow.

"Leon! You can't run away all these people will die!!" Luther said running over to me, but with a raise of my sword a powerful beam of light hit him and sent him flying backwards on his knees.

I didn't say anything and with one flap of my wings I was air born.

"Leon!!!!!!!!!" I heard a voice cry.

I knew who it was and I didn't want to see her face especially now.

"Please...don't leave again." I heard her say.

I stopped for a second and then dug into my pocket and pulled out the pendent my father had given me. I dropped it and it landed in her hands as she looked up at me.

“Wait for me” were my last words to her until I flew off into the moon light and by then no one had known where I had gone.

## 6 - The Light that never Fades

My chest caved in as I hit the dirt hard. Mud splattered in my face and I could hardly move or breathe. The Twilight power that had gotten me this far faded and my body was left motionless. The voices of the people behind me echoed and rang in my ears until I couldn't stand bearing it anymore. Is this what I wanted...I thought is this really what I fought so hard to achieve. My eyes closed and my body was laid to rest wherever I had fallen.

### *The Twin Cities, 3rd Day before Arrival*

"Princess" John called to Kayla.

She looked at him," Theirs no need for formalities at this point of all of this. I'm pretty sure its ok to call me by my name, Kayla" She solemnly answered back to him.

He sighs," Ok...everyone is so worked up about all of this...its crazy because all of the hope I saw all of a day ago has now turned into spite and disfunction. People are scared to death because they think we can't win"

She pauses," When did he tell you about all of this?"

John looks at her strangely," hmm...about hell and everything he never really mentioned it much until I had to know...why?"

She had a hard time talking at all and John could tell so he gave her time to answer.

"It just seems like everything is happening again...He left me once...and now he's left again" she said.

"What do you mean?" John asked.

"...I've known Leon for a long time...we where engaged to be married almost a year ago..." She says holding up her left hand and showing the silver and blue on her finger." But he hadn't found his father, and his mother had just passed away...It was painful and he didn't want to return to his sister without knowing what had happened to his father. He felt like all the time he had spent thus far had been wasted and he blamed himself for the death and suffering of his mother and sister...So...He left...He kept searching and told me to wait for him hear...I loved him...and even though I waited and suffered from the time it took for him to finally come back to me it was nothing compared to what happened when he finally did. He didn't remember me...he didn't remember a thing we had done...and I fell apart and I couldn't stand to be around him, but I still loved him...just now I didn't know if I loved more then I hated him."

John looked at her and then back down to the floor. He thought he knew Leon...but it just seemed all of things that had built him to this point where still mysteries to him.

Kayla continued," Even after he came and rescued me...I was torn between hating and loving him at the same time, and I was so confused that I went off on him without even knowing it...and I hurt him just like he had hurt me so long ago...but it didn't feel better for me...it made me feel worst and if he hadn't reached out and comforted me I'm pretty sure I wouldn't have been able to love him again... I still don't know what happened to him though...he didn't really tell me and I haven't had a lot of time since all of this happened right after each other. Our lives have been contested so long that I don't even know how we made it this far together...but no matter how I think of it now...I love him and I couldn't dare to ever hold so much distrust of him in my heart ever again...I just don't know why he ran away from everyone...why he ran away from me".

John sighs," I've known Leon awhile too...maybe not like you but I did learn a few important things about him...He will come back...and he does stay by a promise" John said.

"With such optimism you could easily relay these people...but Alas with Leon gone in such a time...It's too much for anyone to grasp" Lenneth said coming over to them.

"You don't believe he will come back do you?" Kayla asked.

John waited silently for his answer.

"On the Contrary...I believe just as you do...not many people can do what he can do...people just don't see how much of a person he has to be to be able to suffer like he does and still move on with life" Lenneth said," If you still have ill content over Kyoko's death I can understand for my actions where not in favor and I do not deserve to be forgiven".

Lenneth came to his knees and bowed to John.

