The massive beasts quaked the ground with their steps, shaking the earth like it was nothing but a playground. Rahl sat atop his Giga watching, unflinching, feeling the courage of his need to protect his family within him. Andrea safe in the bunker, Ve insisting on being at his side and the rest of those he had come to call family...friends. They were all there.

“This is not the end…” he said softly and then louder. “This is our home! This is where we have formed bonds! Our past is gone! Our future is before us! We will not let the squabbles of the Gods crush us! WE ARE ONE! WE ARE STRONG! AND WE WILL WIN THIS DAY!”

Giga roaring to his command and charged as creatures he had never seen before just came into existence as the towering forms charged at one another. Nothing but the roar of his own heart could be heard, each step and thunderous thump the world around him fading. The rage of the giant coming forth, the world bathing in red.

This was it.

This was the time…

This would be the end…

The steady sound of heavy footsteps followed him as he rode forward with an army behind him. He had failed to protect Sonmi. Ori. Victoria… He swore to himself that should the need arise, he would be there. On the ground to do what needed to be done.

“You! The voices. You seek to destroy us, after toying with us for so long? We are not going to go silent into the night.” He yelled out to the sky. His grip on the reins of his prized Yutyrannus tightened. He pulled back slightly and the Yuty let out a fearsome roar, challenging anything in its path.

He had never seen these types of creatures before. Some looked familiar, but others not so much. They appeared to be broken? Was that the right word he was looking for?

No… They were just like him, parts of them corrupted, clouding their mind, forcing them to do whatever was willed of them, mindless, like a moth to a flame. He screamed himself, not in rage, but understanding. If he was left for more time, would he turn out like those beasts?

Whistling and signaling his Rexes, Rahl watched Ve dive head first into the combat. Concern for her ignored there was no time for that now. Irza roared and charged forth slamming into the side

of one of the massive beasts. The malformed Rex reared back and bit into her, nearly enraging her from the one action. As quickly as they killed them more showed up.

“Look at them,” Alvah said to Aeron. “Pathetic ants that think their other gods care about them….think that anyone cares for them…” on the back of the black beast that gnawed and chewed on the bit in its mouth.

“I know...they are sad. We will free them from the pain...release them from this futile existence,” dark eyes scanning among the chaos landing on Rahl and Al. “Those two, they are the champions?”

“Yes...their souls are righteous and angry. They have to fall to show there is no help for anyone...not even some of their strongest…”

Knocked from the back of Irza, Rahl rolled to his feet and drew his weapon, taking aim and firing at the nearest beast. Shot after, shot, fired off quickly reloaded and then shot again. Whistling he ran to the nearest Rex vaulting up onto the saddle and jumping back onto Irza focusing her mass at the collection of Rexes that stank of their impurity. From above, the war cry of Gol was heard. Diving overhead and unloading rounds into the Rexes, pushing them back and giving Rahl room to move finding himself next to Al.

“Make a hole with your Rexes! Push them back and we will charge in!” he called out.

Allistrasz was busy dealing with his own problem when Rahl came up next to him after he heard a few gunshots. He nodded at Rahl’s call, and urged his Yuty forward. The rexes sensing the eagerness of the Yuty charged forward, some even surpassing him as his prized rex Mekette burst through quickly dispatching of one of the corrupted rexes. These seemed stronger, but they were no test for his battle hardened rexes. Some of them got bit, but all it did was slow down their charge. His army would rise up again, and continue marching forward.

Several minutes had passed and a pathway was now clear. Allistrasz rode forward on his Yuty when it was struck by the tail of a corrupted stego, sending Allistrasz hurtling off the saddle. Seeing his Yuty impaled by the tail of the corrupted Stego, Allistrasz flung himself into a rage and drew his sword. He charged at the beast while it’s tail was stuck in the Yuty’s grasp and he brought the blade down against the creature’s neck. It took several slices, but eventually it fell free from it’s neck. Allistrasz looked at his Yuty as it let out it’s last few breaths. He sighed and put his hand on the beast’s head and for a moment, a brief light emitted from his hand, then the beast went perfectly still. He whistled for the closest beast he saw, and it just happened to be his Daedon. He scrambled on the back of it, and fell back into a support position.

“What are these beasts, and where are they coming from?” He called up to Rahl on his own rex.

He wiped the blood of the corrupted stego off of his sword, and put it back in its place. His Daedon felt no fear, he saw how the person on his back ensured the Yuty didn't endure too much pain and suffering, it's end was swift, and this act of the rider. The Daedon let out a call, and the other beasts responded to it, a final rallying call for the beasts.

