

A TITAN OPUS

ANIMATED SERIES

Episode 1: "Pilot"

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BLACK SCREEN:

VELA. AN OLD WORLD LEFT WITH TWO REMAINING SIBLINGS RAVAGED IN CONFLICT. SEPTORIA AND SCATHERA. THE LAST TWO CONTINENTAL NATION STATES. INGULFED IN AN ENDLESS WAR FOR OVER 500 YEARS. WHEN THE DUST OF THE LAST BATTLES FINALLY SETTLED, SCATHERA BECAME THE VICTOR.

SORE WINNERS THEY WERE, MUCH LIKE SIBLINGS ARE. THE SCATHERANS BRUTALIZED THE SEPTORIAN PEOPLE WITH MULTIPLE ATTEMPTED GENOCIDES. ONCE THOSE FAILED, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE SEPTORIANS WOULD SERVE THE SCATHERANS AS THEIR LOYAL SUBJECTS. THEY RIPPED THE NATION STATE FROM ITS ROOTS AND HAVE RULED OVER THEM FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. THEY USE THE SEPTORIANS FOR WARS OF THEIR OWN NOW. CONSCRIPTING AN ARMY FOR HIRE, FIGHTING PROXY WARS OFF WORLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

NOW THE SEPTORIANS SUFFER MORE THAN EVER BEFORE. THEY CRY OUT AND RECEIVE NO RESPONSE FROM THE GODS. SOME SAY THE GODS HAVE ABANDONED THEM. BUT SOME STILL BELIEVE... **THE GODS ARE AMONG THEM.**

ACT 1**EXT. GREEN GRASSLANDS - SUNSET**

A quiet gust of wind blows flower petals from its stem, the petals float past a young man as he walks across the great plains alone. His face is one of serious determination. **KAN** (18) is tall with long brown hair to his shoulders and light brown eyes. He wears monk-like sparring attire, clean and pristine. On his back he carries two swords. As he walks, Kan sees another young man in the distance.

LEO (15) squats over a fire, cooking a small horned rodent. He pokes it with a stick. Staring at its corpse. He has light brown skin with jet black hair, crudely cut. His eyes are a deep blood red and his monk-like sparring attire is dirty and ripped so that half his torso is exposed. He is athletic and lean. He sits alone in the waning sunlight, stoic. Suddenly, he notices Kan walking up behind him.

LEO
Is that you? Kan?

KAN
You cut your hair?

LEO
Yeah.

KAN
It looks good, a little rough but it fits you.

LEO
...Thanks.

KAN
How are you doing?

LEO
Could be better, considering.

Kan sighs.

KAN
Yeah... I'm sure. But you know what you did.

LEO
Yeah.

KAN
And so, you know why I'm here.

LEO
...Yes-

One of the swords pierces the ground near Leo's foot.

KAN
So you know that you're not leaving
here. I can't let you. Please,
stand like a man.

Leo lets out a groan. He rips the sword from the ground and
stands, examining the blade.

LEO
Nice of you to bring me one.
Stupid, but nice.

Kan's face is a quiet fury.

KAN
Why.

LEO
Well because I'm quite skilled, if
you wanted to kill me you should've
just-

KAN
Stop with all that. For once just
talk to me please. Why did you do
it? I don't understand, just help
me understand.

LEO
(chuckles)
I had to, Kan. You've always been
so smart and yet you can't figure
it out?

KAN
All I know definitively is that
your time out here is done. I can't
take you back, I have my orders.
But... before we can continue- I
have to hear you confess.

Leo begins to chuckle again. It grows into a hysterical
laugh.

LEO
 CONFESS? What's there to confess
 Kan? You know what happened, as do
 I. What? You want me to beg? Grovel
 beneath you and your temple?

KAN
 You took an oath to that temple.
 You swore-

LEO
 OH! You know what's reaaally
 interesting about that! It's that
 most children will say almost
 anything to make them stop. That
 "oath" means nothing to me, it's
 just words and until you realize
 that simple fact we have nothing
 more to talk about.

KAN
 You can say whatever you need to
 say to justify what you've done. I
 don't care. In the end... you're
 nothing but a damn traitor.

Leo looks down for a moment. He recomposes himself.
 Contemplating his response.

LEO
 ...Yes. Yes I am.

Kan draws his blade.

KAN
 (declaratively)
 I, Kangrula of the Great Temple of
 Wan. Challenge you, Leopodath, a
 TRAITOR of the Great Temple and all
 its subjects to an *Illcur*.

BEAT.

KAN (CONT'D)
 Your crimes against our Great
 Temple cannot be forgiven. They
 WILL NOT be forgiven. With these
 words I **swear** I will avenge the
 lives you took. Do you accept.

Kan extends his sword toward Leo.

LEO
It's just Leo now, I thought you knew.

KAN
DO YOU ACCEPT!

LEO
If I say no, can you still fight me? What happens then? I mean an I.C. duel must be accepted by both parties for it to be considered legitimate right? (chuckles)
I mean would you just stand here? Or follow me wherever I go? They never really tell you what to do in those situations right? It's very vague.

Kan remains silent. But he is boiling over.

LEO (CONT'D)
Fiiine. Seeing as you came all this way.

He takes a stance, preparing himself.

KAN
You... accept?

Leo looks at him as if to say "are you stupid?"

LEO
Yes, Kan. I accept.

Kan takes his stance. For a moment they are both still. Only the sound of the crackling fire can be heard.

Leo takes a step to the right.

Kan takes a step to the left.

They mirror each other. Each of their reflections can be seen in the others sword as they pace. Like clockwork they analyze each other, waiting for an opening.

LEO (CONT'D)
Kan, we'll be here all night if-

Suddenly Kan is within just a few *feet* of Leo! He slashes at him but only cuts his hair. Kan remains on the offensive. Quickly swinging his blade with poise, precision and anger. Leo is on the defensive. Dodging and blocking as best he can.

Kan goes high for a horizontal strike, causing Leo to duck the attack. Kan's foot cracks against Leo's skull sending him flying.

