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Episode 253 – The ultimate battle of ultimate destiny, part II

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It was a nice apartment, well-lit, spacious and well furnished. A pair of nice, plush leather couches set the scene, arranged in a neat L-shape, with a small coffee table between them. What dominated the room, however, was the massive flat-screen against one wall, so big as to loom over all else around it. By comparison, the broad windows with views out over a strangely futuristic metropolis and the other doorways leading away to gods alone knew where seemed like afterthoughts. Outside, it was raining, thunder rumbling while lighting crackled overhead.

"Well, the weather about suits my mood," Tsuneo grumbled as he entered the apartment.

"How so?" Rick asked as he followed, using his satchel as a makeshift umbrella. He glanced at it and then unceremoniously dumped it in a corner.

"Because we're going to be watching another episode of the damned Apocalyptic Battle," Tsuneo replied. "And it's that rare fic that is not just bad, but manages to get progressively worse and worse with each passing chapter."

"He does have a point," Rebecca considered as she entered, shedding a coat. She looked around a moment for a place to put it, and then dismissively dumped it on Rick's satchel. "This fic started as 'unappealingly awful' and managed to only go further downhill from there."

"It's not that bad," Dan dismissed as he stepped past her, seemingly unconcerned about the weather outside. "I mean, yeah, it's bad, but it's not bad bad."

"No, it is," Tsuneo countered.

"How so?"

"The thing about the Apocalyptic Battle," Tsuneo began. "Is that it's horrible, really."

"In what way?" Dan asked. "I mean, well, besides all the bad things that we see in every other fic that we read here."

"See, to me there's a difference," Rebecca offered. "Every other fic we've read, there's been something, no matter how minor or inane or stupid or inconsequential that winds up being strangely amusing to us, something we can latch onto and enjoy, despite how awful the rest of the fic may be."

"Like in Delta Invasion, just to compare it to this thing," Rick noted. "See, that fic gave us so much to laugh about, even though it should have been terrible. Instead, we kept finding dumber and dumber things that amused us more and more. Like, well Charles and Charles, the deadly killer secret agent computer programmers on a vacation who got to go into space."

"That's true," Tsuneo admitted. "All that nonsense about angel-human hybrids and the like becomes a lot more bearable when you think that the outcome was John Barren who has no actual abilties beyond being nebulously special and having people talk about how special he is."

"Or Jeff Garyn, the world's dumbest hitman, who makes his job as hard for himself as possible," Dan continued. "And the one man he managed to kill, Tom's Uncle, Tom's Uncle."

"And the nineties adventure games, the complete failure to understand how the music industry works, Mad Max who can't get beyond Thunderdome..." Rick shrugged. "The list is endless, really."

"This is true," Tsuneo admitted. "And you're right. The more I think about it, the more there is that other fics have given us." He smirked a little. "I mean, look at Girl on Fire. It's so overwrought that it's hilarious, as it goes out of its way to ensure that Stephanie is as sparkly and angsty as possible at the same time."

"I love how it goes out of the way to ensure that the word 'mother' comes up as often as possible," Dan enthusiastically spoke up. "I keep hoping that someone from Apokalips will show up, just so Stephanie burst into tears because they have a Mother Box."

"Similarly, Showdown in San Rivera was horribly over-wrought, albeit in a completely different way," Rebecca continued. "The writer was trying to make it a grim and gritty war story, which was completely undercut by Agent Seizure. Gun-toting, chainsaw-shield wielding, tattooed badarse video store clerk."

"And a lot like Seizure, we've got this whole cast of inadvertently hilarious characters in otherwise terrible fics," Rick said. "Like Brick."

"Ah yes, Brick Hactar," Tsuneo smirked. "Macross City's most beloved incompetent fall down drunken bum weapons engineer and secret agent who gets effortlessly beaten up by a woman half his size after he publicly sexually harassed her."

"Brick was a true hero." Rick nodded, a tear in his eye. "Who's heroism was only matched by Shrapnel and his overwrought goony evil."

"He's the sort of guy who eats kittens and puppies on toast with vegemite." Rebecca laughed. "He's being so stupidly evil and so strangely ineffective at it, that you can't help but laugh even though he's a horrible person doing horrible things to other people."

"Or on the topic of goony villains," Dan began, "How about Captain Gruud? He has a nonsense plan, he has no real connection to anything else but is apparently in charge no less, he's the only person who actually talks back to Cassidy and, above all else, he has a red butt." He laughed a little. "And then he out and vanishes from the fic, which only makes him even more strangely compelling."

"Nonsense plans?" Rebecca laughed. "I'll give you a nonsense plan. How about VanWeenie's master plan to which was based on the premise of taking as much time as possible to be as ineffective as possible while making it as hard for him as possible?"

Rick nodded in agreement. "And added to that, every time the fic tried to 'explain' the plan, it only made it even more stupid. Now that was an idiot plot fractal if ever I saw one."

"Speaking of BGC, remember Blasts From the Past?" Dan butted in. "I don't know what was more amusingly dumb; the ridiculous fake science or oppressive horror that is Boomer Zoning laws."

"The writer had clearly come up with a setting, but then put no thought into it. So then as the fic went along, they had to try and explain it and did a terrible job of it." Rebecca nodded. "Speaking of, Fur and Metal had a massively forced background that had mountains of work put into it that not only was completely irrelevant to the actual fic, but also made no sense at all."

"But who cares?" Rick smirked. "It gave us Mike the Human and Bob Anglerfish."

"If you want strangely interesting minor characters, then the Starwatcher Legacy is your fic," Dan offered. "The background characters are so poorly realised and so vague that you can do whatever you like with them. Just ask Jedi Master Freddie."

"Freddie?" Rebecca raised a brow.

"Freddie." Tsuneo nodded.

"Freddie," Dan finished. "He was the most musical and mustachioed Jedi ever. Good times."

"One of my favourites was the Telepathic Wolf from Yurei and Lance," Rebecca spoke up. "No, really. As dumb as it sounds, you quickly realize that said fleabag is easily the smartest and most likeable character in the fic."

"I dunno, for me it wasn't that but the dramatic revelation of Lance's real name," Rick countered.

"Because it's hard to take the dramatic shock that somebody's name is 'Lanceaka Sollyaraku Asakura-"

"-Foo-Foo Cuddly Poops-" Rebecca cut in.

"-the third seriously," Rick finished.

"Speaking of characters you can't take seriously, how about Isaac and Zeph?" Dan asked. "One started out as a credible threat and instantly fell to being an inept goon. And the other... well, he was just there to start with. And yet, they were also the best things about the Kevin fics."

"I'm not so sure," Rebecca countered. "I mean, while I hate Siege as a character, his origin as robo-dino-poop is pretty incredibly amusing."

"Yeah, well I can do you one better than that," Rick cut her off. "And that's the Gnawed Bone of Authority."

"Okay, you won that." She conceded.

"But then, what does this fic give us?" Tsuneo asked. "Nothing, really. Except for the vague amusement that is the horde of Matts, but then it messily kills them which kind of ruins the joke."

"Yeah." Dan nodded. "It's like, I dunno, this fic really has not a single redeeming feature."

"And yet, you wonder why I'm showing it to you." Voice 2.0 spoke up, cutting into the conversation.

"Funny that." Rebecca dismissively replied. "So what is it today, Braniac? More of the horror?"

"Oh yes," Voice seemed rather cheerful at the prospect. "For the Apocalyptic Battle is far from over, and there's still a lot, lot more of it to come. You'd best find those strangely amusing things fast, because these two chapters are the longest yet."

"That bodes." Tsuneo winced as he reluctantly took the couch, the others following him.

"Here's to hoping it's entirely a listing of Matts and variations thereof," Rick offered. "Matt King, Matt Kaiser, Matt Yazama, Mattaku Yazama..." The big screen turned on as Rick continued to talk, swapping the world over to script format.

Rick: ...and Matt Yazama Sausage Egg Bacon and Yazama, Junior.

> Episode 11 : Is It All Over?

Tsuneo: I can but hope.

> Hikari Steven Swain's anger rose up as he suddenly flared up to Super Saiya-jin.

Rebecca: He did the thing he always does!

Rick: I am shocked by this completely expected development.

> His bright aura destroyed the mountain he was standing on

Dan: Seriously, what is it with you guys and mountains?

> as Xeruel turned his head to look at the saiyan.

Rick [Xeruel]: Just as I thought. Yellow.

> Steven's body flared up to Super Saiya-jin Level 2

Dan: The meter got stuck at Super Saiya-jin 1.8, and he had to tap it a few times.

- > as anger filled his eyes.
- > "Saiya-jins... the most pathetic race I have ever lived to witness..." said Xeruel softly.

Rick: More so then Kobolds, Ewoks, Gungans and Greelons.

> This comment made Steven's rage rise

Rebecca: He then posted capslock-fuelled comments on an internet forum and compared Xeruel to Hitler.

> as he cupped his hands by his waist,

Dan: Hipthrusting violently.

> gathering his earthly energy into a ball of blue Chi.

Rick: Does Chi come in multiple colours like lighting does? Tsuneo: Video game logic says yes.

> Xeruel chuckled as Steven screamed out.

Dan: [Shouting] Tom are dead I hero now!

- > "Denjin..."
- > "Shinku..."
- > Steven threw his arms forward "HADOKEN!!!!!!" as he released a HUGE beam

Dan [Flails with outstretched arms]: I mean, it was this big, man! You should have seen it.

> of Chi towards The Dark Angel, the beam hitting Xeruel fully causing a huge explosion

Rebecca: Explosions must constitute at least half of this fic.

Rick: And the rest?

Rebecca: Fake Japanese for another quarter, Steven being an arse for another twenty percent and

the last five is in reserve in case it needs more creepy, awkward attempts at romance.

> as a huge gust of wind blew everything around Xeruel back.

Tsuneo: Steven has the power of a stiff breeze!

- > Tom's remains were sent backwards as they landed in the crater that
- > had been made by the Devastation Bolt.

Dan: Not the worst funeral arrangements I've ever seen.

> The smoke cleared up as Xeruel's body was seen, unharmed.

Tsuneo: Because we spent the last two chapters doing the same thing, now we'll spend the next two doing it again.

Rick: I dunno, I think it's too early to tell. It could go somewhere completely unexpected from this.

Tsuneo: Like what? Steven kills Xeruel?

Rick: Well... yeah. Not what I was thinking, but I suppose so.

Tsuneo: So what were you thinking?

Rick: Tom, Steven, Xeruel and the first random Matt they find form a Barbershop Quartet.

Tsuneo: ...that would be a better fic. And for some reason, I think I'd read that.

> Steven phased in front of the Angel as he kicked as hard as he could to his stomach,

Rebecca: Rick-

Dan: And he went FAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAT! Rebecca [Glares at Dan]: Don't think I'll forget this.

> sending the Dark Angel backwards slightly.

Rick: Roll for knockback.

> The Super Saiya-jin kept launching random punches and kicks at Xeruel,

Rick [Rolls dice]: Haymaker! [Rolls dice] Sweep side kick! [Rolls dice] Mongolian chop!

> as he finally sent a huge Chi blast at Xeruel's chest with both his hands,

Dan: [Steven] That thing? The one I just did that did nothing? I'm gonna do it again.

> the Dark Angel sent crashing at tremendous speed against a very nearby planet.

Tsuneo: Rick, do you have a table for that too?

Rick: Coming right up! Do you want terrestrial, gas giant or 'other'?

> The Eremento-jin of Power's

Tsuneo: Since we've never mentioned that before, let's assume it's Steven.

> body suddenly turned into pure blue energy,

Rebecca: Another sad victim of sudden onset disintegration.

> his aura growing to a hundred feet of diameter as red bolts of energy formed around him.

Dan: Remember to always properly earth your Eremento-jin.

Rick: Proper Eremento-jin safety could save your life.

Dan: ...what's an Eremento-jin again anyway? I don't think the fic actually ever explained it.

Rick: I just assumed that it was a previously undiscovered species of lemur. [Ding]

> His energy pushed the Dark Angel back

Tsuneo: Back! Down! Bad eldritch abomination! Bad!

> as he screamed out of pure rage.

Tsuneo: You think he'd be upset about Tom-

Dan: Nup, pure rage.

Tsuneo: Or frustrated that nothing's-Dan: No way. Pure rage, nothing else.

> Steven teleported by Satan, his eyes widened in anger.

Rebecca: Steven just saw somebody misuse an apostrophe. That's enough to send him over the

edge.

Dan: So like you then.

Rebecca: My revenge is far more subtle.

> He kicked to the Devil's back,

Rick: Give evil the boot!

> sending him high up in the air

Dan: It's a long-fly ball into the opposition's endzone.

> as he begin sending a series of punches at the Dark Angel's stomach.

[Rebecca glares at Dan and Rick]

Rebecca: Not one word.

Rick: I'll be good.

> Xeruel was getting sent back

Rick: Both the original and return to sender addresses were invalid, so he kept getting bounced between post offices.

> under each hit as Hikari kept increasing the power of his hits,

Tsuneo: See, that's how you chain-combo.

Rick: I can combo!

Tsuneo: Only by accident.

> suddenly sending his foot upwards,

> hitting the Dark Angel's chin as an uppercut sent Satan high up in the air.

Dan: Ring the bell, win a prize!

## > "DIE DARK ANGEL!!!"

Rick: Yeah, take that you Canadian Indy Wrestler! Tsuneo: You do this on purpose, don't you?

> screamed the Super Saiya-jin out as he began sending waves of blue Chi upwards at Xeruel,

[Dan and Rick do a Mexican wave]

Rick: Come on, guys! This doesn't work with two.

> moving his arms up and down faster and faster

Rebecca: I don't know about you, but to me it looks like either he's on fire or has an ice-cream headache.

> as the Chi blasts suddenly mixed with one another,

Dan: Mix the Chi blasts and add milk, then beat until fully combined.

> forming a huge beam of pure energy as it collided with the Dark Angel's body,

Rick: Xeruel tried to claim that the Chi Blast was at fault and didn't signal that it was turning. Nobody believed him, especially not after the breath test.

> blowing him high up in the air. Xeruel suddenly appeared in front of Hikari,

Rebecca: Like a Jehova's Witness at your front door.

> kicking toward his stomach only to get blocked

Tsuneo: Xeruel was listed as an unsafe site and full of nasty worms.

> as Steven threw him down to the ground at tremendous speed,

Rebecca: And then they made out like mad bunnies.

Tsuneo: That's not what he meant.

> following his opponent to the ground as he began to pound his enemy

Rebecca: See?
Tsuneo: ...forget it.

> who was now lying on the ground, bleeding enormously,

Rick: Steven hit him right in the high-pressure fluid pump.

> yet, the Dark Angel was laughing at the top of his lungs.

Dan: He's laughing because he's bleeding on Steven's rug. It's ironic humour!

> "STOP LAUGHING BITCH!"

Dan: [Joker] Haven't you ever heard of the healing power of laughter?

> screamed the proud Saiya-jin

Rick: "Proudly" brawling in the mud.

- > out as his fist crushed the Dark Angel's nose,
- > his knee colliding with Xeruel's stomach repeatedly.

Tsuneo: Because it hadn't worked for him before, Steven goes straight back to doing the same thing again.

Rebecca: He gets points for persistence, not smarts.

> Steven started to pound the Dark Angel's head

Rick: With his dubstep remixes of old NES themes.

> with a series of hard and quick punches as blood began to gush out from Xeruel's forehead.

Dan: In case you'd missed it, Fist of the North Star is also a thing.

> Hikari jumped to his feet and flipped back as his aura grew even bigger now.

Rebecca: His aura had really ballooned of late. It claims it's in the best shape of its life but... it's all flab.

> Xeruel lay on the floor bleeding

Dan: It's his second favourite pastime, after killing random Matts.

> as Steve brought his arms up to his face in an X formation,

Rick: Sun Ja! Bzzzzt!