"Get up" He said grimly," You did what you had too...I never blamed you..." John said.

"This war has brought a toil on everyone...its hard even for the Sanction members who are suppose to be strong...most do not have families anymore...they either died and in the war thus far...or they had to leave them to be an Active member and not have restraints." Lenneth said.

"They left their families just to fight Eh? maybe I cut them short in my judgment."

"There is a lot about us that isn't known...we don't suffer in words...most of the Sanction is dead inside and when this is all over they will be reflections of the world that we just won...they won't have anything to go back too...no old life...no family...nothing...their empty shells who's only goal has been to destroy hell and its entirety. Its sad to relies it" Lenneth said not lifting his head.

"They will relies it themselves someday their true reason...and maybe...that's what Leon was truly searching for...His reason to live..." John said.

Kayla stared at John and then out the window.

I winced in pain in an abyss of darkness. I couldn't see a thing but my body was stiff and in constant pain. I could hear voices around me but I couldn't open my eyes or say anything.

"It's really him" I heard a voice say.

"Quite now we need to get him to our medics".

I felt a hand on my face that stroked down to my cheeks. I don't know what happened but all the pain seemed to have been nulled and I quickly drifted to sleep comfortably.

I woke up early the next mourning with bandages all the way down from my chest to my legs.

"So your finally awake" A young woman steps into the room.

"Unfortunately" I said looking around. I was in a small room in bed with a tiny window with the sun peacefully glowing in.

"I don't know how you got in such bad shape, but your going to have to rest for a few days before you can even stand" She said.

I ignored her a stepped out of the bed to get dressed.

"Did you hear me!?! I said you can't get up! I-" She stopped as I slowly took off all the bandages," but...the scars...cuts...everything...how?"

"It's more of a curse then a gift," I said pulling on my shirt and stepping out the room. I slowly trailed down the hall. Even though my body had fully healed my muscles where still sore. The Twilight had a gift of increased healing but something's in life take only time to heal and in more ways then one.

I stepped out the building into the streets of a small city.

Where am I? I thought to myself.

"Welcome young man" An old man followed by a younger one came over to me," I trust you have been treated well?"

"Its fine...thank you" I said.



"It's no problem to the man who will save our world...its below the least I could do" He said.

"...How do you know about that?" I asked.

"Well...this is where it all began..."

"You mean...this...is Alden..." I said barley able to believe where I was. I looked around at the few people who walked the streets. I had always pictured the Sanction headquarters a giant military city...not this.

"I know it doesn't look like much but over the years we couldn't just protect the secrets of the Twilight. As time went by this became a thriving city where all the decedents of the Twilight come...but enough about that. What I need to know is why you are here so soon," He asked.

The younger man who had been quite thus far eyed me.

"I'm..." I thought about it for a second but eventually couldn't bring myself to answer.

"So if you don't know what your doing here or why you have left the Twin cities then tell me...do you know what you left behind to get here."

"...I don't have time for this," I said brushing past the man.

I had only gotten a few feet before the man's words rang deep into my ears," When your done running...you know where to find me".

I stopped but didn't look back. Then I just ignored it and continued through the city. The city as I had realized was perched high in the mountains to the north. I didn't know where exactly but with the Twilight in the state I had it I couldn't have gotten to far.

"Leon" A voice called from behind me.

"Damien?" I said confused," What are you doing here?"

"I could say the same for you. I was sent here a few hours after I arrived to rally the remaining forces of the Sanction, but the high council refuses to lend anymore support until set events are in place or ever at all. What are they waiting for to not lend our own forces to save lives?" Damien said.

It seemed clear to me based off what they said. Either the Twin cities will fall with little resistance and keep most of the Sanction force or we will fight with all our arsenal and make the final stand their...both ways its still based on my decision.

"I don't need to know why your hear...nor do I need to lecture you on your actions and their effect on the others I'm only going to let you know...I'm going back to fight with or without the rest of the Sanction and with or without you...I know my purpose...and I will not condemn my fiancé to die without every drop of blood in my body being relinquished" Damien said.

