

Relevant Rules:

Teamlocke'd [No Switching Pokemon unless replacing a dead 'mon]

If Arceus dies, game over

Male Pokemon Only [Legendaries I consider Masculine are also allowed] + Evo Line Dupes

1 Gift per Area + Pinwheel Clause

Nickname Theme: Start with M

Run ends at Alder Battle [I never do Unova Postgame, so that'll be pretty blind]

Randomization:

Random Abilities/Held Items/TMs

Random Trainers (Type-themed)

Random Wild 'mons (Area 1-to-1)

(This was originally just to test Area 1-to-1, but I started thinking of the story)

### **(Bold+Paragraphs = Author's Notes)**

The old Arceus is close to dying and he needs to decide which of his three children will rise to his rank next. It becomes a tournament between the three in which they must each make a contract with a new trainer and help them along their adventure as a starter.

The first two Arceus easily find trainers to bond with, but the third and youngest is terrible at socializing, especially with humans. Risking being disqualified, Monolith swaps the souls of a frog and a human and pretends the human is his chosen human. The resulting 'trainer' is referred to as Ribbit and Monolith speaks for him, saying that the 'human' has an unfortunate disorder. Ribbit is allowed to be his human and they continue onwards, with Monolith controlling Ribbit's movements with some form of telekinesis.

Monolith had a large collection of berries that he brought along with him, leaving them in the bag that he forced Ribbit to hold. They were mostly used up in his favorite move, Natural Gift, though he shared them with his followers often to help with type disadvantages.

The first Pokemon follower found was Markus, a Bisharp that easily plead his allegiance to Monolith, but was found to have the unfortunate ability of Truant, which acted similar to Narcolepsy in the Steel-type. Despite this unfortunate disorder, Markus was the most loyal to Monolith, constantly singing his praises.

It was when the two Pokemon and Ribbit came to Accumula Town that they found that there was a group of people against this 'tournament', Team Plasma. Instead *they* wanted to have a chosen person. It wasn't long before Monolith met the person that the group had chosen, N. N sees right through Monolith's body-swapping magic however and is disgusted with the Arceus, threatening to disqualify Monolith, but Markus fights him off and Monolith reports N to his kind sister and her human, Bianca, saying that the group wants to destroy the tournament instead. They believe him and he heads towards the first checkpoint of the tournament.

Along the way, a courageous warrior Luxio named Merky joined them. Merky had trained to heal himself with electricity (**Mega Drain from a TM later, actually**), becoming quite useful to the cause. The next Pokemon to join Monolith's team was an abandoned Snorunt named Maximus who had been cursed by a Jynx as a babe so that he would never have his own personality. He could only be other people and never himself, the curse of Imposter.

### **#13 (Cress) - Sandile Lv12, Deino Lv14**

Monolith took sympathy on Maximus and healed the Snorunt's curse and gave him Shield Dust, the other ability of his species. With that, the Snorunt quickly became the best member of the team and destroyed Cress' team with his strong Icy Wind. Monolith helped with Seismic Toss too, and they moved on, helping one of the regional professors in a sidequest. Markus had to learn Cut, but they continued to the Dreamyard and defeated some Team Plasma grunts that were harming an innocent Munna for some reason.

There they found a Shy Ducklett that seemed to spread a Stench everywhere he went. Monolith didn't want the Ducklett, Miller, to join them at first (**bc Maximus and him are both Dreamyard**), but after Markus pointed out that Monolith had garnered many unconventional Pokemon Monolith realized he should let Miller join. The Arceus helped Miller to control his Stench so it wouldn't spread as easily, instead the scent stuck to him more and spread when he was scared, similar to a skunk/Stuntank.

The group moved on to Route 3 where Cheren and Monolith's jerk of an older brother fought them, though they were sidetracked by his sister and Bianca who had seen Plasma steal a Pokemon from a girl. The girls were worried that the group planned on sacrificing the Pokemon to communicate with their elderly father, so Monolith and his brother headed towards Wellspring Cave to stop them from disturbing their father (and possibly telling on Monolith).

On the way Monolith encountered a Salesman Quagsire that was selling TMs, who acted similar to Quagsire from PMD:GoI, having a strong sense of justice which was shown by the ability Justified. After an amount of convincing, Million the Quagsire joined them with his TMs and the team became stronger. Vacuum Wave and Drain Punch were spread through the team. Merky got Mega Drain from the TMs and Million had already learned Psywave to deal with his stronger clients. Miller and Million even learned Brine, a move Miller began to use on himself quite a few times a day in hopes of lowering his Stench. It was definitely a turning point for Monolith's team and he didn't realize that Ribbit seemed to be changing somewhat.

As Monolith raced towards the cave, Ribbit began to follow Monolith as best he could now, probably recognizing Monolith as a leader of some sorts. As they entered Wellspring Cave, they encountered an Ekans named Magnus with a superiority complex and a fondness for drinking rain water (**Rain Dish**) before they beat down the Team Plasma members. Monolith seemed to get some respect from his brother during the battle, but Monolith didn't want to risk

staying any longer and he headed to the next city, Nacrene. There he encountered N once again, who called him disgusting again, noting how he had manipulated his team members instead of leaving them as is. "A true God would recognize the strengths of a Snorunt with Imposter and would be able to plan around it." N said.

Monolith tried to explain that Maximus had been unhappy with Imposter, but N despised him too much and they fought. N lost and he decided that he would have to call upon the Unovan Legendaries to help him defeat "this Lying God". Markus suggested training before fighting with Lenora, the next judge of tournament and they headed towards Pinwheel Forest and found a Vibrava that seemed to have suction cups all over. The Vibrava, Madigan, explained that this had been an unfortunate defect for his species when Monolith's father had taken place as God and had randomized some points of the world, something that shocked Monolith, who hadn't known that his father had changed anything. Nonetheless, Madigan joined when Monolith promised to put everything back the way it had been before.

### **#21 (Lenora) - Combusken Lv18, Gurdurr Lv20**

The fight with Lenora turned out to be an easy one for Miller and Million. Lenora had trained Fighting-types for the tournament and they were easily taken down by the chosen two.

Team Plasma stole from the Judge's museum and Monolith joined the search in fighting them, joining up with the next Judge, Burgh from Castelia. Monolith had to fight his way through the depths of the forest and even encountered a new Pokemon along the way, Mixious the Hitmontop, who loved to make Pokepuffs, though it was hard to do so while he was spinning, his other, more natural favorite thing to do. Monolith promised to help him with that predicament as long as he joined them. Mixious agreed and Maximus found out that the Hitmontop also had Shield Dust as well and they seemed to become friends somewhat, though Mixious would have to stay behind (**because Teamlocke'd**).

Monolith continued on to defeat Team Plasma once more, this time without the help of his siblings, and continued to Castelia City, exploring the vast city and collecting many new items, as well as finding a new Pokemon follower in the desert to the north, a Masquerain named Matthew who was especially pointy due to Iron Barbs. Matthew easily went with Monolith in hopes to get the Arceus to bring back his dead girlfriend back to life when Monolith becomes God.

**(And this is when I decided to write it down, so expect more detailed story bits below)**

After that Monolith encountered his brother and Burgh talking outside Castelia Gym. Burgh explains to Monolith that there are two Team Plasma attacks, mentioning their two locations, which got Monolith excited. 'Yes! If I get Victini on my side, there's no way I could lose this tournament!' Monolith thought, running off to go sneak onto the boat to Liberty Garden, planning

to defeat the Plasma group there. **(I used the Liberty Garden Event file that came with BlazeBlack/VoltWhite to get there.)**

There were plenty of fights against grunts, but once he reached the inner chamber he stopped. Instead of finding the Spirit of Victory there like he had expected, the Leader of the Tao Trio was squished inside of the small room that clearly wasn't sized for him and he was covered in Suction Cups similar to Madigan. "A child Arceus? What are you doing here?" Kyurem bellowed, scaring all of Monolith's followers except for Merky and Million, who stood strong.

"Ah, K-Kyurem. I would ask the same thing. I expected Victini to be here. This *is* his room, is it not?" Monolith asked, trying to put authority into his voice.

Kyurem laughed and explained that his father had suggested the Legendaries switch locations so it was harder for trainers to capture them. Monolith asks Kyurem to join them, but the Legendary refuses and Ribbit, to Monolith's surprise, starts throwing various Pokeballs at the Legendary to try and help Monolith, though many of the throws fail. Kyurem becomes enraged and reared up for a deadly attack on Ribbit. Monolith runs in front of the pathetic frog-brained human he created and pulled out a Quick Ball, throwing it at the Kyurem, somehow capturing the icy dragon. A Stone Plate fell from Kyurem's hands when he was captured and Monolith quickly picked it up, slotting it into his decorative hoop. **(Yeah, uhm, I always imagine Arceus' hoops as smaller with four or so slots that can fit plates. Then I see the official art and get disappointed.)**

"Th-the first plate..." he panted for a moment as his body changed colors before Ribbit moved to touch the power-crazed Arceus. **(He just holds berries ingame, btw.)**

**(Secret Goal START!: Obtain all Plates to get Monolith at Max Power Level!)**

Monolith cleared his throat and looked at the 'human'. "Ah, uhm, right. Ribbit, explain," Monolith ordered the frog.

After a short talk with Ribbit, who still had next to no linguistic skills, Monolith realized that the frog was beginning to gain some human intelligence. He was glad to learn that Ribbit didn't hate him at all and was loyal to him, thinking of the change of body as a blessing. Now relieved, Monolith turned to the Quick Ball on the ground and picked it up, inputting the name Mythical on the Pokedex before leaving the room and being stopped by the Professor Juniper as police took away the grunts. She explains the story of Kyurem, something Monolith already knew somewhat, but mentions that Kyurem's child-eating habit may have led him to eating some city citizens and she warns him to keep an eye on Kyurem before getting him on the boat back to Castelia.

Monolith went back to Burgh after that, finding out that his sister had a follower kidnapped by Team Plasma. Monolith didn't like seeing his sister sad, so he decided to help. Iris, one of the

two Judges of Opelucid, was visiting and decided to protect Bianca and her Arceus as the boys went out to search for Plasma. In an odd twist, it seemed Team Plasma owned a building right across from the gym and after a short battle, Sister's Munna follower was let go by their leader, who seemed intimidated that two Arceus were in the city at once.

## **#22 (Burgh) - Drowzee Lv21, Unown Lv21, Slowking Lv23**

After that Monolith headed to Burgh's Psychic-themed gym. Maximus crit-killed Burgh's Drowzee in one Bite and Merky came out for Burgh's Slowking, setting up a Charge, which got disabled. Electro Ball hit hard and Merky went for a Bite, getting hit down to 25/69HP himself. He went for Mega Drain with his Big Root next, but Slowking got healed, so Monolith ordered another Electro Ball and Merky got hit down to 12HP with the Disable wearing off. Using Lemonade on Merky, Slowking used Headbutt and Merky set up Charge, getting it Disabled again, but Electro Ball killed the Slowking this time. Last up was Burgh's Unown which was OHKO'd by Monolith's Signal Beam, learned via Million's TMs.

On their way back to the desert, Bianca and Monolith's Sister called to have a rival battle and Monolith agrees. The battle starts off with a Braviary that Maximus, who was still up front, easily dealt with before his Sister decided to step in. Monolith continued the tournament rules where only Arceus can fight with each other and he started with a hard-hitting Vacuum Wave, another one of Million's TMs, while Sister set up Gravity. Monolith plans to finish in the next hit, but Vacuum Wave doesn't as much, though his Sister only did ~10 damage to him. Bianca healed Sister after that, but not to full, and Monolith went with Signal Beam the next two turns while Sister stuck to Earth Power. Another heal and Monolith hit with another crit Vacuum Wave and a normal-damage one to finish his sister, gaining a level.

Next was a Doduo, commonly known to have Trapping Abilities, so Merky went out and OHKO'd it with Electro Ball. A Ditto was next and Merky, who had fought a Ditto owned by a dancer earlier decided to switch out with Markus, who had Bug Buzz from Million's TMs and would certainly be able to kill his own kind. First he set up Torment, which set off his Narcolepsy next turn, but the Ditto used Torment as well, annoying Monolith. The Ditto and Markus began to exchange moves back and forth, none of them able to attack in the same turn due to the offset of Truant. Markus finally finished the Ditto off with Metal Claw and the battle was done.

"I probably should've stepped in. Apologies, Markus," Monolith said as he shook the Bisharp awake.

"No, it's nothing, Lord Monolith! He was way under my level anyway!" Markus assured the Arceus while Sister seemed to mope in the corner.

"Maybe I'm not cut out for this tournament..." she sighed as Bianca comforted her.

"Sister, I'm sorry for that. I wish you luck in the rest," he encouraged her.

Sister nodded. "I know you do, Monolith. I wish you luck as well. I'm just not sure that I'm as strong as you two. Who would've thought that I'd be calling *you* stronger than me, right? I guess you've surpassed your older sister," she smiled, standing up, clearly quite a bit taller than Monolith.

After speaking a bit longer, Sister left the gate to heal and Monolith and his followers headed into the desert where his brother and Cheren also challenged him to a battle. First up was a Petilil that made Maximus fall to sleep. Monolith shoved a recently-gotten Castelia Cone in Maximus' face, but he was put to sleep again. A Full Heal and he managed to hit her hard with a Headbutt before being put to sleep again. Then she used Synthesis. Full Restore and then she healed again. Then *finally* Avalanche was used and she fainted!

Next up was a Sawsbuck that Miller dealt with easily despite being seeded and getting hit hard with Take Down. Then Monolith's brother, who was easily dealt with in a few Vacuum Wave hits, gaining Monolith another level. Lastly was Turtwig who fell easily to Markus' Bug Buzz.

Cheren and his brother both looked furious that they had lost, but Cheren seemed to point out something and Brother left, swearing that he would beat Monolith someday, but they were interrupted by a call from Professor Juniper who said she had something for them at the next town.

Monolith didn't go straight to the next town, though, instead heading deeper into the desert so he could get two new followers. Million's Justified Ability gets activated for the first time against a Croagunk on the way there.

In the exterior of the Desert Resort a Porygon wanders up to Monolith and asks to join him similar to how Markus had, but Marcel the Porygon acted a bit unsettling with his Naughty nature and Keen Eyes. Secretly the Porygon is up to something and is working for N. **(I'm really not sure why I accepted this encounter...)**

Million helps the gang through the desert, mentioning that he knew some guys that used to live there. After getting all of the items and defeating all the nearby trainers all without incident **(and by incident I mean crashes because those frequently happen here, so I used warps often)**, Monolith and gang ran to the shelter of Relic Castle, all complaining about the sandstorm except for Million and Markus, the immune ones.

As they look for a suitable follower, they're attacked by a Psychic with a *giant* Rapidash. **(Note: I wrote this before Alphas. I coulda made an Alpha Pokemon joke here...)** Merky jumps to attack it, but keeps getting stomped down while Monolith keeps throwing him vials of healing items. Eventually the Rapidash goes down and Merky is left weak.

“Take a break, Merky. We can deal with the others,” Miller told the Warrior Luxio, who raged at the idea.

“No, I’m Monolith’s Warrior! I can’t stop fighting!” the Luxio countered even though he had burn marks from the fight and Monolith looked concerned.

Monolith stepped in after a moment of hesitation. “Merky, stand down! No shouting at your allies! I don’t want to lose you before you reach your final form,” Monolith shouted, ordering Million to make sure the Luxio didn’t jump into battle. Because Million is basically the PMD:Gol Quagsire, he intimidates Merky into staying beside him.

A Timid Sewaddle called Mimic comes up to them after the battle, clearly having been too scared of the Rapidash to talk to them earlier. He joins Monolith’s followers in hopes of breaking his shyness in the future, also he is far too rational to be confused (**Own Tempo**).

A girl comes up to them and offers them one of two fossils and Monolith chooses the Plume Fossil. (**Mostly because the Static Pokemon list in the changelog doesn’t mention the fossil mons, so they probably aren’t random.**) “Looks like we’ll need to head back through the forest to crack this little guy open,” Miller smiled, deciding to take care of the rock, the Amulet Coin and the rock clinking together. (**I don’t use Miller often, so I feel like he needs some story bits, haha.**)

After exploring the basement of the castle a bit, Monolith headed back towards Nacrene where Martyn the Archen is ‘born’. Miller tries to make Martyn call him Dad, but the Archen is clearly a teenager and looks at Monolith with a disbelieving face. “I did not know you had such paternal instincts, Miller, but I don’t think Martyn is really up for that. He probably had his own father ages ago,” Monolith explained, patting the stinky Ducklett on the ‘shoulder’.

After welcoming Martyn, the rebellious Archen decided to join the followers, though he keeps referring to it as a gang. He was clearly part of a gang when he was first alive and Miller isn’t sure what to think about that. (**Poor Miller... Also, Martyn has Immunity.**)

After that, the Monolith and the followers run back to Nimbasa where Monolith and Brother get some Ultra Balls from Professor Juniper and Brother insists that he’s going to win before heading back to Castelia, presumably for the Judge that Juniper had mentioned during the meeting.

Upon entering Nimbasa, Monolith is asked to defeat some Team Plasma grunts and he gets a collapsible bicycle as a reward, but since neither Ribbit or Monolith knew how to ride it, it goes unused. They meet up with Bianca and Sister at the Musical later and test their Prop Cases on their Followers, leading to Miller being suffocated in a blue ribbon. When they leave, Bianca’s father comes up to them and says he didn’t approve of the girl



leaving to participate in this 'tournament'. "I won't just leave you with some untrustworthy Arceus!" he insisted.

Elesa steps in and says that Bianca should be independent because she was at the age to have a Pokemon Journey anyway. After a short conversation with everyone and Sister assuring the man that she wasn't any danger to Bianca, Bianca's father left with his mind changed.

**(I tried really hard to have the text be perfect beside the rare screenshots, but it won't work, so don't complain.)**

Monolith gets the Strength HM over Punishment because he was preferring Rowap berries (80BP Dark) with Natural Gift anyway and they head to the right of Nimbasa where Maxxon the Charmander asks to join them. Turns out the lv. 25 Charmander has been having problems evolving, mostly because he's been scared for his life due to his Storm Drain ability. Monolith gives Maxxon a talk about it, mentioning how his Lightning Rod ability used to scare him as well, but how he's overcome it, helping Maxxon feel better. Maxxon also has a Root Fossil that he's found, but Monolith lets him keep it. **(Because I count Martyn as the Nacrene encounter.)**

After Maxxon's sent to the PC, Monolith and co. heads deeper into the forest and they came across a spooked Rhyhorn who is clinging to an empty Dream Ball. He explains that there's a lady in a camper that likes to scare the Pokemon around here. Monolith manages to get the Scrappy Rhyhorn, Mullyar, to join them and they go to talk to the lady, but they find a suspicious Zorua in there instead and it talks its way out of the situation, slipping by Monolith. "Something's weird here, hmm," Million muttered as he watched the Zorua get away.

"Agreed," Merky said.

"Right, well, we should be fine to fight Elesa for now, so I guess it's time to head to the Amusement Park," Monolith said, heading back.

As they arrive in the park, they catch sight of N and try to avoid him, but N catches up to them anyway and notices that Ribbit is acting a lot more human-like, though he still speaks like a frog. "Hah, looks like the hybrid's finally realized what's happening, huh? It would be cruel to change them back now, don't you think?" N said, laughing.

Ribbit does his best to growl at N, but Monolith holds him back. "What do you want?" the Arceus growled.

N laughed. "I want you out of the race, of course. I've seen your sister and she's definitely the kind of Arceus we want in power. You males just want to win for the sake of winning and she..." N smiles here and Monolith cringes.

"I won't let you control my sister! She's... the last we have of Mother," Monolith muttered.

Markus moved in front of Monolith. "Don't worry, Lord Monolith. I'll teach him a lesson," the Bisharp said, attacking N, who quickly released a Shinx with a laugh.

"T-Timothy!" Merky shouted.

"Haha, looks like you're little warrior recognizes his little brother," N smirked.

"*Tch!* Stand back, Merky. I won't hurt him," Markus said, starting off with Torment before slipping off and getting hit with a Charged Spark.

"B-brother, I'm sorry!" Timothy said, crying as the battle continued and he Charge-Sparked Markus to 7HP and paralyzing him.

"Shit, shit, Lemonade!" Monolith shouted, throwing his #1 Follower a can only for Markus to be swapped with Million via Roar.

Million looked at Merky, nodded, and then let out Magnitude 5, boosted by Timothy's Crit-Bite. N let Timothy fall and moved to his next Pokemon, Joltik, while Merky ran to his brother. "Sorry, hmm," Million said, finishing off the Joltik with Magnitude 7.

Next was a Raichu that got hit into the deep red with the first Magnitude before being finished off with Mud Bomb, getting Million a level. Lastly was a Voltorb who went down just as quickly as the Joltik. "Well, looks my job here is done," N smiled, glancing over at the crying siblings before leaving with some Plasma grunts.

"F-fuck you!" Merky shouted after N as he cradled his brother.

Monolith stepped forward and touched Timothy's head, healing him as best as he could with his little knowledge of healing magic. They head back to the Pokemon Center with the weak Shinx to get him healed and stayed in the Center to speak about what had happened. Merky clearly wanted N eliminated, but Monolith kept explaining that if he took a human's life, he would most certainly be disqualified, which made Markus angry.

"He shouldn't be able to step in and do this anyway! What stops him from kidnapping one of the Judges?" Markus insisted.

Monolith sighed. "I know, but all we can do right now is continue. Look, we'll get someone to escort Timothy back home and then we *need* to fight Elesa, alright?" Monolith insisted, ending the conversation.

Timothy was left with a trustworthy fellow that openly let Monolith search his mind for any evil thoughts or bad intentions and then the group headed back to the Amusement Park where they found that Elesa's gym was made for the challenger to go forward on a Roller Coaster.

“Everyone in their Pokeballs. It’s better if it’s just two trips forward,” Monolith explained as Ribbit took out the Pokeballs from the bag he had been forced to carry.

Monolith visibly didn’t like the drops and loops in the Roller Coaster, being used to more stable flight or even creating telepathic bridges and walking on those. On the other hand, Ribbit seemed quite excited about it because it reminded him of the high jumps he used to make when he was a frog.

### **#23 (Elesa) - Wormadam Lv25, Ninjask Lv25, Scyther Lv27**

Elesa teased Monolith about his visible dizziness before getting straight into the battle, throwing out her Wormadam. “Ribbit, let Miller out!” Monolith ordered and the Stinky Ducklett was released after just a bit of clumsiness from the ‘human’.

As Wormadam’s go, it used Protect immediately. Miller got an Aerial Ace in the next turn and Wormadam reacted with a Confusion that barely damaged Miller. “Ugh, a Hyper Potion. Always healing, you Judges,” Monolith huffed as Elesa pulled out the item.

Miller hit into red health again and Elesa healed again. And then she was out of healing items and Wormadam went down. “Mmm, let’s see how you handle my Scyther, then,” Elesa smiled.

“Alright, Merky then,” Monolith said, glancing over at Ribbit as the frog quickly switched out the Pokemon.

As soon as both of the Pokemon were out, a sandstorm swept over the battlefield and Monolith covered his eyes. “Oh, you didn’t know about Scyther’s new ability? Haha, let’s see how your Luxio deals with a Sandstorm!” Elesa laughed.

As usual, Merky Charged, getting hit with the storm and Wing Attack. Electro Ball hit for more than half the next turn, but Merky was at 27/77HP, so Monolith pulled out his own healing item, a Soda Pop which Merky happily drank, thanking Monolith as the Scyther attacked him with Wing Attack again. By the next turn Scyther was faster than Merky, but Electro Ball left the Bug at nearly one HP, enough to leave the Sandstorm to faint it.

“Looks like your strategy didn’t work,” Monolith teased as Elesa grabbed at her last Pokeball angrily.

Lastly was her Ninjask, which Monolith decided to switch to Maximus for, mentioning that he wanted to use everyone with an advantage a chance today. Maximus’ Avalanche hit the Ninjask down to 1HP and it changed to the Ice-type. As soon as Monolith was thinking about ordering Drain Punch from the Snorunt, though, the Sandstorm knocked the cicada out.

“Well, you are certainly always on the offensive, hmm? Except for that Luxio of yours. He seems to be awfully dependent on Charge to boost Electro Ball, hm? Am I right?” Elesa smiled, analyzing Monolith’s fighting-style.

“Of course he is. He’s my warrior, after all,” Monolith huffed, taking the Badge from Elesa and putting it in the Badge Case himself in a graceful pose, Ribbit clapping beside him.

“Well, enjoy the ride out~!” Elesa smiled as Monolith sent Ribbit through first.

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“Well, I think I’ve had enough of heights,” Monolith groaned as he stumbled out of the building alongside the excited Ribbit.

Everyone was let out after they had reached the Pokemon Center again and Merky, Maximus, and Miller shared their stories about defeating Elesa, though Maximus was sad that he hadn’t had any drawn-out battles against Judges yet. “That Deino and Drowzee were all OHKO’s and Elesa’s Ninjask wasn’t even technically finished off by me!” Maximus pouted.

“But that just shows how strong you are!” Miller said, showing off his unofficial title of ‘Team Dad’.

“But a Pokemon’s strength is really only shown off when they have a difficult battle, like when I fought against Burgh’s Slowking and he kept Disabling Charge,” Merky explained.

“See? Merky agrees with me!” Maximus shouted at Miller, who groaned.

“Guys, come on. The tournament rules state that followers that fall in battle can’t continue to follow any Arceus. I’d rather have you by my side Maximus. Ice-types are extremely rare in Eastern Unova,” Monolith explained, patting Maximus’ head. “I would suggest listening to Miller more. He may be awkward with his paternal instincts, but he’s just trying to help you,” Monolith said before heading towards the door.

“Now, let’s head to Route 5 like Elesa said,” he said, waiting for everyone to follow after him.

Monolith had barely stepped into the route when his Brother and Cheren attacked them from behind. Monolith barely had time to grab a Salac Berry from Ribbit’s bag before Cheren threw out a Manectric. “Million, Mud Bomb!” Monolith shouted as the Quagsire jumped in from of the Arceus.

The Manectric Howled in reaction to the ‘bomb’ bringing him to red health and despite the critical Quick Attack that came from him next, Million finished it off. “Well then, let’s test how far

you've come since last time- Is that a Stone Plate!?" Brother shouted, just now noting Monolith's different form, their last battle having been in the windy desert.

"Heh, noticing just now? Don't worry, I'm not planning on using it. I have a better plan in mind," Monolith smirked, raising his Salac Berry in the air just as his Brother used Gravity.

With a bright light, the energy from the berry was expunged and thrown at Brother. While it didn't finish him off, having only 80BP worth of energy in it, it did take off half of Brother's health and Monolith fought with his Strength the next turn after getting hit with Earth Power, a move his siblings seemed to love quite a bit lately. "Well then, see you," Monolith smiled, using Strength again and knocking out his enraged Brother.

Next was an Electrike, clearly related to the Manetric as he kept glancing over at the fainted dog. Markus came out to use Torment, the Electrike letting out a sad howl as Markus slipped off. The Electrike just kept howling despite Cheren's orders and Monolith was starting to worry despite his follower's high Defenses. Markus managed to cut off half the pup's health with Metal Claw and got an Attack boost before he slipped off again.

Then the Electrike used Spark and... It didn't do much. Markus' next Claw defeated it, leaving Cheren with his Magnemite. "Right, definitely Million territory," Monolith said, gesturing to the Quagsire to swap.

Million immediately got confused with Supersonic, but fought through it to use Magnitude, finishing off Cheren's team. Elsa came up to them afterwards, smiling and saying how nice it was to see a Sibling Rivalry up close, having been an only child herself.

Before Cheren revived Brother, Monolith had time to explain their opinions of each other, though Elsa just led the Arceus and their followers towards the bridge, getting stopped by a fiery-haired man on the way. After an exchange, it was revealed that the man was Alder, the final Judge of the Tournament, commonly known as a Champion to humans taking the Pokemon League Challenge. Yes, the Trio Arceus' Father hadn't really created a whole new thing with the tournament other than requesting different types from the League Members; It was basically just the Pokemon League in a new skin.

Needless to say, all three of the boys, Ribbit excluded, were surprised that their final challenge had just appeared and just seemed to be enjoying nature and the people around. Brother acted out, insisting that the man should just stick to his usual duties, but instead Alder asked the Arceus about his goal in becoming God and what he intended to do. "Many have found your Father's obsession with randomization a bit disturbing. Do you plan to change what he's done?" he asked.

Brother laughed. "Pfft! No, why would I? What he's done is perfectly fine. Plenty of Pokemon have been amazing after the new abilities," Brother said.

“Scyther’s Sand Stream ability isn’t exactly great...” Elesa admitted.

“And Snorunt’s can have Imposter now. Not really a great thing,” Monolith said, nearly stepping on the line, knowing he could be disqualified or even get Maximus kicked from his team if he admits that he changed his natural ability.

Brother rolled his eyes. “Whatever, that’s not my goal right now. My goal is to become strong enough to beat both of you,” he said.

“Well then, on the topic of getting stronger... How about you show these children what it means to be strong?” Alder said, calling over two Elementary School students, who looked genuinely excited to meet the Arceus.

“Fine, bring it,” Brother huffed.

“Wait a second, you two. You both still have weak Pokemon!” Elesa said, taking out some healing items. “Come here!” she gestured to the Pokemon, helping both Monolith’s and Brother’s team, respectfully letting the Arceus apply the items to themselves on their own.

And so the kids let out their Clamperl and Gothorita. Gothorita attacked Brother’s Howling Manectric while the Clamperl used Iron Defense, leaving Million to Mud Bomb Gothorita. In all the confusion, Manectric was hit down to 6/70HP and Million hadn’t been hit. Then Manectric Sparked the Gothorita dead and Million used Brine on Clamperl and killed it, ending the chaotic Double Battle.

Alder complimented the kids’ battle, saying that it looked like their Pokemon had fun, before turning to the two Arceus before him. “Everyone has different ideas about what strength means, remember that. Everyone has different viewpoints and it would seem that you two have different ideas of what a Champion is,” Alder smiled before Elesa interrupted him and led the Arceus to the Drawbridge.