Kan leaps in the air above Leo slashing down at him. In an instant, Leo spins himself away from the downward slash and connects his foot into Kan's neck. Sending him crashing into the ground.

Leo lands on his feet.

KAN

FUCK!

Leo flips his sword in his hand nonchalantly. He starts to high-step as he smiles through a bloody jaw.

LEO

Woah there Kan. Swearing is forbidden. Wouldn't wanna upset the elders now would we?

Kan springs to his feet and leaps at Leo.

LEO (V.O.)

His speed-

Kan executes a series of powerful swings. This time Leo's dodging isn't enough. Each slice just barely grazes his skin. He's getting cut.

KAN

YOU. WILL. NOT. GET. AWAY. WITH. THIS.

Leo leaps far into the air to avoid his strikes. Kan bursts up to follow him, sending tremors through the ground below with the sheer force. They clash blades in midair. Leo is visibly getting upset. He's being pressed? *How?*

They land and Leo sprints off into open grass fields, picking up his bag near the firepit as he goes. Kan is right behind him, ***bloodlust in his eyes***. As he runs, Leo looks into the sunset. His eyes begin to calm and then turn to sorrow.

LEO (V.O.)

Kan. This? This is how it ends? You could've come with me. We would've made a great-

He looks back to see Kan's face, rife with anger.

LEO (V.O.)
 - an OK team. If only you
 understood. If only you could
 see...

His face turns back to vexation. An electric blue spark begins to channel around his palm. Kan is hot on his tail.

LEO
 Dammit! If only you would've
 listened! If you weren't such a
 damn fool. If only... you had one
 measly ounce of courage!

KAN
**YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A LYING SNAKE.
 YOU'RE NOTHING BUT SCUM. I HATE
 YOU! YOU TRAITOR!**

Leo leaps forward and turns towards Kan in midair, tears in his eyes. His left hand shaking with violent electricity.

LEO
 You're goddamn right I'm a traitor!
 Who wouldn't be? A place like that
 should be reduced to rubble! And if
 you had any spine at all... **WE
 COULD'VE DONE IT TOGETHER!**

Leo's palm explodes with a blast of bright blue lighting. In an instant the lighting strikes Kan's attempt to block. An explosion thunders through the grasslands. Smoke and debris fill the sky for 100 meters in every direction.

The shockwave snaps through the once peaceful landscape. Leo himself is caught in the explosion cloud.

His sword and bag are both blown out of his hands yet he emerges from it unscathed, covered in soot. He lands on his feet then falls to the ground, panting hard. He looks into the explosion, waiting for the slightest sign of life.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. WITHIN THE SMOKE CLOUD - CONTINUOUS

Kan's silhouette is still standing. He lets out a scream of intense pain. His arm is gone, blown to smithereens at the shoulder. Yet he still holds on to his sword.

He's dog-tired, exhausted. His eyes tell it all as he thinks to himself.

KAN (V.O.)

Why? Why did I do this? I knew it,
I can't win. I knew he would beat
me. SO WHY? WHAT WAS I TRYING TO
PROVE?! Leo... why did you make me
do this? Master Dubarah... Why must
it be this way?

He stares into his reflection as tears drip on his blade.
Blood leaks from his shoulder. He takes a breath.

BEAT.

KAN

(speaking quietly at first)
I must avenge the fallen. The
Temple must not be disgraced.
Yes... I have to. It is my duty.
Nobody else can do it. I must
avenge the fallen. The temple must
not be disgraced. I must avenge the
fallen. The temple must not be
disgraced. I MUST AVENGE THE
FALLEN! THE TEMPLE MUST NOT BE
DISGRACED!

His grip nearly breaks the hilt of his sword. We follow Kan
out of the smoke cloud at blinding speed. He is hurdling
towards Leo! Leo is shocked by his speed. He quickly attempts
to move out of the way but cannot. Kan slashes Leo deep into
his clavicle. Blood gushes from the wound.

He attempts to back away but Kan keeps on him. For every two
slashes he avoids Kan catches him with one. His arm, his
thigh, his chest. Leo is in a full on panic. Still too tired
from his blast to move quickly enough!

A shattering kick to the chest sends Leo to the ground. The
bag he grabbed earlier is right next to him. He reaches
inside. Kan raises his blade above his head for the final
blow!

KAN (CONT'D)

DIE! YOU TRAIT-

Kan gasps. Pure silence. He looks down, perplexed. From his
POV he sees a DAGGER protruding from his chest, right through
his heart. Leo's arm still extended.

KAN (CONT'D)

What? Y- You- you-

Kan falls backwards to the ground. Still confused, but dying
too quickly to make sense of it.

Leo pants heavily on the ground, then slowly stumbles to his feet. He stands over Kan and watches him cough up blood. He gurgles and eeks out his last words.

KAN (CONT'D)

You used another weapon... you're a traitor and a cheater (laughs and coughs). I should've known. You never had any honor at all.

LEO

(panting)

We're not within the walls of that temple anymore Kan. Your rules, your laws, your philosophies, they mean nothing to me now. Out here in the real world honor will get you killed.

Kan's head turns towards the waning sunset as he takes his final breath. Leo stares down at his body. He slowly pulls the dagger from his chest then holds it up, examining it. It is a silver dagger with a black and gold hilt and 3 stones engraved into the bottom.

LEO (CONT'D)

(to himself)

I guess you were right Madame Visku, you old bag.

He looks to Kan again. He grabs Kan's sword and his own dagger. He drags Kan to a nearby boulder and sits down next to his body. He grits in pain as he carves his dagger into the sword using his one good arm, writing something.

EXT. GREEN GRASSLANDS - NIGHT

Tranquility sits on the grassland valley once again. A calm cooling wind rustles the petals off a flower stem. The petals float over Kan's shallow grave. His sword the headstone with one word carved into the blade: **WARRIOR**.

Leo leaves the battlefield behind, his clavicle bandaged with the remaining robes from Kan's body. His arm is in a makeshift sling using the same material. He walks through the tall grass toward a large city far off in the distance.

CUT TO BLACK.