She's in the twin cities...I thought...their both in the Twin cities.

"Why did you bring her their Damien? Why would you endanger her?" I said in a low voice.

"It's time to face facts Leon...Its dangerous no matter where I take her...there is a chance every time I leave her side that I will never see her face again... She wants it...and I want it for her...If we are to fall...we will go with the rest of the last few people that believe in our future and yes we may die...but on the last foothold for peace that our world can give to us"

I was silent.

"I'll be leaving this afternoon so that I may lend any last hand before it begins" He said beginning his trek back to the building I had just left from," Take care of yourself Leon" He said without turning back.

I stood their dazed in the confusion this battle brought to me. I didn't know whether to hate everyone who seemed to push this on me or the god that gave me the burden to begin with, and why didn't my father tell me before...before I was tricked into taking something I could never handle, but with so much at stake I wasn't allowed to feel for myself... I needed to think of the others at stake...I needed to think for all of them.

When I started back into the direction the old man had come from he met me half way. I knew after Damien spoke that he expected me to come to him.

"I'm glad you have taken this upon yourself to lend this world your all. Please follow me." He said and

unlike before the younger wasn't present. The old man led me over to the edge of town to a large spiral tower. I didn't even know what to think of it.

He led me in to a room inside the bottom of the level of the tower and had me take a seat.

"I'd ask you to make yourself comfortable, but we will not be staying here long" He said.

There were two glasses on the table and after he drank some I followed suit.

"Pardon for my lack of introduction, but I am Heim Elsie Beltris and I am the one of five of the high council. What we are about to do will be rash and certainly under normal circumstances unforgivable but we are running out of options...and time is running short." He said.

Some of his words were dreary to me but I continued to listen.

"I do hope that in time after this you will have seen our true intent in this matter and you will come to understand this as our only method of help for you"

The glass I had been holding dropped immediately to the ground and I was immediately brought to my knees. I gasping for air and as his last words echoed inside of me I fell into darkness and a deep sleep came over me.

### *The Twin Cities, 2nd Day before Arrival, Sanction Chambers*

"This is truly uncalled for!" Reaverer yelled allowed, in the 10th of many meetings that were quickly held after Leon's disappearance. The Sanction members present in the city along with representatives and the Royal family were all present at each.

"Will the Holy ground truly abandon us in this fight? This is absurd!" Numus said.

"Leader we will not be able to recover from this blow...our forces are limited as it is" Luther said to the Antwan the true leader of the Sanction.

"I am well aware of this turn of events from the holy grounds but this does not change the fact that this city must hold. Now more than ever they will turn to us, The Sanction of Immorick for aid in this dire situation and with the Twilight no where insight I admit from the deepness of my heart that our survival in this fight will be scarce" Antwan said.

"Then why are we fighting at all and where did the Twilight holder go!" More disputes from the Sanction were imminent with the turn of events coming.

John looked around from unfamiliar face to unfamiliar face at the sheer number of military leaders and representatives of all of the nations that had come to aid the Twin cities. Everyday the numbers grew even more but by the sound of it that wouldn't be enough no matter how many nations soldiers' lives we had to borrow.

He looked over at the princess who looked as worried and confused on the matter as he was. By the estimates of the neighboring cities Hell would soon be upon in an estimate of two days time and things were not looking any better. The Sanction wasn't able to hold their own in line let alone an army of almost 320,000 men. Time was running out John thought as another fist fight between leaders broke out ending in both of them being expelled from the meeting.

I awoke chained and hoisted in the air as the sunlight from the ceiling above burned down on my back. I looked up to see two steel chains holding my body suspended in the air by my arms and two latched to the ground from my legs.

What the hell I said looking around.

They had taken off my shirt and attached the chains deep into my skin where there wasn't even an inch of room.

