



## chapter 8: Yume

EXT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

The sky is a lovely shade of lime today, as Zanom and Ken continue their training under Vayelan, the Wise. LOUD GRUNTING echoes through the training grounds.

Zanom spars with Mezu, while Ken spars with Gozu.

Zanom punches at Mezu; Mezu ducks and sweeps her foot under Zanom's feet. Zanom jumps into the air, and comes down for his attack. Mezu dodges.

Ken strikes at Gozu, but he blocks every blow. Gozu knees Ken in the stomach. Ken doubles over, and Gozu knocks him across the training grounds.

Gozu and Mezu team up against Zanom, easily overpowering him. Zanom powers up and puts some distance between them and himself.

Vayelan watches from a safe distance.

VAYELAN

(internal)

Zanom's fighting style is  
improving, but his teamwork with  
Ken is still lacking. Better do  
something about that.

Gozu and Mezu quickly close the gap and move in for the finish.

Vayelan raises his hand.

VAYELAN

Time-out!

Gozu and Mezu stop fighting. Zanom stands up and looks at Vayelan. Ken peels himself off the ground.

ZANOM

Hey, what gives?

KEN

Are we doing that badly?

VAYELAN

In short, yes.

ZANOM

...

VAYELAN  
However, I think I have an idea  
that may help you. Come with me to  
the altar. Gozu! Mezu! You're on  
patrol duty for now.

INT. ALTAR - LATER

Vayelan sits by the large pool of the Holy Water,  
meditating.

Zanom and Ken enter.

VAYELAN  
Please, sit with me, boys.

Zanom and Ken look at each other, shrug, then sit down  
before Vayelan. Vayelan stops meditating.

KEN  
You... Wanted to see us, Master?

VAYELAN  
Your fighting styles and techniques  
are vastly improving...

ZANOM  
I thought you said we were doing  
poorly!

VAYELAN  
However...

ZANOM  
Should've known...

VAYELAN  
Your teamwork is nonexistent. I've  
been watching you train for a  
month, now, and yet... You two  
still haven't learned the  
importance of working together.

ZANOM  
Name one time.

CUT TO:

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

Montage: Training SNAFUs

Zanom lunges at Mezu, but Mezu dodges. Zanom tackles Ken, instead.

Gozu lies on the ground, but Zanom and Ken bicker instead of defeating him.

ZANOM  
I said, he's mine!

KEN  
No, this one's definitely my  
victory!

ZANOM  
Says you and whose army?

Ken holds up two clenched fists.

ZANOM  
Oh, right! Of course, Wingus and  
Dingus say so!

Gozu gets up and slams Zanom's and Ken's heads together while they bicker.

Mezu patrols down the inner hall. Zanom and Ken are perched atop the ceiling. They wait until Mezu is in place, then jump into each other's heads.

CUT TO:

INT. ALTAR

Vayelan reads from a small note pad he's been jotting notes in.

ANGLE: THE NOTE PAD.

The cover of the note pad reads, "Stand-Up A Material."

VAYELAN  
...And I'm still not sure how my  
personal favorite happened, two  
days ago, but...

ZANOM  
We get it. Teamwork; ours sucks.

KEN  
What do you want us to do about it?

VAYELAN  
Try to learn more about each other.  
I'll give you until tomorrow.

INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS - EVENING

Zanom and Ken sit on their beds, looking aimlessly around the room.

KEN

You heard what he said.

ZANOM

So... How do we do this? Do we just... How do we want to do this?

KEN

I'll ask you a question, and you answer it, then you ask me a question, and so on, and so forth.

ZANOM

Shoot.

KEN

Who's Yume?

ZANOM

Dammit! You tricked me!

KEN

You wanna finish this training in time?

ZANOM

...

KEN

Well?

ZANOM

Let me tell you a story...

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. SINAI - REBEL HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

INSERT: REBEL HEADQUARTERS, SINAI, 536CC

Zanom walks down a beaten down back alley. Doors and windows are boarded up. The street is cracked. Walls and foundations of buildings are damaged and crumbling.

ZANOM (V.O.)

In my timeline, Demons crippled civilization. Hospitals, libraries, temples... All gone. Yinaku's the one who orchestrated it all. As his son, I didn't exactly make a lot of friends.

INT. REBEL HEADQUARTERS - EARLY MORNING

Zanom enters the war room. Sora greets him with a cup of coffee.

YUME STARBORNE, 19, walks up them with a clipboard and a smile.

ZANOM (V.O.)

Then, one day, Mom introduced me to Yume, Kari's older sister.

KEN (V.O.)

Kari has a sister?

ZANOM (V.O.)

Had one.

Sora briefs them on their next mission.

ZANOM (V.O.)

We were to be partners together. Yume was the first person to try to get to know me, knowing full well who and what I was. It wasn't long before I told her I loved her.