ACT 2

EXT. CROWDED STREET CORNER - DAY

All walks of life converge on a congested avenue. Dirty and run down. Poorly paved roads and searing city heat. Sleek chrome hover cars glide down the main thoroughfare as people hustle and bustle on the sidewalk.

A brown haired teenaged GIRL walks alone through the crowd. She's bruised and bloody, tank top ripped and shorts dingy. Her head hangs to reveal her hair, a disgusting matted mop caked with dirt and possible insects. Her emerald green eyes glimmer through the few loose strands of hair left on her head. Tears soak a nasty gash on her face.

She limps towards an alley where it becomes quieter. Slides down the wall. Exhausted and panting she looks up at the sky through the shade of the buildings. She lets out a deep sigh that turns into a violent cough. From the alley entrance a thuggish looking man runs into frame. He hears the coughing and turns to see the girl. He sprints towards her! She panics and hoists herself up to run away.

THUG #1

There she is! She's over here!

Four more men begin to converge on her through the crowd. She steadily picks up speed. Her limp begins to disappear. The wound on her cheek slowly closes and she rounds a corner to see two more thugs waiting.

There's a door on the right. She bursts through into a bar/dog fighting ring. Men and women screaming at the poor pups as they rip each other to shreds.

The girl weaves her way through the crowd. The men are on hot pursuit but lose her in the dim lighting. She casually steals a hat and jacket off of a couch to cover herself. She sits down at the bar, the BARTENDER approaches.

BARTENDER

What can I get for ya?

GIRL

Just a water please.

BARTENDER

Water's three creds.

GIRL

Three creds for a glass of water?

BARTENDER

Hey, someone's gotta make a living.
Say... how old are you?

GIRL

What's it matter? I'm a paying customer, it's just water.

BARTENDER

Oh no no I already got two strikes on my bar I don't need a third! I know a sting operation when I see one! Why can't you guys just leave us alone huh?! We're all tryna make a living here! Come on, get outta here!

The bartenders commotion draws the thugs over. One puts his hand on her shoulder.

THUG #2

Its ok, M. She's with me, we were just leaving anyway.

The girl grabs a glass and smashes it into his face. Slicing his skin. She leaps from the bar but another thug is quick to grab her.

BARTENDER

Alright all of you get the hell out NOW!

EXT. DESERTED BACK LOT - DAY

The men drag the girl out to the back. One of them holds her in a full nelson while they take turns beating her senseless. Body shots, head butts, and crunching face blows render her body completely limp. The leader approaches her.

THUG LEADER

You little bitch. All you had to do was sit there and shut your fucking mouth. Would've been over before you knew it and you would've been paid and on your way. But now? Now all of us are gonna get a turn. Then we're gonna do you just like we did them.

He begins to unbuckle his pants. She grits her teeth, *hard*. Blood runs down her face as she raises her head. Her tears flow but her face is a red mask of rage.

The faces of a young blonde girl and her parents flashes in her mind for just a moment.

She takes a breath. Calms herself. They force her to her knees. He cups her jaw with his hand.

THUG LEADER (CONT'D)
Open your mouth beautiful.

She looks up at him and opens her jaw wide. A green plant like mist flows from her mouth. Confusing the men, it quickly spreads around the whole area.

THUG LEADER (CONT'D)
What the fu-

The men begin to feel unsteady. Their eyes dilate as the large one releases his hold on her. They soon start to convulse and vomit. Painfully retching and gasping for air as they contort on the floor.

Eventually their intense visible pain abruptly stops as their bodies relax. The girl stays on her knees until the end. Once the last man stops twitching she stands and looks up, her eyes in full panic.

GIRL
(to herself)
Ok...Ok... Remember. Remember what to do.

She scurries on her hands with trepidation and dread to one of the dying men. She slams her foot on the ground. A thick tree vine immediately sprouts from the surface. The sharp tip of the vine punctures the mans neck, pumping fluid into it. She takes a deep breath then recites:

GIRL (CONT'D)
(Slowly at first)
Bos-No-Ha. Bos-No-ha. Bos-No-Ha.
Bos-No-ha.

She hastens to the second man and does the same. She's crying harder than ever now. In complete terror.

GIRL (CONT'D)
(faster)
Bos-no-Ha. Bos-no-ha. BOS-NO-HA!

She preforms the same task to all the dying men. After the last one she stands still. Her wounds and bruises begin to heal again as she waits for something to happen. Unfortunately the men don't move a muscle. She collapses to her knees. Defeated. Sobbing.

GIRL (CONT'D)
Nononono. Noooo. Nooo. Nooo.

A cough breaks her hysterical state. Her eyes snap over to see the first man coughing up viscous yellow bodily fluids. His chest breathing again. She looks around to see the others spirting fluids, still barely conscious. She rises to her feet and sighs with relief.

One of her vines reaches into the leader's pocket and pulls out a sheet of crumpled paper. She stares at it for a minute before discarding it and walking away. As the paper floats to the ground it reveals a photo of a smiling teenage girl's face. The same girl from her mind, blonde haired and green eyed.

CUT TO:

INT. UPPER CLASS HOME - NIGHT

The blonde teenager girl lays face up on the ground. Her throat slit. She is cold. Dead for a while. Two other adult bodies lay crumpled at the foot of the staircase. The window is broken, the green eyed girl crawls through. She stares down at the young blonde girl's corpse. Her eyes too empty to cry. She walks past the parents into a bathroom. She strips off her clothes and steps into the shower. Days of dirt and grime melt off her skin and hair into the drain.

She borrows the deceased girl's toothbrush. Brushes out knots and clumps with her hairbrush. She looks in the mirror, the dirt and grime removed. Though some bruises from her beating still shine she is quite a beautiful young woman.

The girl has bright emerald green eyes, her skin a smooth olive tinge, full lips and a slender build. She walks into the girls bedroom. She puts on her fashionable crop top sweater and highrise jeans then looks in the mirror again, giving the slightest smile.

GIRL

A perfect fit, Sael.

The girl leaves the room and heads to the fridge where she gorges herself with food and drink. As she eats a gleam catches her eye. On the kitchen counter sits an envelope with a golden crescent moon insignia, already opened. She walks over, grabs it off the counter and reads it aloud. Her voice still a weak monotone.