"I see you awake" A low deep gurgling voice said from the corner of the room. The light from above

only showed on me so I couldn't see much past my own body.

"Why did you do this to me?" I said trying to break free but to no avail.

"A test some might call it...but for the time being it is your trial" the voice echoed through out the room. I didn't answer. I didn't know of anything to actually say to that.

"How you are now...returning to those who cherish you would be a waste...you will throw mind, body, and soul onto that battle field and you will lose" It said.

"How would you know if I'd die?" I asked.

"The Twilight does not fully recognize you and you still do not grasp all of what it can give you. Without its full strength you are nothing but a mere man and not fit to be able to wield such a godly gift".

"Who gives you the right to tell me I'm not fit for this power?" I said.

"Prove me wrong...break free from the chains that bind you...only the Twilight's true power can break them" It said.

"Fine..." I answered back.

I concentrated deep into my mind trying to muster strength but it didn't come. I lashed and thrashed about trying to get a glimpse of its power guiding me but it was non-existent.

"As I said...how you are now you will never destroy hell and the next battle you attempt you will perish before hell's might and fury".

"Then what the hell is the point of chaining me up like this!" I demanded.

"You will find truth beyond truth...meaning in which all must find to muster strength to continue..."

"What does that mean?" I asked.

"Why do you fight?" It asked.

"I fight to save all of our world what do you think I fight for?" I said.

"No...that is the answer that everyone wishes you to believe and as it is spat at you time and time again you have begun to except that as an answer but if that where truly what you fought for then its power would not be so faint in you".

"Then what is the right answer?" I asked.

"When you know the answer for sure you will be able to return and save the ones you love...but if you do not find the answer...you will condemn them all to death".

"What!" I exclaimed, "You can't be serious. You can't keep me hear!"

"I will do as I must if you are to secure a future for yourself or any other. Find in yourself and find the strength so that when you return you will have the power to protect those whose lives mean most to you".

I didn't understand what he was really getting at about the question but Lenneth and Damien had both mentioned me not being able to draw upon all the Twilight and by now even I had noticed it. If he's right about my return then it wouldn't help anyone for me not to have the strength to protect them. I'd only be letting them down...but if I can't find whatever strength he is talking about then I'll leave them and they will surely die, and I couldn't have that no matter what. It was like he read me like a book.

Obviously he knew something's that had happened with the Sanction and took from all of that. Yeah I'll admit that because it had been said to me for so long about what I was suppose to be protecting I just said it as an answer. What was I really fighting for I wonder. Why am I risking so much blood for all these people...people who in the past never knew nor cared for my well-being. My head started to throb violently and the sun was setting, as the light from above started growing dimmer and dimmer. The openings on the ceiling began to close and in minutes I was left in a room of pure darkness. I was lost in thought and now it seemed like I was lost period. The pain from my head brought me to my knees but I couldn't bend over. The chains where tight and I could hardly move at all. My hand didn't even have enough room to touch my own face. My body just became lifeless in the hours it took for me to finally sleep through all the pain.

*The Twin Cities, Day of Arrival,*

The sun shone high on the afternoon of Hell's arrival. No words were spoken between the Sanction and everyone was nervous. John armored down as much to protect himself. He would be commanding the 97th line and he would also be in the line closest to Lenneth. It made him feel relieved. Leon may have been a hope to everyone but he kept John's mind at ease. Even death didn't faze him while he was around but now...it was the day that they had been waiting for and Leon wasn't anywhere to be found. A lot of doubt ran through everyone's minds. Soldiers grew hostile and the thought of a battle where death was certain seemed to terrify them. Even the great King who had brought so many nations together was distraught that mourning. It could only take Hell a day or two to take everything in this world from him. On this day was the first that he could say he cowered in his own castle. He feared for his people's lives and his own life. He feared for his family's lives more than anything. The mourning went by sluggish as men took their stations on land and sea and the women and children packed themselves tightly inside the castle.

