

HIKMA & The Jewels of Torso

By Quincy Corsey

CHAPTER 1:

The smoldering of the soul is hard to watch when you're the one having to watch it burn. Two men, one fated by "destiny" and the other by "control". The true essence of a soul is a duality guarded for the worthy of finding the mystery of what makes it tick. Even with the unknown upon us, we still have the courage to find acceptance and understanding. The soul is what's left in the universe and reality when everything else fades away. We may not know how to understand the first thing about the Soul and why it's special. But we do know it's the most powerful and understanding when you have peace in your piece.

The field burns with people screams charring it with fear all throughout. But some fight despite the embers of sorrow and hopelessness enveloping the night air and stars weep upon the indifference and torment their own creations bring to each other in a quest for understanding.

"WHERE IS HE?!" a voice demands "I KNOW HE IS HERE!.

"Like I'd tell you. He's long gone by now; you might as well give up."

A night sky overlaps the fiery orange sky in the horizon as it looks like hell itself in the atmosphere. A hooded figure grabs a battered man in an elegantly thrashed robe with an ominous glow from his hands while the rest of his body is covered. The bloody man laughs in the other's face

"You had so much potential. Now look at you." he says in a bittersweet confidence

"They are the ones to bring change to what you all ruined. You can't stop the truth."

"AHHHHHHHHH..." The hooded one screams before delivering the fatal blow.

"I...I will...find you. I vow to the true G himself. You will die Aeza.."

"Houff!!!." a boy startled waking up from his bed sighing. "...Felt like I was there. So real."

BOMPH BOMPH BOMPH. A bang from under the floor fills the room.

"KHAL GET YOUR ASS UP SO WE CAN OPEN UP SHOP" a voice yells from the bottom floor. "ugh.."he grunts while awaking for the day out of bed. Khalif Lamaris is his name, but everyone calls him "Khal " for short and he is one out of a million, seriously one in a million because he has no one left since he is an orphan. Khalif is 13 and 3 quarters; not 15, 13, 12, but 13 and 3 quarters. It's the day before his birthday and he's excited to bring it in.

"That was such a weird dream. Probably from that bastion time Ice Cream I had yesterday before I crashed." he says to himself walking up to the mirror.

Khal is a slender boy with a brown but light undertone of skin like the rings inside of a tree. He has a somber smile with a rigid and infectious depiction of pride and stubbornness everywhere he goes. This along with a distinct scar on his left hand standing out from anyone else in town.

He sighs.

"Im trippin lets go see what the old man wants today." he says nonchalantly.

He has a huge frizz of long curls in a messy bun, faded black shirt of an angel logo with no halo, ripped jeans and overused shoes being his only pair that he could afford from what he's paid at the shop. Along with that, he has a raggedy glove he wears on his scarred hand everyday. It was with him when he was left at the orphanage when he was a few months old. The glove is brown with a big gold circle in the middle like its missing things. Khal finally gets down the stairs and hears the water from the sink running with an endless flow of townsfolk banter everywhere outside the door.

"Took ya long enough kid. Let's get a move on will ya? These dishes don't clean themselves." the old man said

Khal is the bus boy of the shop and he is okay with that but would like to know more about himself since he has no idea about his past. All he knows is that he has this glove and random memories from someone else pops up when he sleeps. He is given a place to stay with food to eat all by leeway of the old man/ boss. The old man's name was Elijah, Elijah Barstio but everyone knows him as Baba or old man. Nowhere knows where he came from and they all just assume he lives there. He's a small cocoa covered grump riddled gray in his hair and beard. Gramps seems to be negative and hateful, let the townspeople tell it, but he has a softer ridge especially when it comes to Khal.

"Hope he hasnt been beating you while I was gone this morning." a voice enters through the back door

"About time you got here....Jesuit!" Khal says in a brighter tone. This is a friend, if not the only friend Khalif has; his name is Jesse.

Jesse is Elijah's son who helps him around everyday when he has free time. He's strapping and towers over everyone else like a knight in armor. He is a little lighter almost like burnt parchment or sand in the sun with a clean high top fade curled at the top. He is definitely a looker and a heartthrob for every girl in Torso to want. He is about 4 years older than Khalif but instead of working at the tavern, he joined the Torso branch of the Kadav military three years ago. During his time in boot camp, he showed promise and was promoted to the "Second- C class"of the five A-D classes ranks.

"I guess joining the military at 14 has its perks when you're one of the new rising stars that protects the town of Corazon; right Jesse?"Khal says playfully.

Corazon, a town located in the country of Aortic, a region of the continent called Torsophew. There are 2 countries in Torso, Aortic and Eso where the King of Torso resides in the big city of Sterno. Torso is one the three main parts of the world called Kadav while there are 3 parts of the Greater Realm. These parts consist of three realms: the Medial Realm beeing where Corazon and Torso reside, the Abysmal Plane, and the Superior Realm affectionately known as the Great Beyond. Corazon in comparison to the rest of these places is a small trade town that is a small speck compared to the other places in medial. But it's one of special importance all the same.

"Yeah, Yeah. But as long as you and Pop are here doing what you do; I'll never get to relax." He laughs out loud while Khal and Elijah are disgusted at each other "What's new for today?" Jesse asks.

"Well Petunia came in asking for her usual coffee with 3 shots of caramel, George talked about how his wife was getting better, it seems like a pretty regular day." Gramps explained. A lady walks in to sit at a booth and Khal heads over to serve her.

"What can I get ya?" "Just a coffee and sunnysi...no wait! Can I actually get egg whites and some grapes. Do you have some grapes?.."

"Yeah I'm pretty sure...let me go make that for you" Khal says. He walks back to look at what they have. He finds the eggs in a big silver cooler you can walk into. "Eggs..." checking the list off. He looks on each side, each shelf. "Where the damn g...?!" he rings out low "Damn geezer forgot to check the plants this weekend. ugh..."A frustrated grunt slides out.

Finally in the backyard; Khal finds the grapes right on the vine right by some fresh carrots and beats rooted deep in the ground. He takes a good strong pull of the grapes and they come right off. "Got em!" he celebrates. He's on his way back and he gets a sudden thought about the other produce ready to be freed.

