

Guardian Chronicles

Homeworld

Prologue by Matt

This time Etan gets kicked out of the core, Argaria comes under attack and a mysterious new enemy arises. And you thought your job was tough. Come and join us for another journey of fun and adventure as we explore a whole new world.

Part one

The winds of change

Selar's report

There is a problem with Etan. The future timelines I once saw for him have recently changed. At this point he can still be saved from this new outcome, but at what cost?

Etans view

I started out the year trying to become air. Master Leo told me that it would be the hardest of all the elemental changes to make. Air molecules are free floating and energetic. Changing to any solid mass is simple in comparison to the balancing act of changing to a gas. Too little energy and I return to a solid, too much energy and I could dissipate myself altogether. I have to build enough energy to disintegrate my body without drifting apart. Master Leo told me until I have it down pat, not to try it unless he was there to help. Once again I closed my eyes and concentrated. It helps me shut out the world and focus. Older Guardian's don't have such concerns as centuries of discipline have honed strong mental focus.

Having learned from the fire incident I didn't try to change my whole body at once but instead just my hand, which was a good thing, because my hand exploded. I concentrated on my atoms, using my light energy to cause them to lose cohesion to each other. But then the light energy built up to much pressure and it disintegrated. I over did it, just a bit. I was in shock more than anything. Master Leo rushed over to heal me but I told him I wanted to heal myself. Even after I had healed I was still shaking a little from the event. It took two more weeks of practice to get a stable change. At one point I did get stuck as gas for a moment but Master Leo was there to help. I'm glad this wasn't like when I got stuck as water. This time I wasn't confined to an element during a battle situation.

As air I could feel people's breath. I let myself stretch-out and just totally relax, floating with the breeze. It's funny sometimes what you remember. This experience reminded me of childhood incident. When I was a kid I used to lie back in the bathtub and relax to the point where many times I would fall asleep. The first time I did it my mother freaked out. I guess she was worried I had drowned. I was only five at the time but I was still embarrassed over her and my aunt standing over me shaking me awake. For awhile after that time she wanted me to leave the bathroom door unlocked so she could check on me. In any case becoming air had the same relaxing sensation. And yes I got so relaxed one of the times I did fall asleep as air. I didn't have a mother to wake me this time, just a windmill. I never knew air could get dizzy. As I progressed Master Leo advised me to spin as fast as I could to make a dust devil; this made me lightheaded in the process.

Master Leo's comments

Once Etan learned to keep his consciousness in the middle of the funnel and let it spin around his consciousness he picked up speed and power. A week later he became a full blown tornado. Two months later he also learned to become smoke and stun gas. In his extra time he practiced a few more bio skills like: night vision, sonic hearing, acid spitting, venom, poison and environment camouflage. He is advancing quite rapidly.

Commentary

At the four month mark Etan began practicing basic mental abilities. He already knew how to read most humanoid minds. But now he would learn how to affect their emotions. Mia and Samaria gladly volunteered for him to practice on. After two weeks practice he could make them happy, sad, afraid, or even calm. After that he moved on to a more difficult skill.

He tried telekinetic but was unable to grasp the link. After classes in the fifth month Etan was practicing in the gym when three first year guardian trainees came in. They were still trying to learn a basic shield. That skill wasn't that hard for Etan to learn as; he was familiar with the earth's magnetic field. He pulled out his computer pad and showed them how a planet's magnetic field worked. He explained how it was similar to a regular magnet. This seemed to help and within a few minutes they all had a basic shield formed. It made him feel good to return the favor to others. Later that evening Master Selar said he wanted to talk to him about something. "Why did you take it on yourself to teach the first year trainees?" Selar asked in serious tone.

Etan's comments

Immediately I felt a sense of dread. I didn't think anyone would mind me helping the new students. I told him "I'm sorry if you are displeased I promise not to do it again." I didn't know how much trouble I was in this time. He looked at me with empty eyes "An apology does not answer my question, I want a straight answer." he stated. "I was trying to help them. I knew what was keeping them from creating a shield. I thought I could help." I explained. "Do you think Master Leo has lost his ability? Maybe you think he doesn't know how to teach anymore?" "No. master Selar, not at all. He is very competent." I answered quickly. I couldn't tell if this was a test or Master Selar was actually mad. In reality I am nearly 80 years old but Selar always made me feel like child. Of course he was thousands of years old, so to him I was a child.

Selar's expression was impossible to read. "Did you not stop to consider that maybe he was letting them struggle through it for a reason? The experience could be necessary for their growth? I didn't change you back from a girl did I? You had to learn from it yourself, and because of it you became stronger." True I thought, but I wouldn't have made it if it wasn't for Alsea. "Master, Alsea helped me, I wanted to do the same for someone else." He still hadn't showed any expression at all. "Go, we will continue this conversation at a later time." he ordered. I quickly got out of there and went to my room. I asked Matt, what was going on. He responded "I am not allowed to discuss this situation with you. Master Selar will discuss whatever details he sees fit when he chooses too."

