

One Destiny

Bionicle

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Kapitel 30: Chapter 30: A nightmare comes true

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The swamp was just of a shallow depth but still Tahu had to struggle to get up again. He was sticking between mud and underwater plants and his already existing exhaustion did the rest.

Finally he was able to stand on his feet again. When he slowly turned around he could see something standing just a few steps away. It looked like nothing more than mere shadow with glowing red eyes.

"Who ... who are you?" Tahu panted. "*What* are you?"

"Maybe you don't know me but I know you very well", a dark voice answered.

"Makuta ..."

"Just part of him. The rest of me is attacking your friends and hunting your precious Lewa."

"But how..."

"Toa, Toa ...", the dark spirit's shadow chuckled, "Can't you tell the difference between dream and reality? Actually I was the one who planted that little dream in your head to get all closer friends away from him. The closer the ones around him were bound to him the harder it would have been to get through to his mind. But I would have never awaited help from you. Your little catfight with him will make it even easier."

"You ... you ... bastard ..." Tahu was shivering. His swords started glowing.

"And what will you do now? Fight against me? That's not the best idea in your condition. And remember, it's your work that made everything easier to me."

The fiery Toa roared and sent a blow against the shadow but it dodged the attack as if there was no water surrounding his legs. It countered the attack and Tahu was sent flying back into the mud again.

This wasn't Makuta it was just a part of him and so the ruby Toa might have stood a chance but not as long as he was still worn out and standing in knee-deep water.

If it only would have stopped raining. Water came flooding down the hill he had been sliding down. Or if he just had Gali with him. She would have no problems moving through the water.

The shadow wasn't attacking any more. He was just watching Tahu's moves. The Toa wasn't sure what he should do. If he attacked now he would be doomed but he also

didn't think this thing would just stand around and let him get his energy back. Besides he would lose it again very fast if he was trying to fight in the swamps. If he really had time to regain enough before he would drown. And if he just turned around and left he would be shot in the back. As he quickly thought his possibilities over he found just one hope left. He still had his pride as a warlord but he had to call the others for help. The shadow still wandered around him like a hungry Muaka and sceptically watched him when he drew his sword.

'I hope he won't see it as an attack', the fiery Toa thought then he shot a fire ball into the air. A bit bigger than he wanted it to be, maybe too big because now the shadow charged at him again.

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"Look! Have you seen that?" Gali pointed at a fire ball that shot up between the rotten trees down in the valley. "It looks like it comes from Tahu."

"If that's really Tahu's fire he must be in grave danger", Onua said. "He never called us for help before."

The Toa of water looked down into the deepness. "We somewhere have to get to him."

"You won't get to anyone", a dark voice said.

The two Toa shot around. Behind them two shadows with glowing red eyes were standing.

"Now don't say you want to stop us, whoever you freaks are", Onua said.

"We are Makuta", the first one said.

"Actually we're part of him", the second corrected.

"Oh man, now this megalomaniac has splitted up into three parts. What will come next? World dominance?" Onua sighed.

"Not just three. Eight. Six shadows, one more or less possessed and the real Makuta."

"Okay ... now he really lost it ..."

"Hey, don't even dare to speak about the dark spirit that way", shadow number one shouted.

"Calm down", number two said, "We need to think about a way to get rid of them."

"Why do we need to make a plan? All we have to do is to blast their damn heads off!"

With those words number one formed a kind of energy ball and blasted it against Gali. It hit her chest and made her stumbling backwards. Onua jumped between them.

"Is everything okay?" he shouted over his shoulder.

"Yeah ... I think so ..." The sapphire Toa touched her chest. It had been as if she had felt a very strong electrical shock and now it still hurt a bit.

After his colleague's too quick attack shadow number two had no other choice than getting ready for a battle too. "This was a warning Toa", he said, "Leave Karda Nui and don't return again or die in the swamps."

"We won't go away that easily." Gali stood up again and drew her axes.

