



zanom seeks answers  
through meditation.  
vayelan ponders his  
chances for survival.

INT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - INNER HALL - AFTERNOON

Zanom and Vayelan stand outside the Altar Room door.  
Everybody else crowds around Kari and Sora, trying to bring them back to reality.

ZANOM

...And then I woke up.

VAYELAN

What's the difference, eh?

ZANOM

Yes. I was hoping you could provide some guidance on what it meant?

VAYELAN

Well, I don't know what it means - probably a premonition if I had my guess - but I think I know of a place where you can find the answers you seek.

CUT TO:

INT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - AURA ROOM

Vayelan leads Zanom into a dark, misty room.

The mist in the room begins to glow as Zanom steps foot into the darkness.

ZANOM

What is this place?

VAYELAN

It's called the Aura Room.  
Meditation in here will connect you directly with the Yugokan Codex.  
Just don't interrupt the connection until you're back on this side of the Cosmic Plane.

ZANOM

Why? What happens then?

VAYELAN

Your soul gets trapped in Yugoku, and you die.

ZANOM

Well, then...

VAYELAN  
Have fun, and try not to die!

Vayelan exits the room and SLAMS the door behind him.

ZANOM  
I'm having the time of my life,  
already...

INT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - INNER HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Vayelan walks through the temple's halls almost as if in a daze. Clearly, his mind is preoccupied on something else, as he MUTTERS INAUDIBLY to himself as he walks.

VAYELAN  
(internal)  
This is spiralling beyond my  
control too quickly. Zanom does not  
have what it takes to bring down  
Onyx. If we are to survive, I must  
steer matters to a different  
destiny, but how?

Vayelan stumbles across an ancient staff outside his quarters and shudders. He bows his head and SIGHS.

VAYELAN  
(internal)  
Forgive me, my son, for, I am a  
coward. I am no wise sage, and I  
shall never honor your name so long  
as I live.

RUBY (O.S.)  
Surely, you don't think you'll get  
lucky twice with that old relic, do  
you?

Vayelan whips around to find RUBY, APPEARING TO BE 12,  
standing behind him.

Ruby is a Crystal Dragon with the appearance of a young girl  
dressed in red armor. She impishly smiles as she stands  
before a stunned Vayelan.

RUBY  
Master Onyx is looking for you.

Vayelan turns pale.

With each step closer Ruby takes, Vayelan takes one step  
back.

Eventually, Vayelan finds himself backed into a wall.

RUBY

What's wrong? Aren't you happy to see us? It's been a real long time, Diamond.

VAYELAN

Who else is here?

RUBY

Topaz is here, too. I'm sure we can trust you not to tell anyone we're here right? I'd hate to have to kill the red one we have hostage.

VAYELAN

What did you say?!

RUBY

Oh, yeah. I'm going to impersonate her. Clever, huh? Topaz is taking care of the blue one, right now. Only, he's supposed to kill him. Master Onyx has no use for the blue guy.

Vayelan glares at Ruby, ready to fight, but ultimately decides to do nothing. His aura calms around him, as he hangs his head in shame.

RUBY

Good boy, Diamond. Now, if you want to survive, here's what Master Onyx wants you to do...

INT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - ALTAR ROOM - EVENING

Kari sits in a daze, while Halo splashes water on her. It has no effect on her.

Sora sits, sobbing profusely into Ken's shoulder.

Runa sits, rocking Zankyo to stop his crying. It works, as Zankyo eventually yawns and falls asleep in her arms.

Jaina stands in the corner, watching the group. The disgusted expression on her face grows more intense.

JAINA

(internal)

I don't think I'll ever understand mortal emotions.

SORA

My baby! My baby's gonna grow up to  
be a blood-thirsty monster of  
ancient legend!

Jaina's visible disgust becomes a grimace, as she extends  
her arm and fires off an energy blast in front of the group.  
The blast makes a LOUD BOOM on impact.

Kari snaps out of her daze. Zankyo wakes up and starts  
crying again.

RUNA

Thanks a lot, Jaina! Allow me to  
return the favor, someday...

KARI

The hell is wrong with you?!

JAINA

You haven't noticed it, have you?

KEN

Huh? Noticed what?

JAINA

Gozu and Mezu should've patrolled  
through here a while ago.

Mezu enters the Altar Room, right on cue.

MEZU

Somebody mention my name?

Jaina and Mezu stare each other down.

JAINA

You're late.

MEZU

You're rude. Remember who it is who  
allows you to remain here.

JAINA

That would be the  
Dragon-in-Kami's-clothing.

MEZU

Who do you think does the old man's  
bidding, these days?

Jaina lunges in Mezu's face.

JAINA  
Is that a threat? Because I sure  
hope it is...

KARI  
Jaina! What's your deal? What  
crawled up your butt?

Mezu smiles.

MEZU  
I'd love to challenge you. Someday.  
Right now, you're not worth the  
spilled blood, Demon.

Mezu turns and exits the Altar Room with a wide grin on her  
face.

Jaina starts to go after her, but Ken puts his hand on her  
shoulder.

KEN  
Let her go. We've got more  
important fish to fry.

INT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - AURA ROOM - LATER

Zanom sits amongst the glowing vapors of the Aura Room. His  
eyes are closed, deep in meditation.

EXT. YUGOKAN CODEX - NIGHT

The Yugokan Codex is a purple void filled with glowing, teal  
orbs.

Zanom floats through the Codex, searching for something.

ZANOM  
Wow! I never thought the Codex  
could contain so much information  
within a single orb. It's  
unfathomable!

Zanom floats some more before stopping at a particular orb.

ZANOM  
Hey! This one's mine! Aww! But it's  
only showing me candles and  
shadows!

Zanom observes the light from the candles flickering,  
creating deeper shadows for the moments that they flicker.

