



Rise To Greatness

It had taken me years to get to this exact spot. Yet here I was standing face to face with the Lizard King. We were front and center in the coliseum he built on the blood and bones of the greedy and shallow warriors. Yes at this moment the scaly bastard wasn't perched high on his cushy throne looking down on the action. He was now nothing more than a warrior himself trying to stroke his ego. He was trying to prove he was powerful enough to be the one to finally kill the Wonderland once and for all. He was the true alpha male. He was going to get his hands dirty at long last. He was going to do what others couldn't do themselves, which was to put me down for good. And that was a lofty goal considering that list of others was quite long.

After all, I had battled the Lizard Kingdom tooth and nail for years. I had withstood the ever growing gauntlet the green reptilian tyrant had laid before me. It was almost like a labyrinth maze littered with his greatest warriors and his favorite pets trying to be my dead end. They all did this gleefully believing that doing this would gain them some sort of favor or reward. The foolish bastards didn't grasp that they too were trapped in the maze. They were unaware that they were nothing more than mere play toys for the sick and twisted Lizard King. And yet even with them trying to be my end, I was trying to help them. I was trying to lead them out of the maze. They just didn't see the full picture. They were either too afraid or too enamored with the green bastard to ever picture what could be beyond that maze. They were driven by superficial materials. They were blinded by greed. They were tricked by pride. It didn't matter what part of the kingdom they came from, they all fell for the scaly bastards shtick. They all bowed down to the gold. They all worshiped at the altar of superficial greatness and pride.

From the youth trying to make a name for themselves to the King's favorites trying to stay in his favor, they all tried to stop my message cause it put their views and beliefs about themselves in

an unflattering light. They wanted to believe they were the heroes and champions in this tale. They wanted to believe they were something special but they were nothing more than just another jackass trying to get that carrot dangled in front of them. They believed they were role models for the children. They were nothing more than whores doing the bidding of their scaly cladded pimp. And really I can get angry at them, I can't hold a grudge against them, for the jackass is only going after what he sees. The whore is only doing what they know.

I knew to save them, to help them, to break them from the chains and binds of greed, ego, and pride. I knew to do this I had to cut the head off. I had to find the weak spot in the Lizard King. I had to do things that probably didn't align with my Wonderland beliefs. In fact I had to sacrifice my spot in Wonderland for others. For I had to go into a dark place to make this happen. I had to push and push. I had to do anything and everything to provoke the Lizard King. I tried to burn the kingdom down. I tried to maim and destroy people. I was completely unhinged. Then again sometimes you have to cross lines to get what you want. Finally though, I found the scaly bastard's weak spot...his fiancée Karina. Who knew the cold and calculating bastard had a heart. She was the key to get what I wanted. And who knew just merely implying I would visit his main squeeze, would have the cold blooded asshole give me what I've always wanted...him vs me.

And as I looked at him again as we stood in the middle of the coliseum, I knew he was going to try to do everything to end me. He snarled and hissed with venom and anger. He had known I found his weak spot. He was going to do everything in his power to protect it. The bastard took the fight to me. Though I was going to just lay down. I had fought too long. I had withstood so much. I had sacrificed too much to let the bastard win in the end. I was locked out of Wonderland just so others could find it. And it was an epic battle, the Lizard King wasn't quit the warrior in terms of skill. He had pitted me against many more skilled warriors but the bastard had drive. The bastard had fight.

But I had more. I wasn't going to let the bastard defeat me. I wasn't going to let greed, ego, and pride defeat me again. It had defeated me at 18 when it destroyed my family. It had torn and ravaged my family. But tonight, it was going to destroy me again So I released all the frustration I had upon the scaly green bastard. I delivered blow after blow to the ever so growing weaker Lizard King. For he stood for everything wrong with this world. He promoted the things that destroy people. Sure the high is great but the low is damn near crippling. I didn't want anyone to experience that low. I didn't want anyone to experience that crippling feeling. So I knew I had to end this once and for all. I had to do the unspeakable. I had to break the neck of the scaly bastard. I drove his head into the ground. The bastard was stilling moving. I then did it again this time he barely moved. I had to end this. I had to put the bastard out of misery. I had to make him finally feel the Embrace of the Wonderland. I felt the fight go out of the cold blooded bastard. He went limp and before his subjects he went from a powerful tyrant to a feeble mortal.

Though that moment should have been my greatest experience, it wasn't. Rather it was what I experienced while all that was happening. The moment I felt the Lizard King go limp in my arms, all my anger and frustration dissipated, the coliseum was gone, the Lizard King was no more. I

was transcended to another place. It wasn't the Wonderland. There was no fantastical land. There was no Wonderland Wanderers, no Wonderland Oompa Loompas. There was no colorful palette of landscape.