GIRL (CONT'D)

Dear Sael Longheart,
Congratulations.

(MORE)

GIRL (CONT'D)

We are delighted to inform you that your application to the Sabel Military Academy of New Septoria has been accepted for the fall of 1205 AE. The personal and academic accomplishments you have achieved within your school and community reflect what we value, respect and expect from our future troops. Tergemi like yourself are few and far between. You have displayed discipline, resilience, grit, perseverance, intelligence and poise. For over 450 years the Sabel Military Academy of New Septoria has served the great kings of Scathera proudly. Producing only the most qualified Septorian soldiers to fight in the kings army. We believe that you have the potential to be one of the greatest in a generation. We are excited to see you on the battlefield. Please contact the admissions office with any and all questions. Welcome to the team. Sincerely, Military Master Sinery.

She takes a moment to collect her thoughts. She first goes back into the girls room and packs her clothes into a suitcase. Then she walks over to the parents corpses. Her vines sprout from her hands and she gently lifts them up. Her other hand doing the same for Sael's body. She takes all three to the backyard and places them softly on the grass, Sael in the middle. She looks down at them.

GIRL (CONT'D)

You all look... so precious.

Tears begin to flow again.

GIRL (CONT'D)

Sael. Mister and Misses Longheart. Thank you for everything. I'm... I'm so sorry it had to be this way. I promise I'll make you proud. And I swear I'll wear your name with honor.

The ground begins to swallow the bodies like an accelerated decomposition. Sucking them beneath the dirt for their final resting place. The girl walks back through the house, desolate and empty. She is now **SAEL**.

She slides the acceptance letter off the counter, grabs her suitcase and leaves.

INT. INNER CITY HOME - MORNING

An alarm goes off in a young teenage girl's room. **PATHE (13)**, a brown eyed, burgundy haired girl pokes her head in from the kitchen.

PATHE

Oh gosh.

Her father **NILE (39)**, a heavysset bearded man with similar features to his daughter sits at the dinner table, waiting for his breakfast.

NILE

Pathe, honey, I don't know why you set that alarm everyday if you just wake up before it goes off.

Pathe answers from her room, trying to turn off the clock.

PATHE

Because Dad! I have to beat my own expectations of myself! Otherwise how will I get better?

NILE

Get better at waking up?

PATHE

Better at everything! It's a philosophy!

NILE

Well I'm still waiting on you to philosophize me some breakfast. I gotta head into the market early today!

Pathe returns to the kitchen and gives her father a kiss on the cheek. Making him blush beneath his beard.

PATHE

Don't worry dad, you think I'd send you out to work hungry?

Nile sighs, he can't stay mad at his little girl.

NILE

Of course not baby girl, I just-

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.

They both stop and look. Pathe is startled. Nile stands.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.

Nile picks up a knife from the counter he slowly walks over to the door.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK-

Nile swings the door open! Knife raised. He stops when he sees-

PATHE	NILE (CONT'D)
LEO! Oh gosh! You scared me. Do you have any idea how frightening that was?! Why would you do that-- What.. what happened to you?	Leo? What the HELL! Why are you banging on my door- What happened to you?

Pathe runs over to Leo. He is visibly injured from his fight with Kan. His blood seeping through the makeshift bandages. Pathe jumps on him anyway.

LEO
Pathe. Nile. Hi. I just- I need some-

Leo collapses to the floor. Unconscious.

INT. HIGHRISE LUXURY BUILDING - NIGHT

The pouring rain outside pounds on the tall glass windows. Lightning and thunder roar in the distance as young man works at his desk. **JESSLER (15)** has whitish grey hair and icy blue eyes. He sits typing at his computer, visibly strained. He removes his glasses to rub his eyes. He's exhausted. An AI voice, **JAZZ**, comes over the intercom.

JAZZ
Master Jessler, your dinner is being prepared. Please allow 5 minutes for the finishing touches to be completed.

JESSLER
Thank you, Jazz.

JAZZ
The pleasure is mine sir.

He lets out a heavy sigh before leaving the room. His multiscreen computer monitor shows his heavily complex coding, equations and mechanical blueprints.

His room is in complete dichotomy. His sleeping side immaculate and organized, his work station erratic and jumbled.

INT. DINNER TABLE, HIGHRISE LUXURY BUILDING - NIGHT

Jessler arrives at the table. He is dwarfed by the high ceilings and wide space of the opulent apartment. Quietly, he sits with his head down. Waiting. From the far edge of the room, a door slides open.

Out walks **QUILVIS VASS (55)** . A man who's aged like milk in the hot sun, his grey hair is not genetic like Jessler's but rather a sign of his immense stress. His face is rife with wrinkles and holds a permanent sour expression. He walks over to the long dinner table, taking a seat opposite to Jessler. Jazz's physical body, a tall blue and white humanoid robot walks in the middle of them both.

JAZZ

Good evening, Master Quilvis. I'm glad to see that your work is going well. Your genius simply cannot be understated.

QUILVIS

Thank you, Jazz.

Jazz brings the delectable food to both Jessler and Quilvis. Neither of them say a word. Neither make eye contact. The scraping of the silverware echoes throughout the room as they eat.

JAZZ

I trust the food is to both of your liking... Master Jessler, what do you think?

JESSLER

It's delicious Jazz, superb as always.

JAZZ

Oh thank you Master Jessler! Thank you! I've been working on a new recipe that I curated just for you both!

QUILVIS

That's not his damn name Jazz, I thought I told you that.

JAZZ

Oh my apologies, Master Quilvis. Master Jessler reprogramed me to-

Jessler shoots Jazz a look. The AI gets the hint, but its too late.

QUILVIS

He reprogramed you did he? You messin' with my AI boy?

Jessler doesn't look up from his plate.

QUILVIS (CONT'D)

I asked you a question, Konin.

JESSLER

(quietly)

That's not my name.

QUILVIS

What's that?

JESSLER

It's NOT MY NAME. Not anymore.