The scene in the orb changes abruptly to a rapid succession of lunar and solar eclipses.

An image of a scale flashes across his mind for a brief instant. On one side of the scale, Aizen meditates; on the other, Ikarin floats in mid-air, ready to attack.

A beat.

INT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - AURA ROOM

Zanom awakens within the Aura Room in a cold sweat.

ZANOM

I've got it! I know what it means  
now!

The door slowly opens with A LOUD MECHANICAL CLANKING. Mezu steps inside the Aura Room.

MEZU

You are required at the Temple  
Gates.

ZANOM

Am I, now?

Zanom raises an eyebrow, and his tone of voice suggests he is on edge about something.

MEZU

Is something wrong?

ZANOM

I was about to ask you.

EXT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - TEMPLE GATES - NIGHT

Mezu leads Zanom to Gozu's deceased body. Gozu lies on the ground with dried, orange blood trailing from his eyes.

Zanom kneels down to inspect the body.

Gozu's nose has been punched into his brain, and some mixture of dried vomit and more blood appears to have poured from his mouth at one point.

ZANOM

Who did this?

MEZU

You did.

Zanom stands up and sharply turns toward Mezu.

ZANOM  
I did no such thing!

MEZU  
You did when you defied Master  
Onyx!

ZANOM  
What?

Mezu transforms into Ruby's Semi-Dragon form.

Ruby now has fangs, red scales, wings, and a spiked tail.  
Otherwise, she still has the height and voice of a young  
girl.

ZANOM  
You gotta be shitting me!

RUBY  
Don't worry; this'll only hurt a  
whole lot before you die!

ZANOM  
Where's Mezu?

This visibly catches Ruby off-guard.

RUBY  
I... I am Mezu!

ZANOM  
Bullshit! You don't even have the  
same aura!

Ruby laughs.

RUBY  
Don't worry. She's still alive...  
For now. I'd be more worried about  
your friends in the Altar Room.

ZANOM  
If you hurt them...

TOPAZ (O.S.)  
Hurt? Naw... Onyx an' Diamond 're  
gonna kill 'em!

Zanom leaps just in time to dodge an attack by TOPAZ (27).  
Topaz looks like a golden version of Ruby, only taller.



Zanom lands crouched before the two Dragons, as Topaz stands up.

TOPAZ  
This'll be fun!

RUBY  
While you dispatch the son of  
Yinaku, I'll go check up on our  
other preparations.

ZANOM  
The hell you will!

Zanom starts to charge Ruby, but Topaz intervenes, knocking Zanom back to the ground. Zanom quickly recovers and dodges a barrage of topaz crystals flying at him.

ZANOM  
(internal)  
This isn't good. If I can't warn  
them in time, she'll kill them all!

TOPAZ  
Go on, bring it out! That Eye-Karin  
form o' yers! I wanna see it!

ZANOM  
So, that's your game, huh? Sorry to  
disappoint!

Zanom powers up into Aizen.

AIZEN  
Looks like you're getting the other  
guy, today!

TOPAZ  
Don't make a lick t' me, Eyes'n.

AIZEN  
I really think you should've stayed  
in school; you're English is  
atrocious. Lesson one!

Aizen attacks with an energy-laden punch.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - OUTER HALL

Vayelan watches Aizen's fight from afar, as Mezu approaches him.

VAYELAN

You promise Mezu will be released  
unharmmed?

MEZU

Silly Diamond! We already killed  
her hours ago. We even disposed of  
the body in a volcano. How cool is  
that!

VAYELAN

My word!

MEZU

Is something you'd better keep for  
your sake. You wouldn't want us to  
do extra harm to your descendants,  
would you?

VAYELAN

This is despicable!

MEZU

Yeah, it is pretty awesome.

VAYELAN

I cannot idly sit by and watch you  
do these things.

ONYX (O.S.)

But you will, anyway. You know how  
powerful I am. You know what I'm  
capable of without a single shred  
of remorse.

Vayelan freezes a beat.

Mezu walks right by him.

MEZU

Keep talking dirty to me, Master  
Onyx!

Onyx stands obscured in shadow. Mezu leans in and gives him  
a kiss. A dark hand reaches out from the shadows and gropes  
her behind.

ONYX

Do not fail me, Diamond.

Onyx and Mezu walk deeper into the Diamonten Temple.

EXT. DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - TEMPLE GATES - LATER

Topaz has gained the upper hand on Aizen during their battle.

TOPAZ

Now, what was that about learnin'  
me somethin' 'bout that English,  
Eyes'n?

AIZEN

Lesson 2: Be aware of your  
surroundings!

Topaz looks around and realizes Aizen has been aiming for the support columns supporting the Temple Gates' ceiling over his head the entire time.

TOPAZ

Well. Shit 'n a stick.

Aizen blasts the support columns, and the ceiling caves in on Topaz's head.

Topaz tries to stand up, but he quickly loses consciousness, having hit his head too hard, and collapses back into the pile of rubble.

A LOUD POLICE SIREN RINGS ACROSS THE NIGHT.

Aizen reverts back to Zanom.

GENE STRATOS (O.S.)

(over loud speaker)

Zanom Danvers, remain where you are  
and put your hands behind your  
head! You are under arrest!

ZANOM

(internal)

Dammit! Not now!

(spoken)

What are the charges?

GENE STRATOS

You are charged with the murders of  
the six Zannojas! Surrender now, or  
you'll only make things worse for  
yourself!

Zanom grits his teeth, as if ready to attack, but he hesitates.

## NARRATOR

Zanom has found himself between a rock and a hard place! If he surrenders now, there will be nobody left to warn the others about the Crystal Dragons' nefarious scheme. What will Zanom do? Find out next time on Chronic Boom!

FADE OUT