No this place was void of such things, this place was the picture of calm. It was a sandy beach with nobody or no thing around. Just the sound of the wind and waves crashing at my feet. And with each wave my anger began to be washed out to sea. My worry was washed away. My frustration was almost cleansed from me. That darkness that had engulfed me the past year seemed to fade away. Just then I saw something emerge from the water. I focused my eyes on the object in front of me as I felt no hesitation, no fear, no anger, no worry. I was completely calm. The object came into focus as it was me. Though a different looking me. This version of myself was dressed and white as he walked toward me almost as if he was walking atop the water. He came closer and I felt peace begin to engulf me. It was a wonderful feeling. I couldn't tell you the last time I felt this way. For ever since I found The Wonderland I had been at war with the Lizard Kingdom. Worry and anger had been saddled with me. I never really got to enjoy what the Wonderland had to offer. And in this moment I didn't feel remorse or sorrow about that fact.

The version of myself that was donned in white clothing finally made his way to where he was standing in front of me. He put his hands together and bowed toward me. I bowed back to him as he smiled at me as his smile showed nothing but pure euphoria coming from his whole being. He then gave me a huge hug, a hug that wrapped around me like a warm blanket to an infant child. In that moment, I felt protected, I felt no worries, I felt like I was where I belonged. My white clad version of myself then released the hug as he looked into his eyes. I looked at him and saw in his eyes that I had made it to the destination where I never knew I needed to make it to. He looked around the beach as I did too. The breeze felt like warm soft kisses across my skin. I was at ease. Both of us look at each other as he began to speak.

The White Clad Verison of Gio: Welcome to Nirvana.

He extended his arms outward to indicate all this was a nirvana. I had heard of this by others but never gave it much thought as I was all about the Wonderland. I was all about seeking my forever in the Wonderland. This nirvana was something different though. It wasn't about happiness and coexisting in harmony. It was about a peace of mind and soul that sometimes happiness can't deliver you. Yet how I got here was more my pressing issue at the moment.

Giovanni Aries: How did I get here?

Was the Lizard King preventing me from reaching Nirvana while trying to destroy the Wonderland? Was he standing in my way of a paradise never realized till now? And while I should have been angry, I wasn't at the moment. I was content where I was. The version of myself dressed in white just smile at me with compassion.

The White Clad Verison of Gio: You finally were able to get rid of the anger and worry that prevented you from reaching nirvana. You had been able to let go of the other external things that prevent most from reaching this place, just the anger and worry kept you from this Wonderland of Salvation.

So it was the Lizard King that kept me from this place. Yet right now I couldn't care less what the green scaly bastard had put me through, I was here and never want to lose this feeling deep inside of me. It was almost as if I was looking through my eyes a different person.

Giovanni Aries: So once I toppled the Lizard King, I was good to reach this place?

The White Clad Verison of Gio: Actually it wasn't the Lizard King preventing you, rather the concept that an external factor like the Lizard King could provoke anger and worry. You couldn't let go of what greed, ego, and pride had done to you. You had to make it suffer like it made you suffer.

I looked down knowing that this white clothed version of myself was right. This battle with the Lizard King wasn't just about his threat on the Wonderland but rather my battle with how his principles and teachings had ruined everything I could call a family. The Lizard King was my chance at redemption. It was my chance at revenge for my childhood. It made all sense now. It made sense why I elevated to nirvana so quickly after I left the green scaly bastard lifeless on the ground. I was finally to convince myself I had gotten my revenge. I was able to get myself to believe that I had gotten redemption for my childhood. For as I stood on this beach of nirvana there was not dark cloud hanging over me. In fact where I stood there wasn't a cloud in the sky.

Giovanni Aries: Well I am grateful to finally be able to find this place. For this place is something Wonderland could never be.

The White Clad Verison of Gio: What is that?

Giovanni Aries: Pure. For anybody and everybody could get to the Wonderland. All it took was picking the right rabbit hole to go down. They could use the Wonderland for their own greedy and perverse personal playground. It's why Judas was able to get so close. This place makes you shed any external factors that prevent inner peace. This place is a members only with a fee of pureness. This place needs to be seen.

I felt a smile come across my face as this was what I truly was seeking. This place was what I needed. This place deserves to be experienced by the masses. Greed, ego, and pride would fall to waste side

The White Clad Verison of Gio: I agree but the fee is hard to pay. The external factors are often too much for people to shake free of. They are too wrapped up in being seen from the outside and hid away from the inside. They are too blinded by the pursuit of happiness in materialistic means. This place takes sacrifices that most can't come to terms with doing.

I knew he was right, I had seen the lizard kingdom up close and personal. I knew none of them could get here on their own. They had become too ingrained in the way of the Lizard King. Though my hope is that with the thorn empty maybe it would be the awakening many of these people needed. With the Lizard King without his power, maybe people wouldn't be too afraid to step outside the box and experience something new, something different.

The White Clad Verison of Gio: This place though deserves sacrifice to get to.