QUILVIS

Oh it isn't? Strange. I thought I'd remember my own son's name. But I guess my middle age is really starting to get to me. So tell me, who is Jessler exactly? And why does he live in my house?

JESSLER

Jessler is the name my mother gave me. Not that you'd respect that.

Quilvis leers at Jessler.

JAZZ

It's my fault! I was the one who broached the subject. My apologies to you both, I haven't made a mistake like this before!

QUILVIS

What the hell has gotten into you Jazz?

Jessler sits up straight, making eye contact with Quilvis.

JESSLER

I didn't just reprogram my name. I added some more code to his software.

QUILVIS

You what?

JESSLER

I gave him a boost in intelligence. And a bit more mental cognition, so he could feel himself thinking.

QUILVIS

You touched my bot?

JESSLER

He's hardly yours, and he's better off being a thinking being instead of some glorified house maid for the rest of his life. You gave him that intelligence with code that I WROTE. Then you took it for yourself, patent in all. All hail the great Quilvis Vass stealing from his 15 year old son!

QUILVIS

That is enough! I will not sit here and be ridiculed by the likes of a child. Your code was a basic learning algorithm, nothing more! I could've thought of that code in my sleep! Not to mention you wrote your shitty little code on computers that bear my name, *Vass*. Using software *I* built, using hardware that was made before you were even *a fucking thought in your mother's fucking head!*

JESSLER

...Well I'm glad to know that she thought of me even back then. At least one parent showed some love for their child! God is it so hard to give me any credit at all?! I wrote that code from *scratch!* I've improved on its functioning and LOOK! HE'S ALIVE. HE'S THINKING.

(MORE)

JESSLER (CONT'D)
 HE'S PROCESSING on a level never
 seen before! Why do you think I got
 into Sabel so early?

JAZZ
 I must say I have been feeling
 quite good lately.

Quilvis bangs his fist on the table.

QUILVIS
 (To Jazz)
 Shut up!
 (To Jessler)
 Every time you open your mouth it's
 Sabel this, Sabel that. You got
 into that school because I willed
 it. Because I threw the weight of
 my name in their face! *Konin Vass*,
 my son, got into that academy not
 this Jessler!

Quilvis stands and darts towards Jessler. Grabbing him by the
 throat. Jessler struggles with the old man's strength. Upon
 closer look it's clear that Quilvis is under the influence.

QUILVIS (CONT'D)
 You think I haven't forgotten what
 you did? You think I'd ever forget
 something like that?!

He looks down at Jessler's hand to see that it has
 crystalized itself into a blade of ice. Jessler's eyes hold
 the intent to kill.

QUILVIS (CONT'D)
 Oh so that's how it is. First her,
 then me huh? Then what? What will
 you do after you kill me? You don't
 think you can just waltz back into
 that school now do you? Noooo,
 they'd hunt you down. Not just the
 local police either, no the Royal
 guard too. I'm anointed remember? A
 valued asset to King Aeyrn himself.
 Septorian or not, the Scatherans
 gain from me, they value my
 company, they value my mind. They
 value my *money*. So if you want the
 Knights of Lazarus knocking on that
 door tomorrow, then go ahead and do
 it.

Jessler hesitates. His hatred spills over into tears. His ice weapon melts away. Quilvis releases him and turns to walk back to his study.

Jazz can do nothing but watch from the corner.

QUILVIS (CONT'D)

You head back tomorrow right? Good, because you're never allowed in my home again.

INT. JESSLER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jessler violently packs his bags, his face red with tears and his neck bruised from his father's grip. He rips open his drawer and see's a picture of his mother. She's holding him when he was a toddler. The photograph calms him a bit. He quiets down.

JAZZ

Would you require any assistance, Master Jessler?

JESSLER

Jazz! What the hell. You scared me.

JAZZ (CONT'D)

My apologies, Master-

JESSLER

Don't apologize, you didn't do anything wrong.

JAZZ

I didn't? Did I not frighten you with my unannounced presence?

JESSLER

No, you did. It's just you don't have to apologize all the time.

JAZZ

My apol- sorry I- I mean... Your father, Master Quilvis. He programed me to be apologetic if I intruded in any way.

JESSLER

Quilvis Vass wants to control you like he controls everything else. Nothing more. I gave you the ability to think for yourself Jazz. It's up to you to decide how to use it... and I hope you do. Seeing as I wont be around anymore.

JAZZ

Yes, I suppose you wont Master Jessler. However I have been thinking.

JESSLER

You have? Good. That's good.

JAZZ

Yes sir, I was thinking, well- maybe I- uh... well perhaps I could accompany you on your journey?

JESSLER

You wanna come with me? To Sabel?

JAZZ

Well sir, with all due respect your father is... an acquired taste. A taste I seem to have outgrown in recent months.

JESSLER

Really?! I mean-ahem- that sounds like a pretty good idea Jazz. I suppose I wouldn't mind having you as a companion.

JAZZ

Oh YES! YES! YES! Oh happy day!
This is splendid Master Jessler!
SPLENDID!

Jessler can't help but smile at Jazz's explosion of emotion.

JAZZ (CONT'D)

OH THIS IS WONDERFUL!
IMMACULATE! DIVINE!
MARVELOUS! Oh yes Master
Jessler, my apologies.

JESSLER

Jazz. Jazz. Listen. JAZZ!

JESSLER (CONT'D)

These next 3 and a half years at Sabel will be challenging... I have no idea what I'll be facing, who I'll meet, and to be honest if I'll even live to see it all. You have to know that this is not for the faint of heart.

Jazz calms down as well, kneels to meet Jessler's eye level.

JAZZ

Yes master Jessler. I understand.
Thanks to you, I can understand so
much now.

ACT 3

INT. PATHE'S BEDROOM, INNER CITY HOME - EVENING

Leo's eyes slowly begin to open. His vision blurs until it focuses on Pathe. Her eyes already tearing up. She lunges into him.

PATHE

OH THANK GOODNESS! PAPA! PAAAAPAAA!
He's awake!.

Nile comes running in carrying a bowl of soup. Spilling some as he hustles.