The next day Alsea, 1, nor Master Leo would talk to me about it. After school I was told by 1 that I was to stay in the dorm room for now. I was also told not to turn into a girl. That was so I couldn't get any emotional comfort from my friends I'm sure. This was really awful. No one would tell me what I did wrong here and Master Selar wasn't talking to me. I was alone. Even Reaper was gone on a mission for the next two weeks. I was sitting alone after school on the edge of an open pit. One day it would become an ocean. It was part of the ongoing terraforming project on this planet. On the opposite end of the huge gulf it was beginning to be filled.

It was quite a monumental task, like my life right now it seems. This world was relatively flat before but now here was a huge open crater. Of course all I was seeing was just one small section of the rest of the project. Guardians could open a permanent door in subspace to connect two places. In this case, this barren world was connected to an ocean

planet. A few scattered islands is all it had for land. The material from this world was being traded for water from that one. The extra matter from both was being stored in a subspace facility. As this world gained an ocean that one would gain land. The rate of flow had to be carefully balanced as not to destroy the oceans world's bio-diversity. If I could only find the right balance in my own life, I might be doing as well as this project. Its funny, focusing on the wonders of nature always seems to help me sort things out.

As I continued to toss everything back and forth a first year trainee came up to me and sat down. It wasn't one of the ones I had helped before. He was slightly shorter than me and kind of reminded me of Argyle. "Hey Etan, what's up?" I smiled politely and said "Just thinking and you." He nodded " Yeah me too. I could feel that he was just as depressed as me. Apparently I'm not the only one who finds this to be a good thinking spot. He plopped the ground and said "I haven't been able to get going on any of my powers yet. If I can't get them soon, I don't know what I'm going to do." I liked helping people but I really needed to sort out my own problems. My grandmother used to say "you got to sweep your own porch before you sweep anyone else's." She meant fix your own issues before you try to fix someone's else's problems. Sometimes that was true but sometimes not. I mean if you never helped anyone unless you had no problems then you would never get around to helping anyone. Who doesn't have problems? Morally I had no choice but to at least try to help him in any way that I could.

The despondent gaze in his eyes looked familiar. I've seen that face in the mirror many days. "We haven't met before but my name is Son-orc. "Out of habit I sighed heavily "I wish I could help, but Master Selar is angry at me for helping the others." He looked at me curiously "Why would he get mad over that?" I shook my head "I really don't know, I would think He would be happy for me to help them, Guardian brotherhood and all."

"That's a bummer, what are you going to do now?" Son-orc asked. "I'm not really sure, I guess I don't have a choice but to wait it out and see what master Selar tells me." He agreed. "If I can't get a break through by the end of the week, I'm going back home." I put my hand on his shoulder "Tell you what, tomorrow lets go ask Master Leo's permission if he will allow me to help you." He looked at me confused "Didn't you just say you got in trouble for helping some other students." He asked "Yes, but it may have been because I did it without permission. Now we will ask permission." I told him, but then I changed my mind. I felt a surge of stubbornness come over me. The last few years I've been working on becoming more Argarian and less human but stress had brought out my human nature. At the core I'm stubborn, pessimistic and somewhat sarcastic. I have a deep desire to help others but I fear my own inadequacies. I'm what most people would call a complicated person.

I couldn't let this opportunity pass me by. He needed help and I was going to help him. A strong sense of defiance took over my mind at that moment. So I said "You know what, trouble be danged. I'm going to help you anyway, because it's the right thing to do." For the next hour I lead him in the exercises and helped him focus. By the time I finished he had the shield down pat. I felt good, but now I felt afraid. Should I really have done that?

When we were done and he was ready to go he said "Master Selar is probably going to be angry with you." I nodded. "You're probably right, but I'm still glad I helped you." He shook my hand and thanked me. "A week later I saw Son-orc again. This time he asked me to show him a form change. "I don't think I should do that. Master Leo has not gone over that with you. All I did before was helping you a little with what you already were learning." I explained. "Did you get more trouble for that?" I shook my head and told him "no not yet. But the strange thing the first time he didn't actually say not to help. He just asked me why I did it, and then made a comment about Master Leo. In the past he made it clear what he did and didn't want me to do. The fact that he is being unclear here is very odd." He looked just as confused as me "What do you think it means?" I shrugged "The only thing I can think of is it's some kind of test, because Matt won't talk to me either." He nodded and seemed to agree. The only thing I can do is to wait for Master Selar to tell me what he wants. He probably has a reason for all this; I just don't know what it is yet." We continued to chat for while; it was good to have someone to talk to anyway.

Dark swarm report

1000 agents are on their way to targets, and receiving agents already in place for hand off. Guardian targets on the list must be kept under watch at all times. Silent agents are not to engage delivery agents unless otherwise ordered.

Argaria part one

A few days later, the whole school was in for a big surprise. Master Selar set the palace ship to lift off from the planet. The last time this happened I had been busy with coordinating events of a disaster, so I didn't get to enjoy the experience. The anti-grav kicked in and the whole palace began to lift up. The ship was originally an old mining vessel converted into new purpose. It was designed to create a hole in the ground the size and shape of the ship so the buildings on its upper deck would be flat with the surface of the planet. Mining drills would come out the sides underground and begin making access tunnels. The entire complex was made up of the school, dorms and Selar's palace. We were essentially about to take a trip in a flying city. As we exited the hole a great deal of excess dirt fell off from all sides in a cascading fall. Seeing something like a water fall made of dirt was a new experience for me.