Miller got excited as they approached the area and Elesa told Monolith that Ducklett and Swanna used to swarm the bridge and used it as their main habitat. Soon Elesa got the bridge down by calling the Judge in the next town over and then left Monolith and his Brother, wishing them good luck. Brother and Cheren sneered at their counterparts, babbling some nonsense about Strength before leaving towards the bridge.

“Right, well... time to explore this route,” Monolith said, taking a deep breath before turning around and heading back through the crowd of trainers that wanted to challenge him.

Once the gang had wandered to the grass, they were approached by a Naive Chimecho named Mechochi. (**Name suggested by Rampant Tragedy on Discord**) Mechochi explains that he’s

a toy maker for the local Pokemon, but wants to spread his toys elsewhere. He specializes in making robots and is very stubborn when it comes to what he can and cannot build (**Moldbreaker**).

After a bit more exploring in the grass, Monolith and gang headed onto the Driftveil Drawbridge where... a Gang of Timburr was hanging on the suspension cords!? "Uh-oh..." Miller muttered, sticking close to Monolith. "These guys kicked us out of our home. They have some mean Rock-type attacks..." Miller explained.

Monolith frowned and used Strength on one of the nearby steel pillars. Instead of it shaking the pillar like he had thought, he just hurt himself and got laughed at by the Timburr that were hanging on by their squared logs. One of the laughing Timburr slipped and fell and Monolith quickly entered into battle with him, pulling Great Balls from Ribbit's bag with telekinesis.

"Pfft! It's just another Arceus that thinks he's tough! Bring it, hoop waist!" the Timburr shouted, after bursting out of the first Great Ball.

Markus could see the Timburr readying an attack and he ran in front of Monolith. "Ah, Markus!" Monolith as as Markus got hit with a particularly hard Wake-Up Slap.

"Get in!" Monolith shouted, throwing another Great Ball, this time capturing the Timburr.

The Arceus levitated Markus' Pokeball from Ribbit's bag and returned the Bisharp before running down the bridge, hearing sneers and insults from the other Timburr directed at him and his followers. Soon they reached the end and ran straight into Driftveil, only to be stopped by a gruff man, who had also stopped Brother. The man, Clay, complained about how he had lost sight of some Plasma grunts they had captured when he was called to get the bridge lowered. In the end, they were both told to find the Plasma Grunts to be able to challenge him and Brother complained before leaving to find his own way.

"Right, Markus needs help first, tho-" Monolith remembered that he hadn't put any name for the Timburr, so he couldn't scan Markus' health. "Ugh, I don't know. Maverick, I guess," Monolith huffed, inputting the name before seeing that Markus was at 24/84HP, not even in the red.

"Geez, he sure made that look dramatic..." Monolith sighed, though he was glad he had such a dedicated follower.

Checking Maverick's stats on the PC, Monolith was surprised to find that the Timburr shared his own ability, Lightningrod, and had a Gentle nature. "Oh my gosh, he's a big softie," Maximus said, laughing when Monolith shared that.

"Mm, well he certainly didn't feel like one. My chest really stings," Markus whined.

“Which is because you have a four times weakness to Fighting-type. Please stay out of battle with Fighting-types in the future,” Monolith said, scolding the Bisharp.

“Yes, Lord Monolith...” Markus relented.

“Good, then it’s time to explore the town,” Monolith smiled. He loved getting free gifts from followers when he entered a new town.

Before exploring the market, Million expressed interest in exploring Route 6 to make sure the Plasma Grunts didn’t run that way. Monolith agrees, if only to find another follower. As they approach the area, they hear shaking come from the grass. “Ah, yes, an Audino. That would be useful in-” Monolith was cut off by the sight of a Whimsicott jumping at him and latching onto his face.

The Arceus began screaming and running in circles and Ribbit quickly moved to throw pokeballs at the facehugger. At one point Monolith manages to hit the Pokemon on his face with Vacuum Wave and a screech was heard from it, a Zorua falling from his face, left at 1HP. “Catch him!” Monolith ordered and Ribbit’s next ball throw connected with the fox.

“Ah, my face hurts...” Monolith whined, reaching up a paw to feel at his clawed face.

“Ah, Lord Monolith! Let’s get you healed!” Markus shouted, escorting the Arceus back to the Center.

“Let’s stay away from here, hmm, for now,” Million muttered before following after the others.

After getting Monolith healed, the Zorua was let out to explain himself. “Hehe, I’m Marzien! Did you like that? I’ve been practicing my shapeshifting!” the Zorua chuckled, “Though it’s been hard to change forms lately, changing pallets is easy!” Marzien added, inverting his color pallet faster than a chameleon.

“Ah, Color Change... Ugh,” Monolith frowned, “Never do that again, and I *might* let you join the others,” he said before returning the Zorua. “Let’s explore that market,” he mumbled before leaving the center, wincing at the stinging pain that he still felt on his face.

### **#603 (Heartbreaker Charles) - Hippopotas Lv27, Whiscash Lv27, Swampert Lv27**

They are challenged to a Rotation battle by Charles and Monolith chooses Merky and Maximus to accompany him. Merky goes first up against Charles Whiscash. He gets good hits with Mega Drain thanks to his Big Root, but the Whiscash hits him hard with Mud Bomb, so Monolith comes out next with Strength, fainting the Whiscash and Swampert was rotated to the front.

Suspecting another rotation, Monolith rotated to Maximus and before the Snorunt got to attack, the Hippopotas dug down. It didn't do much and Avalanche killed the Sand-Hippo. "Yeah, nice one, Maximus!" Miller shouted from the sidelines, remembering Maximus' complaint after Elesia.

Monolith let Maximus stay out because of that, but Maximus had low HP after Swampert's counterattack. "Alright, here's a heal and-"



Swampert suddenly nodded off just like Markus.

"Oh. Oh heck yeah!" Maximus smirked, summoning another Avalanche. It took two more Avalanches to make the Swampert faint, but Maximus still felt good about the battle.

"Alright, Maximus, good battle. Let's check out that place to the South, now," Monolith said, heading towards Cold Storage.

Maximus learns Ice Fang after leveling up fighting one of the Youngsters hanging out outside the Storage and gets excited about his new move. As they go towards the larger warehouse, they are approached by an Elgyem that asks to join them. Like most Psychic Pokemon, Mason the Elgyem is quite stoic, but he has a passion for building things, hence his name (**Also for the color pink because I caught him in a Dream Ball \*wink\***). Mason promises to create a church in honor of Monolith once the tournament was finished. Along with Mason, Monolith noted that there was a Life Orb sticking close to the Elgyem, slowly sapping his life energy and Mason's shield (**Shield Dust**). Monolith secretly removed the Life Orb from Mason before sending the Elgyem off to the PC.

After that, the team headed to the warehouse where they saw Cheren and Brother slipping and sliding on the ice. "Hehe, looks like they don't know the trick to walking on ice," Maximus smiled, stepping onto the ice easily.

"Well neither do I, Maximus," Monolith said before telling Ribbit to return the others. Miller stayed out, though, scouting ahead for the other two.

The first Cold Storage Trainer has an Abra and Markus used Torment, forgetting that Teleport was Abra's only move. The Abra Struggled before Markus used Bug Buzz and knocked it out. Monolith looked over at Maximus when he heard the Snorunt chuckle. "What?" he asked.

"Oh, nothing... It's just that it's hilarious when Quick Claw activates while Markus is asleep!" the Snorunt laughed, pointing to the glowing claw-on-a-string that was around the Bisharp's neck.

“Oh, right,” Monolith said, sighing. That Quick Claw had activated so many times while Markus slept that he had started to ignore the glow altogether. **(9/27/16 TIL: Healing during a Truant turn doesn't let a Truant turn go by!)**

At one point a trainer orders his Buizel to use Pursuit twice against Million and the Quagsire wrecked the trainer's Buizel and Luvdisc with +2 Magnitude. Monolith was really starting to be impressed by Million's new ability.

Eventually they reached a storage container in the back that was oddly opened, winding Cheren and Brother ahead of them, listening in. “Shush, they're in here,” Brother whispered to Monolith.

“Ugh, just fight them!” Monolith groaned, stepping into the container with no reservation, Ribbit and the others behind him.

Inside was the shivering Sage Zinzolin and after defeating his grunts, Clay and other Cold Storage workers came and took them away, telling the boys that he'd be waiting at the Gym for their challenge later. Brother leaves after complaining about how dumb the team is for stealing Pokemon now. “I don't need more followers. The ones I have are weak enough,” he spat before leaving.

“Ick, let's head out. I can feel the cold even as a Rock-type,” Monolith mumbled, heading towards the gym...

Where Clay was being threatened to hand over the prisoners to Ghetsis. “Pathetic, all that work for nothing,” Brother frowned before stomping off to train more.

“He's not very, hmm, friendly, is he?” Million frowned.

“Definitely not,” Monolith muttered, heading into the gym to train.

While fighting the Gym Trainers, Monolith found out that the Gym was Flying-type. “Alright, it'll probably be Merky and Maximus up against him, then,” Monolith said as they made their way back up to the surface.

“Yeah!” Maximus smiled. He had been in every Judge battle so far and he was certainly happy about it.

While fighting through Route 6, Merky was enveloped in light after a trainer fight and evolved into a Luxray! The warrior let out a roar before testing his new power on some wild Pokemon. “Nice job, Merky,” Monolith complimented the new Luxray.

“No, thank *you*, Lord Monolith. Thank you for taking me into your guard,” Merky said, bowing to Monolith.

Monolith smiled, glad that he had seen Merky grow up like this. “And thank you for protecting me,” Monolith said, nodding to the Luxray before leading everyone onwards.

Eventually the group had reached the end of a route where a cave entrance was blockaded by an electric web that none of the party wanted to risk removing. A nearby hiker told the group that Clay was usually the one to deal with Galvantula webs, so they were left to train in the dark grass by the cave.

During training, A Houndour had a Red Card and swapped Monolith out for Million and the Houndour’s Hypno Double Battle partner manages to knock Million down to 1HP before fainting himself, leading to Monolith quickly feeding Million some extra Berry Juice. “Urf... Thanks, Mm, Monolith,” Million groaned, glancing down at the bruise on his chest.

“Rest for now, Million,” Monolith ordered, escorting the Quagsire over to the stairs to rest.

**(Oh man, it hurt to not let Monolith learn Hyper Voice. It’s my fave Normal-type move!)**

Of course, then it wasn’t long before two Murkrow teamed up on Miller and got him weak as well, along with the birds’ Sand Stream, too. “Alright, let’s go back to training in the normal grass,” Monolith quickly decided, rushing everyone back into the nearby healing house.

After a few more battles that made Monolith realize how weak Miller actually was, along with a trainer ambushing them, everyone was at level 30 and they headed back to Clay’s Gym, Merky happily leading them.

#### **#24 (Clay) - Rufflet Lv29, Yanma Lv29, Swanna Lv31**

Compared to the feeling of the elevators previously, it was a much longer trip down to the mine, where Clay was waiting. “You ready, Maximus?” Merky asked as they approached the Judge.

“Oh heck yeah!” Maximus smirked, heading up first.

“Well, let’s see what made Elesya think you were so good, then,” Clay huffed, throwing out his Rufflet.

“Oh this’ll be easy,” Maximus smirked, latching onto the bird with Ice Fang that nearly killed the bird, only to get hit with a harsh Slash.

‘Oooh, crap,’ Monolith thought, not liking how this started, though Maximus certainly thought otherwise as he was handed a can of Lemonade.

“There’s that challenge I wanted,” the Snorunt smirked, crit-killing the Rufflet with the next Ice Fang.

Next up was his Yanma and despite Monolith’s worry about Miller’s defenses, he let the Ducklett out to fight it. The Yanma got Miller confused, but he fought back with Air Slash, easily fainting the Yanma. Monolith let out a breath he didn’t know he was holding.

“Mm, so ya found a Ducklett too, huh? Mine was saved durin’ the fight for the bridge. Those lousy Timburr,” Clay huffed before letting out a Swanna, so much bigger and more elegant than Miller.

“Whoa~!” Miller’s eyes widened as he caught sight of the bigger Pokemon.

“Yeah, you’re pretty close to evolving yourself, Miller. Mmm, but Merky should probably deal with this one,” Monolith said, gesturing for Miller to come back to his side.

Starting off with a Charge, Clay also ordered Swanna to start off by not attacking, using Aqua Ring. Next up, Swanna used Air Slash to little effect while Merky merely hit the Swanna with one big Electro Ball, leaving it to twitch on the floor.

“Well, ya certainly have a penchant fer endin’ your foes in one blow,” Clay noted as he returned the Swanna, pulling out one of his badges from a box on a nearby crystal.

“Take this,” he said, handing over the Quake Badge. “And meet me ‘n front of Chargestone Cave later. I oughta clear out that web so you three can head through,” Clay said.

“Right, meet you there, then,” Monolith said, leading his followers back to the elevator.

There was plenty of excitement as everyone talked about cool the three fighters had been.

“That was so cool how you took that Air Slash like it was no big deal!” Miller applauded Merky.

“Well / resist it, unlike those Roselia you barely did any damage to with Air Slash,” Merky joked, not noticing the hurt look on Miller’s face.

“Oh, yeah, haha. I’m sure I’ll be better after I’m a Swanna,” the paternal Ducklett waved it off as they headed to the Pokemon Center.

Inside they met up with a worried Bianca and Sister, who told them that they were thinking of giving up. “I’m just not as motivated as you two. Bianca’s even thinking of becoming Professor Juniper’s assistant when this is all over,” Sister smiled, glancing over at the human, who was blushing.

“Turns out I’m not the best at thinking up strategy on the fly, but I’m good at remembering everything about Pokemon,” Bianca admitted.

Ribbit croaked, looking over at Monolith. “Mmm, well, I winded up being the main team strategist. I’m worried Ribbit isn’t having much of an adventure,” Monolith admitted.

“S... fine,” Ribbit muttered, patting Monolith on the back, causing the Arceus surprise.

“Hey, do you want to have one last battle?” Bianca asked, looking between the Arceus.

“I’d be okay with it,” Monolith admitted, looking at his sister.

“Mm, I suppose I should test your skills one more time, huh?” Sister smiled, getting up.

“Ribbit!” Ribbit croaked in agreement.

Once they were in Route 6, away from any onlookers, Bianca threw out her first Pokemon, a Gothorita. Maximus was up for still fighting, so he started it off with a strong Bite while he got Embargoed. But, of course, he completely finished off the girly Pokemon in the next Bite.

Next was Sister herself who started with Earth Power while Monolith used Strength. Neither move hit particularly hard, so Monolith switched to Vacuum Wave while Sister played with Gravity again. “Uh, Sis? None of us are flying,” he said before using Strength once more, knocking the Arceus out.

“Sorry,” Monolith said as Bianca threw out a Starmie, which Merky jumped in to fight.

Starmie used Water Gun on Merky, barely getting him wet as the Luxray Charged up. Next turn Merky was hit by a Critical Swift, but Merky countered with another OHKO Electro Ball. Lastly, Bianca released an Exeggcute and Markus stepped up and OHKO’d the pile of eggs with Bug Buzz, ending the battle.

“Looks like you’ve bested us again, huh?” Sister smiled.

“Yeah, I guess so,” Monolith laughed, looking around at his faithful followers.

“Oh, yeah, my papa gave me this HM after last time!” Bianca smiled, handing the Fly HM to Ribbit. “He probably wanted me to visit more often,” Bianca mumbled. “Oh, but I should share this with Cheren, too! See ya!” Bianca concluded before running back into the town, Sister following behind her.

“Mm, she’s nice,” Miller noted, flapping his wings a bit.



“Yeah, she’s always been like that...” Monolith said, opening HM02 and...

“Oh my.”

“No way you’re getting me to Fly. I would just do it by making huge jumps,” Merky interjected.

“I would, hmm, recommend not getting on me. My slime might still be, hmm, poisonous,” Million added. Ribbit looked a bit fearful at that idea, apparently having had an interaction with poisonous Woopers in the past.

“Well, I’m all for it, of course! Just, uhh, don’t try to climb on me,” Miller winced.

“Yeah, uhm, I’m not sure how that would work. I’m not sure the HM would also give you super strength, in which case I would suggest Ribbit return me... I suppose he’s shown himself to trustworthy enough...” Monolith said, tilting his head in thought.

Ribbit pointed to himself and spoke “Tru-uh-st,” a ribbit interjecting the word.

Monolith held back a laugh. “Alright, alright. I’ve read your mind enough to know that you’re loyal. And Miller would be with you, anyway. There’s no need to Fly right now, though. Anyway, learn it over Ace, Miller,” Monolith said, floating the CD over to Miller.

“Roger that, Monolith!” Miller laughed, saluting. Soon enough the gang was on their way back to the previously blocked cave entrance.

Clay was there just as promised, with his usual Ground-type team. He made a few comments against Galvantula before ordering his Krokorok to Bulldoze the web. Lastly, he tells Ribbit and Monolith to follow their dreams in his own way before leaving.

Inside they’re blindsided by some ninjas just as their eyes are adjusting and they drag Monolith over to N. “Well, looks like you’ve met the Shadow Triad, then. They were the ones who prepared that web,” N informed the Arceus coldly.

“Hey, wh-!”

“They told me that you’ve run your sister out of the race, you know. Now why would you do that?” N asked.

Monolith bit his lip, refusing to say that it was her own choice; He needed to spit in N’s face. “Because now you’ll leave us alone! And if I ever hear of Team Plasma again I’ll personally deliver the final blow to your pathetic organization!” Monolith shouted.

“Mm, too bad. I’ve already set up some grunts to test you and your Brother. You’ll find them deeper in the cave,” N smirked before turning and heading further in.

“Fuck you, N!” Monolith shouted after the Plasma Leader, panting angrily just as his sister, Bianca, and Professor Juniper entered the cave, catching sight of a Whismur hiding and watching Monolith.

“Hey little guy. Do you want to follow Monolith?” Bianca asked.

“Ah, shit,” the Whismur blinked, seeing Sister behind the human. “Sorry, Miss!” he apologized.

“Ah, don’t worry! I’m not in the tournament anymore!” Sister assured the Whismur before escorting him to Monolith.

“Hey, Monolith. Looks like this little fellow wants to join you,” Sister greeted.

“Ah! Oh, really? What’s your name, young one?” Monolith asked.

“I’m Myoot and I’m gonna kic-” the Whismur jumped up, planning on throwing a Smoke Ball in Monolith’s face, but Monolith was already grabbing a Dusk Ball from Ribbit’s bag in advance and he quickly caught Myoot. **(He has Natural Cure and I’m intrigued to use him.)**

“Well, I’m not sure he wanted to join me. He seems like more of a prankster,” Monolith pointed out.

“Oh no, I’m sorry! I never really got his answer!” Bianca squeaked.

“It’s fine Bianca, don’t worry. I’ve had run ins with mean Pokemon before. One of those Timburr from the Driftveil Bridge in particular nearly killed me with Wake-Up Slap,” Monolith said, though that didn’t calm Bianca down.

“Well, it’s nice to see you two again,” Professor Juniper smiled as she approached the gang. After talking about why her and Bianca are researching in the cave, she gives Ribbit a Lucky Egg, something Monolith gets really excited to use, then explained about the electrical stones in the cave.

On the way further in, Maximus learns Crunch over Bite and the girls trail behind Monolith’s team, carefully inspecting data to do with their research. Even Sister looks interested to learn about Pokemon migration patterns from the Professor.

The two groups split up once the Professor seemed to have enough data, so Monolith and his followers kept heading further down, eventually finding the huge group of Plasma grunts that N

had mentioned. “Rrgh, Why do they keep trying to test you!? You’re clearly the best choice compared to your mean brother!” Merky shouted.

Monolith agreed, but he isn’t completely sure in himself, having lied to get into the tournament in the first place. While he hadn’t fully explained it to his followers, they mostly got the gist of what was up with Ribbit, but he hadn’t told them that Ribbit could get him disqualified, either.

While they continued further in, the gang got beat up a lot more often, especially by one Ace Trainer’s Milktank that hurt Merky quite a bit and Monolith realized that they really had to start training again instead of just swapping levels lazily.

Blocking the exit, there was N with a smirk on his face. “So, you’re still here? I figured one of those grunts would take you out, or at least get your Sister suspicious,” N said, disappointed.

“Alright, I give. What’s your plan? What did you want the winner to do?” Monolith asked.

N chuckled. “Oh, finally curious, are you? I want to separate Pokemon and humans. Preferably by having two planets, one for each, but I’m up for other suggestions,” N joked.

“And you expect an Arceus to preside over two planets?” Monolith asked, dubious.

“No, I expected an Arceus to make me a God among men,” N countered, smirk still firmly in place.

“Oh, so he’s one of those crappy Superiority Complex dudes,” Maximus noted.

“Looks like it,” Merky snorted, jumping out front when N grabbed a Pokeball.

“But I don’t have to show my worth to the likes of you. Bodyswapping just to enter,” N sneered as he threw out a Roselia to fight.

“Nah, I got this,” Maximus said, swapping with Merky.

Toxic Spikes came from the Roselia after they swapped and Maximus’ Ice Fang nearly killed the Roselia, who hit hard with Giga Drain next turn, leaving Maximus at 26/86HP. Of course, the Snorunt countered and ripped off one of the Grass-type’s buds, freezing the wound and fainting it.

Next was N’s Deerling and out came Monolith, getting Poisoned before he OHKO’d the deer with Signal Beam. Next was a Lombre, who started off with Fake Out. “Eugh, stopping my turn, huh?” Monolith spat before throwing out Signal Beam again, leaving the Lombre in the red.



“Well look at that, you look a little weak, *Monolith*. Maybe I’m doing something right, hmm?” N teased.

“Shut up!” Monolith shouted, throwing out another Signal Beam. (< **Photo**)

N laughed at the response. “My, oh my. The Great Monolith, showing his weakness.”

“Hey, I’ve got the next one,” Miller assured Monolith.

“Tchh, thanks,” Monolith said, stepping back as N threw out a Bellsprout. (**10/5 TIL: Flying-types aren’t affected by Toxic Spikes.**)

And in one quick Air Slash, N’s last Pokemon was down. “Well then, looks like it’s time to befriend the Dragon,” N said, frowning.

Just then, Bianca, Sister, and Juniper approached and N tells Juniper off for being apart of the Pokedex Project, but Juniper takes it as lazily as she does everything and says that everyone has their own opinions and that she can’t police them all. “Forget it, you’re too far into it to understand,” N sneered before stomping off.

“So that’s the Plasma guy, huh? What’s his deal?” Juniper asked.

“He wants to separate People and Pokemon apparently. He wanted an Arceus to make him a God for the humans,” Monolith informed the ladies and Sister in particular looked horrified at the possibility.

“Well, maybe him losing everything will help him get his head on right,” Juniper said, shrugging before heading back into the cave, Bianca following behind her.

“Be careful around him, brother,” Sister said, hugging Monolith.

“You too. He wanted to manipulate you at first,” Monolith warned.

Sister raised an eyebrow, a bit confused. “I thought they wanted to stop it in the beginning?” she asked.

“Ah, yeah, they did! I, uh, guess N just changed his mind after a while,” Monolith corrected, cursing himself for forgetting his lie.

Sister’s face softened, nodding, though she felt a bit suspicious. “Well, I better follow Bianca. It was nice seeing you and your followers again,” she smiled, waving to Miller, who waved back.

Maximus snorted at the exchange, but Monolith glared at him before gesturing for everyone to exit the cave. And finally they were in Mistralton where Markus took a Heart Scale and hurriedly rushed to the Move house to forget Cut and learn Slash. + Monolith got his Hidden Power analyzed, showing that he was an Icy mess even deep down.

When they headed further into the town, they were stopped by Cedric Juniper, who was surprised by Monolith's filled-out Pokedex of 220 seen Pokemon. He also happily upgrades Monolith's Pokedex, though Monolith insists that he isn't using it much. The Pokedex had technically been given to the chosen humans, so it was quite useless to him.

The person following Cedric also came up to them and was introduced as Skyla, the town's Judge. "Oh wow, is that a Ducklett? How cute, I have one too! Though, she's evolved," Skyla smiled.

"Oh, two Flying-type Judges?" Monolith noted as Skyla played with Miller's wings.

"Oh, no, wait! I was assigned Grass, augh! Darnit!" Skyla huffed, standing back up. After that, Cedric excuses himself and Skyla tells Monolith that she has to head to Celestial Tower to help a sick Pokemon on the top.

"The tower's over on Route 7. See you there!" Skyla waved before heading off.

"We could always use a, hmm, new follower," Million said.

"Yeah, might as well clear out the north before taking Skyla on anyway. It's the only way to go from here," Monolith agreed.

The gang found themselves wading through a group of girls that clearly wanted to get in everyone's pants, especially Merky due to his new form's heightened pheromones (**Cute Charm**). Maximus also hit on a passing Sewaddle, only to get punched by her older brother.

**(...I LEGIT encountered 30+ female Pokemon before a Male Cherubi popped up. They were all Cherubi, Sewaddle, Litwick, and two Mienfoo. I-I'm just flabbergasted. I have no idea why RNG hated me that day.)**

But eventually manage to escape the girls and are approached by a wacky-looking Cherubi who's secretly a mad scientist that likes experimenting on humans and is intrigued to see what makes Ribbit walk so much different than other humans. Maraschino is very Calm while he talks his way into the gang and he also mentions his ability to Filter damage from SE attacks, which Monolith is excited to hear about, so he joins in the end.

Heading past the tower at first, Monolith found nothing of worth on the rest of the route, so they made their way back to the tower where Monolith felt a bit heavy hearted as they entered, thinking of his Mother.

Monolith left all of the battling to his followers as they walked through the tower. He could feel something calling out from the top of the tower and there was overall mood of calmness over the tower, not unlike what his mother's presence used to cause him. "She's here..." he whispered, looking at the ceiling as Miller OHKO'd a trainer's Timburr.

"I heard the triplets lost their mother, but isn't this a bit much?" Maximus asked Markus.

"Everyone has their own ways of grieving, Maximus. Don't judge him for his hopefulness," Markus scolded the young Snorunt.

"Yeah, well I like it better when he fights with us," Maximus stated as Monolith just quietly walked towards the stairs with a somber expression, leaving his followers to deal with the challengers and item collecting.

**(And then there was a painstaking battle with a Bronzor and Lunatone. Lunatone had Moody and kept spamming Embargo and Hypnosis and I was using Markus.)**

Near the top of a tower they finally encountered some wild ghosts and Monolith was drawn to one of the nearby Yamask with the tell tale face of an Arceus on it. "Mother..." he whispered.

But, just like he had heard from his father **(Father teaches the Arceus Siblings about Pokemon, mainly Legendaries, but sometimes other species)** before, she did not know him at all, and only wailed in pain as Ghost-types are want to do. Eventually another male Yamask approached them. "I'm sorry, but she hasn't recalled anything of her past. None of us has. Do you really think she's your mother?" the level-headed Yamask asked.

"Th-there's no way she isn't. I feel the same way-" Maximus stopped Monolith.

"It's just his grief speaking. Do you want to join us? Monolith here is going to be the next big Arceus," Maximus asked, ignoring Markus and Monolith's glares.

"I... I would love to get out of here, yes," he responded.

"Great, what's your name?" Maximus asked.

"Ah, I think... Maurice?" the Yamask answered.

"Great, get him a Dusk Ball, Ribbit," Maximus gestured towards the human before continuing on.

"*Maximus!*" Markus hissed while Monolith kept staring at the female Yamask, his eyes tearing up.

"Ah, come on, Monolith. Let's leave her be," Miller said, turning the Arceus to the stairs.

**(Maurice is Hardy and has Mold Breaker.)**

The next floor was the roof of the tower where Skyla had apparently just healed the sick Pokemon. She brags about her eyesight before asking Monolith to ring the bell. "I see the tears in your eyes. You have someone here, don't you?" she asked.

Monolith nodded wordlessly before approaching the bell, pushing the bell back with telekinesis, thinking of all the times he's had with his mother.

"What a pretty sound. I look forward to seeing you in the gym," Skyla said before excusing herself from the group.

"Lord Monolith..." Markus started.

"Don't, I'm fine. Let's train. We only need a few more levels each," Monolith said, wiping away his tears before ordering Miller to Fly them back to town. Ribbit was careful in returning each of them before Flying back with Miller; even the frog had felt the mood.

And when it was just down to Million and Miller evolving, Miller finally evolved into the grandiose Swanna he always wanted to be! "I'm ready to take on Skyla, now!" Miller shouted excitedly.

"Nice! Now we just have one more evolution!" Markus said excitedly, looking over at Maximus.

"Oo~, what's that?" Miller asked, moving further into Route 7's bush to hunt for an item to Pick Up.

"Well, at least he doesn't have Stench anymore," Monolith said, glad that Miller's problem had been 'solved' by evolution. He used telekinesis to remove Miller's Amulet Coin from a distance while Million finished up his own training.

**#25 (Skyla) - Grotle Lv33, Tropius Lv33, Victreebel Lv35**

Once that was finished, Monolith gathered Miller and they flew back to town and headed to Skyla's gym where apparently everyone flew around via cannons. "Uhm, no," Monolith said, sitting Ribbit on his back and Flying on his own in the direction of the cannon's trajectory after returning everyone.

Soon enough they reached the Judge herself, after gaining a few extra levels for Miller and Maximus. She was sad that Monolith hadn't used her cannons, but didn't fight it as Monolith rushed into the battle.

First was her Grotle, which Markus happily came out for, hitting hard with Bug Buzz while the Turboblaze Grotle Cursed. While Markus nodded off, Grotle used Curse again, but the next Bug Buzz knocked it out to Markus' excitement.

Next up was Tropius, who Maximus surged forward to fight. "Haha, at least I get to keep a Flying-type in my team after all!" the Judge laughed awkwardly and Monolith realized that maybe Skyla wasn't totally ok with being apart of this tournament.

"Ah, uhm, apologies that my father brought you into this," Monolith said just as Maximus OHKO'd the Tropius with his handy-dandy Ice Fang.

