

Calron Metal Mentor Initiation:

Spride accompanies Calron to help translate

"It'll be okay, Calron," the little CCCat known as Spride smiled reassuringly at their friend, "Don't be nervous." Meanwhile, the Crook at their side was wringing his hands in worry despite the helpful words.

"Come in," a deep voice called out from inside the cracked door the pair were standing outside of. Calron gulped and looked at Spride who smiled up before taking the first few steps in. The Crook followed right behind. The two came to stand inside a large warehouse/workshop sort of hybrid, where at the center stood a very decorated CCCat hunched over a bench with their back towards the pair. His long red and brown hair was tied up and put together with multiple bands and trailed down his back. His backside was adorned with a half gear underneath the CCCat's long hair that attached at the shoulder blades. His back glistened in the lights which hung from the ceiling in rows. The notable absence of a coat of fur on the CCCat caused Calron to shiver.

At the sound of others approaching, the CCCat, Roxwell, cocked his head before setting down the contraption he had been working on and turning fully, "Greetings. How can I help you?" Spride looked up at Calron expectantly and he gulped before waving his hands to sign to the mentor. "*Hello, my name is Calron, and I was wondering if you could teach me metal magic.*" The mentor stared in confusion and almost looked offended for a moment, before Spride chimed in, "He said, 'hello my name is Calron, and I was wondering if you could teach me metal magic'."

Roxwell stared in confusion at the little CCCat before asking, "And you are..?"

"My name is Spride," The little CCCat chirped happily, "I'm Calron's friend and am just here to interpret for him. He doesn't speak."

"Ah..." The mentor mused, putting a hand to his chin and rubbing it in thought, which caused a small scraping sound to ring out. "You said your name was Calron, yes?" He asked the Crook who stood taller than him but still felt very afraid and small. Calron nodded and signed back 'yes,' which Spride confirmed.

"And you wish to learn metal magic?" He asked which resulted in another yes from Calron. "Have you learned earth magic already?" Roxwell asked almost condescendingly. Likely due to coming across many who wanted to learn metal magic but didn't know the prerequisites.

"Yes," Calron nodded and signed back, "*I learned from Birathan.*" Spride echoed aloud.

"Birathan, ey?" Roxwell nodded in thought and his lips quivered up in a small smile. "Come with me then," Roxwell said after straightening, "I must make sure you are ready then." He continued with a wave of his hand before walking to one side of the workshop. Calron looked down at his friend with blatant fear in his eyes. Spride placed a reassuring hand on Calron's forearm before the two followed the mentor.

Roxwell led them to a door which he pushed open to reveal a fenced in lot outside. It was littered with various chunks and types of earth, crystals, and metals. There seemed to be multiple sections of the yard with some places paved in cement or metal while others showed dirt and trampled grass. The metal mentor came to stand at the edge of a dusty clearing with rocks of various sizes littered about. With a sweep of his tail he turned back to Calron. "Show me what you know, lift the rocks within this area." The mentor commanded.

Calron looked at Spripe who nodded and stepped back, and Calron moved into the middle of the clearing. He took a deep breath before influencing the weave to lift all of the rocks (big and small) that he could see within a circle. "Impressive..." Roxwell mused quietly from the side, "And set them down please," Calron commanded the rocks to all gently touch the ground at the same time. The mentor nodded with a look of slight surprise.

"Well done, but show me how you can change the earth." He gently commanded Calron again. The Crook nodded before instinctively taking a small step that caused cracks to suddenly break through the earth around him with a crack, radiating from the foot he moved. With another breath he lifted his hands as he commanded the earth at the end of the cracks to raise up and form folded barriers about a foot high.

Roxwell nodded, "Excellent... Are you able to return the earth to its former state?" He asked with a cock of his head. Calron hesitated for a minute before closing his eyes, and at the same time as himself, influenced the ground to relax back into its previous state. Calron opened his eyes to see Roxwell smiling and nodding as he looked at the ground.

"Most impressive..." He mused to himself with a small chuckle. "Not only could you influence many pieces of earth as well as quite heavy ones with measured control, and a surprising gentleness, but you were also able to revert destruction. I am thoroughly impressed, Calron." He smiled with a surprising warmth at the Crook that made him smile shyly. He signed a quick thank you which Spripe translated aloud while Roxwell examined the earth around Calron, sweeping his tail back and forth and stepping carefully between spots while he mumbled to himself.

"Not perfect... still some small cracks and lesions, but otherwise sturdy..." He walked a few paces before coming to stand in front of the Crook. "Well," he started, "Who am I to turn away a promising student." He smiled at Calron who beamed back proudly.

"You've still got things to learn, but you exceeded my expectations" Roxwell continued with a nod, "You wish to learn metal magic, yes?" He asked Calron who quickly signed a slightly stammered, "Yes please!" Which Spripe, who had stepped closer, giggled and translated.

"Very well, Calron. I will teach you the ways of metal magic." The mentor stood proudly with a smile to his new student whose mouth fell open with glee. His CCCat

friend hopped beside him with a squeal and excitedly signed, "*I told you you could do it!*" which made Calron blush lightly.

The mentor turned around so his back was facing the pair, "However," he stated which caused the two Skireans to freeze. "I will require you to teach me some of this sign language you use to communicate with." He said with a grin as he turned his head to look at the two out of the corner of his eye teasingly.

Calron smiled in relief and excitement and signed, "Yes *sir*," which made the mentor nod in understanding as the three quietly celebrated to themselves.