Once we got to orbit we continued forward at a slow pace while the ship built up the necessary power to do a hyper jump. When the time came a few of the lights dimmed for a few seconds. I guess opening a hyper space tunnel for a city sized ship takes a great deal of power. As the solid beam of energy leapt from the front of the vessel a tiny sun formed in its wake. After a few seconds the tiny sun collapsed in on itself creating a blue spinning vortex. We traveled across the galaxy in just over three hours. When we exited we were at the Argarian home world. I hadn't had a chance to see it up till now, with all the crazy events happening in the last three years.

Every fifty years, the home world had a home coming for all Argarians. I had been reborn as an Argarian when Master Selar made me young so this was my home too now. The Argarians were the species that the guardians came from. They can control both matter and energy. All Argarians are linked by both a conscious and subconscious link that allows them to share each other's experiences and skills. As a consequence because they live for thousands of years, they continue to grow in power as they age. Fortunately they are a peaceful people who wish that same peace to all civilizations.

Originally their home world was an actual planet. But it was destroyed by a powerful enemy. The first Guardian saw this coming many centuries before and led the people to build a new home world. It was a large hollow sphere about the size of Jupiter. It had two main parts, the outer shell and an inner shell. The outer shell was shiny and reflective like a mirror in space. It was made of solid Neutronium harvested from a collapsed star. Neutronium is so strong it is almost impossible to destroy. It takes guardian energy or very high tech device to affect it at all.

In between both shells are factories, cargo bays and the machines that provided services to the planet. Underground of the inner shell is two water systems that connected the entire planet. The first transports water to all areas of the planet and the other mixes all bio-waste and redistributes it to up into the soil for re-absorption. They don't need trash collectors. There are small dump holes in every house and business for all bio-waste including unused food. Non bio-waste is reused in the replicator system to create future items. It's an efficient and clean system.

The living section is in the inner most shell. It has the same approximate habitation as around 1000 earth like planets. It has oceans, forests, deserts, wetlands, grasslands and mountains. Everything you would see on a normal planet, except volcanoes. Yep I'm definitely going to like this place. The Argarians had even collected thousands of species of plants and animals that were on the verge of extinction, including a few from earth. I hoped they had some dinosaurs somewhere. It was really quite amazing.

As we approached Argaria's perimeter a huge outer door opened. The palace ship glided through the door. The space between the shells contained structural braces. They were similar in style to a bee's honeycomb. A great many cargo and trade vessels zipped back and forth like buzzing flies. Robotic drones loaded and unloaded the cargo at freighting speeds. As we approached the inner door the scene changed.

As the inner most doors opened I couldn't take my eyes off the window. It was like a planet had been turned inside out. It was similar to the concept to that of a Dyson's sphere in earth's science fiction though not as large. In the middle of the shell was something a miniature sun. I guess I shouldn't be surprised since the Guardians had the best tech available from thousands of galaxies. The deserts contained crystalline technology that used the heat and light to grow. Some of the crystalline structures towered over three thousand feet high. The light reflecting from them made them glow like colossal light houses.

The swampy areas have bio tech that grow like trees. When a person needs to expand a house or building they put a growth hormone on the chosen wall inducing the plant to swell. A new room will form and be completely grown within a few weeks or months depending on the needed size. Argaria has no pollution and the cities are not over crowded. Even the capital city has trees and shrubbery spread throughout the landscape. This is a stark contrast to earth's big cities. Every area had tech that matched the conditions of the terrain.

The Argarians believe in living in harmony with nature not destroying it. Since there was so much room to go around even with billions of inhabitants on the planet there is no fight over land space. I couldn't imagine a more perfect society. There was a large field outside the capital city that had been prepared for Selar's palace ship to land. When we set down and I noticed something I hadn't seen before. Floating in the sky above us was colored crystalline structures. It gave certain places a rainbow like glow. I guessed they were probably cargo depots or some kind of trade exchange, because there was a never ending chain of small vessels going to and from them.

Master Selar called me in before he left the ship "You may look around the planet for the rest of the day. But starting tomorrow morning you will report to this site and help out." He handed me a letter with my instructions. It gave the place for me to go to and the times I was to work. I waited to see if he was going to say anything else but he didn't so I just said "Yes master Selar." and waited for him to dismiss me. I would to love have visited all the natural wonders that had been created here but with so little time I just walked through several markets. I was greeted continually by people in the crowd. I guessed it was because they recognized my silver uniform.

Most of the alien species here were humanoid. I saw a few non human types though, a reptilian, an amphibian and even a yeti. I wish I could go back and tell all the science fiction writers on earth what I've seen. It was fascinating how many things similar to earth there were here. There were several sections of open markets with carts vendors. Actually it was a lot like an outside flea market. Food, clothes, jewelry, and most anything you would like to buy was here.