- > and then threw them back down as his aura
- > of yellow energy rose up to reach 40 feet of height and diameter,

Tsuneo: In a perfect sphere. Steven's aura is strange like that.

> flaring up like a flame.

Rick: Hey dude, you're on fire.

Dan: Aaaah!

- > Steve began to
- > yell at the top of his lungs, but then, his yell turned into a high pitched scream,

Rebecca: A very, very girlish scream.

Dan: You're a girl.

Rebecca: I'm a grown woman. There's a difference.

> bolts of pure blue energy flowing around the aura wildly

Rick: Turn off the lights and it's a regular rave.

> as Steve leaned his head back to scream as loudly

Dan [Steven]: Oh my god the chips!

- > as he could. Waves
- > of energy were sent everywhere as everything on the planet was blown back.

Rick: Remind me, which Planet Delta was this?

Rebecca: Does it really matter? It's going to explode before the page is done anyway. Rick: I need to know for the Ultimate Battle Wiki! We hate random speculation on articles.

- > The whole Universe could
- > feel the wrath of Hikari as earthquakes were provoked throughout the whole galaxy,

Rebecca: There were earthquakes across an entire Galaxy, a body that comprises mostly of the vacuum of space.

> Steve reaching a power which had never been seen before.

Dan: The power... to move you.

- > His aura grew brighter and brighter, reaching miles of length
- > now as everything within it was annihilated.

Rick: Including Steven. Goodnight!

> Steve's hair was now brighter than gold,

Rick: So... white gold then.

> and his eyes weren't even emerald green anymore,

Rebecca: But had, inexplicably, had turned a shade of off-pink.

Rick: Call it an animation error.

> they had turn to a red, a blood red of rage.

Tsuneo: Rage at repeating the same plot point endlessly?

Rick: You know it.

> His body floated up in the air

Dan: All the power of a helium party balloon.

> as bolts from the sky were released eveywhere on the planet,

Rebecca: Forget your Star Wars-esque single biome planet; this is a single weather zone planet.

> blood gushing out of Steve's body because of the energy release.

Dan: I'm sensing a flaw in your ultimate attack.

> Suddenly, his aura exploded in energy as it created an explosion high up in the sky.

Rick: [Xeruel] You missed.

Dan: [Steven] Dangit! Hold on, let me start again.

> The Universe shook from the transformation

Tsuneo: The whole universe. Let's go with that.

> as Steve's body floated down to the ground, his aura flaring up brighter than ever

Rick: Before burning out with an embarrassed 'pop'

> as his whole eyes had turned blood red now,

Rebecca: And that's the point that he realised he was functionally blind.

> the bolts flickering all over the planet as he entered the Riot of Blood.

Rick: Right, now that Steven's entered Riot of Blood we need to stack up in front of him to absorb the damage from his cleave attacks. But if you get the blood bomb, you need to get out of the raid fast or else you'll blow us all up like Dan did last time.

Dan: I said I was sorry.

Rick: Dan, you are a horrible person.

> Steve rushed out towards Xeruel's now rosen body,

Rebecca: He'd just got back from his smoke break.

> the Super Saiya-jin going at over the speed of light

Dan: He'd gone to plaid.

> as he could not be seen moving,

Tsuneo: The animators had gotten lazy and were just drawing him as a few blurred lines.

> but the Dark Angel was being pushed back from all sides constantly,

Rebecca: Falling back towards Berlin in the face of the Red Army.

> Steven hitting him with the strongest of blows.

Dan: But was it the most powerful punch ever?

Rick: I don't think it made the top five.

> Xeruel attempted to swing the Blade of Sins at Steve,

Tsuneo: The ultimate defender of Earth, the last hope for all mankind, Steve.

> but a huge blast of pure KI impacted with Satan's stomach sending him high up in the air.

Rebecca: Xeruel's visit to the Mythbusters set ended badly.

Rick: Sword Swinging robot had gotten its hand on the Compressed Air Cannon. It was bound to happen.

- > Hikari appeared
- > above the Dark Angel and sent a roundhouse kick down at him,

Dan: Is he going to try and rip his throat out? Because if this turned into Roadhouse, it'd be so much better.

- > Xeruel crashing down to the floor.
- > Steve appeared right in front of the Dark Angel as he grabbed Satan's with both his hands,

Dan: Grabbed his membership badge, that is. They don't want him in their clubhouse anymore.

> ripping them right off in a pool of blood.

Rick [Palpatine]: Well done, young Hikari. Now kill him.

> Steve sent his fist out towards Xeruel's chest,

Rebecca: He sent it by an indirect route, but his GPS said it would be the fastest.

> his fist piercing straight through the "Demon"'s skin, heart and back.

Tsuneo: His attempt at a Temple of Doom reenactment had gone horribly, horribly wrong.

> Steve violently used his aura to blow the Devil away as his body appeared right above Xeruel,

Dan: The rest of him was miles back. Steve hasn't quite figured teleportation out yet.

> sending a blast of pure energy down at Xeruel.

Rick: Couldn't he send blueberry muffins down at Xeruel instead?

Tsuneo: How would that help?

Rick: Well, it couldn't be any less effective than anything else he's done so far, and at least it'd taste nice.

> The Dark Angel crashed to the ground, getting a taste of his own blood.

Rebecca: It tasted like defeat and re-used text.

- > The bolts around Steven's body suddenly
- > flashed in his hands as a huge wave of pure destructive energy was sent down at Xeruel,

Rick: Pure destructive energy, as opposed to only slightly destructive energy, I guess.

Dan: That only blows up half a planet.

Rick: Gotcha.

> completely destroying his form in the blast.

Rebecca [Bored]: Oh look, they have triumphed over evil. There is no way that Xeruel is coming back after that.

- > Steve flew down to the ground as his eyes widen in rage, seeing Xeruel
- > appear in front of him, his whole body having regenerated.

Tsuneo [Bored]: He's alive. This is a shocking development.

> "Is that all you have, Hikari?"

Dan [Steven]: I have some string, some loose change and a bus ticket. That help?

> Hikari screamed out of pure rage again

Rick: He gets this way every time he loses a Pokemon battle. Right now, there's a six year old with a DS giggling behind his back.

> as his fists were now clenched back as he was now engulfed in blue Chi.

Rebecca: Wash your Sayajin in Blue Chi for a superior shine.

> The energy grew wider surrounded the area around Steven's body

Dan: Just give him a couple of pages to charge up again.

> as Xeruel stood up laughing, his shadowy form turning as tall as Steven.

Tsuneo: So he shrank down from how huge he was before? Rick: Maybe he's as big as Steven is now with his aura?

Tsuneo: Still smaller then he was earlier.

Rick: I like this fic because of its clear and consistent description.

> The Saiya-jin screamed out the words "1st Theory!!!"

Rick: Mr. Ral is aware that he is a fictional character!

> and charged at Xeruel, his Chi blasting the Dark Angel back

Dan: Chi Blasting needs to be an Olympic Sport.

> as he started going through a

> series of punches and kicks going way over the speed of light.

Tsuneo: But how fast can he make the Kessel Run?

Rebecca: He'd punch the Kessel Run.

Tsuneo: How does that work?

Rebecca: The same thing as anything else in this fic.

> The Super Saiya-jin ended the series of attacks with a Shinryuken,

Dan: And not only did nothing, but also came out of it very dizzy.

> as Xeruel was sent up high in the air. Swain yelled "2nd THEORY!!!"

Rick: Sam and Quorra are still inside the Grid!

> Steven's aura, which had turned into a shockwave, turned to a bright shade of white

Tsuneo: It turned into a shockwave which turned white which turned into a white shockwave, apparently.

> as he teleported way high up above Xeruel,

Dan: View from up here's great.

Rebecca: Yeah, but you lose Xeruel in the clutter.

Dan: Even better.

> the Tenchi NoDaito appearing in his right hand.

Rick: After being teleported there by an invisible space fairy. And by that we mean the ghosts of his ancestors.

[pause]

Rebecca: You know what? Not even I got that reference.

Rick: Score!

> Steven started slashing accross Xeruel's chest with white lightnings of spiritual energy,

Dan: Holy lightning bolts! They're the most dangerous type.

Tsuneo: Nothing like a good old fashioned smiting to get things going.

> as the shockwave suddenly was absorbed by the Tenchi NoDaito.

Rebecca: The sword of no-selling in RP.

> Steven thrusted at The Dark Angel's chest,

Dan: So this is the point that you make some joke about somebody called 'Dark Angel' and I look at you and you explain who or what it is, right?

Rick: Nope. Dan: Wait what? Rick: I ran out.

> as Xeruel crashed back to the ground hard.

Rebecca: Waking up in a puddle of his own vomit in the dumpster behind a Burger King. This happens to him a lot.

> The Super Saiya-jin's black hair turned to a silver grey

Rick: I don't know much about Super Sayajins. What type does that mean he is now?

Tsuneo: The type where I'm well past caring

Rick: Makes sense to me.

> as he teleported to the ground, grabbed Xeruel and turned invisible.

Rebecca: On the one hand, invisibility saves on the animation budget, but on the other hand, we can't see what Steve's doing.

Dan: Yeah, but that means we can't see Steve.

Rebecca: Win all round, I guess.

> He screamed out "3rd Theory!!"

Rick: The New 52 is happening entirely inside Fairchild's subconscious!

> as Steven kneed Xeruel to the

> guts, and kicked upwards to the Dark Angel's chin, sending him up in the air.

Tsuneo: Gravity; it's less a law around here as it's a polite suggestion.

> He then started doing a savage kick dance in mid-air

Dan: Step Up 6, Step Up In Space!

> at Xeruel, sending random kicks at his body,

Tsuneo: [Steven] Roundhouse! Butterfly Twist Kick! 540 Spinning Hook Kick! Axe Cop Soul Kick!

> ending with a perfect splits-kick,

[Rick, Dan and Tsuneo wince]

> as Xeruel was sent crashing down to the floor. (The technique is called "Tenma-Hizan-Kyaku")

Rebecca: Thanks, fic! My life would have been incomplete if I had never known that.

> Only lightnings could be seen striking Xeruel,

Dan: Lightning is what this fic does when it's run out of ideas.

Rick: And the last three chapters?

Dan: Nothing but lightning.

> as the splits-kick made Xeruel crash hard against the ground.

Tsuneo: Yeah, that makes perfect sense. Let's go with that.

> Steven's body appeared in the sky as the Tree of Life appeared.

Rebecca: And then was re-arranged after the newest hominid fossil discovery.

> The Dark Angel's body was bleeding, but it didn't make his grin disapear,

Dan: He's had so many facelifts that he can't move it at all.

> as he laughed at the Tree of Life.

Rebecca: [Xeruel] Hah! It doesn't even have the direct connection from Hod to Netzah, what a failure!

> Steven summoned a huge amount of physical and spiritual energy into his left hand

Rebecca: And prepared for the most furious fapping of his life. [Tsuneo hits her with a cushion]

> as he brought his left arm up, as he screamed "4TH THEORY!!"

Rick: Duke is alive and has infiltrated Cobra!

> and sent a huge wave of white energy downwards at Xeruel. The blast had 700 miles of radius

Tsuneo: I like this fic for its subtlety and restraint.

> as it fully hit the Dark Angel.

Dan: Though you've got to wonder what kind of maroon could miss a human-sized target with such a

huge blast.

Rick: Um... Steven?

Dan: Yeah, good point actually.

- > Xeruel's body was in incredible pain as he slowly
- > started to regenerate, causing Steven's eyes to explode in anger.

Dan: When he gets angry, his eyes explode? Now that's a lousy weakness.

> "DIE YOU SON-OF-A-BITCH!!!" screamed Steven as he phased down to the ground in front of the

> now standing Xeruel.

Rebecca: [Xeruel, drunk] Yeah, come at me bro... I can take it all day...

> Steven screamed out the words "5TH THEORY!

Rick: The Parallel Earth will eventually become Mondas!

- > REPPU-KEN!!" as he whipped his
- > right arm up in an arc, a huge wave of white energy twenty feet high

Dan: Surf's up, dudes!

> leaping up from the earth. It headed straight for Xeruel's body as the Dark Angel was hit,

Tsuneo: Xeruel doesn't even bother dodging; he knows it won't do a thing.

Rebecca: Yeah, everyone's realized that by now.

Rick: Except Steven. Rebecca: Well, obviously.

> sent backwards from the hit. Steven jumped forward as he crossed his right arm accross his neck.

Rebecca: Bit late to be doing your warm-up, Steven.

- > Xeruel stood up only to be hit by twenty
- > foot blade of energy as soon as Steven extended his arm,

Dan: [Steven] Whoops, sorry about that. Happens all the time. Reaching for the top shelf, calling a cab... Twenty foot wave of energy, every time.

> while screaming "6TH THEORY!

Rick: Professor Oak is secretly breeding a Super-Pokemon to take over the world.

> Zuki...HishouZAN!!"

All: Bless you!

> Steven then stood up and crossed his arms in an X fashion over his chest.

Dan: Followed by a bunch of crotch-chops and violently hipthrusting at the camera.

> He then threw both his arms forward and screamed out the words "7TH THEORY!

Rick: Moustache Dad is Charlie's father.

Dan: I thought that Charlie was Moustache Dad.

Rick: No, Charlie's possibly Moustache Dad's daughter.

Dan: I thought Charlie was a guy.

Rick: No, Moustache Dad's obviously a guy. Charlie's a girl.

Dan: What are we talking about?

Rick: Moustache dad and his whiny, stupid and self-destructive daughter.

Dan: Right, Bella.

Rick: No, Charlie! Aren't you paying attention?

Rebecca: Ladies and Gentlemen, the Revolution skit.

## > TENCHI KINSHIN!"

Tsuneo: That attack's called 'Samurai X' in the west for no real reason.

> as a huge shockwave of compressed wind

Rick: So he \*did\* go-

Rebecca: No!

> was sent towards Xeruel, blowing the Dark Angel back several feet.

Rebecca: After a seven-hundred mile across blast, that's kind of lame.

Tsuneo: He's tired. That's his excuse and he's sticking to it.

> Satan stood up well and alive,

Rick: [Xeruel, drunk] Take it all day, y'hear me? I'm tougher'n a... Ulp... [Mimes throwing up] Rebecca: Truly, this is the endless drunken brawl of the superpower set.

> bleeding incredibly, but his eyes flaring with a mocking look.

## > "DIE XERUEL DIE!!!"

Tsuneo: For once, fic, you and I agree.

> said Steven more angry than ever.

Rick: Angrier then the time somebody posted a negative comment on his YouTube page.

Dan: So angry, his eyes regenerated and exploded again!

> Steven raised both his arms up in the air, crossed in an X fashion.

Dan: He's directing air traffic!

> He started absorbing the spirit of air

Rebecca: The lingering smell of burning hog fat from the rendering plant.

> as the hue of the area turned to a deep grey.

Rick: I see someone found the desaturate filter.

> His aura of Super Saiya-jin grew brightly around him as the holy light flashed around him. Bolts of > energy went down crashing into the floor,

Tsuneo: Not lightning? Rebecca: He's diversifying.

- > creating huge craters as tornado's of pure energy begin to
- > form from the the ground, ripping through the sky as Steve's eyes flashed red.

Tsuneo: This is not his attack. Steven just gets this way when the guy before him forgets to flush.

- > He went down on one
- > knee slamming both his palms as hard as he could into the ground. He screamed out the words
- > "8TH THEORY!!

Rick: The Alien Criminals in Lego Space Police III are Blacktron agents!

> RAGING STORM!!"

Rebecca: Diarrhea is like a raging storm-

Tsuneo: No!

> as thousands of shockwaves of energy started encircling him for several miles.

Tsuneo: Do you think it might be more effective if he just directed it at Xeruel?

Dan: Yeah, but then it wouldn't be a Geese Howard rip-off.

Tsuneo: Of course, silly me.

- > Everything on the path of the shockwaves was annihilated in a blast of pure spiritual and
- > earthly energy

Tsuneo: It occurs to me that this attack is completely useless against someone who can fly.