"No, it's fine! I-It's just... really awkward when you get a formal letter from Keldeo when you're... yeah..." Skyla looked off to the side. All Monolith could see was her red ears. **(something something 18+)**

"O-oh..." Monolith muttered, feeling uncomfortable now.

"Well, lastly is Victreebel!" Skyla announced, throwing out the Pitcher Plant.

"Finally, my turn!" Miller shouted, hopping up front.

Skyla looked a bit sidetracked by Miller's new Swanna form, apparently thinking of her own Swanna, who was hanging out on the roof of the hanger/gym. Miller started off with an Air Slash, getting the Victreebel down a sliver of health. Skyla retaliated with Sleep Powder, but Miller avoided it and... Skyla used a Hyper Potion. Luckily, Miller fainted the Grass-type in the next Air Slash.

"And, with that, you get my badge!" Skyla said. 'Oh my gosh he devastated my team!!' she screamed in her head.

"Well, I suppose your love for the Flying-type explains why it's a bird wing and talon," Monolith said, putting the badge in the case.

"Oh, and I saw Team Plasma heading towards Icirrus City on my last flight as well, so watch out, ok? I don't want this new team of mine to go to waste!" Skyla laughed awkwardly.

"Right," Monolith noted, floating towards the exit of the Gym.

As soon as they exited the Gym, they saw N there, who again spoke about his reasons to split humans and Pokemon. His eyes caught Markus' cheery expression as he exited the Gym (mainly because he hasn't fought in a gym in a while) and latched onto it.

And then the human spoke in perfect Pokemon-speech, "Bisharp, what do you think of Monolith? Do you think he would be a good God?" N asked.

Markus' expression turned sour after a moment shouting back in the older language right back. "Of course I do! I wouldn't be his devout follower otherwise! Have you seen his siblings? One is too kind and the other too angry! They're too extreme. Monolith is the only one of them that is relatable, having social anxiety and... maybe a rushed decision process, but he's the most *Pokemon* out of the three. He's not perfect, but we don't need a perfect Arceus to rule us. We need a humble one that understands us!" Markus shouted, shocking nearly everyone there.

Markus had never said so much about why he followed Monolith before and the Arceus could feel tears well up in his eyes, realizing that Markus was the epitome of a best friend.

"Well, it looks like you've certainly persuaded some, but you can't fool me. I know what you really are and once I find the Light Stone and Dark Stone I'll prove it. The Legendary Pokemon of Unova will be able to see who you really are," N smirked. "And then I'll be the hero," N said with finality before leaving.

"Let's destroy him and his organization!" Merky shouted.

"Yeah!" Maximus shouted.

Monolith paused, moving to give Markus a hug. "Thank you. That meant a lot to me," Monolith said, tears starting to stream down his face as Markus hugged him back.

"No problem, Lord Monolith..." Markus said softly.

**(\*deep breath\* This was very emotional, whoa. I completely forgot what N's 'analysis' entailed, though, so N's answer seems weird in comparison to the canon answer of just giving facts about the trainer.)**

After that saccharine moment, Monolith and his followers headed back to the previously blocked off mountain, only to be challenged by his brother wordlessly who ran up behind them.

First was Brother's Honchkrow versus Merky, While Charging, Merky was hit by Swagger, only boosting his high Attack Stat, but he hit himself and got hit by Pursuit down to 57/115HP. Next turn Merky connected his fangs on the bird, though, knocking it out.

Then Brother jumped into the battle himself, the usual angry look on his face. Brother started off with an aggressive Hyper Voice while Monolith used his new favorite move Strength. Neither of them hit hard, the two were beginning to be at even levels of power, but Monolith's next Strength was a crit while Brother activated Gravity.

Next was another Hyper Voice/Strength swap, with Brother being left with a sliver of health. "Augh, how come you always beat me!?" the Arceus shouted.

"Because I know how to deal with a bully," Monolith said, smiling as he used Vacuum Wave.

Brother shouted as he fainted and Cheren gave him a worrying look, perhaps already starting to realize what it's like to live with a God of War 24/7. Next was a Skuntank, who poisoned Million, but the Quagsire retaliated with a Magnitude 10, an OHKO to the large skunk.

Lastly was an Absol who Maximus came out to Drain Punch a good bit of his health away after the Absol used Double Team. Again the Absol used Double Team, but Maximus hit with the next Drain Punch anyway, ending the battle.

"I... apologize for how he's been acting lately," Cheren muttered before Alder's voice interjected, hopping from a higher ledge on the mountain.

"Well, that was certainly a fine battle," Alder smiled.

Cheren sighed, looking down at Brother's pokeball. "He won't be happy when he wakes up, though," Cheren mumbled, barely taking in Alder's words.

Alder gave Cheren a soft smile, wrapping an arm around the human. "So, what do you think you'll do after the tournament?" he asked.

"I-ah-uhm... I think I want to do this again and be a normal trainer," Cheren admitted.

Alder nodded, spouting more wisdom before passing out the Surf HM to the humans, which Miller got over Brine because Million isn't very good in the Special Attack Department. Markus could also learn it, but the Bisharp admitted that he wasn't the best at swimming.

And then they headed into Twist Mountain where Clay meets him and tells him that the Judges had a meeting talking about Plasma before leaving with a few words of good luck. The group heads further into the mountain and Million learns Earthquake over Mud Bomb.

As they explored the cave, Miller got to Surf OHKO a trainer's Excadrill, but he still didn't Pick Up an item with his new easily distracted mindset. **(When I found the mud piles I started saying 'Mud Boi' in hopes of a trainer popping out. Anyway, I found Mud Boi and this sounds like a weird shit post.)**

Eventually the group ran across a group of Dewgong and Seel and one of the Seel left the group and approached the Arceus, saying that he wants to leave the mountain and ignores any shouting from the other group. Just looking at the Seel, Monolith could tell that he was a rebellious teenager, thinking back to his own past. "Alright, what do you have, then?" Monolith asked, sending a telepathic message to his mom saying that he would be safe as his follower.

"Rest and Aqua Ring! Plus I've got Healer for those odd multi-'mon battles," Mercer said confidently. **(Mercer is a compromise name because I kept thinking about Mercy from reference to Overwatch. Also, He's Hardy)**

Monolith smirked a bit, imagining a younger version of him trying to spout off his good points. Considering his obsession with Natural Gift when he was younger and the obvious berry hoarding, he could only imagine that he would mention that and not his Lightningrod Ability.

After Mercer had been sent to the PC to check with his reserves of followers, Monolith continued on exploring the mountain, eventually reaching the end where his brother was shouting at a cornered Plasma Grunt, using their logic of separation against them. Another one comes from the back and they run off after saying that they found something, which Monolith assumes is the Stones mentioned earlier.

"I'm tired of those idiots trying to interfere! Maybe I'll just punish all of the humans when I win all by myself! Maybe they'll understand what's wrong with their logic then!" Brother shouted, breaking down. Both Cheren and even Ribbit looked worried by that statement **(After all, he still has a human body!)**.

Cheren ushered them past as he hunched over Brother reassuringly and Monolith bit his lip, feeling very worried about all this. 'At this point, I'm going to just win by default...' he thought as he left, immediately met by Cedric Juniper who asked how Merky was.

Monolith looked at Merky as if asking for the answer, but Cedric took his own meaning in that glance and figured they were doing well. "Have you heard of Dragonspiral Tower?" Cedric asked and Monolith admitted that he hadn't, so Cedric proceed to tell the legends about how it's the oldest building in Unova and where the Unovan legends are told to slumber.

Monolith is intrigued by the story, thinking back to Kyurem in the box. 'I suppose 'Mythical' would know of that tower, then...' he thought.

And so the gang wandered around Icirrus City, finding the swamps leading to Route 8 a particular distraction where a floating Hoppip comes out of the pond to join them. Maple the Hoppip's leaves looked to be more formed like Maple leaves instead of the usual Dandelion leaves, but the Hoppip has the ability Levitate, so it doesn't debilitate his flying skills at all. That

doesn't explain why he likes floating on water, but he didn't explain that and Monolith ignores that to just lead everyone around Southern Icirrus.

The exploration made Monolith float over some pits while Miller continued to pick up nearby dropped items, but eventually they headed into Route 8 where Miller was surprised by the large amount of hidden items everywhere; It would seem that items were easily lost in swamps.

In Rt. 8 another Brave warrior Pokemon, a Makuhita named Marcellus, joins them. He clutches a Rare Bone and can quickly swim through water (**Swift Swim**). In the Moor of Icirrus an ancient swampy Torterra with some extra scales on his form (**Shell Armor**), stuck deep in the wet swamp water (**Holding Damp Mulch+Surf Spot 'mon**) has a deep talk with Monolith about what he plans to do as a God. Monolith admits that he's up for ideas and plans to fix things that his followers have brought up, possibly granting each of them a wish in the end. "Well, my wish is just to leave this swamp. To see a brighter sun and to be able to move my stuck limbs again. Do you think you could do that?" the Docile Maalamon asked. (**Cebuano for Wise. Just random Google Translate.**)

"Of course," Monolith smiled, bowing before levitating an Ultra Ball to the Torterra's forehead. In a split-second, there was a huge imprint in the swampy mud that quickly started filling back up, the swamp waters lowering without the presence of the old turtle.

"He sounds like he has quite a story," Markus noted, seeing how the Pokemon living in Maalamon's tree and bushes had been left out and had quickly scabbled out of the swamp, not wanting to get stuck like the old Torterra had. Monolith helped Pokemon escape the closing swamp waters before going back to exploring the moor some more. He found more Torterra along the way, but they were much more pleased by their present situation, so it seemed Maalamon was an outlier.

Along the way they find a Ranger who has two Imposter Qwilfish, one of which managed to confuse Million enough in battle to get him down to 25HP in one blow. (**And Maximus is the lowest HP at 103 at this point, so that's serious!**) Monolith offers to fix them, but it turns out Qwilfish can only have Imposter, other than their HA, Hyper Cutter, and Monolith isn't confident enough in his ability-swapping magic to give out Hidden Abilities, so they head on, Monolith and Maximus a bit sad/disappointed.

After finishing the exploration of the swamps, Monolith found that he didn't want to train up for the Judge yet. "Hey, how about some Surfing exploration? I think we could get a follower in Cilan's town with that now," Monolith suggested.

"Yeah, sounds neat! Oh, but I'd be doing most of the work, huh?" Miller realized.

“Well, you haven’t ‘Picked Up’ any items yet, might as well do some work, eh?” Maximus joked, getting a glare from the rest of the gang. “Eugh, yeah, whatever,” he huffed, squeezing his Eviolite/stress ball.

So first thing first was checking out the fountain area in Striaton, where a Phanpy that was in the middle of bathing ran up to Monolith. “I wanted to join you before, but, uhm, you already had a full team and, well, a Ground-type,” the very Cute Phanpy admitted. (**Cute Charm**)

“Don’t worry, Monolith has set up a Church of Followers in the Human’s PC! You can wait there until we have need of you!” Markus said excitedly.

“Ah, really?” Mackie beamed, looking over at Monolith.

“Indeed! I’ll just have to catch you, if that isn’t a problem?” Monolith said, levitating a Dusk Ball out of Ribbit’s bag.

“Not at all!” the Phanpy smiled.

And then he was teleported to the PC, where there was indeed a church of Monolith set up (**by Mason, obv**), but, well, there’s a giant cage around Mythical’s Pokeball so he can’t leave. (**I imagine that Maverick and Myoot would’ve calmed down enough to be part of that community**)

Next was Driftveil, where, while Miller and Ribbit went surfing towards the lighthouse (Monolith levitating beside them, skimming the water), a Taillow landed right onto Million’s stomach, who was just doing a dead-man’s float in the water by the shore where the rest of the team was relaxing. “Hey, wanna, hmm, join an Arceus’ team?” Million asked.

“No way, really?” Musashi’s eyes widened. (**Mattman324 suggested Miyamoto Musashi**)

And so the Technician Taillow joined Monolith’s Followers! Next was Wellspring Cave, where a Bunch of Black Belts with Lairon trained and then Monolith and co. headed back to Driftveil City and into Misaltron Cave where they encountered a Houndour that offered to light up their way for them. Monolith accepted the help, so Malsio the Houndour used his... (**\*checks his moves\***) Fire Fang to light their way. Just like the previous Houndour the gang had encountered, a Red Card was held in place on his back between his two ridges. He also had a bit of a temper (**Anger Point**), but it was hard to tell because of how Docile and relaxed he was normally.

Anyway, Malsio leads Monolith and his friends along, staying away when fights against trainers happened, but one Hiker mentioned the Arceus Tournament. “Whoa, a tournament? What’s up with that?” Malsio asked, relaxing the flames in his mouth so he could speak.

So Monolith explained what he was doing here in Unova as they moved along and soon they were at the entrance to the Guidance Chamber and Malsio was quite interested in joining, though he felt a bit spooked about entering the Chamber, explaining about the Sword Trio. "Cobalion is Water/Fighting, so you can understand my worry..." Malsio explained.

"Of course! I can send you to the PC now, if you like," Monolith offered.

"Thanks. I'd like to see how the rest of your followers think about you," Malsio said. And with that, he was sent off in a Dusk Ball.

So Monolith went further in, planning on speaking to Cobalion just as he had with Victini, though that one had went sour. "Alright, just be calm and-"

"SCREEE!" an ear-piercing screech cried from further in the chamber and Monolith rushed to it, other Pokemon living there running out of the entrance.

When Monolith, followed closely by Markus and Ribbit, found the source of the screaming, Monolith was completely flabbergasted. "R-Rayquaza... So, it's just like Kyurem said. Even if I tried to find Virizion, it wouldn't be her..." Monolith mumbled, ignoring the sight of Rayquaza shouting and knocking over rocks, half-asleep.

"I-it looks like he's having a nightmare! Capture him, Monolith!" Markus said, slicing up a falling rock that tried to fall near Ribbit.

"I-I'm not sure I should-"

"Ribbi-!" Ribbit croaked, throwing a Dusk Ball at the Rayquaza just as a rock was about to fall on him.

Rayquaza burst out and woke up, focusing in on the 'human' who had thrown the ball, quite similar to Kyurem, only this time Monolith didn't try again, he used his Strength on Rayquaza and knocked him out.

"L-Lord Monolith!" Markus said, shocked by the Arceus' decision. "A-are you sure...?"

Monolith sighed, looking away from the sky serpent's body to levitate rocks back into place, clearing away the rubble. "Let's get out of here. I don't wish to trap Legendaries unnecessarily," Monolith said, grabbing an Escape Rope and leaving the cave with everyone.

"So, are we going to check out Virizion in the Pinwheel Forest?" Maximus asked.

Monolith frowned. "I... have a feeling she won't be there, but we should at least see who's in her place. So far all of these swaps have been horrible ideas. The giant Patriarch of the Tao

Trio trapped in a small room, a Sky God trapped in a cave... I'm really worried about who wound up in the forest," Monolith admitted.

'Please don't be Moltres!' he prayed before ordering Ribbit to get ready to Fly to Nacrene.

And so the gang went back to Pinwheel Forest where Miller went off at one point to Surf over to an item. Well, the further they went into the forest, the colder it became. It was slightly noticeable in the main road through the forest, but now that they were getting closer to Virizion's usual chambers, there were sheets of ice everywhere. "Well, at least it isn't Moltres," Markus joked, which surprised Monolith.

"I think we would've noticed smoke stacks last time we were here if that was the case," Merky said, being careful with his steps, he kept sliding, though.

"Aww, come on, it's easy to balance on ice!" Maximus smiled, doing a quick ice skating maneuver that slid him right into the Ruminant Field.

"Maximus!" Markus shouted, running in after him right before he saw a hulking Ice Golem before them as they slid closer to it.

"Regice," Monolith greeted the golem, levitating Markus and Maximus away from the golem.

There was no response, however. "Ah, it looks like she's deactivated," Monolith said, reaching up with one of his pointy paws to tap the middle dot on the golem's face.

Regice seemed to go through a rebooting process, taking a step back. "Arceus. No. One of his Sons," she said bluntly as she looked over Monolith's features, his teal and pink eyes standing out in particular.

"Ah, yes, you can call me Monolith. I didn't mean you bother you, I just wanted to know where, uhm, Virizion went," Monolith asked.

"Scorched Slab," Regice answered.

Monolith looked terrified at the idea, remembering how it was one of Heatran's many homes made for her children, but he nodded. "Alright, thank you," Monolith said before turning.

"Aww, no battle?" Maximus asked.

"No, come on, don't-"

"BATTLE MODE ACTIVATED!" Regice shouted, making Monolith jump in the air.

Then a robotic sound similar to snickering came from Regice and Monolith groaned. "Goodbye, Monolith," Regice said before ice-skating over to a tree, touching it daintily with her prongs, as if she wants to console it for being frozen by her. She only manages to create more ice over it, though. She makes a sad boop and Monolith hurriedly levitated everyone out of there, not wanting to see the still child-minded Ice Golem crying over a tree, or at least crying the best she could with no tear ducts.

And so it was time they went back to Nuvema Town, where Juniper lived. Though the real reason they were there was to explore the waters near Rt. 1, the place where Ribbit was body-swapped by Monolith. Ribbit was ecstatic to see his home again, as was Markus, who got to tell some stories to his Krookodile and Bisharp pals as they passed through.

**(Yeah, it was either Krookodile or Bisharp as my first 'mon and I like a balanced beginning, so I was annoyed back then. Arceus starts with a crappy moveset. ...Though, now that I check, apparently there were rare chances of Qwilfish and Feraligatr in the grass and Qwilfish would've been the preferred choice, but Imposter... Oh well, I just remember being antsy about getting Monolith's first follower.)**

But eventually everyone but Miller and Monolith had to be returned so they could go Surfing deeper into Route 1 and eventually into Route 17, where they find crazy current mazes. "I don't like the look of this..." Miller admitted, thought it was probably just because he didn't have a lot of experience with moving water. After all, the closest water source to the Dreamyard were the small ponds on the other side of Striaton.

Unable to find a suitable Pokemon in Route 17 while surfing, they headed to Route 18 after a short current maze that made Miller uncomfortable. There they came upon an island. **(It hurt me to not let Monolith learn ExtremeSpeed, ugh.)**

**(Originally I caught a Rhyhorn with Snow Warning, naming him Meteor and saying he had a black horn made from meteor that attracted snow, but later I remembered that I already had a Rhydon, Mullyar.)**

As they climbed the vertical island, they encountered another warrior-type Pokemon, Munch the Snubbull that was a Champion of his people, though his ability to remove the effects of weather (**Airlock**) made his people mad when it rained and plants didn't get wet and grow. He brashly shows off his Bite and Headbutt moves and Monolith agrees to accept the fierce and haughty warrior, though the Snubbull just reminded him of Maximus, and he felt like they could be friends. After that, they headed into a nearby house where a lady helped to heal the Pokemon.

While they were resting, Monolith overheard the Ranger in the house entrust an egg to Ribbit, who only helplessly croaked as the man forced the rather heavy egg into his arms. 'Ah, no way...' Monolith thought, worried about Ribbit.

They were back on their way exploring soon enough, and Ribbit clung to the Egg as they walked along, half-scared of hatching a kid, and half-excited about the idea. Miller was all for hatching an egg, though, completely up for being a Pokemon Dad since his fossil plan didn't exactly work out.

"Well, we'll know what it is soon enough," Monolith said, glancing at the beige Pokemon egg before leading everyone onwards.

Eventually they find an abandoned laboratory. "Apparently it counts as a new area in the map," Markus said, reading the digital map.

And so they encountered a new follower, an Impish Shroomish with a Leaf Stone placed in the hairs on the top of his head. He seemed annoyed to be interrupted during lunch, but was quite accommodating once he realized that he was talking to one of the Tournament Arceus. "Well, why didn't you say so? I'd love to join your team! I could do with growing some hands, too!" Montgomery smiled and showed off his Filter ability.

Once that was done, Monolith worked on cutting through currents so they could reach the beach that the Item Finder was screaming about. And after a surprising fight where Monolith crit-killed an Axew with a Jaboca Berry, Monolith called their exploration to an end.

"Firt Egg," Ribbit insisted.

Monolith nodded. "Don't worry, there's a good route for that in Iccirus," Monolith said.

**(And then I ran across those two bridges in Iccirus over and over again to hatch this Tauros.)**

And so a Tauros kicked out of its egg. Once Ribbit had set it down after getting off the quickly-moving Monolith of course. **(I imagine Monolith would've made him ride side-saddle because he's not used to having riders. + He doesn't have the usual backside of a horse. My favorite thing about this run was imagining the followers landing on or riding Monolith, though. Particularly Ducklett-Miller landing on the top of Monolith's hoop.)**

And so Montana the Tauros was born! He has a bit of a self-confidence streak (**Moxie !!**), but otherwise he's quite calm. Miller made sure to be the closest to Montana and the Tauros seemed to take the Swanna on as his dad, though he definitely looked to be expecting some milk.

After an awkward trip to the daycare to get some child-raising tips, giving Montana a few levels to help him get started, before leaving him at the Daycare (**Not really**) so he would get cared for properly while they continue with the Tournament. Anyway, sappy stuff happens and then they head back to Iccirus to beat Judge Brycen.

### #131 (Brycen) - Gloom Lv37, Golbat Lv37, Amoonguss Lv39

“So, you’ve finally arrived,” Brycen greeted them as Monolith and his followers climbed the final stairs, slightly dizzy.

“So, I take it from those pillars at the front that you haven’t seen my brother around yet,” Monolith mentioned as Miller moved to the front.

“You do not count as League Trainers,” Brycen said, seeing Monolith’s frown. “But I have yet to see any Arceus aside from your father,” he added, “Now, let’s fight,” Brycen said, ending the conversation.

So first up was Miller vs. Gloom. OHKO Air Slash from Miller. Next up was his ace, Amoonguss, which Maximus came out for. “Haha, it’s almost like there’s two Grass Judges in a row!” Maximus joked, readying Ice Fang, which hit for half health.

In return, Maximus was badly poisoned by Toxic. “Ah, geez, do Amoonguss have high Special Defense?” Monolith wondered to himself.

The next Ice Fang left Amoonguss in red health, where he used Synthesis to heal for a little more than half health. “Alright, here’s my difficult battle!” Maximus smirked, ready for the challenge as he attacked again.

Amoonguss was left in red health once more, but the ice from the bite quickly spread over the mushroom’s body, freezing it in place. “Oh my gosh, your first freeze!” Miller shouted excitedly.

“Heck yeah! Go down you poisonous mush!” Maximus, going for another Ice Fang, only to see the mushroom get healed by Brycen (**Hyper Potion**).

“Don’t count me out so quickly. You don’t look so hot yourself,” Brycen said, pointing out Maximus’ 48/108HP.

“Meh, I can deal with it!” Maximus assured Monolith.

And after the next hit, Amoonguss thawed out and healed itself. Maximus was at 18HP. “Alright, time for Full Restore,” Monolith said, ignoring Maximus’ complaints and him wriggling away from the spray.

Then Giga Drain hit and did half health to Maximus. “Okay, maybe it’s time I step back i-” Miller started.

“NO! I. NEED. CHALLENGE!” Maximus shouted, continuing with the battle.

Ice Fang/Synthesis  
Ice Fang/Giga to 10/108  
Max Potion/Giga to 60/108  
Ice Fang/Synthesis  
Ice Fang/Synthesis  
ICE FANG CRIT KILL!!!

Maximus was panting by the time it was all over, an icy aura floating viciously around him. "That's all I wanted..." Maximus panted out, falling back. Monolith caught him with telepathy and rested the Snorunt on his back.

"Uhm, well, what's next?" Monolith asked.

"My Golbat," Brycen said, releasing the bat. Merky wordlessly stepped forward, worried about the snarky little Snorunt just like the others were.

Well, unfortunately, the battle started with Merky getting confused and hitting himself. Merky snapped out of it next turn, getting hit by Wing Attack before Charging up for Thunder Fang. Golbat went for Confuse Ray again, but Merky pulled through to finish his combo, OHKO-ing the bat in the process.

And so Monolith got the Freeze Badge! "Well, that was more memorable than the other Judge fights," Markus noted.

"Indeed," Million agreed.

And so they went down a really cool ice slide and exited the gym to find his siblings and their humans waiting for him. "What a reunion," Monolith said sarcastically.

Brother groaned, looking at his sister, who nodded. "Right, so I'm apologizing for being a huge jerk. I realize I'm being way more competitive than I should be. I almost scared Cheren off entirely with how I was acting and I realize how terrible I was. I just... never thought either of you were competent enough to lead a world..." Brother sighed.

"Forgive me?" Brother offered.

Monolith's face scrunched up. "No, why would I? You've been terrible to me all my life! You don't deserve an apology! You're the one that drove me to this, into a pathetic competition about who would 'rule the world'! I have anxiety and trust issues and other problems because of your bullying!" Monolith spat.

"Little Bro-" Sister started.

"No, it's MONOLITH NOW!" the Arceus shouted, jumping when he realized who he had shouted at.

There was a brief silence before Brycen appeared from behind them. "Well, here are the Arceus I was told to fight. Why haven't you entered yet?" he asked.

Sister began to answer before Brycen looked around in suspicion. "Who's there!? Show yourself!" he shouted, shocking the Arceus and their humans.

And so N's ninjas appeared once again, barely explaining themselves before telling Monolith to meet N at the Dragonspiral Tower. And with that they left and Brycen said he would rush to the tower. Cheren and Brother follows him, Brother giving Monolith a glare.

"Monolith, I hope you think twice about your decision," Sister said before heading over there herself with a sad-faced Bianca.

"Lord Monolith..."

"No, Markus. Let's just beat up N again," Monolith said, heading to the Pokemon Center.

**(I decided that there would be 2 Dragonspiral Tower Encounters: Before the tree-warp and inside the tower. Not counting the in-between area because I thought that would be too much.)**

After the heal, the team headed North where Professor Cedric Juniper, Bianca, and Sister were being blocked by a sleeping Bastiodon. The other group was chatting and introducing themselves, but Monolith saw Sister glance at him sideways, not saying anything.

Monolith approached the Bastiodon near his face, while the other group was speaking by the Bastiodon's hind legs. "He looks uncomfortable, kind of like you when your Narcolepsy kicks in, Markus," Monolith noted.

"Hmm, yeah, I could see that. Do you think he has it too?" Markus asked, moving closer to knock on the top of the Pokemon's metal-plate mask, the metal of his hands making a clinking sound against it that made the Bastiodon jolt, kicking out his legs briefly that shocked the other group, who jumped away from the Pokemon and glanced at the group.

"Oof, looks like I fell asleep in the wrong place again," the Bastiodon said as he looked around, climbing back to his feet.

"Sorry for being a bother," he told them all before stepping out of the way of the opening in the trees.

“Ah, wait, do you have Narcolepsy too?” Markus asked.

“Yes, unfortunately. It isn’t an easy time when you doze off in the middle of battle all the time,” the Bastiodon admitted.

“No way, I didn’t think we would meet another Steel-type with Truant on this adventure. Do you want to join us?” Markus asked, quite excited.

“Hey, how about we exchange names first before asking Pokemon to join the Arceus Tournament?” Monolith told Markus.

“Ah, yeah. Sorry, Lord Monolith,” Markus apologized, a bit embarrassed.

“Oh, you’re one of those fighting Arceus then, ain’t ‘cha? Well, then I’d love to join ya! I’m Masque. Named after my mask on my face. My parents weren’t exactly the most original,” Masque said, chuckling.

And they exchanged details and Masque was caught and then Cedric approached Monolith and gave his group the low-down on what’s going on in the Dragonspiral Tower, how a large group of Team Plasma people broke through the wall and went inside. He also mentioned that Brother, Cheren, and Brycen had already gone inside. Bianca stays behind, acting as Cedric’s bodyguard, while Monolith goes ahead past the opening in the trees, though Cedric does give Monolith a cake before he left.

There was a bit of a distraction as Miller spotted a hidden island off to the right of the bridge where Miller finally managed to Pick Up an item, a Full Restore, after fighting the two trainers over there. Despite those trainers being Flying- and Water-types, they were quite dangerous to Merky, but the Luxray found use in Mega Drain once again, having been focusing on Thunder Fang for quite a while now.

After those worrying fights, Monolith led them back to the the tower, experiencing quakes as they climbed the tower. Eventually Monolith and co. come across Cheren, Brother, and Brycen holding back Team Plasma grunts. Brycen tells Monolith to go ahead, and while Cheren complains about the amount of grunts, Brother refuses to speak to Monolith, leaving the Arceus to keep going forward where some grunts that hadn’t been beaten attacked them.

Along the way they meet Metti, an Elekid that followed them from the entrance of the tower. “I-I want to get big and strong just like Luxray!” Metti shouted.

“Names Merky, kid. I’d love to help train you,” Merky said.

“Thanks Merky, Sir! Monolith, too!” Metti smiled as Monolith pulled out an Ultra Ball.

As the group climbed to the next floor, he heard N shout from above as another tremor struck the tower. "Looks like there's a, hmm, group of grunts ahead," Million pointed out.

"One of those Sage fellows, too," Miller noted from his spot perched atop Monolith's decorative hoop.

"Stop riding on top of me, Miller. You're way heavier now," Monolith mumbled as he headed forward. Miller moved to fly ahead and the Sage ordered the grunts to surround Monolith and co. and fight them, leading to four back-to-back fights.

The battles went by easily, however, and Monolith approached the Sage, who said he was Giallo, but the Sage only repeats N's mission back at him, so Monolith heads towards the stairs before he finishes.

"I've had it with this N guy, can't he just kill him?" Maximus asked, pounding his two fists together.

"No, absolutely not! We can't take a human's life! If Monolith did that, even normal humans would want to control all pokemon like Arceus can!" Markus said, referring to N's mission.

### **(My Favorite Scene Starts here)**

Monolith was about to say something as well, but he was cut off by a shout coming from further up the stairs. "I've had it up to *here*, N! Just tell me where the Arceus are!"

"Sounds like someone else hates him too," Merky noted.