I couldn't agree more, this place was paradise, it was an utopia that needed to be experienced. I knew people would come once they figured out what it took to get here.

Giovanni Aries: I am just happy that I can stay here.

Just then the white clothed version of Giovanni Aries smile faded a bit at my statement. I didn't know what was coming.

The White Clad Verison of Gio: This place right here isn't nothing more than a visualization of complete nirvana. It is a way for your brain to grasp what complete nirvana really is. The good news though is that feeling you have won't go away as long as you walk the path you are on. That feeling won't disappear as long as you prevent yourself from being effected by external factors. You have nirvana and you can always have it as long as you remain pure.

I nodded as while this visual was breathtaking, the feeling I had right now was what I wanted to keep with me the rest of my life. I nodded to him and he gave me a hug again.

The White Clad Verison of Gio: Namaste my friend.

With that everything went black for a second. And when everything came back I was being pulled away from the motionless body of the Lizard King. I felt a smile wash over my face as I knew what the scaly green bastard had given me. I also knew the acts I had done against him wouldn't go unpunished. I knew an exile would probably be in my future. Yet I didn't care. I would happily take it for what I got in return. Though as I was being escorted from the coliseum, I saw the faces in the crowd. People were shocked, unsure, confused to what would happen now. I hoped for their sake it would be a chance to change for the betterment of themselves. I hoped with the power away from the greedy tyrant, people would see their was more than greed, ego, and pride. I continued out of the coliseum and toward the gates of the Lizard Kingdom as I was told that I was banned till they saw fit to allow me to return. I didn't resist, I didn't plead, I happily walked out ready to enjoy my inner peace and my personal nirvana.

During My Exile...

I spent my next 90 days in complete and total happiness. I was able to enjoy the little things like the sweet songs of the birds, the picture perfect sunsets in the desert. My life was in harmony

with my spirit and it was quite enjoyable. I mean the fact that anger or worry never showed it's face. And it was quite a welcome change. I had been in the dark side of the Wonderland for way too long. I had been allowing it to eat away at my soul little by little, day by day. Now though every day was sunny and bright. Everyday was just another good day.

Though while I enjoyed the inner peace I had achieved, I couldn't help but keep an eye on what was going on in the Lizard Kingdom. Curiosity got the better of me. I wondered if my overthrowing of the Lizard King would help start a movement. I wondered if people would start thinking beyond what they knew. I wondered if they could start to find what I had found. I wonder if anything would change. I had great hopes it would. I had hoped for their sake that it could change. They deserved to feel the way I felt.

Sadly though nothing seemed to change. It was if the throne was still occupied by the Lizard King. The people still carried on as if Rise To Greatness had never even happened. I wasn't mad or angry, just felt compassion for them. It seemed the ways and teachings of the Lizard King had affected them to their very core. They still chased materialistic things. They still stroke their egos with meaningless and superficial achievements. So they collect all the Lizard King's golden rings, it meant nothing in the grand scheme of things. They became just another name on a list. That name would eventually lose meaning and would be nothing more than a meaningless word. This would never give them inner peace. The void in their life would continue for these superficial things couldn't ever fill that void. It would like filling the Grand Canyon with a shot glass.

I knew I had to help them. I had to show them the way to filling that void. I had to guide them to salvation that is complete nirvana.

Though I knew my name was as good as mud in the Lizard Kingdom. For the Lizard King went out of his way to slant and twist my message into ramblings of a mad man. I knew people would continue to write my words off. For my message, my views, my ideas were too different, too outside the box, too abrupt to their way of life. I knew when I returned to the Lizard Kingdom, I would have to change my approach for them to open their ears. I had to try to come at them a different way. I had to use what they were use to, to get them to truly listen to me.

I had an idea, for I knew that attaching materialistic value made something mean more in the Lizard Kingdom. I mean why are the Lizard Kingdom's greatest prizes coated in gold, to make them more valuable thus more important. So I knew I had to attach a monetary fee to my message to make it appear valuable to the masses in the Lizard Kingdom. For in the kingdom, it is believed that nothing good is free. Yet while this was a good start to opening their eyes, ears, and minds. I needed something to put it over the top. I needed something to get all eyes on me. And really I had nothing but free time to wait and find that it factor. So I waited and watched the Lizard Kingdom from afar. And finally I heard it like angels singing down from heaven.

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That was it. What better way to make my message desired than make it a brand, make it a must have label. And what better brand to be associated with than the brand closely connected with the grandest prize in the entire Lizard Kingdom. This was the way to start the spiritual awakening needed in the Lizard Kingdom. It was brilliant. A wonderland of salvation was about to spread throughout the kingdom. Inner peace would replace greed. Soon the beaches of nirvana were going to be crowded. I couldn't wait. All there was left to do was get to in contact with Holly Adams and get her on board before walking back through the gates of the Lizard Kingdom.