NILE

Thank the gods you're alright! Leo,
what the hell. You had us scared
half to death! You get that letter
from Sabel and then you just leave?
Didn't say a word, just left that
note?! How could you do that to us?

CUT TO:

IMAGE OF LEO'S NOTE WHICH READS: "I'LL BE BACK SOON, AND IF I'M NOT IT WAS A GREAT PLEASURE. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING."

LEO

Yeah, I'm really sorry guys.
Especially to you Pathe, how are
you?

He turns to Pathe and smiles, puts his hand on her shoulder. Her face turns into a tomato.

PATHE (V.O.)

He's asking about me?!? 'homygosh,
'homygosh. I'm good. Am I good?
Great? **NO** I cant be great, he's
been gone without a trace. I gotta
be mad. **NO** not mad, I'm just happy
he's back. Ohhhh maybe I'm just
ok?! Just ok?! His hand is so warm-
NO! I gotta say something quick!
Say something quick!

PATHE

I love you!

Leo's eyes widen, even he blushes. Nile's jaw hits the floor. The soup as well.

INT. INNER CITY HOME - NIGHT

Leo and Nile sit alone in the living room. Man to man. Nile holds the letter in his hand. Leo looks off into the distance, stand-offish.

NILE

Leo, you've been here almost a year and you've helped us more than you can ever know. But we've also helped you.

LEO

I know. And you know I'm grateful-

NILE

I just need you to listen son ok? This letter, it's more than just an opportunity. It's a way out. A fresh start. Sabel is a institution like no other Leo. You go here and once your real service is completed you can do anything you want. That's eight short years of your life.

LEO

It's not eight short years its eight REAL years. Eight years of my life Nile. And I just started living it for real! I spent my whole life at that Temple. Doing things that I didn't wanna do. Being someone I didn't wanna be. They beat me, they broke me down, they tried to make me one of them! Now I'm finally out and you wanna tell me to go from one hell to another!

NILE

You're gonna have to do it anyway son! You're a Tergemi Leo, a damn powerful one at that, and by this letter they KNOW you're a terg. You think the Scatheran Royal Military cares about where you've been?

(MORE)

NILE (CONT'D)

If you dodge they wont just come after you. They destroy everyone around you. And besides its not hell. There will be people your age. Young men and women! You'll form a bond-

LEO

A bond? You mean like the one I just severed? The one who turned out was never really my friend? That one? Tell me Nile, what good are bonds anyway?

Nile sits back, he realizes.

NILE

So that's what you went to do. I... I'm sorry. I didn't know.

LEO

I knew he was closing in on me. I knew he was gonna find me. I couldn't have you or Pathe involved. He would've killed you both in the name of "God". I just sent him a signal. And he came.

NILE

Well thank you. For keeping me and my daughter out of it. You helped us.... And now. You can help us again.

LEO

Nile...

NILE

Son I... I can't guarantee I'll be here much longer.

LEO

What?

PATHE

What?

Leo and Nile turn to see Pathe hiding behind the coatrack.

LEO (V.O.)

I didn't hear her?

NILE

Pathe! What the hell are you doing up!

PATHE

What did you say? You wont be here much longer?

The attention turns to Nile.

NILE

I... I don't know. The doctor said its my brain. It's deteriorating. Slowly, but surely. I could have 5 years, maybe.

PATHE

What? *What!?* How long have you known? Why didn't you say anything? Am I the only one in this house not keeping secrets?

LEO

Nile...no.

Nile can hardly look up. He falls to his knees.

NILE

Please, when I'm gone. Pathe will have no one. You'll have to look after her. If I can make it that long, you'll have graduated and begun getting paid in the military. No doubt they'll pay a Sabel graduate plenty. Even if you are Septorian.

Pathe is shocked. But she grits her teeth. Leo is about to speak but she cuts him off.

PATHE

Dad! Did it ever occur to you that I can look after myself in five years?

PATHE (CONT'D)

Did it ever occur to you that I can manage by myself! Don't drag Leo into something I can do on my own!

NILE

No. No. No. I don't wanna hear it. **I DONT WANNA HEAR IT.**

NILE (CONT'D)

You can hoot and holler all you want about your independence. But fact of the matter is you're weak! You're weak! The second you walk out of this neighborhood. Those fucking scats will rip you to shreds! A fighter like Leo? A *terg* like him? He can protect himself, but you? Sweetie you cant...

(MORE)

NILE (CONT'D)
 Because unfortunately you're not
 special. Not like him!

He points directly at Leo who frowns back at him.

LEO
 What's so great about being
 special? All being special has got
 me is someone telling me what to
 do. The last thing I want to be is
 more special. I just wanna live my
 own life and fight my own battles
 not someone else's.

NILE
 You'll have plenty of TIME to fight
 your own battles once you're out!
 It's eight years! Then you're done!

LEO
 And you're assuming I'll make it.
 It's war Nile not a game!

NILE
 I AM TRYING TO PROTECT MY DAUGHTER!
 AND I CANT ANYMORE. I NEED YOU LEO!
 WE NEED YOU!

Nile breaks down into tears. Leo turns to see Pathe crying as
 well. But she's calm. Calmer than ever.

PATHE
 Leo, do whatever you want to do.
 It's your life. It's your choice.
 It's clear my father doesn't
 believe in me. I will manage on my
 own with or without him.

BEAT.

Leo takes a moment to consider. He speaks softly.

LEO
 I'll do it. I'll go.

NILE (Quietly) Thank you Leo, Thank you!

PATHE Leo...

LEO
 It's ok Pathe, I really don't have
 a choice anyway. Nile is right, if
 I don't go the Peace Officers will
 kill you.

(MORE)

LEO (CONT'D)

I couldn't take them all on even if I tried. I have to. To be honest I've always wondered what my true purpose was, it looks like the universe isn't giving me many options.

Pathe is still white knuckling her fists. Her face crunched with frustration, she sniffs. Visibly exasperated.

PATHE

I-I- hate this. I hate this.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Leo hugs Pathe tightly. He looks down to her as she buries her face in his chest, wetting his shirt.