Will she hate me the mighty King thought to himself placing on his chain mail and latching his sword to his side. Will she never forgive what we have done to that boy to try and make him what we hoped he would be...was it wrong of us to try.

These thoughts and more swirled through his mind as he finished getting ready, but the time for questioning his motives wasn't now. If he stepped out his door with even a slight bit of doubt he would be putting even more lives in jeopardy and his men would be slaughtered. They may not have their savior and he may never come for them but a king who is willing to die on the same battlefield, as his soldiers should be plenty. The king wanted to take on the front lines in the mist of the battle. He felt that he had to redeem himself at all the lives he called to be sacrificed for this battle. For all the people who's lives had to be used for the city to stand as long as it had. If their destiny is death then it will be here and on this day and there will be no escaping that truth should it be the case.

He took a deep breath and took his helmet and put it at his side as he opened his doors. Three of his finest generals awaited him down the hall. The King's stern face assured them that they will fight win or lose with all the heart and soul of the people here. He briskly walked down the hallway and told the Generals to await his arrival. He stepped into his daughter room and took a look at her. She was still looking out the window to that same place where Leon had disappeared. The second she saw him she ran over and hugged him tight, and he felt that this battle and its blood shed and lives would all be worth it if they could just save the lives in the castle. His life felt like the insignificant pawn he explained to Leon it was. He could see the entire board and he could see his tiny role in the entire thing. He knew there was no changing it and that he had to play his part. What will happen afterwards is completely up to those who will survive but as for the King. This would be his grave, and many more of the many who follow him. He embraced his daughter like he had never before. He didn't expect to have the opportunity again. The chance to be a father again, the chance to be able to let his true feelings and hurt out. When he left her room and took his last look at how much of a woman she had grown up to be it almost brought a tear to his eye. He wasn't her father anymore though. In the battle he was about to take part in he needed no disturbances and nothing clouding his mind. He would have to drive his men to their fullest and become like the demons he was fighting against because they were not going to be getting reinforcements. All that had come to stand where hear and the battlefield and grave were present. He stepped out onto the castle steps as Rows and lines of soldiers cheered and applauded in his wake. He took a deep breath and from his sheath raised his sword up high in the air for all to see. The soldiers seeing this yelled louder and all rose their swords in the name of all they would fight for

and all they were about to lose. The sight of his men and the many men who came on that day was a memory thoroughly engraved in his mind. The soldiers were stationed around the entire castle. The navies of many nations were stationed on the Twin cities borders. The Sanctions final meeting was taking place and it would be one he did not intend to miss. He quickly went back into the castle and down to the Sanction chambers. The meeting had already begun so he took his seat and waited a time in which to jump into the conversation.

“So this is it Eh?” Reaverer said solemnly, “Only half a million are here...this isn’t gonna end well”.

“On such short notice half a million is lucky though...to win such a fight would take over a million itself” Gabriel said.

“Such optimism to those who are blessed divinely over all the men you speak down to. We are present in this fight and we will make their forces way over a million. The 14 of us will stand strong in this fight,” Luther bellowed over all the chatter.

“How much difference can the 14 of us make. We are wasting our lives when we could be putting it to better use helping the Twilight holder” Atreyu said.

“You’re siding with that bastard who ran off and is condemning us all to death?” Numus said.

“I didn’t have high hopes for him before but this defiantly puts my finger on my decision. Uncertainty is one thing we all share but cowardliness is unacceptable in our ranks” Rune said.

“And what would you have done?” Lenneth said, “What would any of you have done in his place.”.

The room grew silent with his words.

“His decision is his and his alone and is not to be questioned by no man,” Lenneth said.

“This is blasphemy why are you taking his side against men and women who sit no more than a few feet from you ready to give their lives while he hides in the mountains and cowers at his defeat” Reaverer said.