Dark swarm commander's speech

I address you today to put to rest your discouragement. Our recent defeat is just a temporary setback. Even while the battle raged on our scientist discovered a whole new crystalline mineral that can channel dark energy. It will take several centuries for us to mine enough to use to build the facilities necessary but when complete we will convert the entire galaxy at one time. Then the Guardians will be gone forever, and we will rule. Until then we will work silently behind the scenes creating unrest in the populations.

1's comments

Being back on the home world is great. Hopefully one day many more planets will be like Argaria, peaceful and prosperous. Etan wanted to talk to me about some problems he was having but Master Selar forbid me. Selar didn't even tell me what the details were. But he said that when Etan came in, to turn him away. It was a very odd behavior for him. Most of the time he carries himself in a fatherly way but lately he has been distant.

Silver lining

Etans view

Home coming was a month long celebration. During this time each Guardian must spend an allotted amount of time serving others in charitable activities to show thier humility. I was instructed to go to a local trade market where a free cafeteria was available to the public. Mostly this was for visitors to the planet that were low income. My instructions said I was to spend eight hours a day here, with one day off each week for the next two weeks. That part alone was discouraging. This was my first trip here and I had to spend the whole time working. All the other students were getting the two weeks off from school. You would think that saving the galaxy twice would have earned me some vacation time by now. But Master Selar was obviously mad at me, so this was my punishment. I had tried to help out my fellow students but maybe I should have just minded my own business.

The cafeteria was called the bright and morning star. As its name suggests it was a bright and cheery place. At the expense of being an old grump at the moment I didn't feel like being bright or cheery. I would have rather worked in a dark dingy place that fit my mood. As I entered the front one of the waitresses directed me to the kitchen area. I took one last necessary internal growl and pushed on.

Three silver Guardians were getting ready for the breakfast rush. As my old self I would have been around the same height and build as them but now in Argyles form I was shorter than almost everyone, even most women. I had hoped master Selar would see me taking Argyles form at this time as sign of humility but I don't think he even noticed. I knew the three were full silvers and not training because of they each had the cape. Oh great! I thought. The next two weeks would probably be filled with a guardian version of lets torture the new guy. I figured they would give me all the worst jobs, like putting me in embarrassing situations, or making me do some ridiculously redundant task just for their own sadistic pleasure. But when I arrived it wasn't like that at all.

I was meet by smiling faces "Welcome brother, come on in and join the fun." The nearest one said. Well that was a different start than I had expected. I sighed, this time with relief and introduced myself "My name is Etan, Master Selar sent me here to work." He nodded "Master Selar told us you were coming. I am Celestial and this is Vortex" He said pointing to the silver beside him "over there working on the dishes is LT. We figure it stands for lieutenant or something, He hasn't said." he stated. Celestial was the tallest one of the three. He was athletically built and had long black hair, the kind of guy popular with the girls in most any school. On his cape he had the symbol of a solar system.

Vortex was slightly shorter with red hair but he had broader shoulders and was built like a professional body builder. Hi cape had the picture of a tornado. The Lt Guy didn't look away from his work but he had a Tom Cruise look about him. His cape had a symbol I didn't recognize. I had forgotten that although there are certain tests each silver has to pass, that each one generally had their strengths and weaknesses. The symbols must represent what type of ability each silver specializes in.

So their names were celestial, vortex and LT. "That's strange names." I mused. "He laughed" that's not our actual names it's our Guardian call names. Silvers rarely call each other thier original names. What's yours?" I shrugged "I guess I don't have one yet?" He considered that for a sec. "We'll just have to give you one then. I heard Selar likes to call you chameleon? What does that mean?" I explained "Back on my planet there is a reptile that can change colors with its environment; he calls me that because I'm pretty good with form changes." Celestial leaned his arm on my

shoulder. He did this in the same manner a brother would do to his younger sibling. He spoke softly as if he were mentioning some great secret.

"I hear you're very good at form change infact. I've been a silver for twenty years and I still can't get biological's very well. I can do elementals but it's not really my thing. I'm good at weather and energy projections." Vortex spoke up "And I'm good at gravity based attacks and defense." Celestial considered "Well then chameleon it is then, I'll call you Cham for short, that's what your call name will be for this week." Wait, what? "Why do you have the name celestial if you're good as weather and he is good at gravity and named Vortex. Isn't that a bit backwards? Shouldn't you trade names and capes or something? He chuckled "We did it on purpose just to keep everyone guessing, it's more fun that way."

Then his expression changed. It was as if he were pondering on a deep thought "So Cham, it is true you got handpicked by Selar?" "Sure" I said. He shook his head in mock sorrow "I told you V, we would have to call him boss one day." Apparently they liked to call each other by the first letter of thier names C and V. Vortex responded with the same tone. "This is terrible, what will we ever do." I wasn't sure if they were being funny or sarcastically mean. "You guys are higher than me, how could I be your boss, besides I think Master Selar is mad at me."

