

Chapter 5

Zaxvo walked into infirmary, tired. He looked around, assessing the injuries. A Toa of plant-life lay on a cot, sleeping. Her left side was badly burned. In another cot, Zaxvo saw a Toa of magnetism with a large cut running down one leg. Zaxvo also saw a Toa of earth with a badly broken mask. In the cot nearest to him, a rookie Toa of Gravity laid, his left arm severed from the elbow. Zaxvo approached the lone doctor tending the rookie.

"What happened, doctor?" He asked. The doctor—a Toa of Ice—looked up.

"We don't know," He replied, sombre. "All we know is from Hozil here, that there was an explosion. That's it. Where was he stationed?"

"I think he was up at a Cordak launcher. I'll go check it out after I know they'll all be OK." Zaxvo activated his thought-comm. *<Tikaro. I need you to enter my workshop. Bring the 3M-Duo down to the infirmary>*

<Roger. Give me a few minutes> Tikaro replied. Zaxvo moved on to the Toa of Earth.

"Do we have any extra masks?" Zaxvo inquired to the Doctor.

"I'm working on it. Akura told me he'd bring one. He should be at his forge right now."

"OK, I trust Akura." Zaxvo stated, and then addressed the Toa of Earth. "What's your name, brother?"

"I am called Pronuta." He replied, deep voice rumbling.

"Do you know what happened to you?" Zaxvo inquired voice calm and caring. Pronuta nodded.

"A white bashed me in the face with both his armoured fists." Pronuta sighed, his body weakened.

"Doctor! When's Akura coming? We're losing him!" Zaxvo called softly and urgently across the room. Just then, Akura walked in, a great Ruru in his hand.

"Where is he?" Akura asked, referring to Pronuta. Zaxvo turned, gasped. For some reason, Akura was not wearing his customary black noble Huna. Instead he had a dark red noble Matatu on. Zaxvo opened his mouth to say something, and then closed it again.

"Akura! Over here." Zaxvo informed. He was able to sound urgent yet keep his voice low and calm. Akura strode over and held it up for Pronuta to see.

"This good? You requested a mask of intangibility in a great Ruru shape. Correct?" Pronuta nodded.

"Perfect, Akura." Pronuta said in gratitude as he replaced his broken mask with the new one. Zaxvo nodded in satisfaction. After he was sure Pronuta was going to be fine, Akura turned and left.

"You all right?" Zaxvo asked in assurance. Pronuta nodded. Zaxvo gave him a pat on the shoulder, saying, "Get some rest now, brother." Pronuta nodded once more, then lay back and fell asleep. Zaxvo moved on to the Toa of magnetism.

"What happened to you?" He asked, not unkindly. The Toa just sighed, and then fell into unconsciousness. "Doctor! This Toa needs your help!" Zaxvo yelled softly, his voice urgent. The doctor hurried over to the Toa and leaned over, inspecting the leg. He passed a hand over it, and the leg was bound in a thin cast of ice.

"I'll wait a few hours, then melt the ice and regenerate the armour." The Doctor told Zaxvo.

"Good," Zaxvo said. The doctor moved on to the cot with the Toa of plant-life. His Iden-shaped Kiril looked worried.

"Honestly, I have no idea what happened to her. Our battle-medics found her lying on the ground. We also found this." The Doctor held up a slightly burnt mask. It was black, and held the shape of a noble Huna.

"Akura..." Zaxvo muttered. "I should have known you would do something like this. No, it's not your fault, but still. I should have warned everyone."

"Excuse me sir, but what was that?" The doctor asked, curiosity filling his voice. Zaxvo laughed.

"Oh, nothing. It's just that..." Zaxvo trailed off, leaving the Doctor hanging.

"What is it, sir? It may help us help Lanii." The Doctor said, revealing the name of the Toa of plant life.

"Lanii?!?" The leader of the TrueToa was shocked. "I should have known. Anyways, I was going to say Akura has a curse. Every time he feels extreme anger or pain, he releases a supernova of flames. My guess is that's what happened, and unfortunately Lanii was caught too close to the blast." Before the Doctor could react, someone pounded on the door. Leader and Healer stared at each other, Zaxvo readying the knives he kept with him inside Gradis Aesdar. The doctor formed an ice crystal in his hand, and then grew it to resemble a sword. They both stood ready, yet tense. "Come in," Zaxvo called. The door opened, and in walked Tikaro, Toa of Fire. The Doctor visibly relaxed, exhaling. His ice sword slowly shrank until it was a small crystal once more, then The Doctor melted the crystal above the sink. Zaxvo smiled, hung his twin knives at his waist, and asked Tikaro, "Did you bring it?"

"Yep. The best one you had." Tikaro confirmed. "Who needs it?" Zaxvo nodded at Hozil's sleeping form.

"He does." Zaxvo said quietly. Tikaro faltered.

"H-hozil!? What happened to him?" Tikaro asked, in shock. Zaxvo frowned in puzzlement, and then replied.

"I'll tell you later. Right now, we need to operate, and fast." The Doctor nodded.

"We're losing him," The doctor's grave voice told them. "Zaxvo, could you help me lift him into the operating room? Thanks. Tikaro, bring that...thing...with you, and follow us." Zaxvo and the Doctor lifted Hozil and carried him into the operating room.

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Meanwhile, in a hidden laboratory, a pawzert hung on a wall. A Toa walked in, and promptly pulled the Pawzert's power cords out of the charging station and plugged them into the pawzert. The Pawzert's eyes opened, and nodded to the Toa. The Toa smiled, and suddenly changed. Where there once stood a Toa, there now stood a Pawzert. The Pawzert reached over, and grabbed a wire. He reached up, and plugged the wire into the Pawzert's head. Turning to a computer, he opened and ran a program. A voice emitted from the computer,

“Memories copied.” Then he unplugged both wires: the first Pawzert’s power and the cable plugged into the Pawzert’s head. The second Pawzert took that cable and plugged it into his head. He tapped a key, and the voice came from the computer once more. “Transferring memories.” The Pawzert sat down, leaned back and did something no one had ever witness a Pawzert do. He smiled.