“The men and women who sit before me may be ready to give their lives for this cause as are we all but no one has been fighting this war up until now...Everyday is a constant threat to himself and everything he comes in contact with. Every person whose life has meaning in his eyes he cannot protect. You have lost faith in which has never present in him. If I fight and die today to prove to him that I stand by what I believe in then he will save us. I know his feelings towards us...in what we’ve done and what we still must do for our own survival. I believe he will come to our aid if not today then for the people who still live and hope who haven’t seen the battle and blood shed of this war thus far. If we cannot prove anything on this day defeat or victory it is that men and women of what ever nation stand to defend their homes...and that there is still hope here” Lenneth to his seat as small mutters circulated the room.

“He speaks truth and feeling in his words and if someone dare have something to comment to them then please stand before this Sanction and let their voice be heard.” Alexander said.

The room was quite as the members glanced from each other for approval.

“Then it is settled in deed. We will march on this day with those who share a common dream, a common goal, a common future and we will become history. With or without the aid of the Twilight we will firmly hold to our beliefs and homes till death do us part” Antwan said.

The entire room immediately stood and bowed their heads. Even John who had never been accustomed to how the Sanction ordered them

themselves were able to stand and pray in the hour of a great catastrophe.

John felt for the first time of being in the Sanction that they were all finally in the same boat and status, rank, or power finally didn’t mean a thing anymore.

After a moment in prayer the Sanction was finally dispersed to their lines of duty. Each Sanction member was given control of a line of men and where each given specific orders in which to utilize them at proper times in battle. The Sanction members needed to stay alive until the very end and if they were to sustain injury they were to fall back and use their line as their cover if need be. It felt so cowardly to

almost everyone including the soldiers. They were to throw their lives away at the single command of a member of the Sanction.

We were important John thought to himself, but life has no equal and even if it is to win the battle or some hope of it. It didn't feel right at all.

John decided to stay at his post and not talk to the princess or Lenneth. It really felt like he was waiting for his own death, and pictures of what he couldn't from before brought his soul down and he couldn't think of anything besides failure to protect again.

My arms felt lifeless, as it seems that as time went by the chains imbedded into my flesh grew tighter. The voice that had talked to me before wasn't present anymore and I couldn't tell whether mere minutes or hours had passed by. The darkness brought back to me all the doubts I had kept far away from reach. Sleep was damn near impossible and the pain of being held in the air worsened. It actually felt like blood was seeping through the chains but the room was kept constantly dark and I couldn't see even the chains that bound me. I called out to the voice again but it didn't answer back to me.

"What day is it...I have to know" I called to the shadows.

I wasn't actually expecting the answer when it came but when I heard it I felt crushed.

"The day of arrival...you are too late. They will die...but they have chosen to be symbol in this war to men and women across the world." The voice said.

"No...they can't ...let me out!" I yelled almost my arm trying to break free," I can make it! I can still fight!"

"And then what...die honorably in battle while you leave the rest of the world to die with you...that is not your destiny. We will keep you here...until the time is right. They will need to be sacrificed in order to bring your power from the darkness in which it fell"

"Stop fracken commanding me around! This ain't your damn decision its mine! I'm control of my own life!" I yelled.

"What control..." it retorted back.

"Your just like them..." I said miserably," Your not controlling my actions. Their not yours to make!"

"Your going to run away like you did them then?"

"..."

"You left as your own decision no matter what consequences of coming here and that we cannot change" It said.

"I can fight...it doesn't matter if I lose. Their all gonna die don't you understand! Don't you give a damn about their lives!"

"I care deeply for the lose that we will have to endure, but it is for the better of our world...so I must".

"That's Bull shoot! You're leaving them to die. You won't let me go back"

"What you haven't figured out is that you can't save them. They will die on either side of how you look at all of this"

"I don't care!! It doesn't matter anymore! It never mattered!"

" Death was never an obstacle for you and throwing your own life away was never a second guess but in this day in age a life is worth much more"

"I can't leave them to die...I'll die with them. If I can't save them now then it wouldn't matter...I'd have nothing to protect if their gone" A tear rolled down my cheek.