The hole was made and Rahl whistled his Gigas to charge forth. The beasts eyes burned bright with rage and he followed behind watching as they chewed their way through the enemies that came forth. The air around them seemed to just constantly explode around them. Irza gave a roar, the pain too great and she tossed Rahl to the ground hard. The giant coughed and spat blood, rolling just in time to get out of the way of her bite before one of his Rexes slammed into her and pushed her away from the man.

Denti cried out a challenge to the beasts and his army of parasaurs went boldly into the fray. Above Aki screeched, the bird diving down to snatch a spider that would have lept onto the back of his master, Denti. There was no fear within his eyes, "PP Army! Denti called in need time!" Denti squeaks. "Denti believe PP army. Fight strong hard." Denti marchs back and forth. "Denti know danger. Denti know many die. Denti sorry. Denti fight with. Let us kill! Let us protect!" "Denti PP army win! Strong! Many! Fight for all!" The world filled with the war bellows of the PP army and Rahl could not have been prouder than to witness this feat. Remembering the countless times when he had to step around and climb over the creatures, seeing them fight to protect his family.

Correction. Their family.

Climbing onto the back of another Rex, Raiden his most trusted of the beasts, he went to Al. "I do not know! But we will keep them here! Keep them from spreading and killing anyone else!" another whistling and charging from the sides came the rhinos, their horns eager to glisten with the blood of their foes.

"Should I die…" looking to Al. "You take care of them for me…" giving the man a smile and a nod, his blade was drawn and he charged back into the fray once more.

Darting out of the chaos, Abigale rode boldly on the back of her raptor, Silver, a strong pack running behind them all. Any weakened foe, was clipped and sent crashing to the ground feasted upon by her. The roar of an enraged Giga. The stomp of a ton of flesh and she was lost from Rahl's sight, only to appear on top of one of his Rexes. There was no stopping the blacksmith and her righteous fury.

Caught up in the excitement of it all Rahl was hit by...something. Raiden roared in pain and seemed to shudder with fear uncertain and hesitant. Al's Yuty was gone, dead and lost there was no rallying cry for them to hold to.

A familiar roar from behind and there was Alice. Scream, the tempramental Yuty he raised, obeying her like she had raised him herself.

Their eyes met and he smiled, nodding to her as she rallied her own troops. The familiar thylas charging forth leaping onto the backs of the beasts. As she pushed in, encouraging the weak, embolding the afraid. Firing from the back without missing a beat, Alice brought the second wind they all needed.

Maybe...just maybe they would make it?

“AIICE!” suddenly he called out to her, the woman turning with a look of concern. “Am I gross enough now?!” laughing at the look that came to her face, taking in his bloody and gore covered state.

With a blush to her cheeks and a roll of her eyes, “ALMOST!” she called out before she went back to work leaving the giant grinning like a fool before resuming combat himself.

The whole of the world was in danger. All over the once protected landmass, rifts opened and monstrous creatures stepped out. Corruption clawed and climbed up their bodies, eyes dead. Possessed with the unnatural need to pollute, to taint...to spread the chaos. Allistrasz left Mavis back at base, to guard their home for the final fight. Dutiful until the very end, the Lady stood atop the building that housed their beloved tames. Rifle in hand, she slowly loaded it with bullets…

"Promise me that you will be careful, yes?" asking her once she was abreast of him. "I just...worry...so I would want you to be careful...ok?" tone as sincere as it had been the whole time they spoke knowing Mavis had a pure heart and would fight for what she thought was right, which could lead to her getting hurt.

She nodded. "I will be. As careful as I can be. Did you think it was a happenstance that I used darts over bullets?"

“I will still be careful, Sir Rahl…” she spoke into the deathly silence of the day. A final cock of her rifle and from the trees charged a beast unlike anything she had ever seen before. The monkey on her shoulder, chatting nervously, “It’s alright Harvey. I won’t miss…” the gun brought to her cheek, a breath taken, the trigger squeezed...

Bang!

“Li’loo…” the female voice urgent. “Li’loo...come on! Something is wrong!”

Ever since the woman regained the ability to sleep she did so...a lot. Before the spiritual apparition, could try again one of the Rexes roared as the sharks thrashed about angrily. The elf shot up from bed, rolling to her feet hand to the blade she kept under her bed.

“Li’Loo…” the vision of Rahl’s mother stood over her. “There is something very wrong…”

As usual, there was no hesitation, the woman was on the back of Deathwish, flanked on either side by the rest of her sharks as Toby flew overhead. In the distance loomed a towering beast, that had decided to rain down a fury of blows on what had once been Ve’s base. The closer to the landmass the woman got, the louder were the screams of the tames that had still been there. Trapped within their own home now as a beast sought to wipe them from existence.