Then the two went back and forth in a comedy like routine. Celestial started it. "He hasn't heard." "He hasn't heard?" Vortex echoed back making it a question "How can he not, have heard?" Celestial responded again "I'm not sure what word, he hasn't heard." Vortex said with a grin. "So it never occurred, the word, he hasn't heard." Celestial continued. They went on like that for a few more rounds before I stopped them. "What are you two talking about? That is if you really know yourselves." Then they laughed together, they were just picking with me. Suddenly Celestial got serious again, "You were picked by Selar." He stated matter of factly "So?" He rolled his eyes but explained "No person picked by Selar has ever failed. Every single one has gone on to become a powerful planetary Guardian." I figured that was most likely an exaggeration

"Being a guardian is the goal for all of us isn't it?" I asked. He went on to explain "You're still not getting it. You know there are just over 300 populated planets in this galaxy right? By the number of stars you would think there would be many more but there's not. A lot of variables have to be exactly right for life to flourish. A planet must be the right size, have just the right magnetic field, and have the right amount of water and so on. There are literally thousands of things that have to be precisely right for life to be prosperous. That means there around 300 planetary Guardians at any one time. Silver guardians who work for the planetary guardians out number them with over 2000 in this galaxy. Out of the 300 planetary ones, over half were handpicked by Selar. So like I said we will eventually have to call you master Etan. Just remember us little guys when you get to be a big shot."

I looked at him and asked " Does he play favorites, choose only the ones he picks?" He looked truly shocked at my question "Not at all, the ones he chooses deserves the title. Like Ares was one of his picks. Ares is about half way to regent abilities now; He will probably be a regent one day." Suddenly it all made sense. Master Selar must have seen my future. He saw that I would not make planetary and I would be his first failure. This was terrible. All this time the one called LT hadn't said anything, but now he spoke up "we are here to work guys, not talk." With that we cooked and served the meals then later spent time cleaning up. We were not allowed to use our powers to make things easier. We had to do things like any human would. The rest of the work went smoothly and with no problems. Celestial and Vortex seemed ok, but the Lt Guy seemed stand offish. Nearly every other Argarian's I meet were upbeat and friendly, but he seemed to be quiet and somewhat dark.

Although we had finished early I was still supposed to put in several more hours work before I was done. Celestial and vortex had put in the time they were required too so they went there own way. Just LT and I were left behind. My instructions said if we finished early, I must report to the market square for trash clean up. As we walked toward the square we talked. "All that speculation before was pointless you know" he said "It really only comes down to one thing, if he still supports you to be Guardian or not. If this is a test then all is well. But if he has rejected you as a true candidate then you might as well leave now and save yourself the embarrassment later." I considered that. "yeah but how do I know which one?" I responded. "Simple, ask him straight out." He said. Lt seemed to be quite wise for his

age. Then again he was a senior silver guardian. After a moments consideration I decided I would ask Master Selar straight out.

Nebu-love part one

Reapers view

Stupid Selar, giving me trash collecting again. Apparently some new dark Guardian base was found and I got to take it out. Don't get me wrong you know how much I love destroying stuff, but lately there's been no challenge. When I've taken on any dark guardian base or battle ships there's not really any fun to it anymore, it's all too easy. Maybe I'll get lucky pretty soon and they'll try another full scale invasion. Hmm, if they were to get a hold of some new tech, that could liven things up for awhile. But no, I guess I shouldn't, its fun to think about though. Well, I guess I should just get this over with a get back to Argaria. I'm sure Etan is bored without me. I add spice to his life.

I opened my mission packet about the new base. Ok, now this is interesting, it says it's some kind of bio-base. The structure its self is a rare life form. That slightly caught my interest. It is called an Andromeda. It's a nebula sized, ameba like life form that lives off the radiation of nearby stars.

The Dark Guardians project there needs to be shut down, but the life form itself must be salvaged. This life form was important to the continuity of this part of space. It went on like that for awhile explaining how and why but I lost interest at that point. I did note that the life form projected an electrical tech suppression field. This did not detour me in the slightest. In fact I had a bio-tech suit just for this kind of situation. This mission still probably wouldn't be a much of a challenge but it might provide me with a temporary distraction. Now I get to try out the bio- tech suit. When I saw it in the weapons tech division, I knew I had to have it, though I haven't had a reason to use it up till now.

The outside of the armor was made up of scales that overlapped like medieval armor and were just as strong. Spongy material coated the inside. It form fits to each wearers exact size and shape. Its immune to normal energy blasts, bladed weapons and it absorbs most kinds of radiation. It contains several different weapons: poison darts and 3 types of gas blast pellets for starters. The first pellet is toxic, the second stuns and the third is a thick smoke for concealment. Hardened minerals have been added to allow it to have nearly impervious claws. Finally it has a host of bio-tools like projectile sticky glue, and acid. When the head covering is used, night vision and few other scanning options become available. The Guardians might be annoying but they certainly knew how to design tech, I'll give them that. After this mission I'm sure I'll have a few suggestions to make, but I could make do for now.