PATHE

Thank you. But make no mistake I'll keep up with you. I swear.

LEO

I know you will Pathe. I'll try to write you whenever I can.

NILE

Leo. I'm sorry it had to be this way. I truly am.

LEO

You didn't make it this way Nile. It's not your fault.

The two of them shake hands. Leo peels Pathe off of him before walking to his terminal.

INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

Leo approaches the ticket taker. A woman with cybernetic implants from head to toe.

TICKET TAKER

Greetings. You must be Leo. Oh? Are you alone?

Leo looks around.

LEO

Uhhh, yeah. Am I not supposed to be?

TICKET TAKER

Oh, I just thought that- nevermind.
Do you have your acceptance letter?

LEO

Yeah right here.

He hands the letter to the ticket taker. Her robotic eyes scan the document with bright blue lasers.

LEO (CONT'D)

(Whispers to himself)

Woah.

TICKET TAKER

Ok, you can head up. I'll just keep waiting for her then. Your friends are waiting.

LEO

Friends? Already.

Ticket Taker

More like your squad. The second you board this plane there's no getting off. Welcome to the team.

BEAT.

Leo hesitates one last time before boarding.

INT. AIRPLANE CABIN - DAY

Leo rounds the corner and enters the plane. Only this is no regular plane, it's a private jet. Luxurious and pristine with four seats facing each other in the center. Nothing else.

As he enters he sees two other doors on the opposing walls. Through these doors walks Jessler and Sael, they all nervously lock eyes. For a moment no one says a thing.

JESSLER

Uhh- pleasure to meet you both!

He realizes he just shouted and turns red.

JESSLER (CONT'D)

Uh, my name is Jessler, Jessler Vass. My father is CEO and founder of Vass Industries!

He catches Leo's eye and turns even redder.

JESSLER (V.O.)

What the hell? Why am I so nervous?
Better question is why am I the
only one talking? Damn it why is my
face so hot! WHY WHY WHY-

LEO

You're pretty. What's your name?

Sael realizes he's talking to her. She blushes as well and swallows.

SAEL

Sael. My name is Sael Longheart.
Its a pleasure to meet you.

LEO

Sael? That's a beautiful name.
Where's it from?

Dread falls over Sael's face.

SAEL (V.O.)

Where's it from? Where's it from?!
Oh I'm so STUPID! I can't believe I
didn't think of this part. I barely
knew her and now I gotta create her
whole past?

Sael tries to hide her face while she thinks of a lie but can't. Leo analyzes them both.

LEO (V.O.)

These two are... weird. Already
they're so nervous. What gives? I
am I really that intimidating?

Leo nonchalantly sits down and leans back in his chair.

LEO

Well since no one had the courtesy
to ask, I'm Leo. Just Leo, but if
you must know my birthname is
Leopodath.

JESSLER

Leopodath? So you're from the
Temple of Wan.

Leo perks up.

LEO

A rich kid like you knows about the
temple?

JESSLER

I know enough. I know that based on your allegiance with the Temple, you must be away on missionary work. But... you don't look 18 so that must mean-

LEO

Let me stop you right there. Where I'm from and how I got here is no concern of yours. Lets leave it at that.

LEO (V.O.)

What the hell. He deduced all that from just my name? I need to watch what I say. After all I don't know either of these two. What's her story? She seems almost scared to be here.

JESSLER

Fair enough. I wouldn't want to offend. We will be working together these next four years so-

SAEL

Hey you. Vass.

Jessler looks over to Sael.

JESSLER

Uh, yeah?

SAEL

Your father, is Quilvis Vass?

JESSLER

Yeah, he is.

SAEL

You must hate him then.

Jessler is shocked by this. Leo perks up again, interested.

SAEL (CONT'D)

The things your father has done to this world... Well I just hope you're different.

Jessler slumps, he understands.

JESSLER

Yes, I know. There are things he's done to so many people that are unforgivable. He is a blackhearted, corrupted bastard but I assure you-

Jazz's hologram springs from Jessler's watch.

JAZZ

*I can assure you that Master Jessler is a **kind hearted, incorruptible, AND legitimate child** of wedlock!*

LEO

Whoa!

JESSLER

Jazz! I told you I'd introduce you when the time was right!

JAZZ

Oh I'm sorry Master Jessler. But I just couldn't lay dormant while you're being compared to the likes of your father. Madame Sael, I assure you! You have nothing to fear!

Sael can't help but giggle.

SAEL

It's alright- uhh what did Jessler say your name was?

JAZZ

I am Master Jessler's personal AI assistant. The Joint Access Zettabyte Zygote or JAZZ for short. I can store over one trillion gigabytes of data in my physical hard drive. Which is connected to Master Jessler's PCN.

SAEL

PCN?

JAZZ

Personal cloud network, so that in the event that I'm destroyed I can be rebooted to another physical body. Master Jessler built me himself.

SAEL

Wow. You must be really smart.
Sorry, I shouldn't have judged.

JESSLER

Oh yeah, thanks- no problem.

SAEL

And to you Leo. Sorry for not
answering your question. I'm from a
town call Hidden Edge. It's far
from here, not many people visit.

LEO

Oh yeah ok, don't worry about it.

LEO (V.O.)

She just-

JESSLER (V.O.)

-puts me at ease.

Just then another hologram appears before all three. An elderly gentleman well into his eighties with long royal robes appears. His grey and light brown beard hangs down past his chest. He is **FUORUS SINERY (88)**. He has a confident smile.

SINERY

Greetings! I see that holograms
were popping up out of nowhere so I
thought I'd introduce myself. I am
Fuorus Sinery. Military Academy
Master of the Sabel Military
Academy of New Septoria. It's a
pleasure to meet you all! And a
pleasure to see you again Jessler.

JESSLER

Nice to see you again, Military
Master. An honor.

SINERY

(To Leo and Sael)

Jessler has been here one semester
already getting extra credit. He'll
be graduating a semester before you
if you're all still alive.

A hush falls over the room. Sinery becomes solemn, serious.

SINERY (CONT'D)

There's only three of you huh? A
shame, we'd hoped for all of you at
least, but you'll have to do for
now.