"It's that second part that worries me, though," Monolith said, "Miller, check it out with Ribbit," he ordered.

"On it, Boss Mono!" Miller said, saluting. **(I always want to shorten their names, but I never do, so here's Miller doing it.)**

"Don't call me Mono..." Monolith sighed, watching as the Swanna flew up the stairs, Ribbit easily walking up behind him. All that was left of Ribbit's old frog-self was in the odd way he walked, with his knees slightly forward and slouching.

"Now, Now, Sergeant Briggs. I can't have you ruining all my fun *too* quickly. I have to show Zekrom off to him first, after all," N replied with a smirk as Miller and Ribbit silently came up the stairs and hid behind a crumbling pillar.

Ribbit looked confused when he heard 'Zekrom' and looked around, letting out a loud croak when he saw the Deep Black Pokemon hiding in the shadow. The croak surprised this 'Briggs' and he whirled around, revealing that the Sergeant looked like a grizzled old Veteran trainer with a beige open coat with a popped collar and a basic white shirt and black jeans, no beret though. He has a close shave and a muscled build and plenty of cuts and scars over his person from the apparent journey to catch the Arceus.

A Stoutland (**Wilbert**) beside him barked and besides the shorter than average trim on the fur around his legs, he also looked quite beat up as well. The Stoutland's left 'whisker' looked like it was cut short by the same attack that left a large, furless scar in his left side. Looking closer, you could see shining metal flecks in the healing wound, left from a recent and devastating battle with an Excadrill's Iron Tail. **(80BP Iron Tail and its Defense debuff is killer.)** There was also a thin belt of what looked like flashbangs, 25 of them, going over the Stoutland's left shoulder and under his right front leg. **(He has Flash [25PP] and I thought it would be a good way to show that Briggs is Military.)**

A Shiftry (**Gorge**) is riding atop the large dog, making sure to keep his foot away from the wound in the Stoutland's side. He has similar scars to the Stoutland, including a wound on his shoulder that had the same flecks.

Other Pokemon of Briggs were with him as well, but they didn't react as much as the Stoutland. There was a fierce-looking Mienshao (**Gan**) that was holding an annoyed-looking Tepig (**Damien**) in his arms that looked rather trained for a completely unevolved Pokemon (**Briggs Wedlockes and Damien being paired with a Mienshao led to me never evolving him**). There was also an Altaria (**Andy**) lazily floating around, who seemed to be called to action by the bark, leaving the Sergeant's sixth Pokemon a mystery. **(Not death, just a heavy PKMN).**

"That sounded like a human imitating a frog, so it's definitely-" Briggs started, but N intervened.

"H-hey, how about I show Zekrom off to you?" N said, sweating, clearly not wanting Briggs and Monolith to meet.

"Frick you, N! Monolith's going to destroy you!" Maximus shouted, running up the stairs.

"Maximus, stop it!" Markus whisper-shouted, running up the stairs after the Snorunt.

"Well, I guess everything's been exposed. You can come up, Sir," Merky said, leading the other two up the stairs.

Briggs seemed to be completely unaffected by the words that were being said, instead resorting to shouting. "You! I've it up to *here* with you!" Briggs shouted, throwing his hand in the air. Wilbert beside him barked back, oddly in a way that didn't say anything, which confused

Monolith. Alongside his dog friend, the Shiftry atop Wilbert also let out a Tengu-screech that said nothing.

“Ah, so... You know your Pokemon aren’t saying anything, right?” Monolith asked, completely ignoring the atmosphere for now.

“What do you...? Ugh, of *course* you’d understand them! Just like N, geez,” Briggs shouted, angrily gesturing to the green-haired man. **(I like to imagine he’s built Monolith up so much in his head that he forgot he’s a Pokemon, haha.)**

“Oh, so you... can’t understand Pokespeech?” Monolith noted.

“No, I can’t understand Pokemon! I’m just a basic Military Man with his loyal service dog!” Briggs huffed.

‘Well, It’s good that I had to learn Human for this ‘tournament’ then,’ Monolith thought.

Wilbert barked once more. “Look, you’ve caused Sergeant Briggs enough trouble, so just turn yourself in!”

Markus huffed. “Tell him what he did first!” Markus said, his words sounding like a loud metallic screech to Briggs, who covered his ears.

“I have Random moves authorized, so I could kill any of you easily with Andy’s one hundred and seventy base power Aerial Ace! And accounting for STAB, heh, well-” Gorge screeched at Briggs for saying that.

“Sergeant, he hasn’t done anything to deserve a threat!”

Monolith sighed. “Look, I think we got off on the wrong foot. If you’re enemies with N, then-”

“No, I’ve had it with your blatant lawbreaking attitude! You’ve caused huge groupings of female Pokemon all across the region-”

“Aren’t you only using Male Pokemon, too?” Monolith asked.

“Ruined the self-confidence of two different species, not to mention the ECOSYSTEM!”

“Hey, my self-confidence is fine!” Maximus interjected.

“That was mainly my fath-” Monolith started.

“And finally, body-swapping a **FROG** with my **BEST FRIEND’S** Son!” Briggs shouted, tears starting to well up.

(And here’s where I finally connected these two ‘lockes. Briggs was always imagined as a member of the Unovan military with a Lillipup service dog/starter. He would have a tough exterior, but a soft heart shown by the way he went the way of Gay Wedlockes. I had never thought much on the actual reason for his mission/journey across Unova... until I decided to connect him to the original owner of Ribbit’s body. Then it all clicked into place and I loved it. I might be putting some flashbacks for his story here as well, but not to the extent of Monolith.

**Small things to note for Briggs’ Gay Wedlocke:**

**Briggs has random field items, randomized Movesets, and Randomized Move BP/ACC/PP [along with the other random options that Monolith has, except NOT Area 1-to-1 Random Wild PKMN, just normal Random Wild PKMN]**

**As stated earlier, the highest move on the team is currently 170BP/60ACC/5PP Aerial Ace on Andy the Altaria. You can’t randomize 2nd effects, but Aerial Ace missed four times in a row once, so the ACC might actually be changed...**

**I’m ‘doublelocking’ these two ‘lockes, which means changing between them at key moments, or whenever I feel like it.**

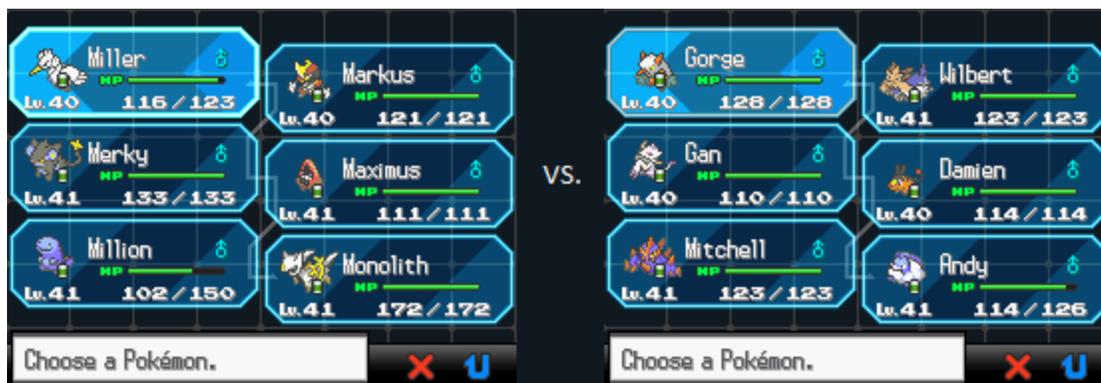
**No one in Briggs’ current team can learn Surf. His Surf Slave Rorsarck the Tirtouga in the PC. He is reserved to be the next on the team.**

**He’s also had Zero Deaths.**

**Also this deleted a plot thread in which I was thinking of having Monolith throw the Master Ball he gets in the Moor of Icirrus, because Briggs found one there in that little curve of trees in the middle of the Moor. But then I wanted them to all catch up, so it can’t happen, I guess.)**

Ribbit croaked fearfully at that, getting closer to Monolith. “Ah, hey now, maybe we can talk about this...” Monolith started.

“NO! You get no more warnings! Everyone, line up!” Briggs shouted.



Briggs' Pokémon lined up in front of the trainer and Monolith blinked, shocked when the Sergeant also released a Gligalith that seemed to cause tremors in the tower similar to Zekrom. He noticed Gan set down Damien and blinked.

"Wait, you expect us to fight a Tepig?" Monolith asked.

"Hah! He's even shorter than me!" Maximus laughed.

Briggs smirked. "Damien just got a move that makes him the third strongest Pokémon on the team. I wouldn't underestimate him."

"Yeah, I could kick your lcy ass! I have one hundred Base Power Fire Spin and I'm not afraid to use it!" Damien shouted in a surprisingly deep voice that surprised the rest of the gang.

"Doesn't mean I'm not jealous of Gan, though," the Tepig muttered, glancing up at the much taller, graceful Pokémon.

"Wait, I'm jealous of everyone else, too!" Maximus shouted, excited, running up to Damien, who was shocked.

"Fire Fang," Briggs ordered without thinking. **(85BP/100ACC/40PP)**

Damien ignored the order for the moment, instead speaking to the Snorunt. "Whatever, you'll evolve soon enou-"

"Wow, and you have an Eviolite, too!" Maximus pointed out, noticing the Eviolite in the curl of Damien's tail.

Gan pouted beside Damien. "Yeah, but your 'Monolith' doesn't have a reason to keep you unevolved," Gan said, making Monolith realize what was wrong with the picture.

'Shifty is riding Stoutland, Mienshao was holding Tepig, Altaria is circling Gigalith...' Monolith gasped.

"You're one of those Cupid folks!" Monolith shouted, pointing decisively at Briggs. (**Headcanon: Wedlocke Trainers are called Cupids**)

Briggs jolted, cheeks turning red. "N-No I'm not!" he shouted back.

"Yes you are! Why else would your Pokemon be all paired off like that? And a Pokemon literally *riding on the back of another Pokemon!*? How did I not see that earlier!?" Monolith asked, laughing.

"Sh-shut up! It was Wilbert's idea! He was the one that ran off and came back holding a cute little Seedot by the stem!" Briggs shouted, eyes squeezed shut, cheeks red.

"Aww, you were so timid back then, Gorge," Wilbert remembered.

"Yeah, but now I have enough confidence to be Brave like you and Briggs," Gorge said, wrapping an arm around the dog.

"So you two met when he was a Mienfoo then?" Maximus asked.

"Mm, I was pretty set in my ways back then. I thought I was just going to be the usual silent martial artist, but seeing those two being all lovey-dovey made me want someone..." Gan admitted, getting a bit red.

"I wasn't completely sure about having a Cupid either. I was just a Timid Roggenrola lost in the Dreamyard, but after seeing those two fight so bravely in the gym I wanted a partner of my own. Little did I know it would be a childish Swablu like Andy," Mitchell joked.

"Hey! I've totally grown past that! I'm the *strongest* one on the team now, you know," Andy said, holding his head up high, though his stomach betrayed him by rumbling. "Maybe I'm a bit hungry, though..." the Altaria said, landing on top of Mitchell.

"Hey, Monolith has a lot of berries!" Maximus said.

Monolith hid the berry bag he had around his neck. "H-hey now, these berries are just for Natural Gift..." Monolith said.

Briggs snorted. "No way, the upcoming God of the World uses *Natural Gift!*?" Briggs laughed, just trying to have a reason to laugh back at Monolith.

“Hey, using berries got me through a lot of hard battles early on with my siblings!” Monolith shouted.

“Sounds like another form of cheating to me,” N said, finally stepping forward, catching everyone’s attention again.

“Ah, I see I’m the center of attention again. And here I thought I would have to get Zekrom to roar to do that,” N chuckled.

“Fuck you, N,” Briggs and Monolith said without thinking, practically in unison.

Both of them jumped upon hearing each other, but N continued. “Now that’s not nice. I finally let you two meet, don’t I get some praise for that?” N asked, glancing at Briggs.

“Don’t paint us for fools, N. You said that you wanted to show him Zekrom before we meet. We met before you introduced your dragon, therefore this wasn’t planned,” Gan said, posing for Double Kick. **(70BP[140BP Total]/95ACC/35PP)**

“Ah, n-now come on, there’s no need for that. How about we get that introduction over with, then?” N said, gesturing for Zekrom to come out of the shadows.

Zekrom did so, towering over all the Pokemon as it stepped forward and glared at Monolith. **(Yes, towering even over Monolith [10ft high in Pokedex] because I imagine Father Arceus probably either made the Arceus Siblings smaller for the Tournament, or Monolith is more like the ‘runt of the litter’, so he’s shorter than a normal Arceus. Most likely both.)**

“So, I hear you caught our ‘Father’,” Zekrom snarled.

“Yes, well, he didn’t leave me any choice. He was going to kill Ribbit,” Monolith said. Briggs jolted upon hearing that, though he didn’t hear Zekrom’s half.

“Zekrom is going to help me create the planet I want. Then Humans will finally be free of the rule of Legendaries like you and Legendary Pokemon won’t have their homes intruded upon by trainers every day. It’ll be beneficial for both of us,” N said, smiling.

Briggs didn’t seem to fight that logic, apparently agreeing somewhat, though his Pokemon didn’t react in the same idle fashion. “Do you really think we would’ve found each other without Briggs there to help? We would’ve been completely clueless!” Mitchell spoke up.

Briggs smiled when he heard Mitchell’s rumbling, knowing that N’s words had gotten him angry. “Now, now. We’re just here to arrest ‘Monolith’, so we don’t need to-”

N turned away from the angry Mitchell, instead focusing on Monolith. "You had your chance. Now I'll make this world all my own. I just have to convince the public that they shouldn't be ruled by Pokemon, and to do that... Well, I'll just have to take down the Pokemon League," N chuckled.

"Everyone would listen to the Champion, and once we have the public's approval, I'll finally separate the worlds of Pokemon and Humans. Forever," N smirked. Zekrom behind him began flapping his wings, rising in the air over the roofless tower.

"You're still just another Pokemon. Only another Tao Trio member can beat Zekrom and there's no way the other two would join you after what you've done," N said, letting out a sharp laugh and reaching up as Zekrom flew low and snatched him up, flying him away.

"Oh no..." Markus said worryingly.

"I don't think this is going to go well. Where would Reshiram even be?" Merky asked.

"Well, I assume he would also be sleeping like Zekrom was, bu-" Monolith started

"Hey, don't forget about me! I'm here to bring you back to Castelia!" Briggs shouted.

Instead of any of Monolith's followers reacting to that, they instead started speaking with Briggs' Pokemon as well. "Wow, you're bigger than me!" Andy said, landing beside Miller.

"Haha, yeah, I guess I am!" Miller smiled.

Damien and Maximus bonded over being the smallest Pokemon on the team. Gorge gave Merky some tips about how to use Mega Drain, as well as gushed over the Big Root, which he said he would love to have a use for. Markus talked with Gan about their devotion to their 'trainers'. Million approached Mitchell, commenting on Mitchell's use of Non-STAB moves (Psywave for Million [He's been forgetting it lately] + Tail Slap [**55BP(110 Minimum)/95ACC/10PP**] and Twister [**80BP/100ACC/5PP**] for Mitchell.)

"Gah! No, attack! Cross Chop (**Gan: 95BP/90ACC/15PP**), Tail Slap!" Briggs shouted, not liking this.

Wilbert ignored Briggs and approached Monolith and Ribbit. "I was taught to not be as trusting as the rest, but that doesn't mean I'll be harsh either. I hope we can work together on this Plasma problem," Wilbert said, raising a paw to the Arceus.

Monolith shook paws with Wilbert, nodding. "Of course. I have no reason to keep Ribbit like this other than the tournament," Monolith said, only to hear a worried croak by his side.

“Ri-Ribbit do’sn’-” he started, just as Cheren, Brother, and Brycen ran up the stairs behind them.

“Was that *Zekrom*!? What the heck is that guy up to!?” Cheren shouted in exasperation.

“He wants to, hmm, separate humans and Pokemon,” Million said, shocking Brother, who translated via telekinesis for the humans.

“This is definitely not good,” Brycen responded, looking worried.

“I thought I heard him say that only a member of the Tao Trio could take down another member, too. I know we don’t have the same powers as our Father, but there’s no way we can’t overpower him together,” Brother said.

Monolith cringed at the idea, looking away from Brother. ‘Like I’d want to work together with you,’ he thought.

Briggs looked extra angry when he saw Brother show up and he marched past his Pokemon to approach him as well. “And *you*! You’ve been leaving even more fainted Pokemon out in the wild than Monolith!” Briggs shouted, stabbing a finger at Brother’s chest.

“H-hey, he’s changed!” Cheren insisted, covering Brother as the Arceus looked hurt by the accusation.

“Everyone, calm down! We need to think up a plan before we go about blaming each other. Now, Sergeant Briggs, what are you doing here? I thought you left my gym hours ago,” Brycen asked.

“Yes, I did. I went to Dragonspiral Tower after that and found it crawling with Grunts. I managed to evade capture and come up here and apparently Monolith wasn’t far behind me,” Briggs said, glaring at said Arceus, which got him a nudge in the leg from Wilbert.

“Alright, now let’s decide what to do next. Do you know where N went?” Brycen asked.

“The Pokemon League” “The League” Briggs and Monolith answered in unison, exchanging glares this time instead of being surprised.

“Alright, let’s head back to the entrance to speak about this with the others, then,” Brycen said, suggesting everyone return Pokemon/Followers, before leading everyone back down the tower. Wilbert stayed out and followed behind Briggs, Gorge heading into his Pokeball this time instead of riding, complaining about his wound. **(Wilbert is trained to stay out of his Pokeball at all times, mainly because he’s a ‘service dog’. Not in the Blind sense; Unovan Military members have a service Pokemon assigned to them that are always kept out to protect**

**their owners from dangerous wild Pokemon when they're out on field work, like Briggs currently is.)**

Once they were rejoined with Cedric, Bianca, and Sister outside, Brycen shared the story, with some details by Briggs, who was used to giving debriefs & sitreps as a military officer. Cedric was definitely amazed that the sleeping dragon had been awakened, especially by the Plasma leader, N. Alder comes by just as Bianca forgets the other Tao Trio member's name, something that the Arceus Siblings had needed to learn before being sent here. Alder expresses worry in N's plan. "And the fact that he says only someone from the Tao Trio can defeat another Tao Trio member... This is worrying. We should find Reshiram's sleeping stone before Plasma finds it as well."

"No complaints from me there," Briggs said.

"I have an idea where it might be. Everyone, meet me at the Relic Castle, okay?" Alder said.

"Unfortunately I have to go another direction, but I'm going to keep an eye on you, Monolith. The rest of you, too," Briggs said, glaring at all three of the Arceus, though he hadn't given any reason to dislike Sister. Monolith tried to think of a reason to dislike his sister, but he couldn't think of one; he figured Briggs just wanted this whole 'Arceus Tournament' deal over and done with, similar to N.

"Well, I'm going to investigate the tower, then. I'm sure I'll find something new," Cedric said before Briggs could send out Andy. Brycen also joins the professor, perhaps worried about it as well, leaving Briggs alone with the Arceus Siblings and Alder.

Brother tells Alder that he realizes he's been thinking of Strength all wrong, and that he doesn't want to win the Tournament anymore and Briggs looks shocked. "I want to help take Plasma down, so I'm coming with you, Champion!" Cheren said, leaving with Alder, heading for the Pokemon Center first.

"Mmm, there really is a lot of decisions now, Monolith. I hope you have a safe passage to Relic Castle. You too, ...Sergeant Briggs," Sister nodded before leaving with Bianca.

"So, are you actually going to join us for this trip?" Monolith asked.

Briggs frowned, looking around, thinking about it. "I don't know for certain. You might see me there or you might not. You'll definitely see me again, though," he said, throwing out Andy and hopping on.

"Well, apparently we're wanted by the Unovan Military. I wonder why we haven't been captured yet?" Merky asked.

“Maybe he’s a, hmm, lone wolf?” Million suggested.

“Well, considering he’s running after me because of Ribbit, I would assume so,” Monolith said, catching sight of Ribbit trying to sneak off.

He quickly used telekinesis to drag the ‘human’ closer. “Look, Ribbit. I know you think my body-swapping you was a blessing, but... It was actually a huge mistake. One that I feel bad for making in the first place. You’re going to have to go back eventually and I hope you can forgive me for all these lies,” Monolith said.

Ribbit croaked in surprise, not expecting Monolith to make a speech, albeit a bad one. “Ri-Ribbit s’okay wit’ tha’,” the frog croaked out the best he could.

After all, had he even learned anything over this month of the Tournament? He certainly had a better understanding of human language, but he could barely speak it. All these thoughts and more were bogging down on him, making him think even less of himself than he used to. Humanity had given Ribbit so many things to think about and he wasn’t sure what to do with it.

Monolith easily read these thoughts from Ribbit, just as he always had, and he felt bad for the frog, but he continued with Alder’s plan and told Miller to Fly Ribbit to Nimbasa, where they would head to the Desert Resort. Miller thought about Martyn while they flew there, lost in thought about the Pokemon that he wanted to be his ‘son’ and the Tauros now that seemed to call him Dad. He couldn’t wait to see Montana again.

And that was when he felt Ribbit started to adjust his hands around his legs, as if the frog was planning on letting go. With a squawk of his own, Miller quickly landed just outside of Driftveil and took a look at the frog, seeing the Ribbit’s depression just as easily as a real father would.

“Oh Ribbit, I’m sure Monolith didn’t mean to be so harsh. If thinking of all these memories you’ve made makes you hurt, then you should think of them as a dream. Soon it’ll be all over and you’ll be back in your pond again, hopping away from Pokemon and hiding away from trainers. Soon you’ll be back to yourself and none of this’ll be real,” Miller assured Ribbit, hugging the crouching frog and patting him on the back as Ribbit cried into his feathers, the tears sliding right off him.

Soon enough, the duo was Flying back to Nimbasa, Monolith none the wiser, and after that they went to Desert Resort with the rest of the team released.

**(And then I realized I forgot to ‘Surf Explore’ that lake on Rt. 3 and went back to get those four items and fight that one trainer. The Breeder had early thirties levels, so it was easy for both games. Briggs finally collected a Big Root there and I feel like Gorge gasped and modeled it off to Wilbert, though he stayed with his Power Herb for Solar Beam’s sake [120BP/95ACC/15PP].**

**Then I gave both games five RageCandyBars to kill off the Darmanitan Guardians [because I was dumb and used my only one in both games]. Gan got to Lv. 41 fighting them and tried to learn Natural Gift; I imagine that Briggs just glared at Gan until the Mienshao gave up.**

**Highlights from Briggs' Guardians: A Snow Warning Kricketet followed by a Drought Sharpedo. Also a Gible almost Dual Chopped Gan to death!**

**Highlights from Monolith's Guardians: Apparently Eelektross can still have Levitate as one ability, but the HA is Adaptability. Anyway, the Eelektross chomped on Million twice and he got mad and wrecked him with EQ, because his Justified ability is cool.)**

So Monolith went down further into the Desert Resort and was quickly stopped by Ryoku, another one of the sages who says that Ghetsis has set another trap to test his abilities. Maximus growled at that, but Monolith just went forward and slid down the sands, fighting Plasma Grunts along the way. As that went on, Merky finally learned Crunch over Bite, which he happily showed off to Maximus, who already had the same move. "If everyone's getting to level forty-two now, then I'm gonna be up front!" Maximus said, running forward, eager as ever.

"He better not get hurt by another Amoonguss..." Markus sighed, still worried about how Brycen's Judge Battle went.

"He'll, hmm, be fine. Once he has, hmm, no limbs, he'll calm down," Million assured Markus, though the idea of that worried Markus more.

'Ah, how will he use Drain Punch?' Markus thought.

And after fighting the next two Plasma Grunts, who specialized in Rock and Flying-types, Maximus evolved! Monolith quickly removed his magic as the Snorunt finally evolved and it was revealed that Maximus now had Flare Boost!

"Uh, on second thought, maybe you could give me the other ability again?" Maximus asked.

"Glalie's other ability is Honey Gather," Monolith informed the Glalie, who looked horrified.

"Alright, it's not like you'd send me out against a Fire-type anyway," Maximus sighed.

"Well, maybe a Houndour..." Monolith started, but Maximus freaked out.

"H-how would I even punch it!?" he exclaimed, Million snickering behind Markus.

After Million explained to Maximus that Wooper could use Ice Punch as an 'Ice Headbutt', Maximus was able to work out how to drain life while slamming into his enemy. **(which, since the flying-type grunt was the one standing next to another grunt, I imagine the other one is freaking out by seeing that.)**

The next fall down a sand pit was straight to the bottom where Monolith saw Brother, Cheren, and Alder facing off against Ghetsis. Monolith joins Alder's side without thinking about it and Ghetsis talks about Reshiram and the Light Stone that everyone is looking for. Ghetsis congratulates Monolith on being the new hero, though he takes a glance at Ribbit and sneers.

Alder questions Ghetsis' mission, but Ghetsis reveals Alder's pathetic past and the reason he just wanders around the region, which both of the Arceus brothers are quite surprised to hear. He also mentions creating a castle, which Monolith finds interesting as the two men talk back and forth, glancing over at his brother in the process. Brother glances back, unsure what that means, but just a few moments later Ghetsis leaves and Monolith wonders what he missed as Cheren questions Alder.

Eventually they decide to leave, still deciding to find the Light Stone. As they exit, the X-Transceiver in Ribbit's bag rings and Monolith quickly pulled it out and answered, finding Professor Juniper on the other end. She shouts and tells them to go to Nacrene's Museum and Alder goes ahead first, Cheren and Brother staying behind to take another glance at the desert since they had skipped this place earlier.

At Nacrene Monolith finds both Professor Junipers, Alder, as well as the duo of Sister and Bianca there. After the youngest Juniper apologizes for the bad timing for the Tournament, Lenora comes out from the museum, a white stone in hand that was excavated in the Desert Resort. Cedric confirms that the stone came from the same time as the Dragonspiral Tower was made, and Monolith and Sister agreed. "Its definitely one of their sleeping stones." Monolith said.

"But does it still, hmm, contain Reshiram?" Million asked, shocking the group.

Monolith explained the situation of how he had seen legendaries in uncommon areas lately and the whole group gets worried. "What's the chance it still has Reshiram inside, then?" Cedric asked.

"I mean, so far it seems that only Legendary Pokemon have swapped, but the amount of Legendaries is quite large. We can only hope that Father hadn't thought of swapping them inside of their stones," Monolith said, sounding worried himself.

"Well, we'll just have to risk it, then. Here, Monolith, you should have it," Lenora said, handing it over.

Alder warned Monolith, saying that he would have to fight N in the end if he took it, but Monolith didn't care and took it. "N needs to be kicked down a notch. To be told that his God Complex is childish," Monolith said, storing the stone within Ribbit's bag.

"Agreed," Lenora nodded.

"So how do we wake him, then?" Cedric asked, getting confused answers from the rest of the gang.

"I wouldn't suggest dropping it from a height. Legendaries tend to sleep for even longer than Abra. Take Jirachi for example," Sister said.

Eventually Lenora gets an idea and suggests the Judge of Opelucid, a man named Drayden, might know what to do. Once again, Alder flies off first and then the Juniper's leave. Monolith gets directions to Opelucid from Bianca gives directions and he thanks her, saying goodbye to his sister before taking preparations to fly to Icirrus where they head to the Tubeline Bridge.

Just before reaching the Tubeline Bridge, Bianca and Sister appeared. "Haha, about that 'one last battle' thing..." Bianca started.

"Oh?" Monolith asked, raising an eyebrow, vaguely remembering those words being used at the battle between them after he defeated Clay.

"I'm going to need to know a lot about Pokemon if I'm going to be a Pokemon Researcher like Prof. Juniper. Sooo... would you please battle me?" Bianca asked.

Monolith looked over at Sister, who stayed quiet. "Sure, Bianca," Monolith agreed.

"Well then, fair warning, I've been sticking to training Psychic-types lately," Bianca admitted before releasing a Gallade. Miller came out to battle him.

"Ah, right, you had Psychic-types in Driftveil, too," Monolith remembered.

"Ah-hah, yeah..." Bianca said, scratching her cheek, embarrassed.

"Start off with Fly, Miller," Monolith ordered, which resulted in an OHKO.

Next up was Sister, who silently stepped forward. Monolith could tell that something was wrong with her. She looked a lot more battle-hardened than he remembered seeing before. "Sister, are you-"

"Spare me the pity, *Monolith*. If you didn't want this, you could've just stayed with Father," Sister said, letting out a Hyper Voice.

Monolith released a weak Natural Gift, having forgotten what each berry did what in the heat of the Tournament. "Brother said that would look suspicious. Like I was buttering Father up," Monolith said, which actually caused Sister surprise, enough surprise to waste Gravity once again while Monolith hit her with his Strength, taking her below half-health.

"I-I wouldn't suspect that at all..." Sister mumbled, letting out another Hyper Voice.

"Yeah, well I was the one that kept trying to make Brother like me, maybe even acknowledge me in some way. We all know how well that went," Monolith said, letting out a critical Signal Beam that brought Sister to her knees.

"Now he's asking you to acknowledge him. Hehe, how funny..." Sister laughed briefly. Behind her, Bianca was looking worried about the conversation, perhaps lost in what little she knew of their family dynamic, though she did pull out a Full Restore right as Monolith went for Strength again.

Gravity wore off after they exchanged another Hyper Voice and Strength, leaving Monolith at 36/172HP. He pulled a Moomoo Milk from Ribbit's bag with telekinesis, chugging down a good half before floating it back over to Ribbit, who took it.

Sister went with another Hyper Voice as he healed, but they went back to exchanging their Normal-type moves next turn, leaving Monolith at 87HP. He drank the milk again and smirked. "Well, you've certainly trained," he said before getting hit with a critical Hyper Voice that brought him from full health down to 82HP. Monolith's ears bled and he fell to his knees. He heard ringing and looking over at Markus he could see the Bisharp shouting at him, probably terrified. **(AAAA, I was so spooked there!)**

Looking back at his sister, she seemed quite terrified as well, not expecting the critical hit. Ribbit rushed over to Monolith with a new bottle of milk and gave it to him. Sister attacked again, but at a much more sustainable level. He saw Sister mouth something, but his hearing needed time to recover. "I-I can't..." he muttered, his voice sounding off to the Pokemon around him.

