



the battle with onyx
concludes, but were
more pressing threats
ignored?

EXT. THE DIAMONTEN TEMPLE - EARLY MORNING

Rynan watches in awe as Zanom snaps Onyx's fang out of his mouth with the Lightning Rod Staff.

RYNAN

Zanom! Finish it now!

NARRATOR

Last time on Chronic Boom, Zanom entered a trance-like state and, using an ancient artifact, brought Onyx to his knees as Flash Shumway. Is the fight truly over? Find out now, on Chronic Boom!

Onyx reverts back to his Flash Shumway form and drops to his knees. His fang lands a short distance away.

Before Flash can reach out and reclaim his fang, Rynan destroys it with a small energy blast.

FLASH

N-no! You... You will... P-p-pay for this!

A beat.

FLASH

One Dragon to another, you wouldn't happen to have an ice pack on you, would you?

Zanom flicks his wrist slightly, and a glacier pops out of the Temple grounds beneath Flash.

RYNAN

It's over, Flash. You went up against someone who's out of your class.

Flash scowls, holding his mouth.

FLASH

I am Onyx of the Crystal Dragons!
It does not! End! Here!

RYNAN

Take the "L" with dignity.

Flash jumps down from the Diamonten Temple toward the planet's surface. Zanom takes pursuit.

RYNAN

Zanom! Hold on! It could be a trap!
Hey!

Rynan follows Zanom down to the surface.

FLASH

(internal)

I can feel it... The Golden Pearl
was never destroyed! It just became
part of the planet.

Flash grins.

RYNAN

Zanom! Wait! Don't let him reach
the surface! There's some reason he
wants to fight there instead of
where we were! Something doesn't
feel right! Zanom? Hey! Do you hear
me?

Zanom still remains in his blue trance and ignores Rynan.
Before Flash can reach the planet's surface, Zanom throws
the Lightning Rod Staff down to the planet.

EXT. PLANET SOL - MOMENTS LATER

The energy infused within the Staff purifies the ground
where Flash lands.

FLASH

Damn you! You think a little stick
is going to stop me?

Flash grabs the Lightning Rod Staff, but the purifying
energies surrounding it harm him. Still determined, Flash
manages to crush and bend the Staff before finally letting
go.

FLASH

Now what?

Zanom and Rynan arrive behind Flash.

RYNAN

Like I said before, Flash. You took
on somebody who's clearly out of
your class. It's over.

FLASH

You know what's over?

Zanom punches Flash in the jaw. Flash goes down and almost cries.

FLASH
You will pay for that!

RYNAN
Give it up, Flash. You're starting to sound like a broken record.

Rynan notices the damaged staff nearby.

RYNAN
If you guys are done playing around and showing off, I'm going to finish this.

As Rynan starts to reach to pull the Lightning Rod Staff out of the ground, he notices a smirk on Flash's face.

RYNAN
You need me to remove this, don't you?

FLASH
What if I do?

RYNAN
What's your endgame?

FLASH
Don't you see? The Golden Pearl of Kagejuro is still intact, and it's becoming one with the planet.

Rynan lets go of the Staff.

FLASH
Even if I die here, there's still enough energy in the planet's core to resurrect Kagejuro. You'd have to destroy the entire planet to win... With us on it!
(cackling)
Your move, Kami.

RYNAN
That's Yoni Rynan to you!

Rynan powers up and lets out a Ryuubakuha Wave at Flash, destroying him. With that, the final Crystal Dragon has been defeated.

Rynan turns his attention to the Lightning Rod Staff and Zanom. Zanom's trance wears off, and he faints.

RYNAN
That's not good.

A beat.

RYNAN
Hey! Don't you quit on me now,
Zanom!

Rynan shakes Zanom until he wakes up again.

Zanom suddenly perks up in a panic.

RYNAN
Relax! He's dead, but we have a
bigger problem.

ZANOM
Fill me in on what happened later.
What's your bigger problem?

INT. RUNA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The group waits around for any news from Vayelan and Rynan about Zanom's well-being.

KARI
I can't take this anymore!

SORA
Stay calm, Sweetie. If you lose it,
I'm going to lose it.

KY
Frankly, I think Jaina's already
losing it.

KARI
I've never seen her show that kind
of emotion before. Especially over
Zanom!

Tom enters.

KARI
Any news on Jaina?

TOM
No. She won't open up. Any news on
Zanom and the others?

KARI

No. We won't hold up if this keeps
up much longer.

Runa enters.

RUNA

Well, Zankyo's still sleeping. It's
like he knows we'll all be okay,
somehow.

TOM

Not to be rude, but he's an infant.

CLIVE

Hey, don't knock it...

TOM

Oh, tell me you have an anecdote
for this specific occasion.

CLIVE

Yes.