“Deathwish to the water pen!” she urged the shark who slipped between the legs of the Titan while the other sharks tore into the flesh they could reach. At the gate, the woman unlocked and pushed open the gates, the tames in there she knew to be some of Ve’s strongest.

“Get out there and fight!”

Leading the charge was the newly tamed squid, tentacles propelling itself out and straight for the legs of the Titan that now had turned its attention to the sharks that were nipping at its heels. It roared, the world seemed to shudder. Though the tames, emboldened by the cries of their family and the woman before them barely blinked. As the squid held it in place, the sharks continued their assault, joined by the whales. The water started to fill with its inky black blood, the water seeming to bubble and hiss where it spread the sharks backing off for a second before one of the whales threw itself into the air to splash down and send the poisonous water elsewhere. At least long enough for the sharks to get back into the fight.

A fight that Li’Loo had never left.

Toby snatched her up from back of Deathwish, only to promptly drop her onto the head of the beast. Swords out, she was like the ever present nat, everywhere but nowhere at the sametime. Moving in and out of the reach of the beast, harassing it more than anything else but still it was focused on her and not the tames on the island. A dance of death, her mind returning to the memories of when she first learned it, the silver eyes of the male as he stood over her.

“Are you done...mutt? Or does that fire still have some spark left in it yet?”

Then it hit her and she dove off the beast, Toby quick to snatch her up, Li’Loo pulled him back as she worked at the latch on the side of her left leg.

“What’s that?” she asked Rahl as she stood waiting in his shop for him to be done working.

“That…” he said, opening it and showing her the glowing core inside. “Is what lets you run faster while you are wearing them. I even made it Li’Loo proof so you would have to intentionally hit it with a very precise shot to break it.”

“What happens then?”

“Boom!” he basically shouted causing her to jump and earning him a punch in the shoulder.

Now, in this moment the core was removed, glowing with a pulsing energy she tucked it under her arm and dove in with Toby. The griffin, quick and responsive to her wishes, dove so that she could throw the cube. As she watched it sail toward the beast, it seemed to take note of her and one of its huge hands came up to grab at her. Nicking Toby who unfortunately, reared back causing Li’Loo to tumble from his back and start to plumette to the ground.

A thick root rose up and caught her just before she hit the ground. The ground shaking as another pair of large steps joined that of the Titan. *“The veil between the living and dead is weakened because of them!”* The familiar voice said from the woman who now towered as tall as the beast. *“Time is what I bring you! Use it well!”*

The root flung the elf back into the air, where Toby caught her once more, as Rahl’s mother charged the beast and tackled it to the ground. Rolling for control, she managed to get the creature up and into a hold where it’s face was toward Li’Loo, the pulsing cube in his maw, stuck between his fangs.

“NOW! DO IT NOW!”

This feeling is like something she did before...a moment she would never forget.

“Ready Em...?” she whispered to the wind..
“Are you?” hearing Emilie ask her from seemingly right behind her..
“Knock….”
Loo set the arrow.
“Draw..”
The tension in the bow pulled at her muscles as they forced the contraption to obey her.
“Aim...”
Finding her target the pulsing of the cube like a beacon.
“LOOSE!”

Breath released and she knew she had hit her target even before it connected. Toby had started to turn away, to try and get them to a safe place, only for the sudden explosion to catch him. Crying in pain the griffin flung his Mistress to save her, even as he was lost. Into the water she plunged, the cold water a welcome embrace for the heat of nearly burning just now. Still...she

did not move, sinking slowly into the water further until a familiar shape came to catch her and bring her to the surface and then to the cave.

Tired and feeling old, Deathwish saved his mistress just once more. His wounds great, the blood from the monster having ate away at his flesh and yet still he was there for her. Leaving Li'Loo on the edge of the water, he swam back out to continue the fight..to die the death of a warrior.

See you later...mutt…

He heard his words, but didn't at the same time. "No one dies today friend. We'll get you back home safely, don't worry." He flashed a smile as he navigated the chaos on the back of the pig. He slipped from the back of it and raced through the beasts, he saw Mekette in the distance and sprinted towards her. Once he caught up to her he scrambled up her side and took his place in her saddle. "Easy girl." He patted her on the side of the neck. "Let's protect the big man."

Mekette braced herself and let out a roar, before she charged behind and stuck close to the giant. She spotted it before he did and quickly bit down on the neck of a corrupted rex. These things were getting harder and harder to deal with due to the close quarters of the battle. His hands gripped the reins and his legs clamped to the side of the beast, spurring it forward again.