I grabbed a few more carry on items and gave the order to my main gunner to fire me out the torpedo tube. He was only too glad to oblige. It's almost as if he has imagined this exact scenario before. There has been a few times before I thought about doing this very thing but again I never had a reason too. I entered the tube, prepared myself and made the call. "Ok Rogers, you may fire me when ready." Suddenly I heard a great deal of muffled laughter in the background. Were they having a party over this? Just wait till I get back.

Quick as a flash, I was launched out ship and on my way. The nebula was small for the type, just larger than an average sized planet. It had a familiar look about it. Etan was always spouting off some useless space babble to me. Oh I know, one day Etan had just got back from one of his Steller classes and was telling me about a nebula like this that earth called The cat's eye. Yes now I remember this one looks like a miniature version of that one. A bright blue and white light hovered in the middle of a purple haze. That was surrounded further by a glowing red gas. As I approached solid energy manifestations came into view. So this creature was made up of solidified energy. I guess that makes as much sense as any. The creatures form was spread out like a fruit vine. Its center was rooted on the core of a dying star while the rest of its tendrils reached out and around.



The first part of the mission went smooth; I even got to have a little fun on the way. When I was torpedoed out I brought along an enhanced surf board from earth. When I passed through the mine field I could surf the explosive waves on in. It's hard to believe the Dark Guardians thought that could even slow me down. I know I could have avoided the mines altogether and snuck in, but where's the fun in that.

A chemical hand thruster slowed me down as I approached the nearest part of the creature. Inside the gelled energy pods was something more familiar. It was composed of an organic compound similar to a coconut. I started to cut my way in but then I spied a port of some type. Apparently I was literally crawling into the bowels of this creature because at one point it expelled a slimy paste all over me. I really hate being sticky or dirty. Wait, if the port was this creature's Anus, oh great then I was a Reaper suppository.

The next few minutes were fairly boring. All I did was take down a few dozen white blood cells, hollow out one of them inside and wear it for camouflage, hardly worth noting. After what seemed like an eternity I finally managed to find a bio-computer terminal. The dark Guardians are using this place as a cloning facility. Hmm, what's this, it says Reaper initiative. Does that mean they have a whole subdivision just for me? Let see, four modules down and three doors to the right. I'm glad this trip isn't a total bore after all. Now I know what you're thinking. Any sane, right thinking person would do the sensible thing and avoid a room filled with weapons designed specifically for them. But do you think there is any way that I'm not going in there? You know I have too.

Commentary

Agent Garos and Sedar looked at each other with glee, Reaper had taken the bait. "See Sedar I told you he couldn't resist. His clones will be waiting for him when he arrives and then the fun begins." Sedar wasn't impressed yet "the clones won't delay him for long, your plan better work or were both as good as dead." Just as expected Reaper found his way to the prepared room. Three copies of him were waiting on him to arrive with weapons in hand. Reaper scanned them and quickly assessed that they were of little threat. Reaper sighed and commented "I was almost touched that the dark guardians had a whole division just for me, but now I'm disappointed. Just you three, please tell me there's a whole squad waiting to burst in any second."

The clones didn't have all of Reapers strengths and enhancements but they did have his attitude. The first clone strolled right up to Reaper showing no fear or hesitation. He quickly examined Reapers bio-suit. "Nice costume, old man where'd you get it fuddy duddys are us." He taunted. "Yeah" the second chimed in. "Looks like you rolled around in a trash bin covered in bio-glue." While they were doing this the third clone was activating a weapon's consol. Reaper wasn't a bit fooled by this measly ploy. Granted he was self obsessed, but he wasn't stupid. "I know what you're doing. You're trying to distract me long enough for that twit over there to fire a weapon at me. Well go ahead, I'll wait." Reaper stated with confidence.

“Ok” the first one said.” Your funeral, if you want to make our jobs easier, all the better.” A six foot silver canon dropped out the ceiling and powered up. Reaper stood perfectly still with his arms crossed, daring them to knock him down. “Dibs on the suit” the third one stated. Reaper eyed him, and said “bring it.” As he stated this he made a come and get me gesture with one hand.

The canon fired a great blast. Reaper was surrounded by an envelope of high intense radiation. The spherical blast zone grew to envelope half the room. The energy became hot enough to partially melt a few metal plates under where Reaper stood. The clone’s uniforms were slightly burnt from the side heat. The three clones quickly backed away as the intensity increased. Firing the cannon drained all the available energy in the area for a few seconds. As a consequence all the lights went dark for a moment. When the lights flickered back on seconds later, Reaper was gone. Only a charred shadow on the floor remained. The three began to celebrate their victory. “Awe, there’s nothing left of the suit.” I knew full charge might be overkill.” The third clone complained. But their victory was cut short.

A voice rang out from all around “I am the terror that comes in the night, I am death, I am Reaper.” The three clones desperately scanned the room trying to find out where the voice came from. Reaper uncloaked and dropped from the ceiling in their midst. As he impaled the nearest clone with his claws he used the spikes on his boots to do the same for the one behind him at the same time. A few seconds later he finished off the third one without breaking a sweat.

