



chapter 7: growing pains

INT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - ALTAR - NIGHT

Zanom wakes up with a bandage across his forehead. Ken stands at a corner of the altar, his arms crossed and a scowl on his face.

Ken uncrosses his arms and walks toward Zanom, still lying on the floor, rubbing his head.

KEN

Oh good! You're awake.

Ken kicks Zanom hard in the rib cage.

KEN

Get up.

ZANOM

Ow! Jack-hole! What'd you do that for?

KEN

Can the bullshit.

Zanom looks at Ken for a beat.

KEN

Do you realize how much trouble you've put us through today? First you burn the only bridge you have left, then you go apeshit on us, then we have to rescue you from a volcano... as it's erupting!

ZANOM

I suppose an apology isn't going to cut it.

KEN

No, but it's a start.

A beat.

KEN

Listen, Zanom. I don't know how much you remember when you become Ikarin, but you nearly killed Kari.

Zanom's face turns pale.

ZANOM

I... I don't remember any of it. Today's like a total blur. I...

KEN

Don't worry about that. Worry about
the young girl in the inner hall
who's deeply concerned and
heartbroken over you.

Kari and Vayelan enter the altar.

KARI

Oh good! He's awake.

ZANOM

Have we been here, before? I feel
like we've been here, before.
Didn't we just go through this
part.

KARI

Well, you're making a joke out of
everything. That means you're back
to your usual self...

ZANOM

Anyone else going to kick me while
I'm down?

Sora walks in, now with a healed ankle. She marches straight
over to Zanom and kicks him in the head.

ZANOM

Mom! Ow! The hell?

SORA

That's the exact same question we
should be asking you, right now,
Mister! You're taking the training
under Vayelan, and that's
non-negotiable.

VAYELAN

Now, hold on, Sora. He must elect
to do it on his own. Perhaps, I
should have left well enough alone
when we spoke this morning...

KEN

What do you mean?

VAYELAN

I have a bit of a confession to make... You see... I... Um... I messed with his head to force him into Ikarin to test his limits.

Everybody stops and stares at Vayelan.

VAYELAN

The good news is he has the innate power to defeat Super Yinaku. He just needs some guidance to bring it out consciously as a state of Aizen. When that happens, he will retain full control of himself.

Zanom stands up and wobbles for a moment before regaining his balance.

ZANOM

Everybody out!

The altar starts to clear out, but Zanom pulls Vayelan and Kari back in.

ZANOM

Not you two!

KARI

What'd I do?

VAYELAN

Yes, I'd like to know the answer to this, myself.

ZANOM

I want you to hear what I have to say.

Kari stands at attention. Vayelan begins to sweat gold bricks.

ZANOM

Sit.

Vayelan kneels on the floor.

ZANOM

I was told I nearly killed somebody very close to me today, and you're telling me you brought up Yume and... what? You hypnotized me into those same emotions as I felt when I killed her?

VAYELAN

Listen closely to me, Zanom. What I have to say may be difficult for you to hear, but it is necessary you hear it.

Vayelan stands back up and materializes his staff in his hand to lean against.

VAYELAN

There is something that happened that day that made you feel desperate. Your adrenaline levels rose above the point of fight-or-flight. Something terrified you that day. I don't know what it was, but I triggered the subconscious memories of it. You returned to the state of mind you were in when it happened, and well... We all know the rest of what happened.

A beat.

KARI

I think it might have to do with your relationship with Yume.

ZANOM

What?

KARI

Why else would you break up with me?

ZANOM

...

KARI

What happened the day my sister died, Zanom? Does it have something to do with why you can't tell me you love me?

ZANOM

Get off my case, would ya?

KARI

Zanom!

VAYELAN

I'd strongly recommend taking the training, Zanom. If you continue down this path, you are destined to become no better than your father, always one or two steps behind him at every turn.

A beat.

VAYELAN

Or you could train with me and become so much more than you are now. You have the potential. You are so much more than a mere Demonic Hybrid, Zanom. You can embrace both parts of your heritage to save the humanity you so love.

Zanom looks at Kari a beat.

Kari's face is concerned, but hopeful. She cracks a smile. Zanom smiles back.

ZANOM

I'll take the training.

VAYELAN

Thatta boy, Zanom. We start now.

ZANOM

Wait! Now? What about Yinaku?

VAYELAN

Super Yinaku.

ZANOM

Whoever!

KARI

We could barely hold him off with Zanom, let alone without him!

VAYELAN

I'm going to give you a gift, Kari.
With this gift, you will have your
old strength back in full only
until either Zanom returns to
continue the fight.