Khal has a very rough upbringing with only one man to raise him and give him everything hes needed and ever wanted. He has had his own four walls for the last four years now and has come to adjust to being a normal kid with no true problem. The life he had was not perfect but it was his life and as much as he complained, deep down he loved it.

"I might as well get the other things out as well or ill be here all day." he convinces himself. He gets to the dirt with clogs of soil evaporating around him. The beets and carrots play peek a boo waiting to be unearthed.

"Should be easy from how it lo...UNGH" he struggles "Urrggh!"

"YUEERGGHH"as he pulls. Nothing budes for Khal while in hurry to go cook for the lady in the restaurant being patient.

“Looks like I have to do this the hard way.”he says reluctantly while sweating in a fuss
“But...honestly where would be without the old man? He's taken care of me like I'm his own son when he already had one.”

He smiles after talking to himself. “Thanks for everything old man.” While thinking about how the old man and Jesse being the closest thing to family; a bright purple spark comes to spread into an infectious aura that grows from his heart onto his arms. He ends up pulling all the carrots out and celebrates.

“Yeah!” he laughs out loud “What's the point of having a gift if I can't use it?!”

The Medios Realm has a peculiar anatomy within people who live here. Everyone is gifted with special energy sources within their body that help them with everyday life and more. This special energy stems from what people call the “Jewels of G”. Each realm of Kadav has a power that sets them apart from the other realms in proximity because of each jewel containing different powers. The countries in each realm can specialize in something specifically from their body like propulsion in feet giving enhanced speed, lower strength or heightened senses. These abilities come in different forms of energy and vary in color and intensity and can be strong or weak against one another which brings in the true goal of Kadav...Hikma.

Hikma is a state of being in which you have “Peace”through mastery of all forms of “G force” , a mysterious form of energy used by the inhabitants in Kadav. However no one is allowed to practice any activities using their G Force. A law set by the K5 after the “Great War of X65” , the council of Kadav made it to which only the military and auxiliaries of the respective governments are able to use G Force. In today's day and age Hikma is an impossible feat since the people of light say it is a forbidden and dead practice in their world.

Khal walks to the beets confidently ready to take on whatever they throw at him.

“Yegghm!” The beets don't budge from the ground. “Alright then let's get it!”

“Hurrughh” BOOM! Khals feet meet the sky and a loud thud comes from the ground. “unnfgh!”

He looks to his right and sees the bushel of beets and smiles out of satisfaction. Unfortunately that feeling is met with a huge hole looking at where the beets used to be. Khal freaks out and he is nervous for the forthcoming consequences that Old Man B is gonna bring.

“Aw man the old man is gonna kill me!”he cries

Although Khal was worried he was glad he finally got to use his powers for something other than hiding it everywhere. Khal walked back inside to get back to work as the sun rose for the rest of the work day.

CHAPTER 2:

The field is foggy and the sky blooms in dark lavender tracing swirls amongst the stars and planets far away. Smoke, fire and screams fill the air with clanging of swords outside of a window. A first person point of view is seen and someone is speaking in a hurry.

“Okay. Just hide over here for me. You'll be safe” He says while hiding a man and woman with their daughter and her tiara in her hand.

“But Aez...if you go back to that, you'll die.” the parents of the little girl said

“SHOW YOURSELF! STOP HIDING LIKE A COWARD OR I'LL KILL MORE PEOPLE.” Another voice threatens

He goes forward and then stops in a mirror before opening the door to step into the battlefield again. He looks into the mirror as he is talking to someone beyond his own time and place.

He sighs and says “Only you can stop him now...ready?”

“HOUGH” Khal gasps for air in shock

“Who was that? Musta been Jesse’s scary boot camp stories manifesting in my dreams.” He says to himself .

Khalif heads downstairs after the morning routine. He brings out food but once he gets on his lunch he's talking to Old Man B.

“Yo gramps. Where's Jesse?” Khal questions

“Oh he had to report to the Knights of Elias who came on a mission from the land of the mind, Syllo. He’s being promoted to Captain of the Torso military today as well, so we have a short day today at the shop” He said

“ Why are they here?” Khal asks “ Who knows? My guess is same as always. Collectin taxes. But don't you worry about that.” Old Man B smiles and ruffles Khal’s head. This made Khal happy but curious about why he's being so nice.

“Now go deliver these dishes to the nice folk in here. Ya may see somethin worth a look on the way there.”

An arrangement of 7 dishes ordered in a descending order from white to red on the bottom. Looking at this made Khal uneasy but curious. But he didnt think anything odd of the sort.

“Its like he knows I got power finally, but how?” Khal inquired inside but shrugs it off

“Hey geezer. You ever had some random dreams sometimes?”

“Well yeah...I always dream of seeing that nice shop lady across the w...”

“Stop please...I cant replace my ears like you do with your teeth.”

“Oh fuck off Kid.” Elijah says while they are laughing

“But seriously Ive been having these dreams about a war...well maybe not a full on war but it always seems to show me village or big town on fire and people running for their lives.”

Elijah looks a little concerned about what he just described but keeps his poker face before responding and says to himself

“I guess I dont have as much time as I thought my Lord.” he thinks to himself solemnly and replies

“Jeez thats some dream kid.” He replies nonchalantly

“Jeez Elijah! Can you be somewhat concerned. What do you think it means?”

“Alright alright! I dont know Khal, but what I do know is that youre safe as long as youre with me. Okay? No matter what.” Elijah expresses in a very sentimental tone

Khal looks at him with love and chuckles

“Gettin soft on me old man?” Khal says playfully while Elijah irritated

“Ugh”

“Heheh alright well thanks for that.”

“Yeah yeah” Elijah replies

Khal starts to walk away with a smile

“Look I have something I need to tell you since you're here.” But before he could get the words out, their first customer walked in the door to open up shop for the day. They finally close up shop and head on over to attend the promotion ceremony at base. Khal is definitely proud but definitely apprehensive of Old Man B's light hearted tone and big news he had for him. Especially for the known reasons below...

Today is the day before Khals 15th birthday and the day of Jesse's promotion to Captain of the Torsophew Military at Camp Amor this afternoon.

Chapter 3:

"LEFT, LEFT, LEFT, RIGHT..." a voice commands over the trampled procession on a crisp and misty morning

A group of cadets march on to the cadence of their superior for their morning cardio to get the day started. Other cadets come into view while practicing their combat skills with glowing limbs of various hues throughout the distant view.