"Then you'll have to die! Die! Die!" number one shouted and formed another blast but this time shot it against Onua. The ebony Toa stumbled back two steps but it didn't seem to have any other effects on him.

"I see", number two just said, "Then I would say you should take the water Toa and I'll try to get this one down."

Gali never had any problems moving around in water quickly but this swamp water

slowed her down a bit. And the shadow was moving through it as if there was no swamp at all. Again and again he shot his blasts. The sapphire Toa felt as if she was standing in the centre of a thunderstorm. She had just hit him a few times with her own attacks but she was rather defending herself now than doing any more counter-attacks. But now the longer the fight took the less chances she seemed to have for winning it. Her arms hurt from blocking the rest of her body from blasts that had gone through. She finally managed a weak attack against the shadow which was answered by a big blast that sent her flying against a rotten tree that nearly crashed down on her. Gali tried to get up but was torn down again. Something had grabbed her ankle and was dragging her away. She wanted to call Onua's name but when she opened her mouth she swallowed swamp water.

The Toa of earth had noticed Gali was in trouble but he couldn't get away from his fight now that both shadows started attacking him.

Gali was now sliding faster down the hill. Plants were slashing against her face and scratching over her back but they couldn't stop her and she couldn't grab one of them. At the end of the hill she splashed into knee-deep water. If the rain didn't stop soon the valley was about to become a lake. At first she couldn't breathe but then her Kanohi slowly started filtering the rare oxygen out of the swamp water. And now she couldn't feel the grip around her ankle any more. Maybe it was better to stand up because her lungs felt the desperate need for oxygen in an amount this water would never have.

Her upper body was breaking through the surface and she spat a flush of muddy water. There was still danger around. Gali could feel it. As if it was for a proof another shadow suddenly rose in front of her.

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"Where could he be? We lost too much time with that gliding thing. Lewa could be anywhere. Can you see him?"

Kopaka tried to use his Kanohi and looked up but couldn't see anything through the darkness. They would have needed Onua with them. Besides the contrary wind was hurting in his eyes so he could just open his eyes half.

Pohatu was racing through the half-light. The icy Toa had no other choice than cling to the other one's back otherwise he wouldn't have been able to keep up with Pohatu's speed.

After Lewa was gone they had no other choice than to glide down hoping to reach the ground soon. They had never glided down somewhere so deep. The mount Ihu was just a hill in comparison to those heights and depths in Karda Nui. They had lost too much time. Lewa could have been miles away as long as he had kept on flying. Or had he slowed down or landed in between and was already very close? Onua would have had more experience in seeing in darkness, with or without his Kanohi. Kopaka had already tried changing his own but it was nearly useless. He just saw a few steps further. And with that speed it was even harder to catch something with the eyes.

"Pohatu, can't you race a bit slower? I just can see about ten meters. You will crash against something. And I don't think Lewa will be flying that fast in that darkness. Maybe we already have passed him by without noticing."

"I don't think so. If Lewa is in the mood to fly fast then he'll do so. He's too much of a

cloud-head to think about it. And right now he doesn't even have a destination he has to keep an eye open for. He's just flying as far as possible. I'm wondering what was wrong with Tahu. He had always been a hot-head but since he had been together with Lewa he had never yelled at him any more."

Kopaka kept his eyes closed not just because the wind was hurting. He tried to remember the scene on the platform.

"I think I heard fear in his voice", he finally said. "Not just fear ... it nearly was panic."

"But what should he be that much afraid of? I mean, for years I'm waking up every morning with the thought that today me or someone else I know can die. We don't have the easiest life."

"Maybe Tahu knew something we didn't but he couldn't tell us. It seemed like he wanted to keep Lewa away from him."

Kopaka couldn't get any further with his thoughts because the auburn Toa stopped suddenly and the drive was pressing the Toa of ice against Pohatu's back. He had never believed that someone that was racing so fast could also stop so fast. He tried to look ahead but couldn't see anything.