Then he gave a telekinetic message saying that his hearing had been damaged, probably temporarily, and he saw Sister take a step back in surprise. After a moment he carefully got up and the two exchanged moves once again, Sister continuing to be careful, though Monolith's Strength left her with a sliver of health left.

Another Full Restore came from Bianca and Sister and Markus shouted at the girl, who flinched. "Fuck it, move over, Lord Monolith," Markus said, stepping in front of the weakened Arceus.

Monolith watched as Hyper Voice barely did anything to the Steel-type, but he felt like he had broken a sacred law. Maybe he should've just let his sister end him...

But the next move that came from Sister...

Monolith jolted as he felt the earth beneath him quake, and saw Markus fall into a pit. Earth Power. Of course, how could he have forgotten!?

Million stepped in front of the pit next, letting out an Earthquake as Sister pityingly used Gravity. As she was below half health, Million used Brine to finish her off. And Bianca still had two more Pokemon left. The team was already crying, but the fight wasn't over.

Merky stepped forward to deal with her Sigilyph. Bianca didn't give any attacking orders to the bird, letting Merky take it down with his usual combo. "I-I'm so sorry..." Bianca cried, letting out her last Gallade, which Miller came out to deal with.

He couldn't use Fly immediately due to Gravity, so he went with Air Slash, which didn't OHKO. The Gallade's Psycho Cut did great damage to the bird, but Gravity wore off after that turn. Miller stuck with Air Slash, though, finishing it off.

"I-I swear I didn't meant this..." Bianca cried as the battle ended.

Monolith could feel his hearing clearing up slightly, but he used his telepathy to get information from the surface of everyone's minds, though try as he might to probe Markus' mind... "He's dead..." Monolith realized, tears welling up.



"Y-you killed my best friend!" Monolith shouted at Bianca and his sister, who looked even more shocked. Bianca had just been apologizing for any lasting damage Sister had caused, she hadn't thought the Bisharp had died.

"N-no, that can't be-" Bianca started.

"Well you did it, you stopped me! Congratulations!" Monolith shouted, tears streaming down his eyes.

He carefully pulled Markus' Pokeball from Ribbit's bag and returned the Bisharp. The returning light was green and didn't return the Bisharp. Monolith gulped. "Right, of course. I'll have to get him to the Center on my own!" he shouted, roughly digging at the hole with telekinesis, visibly frustrated.

Sister rushed to his side and hugged him. "You're not alone, Monolith. We'll help you," she assured him.

And so everyone gathered to bury Markus out of the pit Earth Power had created to ensnare him and everyone made their way to the Center where Markus was properly readied for the trip to Celestial Tower, where Monolith spared no expense to get him buried on the top floor where his Mother still was.

The next day, there was a small service for the Jolly Bisharp, who was the most obedient follower Monolith ever had. And Miller, who had found a Great Ball after the battle, put the sphere on his grave. "You always were the greatest guy on the team, Markus. You stay that way up there, okay?" Miller said.

Everyone said their words about the guy, talking about he never let his Narcolepsy get him down, despite how slow battles went for him, and of course the way he was loyal to Monolith every step of the way, even the speech he gave to N. Sister dragged Brother to the funeral, but not many other people seemed to hear about it. Monolith was glad about that, though. He wouldn't know what to say if Briggs or Alder, or, heaven forbid, *N* showed up.

### **Markus the Narcoleptic Bisharp**

**Level 4-41**

**He was a Loyal Follower  
and the Best of Friends**

**(Jolly/Proud of its Power. Buried with his Quick Claw. Metal Claw/Slash/Bug Buzz/Taunt)**

Monolith rested at the Pokemon Center for what felt like days afterwards, his hearing completely cleared up at this point, but eventually his team and his siblings (and their human friends) came to comfort him and get him up and going, pulling up his box of reserves on the PC.

"We can't stay a team of five for the rest of the tournament," Merky said.

"Maybe we should," Monolith said, looking away from the box. He kept glancing at Masque, even though he knew the Bastiodon would have the same weaknesses and even more. And the way that he was also a Truant Steel-type... It would just be too much pressure on the bull. Bull...

Monolith glanced back at the box, seeing the empty spot that was reserved for Montana.

"Or maybe Montgomery would be a better idea. He brings more to the table..." Monolith muttered. Maximus perked up hearing that and everyone left in with their ideas of who could join the team.

In the end Monolith went through each of Markus' moves and realized that Bug Buzz was the move that he used the most. "Despite him having Metal Claw, I usually called on Million and Miller to deal with Rock-types. Most of the time he just fought other Dark-types. So I really think Mimic, that timid Sewaddle from the Relic Castle would be the best choice." Monolith decided, tapping the button on the PC to dispense his Net Ball.

"Oh yeah, we met him after I nearly got my butt kicked by a Rapidash," Merky remembered.

"Well, he'll take the Exp. Share for now," Monolith said, releasing the bug, who was confused about what happened.

He was happy to join the team and Monolith decided to not tell the Sewaddle what happened to the 'nice Bisharp' that Mimic remembered seeing. "Don't worry, for now you'll be training with us! I'll just stick this helmet on your Pokeball and you'll get half of the experience everyone else fights with," Monolith explained.

Mimic was introduced to the team properly this time, though everyone's large stature intimidated him a bit. He commented on everyone's changes, calling Maximus cool and he said he liked Million's ability to silently scold Pokemon, like he had seen him do to Merky after the Rapidash fight. Merky was embarrassed to hear that brought up again, but he was called neat as well. Overall, Mimic didn't make a big impression to the team, other than to Miller, who he stayed a strict distance away from. Miller was okay with that, though; He was used to Bug-types avoiding him.

Mimic was lv.22, so he was expected to evolve next level, which the Sewaddle was glad to hear. "Everyone always made it sound like Swadloon had a cool ability, so I can't wait to have it!" he beamed. **(Swadloon!Mimic will have Zen Mode, so... Will that ability crash the game or what?)**

"Technical Machine?" Million offered as they left Icirus' Pokemon Center.

"Oh, can I?" Mimic asked, intrigued.

"All of us have one of his TMs. I got Drain Punch!" Maximus bragged.

"So it's like a tradition, huh? Well, I guess I could look..." Mimic said, looking through the CD case of TMs.

"Telekinesis, Peck, Dragon Rage!?" Mimic shouted, just reading the first three.

"He has Mega Drain. It might be good for you," Merky suggested.

"Oh, sure..." Mimic said.

In the end, Mimic's moveset was Double Hit, Razor Leaf, Bug Bite, and Bug Buzz. "I'm better with Physical moves, so I'll stick with Razor Leaf," Mimic said.

"Oh, I forgot about, hmm, Waterfall," Million said, learning it over Magnitude finally, still enjoying Brine's effect.

"Oh, right. I suppose we should go exploring Waterfalls. We'll do that after we see everything in Opelucid, though. It'll be a good chance to help your happiness level, Mimic," Monolith said.

"Isn't that more of happiness for my trainer, though?" he asked, glancing over at Ribbit, who was technically his trainer according to his OT.

"Ah, I guess so..." Monolith said, glancing at Ribbit as well, who let out a soft croak.

"How about you ride on Ribbit's shoulder, Mimic?" Monolith suggested, surprising the two.

"S'okay," Ribbit muttered, glancing off to the side, blushing a bit.

Monolith nodded and carefully levitated Mimic onto Ribbit's shoulder, where the Sewaddle's leaf tickled Ribbit's neck a bit. Ribbit kept his neck craned away from Mimic because of that, but he didn't feel bad about the situation. Mimic however, was a bit scared about him being squashed if Ribbit forgot he was there.

With that, the whole team headed back to the Tubeline Bridge, pointedly ignoring the construction crew filling up the hole in the concrete of the entrance. "Pokemon trainers should stick to fighting in the wild, don't you think?" Mimic said, shaking Monolith to his core.

"O-oh. Yeah, I guess. They probably caused the owners some annoyance," Monolith replied, getting a concerned look from Merky.

Near the end of the bridge, the Shadow Triad and Ghetsis appeared. Monolith barely listens to Ghetsis' congratulations on getting the stone and the rest of his speech "It's certainly odd that N would think the hero would be a Pokemon like you. Seeing a Pokemon train other Pokemon like you do... It is certainly interesting," Ghetsis smiled, though he caught Monolith's expression eventually.

"Oh, what's this, the one that yelled at King N is missing, isn't he? Hmmm, just as well. We wouldn't need Pokemon like that in the other world." Ghetsis smirked.

"Shut up!" Monolith shouted, tears streaming down his cheeks.

Ghetsis chuckled. "Well, no matter, preparations are complete. Pokemon will soon be released until no more are owned. Even the Gym Leaders and the Champion won't be able to fight us once Zekrom has created a new Earth for the Pokemon," Ghetsis smiled.

"There's no way Reshiram will accept you as the hero anyway. You may be an Arceus, but you're the weakest one of the bunch!" Ghetsis laughed before leaving along with the Triad.

"That's going too far! He has no right to talk about Markus that way!" Maximus shouted in just the right way that he knew Markus would've scolded him for.

"Markus is the Bisharp, right? What happened to him?" Mimic asked cautiously.

Merky and Millon looked between each other, wondering what to say. In the end, Monolith explained the situation to Mimic, which made the Sewaddle scared. After a moment he took a deep breath and crawled over to Monolith, hugging his pointed paw. "I'm sorry for your loss. And... I hope to be just as nice as he was," Mimic said, smiling softly.

Monolith sighed, patting Mimic on the head. "Don't worry about it. I wouldn't have brought you on if I wasn't ready to move on," Monolith assured the Bug-type before moving on to Route Nine, where everyone was amazed by the huge mall.

And, of course, they were challenged by the Bikers and Gang members that were hanging around the mall, so Mimic got his evolution after the first battle. "Ah, Zen Mode, huh? I wonder how that works on a non-Darmanitan..." Monolith wondered as Mimic showed off to the others.

"It's surprisingly warm, too!" Mimic smiled, pulling the leaves around him comfortingly. 'This is a nice comfort blanket...' he thought.

"Well, let's get you a few more levels, then!" Maximus shouted happily, running over to another trainer. **(The first two trainers had Rock-types and apparently Monolith's Vacuum Wave still hits hard on Rock-types, it's just weak against the other Arceus. I guess they have better Defenses than I thought...)**

There was a double battle with Monolith and Merky against a Vibrava and an Axew. Monolith managed to defeat the Vibrava easily with Natural Gift, but Merky seemed to forget about his God's ability, because he set up for Thunder Fang, boosting Monolith's SpA in the end.

Monolith shook off the electricity, wincing. "No more of that, please," he said just as the Axew hit him with Taunt. And so Monolith went faster and finished off the Axew with Strength.

Before exploring the more wild part of the route, they headed into the mall, selling off items they no longer needed and buying some new ones. Miller was especially amazed by the Pokeball

specialty store, but Monolith had to hold him back so he wouldn't 'Pick Up' any of the items. (Though he doubted Miller would willingly steal anything.)

After that, they headed into the grass of Route Nine, finding a Docile Sandile there. He introduces himself as Marasma and shows off his speed. "I'm confused while I run, though, haha," Marasma joked.

"Well, Speed Boost will be quite useful in the future. We'll be happy to have you, Marasma," Monolith said, welcoming the Sandile and sending him off to the PC in a Quick Ball.

After finding a couple items in the grass, and getting blocked from entering a cave that apparently had very challenging Pokemon, Monolith headed into Opelucid where it seemed another Plasma rally was going on. "So you finally got here, huh?" a gruff voice asked and Monolith whirled around, seeing Briggs who was accompanied by his Stoutland once again.

"Aren't you missing one?" Wilbert asked.

"Yeah, I'm here. When did you get here?" Monolith asked, not wanting to answer Wilbert just yet.

"His protectiveness failed him," Merky answered Wilbert as Briggs answered Monolith. Wilbert gave his condolences while Monolith and Briggs kept talking.

"A few hours ago. I decided to check with Drayden and see if what N said was true," Briggs said, gesturing towards the gym leader that was standing outside of the crowd, along with the familiar form of Iris.

"And?" Monolith asked.

"He couldn't give a definitive answer. N could probably be lying. You could probably just call Arceus down to shut up N and his Zekrom," Briggs laughed briefly before groaning. He glanced over at Ribbit, frowning.

"You better give him up when this is over. You're lucky we managed to catch Hilbert before he hopped his way off a cliff," Briggs sneered. Ribbit croaked upon hearing that, looking over at Monolith, who looked just as horrified.

"Right, I'm sorry for causing this mess," Monolith apologized.

"It's not all your fault. It's your... Mom or Dad or whatever. I don't know the Arceus' gender," Briggs shrugged.

"My Father," Monolith said and Briggs nodded.

“Right, it’s mostly his fault. He set all this up and then released his crazy kids onto this region,” Briggs huffed, getting a nudge from Wilbert. Briggs rolled his eyes. “Whatever, I’ve got to get training for the gym,” Briggs said, excusing himself, his ragged Stoutland following behind him.

“Aww, I wanted to show off to Damien!” Maximus whined.

“Who was that?” Mimic asked from his place on the ground.

“Sergeant Briggs. We had a less than stellar introduction at the Dragonspiral Tower,” Merky explained.

“Oh, the place Metti’s from!” Mimic remembered. “But, uhm, why was he mad at Ribbit?” the bug asked curiously.

“Ribbit is, hmm, actually a frog,” Million explained.

“Don’t say that! He’s pretty okay!” Mimic said, looking up at the ‘human’ that still didn’t completely hold himself like a human would.

“No, uhm...” Merky started.

“No, Monolith switched the minds of a frog and some human and Ribbit has the frog’s brain!” Maximus explained with no tact.

Monolith could feel eyes turn towards them at the Ice-types shouts. “Let’s talk about this in the Center!” Monolith said, rushing everyone into the Pokemon Center where everything was fully explained to Mimic, practically the whole adventure. “So you healed Pokemon’s bad abilities?” Mimic asked, summing up the adventure.

“Yeah, Maximus used to be cursed with Imposter and could never be himself, so I helped him be his own ‘mon. And Miller used to just radiate a terrible stench, so I helped him control it just like a Skuntank can,” Monolith said.

“Yeah, I didn’t always have a short attention span, haha!” Miller joked.

“Why didn’t you heal Markus’ Narcolepsy, then?” Mimic asked.

“Well, I did offer in the beginning, but he was fine being that way and it didn’t activate much outside of battle. ‘It wasn’t a problem to him, so why would I change him?’ was my final thought on the subject, I guess,” Monolith finished.

Mimic was fine with that, apologizing for bringing Markus up, but everything was fine and afterwards Monolith and co. left the Center to explore Opelucid. (“**Your Arceus... It needs to try a little harder.**” **Ouch. Punch her, Monolith.**)

Eventually they head to Drayden and Iris’ house where the two explained that Reshiram would seek truth and also mentioned that the two dragons were perfect equals. “But you don’t know how to wake Reshiram?” Monolith asked.

“No, unfortunately we could find no definitive way to wake Reshiram. But I made a promise to Alder and your father. I’ll be waiting for your challenge at the Pokemon Gym!” Drayden said before leaving.

“Right, I guess it’s time to train up, then,” Monolith said.

“Waterfall at, hmm, Lostlorn first,” Million interjected.

“Oh yeah, that’s the only waterfall we’ve seen so far, isn’t it?” Monolith realized before Flying over to Nimbasa and got those two items above the waterfall before going back to Route 6 to train to lv.45.

During training, Monolith finds Dragonite annoying to fight, with their Twister and Dragon Rage, but soon he reaches lv. 45 and then it’s Merky’s turn, so the team went to the gym to let the Luxray train against the trainers. Where Merky nearly fell to the first Poliwhirl because he got paralyzed and then was unable to attack for two turns.

Maximus even got to freeze a Quagsire along the way, which got a shiver from Million. Then Monolith realized that Maximus still had the now-useless Eviolite and wrapped some Blackglasses around one of his horns. (**Wrapped as in closing the arms of the glasses around the horn, I mean.**)

And finally Mimic got his training debut at lv. 41 against a lv. 40 Kingler! The Kingler avoided his Razor Leaf twice and revealed that it had Protect, but Mimic finished it and got a level! “Yeah, who-hoo!” Mimic shouted in excitement and everyone congratulated him as the battle finished.

“I can’t wait to fight this Judge with you, Merky!” Mimic smiled.

“Then good luck with the rest of your training. I wouldn’t want a weak partner,” Merky smiled.

And then they reached Drayden and teleported out to finish training. Also, Mimic gets Maximus’ Eviolite when he reaches the level goal. (+ **Maximus got to the level goal in the same battle as Mimic, so I could imagine that he handed it off.**)

### #133 (Drayden) - Bibarel Lv41, Gastrodon Lv41, Floatzel Lv43

And then it was time to fight the Water-type Judge himself! (**\*spits-takes\* He has my name!**)

First up was Bibarel, which Maximus came out for and started with a Drain Punch that nearly killed the beaver-like Pokemon and it used Amnesia, getting healed with a Hyper Potion next turn. Maximus continued with Drain Punch, hitting Bibarel down to the same low-yellow health as last time and Drayden stayed back this time. "I guess I don't get a challenge this time," Maximus huffed, the next Drain Punch knocking out the Bibarel.

Next was Gastrodon and Mimic tagged in this time, hitting hard with Razor Leaf right off the bat, taking it down to red health, which was a lot better compared to the minimal damage Razor Leaf had done to the Kingler. (**I had to resort to Bug Buzz against the Kingler**) The Gastrodon hit back with a weak Muddy Water, Mimic's accuracy going down, and Drayden healed the slug next turn, only for Mimic to hit hard with Razor Leaf again. Then Mimic finished him off with Double Hit, wanting to have a bit of fun. "Nice one, Mimic!" Maximus shouted.

"Haha, thanks!" Mimic smiled, waddling back so Merky could fight the Judge's ace Floatzel.

Merky started out with a Charge as always, getting bit with Crunch from the Floatzel for minimal damage as he did so. The next Crunch bit hard, but Merky bit harder with Thunder Fang, OHKO-ing the Floatzel. "Take that," Merky huffed.

Mimic's eyes sparkled, completely amazed by Merky's strength. "That's his, hmm, winning combo," Million told Mimic.

"He's amazing!" Mimic gushed, wondering if he could mimic that combo at all. (**Haha, namedrop.**)

"Now I have something to tell you. Go to the Pokemon League and go after Alder. I know Alder's strength, but I don't know the depth of N's power..." Drayden said, worried.

Monolith nodded. "Will do. After all, I have to finish this tournament and he's supposed to be my final challenge," Monolith said before using the teleport to go back to the entrance and leave, where he found Professor Juniper, who says that she hasn't found out anything about how to wake Reshiram either.

"You've really changed a lot since Nuvema Town, huh? You used to cower all the time when you were in the presence of your brother, but it seems like having followers and friends have strengthened you. You stand much taller than you used to," she pointed out.

Monolith looked around him at his followers and smiled. "Yeah, I guess I have," he said.

"I'll be watching your Elite Four matches on the television! Oh, and Ribbit..." Ribbit straightened up, not liking that tone of voice, like she knew something.

"Do you regret going on an adventure with Monolith?" she asked.

Ribbit let out a soft sigh and then thought for a few moments. But, in the end, he couldn't answer anything more than a shake of the head. He had enjoyed this journey thoroughly, even if it was coming to an end and he'd lose hands and speech and... Ribbit shook his head again, harder. He wouldn't let that get to him again. He wanted to stay strong for Monolith and all his friends.

"I'm so glad! I feel like all three of you came into your own on this journey-slash-tournament. Both the humans and the Arceus Siblings... Oh, and here's a present for you, Ribbit!" Juniper said, handing over a Master Ball.

"This is the only way I can support you, except to say... Be true to yourself. No matter what happens, stay strong and keep going with your Pokémon! See you!" Juniper said, waving to the gaggle of Pokemon and Ribbit before leaving them.

"You okay, Ribbit?" Miller asked, worried about the extra head shake.

"Y-yea," Ribbit said before heading towards the Center, surprising Monolith since he never usually led the team around. And then they headed into the Rt. 10 gate and got a Rt. 7 storm warning and Monolith assured the woman that he wasn't going towards that route anytime soon.

### **~~Briggs' Side Story START~~**

The Sergeant was taking a break after training his Pokemon against Drayden's gym trainers. "Boy that was weird. They kept using Roselia and it turns out the type is Poison," Briggs chuckled, sipping at his coffee and looking over at Damien and Gan, who had sat at chairs on his table.

After a moment of silence, Damien started oinking at Briggs in a sad manner, surprising the Sergeant. "Huh, what's up, bud?" Briggs asked, looking at Damien, who was failing to get his point across with Charades.

Eventually, just as Briggs was about to give up trying to understand Damien, Brother came over. "Excuse me, it looks like you might need a translator," he said before he recognized the trainer and Briggs jolted, nearly spilling his coffee.

"You! What are *you* doing here!?" Briggs shouted. Brother opened his mouth to answer, but Briggs interrupted, "No, I know what you're doing here, I just want to know why you're talking to me," Briggs said.

Brother let out a soft sigh. "Your Tepig seems to have bad news for you, I merely wanted to relay it to you," he said.

"You're one of those asshole Arceus, though. What if you relay it wrong?" Damien asked, glaring at Brother.

"If that's an issue, I can translate via telepathy. It's hard to change feelings that the mind has," Brother said and Briggs seemed to get the idea of what the two were speaking about.

"Fine, what's his 'bad news'?" Briggs asked, looking very on edge at the idea of hearing a different voice than his own in his head.

Damien cleared his throat before speaking, though he really could've just thought his words. "Master, it's clear that I can't keep up with the rest of the team anymore. I nearly got killed by a *Dustox*," Damien started. **(Referring to a battle with one of Drayden's gym trainers)**

"Wait, no, no, no," Briggs said, freaking out.

"I'm not telling you to release me. Gan and I have talked about it and we'd both be okay with retiring from your League team," Damien said.

"I know you'd miss my Double Kick, but I'm sure the other Fighting-types in the Box can learn it too," Gan added.

"You have that Monferno in the Box from Dragonspiral Tower and I'm sure him and Rorsarck would be a better pair with them both being fully evolved," Damien said.

"Damien... Gan..." Briggs said, pausing for a moment before he pulled both of them into a hug, taking it in for a long moment before he returned them to their Pokéballs and depositing them into the Box. "Have fun in there," Briggs said, looking down when he felt Wilbert rub against his leg.

"Haha, thanks for comforting me all the time," Briggs said, ruffling Wilbert's head.

"Well, I'm glad that went well. Goodbye Sergeant Briggs," Brother nodded, leaving when he heard Cheren shout for him.

'Maybe he's not so bad after all,' Gorge thought.

**(And so Rorsarck the Tirtouga and Sunko the Monferno joined the Briggs Party!**

- Their original abilities were Illuminate [Andy's ability, haha] and Motor Drive, but their final abilities are Sturdy and Run Away. Yay, a Randomized Rock-type with Sturdy!

- Sunko tried to learn Quiver Dance when he evolved and it looked cool, but he's a mix of replacements for Gan/Damien. He has Techno Blast with the Shock Drive [55BP/95ACC/10PP] replacing Damien's weak ThunderPunch [45BP/95ACC/20PP]/Gan's Double Kick/Gan's Dig TM [95BP/100ACC/25PP]/Damien's Fire Spin TM [100BP/90ACC/35PP], though Damien learned Fire Spin via leveling. I was thinking about giving him Leaf Storm [an Infernape lv.1 move] too, since Gan had a really powerful Leaf Tornado move, but I decided to stick with Gorge as the only Grass-type.

- Rorsarck's final moveset is the Twineedle TM [70BP/85ACC/30PP]/Surf [95BP/90ACC/5PP]/Waterfall [95BP/95ACC/10PP]/Stone Edge [100BP/100ACC/30PP]. Holding the Insect Plate.

- I was amazed that Carracosta's learnset was full of only STAB moves, including Wide Guard, which I believe they learn normally.

- Sunko [A combination of Sun Goku, if you hadn't guessed] totally wrecked Drayden's Poison-type team, though he was a bit reckless since he ended the battle with yellow health. Drayden handed over the TM for Quick Guard, which got Rorsarck just as excited as Gorge was when Skyla handed over a TM for Leaf Blade after her Gym Battle, not that the Carracosta was going to learn Quick Guard or anything.

- Oh, and I skipped Clamp on Rorsarck, which is 100BP and more than 10PP, but I might put that over Waterfall sometime. We don't need Waterfall anymore until post-game, right?

- After the Cheren fight on Rt. 10 [which doesn't happen storywise because Briggs doesn't have any rivals, but Cheren had a difficult Turtwig early on that was Damien's first test.] I finally buckled in and looked into replacing Twister on Mitchell and winded up giving him the TM for Powder Snow. It's the same 5PP, but 60BP/95ACC. I needed a back-up Dragon counter other than Andy anyway.

- I gave him the Icicle Plate to boost the new move and it was Briggs' only copy of the plate, but then one of the items on Rt.10 was an Icicle Plate, haha.)

~~Briggs' Side Story END~~

The encounter for Rt.10 was a Sassy, fun-loving Toxicroak named Melvin with Dry, flaky Skin who pretty much just wanted access to human lotion to see if it would fix his skin. Monolith promised to buy some after the drama was over.

Going farther down the route, Monolith was halted by a shout and he found his siblings and their trainers coming up behind him. "Oh, you guys," Monolith said, his anger towards them lessened after they had helped him out of his grief.

"Hey again!" Mimic waved.

Turns out Brother wanted to challenge Monolith to a battle. "We don't have to face-off if it's too much," Brother said.

"I'll at least try," Monolith said, trying to not think of his last Sibling Face-off.

First up was Cheren's Scizor vs. Million and Scizor hit first with a strong X-Scissor, knocking Million down to 105/168HP while Million went with Earthquake, which hit about just as hard, but Scizor wasn't at half yet, so Million went for EQ again, getting hit down to 42HP by X-Scissor while Scizor was left in the red.

"Heal round, I guess," Monolith said, floating over a Hyper Potion to heal Million while Cheren didn't heal as expected, instead hitting again with X-Scissor. Million got hit once more to 40HP before using Brine to finish off the Bug-type.

Next was a Heracross, which Miller came out to fight while Million hissed about his injuries. Miller went straight for Fly, going first so Heracross' Take Down just whiffed. Miller came down hard the next turn, an OHKO. Next was a Crustle that didn't stand a chance to Miller's Surf, another OHKO.

Then Brother stepped forward and so did Monolith, ready for a Mirror Match. Brother set up Gravity while Monolith threw out Natural Gift with a Salac Berry, making it an 80BP Fighting-type move that left Brother nearly at half health. "Well done. I never believed in your berries, but you've certainly proven their strength," Brother complimented Monolith.

"Thanks, Brother," Monolith smiled before taking Hyper Voice for 60 damage, hitting back with Strength, which brought Brother down to yellow. "It feels like you're taking it easy on me, though," Monolith said.

"Are you sure you want the full blow?" Brother shouted, taking Monolith down to 72HP.

"Well, it's already over now," Monolith smirked, slamming Brother before hugging the now weak Arceus.

"Thanks for that, though," Monolith said as Cheren returned Brother to heal.

Cheren healed Monolith's Pokemon before bowing his head towards Monolith. "You really have become the strongest of them. If there's anything I can do to help in the battle with N, just say so," Cheren said.

Monolith nodded. "Of course. Both you and Bianca are more than just Arceus trainers now. You've really come into your own as people," the Arceus smiled.

"You'll probably pretty famous after all this is over, too!" Maximus added happily.

“Yes, you’ve really changed since we bonded in Nuvema. You were so determined to be the best trainer to me, but everything flopped until you were just sincere about your reason to join me,” Sister smiled at Bianca.

“Meanwhile, *He* just claimed the first strongest kid he saw in the line-up,” Cheren sighed, thinking back to when Arceus and Juniper had gathered up all the kids in Nuvema and the neighboring towns for the Siblings to choose between.

‘Right, that was when I sneaked Ribbit into the crowd and chose him too quickly. Ribbit was still out of it and probably looked like he was high by the way he kept stumbling around and staring at his hands,’ Monolith thought.

“Meanwhile you just chose the first interesting-looking person of the bunch,” Sister reminisced.

“Ah-ha, yeah, Ribbit certainly is *interesting* all right,” Monolith laughed awkwardly, looking over at Ribbit, who now felt quite embarrassed about how he might’ve looked to other people in the crowd, though he didn’t know anything about drugs.

“Ah, I never would’ve imagined I would get so obsessed with Psychic-types during my journey,” Bianca smiled. **(Since her last two battles were Psychic themed, I figured I would give her some personality to offset her from normal Bianca.)**

“You *were* quite intrigued when you saw me use Telekinesis for the first time, huh? I’m sure that’s why you decided to study Psychic-types,” Sister noted.

There was a bit more reminiscing before the trio left and Monolith sighed. “It really feels like everything is forgiven for the sake of the journey, but they don’t know about Ribbit,” Monolith said.

“If you, hmm, explain properly that you, hmm, regret your actions, I’m sure they would, hmm, accept your apology,” Million said.

“Yeah, but the biggest apology would be to his Father, right? Would the Arceus like Monolith putting a human life in danger? Briggs said the human tried to jump off a cliff,” Miller asked and Monolith shuddered.

“For now, I can only hope that he isn’t listening too intently,” Monolith said before heading down a narrow strip of land. **(The Blackbelt down that way is named ‘Man Bob’. So generic, haha.)**

Just a few more battles later and Mimic was slowly encased in light and Ribbit jumped. “Haha, YES! You’re really cool Ribbit! No matter what you are, you’re really cool!” Mimic shouted

before he was fully encased in light and Ribbit blinked back tears, having not expected such kind words from the Swadloon. Really, Mimic had just taken 'max happiness with your trainer' very seriously.