A sigh is made by a kid sitting on the bench overlooking the day as usual

A slim lightly tan boy timid with the extremities of exhaustion and human limitation sits on a bench. He has sandy blonde hair and blonde eyes riddled with freckles, rigid jaw structure and a stubble of teenage facial hair. This kid couldn't be no more than 17 right now and eyes more wide than someone whose life just changed without any direction to go, yet filled with optimism he's going there the right way.

"One day ill be there doing exa..."

"PRIVATE GET UP AND GET GOING!"

"Sergeant Arvensis...I didnt know you were there."

"ANything you need to be doing right now Maggot?"

"Righ...right...aw"

"Do I hear subordination?"

"No s..no..I"

"I think it's time I tak..."

A voice interrupts with a demanding tone

"Sergeant...that's enough."

"Lieutenant Bars...I..I had no ide..."

"Of course not. Now please run along. Ill handle him."

Arvensis walks away with a malignant face of disgust and envy on his person.

"Ri..right away sir... Youre in luck this time."

This is Camp Amor, the soul of the Torso military. This base is where the torso and sterno military come together for their training, along with being the first place of service where the Kingdom of Torso came to start their military when the kingdom first grew in size. In recent times, the kingdom has split into two sovereign nations within Torso but still function as one sole representative when the council of cadav meets for the annual Summit of Corona. A lot of the

other nations have come to acquire tensions since the great holy war of 20xx. Since then many nations are apprehensive of rebellious nations opposing the "Great Era of Light" imposed upon by the coronal nation.

"Whats your name?" Jesse said

"My name is...Hart. Hart Destro sir!."

"Ahh Private Destro. Pleasure to meet you. Im.."

"Lieutenant Baristo! I know who you are sir. You're a prodigy."

"You know me? I wouldnt say al..."

"You came to the Torso military at 12 years old and became a Lieutenant at the age of 16."

"Yeah but that coul..."

"You also helped ward off the attack of the Stoma and Sterno from taking siege on our sovereign land. Youre regarded as a hero for the amount of godly strength you have!"

"Okay but theres more to that story tha..."

"Last but not least which is my favorite thing about you is that youre from Corazon home grown. Your father owns a local bar in town with your little brother. Im also from there too. Ive read about you and wanted to be like you when I grew old enough to join."

"Isnt the ceremony tonight?" Hart said

"Right, Im not sure if brothers the word but definitely..um...its complicated. Right! So dont you have something to do? Like get ready for a ceremony? I saved ya but it would suck if you were late and all this helped for nothing am I right?" Jesse said in a playful but serious tone.

"Right! Yes sir! I'm on my way. Thanks for the help!..." Hart happily walks away saying

"Wait til I tell the other privates about this."

"Heh, I wish I could be back then again, no cares in the world and ready to rank up in our...Oh shit, RANK! I gotta get ready for my own ceremony. Im finally getting to be captain after 8 years of hard work and sacrifice. Im finally here!"

"Cant wait to see Dad tonight Corazon's very own New Cptain of the Torso Beat Brigade!...."
Jesse rejoices in an opportunistic tone

"Mom, I won't let you down again."

Chapter 4:

Fanfare fills the base through the arena and barracks of Camp Amor for the wonderful promotion ceremony. The privates have been free to see their families and have come to attend the ceremony as a free day off for all of their hard work at boot camp for the last 2 months on base. Chatter fuses with the melodies of the ambiences and bright rays of the sun bombarding the windows of the arena creating a fairweather temperature only a interior can produce.

“Khal cmon! Took ya long enough.”

“Yeah yeah. Heres ya chocolate sauce for the bananas.”

“Chocolate sauce? Bananas? I asked for popcorn. How could you get Chocolate dipped bananas from popcorn.”

“Okay okay...lemme t...”

“Woah woah lets not get carried away.”

“But you just...”

“Go get my food Khal” Elijah protested in a annoyed tone

“...and get yourself something before you die from malnourishment.”

“Ughhhhh fine...fat man might as well give me the bar and be sanint cora for all I care.” Khal says while beginning to walk upstairs

“WHAT YOU SAY KHAL?!”

“Nothing nothing.” He says in a fake smile and voice in fear

The room is packed and Khal heads to the stands to get this popcorn and some Chak Fruits, a bag of candy bites made fruit and sugar to snack on.

Khal waits for the line to move along while standing and waiting his turn. The line seems to wrap around the corner containing an unsurmountable number of people wanting snacks. Its been about 15 minutes and he finally approaches the counter.

“Hey what can I get ya kid?”

“Yeah...finally...let m...”

“OUT OF THE WAY...MAKE ROOM FOR TORSO ROYALTY FELLOW PEOPLE ALIKE.”

Verbal pandemonium fills the snack bar to figure who is surrounded by the finest men and women of V.E.I.N (Vigilant Entities in Nerve). After all the commotion calms and the walls of people move, the prominent figure arises . Beyond the path and walkway of the main entrance, catty corner to the west wing, the group of prominent figures proceed towards where Khalif is waiting in line.

“Ugh royals...” Khal scoffs under his breath

“Oh my stars, is that really the royal family here in Corazon?!” An onlooker questions with excitement

“Praise G! We are blessed to see such a sight.” Another person exclaims in awe

The people storm the posse of people in pursuit of the walkways to their seats.

A tall slender brown man comes from within the cluster dressed in the finest of casual outing garbs walks to the counter with three other women by him. His face was ridden with experience but grounded in youth and a calming smile to appease the common folk alike. The man had a full lavender arrangement from dress shirt to slacks with white shoes on. Over the shirt was a special bandouillere riddled with jewels and a big pearlescent jewel in the middle ranging from colors of dark purple to lavender. This came to grace the outfit along with his gold accessories coming to create a true separation of what is poor and rich. This man was the King of Torso, the middle region of Cadav.

The women next to him came in various sizes and appearances but all seem to resemble some value in some shape or form.