Rebecca: Like Xeruel, for example?

Tsuneo: Funny that.

- > as Xeruel was hit, the wave covering his whole body as nothing was seen of the Dark Angel
- > anymore.

Rick: He was instead cleverly hidden behind a small shrub.

Dan: Cunning fiend!

> The energy suddenly turned into a wave with over ten miles of height,

Rebecca: I could say a lot about the curvature of the world and its size but... stuff it. Physics left the room a long time ago.

> glowing pure white as it spread throughout the whole planet,

Rick: Spreading faster than a funny cat video.

- > annihilating everything across its path. Soon, the whole planet
- > Steven was standing on had been ravaged as Steven fell on both his knees, breathing heavily. He
- > lifted his chin up to see Xeruel floating up in the sky,

Dan: [Xeruel] What a puss, can't even blow up a lousy planet.

- > both his legs missing as well as his right arm
- > and shoulder, a part of his chest missing as well. The Dark Angel screamed out in anger as his
- > whole body regenerated,

Dan: So why do they keep attacking Xeruel if they know he's just going to regenerate?

Rick: I have two theories. Dan: This can't end well.

Rick: Theory number one suggests that Xeruel has only a finite amount of energy and cannot Regenerate indefinitely. Tom and Steven are aware of this and, as such, are playing a long-term game of slowly but inevitably wearing him down and depleting his reserves. It's risky, but they know that they have to hit him with big attacks to have the most effect.

Dan: Interesting, but at the same time, I dunno. It sounds too, well tactical for these two clowns. Rick: Which leads me to theory number two: The fic has an invisible word and/or chapter count.

Dan: Seems about right.

> his black aura reforming in less than a second

Rebecca: And Xeruel hits the 'undo' button.

> as red lightnings formed around him. Steven had lost all of his energy

Rick: He needs more Vespine Gas.

- > as Xeruel phased in front of the Saiyan. The Blade of Sins appeared in
- > his right hand, as the Dark Angel's sword pierced through Swain's stomach,

Rebecca: Surprise appendectomy!

> reopening the scar that had closed up at the hospital,

Dan: His old soccer injury!

Tsuneo: He was run through while playing soccer?

Dan: No, while rioting after his team lost.

- > before the Saiyan could do anything. Steven spit out some blood as his head
- > fell down. Xeruel pulled the sword out of his enemy's abdomen.

Rick: Whoso pulleth this sword from this Super-Sayajin is rightful crowned king of England.

> The Dark Angel suddenly sent his fist outwards, colliding with Steven's face

Tsuneo: He \*punched\* him.

- > as he sent him crashing to the ground. The planet was a
- > complete desert now, no life forms or even mountains remaining.

Rebecca: Were there any to begin with? It's not like we really defined anything about this planet in the first place.

Tsuneo: Well, we know that Xeruel hates mountains, for what it's worth.

> The Dark Angel phased above his opponent as he sent his arm downwards,

Rick: He sent his arm down to the shop to buy some milk.

> a blast of pure energy blowing the Saiya-jin up in the air

Rebecca: Steven, the human shuttlecock.

> as Xeruel began to send his own series of random kicks and punches at his opponent,

Dan: At this point, he's given up all pretense of even trying. Pretty soon he'll be fighting with one hand and snacking with the other.

> knocking him backwards each time as Steven fell back in his human form,

Tsuneo: For a Sayajin, this is the equivalent of casual Fridays.

- > his hair falling back down as the Dark
- > Angel sent a wave of energy at his opponent's upper body,

Rebecca: It's the super powered ki blast equivalent of a nipple cripple.

> the cloth covering his torso annihilated

Rick: Revealing his beer gut and man-boobs.

> as

> Xeruel's fist impacted against his chest, cutting his breath as the Dark Angel kicked Steven back to > the ground at tremendous speed.

Rick: I heard that Manchester is willing to offer Xeruel a huge amount as a striker.

Dan: Kick like that? It'd be worth it.

> He had let the Saiya-jin play with him, but now the ball was in his hands.

[Tsuneo glares at Rebecca]

Tsuneo: Not one word. Rebecca: What?! Tsuneo: You know.

Rebecca: What? I was just going to comment on his ball handling skills, that's all!

Tsuneo: Sure you were.

> He phased to the ground, watching Hikari crash right in front of him.

Rick: Those photos are going to be on TMZ in moments. They have a huge Steven shame file.

> He began to kick at his stomach playfully,

Tsuneo: It's a friendly, light-hearted kind of a beatdown.

> ripping through the abdominal wound even more as he suddenly punted his opponent > upwards,

Rick: You can tell for this shot that they've replaced Steven with a rubber dummy, and they're just tossing that around.

Rebecca: It's a better actor though.

Rick: Oh, definitely.

> grabbing his sword yet again

Rick [Badly Digitised]: Chunks, serious chunks.

> as he started to slash at Steve's body quickly, making deep cuts in every single part of his body

Dan: He checked his anatomy textbooks just to be sure he hadn't missed a thing.

> as Swain fell back to the ground, unable to move because of the cuts in his flesh and muscles.

Rebecca: At least, that's what he claimed on the Worker's Compensation forms.

> Xeruel grabbed his enemy by the top of his head as he lifted him up,

Dan: Thankfully it wasn't the top of his hair. Steven needs to wash more often.

> letting his sword plunge through his chest and heart, most of it cutting through the Saiya-jin's back.

Rick: This scene is shocking if you haven't read a single DC comic in the last five years.

> He peeled Steve off of his sword,

Tsuneo: In much the same way that one peels gum off a shoe.

> letting him drop to the floor as he put his hand over the wound he had just opened.

Rebecca: With his salt shaker and lemon juice at the ready.

> "Time to die... Hikari..."

Dan: [Xeruel] First Hiditio, then Tom, and now you. It's a pity you Eremento-Jin die so easily, or I might have a sense a satisfaction now!

> Steven's eyes widen as the Dark Angel's hand glew, a black sphere of energy forming in his hand.

Rick: Black Hole Sun, won't you come, and wash away the rain...

> Hikari screamed as Xeruel released a huge beam of black energy

Rebecca: About time. Given how long that project's been in development hell, I was thinking it'd never get out.

Tsuneo: You watch. It'll be a rushed bug-fest fighting against a deadline.

Rebecca: Allways happens.

- > at the man's chest, piercing through
- > his entire chest, Steven's heart blowing up as his body was blasted away at tremendous speed,

Rebecca: He died as he lived; getting bounced around like a pinball.

> falling onto the ground. The black man spit out the last of his blood

Rick: You have to wonder how much he had left to give after his heart exploded and all.

> as he died in a heart beat.

Tsuneo: I'd be shocked, but so far characters in this fic, Steve inclusive, have survived worse. Rick: On the upside, it looks like the plot is finally moving.

> Xeruel leaned his head back and started laughing loudly.. a terribly evil laugh

Dan: While twirling his moustache and tying a girl to a railway track, no doubt.

- > as his body started
- > floating up. Both his hands glew in a deep red as a cross formed in each one of the Dark Angel's
- > hands. His body grew back to his normal twenty stories of height

Rick: Is that more or less then two hundred feet? Give us a clue here, fic!

> as he floated up high in the air. He screamed as he threw both his arms to a different side,

Rebecca: As opposed to what side?

Tsuneo: The side that he normally throws his arms to, I guess.

- > releasing the red crosses that grew extremely big as they were blasted away.
- > The two crosses collided against different planets, blowing both of them up in a loud sound.

Rick: A loud sound in space, right?

> Xeruel flew around the galaxies, his laughter echoing everywhere

Rick: Echoing off what? Dan: Off space, of course.

Rick: Of course.

> he went as he kept sending red crosses of energy accorss the universe,

Tsuneo: He sent them economy across the gulf of interstellar space, so... They'll be a while.

> destroying planet after planet. Xeruel had soon devastated five galaxies in about an hour

Rebecca: So using the Milky Way as a guideline and assuming that each Galaxy contains two hundred billion stars, and assuming, for the sake of argument, that each one of them has an average of one world in orbit around it, and not taking into account rouge stars, black holes, nebulae, dark matter and other bodies... If Xeruel's blowing up planets individually, he's going to be at it a long, long time.

Tsuneo: Or the writer has no sense of stellar scale whatsoever.

Rebecca: Also true, but I like my theory better.

Tsuneo: Because it shows how much of a smart-arse you are.

Rebecca: Got it in one.

- > as a large grin appeared on his face. His thrist for destruction kept
- > growing, the blood of his enemies Steve and Tom

Tsuneo: Yes, the defenders of all creation and embodied with divine powers to stop the ultimate evil, Steve and Tom.

> still staining his skin.

Rick: He's flown across the known universe and still can't get the damned spots off his shirt. So much for ultimate power.

- > "So you have reappeared once again... Dark Angel..."
- > Xeruel turned his head as he looked straight into the eyes of Arcane the 4th Life,

Dan: The 4<sup>th</sup> Amigo, the 4<sup>th</sup> Stooge, the 4<sup>th</sup> Musketeer, the 4<sup>th</sup> Caballero...

> the 19th Angel of Light, in his magnificent Angel Form.

Dan: So magnificent that we can't even describe it.

> "I pity you.. Xeruel... your only way to find joy is destroying... you must feel weak inside..."

Rick: Divine cosmic being or a butthurt fic author on Pottersues? You be the judge.

> "Be quiet Arcane... or should I say Justice...

Dan: Wait, he's Justice? Shouldn't he be laughing maniacally while blowing random things up? Rebecca: It's a continuity reboot. Characters change.

Dan: This reboot sucks.

> you are nothing compared to the power of the Dark Angel..."

Tsuneo: While normally I'd decry his comment as hollow boasting, given that he did blow up five Galaxies, Xeruel may just have a point.

> "Or so you think, Xeruel...

Dan: No you think! Rick: No \*you\* think!

> some times words speak louder than actions...

Tsuneo: Although again, blowing up entire galaxies is hard to debate.

- > you are a shameless pitiful being..."
- > Xeruel's eyes filled with anger. "BE QUIET ARCANE!! OR I SHALL DESTROY YOU!!"

Rebecca: Xeruel's capslock rage is comparable to any teenager on any internet forum ever. Dan: I am in awe of his might and majesty.

> "See? You are so weak that you must resort to violence..

Rick: [Arcane] Violence never solves anything.

Dan: [Xeruel] But it is loads of fun!

> your mind games might work with humans and such...

Rick: The, um, cosmic angel power has a strong effect on the weak-minded. Or something.

> but they don't affect me in any way... Satan... isn't that what humans call you?"

Tsuneo: They call him a lot of things, trust me.

- > "Yes... at least humans know of me, Arcane... and they fear me!"
- > "Yes, Xeruel, because your only way to be recognized was to use fear...

Rebecca: And surprise! Surprise and fear, fear and surprise... His two weapons are fear and surprise... And ruthless efficiency! His three weapons are fear, and surprise, and ruthless efficiency...

> the incredible power that was gifted to you...

Rick: The power to totally pull off a cravat.

- > you are pathetic, Dark Angel"
- > "I SAID BE QUIET!!!!!!!" Xeruel screamed out in anger as the black aura around his body grew > incredibly, the red lightnings around it flying around noisily.

Tsuneo: Oh that's a relief, we hadn't had any extraneous lightning in almost a page.

> "Violence is your only way... Xeruel... I can see that I have hurt your pride..."

Rick: Teabagging his corpse, taunting him over Ventrilo and putting it on Youtube might have been going a bit too far though.

> said Arcane in an emotionless voice, but he soon realized his mistake

Dan: He didn't separate his recyclables.

> as Xeruel's fist impacted with his lower jaw, sending the 19th Angel up in the air.

Tsuneo: Limitless cosmic power! Embodiments of divine good and ultimate evil! The ability to make, remake and unmake creation at will! Punch in the face!

- > Xeruel summoned the Blade of Sins in his right hand as he flew
- > above Arcane and slashed his sword downwards at his chest.

Rebecca: Arcane used the ingenious counter of 'taking it like a bitch.'

> The Angel of Light crashed noisily and roughly against the hard ground,

Rick: So, where are we anyway?

Rebecca: Somewhere in the vast void of poorly-defined narrative.

Rick: Gotcha!

> creating another crater.(side note: ANGELS LOVE CRATERS ^\_^;;;)

Tsuneo: Thank you for that, witless interjection.

> Arcane flew out of the crater and sent his right fist straight towards Xeruel's face at the speed of

> light,

Dan: Superluminal Punch!

> purple flames trailing behind his arm.

Tsuneo: Just so you know, my hand is on fire.

> But the 19th Angel's punch

Rebecca: And there you have it folks, his pacifism only lasts until the first blow.

- > was caught in Xeruel's hand, as the
- > Dark Angel sent a wave of red lightning through Arcane's body.

Rick: Whoah, feedback.

- > "AAARRRGGGGGHHHHHH!!!!!!" screamed the Angel of Light in pain.
- > "You have become weak, Arcane... I guess you are the pathetic one now..."

Dan: Well, as snappy comebacks go, that one... doesn't even rate a mention. Really.

> Arcane gritted his teeth

Rick: Grit those teeth like it's the nineties!

> trying to contain his pain

Rebecca: Or at the very least, his terrible constipation.

- > as Xeruel completely crushed the Angel of Light's fist, blood shattering all over
- > Satan's hand.

Tsuneo: He sat on his tomato sauce sachet again.

> The St. Michael's sword suddenly appeared in Arcane's other hand

Rebecca: Had it there all along. There you go.

- > as he slashed it
- > towards Xeruel's head. The Dark Angel's Blade of Sins collided with St. Michael's Sword,

Dan: Careful with that thing! Saint Michael wants it back when you're done.

> as Xeruel pushed with all his might, as the sword was knocked out of Arcane's hand.

Tsuneo: [Arcane] ...don't know why I bothered, really.

> The Angel of Light screamed as Xeruel kicked to his stomach,

Tsuneo: In so far as human anatomy can possibly apply to unknown divine beings, I suppose. Rebecca: I think it's in the 'take our word for it' category.

> and let go of the 19th Angel's crushed hand. Xeruel elbowed downwards

Rick: Flying elbow from the top rope! He's going for the pin!

- > to the back of his opponent's neck, sending him to the ground. Satan grabbed
- > Arcane by the back of the head and pulled him up to his feet. Xeruel sent his fist flying towards the
- > 19th Angel's face

Dan [Xeruel]: Your theological model of divine good and evil are an outdated and obsolete concept irrelevant in a modern rational world! [Mimes punching]

Rick [Arcane]: Good and evil are always relevant! The existence of rational science does not replace faith but rather, the two can co-exist! [Mimes punching]

Dan [Xeruel]: God does not exist! God is an outmoded concept created to explain the inexplicable! [Mimes punching]

Rick [Arcane]: God is present in all things at all times! Faith does not negate rationality! [Mimes punching]

> as his fist impacted with the Angel of Light's jaw. Arcane stumbled back and got punched > in the stomach.

Tsuneo: Is it just me or do punches only hit the face or stomach in this fic? Rick: I think their hit location table needs some work.

> Xeruel charged at Arcane but his chest was hit by a powerful blast of orange energy.

Rebecca: He hit him with the power of Tang!

> The Dark Angel was sent flying backwards as he landed on his feet.

Dan: Damn try-hard ninjas. Just because you can flip out doesn't mean you're any good.

Rick: What is it with you and ninjas anyway?

Dan: Ninjas are a low-level enemy. Yes, they're not that dangerous, but they're also damn near everywhere.

> The Angel of Light charged at Xeruel as St. Michael's Sword appeared back in Arcane's right hand.

Tsuneo: In case you'd missed it, swords.

Rick: Swords it is.

> Satan jumped back but the holy sword held by the Angel of Light sliced his chest slightly.

Rebecca: Arcane claimed it was a fatal wound. Xeruel said that it was just a scratch. Both accused the other of cheating and god-modding. Next thing you know it's a flamewar and the mods are locking the thread.

Rick: Think so?