"Then you know what you must do...I cannot help you any longer" The voice faded at these last few words and I never heard it again.

I grabbed tightly to the chains and began ripping tearing at them. I pulled and pulled until I could here

bones cracking, but I endured them. It was nothing to the pain of what I pictured the battle to be like. I could see scene after scene...every one dying. Just because I wasn't their to fight and defend them. I watched them kill John and every Sanction member...I watched them kill my sister and Kayla several times over. It was a burnt memory in my mind that I couldn't erase. Pain didn't matter to me anymore I had to get out. I was caged dog with food just outside my reach. I started screaming out as my visions became more clear and repeated and rattled through my brain. Their faces...their bodies...dead and wasteland of blood filled the city. No matter how hard I tried to shake the memory engraved into me it was constantly there. Constantly haunting my every thought. I couldn't help it...I had to save them...I didn't want any of them to die. No more Kyoko's that I'm helpless to save. No more sacrifice for other people to continue on living...no more deaths out of my hands. I screamed aloud louder then I had ever yelled in my life. It felt like my body was caving in but I didn't scream for the pain. It was like my cry was calling to them. I refuse to let them go and be controlled by another's actions again. I'd save them this time...I'd save the Sanction...I'd save her.

I was consumed in a blinding light, and this feeling I could only say happened to me once in my life. The voice from so long ago called out to me. Except it was different from before. She was thought...she was my only image...and I'd do anything in my power to save her.

The Twilight enveloped my body like never before and I felt strength surge through my body 100 times greater then I had felt. The chains where repelled with only the movement of my hand and the entire room was filled with such a blistering light that it is exploded. The warmness of the Twilight's power gave me strength and I looked over the city. I had pure malice and rage for the men who had driven me to this but I had to forget about them. The trip getting me here even with the Twilight took a little more then a day. It would be hard to make it in time.

I flew down from the mountain holy city and was about to begin my ascend back to the Twin cities when a voice called to me.

I could see from the ground Damien and the entire Sanction behind him riding on white stallions that shown almost as brightly I did.

"Will follow close behind!" Damien yelled as the army of Sanction members began moving.

I smirked. Damien had always had my back, and even when faced with a dire situation like this he was still looking out for me.

I directed my attention to the Twin cities I didn't look back. Even with what I had gained I was skeptical in thinking that I would make it in time to make a difference.

### *The Twin Cities, The Unholy Battle Field*

"Get down!!"

John wiped the blood from his face as he pulled back and sent his line in as a last defense. John had never seen so much death in his entire life and it made him sick to his stomach just glancing. Men where ripped apart by demon wave after wave and their wasn't a line of soldiers that held past a few of them. We where barley able to keep their advance from going any further. The 98th line of soldiers quickly where sent into battle as John fell back towards the castle.

John coughed hard at the several gashes in his stomach and side. This wasn't a war he thought to himself it's a massacre. The soldiers didn't even stand a chance to these things.

John looked up as the castles defenses where being sent into play. The lines of soldiers where severely weakening and the navy had almost been demolished completely. The demons came in late afternoon on that day and John remembered nervously waiting amongst the ranks.

“John” Lenneth yelled running over to Him.

Archers posted on the castle walls lead a full assault to the demons advancing but fell prey to the many demons that flew over the men on the ground.

“It’s falling apart,” John said as Lenneth helped him to his feet.

“I know...the defenses are crumbling and in twice the speed expected” Lenneth said helping John back into the castle.

The Sanction members whose lines had already been demolished stayed waiting inside the first hall of the castle, Gabriel, Lenneth, and 2 or 3 others from other part of the Sanction where the only ones. The King had marched on the front lines with Antwan and Luther at his side and in all of the commotion it wasn’t even possible for him to keep up with them.

“It’s horrible...We’ve only got 30 or so lines of soldiers left and the castle last resort defenses have almost been annihilated before their use” Numus said.