The first woman had a subtle and grandeur crown attached to a long flowing mane of dark whirls riddled with navy fluorescent that whispered on her neck and daytime outing gown. Now the gown was not too much of an overly dressed outfit because it was a modern time. People's formalities that shaped an image of what a royal family should look like have changed in the last 80 years. Although the formalities lessened in this display was still going in suit with the family lavender. The gown was gradient in the darkest of forest green leading to the lightest of emeralds. The jewel on her chest plate was an arrangement of various jewels. This woman was the queen of Torsophew standing next to the King.

The taller woman was brown as red clay wore a light armored vest and a sword on her hip hidden from the public. She had a white long sleeve shirt covering her neck with green slacks and brown heels topped off with Brown Rimless shades. She had a wavy lowcut and her hair dyed with a tone of azure. She stood tall and serious but was not near the height of the king. But that's nonetheless compared to the young woman on her hip. Now this was someone who was conservative of emotion, energy, and action. She blended in well and played her role as the

family's one half of shadows. This was the second in command, the Lieutenant of the Torso Army.

This girl was a little smaller than her mother, the queen, but she dressed with her own flare. The little one was in her teens but seemed to be full of youth ready to take on her world and kingdom in the rarest form. She had hair in braids that flowed with streaks of emerald and indigo, but something seemed unnatural within the roots of her hair. Although she was wearing her formal outing gown, she had this peculiar pattern of green and blues riddled throughout her linen. She wore her shades that were required of her and had her book on her hand titled "the theory of balance amongst energies". This young one is the princess and future queen of the Torsophew in search of a prince to unite kingdoms in Cadav.

"Now when we make our seats I want us all to be on our best behavior since we're all in a fishbowl out here." The King pleads

"Our image and reputation means everything."

"If they can see it, they can imagine it. And if they can imagine it, they can use it against us."

"Dad what does that even...you know what I don't even care to know." The Princess replies obnoxiously

The Queen and Lieutenant gasp in shock at the princess comments

"Mi lady please make this easy, I know you didnt wanna come out today. Sacrifice sometimes takes alot and I understand." Lieutenant pleads

"watch that attitude, just do what I ask without the stubbornness." The King says sternly

"STUBBORN? Wh..." The Princess scoffs

"Watch your tone, there's people around dear." The Queen says

"But mo..."

"I dont want to hear another word. Show some respect for your king if not respect your father. I dont know where this attitude has come from as of recently but I'm not gonna tolerate that. Cut the shit NOW Tzofia." She scolds in a very calm yet fearsome tone

"Ugh! Fine..." The princess agrees shakily and walks ahead with to the front where the Lieutenant is

"Hughff. Why is she stubborn as a bull? I wish she could just listen sometimes." The King says

"Wow is the man who united 3 kingdoms in one for the betterment of his people, went to each rival kingdom demanding the liberation of all despite them saying no? Hmmm, I wonder where she got that from." The Queen teases

"Cmon Emile. You're supposed to be on my side. The girl gets her powers a couple of days ago and now she's my worst enemy." He replies in comedic frustration

"Okay okay. Haha You may be king but you're still the same old dork with dreams of a kingdom to me Zack. And that's why I love you." She assures him

"Haha thanks Em." He warmly concludes "Ready to take on the world? Literally? Lets do this."

Now during this time, Khal was still waiting in line and now he is distraught and upset that he might miss the rest of this ceremony because some rich uptight royalty has come to get a Heart Candy and is gonna get first dibs over him who's been waiting.

"Ugh let it be my luck I went and waited all this time to get the old fart some more food and these dud heads come by and take everything" Khal thinks to himself

"Now what would Old man E d..." Khal envisions an angry Elijah taking on everyone

"hmmm maybe not the best person for this situation. Im just gonna play this cool. Im up next anyways. Shouldnt be a problem since theyre still taking pictures anyways."

"This award I am going to present comes from a very sincere part of my heart. I have seen this young man come to be an upstanding person and now almost a pillar in our armed forces protecting the likes of you and me."

Chapter 5:

The crowd and the 'empathette", the country of torso's national news outlet has ceased to disperse and the patience of Khal thins as time lags on.

"Oh brother what is taking so long?! You people wouldnt be doing this over "The Boot or even Stoma." Khal goes on in frustration

A man overhears Khals comments and replies to his accusations. "Now young man this isnt just any lord off the street. This is a man who has come to unite not one, not two, but three kingdoms in cadav which has not been seen in the last 250 years." the man pleads

"Big deal geezer. Is this country any better? Are we any better off? People are still starving and kids are still homeless!" Khal stating his case "Meanwhile "King" Zach and the royal family do nothing but stay in their home and let everyone else suffer." A blue aura comes leaks subtly for a minute and the air thins.

In the blink of an eye King Zach appears from out of nowhere behind Khal saying...
"What is the point of having a ki.."

"My my that's quite an arrangement of words to put together with us so close together. Don't you think?"

Khal, the sarcastic, headstrong, loudmouth who always knew what to say was finally a loss for words. This feeling Khal has come to feel was something he could have never prepared himself for.

"Huff...." as Khal gasps for air

A huge amount of spiritual pressure send chills through Khals bones to the point where everyone around him shivers.

Zach cranes his towering stature down to Khal stuck in peril

"I noticed you have an energy only seen in a place nowhere near Torsophew. Haha" King Zach chuckles in a cold but dark tone as he smugs

"....almost like, you're not from here h..."

"Your highness?" says

"Yes?" King Zach looks ahead and sees Old man B

"Didnt know you were blessing my son with your presence on his ranking ceremony today." Elijah says in a sarcastic tone

"Well of course! Always great to show my face to my loyal subjects of my country. Especially to one as multifaceted as your son." He says as he smiles "Hes a great asset to the corazon region of the royal guard."

"Yeah of course he is. At least someone is straight while some are crooked as an arrow like some I know." Elijah says

SHLINNNG! A sword unsheathes as the Lieutenant appears near Old Man B's left. The guards get into defensive formation around the queen and the princess.

Another huge subtle energy matching the one of King Zachary feels the area and makes the concession people and now princess Tzofia come to faint

"TZOFI!"

"Princess Tzofi!"

"Id watch my words after this last comm..."

“ERSYNÉ N...” King Zach pleads

A shroud of spiritual energy comes over and Ersyné's eyes blaze purple for 3 seconds and makes her shudder and back away. She doesn't know what to make of it and just exclaims

“Sir are you okay?!” The guards protecting the princess and queen asked in concern.