Rebecca: They said this fic was based on RP. I'm just examining the likely outcomes.

> Xeruel gritted his teeth and started dodging left and right from the St. Michael's Sword.

Rick: Quicktime event! Press X to not die.

> Arcane kept slashing,

Rebecca: In the colloquial English sense, I suspect

> but the Dark Angel was too quick for him.

Tsuneo: Arcane blamed it all on lag.

> Xeruel suddenly spinned and grabbed Arcane's right wrist with his left hand,

Rebecca: And they did the lambada.

> twisting it completely.

Rick: Ahh! Chinese burn!

> Arcane screamed as he kept holding the sword.

Dan: Wow, that thing must be heavy.

- > Xeruel chuckled as he swinged the Blade of Sins
- > downwards at Arcane's forearm, chopping it off slightly

Tsuneo: How do you 'slightly' chop someone's arm off?

> as The Angel of Light screamed in pain, his forearm falling to the ground as well as his sword.

Dan: And the worst part? He just washed the rug.

> Xeruel suddenly kicked up at the 19th Angel's chin sending him up in the air.

Rebecca: He already misses throwing around Steve like a ragdoll, so Arcane will have to fill in.

- > Satan phased up above Arcane and cupped his hands above his head in an
- > Axe Handle Smash fashion.

Rick: Followed by a pumphandle slam and maybe a Mongolian chop for good measure.

- > He slammed both his hands downwards at the back of Arcane's neck as
- > the Angel of Light was sent crashing to the ground. Xeruel phased next to Arcane's body

Rebecca: Teleportation; rearranging matter in a way that defies all the laws of physics for when you're too lazy to walk a couple of feet.

> who was lying on his belly, as Satan kicked him violently to the stomach.

Rick: Where's the Ref got to? Can't he see what's going on?

Dan: Xeruel's huge-breasted ring girl is distracting him.

Rick: Typical. I bet Xeruel's gonna wail on Arcane with a chair next and he won't even notice.

- > The Dark Angel spinned Arcane around on
- > the ground with his foot so that the Angel of Light was laying on his back,

Tsuneo: Harrison Ford watches on, looking for a blush response.

> as Xeruel put his foot over Arcane's chest, locking him to the ground.

> "Who is pathetic now... Justice?"

Tsuneo: So what does it say that Steven's supposed moment in the spotlight lasted only half the chapter and the rest has been more pointless brawling?

Rebecca: Steven really is the John Barren of this fic, only so much less interesting.

Dan: How can somebody be less interesting then John?

Rebecca: John also came with Charles.

Dan: Fair.

> "I shall never surrender to you... XERUEL!!"

Rick [Arcane]: I said, I'd never surrender to you, \*Xeruel\*.

Dan [Xeruel]: Wait, what? Rick [Arcane]: Your line! Dan [Xeruel]: Oh! Sorry!

> screamed Arcane back as he spit at Xeruel's face.

Tsuneo: [Xeruel] Oh come on! So I'm wiping out all life in the universe, but that's no reason to be crude!

- > The
- > Dark Angel grinned as the Blade of Sins plunged into the 19th Angel's throat. Xeruel pushed his
- > sword all the way through and pulled it back out.

Rick: Lots of impaling people with swords here. I wonder what Freud would say? Tsuneo: Probably something like 'Why am I reading this crappy fanfic?'

- > Arcane choked in pain as he spit out blood. Xeruel put his
- > arm over the dying Angel and whispered the words "Good night... dear Arcane...

Rebecca: And may a flight of angels... oh wait.

- > or should I say... O'
- > weak one..." as his right hand formed a black sphere of energy. Xeruel flew high above the planet

Tsuneo: Fic? His blowing the planet up might impress us if we hadn't seen it a half-dozen times already. [Pause] Or if we actually knew who Arcane was and had a reason to care. Dan: Wasn't he the guy who took Tom to that place with the tree to give him the thing? Tsuneo: Oh yeah. What happened with that anyway? Didn't Tom reach enlightenment or something? Dan: Well, he took the apple of knowledge, fermented it into cider and got plastered. Tsuneo: Of course.

- > as
- > the black sphere turned into a huge black cross of energy, Arcane still pinned to the ground,
- > choking on his own blood.

Rebecca: Given that the sword went through his neck, choking would be the least of his concerns.

- > The Dark Angel released the cross of black energy and turned away, not even looking at
- > the planet below blowing up, annihilating the body of Arcane along with it.

Rick: Classic villain mistake there. Never assume the hero is dead if you don't see the body. Dan: Even when the whole planet blows up?

Rick: \*Especially\* when the whole planet blows up.

> St. Michael's Sword disapeared from sight

Tsuneo: Probably because he, y'know, looked away.

- > as Xeruel stood there, with a wide smile on his face.
- > "Soon... I will be the ruler of this Universe once again...

Rick: When the stars are in alignment, when the time is right... when Lovecraft gets over his fear of replacing the typewriter ribbon and stats writing.

Dan: Lovecraft had a fear of replacing typewriter ribbons?

Rick: It's Lovecraft. He was afraid of everything.

- > and there is nothing any soul can do about it..."
- > Xeruel's grin reappeared as his body disappeared

Rick: Xeruel also plays the Cheshire Cat in the local community pageant.

> in a bright flash of light, suddenly reappearing in a palace in another dimension.

Tsuneo: Only to find that the Monkey King had beaten him to it and was already wrecking the place.

- > His eyes glew slightly as he looked up at the amazing structure which was
- > the Angelic Palace, made of pure ruby red adamantite.

Rebecca: The mythical metal that was used by Kronos and later Perseus to forge deadly sickles? The one from which the chains that bound Prometheus were forged? The mythical metal that Alexander the Great supposedly used to build walls to protect is lands from Gog and Magog? Rick: I was thinking of the metal that Wolverine's skeleton is made from.

Rebecca: Sadly, Rick, you probably weren't the only one.

- > The Twin doors, the Heaven's Gates, shined
- > like stars as the doors refused to open before Xeruel.

Dan: Xeruel didn't know that the angels kept a spare key under the mat, just in case.

> The Dark Angel slashed the Blade of Sins down between the doors as they opened unwillingly,

Rick: If this was an Italian Muscleman movie, he'd just have grunted a little and pushed them open. Dan: If this was an Italian Muscleman movie, he'd also have probably wrestled a midget by now and maybe wandered around on a horse for a while.

Rick: Also true.

> Satan slowly walking into the Palace

Rick: [Xeruel] Honey, I'm home!

> as the Minor Angels which now ruled it stepped back in fear.

Dan: The fear that you can only feel when a relative you don't like comes to visit.

Rebecca: So all of yours, Dan.

Dan: More or less, yeah.

> Suddenly, a being of pure blue light appeared before Xeruel,

Tsuneo: Got killed after a long and drawn out fight, followed by Xeruel laughing a little and blowing up a planet.

Rick: You must be psychic or something. I mean, I have no idea what will happen next.

> the being's two wings of fire glowing brightly.

Rebecca: It looks great, yes, but after you've set the drapes on fire, you won't be so impressed.

> "Dalariel, 29th Angel of

Tsuneo: The author just making stuff up.

> Heavenly Light...

Rick: Alongside Frediel, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Angel of cabbages, Bobiel the 47<sup>th</sup> Angel of forgetting your keys and Daveiel, the 202<sup>nd</sup> Angel of "oh who cares nobody will read this far."

- > you dare to oppose me?" spoke Xeruel softly, his deep voice
- > echoing through the whole palace as all of the Angels trembled.

Rick: His soft, deep voice.

> "Yes, Xeruel, I shall not let you take over this Heavenly Realm."

Dan: He's called a meeting of the major stockholders, and they're not going to approve his buyout. At best, Xeruel will be left with a minority share.

> replied the 28th Angel as a blast of pure white light

Dan: So what happened to Angels 23 through 27 then?

Rick: They were largely moved to middle management positions where they rarely interact with

Tsuneo: Also, wasn't he the 29<sup>th</sup> Angel two lines ago?

Rick: He got promoted when the others were reorganized.

- > impacted against Xeruel's chest, blasting the Dark Angel back into a wall.
- > "Sacrilege..." mumbled Xeruel as his body appeared right in front of Dalariel, his fist punching the > 28th Angel back onto the ground.

Rebecca: [Xeruel] Ecclesiastical punch!

> He quickly stomped down on the opposing Angel's stomach

Rick: I have two theories about the stomach thing!

Tsuneo: This comes out of nowhere, but I'm interested.

Rick: My first theory is that the authors of this fic are both very overweight and aware of it. They both want to lose weight and get in shape, but at the same time find themselves addicted to fatty foods and binge eating. The result is that they are trapped in an endless cycle of gaining weight and are unable to stop it. However, the hatred of their physical condition manifests itself in their fic; by having

haracters constantly attack the stomach, they try to, symbolically at least, destroy what is ruining their lives.

Tsuneo: That was... interesting. And your second theory?

Rick: Punch in the gut is all they can write.

- > but was suddenly knocked forward by another Angelic being.
- > "I see that Yvendal wants to die as well..." grinned Xeruel as the Blade of Sins made the cleanest of > cuts down the rebelling Angel's upper body. Ivendal,

Tsuneo: Completely different from Yvendal, no doubt.

> the Angel of Holy Flames,

Rebecca: Sounds more like the name of a cryptographic algorithm to me. [Pause] Well I thought it was funny.

Dan: You and you alone.

- > screamed out in anger
- > as Xeruel's Absolute Terror Field sent him crashing onto the Palace's main stair way.

Rick: Really guys? There are people trying to work here. If you're going to have your play fight, can you take it outside.

- > Dalariel went
- > back on offence, only to feel the Blade of Sins pierce through his waist, cleaving him in half.

Dan [Dalariel]: This plan seemed better in my head!

- > Xeruel
- > screamed out of pure anger as he sent a blast of pure dark energy down at the 29th Angel's body,

Rick: Dalariel doesn't know it, but he got bumped back down to his old position while they were fighting.

> annihilating it completely as Dalariel was now a dead Angel.

Tsuneo: He died and then died of it.

> "Yvendal... come on... come here and die..." whispered the Dark Angel as the Angel of Holy Flames > exploded in anger,

Rick: Was it a holy flaming explosion?

> rushing out toward Xeruel at tremendous speed, only to meet Satan's sword.

Dan: [Yvendal] Aha! I impale myself on your sword! My plan has succeeded!

> The long blade pierced through Yvendal's chest

Dan [Yvendal]: I too should have thought this plan through in advance!

> as the 22nd Angel's lips parted in a grin, sending out a wave of energy into the rebelling Angel's > body.

Tsuneo: Technically, he's defending rather than rebelling.

> He slowly locked his energy around Yvendal's soul,

Rick: In the same way one chains a bicycle to a rack, no doubt. Rebecca: Why not? It makes more sense than anything else in the fic.

> as he sucked into the Blade of Sins.

Tsuneo: It's your basic, evil, soul-sucking sword. You get them all the time.

> the 30th Angel's body disapearing from existence.

Dan: He's self-cleaning!

> The rest of the Angels, in pure fear,

Rick: You heard him; no dread, no terror, just fear all the way.

- > knelt down before Xeruel as the Dark Angel went to sit down in the center of the
- > main hall, on the Throne of Lilith.

Rebecca: The giant throne made of swords that were melted together by dragons, no doubt.

> He leaned back onto his throne and began to laugh the most evil of all laughs,

Rick [Xeruel]: Mine is an evil laugh.

- > his body glowing in pure black energy, his wings spreading fully as the Angels felt themselves
- > being weakened

Dan: By his amazing body funk.

Rick: His \*pure\* body funk.

Dan: Oh. of course.

> as if Xeruel was destroying the essence of the Palace.

Tsuneo: He's certainly messing up the décor.

Rick: Xeruel's the sort of guy that after he's gone you'll know that the place will never be really clean again.

> The Dark Angel's arms rose as a portal of pure flames opened beneath him,

Rebecca: So what are 'pure' flames burning that results in their 'pure' combustion? Rick: They are fuelled by the tears of orphans.

> Hellfire rising from the deep pits of hell

Dan: The Devil was cleaning out his barbecue pit.

> as the flames begin to fill up the nearly emptied Palace

Rebecca: Paradise still has a heap of Tom's stuff left over from when he last dropped by. It's

cluttering up the place, but nobody really wants to touch it.

> as the "unworthy" Angels were struck by red lightning bolts of energy.

Tsuneo: You know what'd make a nice break from all the lighting?

Rick: What?

Tsuneo: Anything but more lightning.

- > Xeruel laughed as loudly as he could, the remaining Angels in the Palace being absorbed into
- > the portal of Hellfire

Rick: Only to reappear on the other side in the Blasted Lands.

> as they were consumed in the flames of Hell, destined to soon be reborn as Demons.

Rebecca: It's a really screwy kind of theology, but at the same time, no more screwy then anything else in the fic.

- > Xeruel's laugh echoed as the portal grew and grew, pillars of Hellfire forming where each
- > tower of the Palace stood.

Dan: And this is why nobody likes to live next door to a hoarder. Just one spark...

Rebecca: Speaking from experience?

Dan: I was nowhere near there at the time. You can't prove a thing.

- > The Dark Angel's body disapeared as the Angelic Realm was sucked into a
- > portal of pure Hellfire, being annihilated for the rest of eternity.

Rick: Or at least until the next server reset.

> Xeruel reappeared in the middle of what was known as the Universe,

Tsuneo: Sometimes as the material plane and sometimes as the great big sandbox.

> knowing that he was now the Master.

Rebecca: Please, you're no Roger Delgado or Anthony Ainley. You're not even Peter Pratt.

- > His wings fully spread as he leaned
- > his head back, enjoying the feeling of having the Universe at the tip of his fingers.

Dan: Limitless power, limitless knowledge, the sum total of all existence at his fingertips. First thing he's going to do is look for porn.

Rebecca: The internet in a nutshell.

> He crossed his arms over his chest and closed his eyes,

Dan: And danced!

> a black aura envelopping his body quickly as a tornado of power began to twirl around his body.

Rick: Twirling like an existentialist black ballerina of death.

Tsuneo: You need to work on your metaphors.

Rick: I really do.

- > The Dark Angel was showing the extent of his pure power as bolts of
- > pure energy started to surround his tornado of power, the whirlwind suddenly exploding into a pure
- > Field of Darkness, bolts of red energy surrounding his aura as his eyes glew in the deepest of all

> reds.

Rebecca: #010000 then. It's technically red!

- > staring straight into the greatness of the Universe.
- > "Soon I will destroy this all and recreate this dimension in my own demonic way... May this Universe > be the home of Darkness..."

Rick: Xeruel is the ultimate jerk in the ultimate sandbox game. Time for him to go teabag some old grannies or murder prostitutes or something.

> Click here to know if the Universe will survive Xeruel's wrath.

Rebecca: Do we have to?

Voice: Yep.

Rebecca: Damn it.

> The Apocalyptic Battle

> Episode 12 : The Final Fight

Tsuneo: Y'know, with everybody dead and the villain having uncontested control over the whole

universe, there's really not much point reading on, is there?

Rebecca: Was there ever? Tsuneo: No, good point.

> A Last Ray of Hope

> Laying in the middle of space, Tom's Angel Body, still remaining headless,

Dan: Funnily enough, this wasn't Tom's worst morning ever.

> was floating up, glowing in a bright white light.

Rick: Yes, we're all very impressed by your graphic card's bloom. Now turn it down already.

> His beheaded body had remained intact,

Rick: Despite being exploded along with the rest of the galaxy, I assume.

> and his soul had witnessed all that had happened between Xeruel, Steven and Arcane.

Rebecca: His testimony was later used at trial.

> The Blade of Souls was still held in Dyron's right hand

Dan: Stomp on him a few times and he'll let go. You could probably get a couple of bucks for that thing.

> and the 18th Angel's soul remained deep inside his body,

Rick: Setting up a time-share with Tom and The Hitman.

Tsuneo: You know that's all the same... Ah, forget it.