"Y-you're c-ool too," Ribbit croaked out, wiping at his eyes as he watched Mimic's form get taller and taller until it was just as large as him, and even cooler.

Ribbit hugged the Leavanny and there was another sappy moment as everyone congratulated the fully-evolved Pokemon, the newest humanoid of the group, just as cool as the last one.

Mimic even got to show off his new ability, Illusion. "Haha, he's just like me, except it's not annoying!" Maxmius smiled. "Oh, I mean annoying for battling, not-" Maximus corrected.

**(Yeah, I had NO CLUE when I named Mimic that he would have Illusion in the end. Too bad I never got to check Zen Mode. Well, I save stated before the evolution, let me just test it now and... It did absolutely nothing when HP went lower than half, of course.)**

"No, no, I get it!" Mimic laughed, shrugging it off as Monolith handed a Silk Scarf to Ribbit, who tied it loosely around Mimic's neck.

"Is this my final item?" Mimic asked.

"Yep! Unless you learn a different variety move, anyway," Monolith said, "Let's just finish looking at this route and then we can check the Move Relearner for any moves you might've missed," Monolith explained.

Stopping short of the Badge Gates, Monolith got Miller to fly Ribbit to Misaltron, where Mimic forgot Razor Leaf for Leaf Blade and forgot Bug Buzz for X-Scissor. He was still quite happy with the ability to hit multiple times, so no Slash.

And so the gang headed back to Rt. 10 and the Badge Gates.

### **Badge #1 - Trio Badge**

**Monolith:** "Oh yeah, I totally wrecked Cress when we got this!" Maximus smiled as he floated over the bridge.

"That was back when nothing was a challenge to you, huh?" Merky said with some snark.

"Haha, yeah, I guess," Maximus shrugged. **(but how would he do that?)**

**Briggs:** At a later time, Briggs also went through the Badge Gates. "Damien and Gan took on Cilan's Kirlia and Beldum for this badge," Briggs smiled.

“Damien was pretty strong back then, huh?” Sunko asked.

“Well he was the normal level for a Tepig back then, so of course,” Andy answered matter-of-factly.

### **Badge #2 - Basic Badge**

**Monolith:** “Ah, you and me took down Lenora, right?” Miller asked.

“That Combusken didn’t, hmm, stand a chance,” Million smiled.

“Whoa, a Combusken!? That sounds awesome, Million!” Mimic smiled.

Million blushed. “Ah, it was, hmm, nothing,” the Quagsire said as Monolith led them into the grass path in the gate.

The Badge Gates encounter was a Gentle Skitty named Munchkin, who indeed looked a lot like the cat breed. “Just get me normal legs after you’re the Arceus, that’s all,” Munchkin pleaded, trying to ignore his need to watch the weather (**Forecast**).

“Of course, that’ll be easy to do if what Father has done already is any indication,” Monolith said before sending the Skitty off to the Box.

**Briggs:** “Ah, my first gym,” Mitchell smiled, remembering covering Lenora’s Beautifly in rocks.

“Yeah, I got to deal with her Kricketune!” Andy squawked and Mitchell gave the Bird a look until Andy settled down. “Well it was pretty cool at the time,” Andy said.

“You two really proved yourselves against Lenora. I didn’t think your Choice Band Air Slash would work out, but it really did for a while,” Briggs reminisced before trudging into the grass.

After avoiding a few duplicates, Briggs caught Spruce the Timburr, who had a transparent body akin to Poliwag’s stomach (**Clear Body**).

### **Badge #3 - Insect Badge**

**Monolith:** “This was another easy one for me, too,” Maximus sighed, pleased.

“Just for you, though. Burgh’s Slowking was annoying, Disabling Charge so much,” Merky sighed.

“You and your Winning Combo,” Maximus laughed as they climbed over the giant stone insect.

"Well, I think it's cool! You're really amazing," Mimic smiled.

"Aw, thanks Mimic," Merky smiled.

"Don't forget that I dealt with that Unown, too," Monolith added. The Arceus had trouble walking up the stairs proper, so he just floated up them like Maximus did.

"You never did much in gyms, now that I think about it," Miller said.

"Well, I wanted to see how you guys fight. I'm already plenty strong as is, but you guys had to build up to it," Monolith said.

"Hmm, well said," Millon nodded.

**Briggs:** "I remember you helping out against Burgh's Mantyke," Briggs said, looking down at his partner Pokemon, who barked happily.

Gorge screeched from his spot on Wilbert, leaning forward in his 'seat' as they moved up the stairs. "Right, right. It was mainly your gym because of his Shellos and Lumineon." Briggs chuckled.

"You two didn't get much gym action, huh?" Sunko asked.

"Nope, I'm not super effective against anything and Burgh was the only gym that had a disadvantage for Gorge to exploit," Wilbert explained.

"You're pretty curious, huh Sunko?" Rorsarck asked.

"Of course! I want to know what I missed out on. You at least got to learn about everything when Briggs used you to Surf around!" Sunko pouted.

"Haha, don't worry. You'll catch up soon enough," Mitchell assured Sunko.

#### **Badge #4 - Bolt Badge**

**Monolith:** "I can't believe Elesa wasted all of her healing items on her Wormadam," Miller chuckled, though the electricity about spooked him some.

"Scyther's Sand Stream barely hurt me any," Merky said and Mimic fanboyed over Merky's awesomeness again.

“Didn’t you, hmm, complain about always, hmm, getting OHKO’s back then?” Million teased Maximus.

Maximus sighed. “Yeah, then Brycen knocked *that* complaint right out of me,” the Glalie groaned.

**Briggs:** “This one was another Damien and Gan Gym, right?” Andy asked as he perched on Mitchell.

“Yeah, Elesa had a Murkrow. That was the only time Damien really used his weak Thunder Punch, I think,” Mitchell said.

“Wait, Thunder Punch is weak?” Sunko asked.

“It’s something like twenty BP, I think,” Gorge said.

“Ah, Elesa’s Dark-type Gym. It was supposed to be Gan’s Gym, but Damien winded up stealing the show by taking out Murkrow. At least Gan got to take out Absol and Weavile,” Briggs smiled as he thought back on that moment.

“I hope they’ll be happy retired,” Wilbert barked and Briggs ruffled the Stoutland’s head, understanding the bark somewhat.

### **Badge #5 - Quake Badge**

**Monolith:** “Ah, the Quake Badge,” Merky smiled.

“Yeah, you took out Clay’s Swanna then,” Miller remembered.

“Oh, really?” Mimic asked, looking over at Miller, worried.

“Eh, I was still a Ducklett back then, so it was kind of weird seeing Merky taking down my final form,” Miller laughed awkwardly, trying to play it off like he didn’t have nightmares about it back then.

“I fought a Rufflet of Clay’s and Miller dealt with a Yanma, right?” Maximus asked.

“Ah, yeah! Yanma tried to confuse me, but I OHKO’d it easily,” Miller smiled, trying to show off to Mimic with a confident pose, but the idea of Miller killing a Bug-type so quickly just scared the Leavanny.

“O-oh, is that so...?” Mimic said before hurrying through the ridge of glass ore that was Clay’s gate.

**Briggs:** “Oh man, this one was aall~ Gan,” Briggs said, laughing at his slight pun, which Wilbert barked at. **(I pronounce it as Gon, so yeah.)**

“The Buneary and Watchog were pretty easy-” Mitchell started.

“But there was this one Porygon2 with Endeavor that didn’t go down in one hit! I remember Gan getting spooked about that,” Andy said, his cloud ruffling a bit before flying ahead a bit, perching on the end of the far wall of the gate as Briggs opened his Badge Case to the door, having had it open the entire time as they reminisced.

### **Badge #6 - Jet Badge**

**Monolith:** Mimic’s eyes went wide when he saw the steep drop that was Skyla’s gate.

“U-uhm...” Mimic raised a tentative hand.

“Don’t worry, I’m su-” As Miller tried to Fly ahead some, he was wildly spun out of control, nearly smashing into the gate on the other side. “Th-there’s a lot of wi~nd!” Miller shouted dizzily from the other side.

“Honestly, Skyla’s adrenaline junky ways are so annoying,” Monolith huffed, levitating the others (aside from Maximus) and creating a barrier around them before floating across. It was a rocky ride, but at least they weren’t flown every which way.

Once everyone was safely on the other side, Mimic asked about who fought. “Ah, that would be-” Monolith paused.

“That was Markus’, hmm, first Judge Battle,” Million said, having only fought one Judge himself.

Mimic lowered his head. “Ah, I see,” he mumbled.

“I fought her, too! And Miller dealt with the last one,” Maximus said, gesturing over to the bird with a horn.

“Ah, yeah. I narrowly dodged her Victreebel’s Sleep Powder!” Miller said.

“Don’t, hmm, forget Markus’ speech afterwards,” Million added.

Monolith smiled. “Right... that was pretty amazing, huh?” the Arceus said before showing the gate his badge.

**Briggs:** “Ahh, This is the one where I got the Leaf Blade TM!” Gorge squeaked as the door opened.

Briggs laughed when he heard the tengu's sounds. "Ah, the amazing Leaf Blade TM, the final addition to your moveset. It's definitely better than Needle Arm," Briggs said, ruffling Gorge's hair. **(Needle Arm is 50BP/95ACC/40PP while Leaf Blade is 100BP/95ACC/25PP, so it's a pretty great upgrade.)**

"Yeah, but the Gym Battle was a-" Andy was cut off as he flew down the other side of the wall, somehow getting caught in the insane winds of Skyla's wind generator/Wind Walk. The gang was all halted at the sight of it.

"Right, well, the gym was all Andy. Skyla had a Medicham, Toxicroak, and Sawk that were no problem for him. Well, actually, he probably got as damaged as you did against Drayden, Sunko," Mitchell said as Briggs brought out their Pokeballs, trying to catch the Altaria stuck in the harsh winds first.

"Oh yeah, so I'm not the only reckless one!" Sunko shouted happily.

"That's not something to be happy about," Rorsarck said, lightly smacking Sunko on the head, though with his strength, it nearly knocked Sunko over, who took offense to that.

Eventually Briggs managed to return all of his Pokemon and *carefully* walk across the wind, though it was as terrifying as all get out.

"What is *wrong* with that girl!?" Briggs shouted as he grasped at his quickly-beating heart after getting to the other side. The Guard apologized for Skyla's insane gate and made sure he wasn't having a heart attack before letting him go on.

**(It's hard remembering that Briggs is supposed to be older sometimes. I'm too used to have pre-teen to teen 'locke protagonists. Also, I definitely headcanon that the League made an alternate way around that 'Wind Walk' for older trainers and that the guards need to know medical stuff in case trainers actually have heart attacks going through that.)**

### **Badge #7 - Freeze Badge**

**Monolith:** "Another, hmm, ice puzzle," Million noted as they walked into the colder gate.

"Oh yeah, this fight was a bit scary..." Maximus frowned.

"What, not going to brag about freezing your first enemy?" Merky asked.

"Ah, that was cool too, but Toxic and Giga Drain nearly *killed* me back there," Maximus sighed, "I still had arms back then, too," the Glalie whined.

“Oh man, you had hands? That sounds horrible,” Mimic said. He couldn’t imagine becoming a ball without any joints or limbs.

“Hmm...” Monolith said, thinking up a way to give Maximus limbs.

Meanwhile, Merky decided to start figuring out the ice puzzle, Million following after him.

“So who else fought Brycen?” Mimic asked Miller.

“I took out a Gloom and Merky shocked a Golbat,” Miller explained before getting Monolith to float Mimic to the other side, where a dizzy Merky and Million joined them after figuring everything out.

“Sh-should’ve just taken the high road,” Merky groaned as he sat down on the ground, where Monolith jokingly pat him on the head.

“Don’t worry. One of us had to solve it,” Monolith joked.

**Briggs:** “Ugh, another ice puzzle,” Briggs sighed once the gate opened. “Mitchell?” Briggs looked back at the Gigalith and Mitchell smashed a foot on the ice, revealing the water underneath.

“So, who took on this Gym Leader?” Sunko asked as Briggs took out his Pokeballs.

“It was me and Andy, too. Brycen had a Togetic and Yanmeg-” Mitchell was cut off by being returned.

“I took out his Tropius,” Andy added as Briggs called Rorsarck over to Surf him across the cold waters, Sunko hopping on behind Briggs. The guard was not pleased by the ice destruction.

### **Badge #8 - Legend Badge**

**Monolith:** “And the most recent badge,” Monolith said, giving Ribbit back the badge case.

“Ooo, oo! I know this one!” Mimic shouted.

“It was, hmm, the most recent after all,” Million said.

“Yeah, you \*cough\* did pretty good against that Gastrodon,” Merky said, clearing his throat as they walked between the two dragon heads that were Drayden’s Gate.

“I’m not sure what we would’ve done against it without you,” Monolith said.

“Wouldn’t I have just stayed out to Ice Fang it?” Maximus asked and Monolith frowned at the Glalie, who laughed it off.

“Oh, and I got to see Merky’s Warrior Spirit in full force while taking out his Floatzel!” Mimic smiled at the Luxray, who blushed.

“Aw, it was nothing. I was worried you would’ve thought bad of me when I forgot Lord Monolith’s ability on Route Nine,” Merky said, remembering the incident where he shocked Monolith in a double battle.

“It was fine. That was the first time I had been in a double battle with you, after all. Usually it was... Markus and me,” Monolith paused. **(I keep my party Pokemon in order of capture, so usually Monolith and Markus were at the top.)**

“Alright, enough sadness! It’s time for Victory Road!” Miller shouted, flying through the final gate.

“Yeah, let’s go!” Mimic shouted, racing after Miller while the rest ran after them. Ribbit was the last, pausing to look around at the spooky dragons before going after Monolith.

**Briggs:** “Oh yeah, Drayden didn’t stand a chance against me! I burned his Roselia, kicked his Drapion, and dug up his Toxicroak!” Sunko shouted happily as they went through Drayden’s gate.

Briggs watched his lively Infernape for a moment before clearing his throat. “I hope you learned a thing or two about not being too reckless in that battle. At least let me heal you next time you’re solo-ing,” Briggs said and Andy made the ‘ooOo’ sound like Sunko was in trouble.

“You don’t have any right to do that either, Andy,” Mitchell said and Andy pouted.

“Alright, let’s get through Victory Road a-” Briggs paused when he saw the much smaller door that led to Victory Road.

“Looks like you’ll be staying inside again, Mitchell,” Briggs sighed, returning Mitchell like usual. The rock creature was too big to stay out in most areas, after all.

**~~~Reminiscing About Badges END~~~**

Back to Monolith’s POV, inside Victory Road the gang met an optimistic Scrafty that was Naive and had the ability Plus. Mercury joined the Box in the end, excited to join the team at some point.

The journey through Victory Road was mostly uneventful, but Monolith did pause before one particular staircase. "What's up?" Maximus asked.

"Terrakion usually lives down this way," Monolith said.

"Are you going to see who replaced him?" Merky asked.

"I... might as well. I've checked on all of the other Swords of Justice," Monolith sighed. He couldn't imagine that Terrakion accepted the location change without a fight. (**Terrakion is a gruff guy that doesn't like change. Like Leroy Jethro Gibbs or somesuch.**)

Inside Terrakion's Trial Chamber, Monolith and gang found a meditating Latios. "Ah, Arceus—" Latios started when he opened his eyes, but then he noticed the different eyes. "Oh, you're the youngest son, correct?" Latios said, looking at Monolith's followers, particularly focusing on a nervous Ribbit.

"Yes, I just wanted to... check in, I guess. I've seen all of the other Legendaries along the way," Monolith explained, moving closer to Ribbit.

"The human you chose..." Monolith froze at Latios' pause, having forgotten that Latios was a Psychic-type that had no qualms with skimming the surface of a person's mind for their feelings. (and Monolith had no doubt Ribbit arranged his feelings and thoughts differently than normal humans)

"He's remarkably pure-hearted. If you are truly planning on fighting Zekrom with Reshiram, I'm sure he would have no trouble being truthful," Latios said.

Monolith's eyes widened, looking over at Ribbit. "O-oh, is that so?" he asked.

"Yes, and if you don't mind..." Latios moved closer to the 'human'. "I think I would like to join your team, Ribbit," Latios said, flying close to Ribbit, who began stuttering.

"Y-you would need a name if you join us," Monolith spoke, intimidated by Latios' careless use of mind-reading.

"I will not be joining *you*. I will be joining Ribbit. *He* is the one that will name me," Latios sneered at Monolith before turning to Ribbit.

"Was that a possibility...?" Mimic whispered to himself, feeling regret for a decision he didn't know he could've made.

“Go ahead, think of whatever name and I will accept it,” Latios bowed to Ribbit, who was whole-heartedly-confused and worried at this point. He looked at Monolith, who only shrugged and Ribbit very carefully thought of a name.

‘Air... Airplane... Aeroplane... Aero!’ Ribbit thought with finality and Latios smiled.

“Then Aero I shall be,” Latios nodded before lifting an Ultra Ball from Ribbit’s bag and tapping the button to his forehead. There was no resistance and he was sent off to the PC in a new box labeled ‘Ribbit’s’.

“Wait, so does this mean he won’t join our party?” Maximus asked.

“I... don’t know. He might do it if Ribbit asks him to? Possibly?” Monolith said, unsure.

“N-no,” Ribbit croaked. “Sh-sh’n’t be Foll’r,” Ribbit croaked out and Monolith nodded.

“That’s fine. It’s up to you,” Monolith said, though he wondered what would happen with Aero after Ribbit was returned to his frog body and Monolith had released the other Pokemon in the PC. ‘Would Latios stay with a frog-like Ribbit?’ he thought before leading everyone out of Victory Road.

**(And so that’s the first Pokemon that belongs strictly to Ribbit! Mimic might decide to become one in the end, but we’ll see about that later. Aero is Relaxed and has Flower Gift, so a pretty terrible nature...)**

Everyone was stunned by the image of the Pokemon League’s building. “So this is what I’ve been fighting for,” Merky smiled.

“It is, hmm, a bit gaudy,” Million teased.

“Well let’s get healed before grinding,” Monolith said, leading the gang into the fancy Pokemon Center.

Once everyone was healed, everyone headed back to Victory Road to train, where Mimic got to finally show off his new ability, mimicking Monolith’s form, though the Mummy Raichu on the top floor kept knocking him out of his Illusion, much to his chagrin. **(I can only imagine a Raichu loosely wrapped in mummy wrappings. + The majority of the Raichu I encountered were female. Also, when I started Mimic’s training I legit thought I had forgotten to switch him to the front in the first battle.)**

By the end of the day, everyone was lv. 50 and Monolith headed back to the Center to heal and to rest for the upcoming day, though he had a fitful sleep worrying about N and what he would

do. He was just glad the League was closed so N couldn't challenge the Elite Four while they rested.

After the fitful, excited sleep that came with (possibly) finishing a journey, Monolith and gang woke up and got ready for the day, making sure they looked perfect for the Elite Four, not wanting a bad photo to be taken when they were chosen as Champions or met The Arceus. Monolith wasn't as excited as the rest were (and Ribbit wasn't extremely excited either, considering he didn't understand the full gravity of the situation), but he readied his Berry Pouch, planning on properly using berries during the League since he had been slacking on using them lately.

And not long later, it was time to take on the Elite Four, to prove their worth to N and hopefully defeat him after this. "Let's just hope he doesn't mess this up for me..." Monolith mumbled, feeling like he was being watched by his father as he stepped up to the Guard for the League.

### -Team Monolith Recap-



Monolith the "Male" Arceus  
Relaxed/Likes to thrash about & LightningRod  
@(various Berries)



Merky the Luxray  
Modest/Sturdy body & Cute Charm



Maximus the Glalie  
Mild/Proud of its power & Flare Boost



Miller the Swanna  
Hasty/Mischievous & Pick Up



Million the Quagsire  
Hardy/Scatters things often & Justified



Mimic the Leavanny  
Timid/Sturdy Body & Illusion

Once the gang was inside, Monolith looked around. "Well, who's first?" he asked.

### #228 (Shauntal) - Dusknair Lv48, Dusknair Lv48, Mismagius Lv48, Chandelure Lv50

"The guide, hmm, says Shauntal still has Ghosts," Million said, referring to a guide booklet that the guard up front had given him.

"The Elite Four are using different teams for you Arceus, so we made a separate guide for you three," the guard had said when handing it over.

"Then that'll be easy for me and Merky!" Maximus shouted, rushing into the leftmost room while Monolith pulled out a Rowap Berry, known for it's Dark flavor.

"Left to right, it is, then," Monolith said, following after Maximus, who got trapped in the mechanical ghosts that floated challengers to the top. Monolith winded up having to float everyone else up to the top and help the rather large Pokemon out of the trap with Shauntal's help.

After hearing Shauntal's usual author dialogue, sprinkled in with praise for getting this far with the different teams, Monolith also heard her mention a challenger that just come and he tried to ask about him, but Million stopped him.

"We should, hmm, battle first," the Quagsire hummed, so Monolith let it go and ordered Merky up front.

First up was a Dusknair, who took a Crunch to yellow before countering with a crit Shadow Punch, also to yellow. Crunch KO'd next turn and Chandelure was next up, so Million came out. He set up Pressure and Confuse Ray'd Million, who hit himself! Hex hit hard next turn, but EQ OHKO'd! Maximus came out to deal with the next Dusknair, Crunching it to yellow just like

Merky and dodging a burning Wisp. Crunch KO'd and Monolith came out for the final Mismagius. Mismagius smartly used Growl so it barely survived Monolith's Rowap/Dark!Natural Gift, ack! Shauntal healed with Full Restore and Signal Beam didn't do much, so I decided to swap back to Maximus, who took more from Psywave than I expected. Then Astonish flinched, augh! At health health, I decided to heal Maximus while Mismagius uselessly used Spite. Then another Growl so Mismagius barely survives Crunch, augh! Another Full Restore, another Crunch to high yellow. Spite can cancel a move this time, but Maximus finally deals the finishing blow with Crunch!

"Wow, I'm dumbstruck! You're just as amazing as Arceus said you would be!" Shauntal gushed.

"H-he said that about me?" Monolith blushed, embarrassed to hear that, but also glad to hear it. His heart was fluttering until- "Yeah, you're the oldest one, right?"

Monolith groaned. "Right, did the last challenger you saw have green hair?" Merky asked, his words being translated telepathically by the frustrated Monolith.

"Now that you mention, I believe his hair was dark green... Though that might've been the lighting," Shauntal chuckled.

"You really should get some light in here..." Miller worried.

"Oh Chandelure does plenty! Ghost-types don't really like the light, after all!" Shauntal smiled.

"Alright, thank you for your help," Monolith nodded before exiting the way he had come. Ribbit kept close to Mimic during the descent, a bit traumatized from the gate for the Jet Badge and Mimic assured Ribbit it would be fine and they landed soon enough and left the dark room.

"What's next, Million?" Monolith asked, looking down at the brochure-reading Quagsire.

### **#230 (Grimsley) - Galvantula Lv48, Leavanny Lv48, Accelgor Lv48, Heracross Lv50**

"Grimsley has, hmm, Bug-types. It suggests you have a Ground-type lead," Million said and Monolith nodded as he equipping a fiery Watmel Berry this time.

"That's your cue, then," Monolith said and Million smiled, wondering what he would face as they headed into the next room, which still had a Dark aura to it, but there was a lot more lighting, with torches lighting up on the way up to the platform.

Ribbit didn't much like the moving floor/carpet, but Miller and Mimic calmed the frog-minded boy and soon they were at the top, standing in front of Grimsley.

(...And then for some reason I abandoned this in the middle of the E5 challenge, not even save stating after Chauntal, making me re-fight her. It was so much easier the first time; No Growl from Mismagius! This was abandoned in 2017, it is now 2022. Expect my writing of the characters to be 'incorrect', but I had an Outline of the final story made before the abandonment that I'll follow.)

Grimsley is a bit annoyed by having to fight challengers so close together, but agrees to fight Monolith with his Judge Team, who had been patiently waiting for an Arceus to come. Monolith instructs Million to lead per the guide's instructions.

First up is Galvantula, who did a good chunk of damage with Signal Beam before Million hit it to yellow with EQ. Signal Beam brought Million to yellow HP, but EQ 2KO'd! Next up was Leavanny, so Monolith gave Mimic an apologetic look before coming out with his Watmel Berry. The Fiery Natural Gift OHKO'd! Heracross was next, so Miller finally got a fight. Air Slash and the enemy's Take Down missed, so Miller delayed his OHKO to Turn 2! As for the final Accelgor... it had Giga Drain, ack! Luckily it didn't do much and Fly managed to easily OHKO, earning another victory over a Judge.

"Nice job, hmm, taking that Giga Drain," Miller said, shuddering at the thought of taking such a move. **(pmd quag personality, right?)**

"Yup, that's *nooo* problem for me!" Miller joked. **(How to write a 'team dad'...?)**

"*Haaa...* Good luck with the rest, I suppose," Grimsley said, bored as he flipped a coin. Monolith politely thanked the man before exiting through the portal this time, the others following him. Outside, he approached the third room from the left's stairs: Caitlin's room.

### **#231 (Caitlin) - Exploud Lv48, Granbull Lv48, Stantler Lv48, Girafarig Lv50**

"So, what awaits us inside, Million?" Monolith asked Million, who had to retrieve the guide from Ribbit's Bag. **(He wasn't gonna hold the guide while battling, after all!)**

"Caitlin specializes in, hmm, Normal Types. Hmm, only one is dual-typed. The guide says that, hmm, the dual-typed Pokemon isn't weak to, hmm, Fighting," Million said in his usual slow and thoughtful manner.

"Ooo, it could be a Normal/Flying-type I could wreck!" Merky smirked, sparking up. "Or me!" Maximus butted in.

"You'll help plenty with Drain Punch, Maximus," Monolith said, thinking of his own Vacuum Wave... though he did equip a Salac Berry to make his Natural Gift Fighting-type.

'I wanna help too...' Mimic thought, sad that he hadn't gotten a chance yet.

When they entered her room, Ribbit was surprised to be floated up just like Maximus had been earlier, though at least the ride was shorter than Grimsley's moving carpet.

After making sure Ribbit was okay Monolith walked forward, tripping into... a bed!? Cue panic as he scrambles out as a bewildered Caitlin falls out of bed. "Well, I never!" she gasped, carefully getting up and dusting off her dress. "I never expected such a rude awakening from one of the *Arceus* of all all people!" she shouted.

"I'm so sorry your excellency!" Monolith bowed low to cover up his red face. His followers copied him, though Ribbit had to be instructed by Mimic on what they were doing. (**Their body shapes being the same certainly helps.**)

After a few rounds of apologies Monolith mentions he was here for his fight for her to be his Judge and she of course replies "I have half a mind to fail you right here!", but eventually begrudgingly gets out the team she had been given to judge the Arceus with. "And don't think just because I had to change to Normal-types that I abandoned my favorite type," she muttered as she threw out her first Pokemon, Exploud. Monolith decided to lead the battle himself this time.

Vacuum Wave took out about a quarter of Exploud's health and she Screech'd in return, ack! The Fighting-type Natural Gift took Exploud out, though. Stantler got to face Maximus. Stantler stole Flare Boost with Role Play before Drain Punch hit and took it to low yellow. Caitlin healed, but Drain punch did the same damage. Then Stantler pulled out *Jump Kick* and hit Maximus down to yellow HP before Maximus took it out with Drain Punch!

"*Kuh!* Shit, that hurt," Maximus cursed.

"Max! No cursing in front of Mimic!" Miller scolded the Glalie.

"Shit, shit, shit," Mimic giggled. Monolith sighed and joined Miller in scolding Mimic and Maximus.

Granbull was out next so Million decided to step in with a EQ to red, but Take Down took him to yellow first, ack! Monolith swaps in instead, but Caitlin healed, augh! Strength took Granbull to red and Take Down Crit to **20 HPI!** Full Restore, Take Down does half and recoil leaves it at 1HP. Heal again so Granbull kills itself with recoil. Then came Girafarig, so Mimic finally got something! X-Sciss to yellow, Psychic to... Crit OHKO, WTF!?



(I didn't want to lose anyone after getting back like I always do! Darn this curse!!)

Mimic raised it's hand-leaf to Ribbit's face, who was kneeling over him. "I would've loved... to be your exclusive Pokemon, too..." he whispered.

Ribbit breaks down about losing a close friend, and Monolith is also feeling the sudden onset grief, but they still had another Judge to deal with after this, he had to stay strong. He commanded Merky out.

Psychic did less than half, so Crunch easily killed. Merky didn't look too good either. All of the team had loved Mimic, and just a few moments earlier they had been joking about curses. Mimic still had a smile on his face when he went down...

Caitlin rolled her eyes, but called emergency services to clean the bug off her floor while Monolith and co. solemnly used the portal...

### **#229 (Marshal) - Jynx Lv48, Swoobat Lv48, Espeon Lv48, Xatu Lv50**

"...So, what do we have to f-face next?" Monolith asked, stumbling over his words. Ribbit was leaning against him, crying his eyes out.

Million gulped to keep down the lump forming in his throat and pulled out the guide from Ribbit's bag again. "M-Marshal has... Psychic types, hmm..." Million muttered softly.

"I should've been the one to take it on, dangit!" Merky cursed.

"I should've thought of your Special Defense..." Monolith groaned as he approached Marshal's room, grabbing another Rowap Berry in the meantime.

Marshal welcomed them amicably, apologizing for Caitlin's rage earlier. "I can't promise an easy battle from me though," he added before throwing out a Jynx versus a wrathful Maximus.

Jynx had Wake-Up Slap, but without a Black Belt it didn't do much, letting Crunch easily OHKO. With Swoobat next, Merky came in to let his sparks go wild, though a Charge would help him when Swoobat Future Sight'd. Psychic didn't do much the next turn, letting Thunder Fang OHKO easily. Merky stayed out for Espeon: Swift didn't do much either, but Crunch OHKO'd. Before Xatu was revealed Future Sight finally took Merky to yellow, so Monolith came in instead. Dark Natural Gift easily hit first to red thanks to Slow Start and Xatu only set up another Future Sight, so Monolith crit with Signal Beam... but Marshal had healed first, so instead of dying the crit brought Xatu to yellow. Signal Beam KO'd next turn, though.