“Yes you fools! I'm okay.” She exclaims as the lieutenant sobers up from the spiritual drunkenness

“Anyways, enough of this! We're off everyone. Elijah, I'd make sure my house is ready for any encounters. You never know what order is coming to fulfill next.” The king says while walking away with his index and middle digit intact.

“Oh and boy..” the group stops and Zach turns “Make sure you're aware of who you are speaking to next time. It could save your life.” he says and chuckles

“Now let's get to our seats guys.” the royal family disperses

“Thanks old man. I ha...”

“AHH! Dont worry about it dumb dumb. Let's go see Jesse graduate.” He teases

Jesse walks across and is pinned with the medal of Lieutenant in the Corazon brigade. His smile is from ear to ear, which comes to brighten all of the town in attendance. He's the town's hero and now his flowers are there for him to see. This day couldnt get any better and just like that, it didn't. That was such a memorous Wednesday and the end of the week was Khal's 13th birthday. This birthday would be one that Khal would never forget.

Chapter 6:

King Zachary and his royal court has returned from his venture to the lowly parts of his main kingdom. He sits on his throne alone in front of a projector in pure solitary acoustics. He listens to the informative banter and updates elsewhere in his kingdom.

“Your highness...” A hologram of a short stocky man with Mahogany skin and bigger than average legs pleads to King Zachary about infrastructure in his kingdom. “It is imperative that we start infrastructure on the Ino-Lahim bridge immediately !” The trade and tourist attractions of the Boots being an island will change the economic ventures of the people in “Lower Soles”.

“I thought the people of the Soles were a proud people who valued their detachment and remoteness in comparison to the rest of Cadav.”

"I mean yes your highness bu..."

"But what? Honestly Timber I gave you this job because you said you had control of the people in the Lower Soles. So am I wrong or what?"

"No youre highness, I can..."

"Okay so I dont think that you should show me weakness amongst these trying times. Are we clear?"

"Crystal your highness."

"Perfect but while we wait for Gutag to load from Medios in Theora, what are the words on the excavation for the jewel?"

"Jewels...wh...OH! Yes your highness we are still on the lookout for the Jewel but no luck yet."

"Ahhh okay carry on."

INCOMING TRANSMISSION FROM GUTAG OF THEORA

The image clears and a big burly man with a huge belly comes to the screen to talk to Zachary and Timber on their projectors.

"Youre late." The King says

"Yes your highness but I bring good news!" said Gutag

"The kingdom of Femor has come to offer a cease fire and agreed to unite as a joint kingdom after a long fought political war in the lower reigion of Cadav."

"Good t..."

"But sire, I also have grave n..."

"UGGH what?!" The King sighs

"The lower soles are having presence in the medial parts of Femor."

"I need you to handle that or someone else will, because if I have to then I will kill you where you stand." Zach Promised

"Goodbye to both of you. Do what I asked the first time. I will not be merciful again."

The shudder was seen in Gutag all the way through the hologram. Fear took over the room as even Ersyne felt the chills of death loom in her body. The warm fire filled the walls of the castle room and the soldiers and superiors alike.

“Everyone needs to leave. Now”

The room full of members of the royal guard ceased from 8 men of elite standards into nothing with foot shuffles bringing echoes into a stand still with the air. King Zachary retired to his throne room and he sat while pondering about what to do next about the various problems brought up to him by his two colleagues in the corresponding parts of the continent.

A voice without a body boomed with a heavenly voice questioning Zachary.

“Do I have to step in? I felt a presence here a few days ago.”

King Zachary shudders at the question as if he's scared of such a task. He hesitates.

“Are you deaf now Zachary?” The Voice says

“No..! I mean, ‘no no’ I heard you.” Zachary replies to gain composure

“Yes sir, you're correct. He's finally revealed.”

“Shall I go take care of the matter?”

“No that won't be necessary.” the voice replies

“I can also have V.E.I.N handle su...”

“I SAID NO.” the voice booms

“But sir he's dangerous, he could...” Zachary pleads to the voice

“Speak again, and your wife and children will live their days alone.”

“I will handle this. This is something we cannot take lightly.” the voice explains

“So be it. The source of power surging didn't come from here. I'll take you to where you need to go. We must take out anything to prevent the glimmer from staying alive.”

“You may not be doing a great job of handling the resistance but you are at least being a great diplomat. It's almost as if you're a dumbass on purpose.”

"But you wouldn't do that, because you'd know you die. Well just consider this as your lack of competence as a human mistake since your kind is so flawed."

"I'm off. I will return to discuss further matters." said the voice as he departs

King Zachary sits in his throne as if he just saved a life. He looks on to the balcony to think about what to do next.

Chapter 7:

It's dark outside now and almost time to close. Elijah and Khal have been back from the ceremony for a good amount of time and it's now closing time in Corazon for most businesses. A hooded figure walks in the tavern and sits in the booth by a window.

Khal walks over to him as he watches him grab a seat at the table.

"Hey sorry man, were closin." Khal said

"Oh that's fine. Ya know? I'll take a cup of tea for my troubles, I heard it's good for your Spirit, especially since yours is so strong Khal." the man says

"Wait, how do you know my name? Who are..." Khal says confused

The tone and air freezes instantly making shivers in Khal's body convulse.

"I never thought it would be you that the King was talking about. I thought you'd be scarier than this." the man said while chuckling

Khal is frozen in fear and spaces out with a grimacing headache.

"KHAL!...Run." The Old Man says

"But wh..." Khalif questions. But before he could finish, Old Man B replies

"JUST DO WHAT I SAID" he demands

"Oh come on now Elijah. Is that how you talk to an old friend?" the hooded man said

"You're no friend of mine anymore..."

Old Man B says

An amber aura color covers the old man's legs as he kicks Adan. Adan comes to the counter with a left arm covered in purple and booms clash as the tavern earns a new hole in the wall.

Back and forth fighting ensues and Khalif is awry with no idea on what to do next. The only people he's seen fight like this were the military in that little skirmish a few years back but that was it. But this was on another level. Old Man B spears Adan with super human-like strength in a purple aura and is sent to an open field to carry the rest of the battle out. Kahlif runs after them to help him.