> maintaining the body alive,

Rebecca: So losing his head really didn't make much difference.

Tsuneo: It's improved his looks a great deal.

> as Tom started seeing visions.

Tsuneo: I'd say that Tom should see a doctor about this, but being decapitated and all means he's probably a bit past that point.

> "Da hell is this?"

Rebecca: Twelve chapters in, and we still don't know either.

> Tom was seeing his house when he was still a 5 year old kid. He was witnessing the murder of his

> parents all over again.

Dan: And his uncle. Tom's Uncle?

> "NOOOOOOO!!!!!!"

Rick: Mister Pe and Darth Vader had been out drinking again.

> heard Tom deep inside his head, as he saw his mom being raped by Tyrael, the 21st Angel.

Rebecca: Thanks again, fic. We get that you have issues with women. No need to reiterate the point.

> Dyron tried to get his eyes off of the massacre, but his mind wouldn't let him.

Rick: Tom is the reason why they kept making Saw sequels.

> He witnessed Tyrael snap his mother's neck with his right hand

Tsuneo: As a break from Xeruel killing innocent people, we present a different angel killing innocent

Rick: It's the little details that make all the difference.

> as the 18th Angel now saw his father laying in the corner, holding his chest covered with blood.

Dan: None of it was his. Funny story there.

> Tyrael turned to Dyron's dad

Rick: Does he want NO WITNESSES?

Tsuneo: We can only hope.

> and set his body on fire with a mere fireball,

Rick: The most shameful moment of Tom's life? Seeing his dad die to a low-level spell.

> watching the man burn to ashes.

Rebecca: And then being contested in a game of cricket.

- > The Angel of Mankind then witnessed himself getting
- > his stomach pierced by a long silvery sword.

Tsuneo: Tom saw himself getting stabbed as a prelude to all the subsequent times he got stabbed.

- > All went black in Tom's mind as he saw, in the next scene,
- > himself destroying Lilith with the Lance of Longinus.

Dan: Are we flashing back to Delta Invasion?

Rick: I'm not sure if Delta Invasion is a part of this continuity.

Dan: Then what is? Rick: Bat-Cow.

> Dyron's mind kept showing him events of his life,

Rebecca: The time he passed out drunk on his birthday; the time he passed out drunk on New Years; the time he passed out drunk at Easter; the time he forgot John's birthday but passed out drunk anyway...

> as he saw himself destroy Tyrael with his 3rd Theory

Rick: Barricade survived Chicago!

> "Apocalypse".

> "Why... why am I seeing all this?"

Tsuneo: Because the fic hates us. Rick: That seems fair to me.

> No answer was given to Tom,

Rebecca: Has he tried Googling it?

> as he now witnessed Xeruel, in a city,

Dan: The bleak, post-apocalyptic wasteland of Detroit. Nothing happened to it; it's just always like that.

> destroying the his friend Hiditio Nikaido,

Rick: Who was that again?

Rebecca: His sole defining trait was the way they mocked his hair.

Rick: Oh! That guy!

> in front of Rei's eyes.

Tsuneo: Yeah, no. Rei was at the store when Hiditio got knocked off.

Rick: Really?

Tsuneo: Remember, with the French clerk and the threats of lethal violence?

Rick: [Sighs] Yeah. Good times.

> Dyron screamed as he saw Xeruel piercing Hiditio's heart with the Blade of Sins.

Dan: Stabbed through the heart, and you're to blame...

Tsuneo: That doesn't really work. Dan: Yeah. Kinda crap, actually.

> He saw Matt rush towards Xeruel in his Weapon. Everything went black,

Rebecca: The director felt that leaving the scene unresolved would work better from a dramatic perspective.

- > as in the next scene.
- > Tom saw Matt, lying dead on the floor, a dagger plunged deep into his throat.

Rick: As is the fate of all Matts and/or Yazamas.

- > Everything went black
- > once again, as Tom saw Xeruel, holding Rei by the throat. Dyron screamed,

Dan [Tom]: Hands off my fap-bait!

> as next, he saw himself, getting man handled by the Dark Angel.

Rebecca: Up next, on Touched Inappropriately by an Angel.

> He now witnessed Steven die,

Tsuneo: This happens to him a lot.

> and then Arcane.

Dan: [Tom] Never liked him anyway.

- > Tom's mind
- > was in tremendous speed as one by one, he saw the image of his friends and family's deaths.

Dan: The moral of this story? Don't stand close to Tom.

- > The images went through in his mind one by one several times.
- > "NOOOOOOOOOOO!!!! YOU WILL PAY XERUEL!!!!!!!!"
- > Those words echoed through the whole universe,

Rebecca: Which is mostly empty vacuum, mind you.

Rick: Shh, Tom, you'll wake the Star Giants.

- > as Xeruel turned his head on the planet where he
- > was standing, to see a huge cross of white light. The Dark Angel's blood red eyes widen, as Tom's
- > Angel Body exploded in a cross of light.

Rick: His explosive flatulence was really out of control.

Rebecca: You're going to keep trying to get that one past me, aren't you?

Rick: You might as well give up.

> The cross formed into a huge white sphere suddenly, as the sphere started taking a shape.

Tsuneo: Let me guess, the sphere took the shape of a sphere?

> Even though this was happening about a galaxy away, Xeruel could see the light

Rebecca: Scale! You have no sense of it!

> and was getting pushed back by all of the energy.

Rick: Right now, there are astrophysicists tearing their hair out in frustration at Tom.

> The white sphere was now surrounded by

> huge red lightnings, as the sphere formed into a body.

Tsuneo: Mercifully, not one that was anatomically correct.

> 12 bright white energy wings spread out of the back of the form,

Dan: There was a sale on them, and Tom decided to splash out.

> as a head formed, with 7 blood red glowing eyes.

Rick: It's Cobra Commander! He was once a man!

> The body's color turned to a shade of orange,

Rebecca: The same orange you get on ugly old cracked vinyl chairs.

> as the form lifted its chin up. The body of pure Light of Soul's

Rick: Pure light of soul, made form only freshly squeezed souls. No concentrate, no preservatives.

> lips parted into a grin,

Dan: Its hands on its hips and its pelvis, vigorously thrusting.

> as a huge amount of energy around him exploded into a huge wave of energy,

Tsuneo: The energy exploded into energy Dan: It turned from energy into energy.

> blowing everything up around him.

Rebecca: In this fic the entire universe basically seems to be one gigantic bomb.

> The galaxy surrounding the form was eradicated,

Tsuneo: I assume their plan is to save the universe by destroying it one but at a time? Rebecca: I think it just gives Tom a chance to ramp up his sociopathy a bit.

> as left alone was left this form. It was Tom, who had reached his ultimate form,

Dan: Through the miracles of Digivolving. Somewhere there's a kid with gloves and goggles cheering

him on.

> the Ultimate Absolute Terror.

Rick: He was now Superlative Hyperbole Something Tom Dyron.

> Xeruel's smile disapeared as he recognized his arch-enemy.

Tsuneo [Xeruel]: Hey, it's that guy I've been trying to kill for the last dozen chapters.

> Tom and Xeruel flew towards one another as they stared into each other's eyes.

Rebecca: And then made out.

> "So you have come back..."

Dan: From outer space. Rick: Actually, yes

> "And I'm gon' kick y'ass, XERUEL!!!!"

Rebecca: Unfortunately, resurrection hasn't helped his dialogue.

> Xeruel's eyes were filled with rage

Tsuneo [Bored]: I am filled with rage.

> as he threw his fist towards Tom's face.

Rebecca: I counter your cosmos-shattering resurrection with a punch in the face! Punch!

- > The Dark Angel's left fist was caught in the 18th Angel's right hand,
- > as Dyron started crushing hard. Satan screamed as he felt
- > Tom crushing his hand to bits.

Dan: Oh no! He was holding his favorite Glass unicorn with that hand!

- > "How does it feel to be the weak one, Xeruel?"
- > "You have seen nothing... Dyron..."

Tsuneo: And then he regenerates and strikes back with a bigger attack. Repeat until you hit the arbitrary wordcount.

> Xeruel pulled his fist forcefully out of the 18th Angel's fist

Rebecca: So Tom's into fi-

Tsuneo: No.

- > as the Dark Angel jumped back, staring into
- > Tom's eyes, as a look of fear could be seen on Xeruel's face. The Dark Angel had never felt this
- > before.

Dan: A certain loosening of the bowels.

> but now he knew what the meaning of the word fear meant.

Rick: He read it in a dictionary.

> For the first time in his life, he was scared... scared of DEATH.

Rick: Death and squirrels. But mainly squirrels.

> Xeruel flew back, but suddenly, Tom appeared in front of him and threw his arm

> downwards.

Tsuneo: Using a technique known as "I meant to do that".

> his fist impacting the Dark Angel from face to stomach.

Rick: And... [Glances at Rebecca] And he went... [Glances again]

Rebecca: Can't be bothered. Knock yourself out.

Rick: Aww, now it's no fun.

> The Dark Angel's eyes widen in surprise

Dan: [Xeruel] Wait, he can punch people? No way!

> as his body was sent down towards a planet.

Dan: Down to the filler planet!

> Dyron phased right under Satan, as he flipped backwards,

Tsuneo: I hear that Tom got all his flipping training at McDonalds.

> sending his right foot upwards at Xeruel's back,

Rick: Boot to the head!

> blasting the Dark Angel back up in the sky.

Dan: He paid for the explosive superpower DLC, and he was going to get his money's worth.

> The Angel of Mankind phased right in front of his enemy

Tsuneo: Tom's big secret? He's too lazy to walk.

> as he started sending random kicks and

> punches at him out of pure fury, Xeruel being hit each time as he kept getting knocked backwards.

Rick: Until they fell off the edge of the world. Turns out they were on a genuine flat planet.

> Suddenly, Tom jumped back and dashed forward as he sent his right foot in a jump kick fashion

> straight towards The Dark Angel's chest,

Tsuneo: Back to the fighting game physics, I see. This move works best if you can only move in two dimensions.

> sending him crashing straight towards a planet.

Dan: Same planet as before? Who can tell?

- > As soon as Xeruel got
- > up, he saw Dyron in front of him, with a cross of red flaming energy in his right hand.
- > "How... can this be possible?!?!"

Rebecca: It's his bad internet RP, he makes the rules.

> screamed Xeruel as the A.T. Bomb impacted against his chest,

Rick: Try blocking with your face next time. That might work better.

- > blasting him far back. Once again, Tom appeared in front of his enemy as he started randomly
- > kicking and punching him.

Dan: Tom's like a cat that you've gotten really riled up.

> Xeruel ultimately fell to the ground,

Tsuneo: Eventually.

Rebecca: After a glacial epoch or two.

> blood dripping down his face,

Tsuneo: It's probably some sort of unidentifiable, alien goo. But we'll go with 'blood'.

- > as Tom kneeled
- > down, one knee on Xeruel's stomach and his other knee next to the Dark Angel's side.

Rick: He goes for the pin and... two count!

> He grabbed the top of Xeruel's head,

Dan: [Tom] Secret Technique! Power Noogie!

> and started ramming his fist into the Dark Angel's face as quickly as he could,

Rebecca: I heard that he rammed- [Tsuneo hits her with a cushion] What?

Tsuneo: I figured that could go one of several different ways. That's for all of them.

> causing blood to burst out of his opponent's mouth, lips, nose and forehead in big gobs.

Rick: Xeruel is made entirely out of squibs.

> Xeruel lay there on the floor as Tom jumped back

Dan: Only to land on the trapdoor that Xeruel had installed there for a situation just like this. Clever.

> and summoned the Blade of Souls in his right hand once again.

Rick: In case you had missed it, swords.

> "Die you piece of shit."

Tsuneo: First you pummel the unimaginable horror senseless, then you call it a name?

- > said the 18th Angel as a bright red Light of Mind Barrier formed around his
- > absolute form.

Rick: Hey dude, you're on fire.

Dan: Aaaah!

> The A.T. Field soon turned blood red as Tom held the HitoKage NoDaito

Rebecca: The sword of Fakey Japanese Stuff.

> above his head with both his hands, as the energy around his body started forming a crater.

Tsuneo: Tom's foot-stamping temper tantrums are deadly.

> Dyron suddenly gathered all of his Light of Mind Barrier into the Blade of Souls

Tsuneo: And held the Hilt of Easy Gripping with his Hand of Sword Holding.

> as the sword glew in a deep shade of red.

Rick: It's a 'glew'! There's hope for this fic yet!

> Tom suddenly stabbed downwards at the ground with his sword,

Dan: Sword; You're doing it wrong.

> as the Blade of Souls ran through the ground.

> "6TH THEORY!!

Rick: The Society activated CLARION CALL!

> ALPHA LIGHT!!!"

Dan: Canada's greatest team of expendable heroes

> Xeruel had just gotten up as a huge round circular wave

Rebecca: Was it circular or a wave? Make up your mind, fic!

- > of white light was released all around the 18th
- > Angel's body. The Dark Angel's jaw dropped as his eyes widen,

Rick: And maybe his tongue rolled out like a giant red carpet.

> the 1 mile high wave

Tsuneo: I hear the surfing's great on... whatever planet this is.

Rick: Odds on it won't be for too much longer.

> of white Absolute Terror unleashing upon him.

Dan: Does Absolute Terror come in different colours?

Rick: Yeah, but they're more expensive and, to be honest, a little over-rated. Trust me, the plain white's the best.

- > The wave of holy light ran through the whole planet, making the place a
- > complete desert,

Tsuneo: What about the bits of it that were already desert?

Rick: Well, either they're more desert or this is one of those Star Wars-style monoclimatic worlds. Your choice.

- > as Xeruel was blasted by the energy. When the wave of energy disapeared, nothing
- > was left but Tom standing up with his sword in his right hand.

Rebecca: Desolate wasteland or your average Detroit neighborhood?

Rick: There's a difference?

Tsuneo: That's two Detroit jokes this chapter.

Rebecca: Really? I thought we'd been going for a dozen now. Certainly feels like it.

> He was breathing heavily, but he still had enough energy to stand up.

Dan: But not enough to get his own damned beer from the fridge, the bum.

Tsuneo: Given that his reserves seem to be limitless, I'm wondering how it is that he's showing any signs of exhaustion.

> A grin appeared on his face

Dan: [Tom] Heh, I wasted a planet. It's awesome.

> as he turned around, ready to fly away.

Rick: Only to find that his flight had been delayed, leaving him stranded in the boarding lounge for another hour.

Tsuneo: I hate it when that happens.

Rick: I dunno, I've done some great creative work while waiting.

> Suddenly, a huge black aura raised from the ground behind the 18th Angel.

Dan: It's a gusher!

> Tom suddenly turned around, as his eyes were filled with surprise.

Tsuneo: Oh come on, Tom. After twelve chapters of this crap, how did you not see this coming? Rick: Dull surprise!

> The black aura rose up as a huge pillar with 5 miles of diameter and 20 miles of height,

Rebecca: It makes Tom's mile high wall seem rather inadequate by comparison.

> as huge red lightnings of energy surrounded it. Dyron gulped

Rick [Tom]: I've wasted my life.

> as his Absolute form was blown back by all of the energy.

Dan: Cue Tom waking up in a pile with no pants on.

Tsuneo: I can see how this would result in Looney Tunes-style comedy violence.

Dan: Who was talking about that? I'm just saying that's probably how he looks after his all-nighters.

> The pillar suddenly broke through the ground,

Rick: Take that, Mole Man!

> as the whole planet was split right down the middle,

Rebecca: I'm beginning to suspect that all the planets they've blown up are a couple of miles across each. Maybe less.

> the planet exploding in a loud sound. Tom appeared alive and well,

Dan: He made his save versus planet explosions.

> but where the planet used to be, Xeruel appeared,

Rebecca: Oh look, Xeruel survived more or less unharmed and is smug as a result. Whee.

> surrounded by a huge black field of energy, red lightnings surrounding it.