"Congratulations on your win so far, Monolith. But you still have one more Judge to face," Marshal spoke.

Monolith nodded, "I know, Alder," he muttered, wondering how they could do it with just five members.

Exiting the portal, they approach the center pillar. Ribbit and the others are looking a bit stronger, knowing that the end of this tournament is in sight... But after a long climb they find the smirky N in front of Alder, who was defeated.

"It's over! Never again will Pokemon be made to suffer or be held captive by the humans and ever again will Humans be ruled over by Pokemon!," N gave a sneer to Monolith, who started to strike out before the ground began to shake...

"Now it's time for Team Plasma to take over this League!" N laughed as the room began to collapse, revealing buildings rising up around the League outside. Everyone panicked and dodged debris, but N just let out Zekrom to protect himself from the debris, the dragon throwing the chunks of building material to the side. And once the buildings were erected... stairs slammed into the League and made it shake more. One stairway landed in the Champion's Room and N explained that it was Team Plasma's Castle before exiting. Brother and Cheren burst in after, also having been fighting the 'E5'.

"I'll help Alder, you go prove to N what the bonds between Pokemon and human are really about!" Cheren told Monolith.

"I know you feel the same bond with Ribbit as I do with Cheren," Brother told Monolith.

"I do!" Monolith nodded, looking to the sniffling frog-human, who was still somewhat panicked.

"L-L't's tik h'm d'wn!" Ribbit croaked out.

And so Monolith and co. go up the stairs, the Gym Leaders intimidate the Sages and Monolith escape into the building, worrying once more about only having five Pokemon available to fight.

**(And now, according to the Outline, we're cutting to Briggs' E4 challenge!)**

**-Team Briggs Recap-**



Wilbert the Stoutland

Docile/Quick Tempered & Forewarn  
 [50BP/85ACC] [90BP/100ACC]  
 [95ACC] [95ACC]

x



Gorge the Shiftry

Brave/Likes to thrash about & Shed Skin  
 [95BP/95ACC] [100BP/95ACC]  
 [120BP/95ACC] [90ACC]



Mitchell the Gigalith

Timid/Good Perseverance & Poison Heal

[55BP/95ACC] [60BP/95ACC]  
[90BP/100ACC] [100BP/100ACC]

x



Andy the Altaria

Relaxed/Loves to eat & Illuminate

[80BP/100ACC] [100BP/95ACC]

[170BP/60ACC] [100ACC]



Rorsark the Carracosta

Adamant/Alert to sounds & Sturdy

[70BP/85ACC] [95BP/90ACC]

[95BP/95ACC] [100BP/100ACC]

x



Sunko the Infernape  
 Naive/Hates to lose & Run Away  
 [55BP/95ACC] [70BP/95ACC]  
 [95BP/100ACC] [100BP/90ACC]

(Ah, always glad to remember how OP Aerial Ace is... Whelp, it's time for my 'all couples must main at least one E5 fight' Wedlocke rule to it's ugly head...

#228 (Swimmer ♀ Shauntal) - Eelektross Lv48, Galvantula Lv48, Eelektross Lv48, Electabuzz Lv50

#229 (Swimmer ♀ Marshal) - Gorebyss Lv48, Relicanth Lv48, Relicanth Lv48, Jellicent Lv50

#230 (Swimmer ♀ Grimsley) - Weavile Lv48, Glalie Lv48, Frolass Lv48, Vanilluxe Lv50

#231 (Swimmer ♀ Caitlin) - Bronzong Lv48, Musharna Lv48, Gardevoir Lv48, Sigilyph Lv50

Okay, Sunko for Shauntal, Gorge for Marshal, Mitchell for Grimsley... but Caitlin?? No clue. Best SpDef on the Team is Andy or Wilbert. Either Bronzong or Sigilyph is trouble!)

Briggs arrives just as Team Plasma's Castle coming up and rushes into the League, but the way to the Champion is already deactivated. He must fight the panicking Judges to gain access to the Champion's room.

First he visits Marshal, who is using his main Pokemon to clear out the room. Instead he fights Marshal's back up team for Water HMs.

Gorebyss only flinches versus Return,so Wilbert easily 2KO's the fish. Gorge swapped in to face his first Relicanth: Its ExtremeSpeed doesn't do much, but Leaf Blade activates Sturdy, argh! Marshal heals while Gorge uses Dark Pulse and takes it back to half. He uses ExtremeSpeed again, but Leaf Blade claims victory finally. The next Relicanth uses Aqua Jet before being put to sleep. At yellow health, I heal Gorge while Relicanth sleeps. It Sturdy's Leaf Blade, gets Full

Restore'd, then misses an Aqua Jet before going down to Leaf Blade. Then Jellicent took a Dark Pulse to yellow before countering badly with Bubblebeam. Leaf Blade KO.

**Briggs ventures into Shauntal's room next.** Her main team and Judge team were also occupied by keeping debris from obstructing the way, leaving him to fight some Electric types she had been experimenting with.

Eelektross didn't do anything to Rorsark, so he easily Crit OHKO'd Eelektross #1. Eelektross #2 used Tail Whip and Stone Edge only hit it to yellow HP this time, leaving Briggs worried.... But Sturdy is a good worry fixer when he was still at full HP. Waterfall killed Eelektross #2 after the Sturdy survival. Sunko finally stepped in for Electabuzz and even hit it to red after two turns of Double Team thanks to Dig. Shauntal healed though, so Sunko's Double Kick only managed to get Electabuzz to... 1HP!? Damn! She healed again and Double Kick brought Electabuzz back to red HP! Shock Wave hit hard to yellow, but Double Kick did it's job and finished it off. Which left the Galvantula... Fire Spin OHKO!

"Can't believe you got me to join in on your recklessness..." Rorshark shuddered.

"Yeah, ain't it fun?" Sunko grinned, thinking of the Drayden's Poison Gym again.

"Stop doing that, Sunko..." Briggs shuddered, grasping his heart. He was glad he could rely on Sunko's speed, though.

**Grimsley was the next person Briggs challenged.** As he ran into his room the last building crashed into place, it wouldn't be long before the stairs appeared...

Weavile Tormented Mitchell, but Stone Edge OHKO'd easily. Vanilluxe hit Mitchell with a Simple Beam, but Rock Throw... activated its Sturdy!? Augh! Grimsley healed, so Stone Edge just activated it again with a crit. This time Mitchell used Tail Slap after Vanilluxe was healed, which got it to red HP thanks to the new BP count~ Then Vanilluxe actually attacked with...Water Pledge to yellow HP!? ACK! Rock Throw killed, though. Mitchell gets healed while Glalie starts up Ice Ball. After two hits of it Stone Edge OHKO's, but Mitchell is left in yellow HP. ...Then I let Andy take on Froslax, but it actually had Ice Burn, so I had to keep using Fly to avoid the two-turn move, ack! Thanks to Swagger making Froslax hit herself twice in a row, Andy got a KO in the League.

**Caitlin's Main Team were busy** keeping the roof up, including her Murderous Girafarig, so Briggs got her back-up Psychics instead, which were protecting the 'young lady'. (**He learned that they called her that through telepathy.**) There were small spots of green goo on the floor. Briggs decided to go with the Gorge/Wilbert couple for Sigilyph, but was it the right choice?

Gorge first put Bronzong to sleep before pulling out the Dark Pulse he know would be resisted. Two Dark Pulses later and it woke up to... Ice Fang!? Agh! Sleep Powder, Max Potion, a missed Gear Grind and then Dark Pulse KO'd! Sigilyph swooped in next, of course, so Wilbert's turn came. Sky Drop... didn't quite take a third, OK! Return hit to yellow, though. Another Sky Drop brought him to yellow and Return KO'd, nice! Gorge came back out for Gardevoir, but Musharna chose to take the Fatal Dark Pulse to yellow instead! Another Dark Pulse took it out. Which left Gardevoir all alone to take a Dark Pulse to yellow, ack! Luckily Dark Pulse flinched, so another one finished her off, just in time for the stairs to come crashing through the room, Team Plasma grunts descending them. Briggs cursed his luck, but chose not to go up them and instead turned to check on the Champion through the proper path.

He reeled when he found Brother and Cheren there, but when he heard about what happened he knew he has to follow Monolith and help destroy N's ambitions as well.

### **~~Briggs' Elite Four Challenge Complete~~**

Meanwhile Monolith and Co. were being introduced to Anthea and Concordia, who explained to Monolith about N's isolated childhood. Monolith got a better idea for who N was that way.

"Sounds like, hmm, he could just be repeating what others say..." Million thought out loud as they talked to more of the grunts on the floor, one of whom mentioned Ghetsis' plans to 'manipulate hearts and minds'. **(Oh if only I could make a mimicking joke here without being insensitive...)**

One floor up they finally came across a PC Box so Monolith could declare Mimic as not with them.

### **Mimic the Energetic Leavanny Level 22-50 Always Learning, He was a Great Friend**

**(Looking at the future battles I don't really need a new 'mon to help, but I don't want to get the Legendary put up front, so I decided on someone for Miller...)**

Monolith got an idea of who to use, but as that Pokemon was still away he kept going for now. Just one room over there was a grunt that teleported them out of the castle so Monolith surprised Miller by asking to be flow to Striaton City and going straight to Route 2.

"Y-you don't mean!?" Miller gasped.

"Yup, that's right! Montana may have an Attack-lowering nature, but we can all back him up if he's not doing a lot, right?" Monolith smiled.

Miller nodded excitedly. "Yeah, of course!" he shouted, bursting into tears again. His excitement was contagious as Monolith paid the hefty fine for Montana's long stay.

**(After that everyone began to grind to lv. 54 for Ghetsis N, definitely just N. Thanks to TMs Montana got the moveset Shadow Punch/Fire Fang/Strength/Tail Whip right off the bat and nothing else in his learnset really appealed to me. Also, Million tried to learn Muddy Water, but I'll never give up Brine!)**

After readying themselves for the Battle with N they headed back to the castle thanks to the helpful grunt and headed up a floor while being escorted by the Shadow Triad, finding N's childish bedroom.

"Damn, I'd want a new world if I was fifteen and this was my room too," Merky joked while Montana went over to play with the basketball.

Miller tried to show Montana how human players dribbled it with his wing, but when Montana tried to do the same he put too much pressure on it and the ball burst, shocking the still child-minded Tauros, who winded up knocking over a bunch of toys in his fear. Monolith quickly wrangled him with telekinesis, but the Tauros' whimpers made him feel really bad about bringing him. Miller soothed the Tauros down as Monolith looked around and found a Rare Candy.

With nothing else on the floor they headed up and came across Ghetsis in front of the final room. "Welcome, holder of the Light Stone, Arceus Monolith," he nodded to both of them.

The castle around the league is a symbol of change, yadda yadda, the trainer in the throne room is the strongest in Unova, yadda yadda. "Now that the stage is set, we can seize the people's minds and hearts and set into motion my- no, Team Plasma's plans," Ghetsis grinned. "With the King as the new God of Humans, the new world will shine bright and we will hold control over all the populace!"

"Oh yeah, him grooming N to be what he wants him to be checks out," Merky growled.

"Call your Luxray off. Instead- Go! Discover whether you have what it takes to be a hero!" Ghetsis instructed, stepping aside.

Ribbit croaked at Ghetsis in rage, but Monolith pulled him into the room. "Come on, N's the one we need to stop right now," he said.

"Hat' 'im," Ribbit croaked out.

"Disgusting hybrid," Ghetsis muttered under his breath as they left.

~~~~~

“What I desire is two worlds to separate Pokemon from the abusive humans that capture them and force them to fight. And to be a new god to the humans so that humans are no longer ruled over by Pokemon like your father,” N sneered.

“Yeah, I’ve heard that before, but do you really think my Father will give you that? That Zekrom has that much power in him?” Monolith responded.

“Oh, I *know* Zekrom has the power to bring your Father to his knees,” N got from his throne and approached the group of Pokemon and Ribbit.

“You were sent down here because he was ailing, correct? That was mentioned in the posters that were distributed everywhere before your descent,” he pointed out.

“It seems advertising that fact, hmm, backfired,” Million pointed out.

“I see the Hybrid has still failed to awaken Reshiram and be recognized as a hero. How disappointing. And I was so looking forward to Zekrom and Reshiram’s battle,” N said sarcastically, leaning into Ribbit’s face.

Ribbit flinched at the closeness and Monolith glared at the human, who laughed. “You have two choices, you pathetic creatures. Challenge me to a fight you can’t win, or leave this place and witness the birth of a new world where Pokemon will be free of humans and my ascension to God of Humans!” N laughed.

“Then I’ll guess we’ll just have to fight you!” Maximus shouted, the temperature around him getting lower. Merky did the same with his sparks.

“Hmm, same.” Million nodded. Miller and Montana also agreed, but weren’t as loud.

“Well then, Zekrom! Come to me!” N summoned his black dragon familiar.

Ribbit’s bag began to shake as Zekrom flew in and Ribbit was shocked but put his hand in and... found the Light Stone reacting to Zekrom. “No, the Light Stone is...” N gasped.

The Light Stone floated up and sucked up energy around them. In a huge burst of light that forced everyone to move away, From the orb comes Re- No, Giratina!?

“Wh-” Ribbit started before a dripping limb gripped his shoulder and pulled him into a portal that appeared on the floor. (**\*Yoink’s Cyrus’ cutscene\***)

“Ribbit!” Monolith shouted after him before the portal closed up, leaving everyone in the room in shock.

~~~Enter: Distortion World~~

“Wh’r ‘m !!?” Ribbit shouted, whirling around and coming face-to-face with a giant wyrm.

“*Finally*, a Hero of Truth to get this asshole out of *my* Distortion World!” Giratina growled. **(The urge to make Giratina mysterious and just normally angry... did not win.)**

“I mean, *look* at this shit!” Giratina gestured wildly to the Distortion World around them.

Ribbit, of course, had never been here and had no idea what was different... Though the blinding light was a bit much for his eyes and didn’t seem to fit the darkly-colored dragon in front of him. “Wh’ ‘r’ng?” Ribbit asked, putting a hand above his eyes.

“All the arcdamn *FIRE* for one thing!” Giratina cursed. “And he evaporated my cool waterfall!” **(arc being a curse in the Pokemon world is still such a fun idea I made~)**

Ribbit looked at where Giratina pointed and... It was very clear that there used to be water above and below the point, but Ribbit wasn’t sure how that area would make a *waterfall*.

“Augh, what am I thinking, you’ve never been here before!” Giratina groaned and instead began emitting his memory of the waterfall into Ribbit’s mind.

Ribbit was used to his mind being messed with at this point, but this was a wholly different feeling and his stomach squirmed as he saw the image of the waterfall in his head. ‘That explains the ‘distortion’ part,” he thought.

“Yeah, exactly!” Giratina huffed before remembering the puzzles humans normally had to go through, and how one part of them was ruined now.

“Oh, you didn’t have Pokemon on you?” Giratina noticed the lack of Pokeballs.

“Th’y st’y oot,” Ribbit grunted out.

“Oh, we can stick to telekinesis if talking is that hard for you,” Giratina said, finally noticing Ribbit’s grunts past his own anger at Reshiram. Ribbit nodded enthusiastically at the idea.

“Cool, now get on. Without a Strength User and... my cool waterfall,” He snuffles and lets out a tiny tear, “you can’t finish all my cool puzzles.”

Ribbit nodded and climbed on, dodging some spiky limbs and holding onto one of the goopy limbs that had grabbed him earlier. And so ensued a long flight of going up and down and dodging platforms that only appear right before they graze them. Ribbit was pretty amazed by the new world, but that last part really freaked him out.

Eventually they reached the bottom, the hottest part of the Bright-Distortion World. (“**Wait, doesn’t heat usually rise? Why would the bottom be the hottest-” Distortion, it’s Distorted; Follow the logic here. Also this is kind of a Hell allegory, I think? I didn’t write that in the Outline, tho.**”)

Reshiram was busy sending out more flames to heat up the place. “I want that water bed dry by the end of the day, Charles,” Reshiram hissed to the fire ball which seemed to be... living? (**It is Scarlet/Violet release day as I write this. Yoinking an idea from Skeledirge, but it’s not an borb [bird orb] and is just flame shaped.**)

‘Heh, Charles,’ Ribbit thought.

‘What makes Charles funny?’ Giratina thought back. Ribbit thought about the Heartbreaker Motorcyclist himself and Giratina let out a chuckle, which Reshiram heard.

“For the last time Sa-” Reshiram started before turning around and finding himself face-to-face with a black dragon. And not *his* Black Dragon. “Oh, you came back. Well, I’m *not* going back in that *damn* stone!” Reshiram shouted.

“Actually, Ribbit here released me from the stone so if you just *get the arc out* you’ll be fine,” Giratina cursed.

“Oooh no, that’s a trick! My Brother will be out there! And you’ll tell him I’m talking to flames and he’ll make fun of me!” Reshiram shouted back.

‘Uhh, maybe we could settle this peacefully?’ Ribbit thought, but Giratina was too busy butting heads with Reshiram to read his mind.

“That doesn’t mean you should destroy *my* cool waterfall!” Giratina shouted back, beginning to use some of his dark aura to slam into Reshiram. Reshiram did the same with his fire energy and Ribbit was worried for his health as they began shoving each other.

“S-STOP IT!” Ribbit shouted, words starting to come out more easily, though he still mostly talked from the back of his throat. “Just wanna get back! To Monolith!”

“Right, I should force him out! Thanks, Ribbit!” Giratina laughed, grabbing onto Reshiram’s fluffy parts with his ribbon-like black limbs and steering them back to the portal.

“No, that’s not what I-” Ribbit started before he was forced to grab a hold of the base of one of the limbs again as Giratina took off.

Reshiram roared in pain and burned Giratina's limbs during the flight, making them turn red. Giratina grit his teeth, but when they passed the former waterfall the flames assigned there were called to Reshiram's aid and swarmed Giratina. When they got back to where the portal had been Giratina collapsed on the ground, the burns exhausting him.

Ribbit slid down one of Giratina's pointed legs to reach the ground. "If you don't go through, we can't stop Zekrom's Hero. He wants to separate humans and Pokemon. Make two worlds for each and become the god of the humans. Instead of Arceus!" Ribbit explained loudly, hoping he reached Reshiram's ears.

"Hmph, this world sucked anyway," Reshiram relented before Giratina recovered his strength, made the portal bigger, and pushed all three of them through with the last of his strength.

### ~~~Exit: Distortion World~~~

On the other side Giratina was in a different form, confusing Ribbit, though Monolith immediately recognized his exiled Great Uncle and slinked back behind Maximus and Merky. "Easier than Kyurem," Ribbit joked towards Monolith and the others.

"*That's* Reshiram!?" Miller gasped. "Whooooa!" ~~the peanut gallery~~ Montana gasped.

"You can... talk better now?" Monolith gasped.

"I can?" Ribbit blinked, having not realized it himself.

"I think his vocal cords got a bit distorted!" Giratina joked.

Meanwhile Reshiram had noticed Zekrom... and booked it out of the castle, smashing through the wall.

"Oh *no* you don't!" Zekrom shouted, flying after him.

"No, *wait*, our fight!!" N shouted after them... but they were already too far away. "*Tch!* Guess I have my back-up team," he muttered.

"Oh yeah, can I join your team, Ribbit?" Giratina asked.

"Like Latios? Uhh, k," Ribbit said, kind of surprised two legendaries had asked to join him. He was still a little bit too frazzled about the Distortion World adventure to think of Mimic's last words...

Using the Master Ball that Professor Juniper had given him, Ribbit caught Distort/Giratina. "After his favorite place," Ribbit said right before the ball *vwoop'd* right on to the PC.

**#587 (N) - Vaporeon Lv52, Starmie Lv50, Slowbro Lv50, Starmie Lv50, Crawdaunt Lv50, Starmie Lv50**

“Alright, that’s enough of that. Time for that fight!” N shouted, throwing out his Vaporeon. Merky took the lead while Monolith pulled out a Belue Berry.

First things first, Merky need a SpDef Boost! Charge, Aqua Ring. Thunder Fang... Barely OHKO’d! (the slow HP drop made me think that, anyway...) **Slowbro** was next, but Crunch only did about a quarter of damage and N ordered Amnesia. Thunder Fang to yellow, but Slowbro used Slack Off. Charge, Slack Off to full. Thunder Fang to barely surviving, Amnesia. Full Restore, Thunder Fang to half. Thunder Fang to red, Slack Off, augh! More Charge and Slowbro uses Slack Off again to full. Thunder Fang OHKO!

“Eugh, so annoying... Probably didn’t even have an attacking move,” Merky muttered.

“My turn!” Maximus shouted, barging into the battle after **Crawdaunt**.

Drain Punch to high yellow, but Crawdaunt’s Crabhammer brought Maximus to nearly yellow! Another Drain Punch knocked out Crawdaunt and healed up Maximus up some, though. **Starmie #1** was next and confused Maximus into hitting himself, ack! Swift finally brought him to yellow HP, but Crunch brought Starmie to nearly red HP. Monolith sprayed Maximus with a Full Restore and Starmie used another weak Swift. Confuse Ray made him hurt himself again... and the next turn after a Swift. Another Full Restore and Starmie used two more Swifts before going down to a final Crunch.

“I’m out, someone else’s got this other Starmie!” Maximus shouted, swapping out to Monolith.

Another Confuse Ray came from **Starmie #2**, but Monolith slammed it with Signal Beam to low yellow regardless. After a Swift Signal Beam finished it off, **Starmie #3** came out. Since he was still slightly confused the Starmie only used Swift while Signal Beam knocked it to yellow. After another Swift, Monolith... Finally hit himself, ugh. He snapped out of it after one more Swift, however, and finished off the star.

“... .. If I had Zekrom I wouldn’t have lost,” N frowned, looking down forlorn.

“Your truth... Your feelings... They were stronger than mine...” N continued, “Reshiram and Zekrom... Is it even possible they both choose a different hero? Two different heroes living at the same time and pursuing different things... Could they both be right?”

“Is this the part where he stops being bad?” Montana whispered to Miller.

“I think so,” the Swanna whispered back.

Anyway, yadda yadda he realizes the world needs both species to be complete and Ghetsis bursts in to scold N and do the father-son reveal. “Yes, *I* was the one who spurred N into pursuing ideals. The reason we all did this was so that **MY** Team Plasma would have more power in the Pokemon-less planet we wanted! Power to control the fearful masses! We did that part together well at least,” Ghetsis monologued on and on until... he slapped N!

Monolith was shocked and leaned down. “No father should *ever* harm their child!” he sneered.

“And what can a sniveling little *runt* of an Arceus and the hybrid abomination he created because he was too *sca-aared* to talk to a human do about it?” Ghetsis mocked Monolith.

“*That’s* it!” Merky shouted, jumping at Ghetsis.

“Oh, is that all? Well, allow me to *en-light-en* you then,” Ghetsis laughed as the battle began.

**#232 (Ghetsis) - Dodrio Lv52, Yanmega Lv52, Gyarados Lv52, Scyther Lv52, Aerodactyl Lv52, Salamence Lv54**

**Dodrio** Acupressures for SpDef, but Thunder Fang quickly brings it to red! (**Sorry babe, your Hydreigon lead was rendered useless.**) He Full Restores, but Thunder Fang brings it right back down. After... the move i missed Dodrio using that didn’t hurt much Thunder Fang KO’d it. **Gyarados** Hydro Pumps Merky to yellow before being taken to red with Thunder Fang and paralyzed. Guaranteed to go first now, Merky’s KO is easy.

“Alright, tagging out,” Merky panted. - “I’m in!” Miller replied as... Aerodactyl appeared.

Luckily **Aerodactyl** only used Take Down and got hurt by Rocky Helmet before Surf KO’d. **Salamence** was a job for Maximus, but it flew into the air immediately so Maximus had to wait until the move hit him to *yellow HP* before he could get off his Ice Fang OHKO! **Scyther** was a good swap for Montana... but that Sand Stream was rather annoying. Fire Fang took out a third (**wait a second, I have all three Fang moves on this Team!**) while Scyther set up Double Team and got hit to yellow from the sand. One more Fire Fang brought it to low red and burned it, so after an X-Scissor that didn’t do much, the bug was down and Montana stayed out for the second bug, **Yanmega**. Fire Fang did about a third while U-Turn+sand brought Montana to yellow so Monolith sprayed the Tauros with a Full Restore while Yanmega used another fairly weak U-Turn. Fire Fang to red and another U-turn to yellow, but the sand... nope, it barely survived around 1 HP, augh. Feint somehow goes first (**priority?**), but it takes off about 1 HP before Fire Fang knocks out the bug.

“*A-mazing* Job, Montana!” Miller shouted, clapping for his son. Montana loved the praise.

“**WHAT!?**” Ghetsis shouted, back up in surprise. Cue superiority complex shouting.

Brother, Cheren, and Alder entered during the battle and Alder cleared his throat. "So, N... Do you still think humans and Pokemon need to be separated?"

N stayed silent and Ghetsis did more monologing, stating the harsh line "He's nothing more than a freak without a human heart." (**This binch autistic!! Stop being ableist!!**)

"Alder, it's a waste of time listening to him ramble on," Brother shook his head, "*He's* the one without a human heart!"

"You're right. He's truly pitiful," Alder nodded.

"Hmm, very true," Million nodded.

Cue inspiring speech to N and him rejecting the inspiration as he realizes everything he ever taught was manipulation... Then Ghetsis shouted blame at Monolith and 'his disgusting hybrid' for corrupting his son, before Brother carted the man off to the nearby authorities, floating Ghetsis above his back so he just uselessly flailed in the air. Cheren and Alder followed after him.

"Congrats, Monolith," Cheren said just before leaving and Monolith gave the human a smile before turning to N, who had approached Ribbit.

"When I met you in Accumula Town... I knew to expect an Arceus, but I was shocked to hear what your Pokemon said. Or rather, what they didn't say," N started. "I mean, neither Monolith nor that Bisharp were acknowledging you and your squirming and croaking. And neither did anyone else. It reminded me of myself when I was young," N stopped, worried.

Ribbit nodded. "Go ahead?" he gestured as Monolith and the others approached them.

"I mean, I've heard tales all my life of Pokemon being abused by humans, but seeing a *human* being abused by a *Pokemon*. Well, that was a first!" N laughed.

"And, again, I'm *really* sorry about that," Monolith apologized to Ribbit.

"It's okay," Ribbit told Monolith quickly before N mustered up some extra words.

"...I guess that's when I started thinking humans shouldn't have Pokemon Gods. And Ghetsis fanned that idea into... well, you've heard it plenty of times now. I'm beginning to think he fanned that idea *too* hard now..."

"Yeah, no kidding!" Miller laughed.

N lead them closer to where the throne used to be, closer to the hole that the Tao Trio Duo had flown through. "Monolith, I asked *you* whether you had a dream, but I already knew you did! You're in the *Arceus Tournament*, after all! So this time I'll ask Ribbit... Do you have a dream?"

"I mean... I don't even know if I'll *have* a future to look forward to," Ribbit said, looking at Monolith. They both matched forlorn expressions.

"Well, as long as Arceus doesn't call off the tournament entirely, I think you'll be just fine," N smiled.

"...Speaking of. N, you're not a Judge, right? Like, you didn't gain the right to be a Judge when you beat Alder?" Monolith asked.

"I don't... *feel* like I did?" N said, patting himself down.

"Yeah, none of that counted for the Tournament. Alder was the Final Judge and you didn't fight him," Father said, his giant face appearing in the hole. "Also, I'll deal with Zekrom and Reshiram for now. Can I have Zekrom's Pokeball?"

"Ah, yes, sir? Your Holiness?" N said, quickly pulling out the Legendary's Pokeball.

"Either is fine," Father said, levitating the Pokeball off N's hand before disappearing from their sight.

N fell to the floor in shock. "Holy heeeck..."

"Yeah, he's a real jumpscare to people down here, huh?" Monolith laughed before looking around and noticing that his Followers and Ribbit were cowering behind him.

"Oh *come on*, guys, he's not *that* scary!" he said before everyone voiced their disagreement.

Cue credits fade out and Monolith going back to... well, not Nuvema Town, where Briggs' friend was waiting for his son, but Accumula Town.

**(As for how Briggs' non-canon N and Ghestsis fights went...**

**His Reshiram was Regice, who froze Rorsark for a turn before Stone Edge OHKO'd, heh. Of course, I'm forced to catch her...**

**#587 (Lesser God N) - Salamence Lv52, Altaria Lv50, Sigilyph Lv50, Archeops Lv50, Togekiss Lv50, Staraptor Lv50**

Rorsark/Carracosta leads alongside his partner Sunko/Infernape. Gust [145BP/5PP] to... yellow HP!? And **Salamence** barely survived Stone Edge, ack! N heals so Stone Edge does the same damage. I heal Rorsark and Gust does the same, eugh... The final three Gust did slightly less than the first two, though! Rorsark his first with Stone Edge the next turn. **Altaria** comes out next so Rorsark heals up and takes and Aerial Ace to the face, but lives at half health, whoo! [cue Andy being angry that his move isn't as cool against a Rock-type.] After surviving another on 19 HP, he counters with a Stone Edge OHKO! **Staraptor** is next so I check for anti-elec moves to hopefully let Sunko get a turn and he does, ugh. So Rorsark stays in and heals again, taking a Swift that does a good chunk of damage. After another Swift to yellow Stone Edge OHKOs. **Togekiss'** Aeroblast brought Rorsark to 15 HP before Stone Edge OHKO'd. In the face of **Sigilyph** Rorsark healed again while the 'bird' uselessly used Imprison. Then it started a Sky Drop the next turn! It only did a pittance of damage while Stone Edge OHKO'd. **Archeops** was his last and... Archeops refuses to damage for three turns while Rorsark misses Surf and Waterfall. After a Surf managed knock it to red damage, Archeops responds with a pathetic Return before Waterfall hit him.