Each hit came with a huge gust of destruction and then suddenly Old Man B was hit back but then comes with a mouth blast of blue energy that blows Adan away. He then speaks to Khal.

"Remember I said I needed to tell you something?" he says

"Yeah" Khal replies

"Well here it is." he said "You are the person who's going to save the world one day. I was kept alive by your family for the next 120 years with the task to protect you with my life."

He dodges a hit that blasts part of the wall down and comes to Khals side to speak more.

"I was the commander of the warriors of our people in Corona." he said "Your parents gave you to me to hide you from him and the"other ``."

"I don't understand! What are you talking about?!" Khalif says confused and scared

"Listen Kid I love you but it's finally my time to go." he said

"BUT GRAMPS! NO!...please" Khal said "You're all Jesse and I have."

"That's not true. There's one more of you in Sterno. Find lights of freedom and you'll find the answer you're looking for."

A loud boom surfaces as Adan is walking back up. Elijah's eyes illuminate with a white aura and each body part glows different colors then turns white.

"Dad..." Khal cries in his head

"I should have done this 100 years ago. You're not getting the boy...not over my dead body." said Old Man B

"Last Light of Coronus"

A shroud of oscillating colors come to to envelop the old mans muscular physique and blows everyone away.

"Dad! No!" Jesse pleaded as he finally found them

Old Man B looks back covered in white "Watch out for the kid for me Jess. You got this."

Jesse, knowing what his father is capable of , grabs Khalif and runs as fast as he can.

It knocks Jesse and Khal out of consciousness and everything goes black.

"NO, NO, N..." Khalif cries as he passes out

Khalif looks back and feels helpless while tears fall to the ground as he is carried away by Jesse. A bright wave of white light envelops the ground and almost kills Adan in the range of the blast. Elijah paid the ultimate price for the sake of the future.

"Lucky shot" Adan says while coughing blood "Next time I see you Khalif, no one can save you."

Adan leaves in through a portal, almost half dead. After finally getting home, the boys are a wreck and just sit in the tavern torn to pieces.

Chapter 8:

The day breaks and Khalif is still in shock with Jesse confused after running away. Jesse and Khal go out to find Old Man B's body and finally bury Old Man B. A lot of the words come to be about why it had to be them, he didn't deserve it, and so on. Afterwards, Khalif and Jesse sit in the living room of the apartment above the restaurant which is miraculously still around since the tavern is destroyed now.

"I just don't get it, Gramps. Why?" Khal questioned

"I have no idea." Jesse said "Whatever the reason was, it was to make sure you were safe."

"He just kept saying 'you're a special kid.' and that I have to find another person in Sterno to answer my questions."

"Wait. What did you just say?" Jesse asked

"That im spec..."

"No, not that. The other part."

"Oh. He said there's someone else like me that can answer my question in Sterno." he said

"Well that's where we're going then. Let's head there now."

The boys start packing and get their stuff to go. In honor of Jesse being a high rank for the Torsus military, they gave him insurance on the tavern. He left business to some locals that used to look after him when he was a child. While packing, Jesse sees Khal walking into Mr. Baristo's room. He just stands by the desk and notices a note and a case with a weird symbol on it.

"12.21.X86

Jesse,

If you're reading this, then I had to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect Khal. If I could I would give this gift from his father myself. But since I am no more, can you do your father this last favor from the grave and make sure he gets the two things inside of this case? You have so much to learn as well. There's a lot I did not get to tell you about us, your mother, our

family. But crazy enough, Khal can help. The fate of Kadav depends on it and I know you'll be there for both of them.

Thank You Son,
-EB"

Jesse's face welled in tears but he got it together for Khal since he knew how hard he was taking it. He tucked the note in his pocket and called Khal over to give him the case.

"Yo! Dad wanted you to have this." Jesse said handing him the case

"What is it?" Khal said skeptically

"Just open the damn box chicken foot! Dang." Jesse said in irritation

Khalif finally opens the box and sees a jewel with it. The jewel also has a circular piece of gold that has 4.5 parts missing to fit jewels into it. He has no idea or has never seen this symbol but in his dreams. Then suddenly he felt a burn on his hand under his glove

"Ahhh! Sssss!" Khal exclaims

"What's goin on?!" Jesse asks

"I'm on fire! My heart and head hurts like hell!" He says

He finally takes off the glove and a mark is etched in his hand. Jesse is mortified because he's only seen it once from his dad.

"What is it?" Khal asks concerned

"You're one of them too?...it's starting to make sense now."

"One of them?!" Khalif questions

"My dad was not from here. He was from somewhere that's not here anymore. That's all he used to tell me."

"You and him have this same symbol on your body."

"If we want to know more. Maybe we have to go to Sterno to see. My dad's friend lives there. Maybe she can help us." Jesse said

"Well. I don't see how else we'll get any answers here. Let's go." Khalif said

And the boys set off past the gate with not much in their backpacks but survival needs and horses they bought with some savings Mr. B had left. They rode out of town with the townspeople doing a send off to Sterno. Only Sterno could prepare them for the journey they were going to embark on.

Chapter 9:

A group of people in dark brown robes come to gather around a well-like structure to congregate. The people look uneasy but trustworth to the only man with his hood off while talking in urgency for a matter at hand.

"Everyone, we must come together for the coming Age of Logic. It's only a matter of time before everything we know is destroyed." the man says

He has a peculiar look to him but something of a comfortable security to it. He has a weird mark on his hand that stretches with sigils and designs that the robe only shows. He's a little darker than the others in the room and has a distinct amber color to his hair. He had a special initial with various other tattoos on his face while the others did not.

"It's either now or never. So what are we gonna do?" They look towards Khal, but he's not there.

"What now...Khal...wh..."

Khal gasps for air and awakes in exclamation to the night sky decorated with stars. The campfire blazes subtly surrounded by the shadows of the trees lit with moonlight. Khal sits up to look around and sees Jesse in deep sleep at the other side of the camp site.

"Jeez, these dreams keep getting more vivid and real more recently. They even called me by name this time." He says

"What the hell is going on?" Khal questions

It has been almost two weeks since their departure from Corazon to Sterno. It takes about two to three weeks to reach the capital of the Country of Torso. Most places in the medios region are close together stemming from Sterno, except for two cities, Atrium and Corazon. Jesse and Khal visited Atrium to restock on supplies for the home stretch to Sterno. They both found something very comforting while there in their own way.