“Oh, well” Reaper thought “play time is over, now down to the mission.” He quickly made his way to the cloning rooms which were close by and used his suit to shut down its controlling tech. According to his scans this room was part of the nebula creature owns reproductive system and should eventually return to normal once the foreign tech is removed. The room itself was a large hollow oval shaped compartment filled with a few dozen egg like structures. Some of them were glowing a yellow color that could have been easily mistaken for miniature suns. While others were a dim blue color, like the evening sky.

This part was easy, though a little boring. In just over half an hour all three cloning rooms were neutralized. He figured he had just one more important task before returning to his ship. He had better link with this facilities main data storage and see if there are any other facilities like this. This kind of thing wasn’t as exciting as fighting but Reaper was always thorough in his job.

Nebu-Love Part two

Reapers view

One last task and I’m out of here. I’d better hurry, I’m getting hungry. I could go for a burrito right now or some nachos. Most of the facility was organic tech designed to work in tandem with the creatures natural systems. Everything from heating and cooling to material transport was interwoven. Clean up crews could come in later and help free the creature from any residual tech after I was done. The main thing is I shut down their cloning process. I had to neutralize a dozen or so dark agents on the way but they were no real threat. I guess they were counting on the cannon take me out.

The core room was completely different than everything else around it. A thick metal sheet separated a single room from all others. A highly sophisticated computer connected to a generator was linked with this creature’s neural matrix. If this creature had any intelligence it was being suppressed by the tech in this room. It probably also accounted for why the foreign tech was not destroyed by its immune system. I was guessing the thick metal blocked the tech damping field in the entire nebula. I only know of two substances that can block such a damping field and both are rare. I need to make a tech suit of this stuff.

I download all the computer files before taking down a wall to shut the system down for good. Just as I suspected as soon as one of the walls were breached the generator and computer system were disabled. The neural matrix lit up with activity.

Suddenly I had a powerful voice in my head. "Thank you little one for your help. I am Eve the mother of the children of light. These terrible creatures trapped my mind and took over my body." So it was intelligent. Since I saved her, Eve filled me with more of her energy and imbued my Dna with some of hers. Now I could absorb some kinds of radiation, like she could, though not on the same scale. I'm not sure why but I liked Eve now. I got a new ability and a rare metal to make a great new weapon with. Not a bad haul at all.

Matt's comments

By the way in case anyone was interested, I'll tell you how Reaper resisted that cannon blast. Earlier he had used some of Eve's Dna to enhanced his bio-suit. Though she was being mostly suppressed, she recognized reaper could be the key to her freedom. While Reaper was linked to one of her systems, Eve changed his suit to be able to absorb her energy. The cannon blast was her energy. Fortunately reaper recognized the change in the suit soon enough to make good use of it.

Selar's comments

The dark guardians have suffered a major defeat last year, yet I can still feel a strong presence near. Although it's nice to be home, I have several unpleasant items to take care of.

New view

Etan's view

Later that evening Master Selar was working in one of the computer rooms. The door was open but I stopped at the entrance anyway and knocked. "I haven't called for you." he said. "Master Selar I respectfully request to ask you something." "What is it Etan?" He responded. I hated to ask this question but knew I must. "Do you still support me becoming a Guardian?" I asked. He turned around and looked sad. The first reaction I had seen in him in awhile. "I'm sorry Etan, the council has voted to stop your training. After this trip is over I am to return you to earth, like I found you." I was dumbfounded by his answer.

"But why?" I asked. "The prior situation was a test, and you failed. You choose to rebel and teach the young trainee anyway. In spite of the fact you knew we would not want you too." Selar explained. I was prepared for that argument. "You didn't command me not to help others." I defended. He shook his head "The letter of the law verses the spirit of the law, remember. I didn't command you not to do it, to see how you would react. To see if you would follow the spirit of the law, in spite of the fact of no command against it."

Something about this didn't feel right. "Why don't you ask that trainee, what he thinks?" I said "It made a difference to him. Maybe one day he will be a powerful Guardian." Selar shook his head again and said "I don't have to ask him, it was me in disguise." Omg Of course, Son-orc is Cronos backwards. I should have caught that. He was testing me, and I failed big time. There was nothing else I could say. He dismissed me and I went back to the dorm. I couldn't believe I had made it this far just to fail now. Well my whole life back on earth had been one failure after another; I suppose I should have seen this coming. I could understand why Selar was mad at me now, I was his first failure.

The next few days seemed torturously long. The work wasn't hard, just monotonous. Master Selar even had my silver uniform taken away. I may have failed this test but I had still earned the uniform. The only saving grace was Celestial and Vortex. They were always cracking jokes of some kind. After work the third day Celestial, who usually was the talkative one looked very serious. "I know you said they are sending you away but do you want to learn one last skill just for fun?" I shrugged "why not I haven't got anything to lose anyway. He took me to an isolated area outside of town. LT came along to watch.

Celestial went into teacher mode "I think I know why you have been having trouble with telekinetic. As a form changer you are used to looking inside yourself. But now you must look outside your body. It's the same skill just turn the angle

of sight around." I tried it and told him I could see the molecules in the air, like when I become air. He said "now look down further. Look smaller than the Atomic level. Go beyond the area of energy and matter conversion. Look smaller still. Down to where you see tiny vibrating strings. "I continued to shrink my vision until I could see the strings. I was amazed "this is like string theory. Earth scientist said there were tiny strings that held the universe together and linked all things." He instructed me on how to feel them with my mind. "Once you learn to feel them you won't need to see them anymore to access them." he explained.