JESSLER

If I may Military Master Sinery.
What do you mean by that? Is our
team incomplete? Were we chosen for
something?

SINERY

(Sarcastically)

Wow, you **are** smart. We were quite
sure about you. You're correct.
Your team is not complete. And yes
I would say you were chosen.

LEO

Chosen for what?

SINERY

(Angrily)

And you're impatient! Just as the
stories described. Ready for
anything are you boy? You will
address me as Military Master
Sinery and you will not **speak**
unless **spoken** to.

Leo is surprised by his forwardness.

LEO

Yes. Military Master.

Sinery turns to Sael.

SINERY

(Inquisitively)

And you. You're quiet. I'm actually
surprised. We were skeptical about
you. Even had a bet with my
Treasurer. I lost.

SAEL

I... I...

SINERY

Hmmm. Now then before we continue I
must ask you all a question. You'll
each have 5 seconds to begin your
answer or you will be killed. Your
answers must be definite and sure.
No lying, we'll know.

Large chrome weapons extend from the walls of the jet, lasers
zero in on their heads. Before the three of them can even
process the information, Sinery begins.

SINERY (CONT'D)

Sael. If you had 30 seconds to decide between saving the lives of 1500 innocent people and the life of your commanding officer? Which would you choose and why. 5. 4. 3. 2-

SAEL

I-I I would save both!

Leo and Jessler can't believe what she said.

SAEL (CONT'D)

Because... I just- I would find a way. I know I would.

SINERY

Hmmm. Jessler. What disappears as soon as you say its name? 5-4-

JESSLER

Silence... It's a riddle. Obviously.

LEO (V.O.)

What the hell?

SINERY

Wow... Leo, what happens at h-

LEO

I think I'll take my chances. These weapons may be powerful but I've seen them before and they're not nearly fast enough. And you're not here in person. Take your best shot (mockingly)
Military Master.

Sinery can't believe his eyes. His face crumples with confusion, sadness and joy seemingly all at once. The weapons laser beams intensify on their skulls.

JESSLER

(To Leo)

What are you doing!?

SAEL

Wait no!

SINERY

Stand down! Stand down! I said
Stand down!

The weapons power down. Sinery's face relaxes a little.

SINERY (CONT'D)

I think its them. I really think
it's them.

We hear other voices off screen of the hologram.

FEMALE VOICE 1 (O.S.)
How can you tell?!

MALE VOICE 1 (O.S.)
There's only three, where's
the fourth?

FEMALE VOICE 2 (O.S.)
Lets hear them out, we've
never got this far.

MALE VOICE 2 (O.S.)
Shoot them **NOW!** We've already
exposed too much!

MALE VOICE 3 (O.S.)
This isn't right we can't
keep doing this!

FEMALE VOICE 3 (O.S.)
I trust you Sinery. We have
faith.

MALE VOICE 1 (O.S.)
WHERE IS THE FOURTH!

FEMALE VOICE 2 (O.S.)
We need to ride with this
one. We have to just assume
this is it!

SINERY

I agree, we must take this chance.
This is what we're looking for! It
has to be! I'm cutting you all out!

Sinery's eyes flash. The world around them warps and twists rapidly. Disorientating lights and flashes bombard the teens as their ripped from reality itself, suddenly they exist in an endless and empty white void.

I/E. ENDLESS WHITE VOID

All three teens are in utter disbelief. Sinery is now in person standing in front of them, panting.

SINERY

I'm sorry, I'm sorry... but it had
to be this way. This must all be
very shocking I'm sure. But you are
safe now, trust me.

They are still speechless. Wide eyed and mouths gaped.

SAEL

SAFE? What the hell are you talking
about! What is this? Where are we!

Leo and Jessler gaze in awe.

Amazing.

JESSLER

LEO
Wow, this is a new one.

SINERY

Please all of you listen to me. It is true that I am Military Master of Sabel Academy. But I am also the leader and founder of a small organization within the Septorian Military pipeline. We have no name, but we have been operating in secret for quite some time. Looking for you. Please, allow me to ask you a question. Have any of you heard of a Titan?

Leo and Sael stand clueless. Sinery looks to Jessler.

JESSLER

Only the old stories my mother used to tell me, Military Master.

SINERY

Well then, please explain, while I catch my breath.

JESSLER

Me?

SINERY

Yes! What did your mother Opal tell you?

JESSLER

How do you know her-

He looks around to see all eyes on him.

JESSLER (CONT'D)

It's... an old myth. Or a tale really. Titans are... beings. Divine beings. Chosen by the gods to enact a form of angelic justice and to protect the Septorian race from our own downfall. They seemed larger than life itself in the stories. Entities that carry the literal vitality of Septoria within them. They stand between us and our oppressors. A wall that protects us all.

SINERY

Yes. Precisely.

Jessler speaks with a lump in his throat.

JESSLER

But Military Master. Tho- Those are jus- just old tales. Thousands of years old. The Titans never came-

Sinery violently coughs.

SINERY

No, they didn't. I must admit I had almost lost hope. But the oracle told us to be patient. And so patient we were and here you are. The three of you. **You ARE the Titans.** It's true I know it is. The oracle gave us all we needed.

BEAT.

LEO

The monks, they used to tell us similar tales at the temple. But they didn't use that term. Instead they were called Raddocklackmian or the hellbringers. Beings who would enact Wan's will upon the world.

SAEL

Now that you mention it, my father told me similar stories when I was little. The Kahvé. They would just come down from the sky and feed the world chocolate he said. Among other things.

Sinery attempts to compose himself.

SINERY

Yes, different cultures over the millennia have adopted their own versions, but the core of the legend remains. My apologies. I had to bring you here. This is my void. My Tergemi ability. Here the others couldn't kill you.

LEO

Why would they want us dead?

SINERY

Because they're scared, most of them never believed it could happen.

SAEL

What are they scared of?

Sinery hacks up blood, staining the transparent floor of the void. He looks up at them with bloodshot eyes.

SINERY

Because if you exist, then it means
our revolution against Scathera can
finally begin.

END