They're walking on the main trail to Sterno and another fellow rides by on horseback slowly.

"Hey! How far do we have before reaching the city limits of Sterno?" Jesse asks the man

"Not too far about one more day. The festival of Hearts is about 2 weeks away so have fun!" The man replies with a smile.

"Ok than.."

"That's a nice glove you have there. What's your name?" He says curious

"I didn't know strangers like gloves for any reason. What's yours?" Jesse inquires

He ignores playfully with a smile and replies

"Come with me. I'll take you to the city limits." The man offered

Chapter 10:

Khal feels a huge amount of pressure in his heart. This is a new feeling for him because he has never felt this type of anger and darkness in someone before. It feels heavy yet familiar to the point where he gets a headache and grimace in pain.

A day has passed and it is the evening time at a campfire the group of Khal, Jesse, and Adam have set for the night.

"Weve finally reached the last stop before the capital. Sterno should be right ahead. Once morning hits Ill be headed back the other way towards my trade route." Adam said

"Sheesh already?! It seems like we just met the other day and here we are right ahead."

"Isnt that right Khal?" Jesse smirks and looks for affirmation from Khal

They all finally hit the hay and rest for the morning trek.

"SNNHHDGGGHJJJ"

Khal is knocked out on his sleeping bag

"Grrrrr...out of all the times to be sleeping" Jesse groans

"Can you really blame the kid? It's been a long trip haha" Adam laughs

"That kid's really different ya know...."

"Yeah, right he is. Speaking of difference, you're an awfully nice trader to be helping us. What's up with that?" Jesse asks

"I dunno Jess, you guys seem to be in need and here I am in a position to help. So why not?" Adam replies

"Yeah you're right. It's almost like you're sent from "Heaven" to help us." Jesse says in a confrontational tone

"Jesse if you want to group me with those terrorists. At least make sure they exist! I don't even know who you guys are from a can of paint. But now I'm supposed to be part of the boogeymen?! HAHA" Adam replies with a disgruntled laugh

"Adam...list.." Jesse pleads in a soft rebuttal

"No you listen Jesse, if I wanted to hurt you guys wouldn't I have done something a few miles back? I mean, listen to yourself." He questions

"Maybe im trippin. I'm sorry. It's probably just my nerves. A lot has happened in the last few weeks. Thanks for hel..."

SHIIINK!!!! A dagger comes from the trees and scoops up dust while putting out their fire. Rustling from bushes and masked men come from each and every vanishing point to arehend the gang.

"KHAL!" Jesse thinks

Jesse activates his Nocturn to find Khal

Nocturn is an advanced form the military uses for sight in the darkness to make up for the loss of sight a soldier may lose. It is one of the low frequent abilities bestowed by the heavenly people of the Torso region close to Esopho. Jesse scrambles and takes on 3 of the masked assailants leaving them unconscious, clearing the way to get to Khal.

"KHAL WAKE UP DUMMY!!" He screams at Khal while forming a green box around the group.

"Oh hey Jess! Whats up?" He stretches amongst the chaos

"Youve gotta be kidding me ughhhh. 'Dad he better be worth it.'

He thinks to himself

"Adam! You okay?" Jesse asks

"Well im not dead, so im alright for the most part." he replies

The gang is in a disarray with a barrage of green flashes from fists and daggers, until it stopped.

"Whats happening? It stopped." Adam observes

"Huh. Well maybe we can get to hig..."

A small slender silhouette comes to the front of their cover.

"ALRIGHT! THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING. SURRENDER YOURSELVES OR DIE" A woman's voice demands

"We mean no harm. We're just travelers looking for a lady named Raya." Khal says

"Raya?..." A flash of orange comes from her fist "Oh you're definitely dead now."

The woman is masked and dressed in camouflage. She attacks Jesse's force field and immediately shatters it, knocking everyone but Khalif out. Khal comes to stand in front of

everyone to face off against the mysterious woman. He cant see anything but the fists glowing but still fights anyways. Khals never been in a fight like this and has never seen any other power than the military.

“Are you from the military?” Khalif asks

“Now why would I answer that? Haha you got some nerve” She taunts while asking

“Look I might not have the power you have, but I guarantee you we are not going to perish. Not even if I have to die trying.”

Ha! Like you could kill me. You have no idea who I am or what I'm capable of. I sensed your power before you even woke up. You're nothing” She

She attacked with the other men at her side with green flashes clashing. Khalif takes out 2 while getting beat up and then a fight between him and the mystery woman commences, Khalif is bleeding and hurt bad. The two clash for a long time until he falls to his one knee. Khalif is out of breath, hurt, and spits out blood while breathing hard.

“Stop now while you can.” The woman advises while smiling

“I guess this is my last fight... but not for Jesse. Not for me. I gotta do this for them... I have unfinished business. Too much to lose and not to know about what those dreams mean. I gotta make it.” He says to himself

“Like id listen to you. Lets end this.” Khalif eggs her on

She darts for him with the orange force ablaze. The purple jewel shines while he runs and fills his fist and body.

“AHHHHHHH...”

“UUUAHHHHH...”

BOOM!!

A Huge explosion levels the trees surrounding the campsite. The ground forms a bowl of dirt and a body is there standing. It is the mysterious woman standing victorious atop of Khalif's unconscious body. Her mask is shattered in pieces and she looks down to see who she has defeated in shock. She's battered, bruised somewhat with a cut on her face.

“Who the heck are these two and what do they want with Raya?” she says

“I've never seen someone use the force of Mauve. I thought that was just a thing of the old world.”

She notices Khals glove with the jewel shard and says

"I thought Dad told me they were all dead. That glove, the jewel...could they..." She questions herself

She sighs

"Ugh get yourself together Daida. That can't be." Daida says

"Lieutenant you ready to go sir?..."

"Alright lets round this up. Collect their bodies and let them head back to base. Before the Royal guard gets here since seeing the smoke."

Chapter 11:

"...Hey....Hey...Wake up" She taps Khal on his cheek to wake him up with a knife in her hand

"Like I said before, you can't be trusted so I'm gonna kill you anyways. I just wanted to make sure you saw me do it this time...you're not who he said anyways."