Vayelan extends his open palm at Kari and powers up his
aura. Kari begins to glow.

VAYELAN

ZENKAI TRANSFER!

A powerful aura overtakes Kari's body, as her aura returns
to its full-powered state.

Vayelan lowers his hand, and the aura dies down. Kari still
glows white.

VAYELAN

I have lent you a piece of my
Zenkai energy.

KARI

Zenkai?

ZANOM

I'm afraid I've never heard of it,
either.

VAYELAN

Zenkai energy is the energy all
Kamis possess within them. Even
though the power of the Kami may be
passed on, the Zenkai energy still
remains for the lifetime of the
Kami. I'm counting on you two to
keep this our little secret.

KARI

This feels incredible!

Zanom nudges her.

KARI

Yes! Your secret is safe with us,
Vayelan.

KEN (O.S.)

You didn't say anything about me
keeping the secret.

Everyone turns to look at the doorway, discovering Ken

standing at the door.

KEN

It got quiet in here, so I thought
I'd see if everything was okay.

KARI

Ken, you have to keep this a
secret!

KEN

One condition...

ZANOM

I'm not hearing this.

VAYELAN

You want the training, too.

KEN

You've been hiding too many secrets
from us that keep almost getting us
killed. I figure it's the least you
can do to make amends.

Zanom scowls as Ken walks past Kari.

KEN

(whispering)

Play along. I'll keep an eye on
him.

KARI

This is hardly appropriate.

ZANOM

If you want to keep an eye on me,
just say it to my face.

Ken's jaw drops. Kari looks embarrassed.

KEN

How did...

ZANOM

I have excellent hearing.
Heightened senses tend to come with
the whole being demonic thing.

VAYELAN

Very well, Kenjimura.

ZANOM
Kenjimura?

KARI
Your name is Kenjimura?

KEN
Ken's just a nickname.

ZANOM
Huh.

VAYELAN
Your first task as my pupils is to defeat Gozu and Mezu. Once you can do that, your training will be half over.

ZANOM
Just like that?

KEN
You have no idea what you're in for.

ZANOM
I have some idea.

KEN
No, you really don't.

KARI
I'm going to gather the others and head back to Roma, then.

She walks up to Zanom and kisses him on the cheek.

KARI
Come back to me.

ZANOM
Just make sure you're alive to come back to.

Kari exits the altar.

KARI (O.S.)
All right, guys! We're leaving! Ken and Zanom are staying behind to train for a few months.

ZANOM
So... Where are Gozu and Mezu?

Zanom spontaneously combusts, then freezes. The ice shatters and Zanom collapses on the altar floor.

GOZU (O.S.)
Still think this is going to be
that easy, bitch?

Zanom WHIMPERS.

KEN
I tried to warn you.

Zanom's middle finger rises at Ken, then collapses, as well.

MEZU (O.S.)
The next few months are going to be
fun. I haven't had target practice
in ages!

VAYELAN
I think we'll reconvene tomorrow
when everyone's more on the same
page.

ZANOM (O.S.)
(whimpering)
Yay.

INT. THE STAR RUNNER - LATER

Sora pilots now, as Kari and Halo sit behind her. Halo reads his novel.

ANGLE: THE NOVEL

Halo appears to still be in the midst of THE GRAND
ADVENTURES IN PANGAEA BY RAVEN ANGELGATE.

SORA
You think they'll make it back in
time?

KARI
They better. I'm sure Vayelan has
everything taken into
consideration.

HALO
You realize we left Ken and Zanom
alone in the same room with each
other.

Halo flips a page.

HALO
I'm sure you have that taken into
consideration.

Sora and Kari share a concerned glance.

HALO
No sense in turning around now. We
have a mission to complete,
remember?

Halo places a bookmark in his novel and closes the book.

HALO
I'm sure Vayelan knows what's he's
getting himself into.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - TEMPLE GATES - CONTINUOUS

Vayelan watches Zanom and Ken bicker outside the Diamonten Temple.

ZANOM (O.S.)
You dumb-ass! I almost had them
'till you got in the way!

KEN (O.S.)
Oh, yeah! Everything's always my
fault! Has it ever occurred to you
that your fighting style sucks?

ZANOM (O.S.)
I'll suck your fighting style!

KEN (O.S.)
That's what Sora said last night!

ZANOM (O.S.)
Why I oughta...!

Vayelan facepalms and turns around to enter the Temple.

VAYELAN
Oy, gevalt! Super Yinaku, I'm
prepared for. This? Not so much.
It's going to be a long training
session.

FADE TO BLACK.