This rex and rider had a special bond. It's twin had fallen in battle, but this one survived, came out stronger. It chomped through the necks of several corrupted beasts with ease. His hand went to his belt and pulled out a flare gun. He called out to Rahl a warning. "Don't fire at the birds, or they might mistake you for the enemy."

With that he fired the flare gun into the air, and the sound of hundreds of wings flapping quickly filled the sky and area as hundreds of Pteranodon's flew into the fray, pecking at the eyes of the corrupted beasts, drawing their attention away from the others. Many of them fell, they weren't meant for this, but it was a last ditch effort to help keep the others safe. He said a quick prayer of thanks, for Sonmi, these were her birds, her children. It took many months of training for them to come when a flare was fired, but here they were.

Everything felt too much, felt like it would overwhelm them all. Even the Gods, now in the battle with one another, looked like they were losing. The ground shook, great cracks formed in the ground itself. Rahl shouted for Ve to pull back and return to their child, she only hesitated long enough to look at him before doing so. Getting a hold of Denti he did the same, urging him to return to Ve and Andrea. "Protect them!" watching as the ratman only hesitated long enough to salute the way he had seen Rahl do before and then he and Rota ran after Ve.

Blood rained from the skies and the sky darkened it felt like the end was coming for them all. A scream of pain overhead and Gol was snatched from the sky by a huge beast. His drake clawing at the hand trying its best to get free. The Orc laughed madly and even as his Drake breathed its last breath the man continued to struggle activating the element core and detonating it.

The explosion enough to throw the Titan back, with a roar of pain it collided with the earth sending beasts friendly and foe alike to the sky. Rahl landed at the foot of one of the Gods, their dark gaze taking him in with pity almost before another stepped forth and struck them in the face with a blunt weapon of light.

“Are you prepared to die for them?” Than spoke down to Rahl.

“If I must...to protect them…” closing his eyes as the large hand started to lower as if to grab him.

Allistrasz was caught off guard by the blast, he managed to cling to the saddle as Mekette soared through the air. She was unfamiliar with this sensation, but she managed to stick the landing. Jarring his body, it took a moment for him to recover and realize what had happened. The orc… He barely knew him, save that one meeting they had. But he willingly threw down his life for the cause.

He looked up and saw where Rahl had landed. He had never seen the others before him and raced to his side. “Rise Rahl! We’re not going down without a fight. Fight for your friends, fight for your home. Your family.” He stated. He drew his sword as he stood beside the half giant.

Than stopped and looked to Al instead, “Curse one…” their voice boomed down to him. “Will you die for them? Die for him? Take his place and give us all of your soul to save the others?” Rahl looked to Al, “You don’t have to do that! It is my job, my duty to protect them!” Around them the battle continued, time seeming to stop around this trio as the God towered above them waiting for an answer, their counterpart seeming to fight desperately. Behind them the air swirled and rippled, energy being gathered but faltering, sputtering almost like there was not enough for the task at hand.

“What say you?” Than pressed Al once more.

A lump caught in his throat. This was it. The moment he had been waiting for. His hand reached into his pocket and pulled out a golden necklace with a small ruby in it. The one end of the necklace was a dragon, the other what appeared to be an elf.

“Rahl. Make sure this gets to Li'Loo.” He held the necklace out towards him. But he pulled it back almost immediately. His hand went back into his pocket and pulled out a letter as well.

He held both of the items to Rahl, waiting for him to take them both before he nodded his head at the giant before turning to face the all too familiar voice.

“I will. I will take his place. I have failed to protect those I held closest. This is my time. Rahl…” he looked at him. “Say hi to the family for me.”

And with that, he took a few steps forward. Memories of Demistrasza and Salastrasz flashed before his mind. He nodded to the being before him.

Rahl took the items nodding, “You do the same when you get there.” Bringing his fist to his chest in salute to the man.

Than reached down and picked the man up, “Where once your soul was broken...where once the corruption took root it is now cleansed.” Using his soul for the final burst of energy portals were opened up all around the ark.

“This world is dead we can no longer keep you safe! Step in and find your new home!”

From the sky came Mavis, battered but alive atop her faithful pinky, Li’Loo charging up not a moment after atop one of her rexes with another in tow. Grateful to see them both alive, Rahl rejoined Ve and Denti, whistling to his last remaining Rex and Craven, “We have to go!” Holding Ve and Denti’s hands, Rahl stepped into the portal with Mavis and Li’Loo bringing up the rear.

As the life was drained from Al, in the light that greeted him stood his mate, their children, Ori, Victoria and Sonmi. There was nothing left of his body, completely consumed by the power of the Gods who continued to fight now that they no longer had to divert their power to the escape.