Tsuneo: Yes, he can make an entrance. But what else can he do?

Rick: Planet Exploding's about the limit of it.

> Dyron knew that Xeruel's power equaled his now.

Rebecca: He took a peek at Xeruel's character sheet while the GM wasn't looking.

> "You have humiliated me.. Lilin...

Dan: [Xeruel] You teabagged me when I was passed-out drunk and posted the pics on Facebook.

> you shall pay for this mistake..."

Tsuneo: Trust me, we're paying for his mistake already.

> whispered Xeruel, as his voice echoed, Tom hearing it clearly.

Dan: From the echoing whisper. In space.

- > The Blade of Sins materialized in the Dark Angel's right hand in a flash
- > of red light as both Angels rose their auras,

Rick: Carefully trimming branches, watering them just the right amount, clearing weeds out from around the roots...

> both fields equaling in power.

Rick: Tom nixed all Xeruel's "infinity plus one" nonsense.

> "You must now feel my wrath... Dyron..."

Rebecca: Angrier than a thousand Harrmione fangirls.

> Suddenly, Xeruel's eyes flared brighter than usual

Dan: How bright are they usually?

Rick: Less bright then that.

Dan: Clearly.

- > as 9 pillars of shadow formed all around Tom's body.
- > "SHIT!!!" screamed Tom as a grin formed on Xeruel's face.

Dan: [Xeruel] Sucker. Always falls for the "9 pillars of shadow" bit.

> Each pillar sent a small beam of energy towards Tom's body

Rick: Obelisk of light spam!

> at exactly the same time at the speed of light, as Dyron was hit by the 9 blasts. He

> screamed in pain as Xeruel screamed "6th Theory...

Rick: Doc Ock will be forced out of Pete's body by Mephisto!

> Pillar of Destruction!!!"

Tsuneo: Don't they need to shout the goofy attack name \*before\* the goofy attack? Rebecca: In a consistent fictional universe, yes. So, no.

> The 9 pillars all glew red as they formed a spiral around Tom,

Dan: Secret attack! Motion sickness!

> the first pillar exploding, making the 2nd one explode

Rebecca: That's what will happen if you don't check the wiring on your pillar of destruction. One shorts out and the next thing you know, the house is on fire.

- > until it reached
- > the 9th, which made a bigger explosion than the 8 previous ones. The mix of the 9 explosions

Rebecca: Produced a surprisingly refreshing taste.

- > formed a huge black flaming cross as Tom was trapped in the very center.
- > "You should have never come back... Lilin..."

Dan: [Tom] Hey, hey, hey, it's the big dark angel everybody's been talking about.

> Xeruel turned around as the cross disapeared, but his eyes were filled with anger as he heard "IT

> AIN'T OVER YOU PIECE OF SHIT!" Tom was holding the Blade of Souls in his right hand,

Tsuneo: How did he get out of that unharmed?

Dan: He has a magic sword.

Tsuneo: That explains nothing and everything at the same time.

- > the hilt of the
- > sword between pushed against his waist, the whole blade facing backwards.

Rick: So Tom's plan is to impale himself. Not the dumbest thing he's done so far, and it's not like anything else has worked.

- > His sword was glowing in
- > a bright red light, as him and Xeruel floated down to a completely deserted planet.

Rebecca: Same one as before or did they blow up a fresh one in the interim?

> Tom's body glew purple and suddenly reached Angel Speed.

Tsuneo: Angel speed is slower than LA gridlock, so... He'll be a while.

> The sound "7TH THEORY!

Rick: Zinyak kidnapped Donnie to learn how to beat the boss!

> BLOOD BATH!!"

Dan: And then they drop the fake blood from the ceiling and it completely misses Tom. Nice going, guys.

> was heard loudly as Tom rushed towards Xeruel at tremendous speed.

Rebecca: Faster than a toy scalper on new case day.

> Dyron slashed upwards at Xeruel's upper body in an uppercut fashion

Rick: I see he found the vertical attack button at last.

> as he jumped at the same time,

Dan: Did a backflip in mid air and landed in a bow. He's such a showoff.

- > Xeruel sent in the air because of the hit's
- > impact. Tom spinned through the air and came back to a steady position,

Rebecca: -landing on a banana peel and ending up on his arse.

> as he gathered a small Chi blast in his left hand,

Tsuneo: Tom in a rare, delicate moment, cradling the young Chi blast before releasing it into the wild.

- > forming a blue sphere of energy. The 18th Angel threw his left hand upwards
- > releasing the blast as it exploded against Xeruel's back, sending the Dark Angel higher up in the air.

Rick [Badly Digitised]: Tiger uppercut!

> As soon as Satan crashed back down,

Dan: Even Lucifer's on the hard stuff in this fic. Can't say I blame him, though.

- > Dyron slashed his sword upwards at his back sending him back in
- > the air once again.

Tsuneo: Great. Tom found the infinite hit juggle combo. We could be here all day.

Rebecca: It feels like that already.

> Blood flowed out of the Dark Angel's back down to Tom's face.

Rick: And all over his nice clean shirt too.

- > Xeruel crashed down
- > to the ground as Dyron plunged his sword deep into his abdominal area.

Rebecca: I suppose that's one way to shed a few inches off his gut.

- > The 18th Angel pulled the
- > sword out of his opponent's stomach as he gathered the Light of his Soul in his left hand, forming a
- > powerful red A.T. Bomb.

Rick: You're the expert here. What does a Red AT bomb mean?

Tsuneo: Come to a full stop and wait for the green.

Rick: Gotcha.

> He released the blast against the ground below the Dark Angel's body

Rebecca: It's usually easier to target the hex with an area of effect attack than anyone in it.

> as the cross exploded sending Xeruel's body high up in the air.

Dan: Weren't they fighting in space?

Rebecca: They probably just bumped into one of those random planets that seems to populate this fic. I'm convinced they're huddled like badly-parked cars.

> Tom's Blade of Souls, still charged up with the Blade Wave,

Tsuneo: Good thing he changed the battery.

- > glew brighter as Tom slashed his sword upwards releasing a thin wave of white
- > energy at Xeruel, his sword losing its glow.

Rick: He should have used a better detergent to keep that shine.

> The wave cut Xeruel straight through the waist splitting his body in 2

Dan: He's half the man he used to be.

> as the Dark Angel screamed in pain. Tom released another A.T. Bomb

Rebecca: Tom's really good at releasing bombs.

> at the lower part of Xeruel's body,

Tsuneo: Xeruel and Darth Maul would have a lot to talk about.

Rick: Like what? Maul says about two lines and both were re-dubbed.

> blowing it up as he slashed his sword downwards at Xeruel's throat as soon as the upper body

> was about to crash.

Rebecca: Fortunately, Xeruel's upper body applied the emergency brake in time, and disaster was averted.

> The HitoKage NoDaito ran through the Dark Angel's neck as his head rolled to the

> floor.

Tsuneo: Wait for it...

> blowing up in a flash of light.

Tsuneo: And there he goes in a suitably Power Rangers-esque manner.

> The beheaded upper body of Xeruel crashed to the floor in a loud noise.

Rebecca: A high, jingling noise for some of reason.

> A pool of blood lay around Tom's body as his whole form was covered in Xeruel's blood, as

> he completed the Blood Bath.

Dan: Did I mention there was blood? There was blood.

Rick: More blood then anything written by a thirteen year old boy trying to be cool.

> But, Dyron's eyes widen as the Dark Angel's body regenerated from the bits

> left of his upper body.

[Tsuneo checks his watch]

Tsuneo: I'm surprised it took him that long to come back.

> Tom spit at the ground in disgust as his eyes filled with anger and desperation.

> The Dark Angel screamed out of pure fury

Rebecca [Xeruel]: That was my best shirt!

> as he charged towards Tom. Xeruel punched at Dyron's stomach,

Rick: And it went BARF! Rebecca: Hopeless...

> but the 18th Angel's knee blocked it,

Tsuneo: Fight choreography by two fall-down drunks.

> as Dyron threw his fist towards the Dark Angel's face.

Rebecca: Ruining thousands of dollars of cosmetic surgery and an upcoming shoot for Cosmo.

> Xeruel suddenly disapeared from sight, as his body reformed behind Dyron.

Rick: In a moment, the fic's going to turn into a Punch and Judy show. I can just tell.

Rebecca: You mean it wasn't already?

Rick: Needs more crocodile first.

- > Tom turned around to be
- > blasted away by a beam of pure black energy. Dyron got up to see Xeruel's black aura being
- > absorbed by the Blade of Sins.

Rebecca: Having failed to fix its financial issues through restructuring, the Blade of Sins took to simply buying other companies to improve growth.

> Tom gulped as Xeruel suddenly slashed upwards, red lightnings of energy striking down upon his

> sword.

Tsuneo: And paragraph!

> "7th Theory...

Rick: Alpha Complex is on post-fall Earth; the Computer is a TITAN!

> DARKNESS SPIRAL!"

Rebecca: Xeruel is the Spiral Nemesis? Well I guess that makes as much sense as everything else.

> The 18th Angel charged towards Xeruel as a desperate attempt to hit him before he could complete > the theory,

Rick: Crash-tackling him at the chalkboard before he could finish writing it out.

> but Dyron's body was suddenly caught in a black tornado of hellish wind.

Dan: Hey Rick? I guess Xeruel did go 'FART' after all.

Rebecca: Stop encouraging him.

> Tom's body started being ripped apart as the Darkness Spiral started floating up,

Rick: Xeruel never properly anchors his Darkness Spirals. He losses more of them that way.

> red bolts of energy striking down at the tornado.

Rick: The tornado... of evil!

> The Angel of Mankind was caught in many of the lightnings

Dan: In case you had missed it, lighting is indeed a thing.

> as his flesh was being ripped apart and his blood was dripping down his body like a red rain.

Rebecca: Better call the paint factory above you, Tom. They've got a leak.

> Once the tornado had floated 5 miles up in the air,

Tsuneo: Let's just assume that Tom has no idea how tornadoes work.

Rick: Seems fair.

> the spiral disapeared as Xeruel appeared above Tom,

Dan: Turns out he was there all along. Who knew?

> his sword raised above his head, grabbing the hilt with both his hands.

Rebecca: And letting the rest of it go.

> A black aura of energy surrounded the blade

Rick: So why are the auras in this fic all so bland? Where are the pink or chartreuse or periwinkle ones?

- > as Xeruel slashed downwards
- > horizontally at Tom's chest, releasing the energy in the Blade of Sins.

Rebecca: The energy still needed to report to its probation officer every week.

- > The 18th Angel crashed down to
- > the floor at tremendous speed as he lay there on his stomach in a huge crater.

Tsuneo: When body-surfing goes horribly, horribly wrong.

> "Time to end this..."

All: We agree.

> whispered Xeruel as he held his sword with one hand above his shoulder,

Dan: Damn, Xeruel! That's some horrible armpit hair you have there.

> and cupped his left hand by his waist.

Rebecca: I think he's about to begin dancing the Flamenco.

> He closed his eyes and started chanting in the most ancient Angelic language.

Tsuneo: Fake-sounding Latin.

> A circle of black hellfire formed around Xeruel's body

Rick: Black flames mean that it's hotter.

Dan: How does that even work? Rick: Black flames, that's it.

> as 5 pillars made a perfect circle around The Dark Angel.

Dan: [Tom] Wait a sec, you had nine pillars last time.

Rick: [Xeruel] Look, I'm tired okay? Five pillars is all I've got.

- > The hellfire made the 5 pillars blow up as they turned into black crosses
- > which suddenly were absorbed into Xeruel's sword.

Tsuneo: Have we seen this attack before? I can't tell.

Rebecca: You see one completely ineffectual ultimate doomsday move, you've seen them all.

Tsuneo: Sadly, this fic gives us grounds to support that claim.

> The Hellfire formed a black aura.

Rick: See, now if it formed teal bunny rabbits, that would be something new.

Tsuneo: I wish. Anything would be a nice change.

- > Dyron suddenly got up
- > to his feet as he gathered all of the Light of his Soul within him. His body started growing bigger and
- > bigger as he

Dan: Binged at the all-you-can-eat buffet.

> turned to a bright white blinding color.

Rebecca: White is not a colour!

Tsuneo: You can't help yourself, can you? You have to be a smart-arse.

- > Dyron put his legs together and threw his right arm
- > to the right and his left arm to the left,

Dan: Good thing, too. It'd be really stupid if it was the other way around.

> as his whole body turned into a bright white cross.

Tsuneo: Symbolism! Is that same thing we've seen six dozen times already!

> Xeruel opened his eyes as they glew in a bright red color,

Rebecca: So he's either a Decepticon or a Vampire.

Rick: He could be Bomb-Burst. He's a Deceptioon who's a Vampire.

Rebecca: I am enriched by this revelation.

- > as the hellfire aura was absorbed in the Blade of Sins.
- > "8th Theory...

Rick: The Peter Cushing Doctor is canon!

> HELLFIRE DEVASTATION!!!!"

Rebecca: Predator UAV Strike!

> screamed Xeruel as he grabbed his sword with both his hands

Dan: His 'sword' huh? Well, if you say so, fic.

> and swinged his sword downwards at Dyron. A huge black beam of hellfire and shadow of soul

Dan: Along with some leftover hadou, and a ripple for good measure.

> was released as The 18th Angel's body that had now turned into a cross was hit.

Tsuneo: So if they've both turned into crosses, how are they swinging their swords?

[Pause]

Tsuneo: Moving right along...

> "8TH THEORY!

Rick: Tyrannosaurus Rex had feathers!

> ABSOLUTE TERROR SELF DESTRUCT!!"

Rebecca: Word salad shouting attack name!

Dan [Shouting]: I make stuff go bang!

> screamed Tom as soon as he was hit.

Tsuneo: And, true to his attack name, blew up.

> Xeruel's blast made the entire planet explode,

Rebecca: Big deal. In this fic I bet I could make a planet explode by poking it with my pinkie.

Dan: I don't trust your robot arm. Rebecca: Fine. My \*real\* pinkie.

Dan: Still don't trust you.

> as Tom's cross body exploded into a huge circular wave of white energy.

Rick: You know, you'd probably do better if you focused all that power on your target rather than letting it fly out everywhere.

> Xeruel screamed out in rage as he was hit by the amazingly powerful blast of energy.

Tsuneo: So amazing that the fic ran out of hyperbole and just gave up.

> The wave ran through 5 galaxies in a row, blowing them up one by one.

Rebecca: So either the wave was on some sort of really broad, zig-zagging path or the shape of the universe and the positions of the galaxies in relation to one another are completely different to what all current theories suggest.

> Suddenly, the energy stopped moving, as it all reformed back in one spot...

Dan: An abandoned outer suburb of Detroit.

> Tom's Absolute Terror Form.

Dan: That would have been my second guess.

> His body disapeared, and then reappeared on a nearby planet,

Tsuneo: Presumably not in one of the five galaxies he just blew up.

Rick: Presumably.

> as he breathed heavily. Dyron looked down to see his body completely red...

Rebecca: He'd stayed out in the sun for far too long.

> covered in his own blood.

Rick: When Tom gets a papercut, he really bleeds.

> The 18th Angel slowly started regenerating as he lifted his chin up,

Dan: [British] Chin up old boy; stiff upper lip, what what.

> to see Xeruel standing about 500 feet away from him, covered in blood as well.

Tsuneo: When hemophiliacs fight, ladies and gentlemen.

> Both Angels fully regenerated as they turned their heads to one another.

Dan: [Tom] Go again?

Rick: [Xeruel] Can't be arsed.

> The Sacred Forbidden Technique:

Dan: Finger up the butthole!

- > Ultimate Annihilation
- > Xeruel and Tom suddenly charged each other as Dyron threw his fist towards Xeruel's face.

Rick: Facepunch!

Dan: Yet another better thing we've referenced in this fic.

> The punch impacted against the Dark Angel's jaw as Satan kneed the 18th Angel to the gut.

Rebecca: Because you requested it, more dirty back-alley brawling.