Sora leaves the war room. Yume extends her hand to shake Zanom's. Zanom reluctantly accepts.

KEN (V.O.)

So, what happened, then?

ZANOM (V.O.)

Yinaku happened.

INT. BASEMENT - EARLY MORNING

Young Kari sits tied to a chair in a dark, damp basement. Her mouth is taped shut.

Yume stands in front of Young Kari, facing Zanom, as he starts to transform into Ikarin.

ZANOM (V.O.)

Yinaku overheard me tell Yume I loved her. He kidnapped Kari, and set up a trap. When we went to free her, I transformed into Ikarin. I remember being struck by a poison dart beforehand, then it all went black.

YUME

Are you okay, Zanom? It's me, Yume. You remember me, right?

Zanom inches closer.

YUME

Zanom, come on. You can fight it. Don't let it control you.

Zanom GROWLS. Yume kneels in front of Zanom.

YUME

I'm right here. I'm right here, Zanom.

Zanom ROARS and shoves Yume away.

YINAKU (O.S.)

Yes. Kill her. Kill them both.

YUME

Zanom, you can do it. You can fight this.

Zanom looks down at his hands. His hands turn into talon-like claws.

YINAKU

Kill them.

Young Kari struggles harder in the chair.

YUME

I'm not going to fight you. You can break free. You can control it.

Zanom lunges at Yume.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. SLEEPING QUARTERS - NIGHT

Ken sits on his bed, listening intently to Zanom's story.  
Zanom stares off into space.

ZANOM

When I regained consciousness, Mom told me she had died. I felt so lost, Mom had to put me on suicide precaution. Kari saw what happened and knew what Yinaku had planned. She approached me and we grieved together. Eventually, we sorta forged a relationship.

KEN

So, you're afraid to tell her you love her because you're afraid Yinaku will kill her, too. You're breaking her heart for her own protection!

Zanom hangs his head.

ZANOM

It's not something I'm terribly proud of.

Ken walks over and puts his hand on Zanom's shoulder.

KEN

You don't have to end up like Yinaku, and Kari doesn't have to end up like Yume. You're your own people; your destinies are your own. Nobody knows how it all's going to end. What matters is how you live your life. What you're doing now, that's not living. Don't you feel better getting that out?

Zanom raises his head. Tears stream down his face.

ZANOM

You tell anyone about this moment, and I'll kill you.

KEN

It's okay. You don't have to hide it. Use it as a motivational tool. Take this moment, and make these emotions your power.



ZANOM  
Question.

KEN  
Yeah?

ZANOM  
How the hell does a Shaman end up  
on Blue Gate, in the first place?

KEN  
... That's not a proud story,  
either.

EXT. TRAINING GROUNDS - MORNING

Gozu and Mezu enter one side of the ring, as Zanom and Ken enter the other. Vayelan sits at his usual safe distance holding his pen and note pad.

VAYELAN  
And...

Zanom and Ken look at each other and smirk. Gozu and Mezu exchange confused glances.

VAYELAN  
Begin!

Gozu and Mezu begin their attack by charging the ring at Zanom and Ken.

Zanom and Ken keep dodging each attack. The floor tiles of the ring begin to crack with each blow.

Mezu goes after Zanom, while Gozu pursues Ken. Zanom puts his hands on Mezu's head and jumps over.

ZANOM  
Leap frog!

Zanom stays crouched until Mezu's next punch is directly over him. Zanom shoots up, and head-butts Mezu in the face.

Mezu stumbles back, and Zanom belts her in the gut. Zanom then knocks her across the ring.

Vayelan writes feverishly in his notes, nodding his head.

VAYELAN  
Mm-hmm! Mm-hmm!

Zanom teams up with Ken to overpower Gozu. Gozu throws an ice beam at Zanom, but he ducks. The ice beam hits Mezu, instead, knocking her unconscious.

VAYELAN

Mezu! You're out! One more to go,  
boys!

Gozu summons his staff and sweeps it across the ground at Zanom's and Ken's feet. Zanom and Ken jump up and both kick Gozu in opposite sides of his head.

Gozu drops the staff and falls to his knees before completely collapsing on the ground.

VAYELAN

Done! Good work, boys! You're two weeks ahead of schedule! Now we can get to the real training! Go clean up and get ready to meet me in the altar!

Zanom and Ken smile and high-five each other.

Vayelan watches as they exit the training grounds, LAUGHING with their arms around each other's shoulders.

VAYELAN

(internal)

Two months left to master his Aizen... That shouldn't be too hard, now that he's made that breakthrough. I had a feeling that gambit would pay off, yesterday.

Mezu GROANS.

VAYELAN

All right, ladies! If you're done lying about, I'll need some help to train these two in the finer techniques! You up for that?

Gozu GROANS.

VAYELAN

Good! I'll meet you guys inside in ten!

Gozu and Mezu each give a thumbs-up.

FADE TO BLACK.