### **#232 (Lesser God Ghetsis) - Aggron Lv52, Klinklang Lv52, Probopass Lv52, Probopass Lv52, Magnezone Lv52, Magnezone Lv54**

**Aggron's** Power Gem takes off a third of Rorsark's HP but Waterfall hits right off the bat and takes him to yellow HP. After another Power Gem knocking Rorsark to red HP Waterfall finished off the beast and Sunko finally had his first switch in: **Magnezone #1**. Fire Spin to red, Thundershock to yellow! Anticipating Ghetsis' heal I healed Rorsark and began a dig that took it out! **Magnezone #2** was out next so Sunko repeated the gesture. **Probopass #1** followed and got decimated by Double Kick. Same with **Probopass #2** and same with **Klinklang**.

(Yep, he didn't break the streak of finishing a battle on low health, haha!)

"What do you *mean* I missed him!? I ran *right* here!" Briggs shouted at N.

"Uhh, you kind of missed all of it. The entire conflict. Like, Ribbit got pulled into the Distortion World for a while and found Reshiram in there. When he came back he could speak better and then I fought Monolith and lost. Then Ghetsis, my dad, fought him and lost. Then Alder carted off Ghetsis when he, uhh... revealed that he was manipulating me this whole time." N still wasn't sure if he was ready to accept that yet.

"Wait, but I heard Monolith had to train a new member after the Elite Four. How *did* you manage to get here after him?" Alder asked.

Briggs sweat, remembering his own time grinding, then taking Wilbert and everyone out for ice cream. "I-I don't know! But I'm getting my best friend's son's body back!" He shouted, Flying off on Andy through the hole in the wall.

**(My first thought was to have it be boba, but... how would a dog eat boba? I don't think they can sip through a straw. :( Anyway, I completely forgot to write Briggs into the scene of Monolith v N/Ghetsis, so that's what you get.**

**EDIT: So I wrote the above Briggs part before I played the battles and apparently I had forgotten to grind them at all...**

**Oh, and it was revealed that I had said Briggs had a dream, I guess. Pretty obvious what that one is, though. I wasn't interested in that dialogue option when I originally played these games, though, so I was probably just spamming A.)**

~~~~~

"With your sister forfeiting and your brother having not taken on the Elite Judges yet, I'm forced to give you a second chance at winning the Tournament or no one will win," Arceus spoke to Monolith just outside Accumula Town.

"Thank you, Father," Monolith bowed graciously. Ribbit copied the motion, sadly remembering Mimic teaching him that.

"They told me they usually train new and stronger Pokemon for the second time a trainer challenges them, so give them time to do so. I suggest training while you wait," Arceus warned before disappearing from their view.

Ribbit let out everyone after that, explaining their new situation alongside Monolith.

"Should we, hmm, explore more of the region, then?" Million suggested.

Monolith nodded. "Good idea. But we don't need anymore Followers. I hope we can finish this challenge with just *this* team," Monolith said, thinking of the two fallen Followers so far.

Thinking about how close the end was made Ribbit a bit forlorn, and now there wasn't a close friend other than Monolith to confide in... Well, he had once confided in Miller, but the Swanna had his hands full with Montana.

"Man, I'll have a *lot* of wishes to fulfill in the box. The most recent one I remember is Munchkin, that poor skitty from the Badge Gates," Monolith thought aloud.

"Yeah, poor kit. Can't run far with short legs like that," Merky nodded.

"Can I see the, hmm, Town Map, Ribbit?" Million asked.

“Sure,” Ribbit said, handing it over and watching over his shoulder as Million looked at the routes they had been turned away from.

“Either right of Nimbasa or right of Opelucid, huh?” Maximus said from his vantage point above them.

“Let’s start with Nimbasa, then,” Monolith decided, “Either way will probably hold stronger Pokemon than Victory Road.”

**(I’m not actually gonna do exploring, I’m just gonna grind on Rt. 15. And Monolith didn’t learn of the Seven Sage plot or get a Fishing Rod in-canon, lol. I needed the rod to get a non-duplicate encounter on Rt. 117, but Monolith’s already got more than 1 box of cool Pokemon; He could stand to not have any more.**

**I find it weird that the E4 still managed to have the same types, but this was an old version of the randomizer that didn’t even put their names by the numbers, so I suppose any quirk is possible.)**

Along the way Merky decided to accept his Modest nature and replace Thunder Fang for Discharge (**His SpAt was 2 higher than his Att when he learned it.**) and Miller dropped Water Pulse for Hurricane. Miller wanted to show off to Montana how he was *such* a Cool Dad. (**Gotta get that in before they become teens and hate your guts like Martyn! /j**)

Then Maximus tried to learn Sheer Cold and- “Well, it’s not like Headbutt will help me much! I wanna go out with the *best* possible moveset, like Miller!” the Glallie grinned.

“Yeah, go Max!!” Montana shouted, stomping the ground rhythmically, like clapping.

...Then Merky tried to learn Wild Charge and - \*looks at Mega Drain\* - No.

~~

“Hey, can I get a cool item too?” Montana asked, looking at his Dad’s helmet.

“Oh yeah, completely forgot about that!” Monolith gasped, turning to Ribbit.

Before the Arceus could rummage in there, the human pulled out a Charcoal and a Shadow Tag. “Does this work?”

“Yeah, he could change items based on the situation like me!” Monolith decided, “Plus Father didn’t say anything about them getting new type designations, so the Charcoal could help with Grimsley and he’d get the Shadow Tag for Shauntal and Marshal.”

“Yay!” Montana smiled, holding the Charcoal for now. Ribbit put the Shadow Tag in the top of the bag to remember.

~~

And so, after a good week of grinding and running from Briggs and his angry dog, Miller flew Ribbit to the League, Monolith flying with them. Andy with Briggs was right behind them.

“Ah-*hem!*” Briggs cleared his throat.

Monolith stomped the ground, exasperated. “Let me just finish this, dangit!” Monolith shouted back while Ribbit released everyone else like usual.

When Million was out he went up to the guard, which had a new guide for them. “You better be quick about it!” Briggs shouted, remembering how his friend looked desperately at the frog in the tank during his recent visit. **(As you might’ve guessed, Briggs isn’t getting his Hall of Fame entry. No time for fun for this angry guy.)**

‘I don’t think Father has a *quick* ceremony in mind...’ Monolith thought, but decided not to voice it. Instead, he hurried past the League’s Guard, leaving Briggs to wait... until he decided to wait in the Center instead. **(Sadly he can’t watch it, because Father Arceus didn’t want the Tournament televised.)**

**#565 (Grimsley) - Wormadam Lv71, Leavanny Lv71, Ninjask Lv71, Galvantula Lv71, Pinsir Lv71, Vespiquen Lv73**

“We’re gonna start with Grimsley so Montana can get his use of Charcoal finished right off the bat,” Monolith said, pulling out a Watmel Berry for himself.

“Yay, I can’t wait!” Montana smiled, stomping excitedly.

“*That’s* the spirit!” Maximus laughed, remembering his own excitement for battles at the beginning of the Tournament.

“Yup, Guide still says Grimsley has, hmm, Bugs. No special lead suggestion, hmm,” Million read.

“Then Montana should be fine!” Monolith smiled before heading in.

Ribbit did better with the moving carpet this time, though Montana tried to follow him and, well, he’s a bit too heavy for the machinery... Monolith had to fly them up after all. “Sorry Grimsley...” Montana pouted when they got up to the top, Monolith relaying the message to the man.

“Haa... I suspected something might happen again,” Grimsley sighed, “Well... you know I still have Bugs, so go ahead.”

Montana leads against **Plant Cloak Wormadam (I bet the old randomization couldn't give him any of the alternate forms, heh.)** versus Montana. She didn't stand a chance with the 4x effective Fire Fang. **Pinsir** can have fighting moves, so Miller swapped in and managed to hit with Hurricane on the first try, OHKO! Million came out for **Galvantula's** return and it made a dumb mistake by using Sucker Punch. Justified means Earthquake Crit OHKO'd! I wasn't going to press his luck with **Levanny**, though, so Montana returned and... missed Swords Dance, while Levanny used Swords Dance. Luckily the next one hit and did what it was supposed to do. **Vespiquen** survived Fire Fang on yellow and countered with Swagger, but Montana managed to use Fire Fang regardless. Montana could've gone against **Ninjask** too, but I let Merky swap in, though X-Scissor did a good chunk of damage before Wild Charge landed and knocked it out.

"Nice job, Monolith. Can't wait to see what you cook up next. Other than fixing everything, of course," Grimsley spoke.

"Yeah, this idea of my dad's was maybe a *bit* much," Monolith agreed before heading back out to the hub.

**#563 (Shauntal) - Cofagrigus Lv71, Gengar Lv71, Mismagius Lv71, Gengar Lv71, Drifblim Lv71, Jellicent Lv73**

"How about Shauntal next?" Monolith said, pulling out a Rowap Berry for the dark juices while Ribbit exchanged Montana's Charcoal for Spell Tag.

"No special, hmm, lead. Just Ghosts, hmm," Million read from the guide.

"Cool, I wanna lead, then!" Maximus shouted, since he had been left out. **(Though Monolith hadn't joined either...)**

Miller and Monolith looked at Montana for approval, since this was meant to be the Tauros' final time to show off, but he was cool with it. "Yeah, let Uncle Maximus do something!"

"*Ooof, Uncle...*" Maximus groaned as if he had been shot.

After another flight with Shauntal's mechanical ghosts Ribbit and gang faced the novelist once more. "Since I have the same type assigned as usual I decided to use some of my favorite ghosts, so watch out!" Shauntal grinned.

'Hopefully there's no Growling Mismagius again...' Monolith thought as Maximus lead against her **Cofagrigus**.

Crunch took less than half of the coffin's health out and Shadow Ball did less damage to Maximus in return. After another Crunch left it in red, Shauntal healed, so Maximus got healed

from his yellow health too. Which is when I noticed Maximus get his SpDef dropped... Sheer Cold missed and Shadow Ball hit harder. After another heal Maximus managed to land Sheer Cold for the first time, surviving at around half health from one Shadow Ball. **Drifblim** held a risk of blowing up, so Monolith came out with his highest Defense in the party and hit it to yellow with a Dark-type Natural Gift before it Baton Pass'd. **Jellicent** came out instead, so Merky came in and took a weak Wring Out before knocking her down to red with one Wild Charge and taking a weak Water Spout in return, heh! Mega Drain easily finished her off though, and healed Merky to boot! Afterwards, **Drifblim** got taken out by Crunch. Montana came out for **Gengar #1** and took it to yellow with one Shadow Punch before taking a weak Dark Pulse. One more Punch did the trick, so Montana stayed out for **Gengar #2** and OHKO'd thanks to his Moxie Boost. **Mismagius** didn't stand a chance either.

"Sorry, guys!" Shauntal apologized to her Pokemon as Monolith fished out another Rowap Berry.

**#564 (Marshal) - Chimecho Lv71, Slowking Lv71, Alakazam Lv71, Jynx Lv71, Exeggutor Lv71, Slowking Lv73**

Back in the hub, Monolith decided to fight Marshal next. "Yeah, better to leave her for last," Ribbit nodded.

"Marshal has, hmm, no notes on his lead," Million said, reading from the guide again.

"Alright, let's try and see if Montana can get a Moxie sweep!" Miller decided.

"Yeah, yeah!" Montana cheered.

"Haha, *alright*," Monolith relented as they headed over to Marshal's room and had an easier trip up compared to Grimsley's *breaking* carpet.

"Glad to see Arceus gave you another chance," Marshal smiled, "You didn't have a hand in Team Plasma's *Distraction* last time, after all."

"Yeah, I'm glad too," Monolith smiled before Montana rushed in between them, starting the battle.

**Chimecho's** Mold Breaker wasn't necessary, but Shadow Punch only hit it to yellow before the bell countered with Extrasensory and knocked off a small chunk of Montana's HP. Marshal didn't heal Chimecho, so Montana finished and started up his Moxie fun. **Exeggutor** threw him for a loop so Shadow Punch only took the eggs to yellow before it missed a Leaf Storm. One more Shadow Punch took it out and he faced **Jynx** with +2 Attack. Jynx's brittle defenses didn't stand a chance and the same could be said for **Alakazam** and **Both Slowking**. That netted him the second level in the Judge E5. (**He got the first in Shauntal's battle.**)

“Just one left now. Good luck with the Tournament, Monolith,” Marshal said.

“Thanks, Marshal,” Monolith said as he pulled out a Fighting-type Salac Berry for Caitlin, “I’ll need it.”

**#566 (Caitlin) - Audino Lv71, Pidgeot Lv71, Purugly Lv71, Porygon-Z Lv71, Pidgeot Lv71, Snorlax Lv73**

Back in the hub, Monolith took a deep breath before stepping into Caitlin’s room. Ribbit did the same, as the memories were still fresh in his mind.

This time Caitlin was already waiting for them outside of her bed, looking very angry from last time. “I won’t let you climb into my bed this time,” she grumbled.

“I already said it was an accident, and you didn’t have to kill a Follower for that,” Monolith explained.

“Oh please, *I* can’t control that as much as *you* can..” she huffed, “...Or can you?” she asked.

“Of course I can’t,” Monolith sighed before stepping forward for the battle versus her **Audino**.

Vacuum Wave didn’t do much in the face of Simple Beam, so Monolith swapped to Strength and knocked it to yellow while Audino got stuck on Simple Beam. One more Strength did the job so **Porygon-Z** came out and took a Natural Gift to low yellow after wasting Mirror Coat. Kate/Caitlin healed though, so Strength only took it back down to yellow before KO-ing the next turn. Maximus swapped in to deal with **Snorlax**, but Drain Punch didn’t do much while Snorlax started up Rollout, ack! With a two level difference, Sheer Cold hit the next turn, huzzah! Maximus *could* take down **Pidgeot** easily, but it has Imposter, Maximus’ original ability!

“Oh **Arc** No!” Glalie shouted.

‘Maybe I should’ve told them to not use that around me...,’ Monolith thought, squirming.

Drain Punch takes both of them to yellow, but Maximus’ was lower because of the Rollout hit. One more round of Punches and both were back at yellow thanks to Drain Punch’s healing factor. With ‘Pidgeot’ being faster, Monolith had to heal Maximus, who survived the resulting Drain Punch at about half health. Somehow Maximus hits first the next turn (**Were they Speed-Tied??**) and KO’s his Imposter!

“That looked rough, Uncle Maximus.”

“It *felt* rough,” the Glalie sighed.

...Then it turns out there was a **Second Pidgeot** and Maximus booked it in exchange for a Merky-Million combo. It used Crunch when Million swapped in so Justified activated and after surviving a Mega Drain in the yellow he managed to OHKO with EQ! Which left **Purugly** for last. Color Change was pretty annoying, but Monolith has both a Normal and Fighting-type Move, so alternating finished it off in... two turns. Swagger helped the second turn's Strength knock it out, heh.

"Shoulda kept Imposter," Caitlin snarked.

"No way," Maximus shuddered.

"No thank you," Ribbit said before heading into the portal.

**#407 (Alder) - Beheeyem Lv75, Sigilyph Lv75, Girafarig Lv75, Claydol Lv75, Starmie Lv75, Starmie Lv77**

Monolith watched the statue come to life again. "So, what type did Alder get assigned?"

"The guide says- HMM!? Also Psychic!?" Million gasped, not expecting that.

"YES!! Montana Sweep Number Two!" he shouted.

"Huh, I didn't expect Dad to have duplicate types like that, but oh well," Monolith shrugged, "Might as well let Montana go crazy again."

Ribbit looked to Miller. "You okay with not doing much?" he asked.

"What, are you *kidding* me? I couldn't be prouder of my Son!" Miller grinned.

"Aww, Daa~ad..." Montana blushed.

"Well, let's get up there then!" Merky shouted, striding onto the platform.

"Yeah!" Maximus shouted, floating over the platform.

Many stairs later and the Rowap-equipped Monolith stepped into the room he never got to properly experience. "That wheel looks so cool!" Ribbit gasped first.

"Heh, you think?" Alder smiled, getting nods in response. "Well, before our battle I wanted to thank you for helping N and talking him out of, well, everything."

"Yeah, I didn't realize that would disqualify that section of Judge Fights, though..." Monolith sighed.

“Well, it was very noble. I hope N now realizes that Pokemon and Humans can live side-by-side,” Alder said, “Now, how about that Judge Fight?” Alder threw out his **Beheeyem** to emphasize his words, so Montana stepped forward again.

Shadow Punch left the alien at exactly half HP and it responded with Wonder Room, which could possibly be bad? Yup, another Shadow Punch left it barely alive while it used Power Split, ack! Alder healed after that and Shadow Punch barely took out a third of Beheeyem’s health this time! Three Strengths took it out, *right* when Wonder Room ran out! **Starmie #1** was up next, (**Got some ideas from N, did we?**) but one Shadow Punch to half health revealed it was actually a **Claydol** with Illusion!

“Mimic...” Ribbit muttered to himself. Monolith wrapped an arm around the sad human as the battle continued.

After a worrying Heal Block (**Wait, it’s not Embargo, nvm**) Shadow Punch took it out and barely left **Sigilyph** surviving. Luckily the bird’s Psychic didn’t crit, but it still left Montana at a little more than half health. One more Shadow Punch got him another Moxie Boost, but Intimidate! **Girafarig** made him swap to Strength a- OMG, it Crit!!

“Well, I was *wondering* how you might take me using a Girafarig after your last bout, but it looks like you conquered Girafarig!” Alder smiled.

“You *bet* I did!” Montana shouted, excitedly stomping. Monolith translated Montana’s shout to Alder, but he could easily read his excitement through body language.

“Careful, don’t knock down the roof again!” Alder joked before continuing with the battle.

Alder just had his **Two Starmie** left and Montana’s Shadow Punch didn’t disappoint, netting him level 78!

“Well done! You certainly are an unmatched talent of an Arceus!” Alder smiled, clapping. “Now, follow me for one more thing before your Father will need you.”

“I wanted to usher you into the Hall of Fame, even if you didn’t defeat us at our best,” Alder said after they went through a final blue portal.

“Nice!” Merky smiled, glad to get some recognition. Maximus and Montana were equally excited for recognition.

They went over the Hall of Fame machine, but Alder paused for a second “Oh, shall I put the Trainer under Ribbit or Monolith? As I’m aware, Monolith doesn’t have a Pokeball I can scan into the machine, right?”

“Oh, yeah, I think I’m the only one that didn’t?” Monolith thought out loud. It would’ve been hard to get Ribbit or Markus to let him out of a Pokeball originally, anyway.

“Nurse Joy just attached electrodes to him,” Ribbit said.

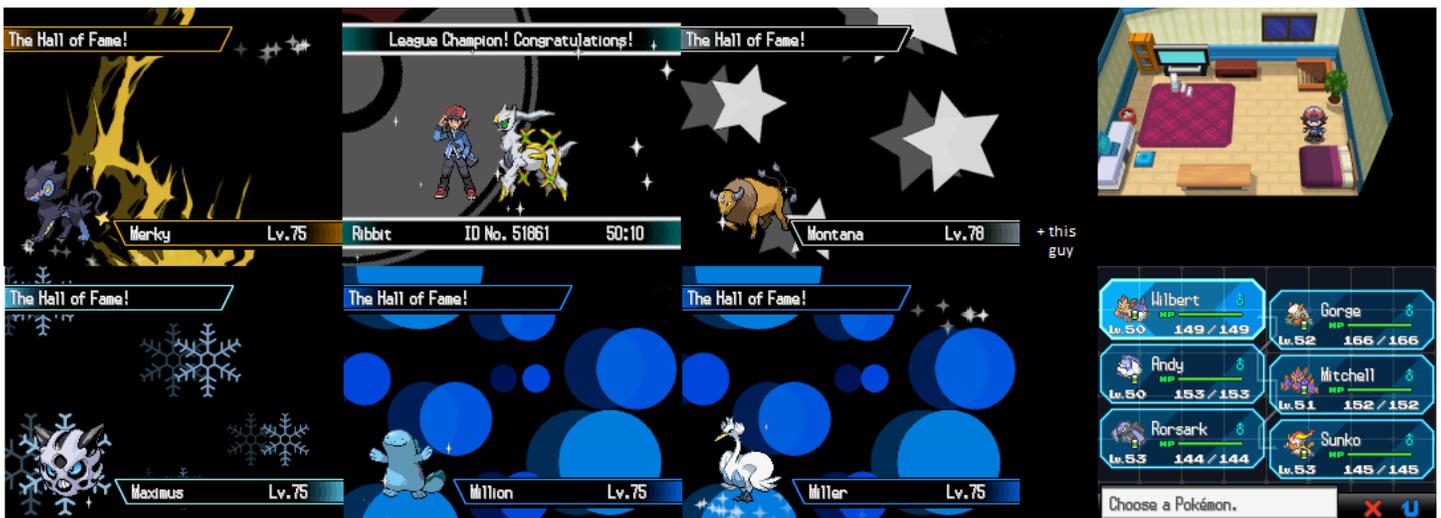
“Hmm, I’ll call Shauntal about this,” Alder said, going over to a intercom to buzz her about that.

One call later and the League’s Nurse Joy had hooked Monolith up to the Hall Of Fame machine and booted it up with everyone else in their Pokeballs.

“Monolith should be the Trainer,” Ribbit said.

“But you were there so much in the end! You even caught some Pokemon of your own!” the Arceus quickly responded.

“Hmm, looks like I should set up a method for Co-Trainers with one Party,” Alder smiled before running the machine.



**(Well, this’ll look better in the forum post, heh. I like the idea I came up with to show off the team~ SO glad the Pokemon cycle on the Trainer image.)**

After settling the Hall of Fame thing Father called Monolith up to Spear Pillar, where Sister was already waiting sans Bianca. Not long after Monolith and gang arrived, Brother was also called upon, though Cheren came along with him.

Father had a long ceremony/ritual planned, but knowing that a certain human soul was waiting below in the wrong body made Monolith feel increasingly guilty. Especially when Ribbit was now able to perfectly converse with his siblings, much to their surprise.

Ribbit wasn't sure how to respond to their questions, but Miller quickly butted in. "Oh, you know, Monolith really helped Ribbit break out of his shell and act more human-like!" he lied through his beak. Ribbit nodded in agreement.

Eventually the small talk phase of the ceremony passed and Father gave a speech that seemed like it was written more for Brother. After Father spoke the line "I always knew my little Runt was born for greatness," Monolith quickly stood up.

"I *told* you, it's Monolith now! I want to be a monolith, a pillar between the lower people and the Gods!"

"Ah, eh-hem, right," Father coughed awkwardly, looking around at the crowd of Legendaries attending.

Looking around, Monolith felt bad for speaking up, but he approached the altar Father had been speaking from. "Let's skip to the end," he demanded.

"Yeah, skip to the good part!" Maximus shouted.

"Maximus, We could get *banished* from here!" Miller whispered, shushing the Glalie.

"Hahaha, well yes, why not! My son sure is eager to get his new powers! Have you thought about what you plan to do?" Father asked, trying to brush off the interruption.

"I need to fix a mistake I made down there. And probably release all the Followers I caught," Monolith thought out loud, looking at Ribbit, who smiled.

"But surely those Followers are for your human friend, er, Ribbit, was it?" Ribbit nodded to Father, "For Ribbit to command now?"

"That wasn't our, uhm, agreement in the beginning. Ribbit *did* catch some Pokemon that only wanted to be used by him, however. I won't release *those* into the wild," Monolith explained.

"Very well," Father nodded before summoning up all his plates. Many of them flew from below, some from an annoyed Briggs, but one came from Ribbit's bag.

"Ah, I see you collected one yourself," Father smiled, investigating the Stone Plate.

“Well, I found it in Kyurem’s possession, so it doesn’t feel like I found it, exactly...” Monolith trailed off nervously.

“Nonsense, you took it from Kyurem’s hands, so it counts!” Father laughed before going silent and charging the plates in front of him in a circle.

Arceus bowed, as if he were to be knighted, and in a rainbow blast Father pushed his power through the plates and into Monolith. Monolith could feel power well up in him, until it *almost* poured over, but with one deep breath he held it in place and stumbled to his feet again.

Father laughed at the stumbling, but all of the other legendaries visiting (**including the sad Regice herself!**) clapped for Monolith, who attempted a bow before falling off the stage. Luckily Father could still catch Monolith with the Mind Plate before giving the new Arceus all 18 Plates.

Monolith thanked his Father and the guests in a flourish before floating his Followers and Best Friend (**Ribbit, duh.**) back down to Earth... where he quickly realized he had to shrink himself to human-ish size again. (**Not me rereading this in 2025 and forgetting I said Markus was his Best Friend.** 😞)

He headed straight for Accumula Town, sensing the other half to Ribbit’s soul giving up life as a human. As he landed at the correct house, men from the Unovan Military surrounded him in an instant, but Briggs’ friend stomped out of his house, frog tank in hand. “Fix him, damnit!” he shouted.

Monolith calmed himself before responding, not wanting to falter in anyway as his first act of Arceus. “That is what I’m here to do,” he spoke softly before pouring his energy into the Plates around his hoop.

In a flash Ribbit’s soul was returned to his body and the body, Hilbert, beside him crumbled to the floor, having forgotten how legs worked after the many months he spent away from them. The desperate man in front of him gasped and ran to his son, dropping the tank in the process, but Monolith quickly grabbed it and the bag that no longer held any meaning to the human body beside him. (**Meanwhile the other M’s are just freaking out about the men wielding guns around them...**)

“As for *my* Best Friend... I think you deserve something better,” he smiled and charged his power once more. It took longer for this charge to go off, but once it did everyone gasped at what Monolith had done.

“Isn’t this a bit... cliché?” Ribbit asked, now back in a human body. It wasn’t *exactly* like the original body. The nose was slightly too long, his fingers were the wrong lengths by just a hair, and his eyes were now... hazel? Monolith hadn’t committed every part of him to memory, but his body looked like and acted like a human’s, so that was enough for Monolith.

...Oh, and his hair was actually a dark green. Monolith had done *that* one on purpose.

“Maybe, but I can’t just have my Uncle and Latios hang around with a frog, right?” Monolith joked.

The Unovan Military men didn’t seem like they approved, but they dispersed under Briggs’ friends’ orders. “Oh yeah, where’s Briggs? Would’ve loved to see his face as I do this,” Monolith chuckled.

“At the League, I assume,” the man responded as he helped walk Hilbert to his house, ending their conversation just like that.

“Oh right, we totally left him hanging!” Miller gasped.

“Maybe I should give him a visit before I start releasing everyone...” Monolith frowned.

“Actually, I’m fine with just being let out here. I don’t have any special wish, I just want to go find Timothy on Rt. 1,” Merky spoke up.

“Oh right, Timothy! It’s been so long since we saw him that I forgot!” Monolith gasped.

“Yeah, I figured,” Merky laughed before walking off. Monolith destroyed the Pokeball so he was free again before floating everyone back to the League, where Briggs was drinking some... juice.

“Where has he been holding a flask this entire time!?” Gorge asked. He got a shrug from Wilbert in return.

“Hey, uh, I kind of just... flew right over to Accumula to fix the situation after getting the Arceus Powers?” he explained to the buzzed Briggs.

“Oh yeah? What do you calll *that!*?” Briggs asked, pointing fiercely at new Briggs’ body... and then looking more closely. “Whoa, what the **ARC** is that!?” he laughed.

“Sir, I think it’s time to leave,” Nurse Joy said passive-aggressively

“Yeah, I’ll take him home,” Monolith shook his head, though he stopped to look at Wilbert and Gorge. Unable to use Telekinesis on the Dark-type, he wasn’t sure what to do.

“Oh, yeah, just make a platform for me to stand on,” Gorge said, getting the gist of it.

“OK,” Monolith said, shrugging.

Wilbert was more spooked by the platform moving under his feet, than he thought he would be but with Gorge's calming they were back in Accumula and the Pokemon led him to Sergeant Briggs' home. After depositing the man inside on his bed Monolith headed out and began letting out Pokemon and granting their wishes. Some didn't have any specific wish like Merky, but others requested changes to their person (Like Munchkin/Skitty wanting longer legs), while others just wanted better abilities, though Monolith told them he was already planning on setting everything to normal. **(Much to Andy's chagrin... Sorry 170BP Aerial Ace!)**

As for Myoot, the Whismur Assassin, Monolith just teleported the guy straight back to Chargestone Cave to wait out the return to normal. **(I'm not gonna look back at all the encounters, but that guy stood out, lol)** And for Kyurem, Monolith released the Legendary in his proper habitat.

After that, Monolith walked Ribbit to the PC, where he took out Aero and Distort. The PC was now emptied of every Pokemon besides those two. "Well, I guess it ends here for now," Monolith laughed.

"Hey," Ribbit said, grabbing either side of Monolith's face, "We better stay friends, OK? I wanna be a cool Champion that's friends with a God!" he laughed.

"Of course!" Monolith assured the human.

"Now I've got a Best Friend just like Briggs!" he added, making them both laugh.

**(And with that, this dumb story, and the first time I tried Abridged Story Bits, has come to an end!**

**Alternative endings I could've gone with:**

- Turns out the 'frog' I was referring to all this time was a Bellibolt! [SV being new made this sound fun, ok?]
- Ribbit is a normal frog/Bellibolt and hangs out at the local pond while two Legendaries hover around him.

**Both of these games were made to test the randomizer's capabilities [testing random moves was fun, but ultimately very scary!], but I had more fun developing the story than actually playing it, honestly. Oh, and I never mentioned Giratina has Sturdy! Very good ability, honestly.)**

As for what the other 'M's' wished for... Million asked for money, as his name implied. He set up a merchant stall just like the Quagsire I based him on. Maybe he got into real estate later and became the Gates to Infinity Quagsire, but that'd just be silly!

Miller just wanted a home to raise Montana (**and Martyn!**) in, away from any humans, which Monolith could easily do since a certain central island was nigh abandoned...

As for Maximus, well, he got some dang arms! They looked *really* weird, but they worked, so Maximus ran around and grabbed things and hugged people for a while... He probably became a creepypasta, lol.

**(Alright, that's *actually* all my ideas for this story!)**