Tsuneo: I am so fulfilled by this turn of events.

- > Tom writhed in pain
- > but brought his leg up as his foot hit Xeruel's chin. The Dark Angel stumbled backwards as Dyron
- > side kicked him to the stomach.

Rick: Martial Arts chorography by Cobra Kai.

> Tom suddenly attempted a reverse kick to the side of Xeruel's head,

Tsuneo: I bet Tom reverse parks better then he reverse kicks.

Rebecca: And Tom's probably one of those people who manages to take up two spaces, no matter what he does and scrapes the car next to him.

> but his foot was caught as the Dark Angel threw Tom to the floor.

Tsuneo: Actually, this fight reminds me a lot of my amateur martial arts days.

Dan: What, the raw competition and aggressive edge?

Tsuneo: No, talentless kids flailing ineffectually.

> They both breathed heavily as Xeruel attempted to step on Dyron's chest.

Rick: He managed to even screw that up. Some ultimate evil you turned out to be.

- > The Angel of Mankind jumped backwards and up to his feet as 2
- > daggers appeared in each one of his hands.

Dan: You don't want to know where he kept those. Really.

> Tom entered Angel Speed

Rebecca: Only to be pulled over; he was doing Angel Speed in a 40 zone.

- > as he threw the 2 daggers at
- > Xeruel's shoulders. The Dark Angel was too tired to make a good dodge

Dan [Xeruel]: Whatever. Can't be arsed any more.

- > and his 2 shoulders were
- > pierced by the daggers. 2 shurikens then appeared in Tom's hands,

Rick: [Tom] Whoah... Where did these come from?

- > as he sent them flying towards
- > Xeruel by hitting the flat of the stars with his index fingers.

Rebecca: I'm pretty sure shuriken don't work like that.

> The shurikens pierced straight through the Dark Angel's knee caps as he screamed in pain.

Tsuneo: Given that he's survived multiple dismemberments with magic swords, I fail to see what a pair of shuriken is going to achieve.

Rick: Tom needs to use them all up before the end of year budget review.

Tsuneo: I don't think people have shuriken audits.

Dan: You've never fought a ninja consultant, then. They bill you by the shuriken.

Tsuneo: They... you know what? This just got silly.

> Tom snapped his fingers as a long dagger appeared in his right hand,

Rebecca: Tom Dyron is your average player character, in so far as he carries a massive arsenal with him wherever he goes. Probably has a ten-foot pole too.

> charged up with the Light of his Soul.

Rick: He needed to use an adaptor to charge it, however.

> Dyron released it in a quick wrist snap as the dagger pierced straight through Xeruel's throat.

Tsuneo: If it means he can no longer talk, then I'm all for it.

> The Dark Angel stumbled back, laughing even though he was in tremendous pain.

Tsuneo: \*And\* had a dagger in his throat.

- > Dyron grabbed 2 shurikens in each hand and threw the 4 stars straight at
- > Xeruel, as the shurikens formed a circle on the Dark Angel's chest.

Tsuneo: Yeah, four points, a circle... Look, just pretend, okay?

> Satan screamed, but laughed once again as Tom spinned a full circle, a long 3 footed dagger

Tsuneo: At three feet long, it's not a dagger. Just so you know.

> appearing in his right hand, the blade glowing blood red.

Rick: Might want to clean that.

> Tom pulled his right arm back,

Rebecca: Dislocating the shoulder.

> and threw it back forward, as the dagger spinned forward

Rick: Tom Dyron figure with dagger throwing action. Credibility not included.

> and impacted right between the 4 stars, piercing through Xeruel's black heart.

Rebecca: And that's what a pack a day will do to you.

Rick: What, throw a dagger through your heart?

Rebecca: I was talking about leaving it all blackened and stuff but... sure, let's go with that instead.

- > The Dark Angel laughed
- > again as he raised his black aura, sending the daggers and shurikens out of his body.

Dan: Well that achieved... about as much as anything else in this fic, really.

> Tom knew it was a desperate attempt and breathed heavily as Xeruel appeared in front of him,

Rick: [Xeruel] Alright, you know the drill by now.

> and plunged a dagger that Dyron had used in the Angel of Mankind's stomach.

Tsuneo: Return to sender.

- > Tom fell backwards as he pulled the dagger
- > out, and let it drop to the floor. Xeruel summoned the Blade of Sins as he sliced it downwards at
- > Tom's arm, cutting it off right next to the shoulder.

Rick: It landed right next to Ponda Baba's arm.

> Dyron screamed and jumped back, his arm regenerating in a quick second.

Rebecca: Even the fic admits that this is futile.

> The HitoKage NoDaito appeared in Tom's right hand

Tsuneo: The previously severed one. Tom felt a bit stupid about that.

- > as he jumped back once again,
- > spinning the sword in a circle fashion above his head. Xeruel charged him and swinged his sword in
- > an horizontal fashion

Rick: More swinging then Benny Goodman!

- > lunging for Tom's chest, but the Blade of Souls blocked the Devil's sword, as Dyron
- > kicked Xeruel away.

Dan: Booting him to the curb like a mangy stray.

> Tom attempted the Death Slash

Rebecca: "Death Slash", an apt description of every Death Note fanfic ever.

- > as he slashed upwards at Xeruel's head but his
- > sword was blocked. He then swinged downwards at the Dark Angel's stomach

Rick: Is a "swinged" different to a "swung?" Tsuneo: I think they're different levels of failure.

Rick: Got it.

- > as the tip of his sword
- > barely cut Xeruel. Satan jumped over Tom's sword as Dyron tried to slice his knees off,

Rebecca: Just his knees mind you, not the rest of his legs. It's a complicated slice.

> and jumped to the side, diving under Tom's sword that was lunging for his ribs.

Dan: Gotta mash the buttons in the right order or be killed. Then you need to start the whole damned fight all over again.

- > The Blade of Sins blocked the HitoKage NoDaito
- > as Tom tried to stab at The Dark Angel's chest. The Dark Angel jumped back,

Rebecca: It's like a game of really, really spazzy leapfrog.

- > as a
- > sphere of black energy formed in his right hand. Xeruel released the blast at Dyron, but the Blade of
- > Souls deflected it back,

Rick: Pong of the gods!

> as the Dark Angel sidestepped away from the beam which exploded against a mountain.

Tsuneo: I'd forgotten this fic's inexplicable hatred of mountains.

Rebecca: You had?

Tsuneo: Well I tried to. God knows, I tried.

> Suddenly, Tom charged Xeruel at tremendous speed,

Dan: No doubt faster than the plot. Rick: Anything's faster than this plot.

> but the Dark Angel side stepped again

Rebecca: Casual sidesteps are Tom's secret weakness.

> as his sword ran through Dyron's chest and back, piercing straight through his heart.

Rick: And then impaled the guy behind him too. Nice trick!

> Tom spit blood out

> as Xeruel pulled the sword out. He put his left hand over Dyron's chest,

Dan: Secret Deadly Technique! Nipple Cripple!

> and released a huge red beam of energy.

Rebecca: Everything in this fic is a huge beam of energy. It needs some new material.

> The 18th Angel was sent flying towards a mountain as he went straight through it,

Rick: He did discover King Solomon's lost mine along the way, so it was sort of a win-lose situation.

> the

> mountain crumbling as Dyron fell to the floor, his chest covered in blood as well as his stomach.

Tsuneo: His chest was covered by his stomach?

Dan: His beer gut had gotten that big.

> Tom writhed on the floor as Xeruel's body floated up high in the sky,

Rick: Xeruel in the sky with diamonds.

- > soon disapearing from sight as he
- > stopped in the air, having a clear view of the planet Dyron was lying on.

Rick: The lands, the seas, the unfinished zones, the fake terrain, the untextured areas that players weren't meant to get to but tried to anyway...

> "Time to die.. Dyron..."

Dan [Xeruel]: Time to die and come back to life so you can blow me up and I regenerate from it!

> Xeruel closed his eyes as his sword floated up, straight a few feet in front of him. The Dark Angel's

> 10 swings

Rick: Didn't he have less before?

Rebecca: Clearly he stuck a few more on thinking that he'd look more impressive or something.

> spread fully as they started gathering the energy of the stars and planets all around him.

Tsuneo: Given how many he'd blown up so far, he has to be running short.

> The 10 wings were now glowing in a bright red light

Dan: But how can he use the super microwave system when the moon's not out?

> as Xeruel started chanting in the ancient Angelic language,

Rick: Actually he's just reading off the menu at a Thai noodle hut.

> an aura more powerful than he had ever raised forming around him. The aura itself provoked an

> earthquake everywhere throughout the universe,

Rebecca: An earthquake across the entire universe which is, again, mostly empty space.

> as the planet below started being ripped apart.

Dan: That'll happen. Leave a planet standing unsecured for too long and salvagers will move in and rip it apart.

Rebecca: Like you, Dan.

Dan: I prefer to think of myself as an environmentalist. I'm encouraging recycling.

> Tom was being thrown around the whole planet by earthquake and volcanoes

Tsuneo: Okay, I'll give the fic this much, It's ragdoll physics are fantastic.

> as he was too weak to get up and counter attack.

Rick: Tom's new secret defense: lie there and take it.

> A pentagram of red energy formed over Xeruel,

Rebecca: Pfft. You're not going to impress me until you summon an equilateral dodecahedron.

- > a black cross forming at each peak.
- > Red lightnings of energy surrounded Xeruel's aura wildly

Dan: Remember to properly Earth your Xeruel.

> as he cupped his crossed his arms above his head in an X fashion.

Rick: The ref is signaling a foul... looks like there's going to be a penalty kick for the home side.

- > His wings released all the energy they had gathered into the pentagram, as the
- > pentagram's diameter turned to 10 miles. Each peak of the pentagram released a huge beam of
- > energy into the Blade of Sins, as the sword's blade turned to 50 miles of length.

All: Seen it!

- > Xeruel's aura suddenly was absorbed by the sword as the Dark Angel opened his eyes.
- > "9th Theory...

Rick: Kim Jong II was dead all along!

## > DEAD SOULS!!!!!!!!"

Rick: See?!

> Xeruel's body disapeared as the pentagram disapeared,

Dan: Ultimate Attack: Smell You Geeks Later!

- > and the Blade of Sins' blade released a
- > huge wave of black energy which started running throughout the universe.

Rebecca: At this point, you pretty much \*have\* to put on 'Thus Spoke Zarathrustra.'

Rick: I was going for 'Journey of the Sorcerer' myself.

Rebecca: You would.

> The wave annihilated the 15 galaxies around,

Rebecca: Steven's side-trip to save Shinji seems awfully pointless about now.

Tsuneo: Well remember, they did hurtle through empty space for thousands of years. I like to think Shinji lived a long and productive life in the meantime.

> only leaving the planet where Tom was,

Dan: You missed a spot.

- > as the energy reformed into the Blade of Sins,
- > above the planet where Tom was lying on, as the Demonic blade grew even larger and longer now,

Rebecca: Yes, all Xeruel cares about is how big his sword gets.

> for the wave had captured all of the souls in the 15 galaxies.

Tsuneo: Just to put this in perspective, this could potentially account for trillions upon trillions of beings here.

Rebecca: Unless the Fermi Paradox holds true, in which case Xeruel has a big fat nothing.

Tsuneo: Also true.

- > The sword suddenly released a HUGE beam
- > as large as the planet itself downwards at Tom. Dyron got up slowly as he was suddenly hit, the
- > planet offering no resistance as it blew up.

Rick: These modern planets have such terrible workmanship. One hit and they just fold up.

- > The beam exploded into a huge pentagram of hellfire, as the star
- > disapeared 7 minutes later,

Tsuneo: And we'll just have to sit here and wait while it fades, right?

Rick: On the other hand, it's not watching them fight.

Tsuneo: I'll take it.

> leaving nothing but emptiness where the 15 galaxies once stood.

Dan: I guess this is where the cosmic horrors come from, right?

- > Xeruel
- > reappeared as he grabbed the hilt of the Blade of Sins in his right hand, realizing that Tom's body
- > had been completely annihilated.

Rick: Eighty years later they find his skull in the desert and regrow his whole body from that.

Dan: Now you're being stupid.

Rick: You're right. I have no idea what I was thinking.

- > He grinned as he disapeared once again in a cross of black light. He
- > reappeared a few seconds later on the Earth standing proud in the state of California

Rebecca: Less the chunk of it that Xeruel blew up earlier, of course.

- > in the United States.
- > "Time to take over this realm..."

Rick: So Xeruel, what do you want to do tonight?

Dan: The same thing we do every night, Justice. Try to take over the world!

> At the other side of the Universe, what Xeruel didn't know

Rebecca: Little did he know that, as he went about his daily galactic conquest, his death was imminent.

> is that Dyron's Absolute Terror Form was reforming.

Tsuneo: If Xeruel doesn't see this coming, then he's as dumb as a bag of rocks.

> His soul had survived the incredibly powerful blast

Dan: [Axe Cop] I learned something today. I learned that if you want to kill something, you have to kill its soul too.

> as he slowly regenerated, his body perfectly intact.

Rick: Even down to that embarrassing tattoo that he hopes nobody ever spots.

> A grin appeared on Tom's face as a voice echoed in his mind.

Voice: Not me. I claim no responsibility for this fic. I just inflict it upon you.

- > "Steve?!?!?!" Tom
- > thought wildly as he realized that Steven's soul lived... inside of the Blade of Souls.

Rebecca: A relationship that's not legally recongised in any state. Though there's a bill in the Nevada Senate at the moment that might change things.

> "Yes... Tom... Ultimate Annihilation!"

Rick: In which Ultimate Galactus eats Ultimate Marvel Earth.

> "Damn it Steve do you know how dangerous that fucking technique is?"

Rick: [Steve] Does it ultimately annihilate stuff?

Dan: [Tom] Uh, yeah!

> "Don't waste anytime, Dyron, he is destroying the United States right now. Hurry up."

Tsuneo: Not to sound callous or the like, but Xeruel has already destroyed dozens of galaxies and exterminated trillions of beings. At this point, blowing up a chunk of one planet doesn't even rate a mention.

Rick: But it's where Tom keeps all his stuff! That's important, right?

> "..."

Rebecca: Best dialogue so far.

> "It's better to destroy this Universe than letting Xeruel take over..."

Tsuneo: Have we got an informed consensus on that? Is this the decision of the majority of the sentient beings in the universe? Or is this Tom just making decisions for all creation by himself?

> "Lilin... the future of this universe depends on you..."

All: We're screwed.

> "Arcane?!?!" Tom thought again as he realized that Arcane's soul lived inside of the Blade of Souls > too.

Rick: There's all kinds of stuff in here. Old baseball cards, a VCR player, a chewed baseball, Harold Holt...

- > "The Prophecy of the Universe says that the key is in you, Lilin..." spoke Arcane softly.
- > "The Prophecy of the Universe?!" asked Tom briskly.

Tsuneo: The Prophecy of we're just making this up as we go along.

> "Yes, Tom..." nodded Steven in Dyron's mind.

Tsuneo: You remember, the prophecy thing they vaguely alluded to half a dozen chapters back? Dan: Pshaw, this fic can't even remember what it had for breakfast.

- > "Yes Lilin... those are the words told in the Prophecy. 'And the weapons of god will be used to strike
- > against the angel and will cause him little harm, all will fall from the grace of god and the angel will
- > have his way, O' mankind is aloft in the eyes of the creator, for it's destiny will be the very end of
- > creation itself..."

Rebecca: It then goes on to say something about the beast that shouted "I" at the end of the world, the new Jerusalem made of gold and that it was printed on 60% recycled paper.

> "..." Tom remained silent.

Rick: Tom Dyron is Protagonist Guy in every SNES-era JRPG ever!

> "I understand now..." said Steven,

Tsuneo: Feel like explaining it to us?

Rick: Given that it'd likely cause more headaches then it fixes? Probably not.

Tsuneo: Point.

> "Tom... you are mankind...