“I didn’t think it would end like this...never like this” Gabriel said not even able to get to his feet,” We were lucky to have been able to have fallen back. I saw many of the others get killed before my eyes...” Reaverer said.

“It won’t be long until they reach us here and our forces even within the Sanction have been almost completely destroyed...half of you couldn’t even fight should the need come.” Numus said.

“If I must...I will muster all the strength I can and give my last breath to defend this place” Lenneth said wincing at his own injuries.

“As will we all” Gabriel said.

The gates to the castle opened up again and Luther staggered in.

He held his right shoulder with his left arm as blood seeped from it. He collapsed only after taking a few feet forward.

Everyone crowded around him as he spoke.

“This is everyone...” He said,” the 107th line has just made their stand and this is all that is left of the Sanction...”

“What of the king?” Gabriel asked.

“He fights gallantly at Antwan’s side and they intend to die on this battle field. “ Luther barley got out before a long hard cough of blood come out.

“We don’t have much time before they break through all of our defenses and in that case we are the last defense.” Luther said trying to get to his feet.

“Where really gonna die aren’t we...” Numus said.

Gabriel sighs,” Yeah...I really did hope Leon would come...”

“We can’t depend on him forever...it was our rash actions that drove him to his decision and it is still our battle to fight. Bandage your worst wounds up as much as possible. It won’t take long before we are defending the women and children on this castle alone.”

Luther limped back outside leaving the rest of us to fend for our wounds.

It was already late into the night and everything seemed to have gone from bad to the worst possible scenario. Half the Sanction still alive could barley stand and they weren’t going to put up much of a fight. It looked imminent that the castle would fall and it hurt to think of it. The women in the castle brought them new armor and they were battered but were determined to stand until they had been completely killed off. Luther arrived in a few moments earlier with the last few soldiers still alive outside. He locked the door down heavily and began their last stand. The King sustained large injuries and was barley able to move at all. The last few soldiers were going to hold off the last courtyard before the Twin cities would truly fall. No miracle seemed plausible and no escape from this fate was even possible. They listened and waited as the demons broke down the door piece by piece and they aimed the last of their weapons for the exact moment their last line of defense was crushed. The door



collapsed inward and arrows and sword ripped through to the other side as wave after wave of demons piled through. The Sanction members took the front of the line as the last few soldiers took the back with arrows and anything else they could use for support. John stood shield and sword to Lenneth as they used the last of what they had to keep each and every person alive until the end. They formed a wall and defense that was able to hold for a while but eventually tore down. The demons ran through and the last of the soldiers were killed off as Sanction members were beginning to fall one by one. John's leg cracked under the weight of demons talons and he was brought to his knees in pain. He looked up to the sky as its talons came down on his shoulder. Time seemed to slow down for him as others were reaching their final limits, and the end drew near. John did wonder where Leon had gone. About what they had wanted to do at the end of all of this for Kyoko and all the dead who had fallen. John thought to himself that Leon would have to do it in both their honors. He knew he wasn't going to make it. He pierced his sword through the demon closest to him as blood smeared onto his face and he fell to his knees in pain. Lenneth intercepted a blow for John taking it through the chest to keep him alive. His two blades slashed cutting the demon, until the sheer number of them soon brought him down. When John looked up for his last glance as their final wall had been broken he saw hope. The light from the mountains. He couldn't see him directly but he knew who it was, and with one wave of his sword the demons were engulfed in a wave of light. The Sanction members were stunned in amazement at his power but the numbers grew. Leon's Sword drew high in the air as the sky parted with his movement. It was almost as though the heavens themselves lent him strength as the large beam of holy rays destroyed everything in its path. John and the rest smiled trying to bring their last strength up to stand. The last of the Sanction appeared shortly after Leon did and with the last of their strength they fought side by side in the last struggle. That the light that illuminated the sky was never forgotten.