"What's the matter?"

"I thought I felt something gliding through the rocks under me. It seemed like it was following us."

"Through the rocks? Was it digging as fast as Onua?"

"No, it was fast but it really felt like it went through the rocks without digging through them."

Kopaka jumped off Pohatu's back. He could now feel the earth slightly shaking under his feet.

"It's coming closer again ..."

Before they could even prepare to fight the ground cracked open. A giant gap that came closer to them. The two jumped out of the way trying to protect themselves from flying rocks and earth. Two dark figures came jumping out of the ground right at the place where the Toa had been standing before.

"What the Makuta are those two?" Pohatu shouted.

"Makuta would fit it quite well", one of them answered. "Although we're just shadows of him. We're sent out to stop you."

"Try and your plans will be put on ice and I mean that for real", Kopaka said with a slight grin.

"You can only freeze us if you're able to get us."

The next things Kopaka saw and felt were two black blurs rushing over to where he was standing and driving right through his body.

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Lewa had sat down on a rock spur. He was tired of flying and moreover he felt lost, more than he had ever felt in his life before. Why had Tahu said things like these? He didn't want him with him. Why the Makuta was the Toa of fire so overreacting? Or wasn't he himself at that time? Lime-kissed eyes widened. He remembered the time Tahu was under Lhikuta's control. Was it the same this time? Was he controlled by Makuta?

Since the time they had started their journey down to Karda Nui Lewa had this feeling they were being watched. It could really be possible...

He suddenly felt horribly stupid. Running away ... leaving his friends behind ... the acts of a little child. Controlled or not, Tahu was right after all.

"What do we have here? A little Toa who isn't paying attention to the happenings around him."

Lewa's head shot up. He knew this voice. "What the ... Lerahk? But I thought we killed all Rahkshi."

Lerahk's colour was darker than it used to be but it was him without any doubts.

"Not all of us. Remember that I still needed recovery from that battle with your fiery friend? And now I've come to kick your ass for what you've done to my brothers."

"We've already killed the rest of you why should I fail in killing you?"

"Haven't you seen my change in appearance, Toa? I'm not just a Rahkshi anymore. I carry part of my father's soul and strength in me. If he wanted he could attack you through me. And you would never have a chance defeating a god."

Lewa thought about Makuta's last appearance. He had been able to defeat him ... kind of. But this energy that had been floating inside of him, that had created the light beam, it had disappeared the time the Master of all Emeralds and the last Guardian had been gone.

He wanted to take his weapons but then he thought 'What for?' This Rahkshi didn't seem as if he wanted to attack. He was just floating up and down in front of the Toa. And on the other side everything just felt hopeless. 'The fight against Makuta had lasted for hundreds of years. Why should we be able to stop it? We are just some Toa out of so many who had been and who had failed', he thought, 'And if I set any other actions now I won't just be attacked by a normal Rahkshi.'

"You don't have to be afraid of me or Makuta", Lerahk suddenly said, "We don't want to harm you. At least my father doesn't want to. He sent me out to find you because he wants to talk to you."

"Talk to me?" Lewa looked at the Rahkshi as if he had wished him a happy new year.

"Is this supposed to be a trick or what?"

"What for? If he wanted to kill you he would have done it already. But he said I shouldn't harm you more than necessary to make you come with me."

The Toa of air stood up. Should he really willingly go to the dark spirit? This feeling of hopelessness was still there.

"Alright", he said, "take me to your father. If he wishes to talk to his enemies I will listen."

When they were flying through the darkness Lewa thought he heard someone calling his name but he couldn't see anyone and then he wasn't sure anymore if it really had been his name or one of the many sounds in the darkness.

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In the middle of his battle Pohatu lifted his head because he suddenly felt a breeze. Two figures were flying over them and one of them looked very much like a Toa.

"Lewa?" he shouted out.

But he didn't get a response. Whatever the figures had been, they had disappeared in

darkness again.