TOM

You have an anecdote for an infant
sleeping through a stressful time
for the adults around him, which in
this case, happens to be the
extreme possibility of the end of
life, the universe, and everything
we know and hold dear?

CLIVE

Well... Actually, yes.

TOM

Gene?

GENERAL STRATOS

As morbidly curious as I am to hear
this one, Clive... Shut up, Clive!

CLIVE

It's a really good story!

ALL

No!

CLIVE

Sheesh! You'd think the world was
ending with all these sour faces...

EXT. PLANET SOL - LATER

Zanom and Rynan each grab onto the Lightning Rod Staff.

ZANOM

Ready?

RYNAN

Ready!

ZANOM

Pull!

Zanom and Rynan pull the Staff out of the ground together. The purifying energies of the Staff leave behind a massive crater all the way down to the core of the planet.

RYNAN

You sure you have enough energy left to do this?

ZANOM

Not on your life, which is why I need you as a battery.

RYNAN

Oh, okay. What?

ZANOM

It's either this, or we unleash yet another ancient horror onto the world. Now, which would you rather have?

Rynan grabs onto Zanom and powers up.

RYNAN

Just blow up the planet already, would ya?

ZANOM

Be prepared to teleport us as soon as I fire.

RYNAN

Oh, don't worry. I'm prepared.

ZANOM

Ryuu...

Zanom powers up.

ZANOM

Baku...

Rynan closes his eyes.

ZANOM

Ha!

Zanom fires the massive energy wave down through the hole.

Rynan teleports both Zanom and himself out of danger.

INT. RUNA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

General Stratos receives a message.

GENERAL STRATOS

Guys, you're not going to like
this, but...

Rynan and Zanom both telport into the living room.

ZANOM

Guess who have four opposable
thumbs and just saved the Cosmos by
blowing up a planet?

GENERAL STRATOS

You know, we were supposed to try
and save the planet...

ZANOM

You wanted the Dragons dead. We
delivered. Where's the nearest bed?

Kari angrily storms up to Zanom and slaps him across the
face.

KARI

You have the balls!

Kari storms out of the room and slams a door.

ZANOM

Was it something I said?

SORA

She was really worried about you.

ZANOM

Should I go...

SORA

Rest up, give her some time to calm down, and then go talk to her.

ZANOM

Okay, but anybody got some aspirin? I've got a pounding headache.

Zanom's and Rynan's exhausted bodies collapse on top of each other.

RUNA

You kids all right, there?

Rynan gives a limp thumb's up. Zanom SNORES.

HALO

I'd give them as much time as they need, right now.

KEN

Yeah, I guess they do deserve it, don't they?

HALO

No... I was referring to the fact that I finally told him I've been seeing Kari.

KEN

Yeah, you're screwed. Can't help you there.

HALO

You're so noble...

General Stratos receives a call.

GENERAL STRATOS

Sorry, guys. I gotta take this.

General Stratos leaves the room.

GENERAL STRATOS

(on the phone)

This is Stratos...

TOM

I wonder how much trouble the timeline's in, now that Sol doesn't exist anymore...

SORA

What do you mean?

KEN

Well, when Zanom and Kari arrived in this timeline, Sol had produced the artifact which allowed the original time travel to occur in the first place, correct?

SORA

Yeah, but we've already concluded that Yinaku overwrote the whole branch of the time stream...

TOM

But if the original artifact no longer makes it to that point in time when it was used...

SORA

Oh, no! You're not suggesting the Butterfly Effect, are you?

CLIVE

Wait... Are you guys suggesting that Zanom's and Kari's future could still happen if we're not careful?

Ken looks over at Zanom, passed out on the floor.

KEN

I'm suggesting that Yinaku didn't just erase a bifurcation point in the time stream, he just rerouted the direction, in which, the stream flows.

SORA

Meaning that the portal to Jigoku could still open at a later time!

TOM

They didn't prevent their future from happening. If anything, All Zanom did by destroying that Diamond of Time was ensure that it could still happen, anyway. It was futile.

General Stratos reenters the living room.

GENERAL STRATOS
(still on the phone)
Are you sure you want to do this?
We have enough evidence to prove...
Okay. Understood... Crystal... I'll
let them know... Thank you, Sir!

General Stratos ends his phone call.

GENERAL STRATOS
Go grab Kari and Jaina. Tom,
Clive... Get your handcuffs out.

SORA
Gene, what's going on?

GENERAL STRATOS
I don't know how to say this, Sora,
but...

RUNA
But what? Tell us!

GENERAL STRATOS
The warrant just came in. I'm
legally obligated to serve it.

SORA
Gene?

GENERAL STRATOS
Zanom, Kari, and Jaina... They're
all under arrest.

NARRATOR
With the defeat of the Crystal
Dragons comes a new terrifying
realization. Zanom rests,
blissfully unaware that he has now
become a wanted criminal. What
exactly are the charges? Find out
next time on Chronic Boom!