Rick: And maybe Cactus Jack and Dude Love too.

> the Weapons which are the Eremento-jins

Rick: [Steve] Well, we assume... Heck if you've got any idea what an Eremento-jin is, give us a shout.

> have failed against the Angel Xeruel... you are the only hope left..."

Rebecca: You and a crazy old hermit who lives in the desert.

> "So you finally understood Hikari... Lilin... it is better for this Universe to be destroyed than to be > ruled by thy Dark Angel...

Rebecca: You could at least learn to use fakey Shakespearian English properly.

> victory depends on you... as well as our freedom..."

Tsuneo: And bringing this fic to some sort of a conclusion.

Rick: Let's not rush things. I'm sure we could work out another half-dozen chapters of grunting, brawling, decapitations and regeneration.

> "Use Ultimate Annihilation, Tom... please... the Universe needs it." said Steven.

Dan: In the same way a patient needs an enema, no doubt.

- > "You're right..."
- > The voices inside Tom's head stopped echoing

Rebecca: And stopped telling him that the pigeons in the park were actually CIA spy drones.

- > as his eyes started glowing blood red. He summoned
- > the Blade of Souls as he grabbed it with both his hands and brought his arms way above his head,

Tsuneo: He raised his arms until they reached his hands.

> the Blade of Souls facing up.

Dan: This end up, do not drop. Contents may settle during shipping.

- > Dyron's Light of Mind Barrier raised as a ruby red field of energy, as the Angel
- > of Mankind powered the A.T. Field up

Rick: Furiously mashing the charge button.

> to level 350, the absolute limit.

Rick: Is that in Fahrenheit or Centigrade?

- > The field of red energy turned into
- > a blood red cross around Tom's body as he closed his eyes and started chanting.

Rebecca: I bet he's forgotten the words already and is just making it all up.

- > Dyron summoned the
- > powers of each Angel, one by one, by chanting their names.

Tsuneo: You did this before! Rick: But this is different.

Tsuneo: How so?

Rick: He's doing this because the voices in his head told him to.

- > Lilith appeared above Tom's sword, as
- > Adam and Sachiel appeared down by her side. Then Shamsel and Ramiel appeared above Tom's

> shoulders.

Rick: The angel on his shoulder, and the, uh, other angel on his other shoulder, I guess.

> Gagiel and Israfel then appeared by Tom's biceps

Rebecca: Giving them a quick squeeze. He works out.

> and Sandalfon and Matariel were seen by his chest.

Dan: Those aren't visions of the Angels. They're awkward tattoos that he'd rather forget.

> Sahaquiel and Iruel's spirits glew by his sides

Tsuneo: Tom now has dramatic backlighting.

> and Leliel and Bardiel appeared by his thighs.

Rebecca; I suppose there are worse places they could be. I don't want to think about them, mind you.

> Zeruel and Arael then flashed brightly by Tom's calves, and Armisael appeared below Tom's feet.

Rick: Don't step on me, bro!

> Tabris suddenly appeared right in front of Tom

Rebecca: He was naked. Wasn't the first time either.

> as each of the Angel's images glew bright white.

Rick: Whiter than White Stig after he's washed.

> The 17 Spirits flew into the body of the 18th Angel,

Rick: Along with the strength of ten tigers.

> as all 18 Angels were now one as a body of pure red light.

Dan: In case you'd missed it, Red.

> Tom's A.T. Field is absorbed into his own body,

Rick: Making him suddenly gassy.

Rebecca: Tom's AT field is full of saturated fats.

- > as the absolute form grows bigger and glows
- > incredibly brighter, erupting in light. The Absolute Being then gathered all of his Light of Soul,
- > Earthly Energy(Chi),

Tsuneo: Thank you for that, fic. My life is enriched.

> and Fire

Rick: With a twist of lime.

> into the HitoKage NoDaito as the sword grew to 21 feet of length

Rebecca: That'd be useful if we knew how big Tom was supposed to be by now. For all we know, he could be a cosmic giant by now.

> and glew blood red. Red and blue lightnings were now surrounding Tom as well as his sword.

Tsuneo: I'd be impressed if we hadn't already seen this several dozen times by now.

Rick: It's the dramatic background music that does it.

Tsuneo: There is no music. This is all in text.

Rick: Exactly!

- > The Angel of Mankind kept whispering
- > the Angelic chant to summon the powers of all of the Angels

Rick: The power of the eight sided dice! Rebecca: The power of yaoi doujins!

Tsuneo: The power of being a really big fish!

Dan: The power... to move you.

> as a portal suddenly ripped up above Tom.

Rick: And dropped a weighted test cube on him.

- > The portal of black energy formed high above Dyron as it grew bigger and bigger, the portal
- > connecting to the energy of the 7 heavens.

Rick: That Xeruel already blew up and filled with hellfire and stuff.

Tsuneo: I am sensing a flaw in this plan.

- > The portal suddenly glew in the purest of white lights as a beam of
- > energy suddenly struck down from the 7 heavens, colliding with the Blade of Souls.

Dan: Before spinning out and ending up in a pile on the sidewalk.

> Xeruel was now

> done destroying half of the planet, for he was enjoying destroying the world country by country.

Rebecca: In alphabetical order too.

Tsuneo: Does he only destroy to the border and then move on?

- > But the
- > Dark Angel suddenly turned his head up as the sky turned black and lightnings of energy started
- > striking down upon the ground.

Dan [Xeruel]: Lighting coming from the sky? I've never seen this before!

> His eyes widen as Tom appeared in his Absolute Form in front of him,

Tsuneo: Something so amazing that we're not even going to try and describe it.

- > fully charged up with the Blade of Souls glowing incredibly. The portal leading to the 7 Heavens
- > reappeared above the Earth, its diameter just as big as the planet itself.

Rick: Great. We've fallen into The Ultimate Doom.

> "HOW CAN THIS BE POSSIBLE??" screamed Xeruel feeling the tremendous power coming out of > the incredible form.

Dan: His incredible form was incredible.

- > as Tom's wings spreaded out brightly, the HitoKage NoDaito plunging deep into the
- > Dark Angel's chest, and through his back.

Rick: Spork'd!

- > Tom screamed out the words "SOUL EXTRACTOR!!!" as
- > Xeruel's soul was locked by the Blade of Souls, paralysing the Dark Angel.

Rebecca: Big deal. There are plenty of other evil swords that will do that without all the song and dance.

- > A red flaming cross
- > appeared on Dyron's chest, forehead and at the tip of the Blade of Souls. Tom looked straight into
- > Xeruel's eyes as he screamed out the words.
- > "YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING, LILIN! DON'T DO THIS! NOT THIS TECHNIQUE!"

Dan [Shouting]: What that sound oh no!

> "9TH THEORY!

Rick: Dingoes took Rei I!

> 8TH DIVINE WEAPON!

Rebecca: The sacred pig-poking stick of Jerusalem

- > ULTIMATE ANNIHILATION!" screamed the 18th Angel of
- > Mankind out as him and Xeruel's bodies were now trapped in a blood red cross of Light of Soul.

Dan: Yeah, it looks good and all until you realize that most of the juice in his ultimate attacks goes into the sparkly lights.

> The Trumpets of Doom from the Ode of Joy were heard playing from the heavens

Tsuneo: Actually, that was the Goodyear Blimp. It was just passing by.

- > as the portal suddenly
- > exploded into a huge beam of energy striking down upon Tom and Xeruel as the cross exploded,
- > the beam blowing up the planet earth

Dan: I suppose you saved it from Xeruel in a very roundabout kind of a way.

> as the energy of the 7 Heavens, or the true power of the 18 Angels,

Rick: Or the power of love.

> concentrated itself into the HitoKage NoDaito

Rebecca: No matter how many times I see it, that never stops looking stupid.

> as the blade suddenly grew to miles of length,

Rebecca: Tom can say, once and for all with every confidence that no being in the universe will ever be able to say otherwise, that his is bigger.

- > piercing
- > through Xeruel's form suddenly as they were now both trapped in a sphere of pure white light.

Rick: EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

- > Tom
- > grinned as the energy trapped in the Blade of Souls as well as all of the souls gathered in it were > released,

Dan: Free the Angel Eighteen!

> the Absolute Being Dyron had become exploded

Rick: For: You become the ultimate being in all creation. Against: You explode.

> as the energy of the 18 Angels was released throughout the Universe.

Tsuneo: In short, cosmic happened.

> The energy flew in a circle around Xeruel, forming a circle of light around the Dark Angel,

Rick: All these crosses and now a halo. You think they're trying to say something? Dan: That Tom is an pretty cool guy. He fights teh angels and doesn't afraid of anything.

- > the Blade of Souls still plunged through his chest, as the energy ran throughout the
- > Universe faster than the speed of light.

Rebecca: You'd hope so, otherwise it would take forever to get anywhere.

> The white energy ran throughout the whole Universe, destroying

> every single living thing

Tsuneo: Well, you did mention the Fermi Paradox earlier.

Rebecca: It's kind of redundant now.

> as it captured all of the souls of the living,

Dan: "Saving" the universe, huh?

Rick: I dunno, it could be keeping them safe... Like a really Bronze Age version of the Rapture.

> lightning bolts of energy striking down

> upon the planets, as volcanoes rose up, the earth shook and the water level rose.

Rick: And Barry Allen ran back in time to set things right.

> The Universe was captured in a horrible natural disaster

Tsuneo: Actually, it's more of a supernatural disaster, what with Tom being an angel and all.

- > as all of the planets were consumed in the Holy Light which was
- > burning like the true Pits of Hell.

Dan: Burning, but in a good way. Rick: I don't think there is a good way.

- > The energy sucked the Soul of the Universe into it as it became the
- > Absolute Power.

Dan: [Tom] Time for a quick He-Man shout-out? Rick: I'm sure he would if he hadn't exploded.

- > The essence of the Universe was now gathered inside the energy, as the wave
- > now surrounded Xeruel, the HitoKage NoDaito glowing brighter than ever now.

Rebecca: He'd just put in a new bulb. Tsuneo: I hope it was an energy-saver.

> The Dark Angel screamed out of pure rage, pain and fury as all of the energy of the Universe,

Rebecca: You mean the latent energies of the Big Bang, again coalesced into a single point of superheated, super-dense matter that contained all that ever was and will be? Dan: Like that, but without the big words.

- > the 18 Angels and all of the souls
- > were unleashed upon him in a huge devastating wave.

Rick: Like being in a lift full of fat guys who just went to the burrito bar.

- > The Soul of the Universe, made of the energy of
- > the 7 Heavens and 18th Angel gathered, screamed out as Tom, who had now taken control over the
- > energy, unleashed himself upon the Dark Angel.

Tsuneo: He punched Xeruel.

Rick: Was it the strongest punch in history?

Tsuneo: Given that space and time no longer have any meaning, I think that it's safe to say 'yes'.

> Dyron had become one with the energy...

Rebecca: You too are a child of the universe, no less than the trees.

Dan: Peace out my cosmic warrior bro.

- > he was the
- > Soul of the Universe. Xeruel's body was crushed by the energy from all sides, as his blood started
- > flowing like rivers, his eyes widen and nearly popped out as his veins started bursting out of his
- > bodv.

Rick: Given that he's being crushed by the entire cosmos, I'd imagine that he'd be pretty flat already.

- > His core exploded in a pool of blood as his body was completely annihilating. Xeruel's body fully
- > disapeared as his core released his soul,

Tsuneo: A week before the street date too. There was going to be hell to pay at the distributors.

- > the soul suddenly consumed in the pure energy as Soul of the
- > Universe exploded filling up the emptiness which was formerly known as the Universe.

Rick: The Sum Total Of Existence formerly known as the Universe.

> The energy slowly dissipated and all links with the 7 Heavens were gone.

Rebecca: Presumably because they no longer existed.

- > The energy of the 18 Angels had been
- > fully used, and the Soul of the Living had been destroyed, consumed by the Blade of Souls. All that
- > was left now of the Universe was the HitoKage NoDaito floating alone in the very middle, emptied of
- > all that was ever captured in it. All the souls had been annihilated now, and a whole generation of
- > life had been erased. The Universe was dead as we know it.

Tsuneo: And the fic was, at last, over.

- > Tom has used the Ultimate Annihilation, and Xeruel has been defeated. But unfortunately, the
- > Universe is gone. Has Tom truely won this battle... or did humanity completely lose this bout?

Tsuneo: Damn it!

The big screen turned off, returning the world to prose format. "Forget what I said last chapter," Tsuneo grumbled. "There really is no point in continuing this."

"And yet, there's still more to go," The Voice replied with more than a hint of smugness.

"Fantastic," Rebecca muttered. "At least we can hope for one thing."

"That it doesn't have any more of Steve?" Dan asked, more than a little hopeful.

"You know it." Rick nodded. "I mean... yeah, Steve. Seriously, what's with that guy? He's supposed to be almost as powerful as Tom and mankind's most powerful warrior and the Eremento-Jin of... I dunno, life,

the universe and everything for whatever the hell that actually is."

"And yet, all he ever does is get beaten up and fail miserably at everything he tries," Tsuneo countered. "His net accomplishment in the fic is to be inferior to Tom in every way."

"It makes me really wonder what his role in RP that this was based on actually was," Rebecca speculated. "So far, all I can think of is two things. The first is that he stood around while Tom spanked off in text, and the second is that the editing was very, very unkind to him in the transition from posts to prose."

"Thanks for that." Tsuneo shuddered.

"Yeah, he's like all the ineptitude of John Barren but without the nonsense background, variable number of siblings and, of course, everyone saying that he's special," Dan agreed. "Because he's not. He's UnSpecial"

"John without the charm," Rebecca considered. "That's got to be negative charm territory. An inverse of charm. The square root of minus charm."

"But then, here's the big question that comes from that," Rick spoke up. "Could Steve's ineptitude be our 'thing' for this fic?"

"Hmmm..." Tsuneo considered. "A part of me says that it could be, but there's one big problem with that." He shook his head. "And that is that Steve's an utter arse."

"Very true," Rebecca agreed. "The fic seems to go out of its way to make him as unlikeable as possible while trying to play up his 'tough guy' image. Instead, he comes over as a wangsty horndog who lusts after under-aged girls and rewards his wife/fiancée/whatever's loyalty by banging the first girl he comes across."

"Yeah. Guy's a jerk, and I should know." Dan nodded.

"No comment." Rebecca smirked.

"So Voice, we hate the fic," Rick said. "Can we go now?"

"For today, sure," The Voice replied. "I'll see you all later where, if you're very lucky, I'll have more of the Apocalyptic Battle to share with you."

"And if we're really lucky, rocks will fall and kill us all," Tsuneo finished as he stood. "All we have left is to speculate what the hell the next part is about."

"I predict that Steve will be an arse," Rebecca replied as she joined him. "Because even the annihilation of the entire cosmos, along with all that was and all that will be could not stop that level of arsery."

"Yep, after that, I've got nothing," Rick concluded. "Steven is an arse that goes beyond the boundaries of time and space." He stood and glanced around. "There never can be a greater level of arse. He is the sum total of all arse in existence."

"Quit it with the big words and just get out of here already," Dan shouted.

"... like that plan more." Tsuneo nodded as the four of them filed out.

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## Author's notes:

Much like Delta Invasion's imaginary word and/or chapter count, The Apocalyptic Battle seems to have been written with some pre-set size in mind but no idea how to get there. The result has been that the last five (or more. They're all a blur) chapters have pretty much consisted of the fic doing nothing but going in circles.

Either that or Tom and Steve are determined to emulate Dragonball Z as far as prose will allow it.

Evangelion created by Gainax

The Apocalyptic Battle created by Tom "Dyron" Chale, Steven Swain and Matthew King

Rebecca Bartley and Rick R. Mortis created by Rick R. (natch) Tsuneo Tateao and Dan created by Zogster

Questions? Comments? Complaints? Lighting of various colours? Email us at elmerstudios00 (at) gmail.com and register your Jeff.

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> the Absolute Being Dyron had become exploded