"Wait what? Why wouldn't you do it earlier? Does that make any sense?" Khal yells

"Listen smartass! I can do whatever I want!" She argues back

"YOU ASKED FOR THIS!" She raises a blade about to deal the final blow

"DAIDA!!! YOU KNOW THESE ARE GUESTS"

"But..."

"No buts! Now where are her manners? Forgive us." the voice says while approaching the room

A strong brown burly bear of a man expels the shadows and reveals his garb through the lights of the torches. He stood tall with a scruffy beard and wore a vest, no shirt, trousers and tattered boots like they were made from beasts of legend. His hair flowed in tattered layers and braids in sequence. The hair covered his freckled face and brown eyes. The man came to have a fierce look that would scare away the toughest of men.

"Young travelers, I am the protector of this land, but the people once called me Arbol. This is my sanctuary for the people who have been forsaken under the rule of King Zachary II. This is my clan of people behind me who are known as the Alliance of Anubis. We are here to keep

balance in the land of torso since the corruption of the kingdom fell upon our people 50 years ago.”

The cave they were in was nothing as it looked on the outside it looked like a solidified base with history behind it. Torches seem to have run along the rooms filling the rooms with an orange ember glow accented with warmth in each instance.

“We made this place of living about 70 years ago while my father was in service to the king, a few years before the great war of Cadav.” Arbol explained as he walked them through the tour of the massive cave.

“How do you keep this place safe? How can no one know about it?” Jesse asked

“It was a failsafe to bring the people of this land to safety in case of an emergency of catastrophic measure. However 40 years ago, a man was appointed by King Hanibal to be his right hand during the times of war. This man by the name of Aidan has a son who is a politician and good friend of the new King Zachary better known as King Zack to his loyal subjects. ”

“Wow. Sounds complicated.” Khal says

“Well, thank you so much for stopping your daughter from killing us!” Adam compliments

“Yeah she gets a little passionate when it comes to protecting the people she loves sometimes.” Arbol Chuckles

The group finally reaches a peculiar spot where everyone is sparring and doing work on various skills. Flashes of green and yellow cross the air as people clash with fists and weapons. Big stone walls insulate and protect the people not training and the barracks around them. Khal notices this along with Adam and Jesse being in awe of what they're seeing.

“What is all this Arbol?” Adam inquires

“None of your business.” a voice interjects from nowhere

The group looks around to see who spoke. Then they look behind and see Daida.

“Daida! Whats goi....” Khal and Jesse rejoice

Daida flies off the handle and a blade is unsheathed to Jesses throat. Commotion is everywhere. They all run to get Daida off him.

“Okay okay Daida we get it it. We were just asking a question!” Khal pleads

"It's the upper hand so we can make sure we're strong enough to kick that ass of yours and the other guys here." Daida exclaims

"Now Dai...I'm just gonna take that as a welcome to the family...haha...right?" teased Khal on edge

"Yeah right..." Daida says with a cut throat

"General, you say the word, and I'm offing all three of them here."

"You're gonna love us sooner or later. Watch." Khal says

"Like hell I will. Eat shit, you and your Military garb."

"Let us throw a feast for our new guests!" Arbol commences

Chapter 12:

Night has fallen and after a nice tour of the cave of resistance, the alliance has treated Khal, Jesse, and Adam to a welcoming feast. The room fills with laughter and fellowship with happiness with joyous laughter all about.

There are stone pillars holding the infrastructure and modern furnishings in the cave and frames of past memories all throughout the hall. The cups clang and music plays along the wavelength of the playful banter mixed with food all through the tables. Khal, Jesse, and Adam sit on one side of the main table while Daida sits lonesome by Arbol. They all eat amongst the low murmurs of conversation and togetherness surrounding them. Arbol asks

"So how has fate brought you three here today?"

"We're looking for someone, a lady who lives in Sterno." Jesse replies

"Yeah we're looking for her since the old geezer saved u-" Khal replies

"Shut up" Jesse whispers discreetly while grinding his teeth

"This old man?" Arbol replies

"Yes sir, he was my father. He owned a bar making an honest living." Jesse explains

Arbol intense stare while listening fades into a solemn smile then looks intrigued on the realization of what could've happened to them.

“What happened?” Arbol asks

“A man came into the bar with a hood and destroyed everything. We only escaped with our lives because of old man Elijah.” Khal says

“Elijah...hmm.” Arbol says

“What a noble man.” Arbol looks solemn and smiles

“Elijah huh? Well I guess an old man willing to sacrifice themselves against someone so foul isn't too bad.” Daida thinks to herself while chewing

Arbol stands up

“Come! Let me give you a tour of the facilities and also show you to your quarters.”

They all leave while the rest of the party carries on.

Chapter 13

The vast halls tower over the group as they pass through each brick and mortar along the wall with wood below their digits. They pass suits of armor of each generation of sterno military and frames of great looking warriors. The torches brighten the room and highlight the details of the chain mail and weapons along with the brush strokes of the various canvases along the halls.

“Wow. This is crazy! So much time within the premises of these walls.” Jesse

“Yeah no kidding. The armor is awesome and scary! This is cool.” Khal

“How come you guys built all this stuff here in the first place?” Adam asks

“To fight back..” Daida replies

“Im pretty sure its m-” Adam rebuttals

“No...thats it. Unless theres a problem Adumb” She threatens

“Ok-okay. Perhaps that is the reason.” Adam says annoyed and scared simultaneously

“Yes shes right” Arbol chuckles

“Sterno has been in a civil war for the past century as some of you may know.” Arbol explains

“But its more than that...It was a means of hope and resistance for the right side of history.”

When I was a lad your age 30 years ago, my father came to tell me when I was your age of the glory of Torsophew and how it was the prestige kingdom reigning over all north of the navellian region in Cadav. Torso was a place of diverse tribes and people amongst beautiful plains of gold and green as far as the eyes could see. Before it was a vast kingdom metropolitan area that other places are shadowed on, it was a humble farmland that lead on to other places. My father was a true consort of the kingdom and was there for the people any chance he could help. We were the pinnacle of true royalty in Torso, until that day came.