I could see how the strings, like tiny spider webs connected all matter and energy in the universe together. I used a line of them to connect with some rocks on the ground. I could feel the rock as if were in my hand, the contours and hardness of it. Connecting to it felt similar as to when I was rock and connected with the ground at the volcano last year. This made me think of Argyle. It also reminded me of all the things I had been through to get here. What the counsel was doing was not right. What I did wasn't out of pride, it was out of concern for another Guardian. And even if it had been a mistake, I have proven myself many times already.

A fire swelled up in me ready to burst. The rock was still floating but so was a football ball field sized chunk of the ground. It was hovering 20 feet in the air just in front of us. Celestial stared in disbelief "It took me a few months of practice before I could pick up stuff that big." he said. I thought perhaps my practice with the elements had made it easier for me. LT spoke up "You have much more discipline and balance than he did at the same point. You seem to advance very quickly." Is that so I thought? Suddenly a realization hit me like a sledge hammer I knew what I had to do. I thanked Vortex for his help and LT for his comment and headed out.

Swarm agent 203 message

Target has been sighted. So far there has been no indication the Guardians have spotted me yet. There has been no opportunity to separate him from the group.

Celestials report

The last few days I have had a strong feeling someone is following me. I kept getting a glimpse of someone but I couldn't track him down. The only connection I could find was that it would always happen when LT was close.

Stating my case

Etans veiw

I quickly headed back to the palace ship. I knew where the two intergalactic communications consols were. I approached one of the consoles and took a deep breath steadying myself. This was a big risk. If this didn't work Selar would be furious with me. Whatever my punishment would be, it wouldn't be pleasant. I opened communications with the commander's palace ship. He was on the other side of the galaxy at the moment. He was scheduled to come to the home world next week, but I couldn't afford to wait till then. I signaled the ship and a person answered. I told them it was an emergency and I needed to speak directly with the commander. They all knew of me so it was granted. The commander appeared on the screen and looked curiously at me for a moment then asked what this was all about. "Commander, please forgive this intrusion. If you will give me just two minutes to plead my case I will never ask anything of you again." I said desperately. He looked at me expressionless for a moment.

In a blink I was in his chamber. Omg, he just teled me across the galaxy; I kept forgetting just how powerful these guys were sometimes. He spoke in my mind "what is it you wish to say." I made my case "I'm being sent away because I was told I failed a test. First of all I helped those students out of concern not pride. Even if somehow that was a failure how can you send me away for one mistake? I know I have a lot to learn, but I am what you're looking for in a Guardian. I care about people. I am willing to do anything you ask to still be one. I think what you're doing is unfair and unjust but I will take whatever punishment you deem necessary to continue working to be a Guardian. If Reaper were here he would say you guys were just a bunch of pompous god want to be's, is he right? Furthermore if you didn't think I was worthy why would you have given me a silver uniform this early? And how could I have used the prime matrix? I defeated an alternate universe self, stopped a interspacal fissure from destroying the universal bubble and

saved the timeline. How many more things will it take to prove I'm Guardian material?" An alarm went off behind him and he looked back to see. Once again he spoke without moving his mouth. "I have a few things to attend to this moment but I will continue this with you later." With that he teleported me back to the ship. He couldn't have taken just five seconds to say if he agreed with me or not? I was returned to the console I had been standing at. When I turned around Selar was waiting for me.

Selar's comments

Reaper made it back from his prior mission and joined us on Argaria. I sent him to a guardian war museum, I knew he would like that. Just as expected he stole a light crystal. He will need it soon. I put it there just for him to steal. The funny thing is he thinks he got away with it unnoticed. The agent I had been tracking left the planet shortly ago.

War museum Commentary

The one thing of interest on Argaria for Reaper was a museum that showed various wars that the Guardians had been involved in. The entrance was typical architecture for this planet. Argarians loved to build arches and smooth designs without sharp corners. Reaper mused that Etan would have loved to see this, he was sure. The front opened up into a large round atrium. In the middle of the room was a great fountain and coming from the pedestal was a towering tree. Various pads were scattered around for transport. A person could step on a pad state their desired destination and a large sphere like a soap bubble surrounded them carried them there. There were plenty of other ways to get around though this was considered to be the best one for touring various sites around Argaria.

Reaper's comments

That figure at the beginning of the war museum had a lecturer teaching a history lesson on how heroic the guardians were time after time. He droned on how everyone is evil except them. It wasn't interested in any Argarian propaganda. I just wanted to see some cool weapons and pictures of the battles. Ok, Ok I really just wanted to see how many times I was mentioned, you don't to be so pushy about it. I have to admit seeing how they have progressed in technology over time was slightly interesting. It seems they were average tech until thousands of years ago, they began the great link. That's when their technology grew in leaps and bounds. The great link is a conscious and subconscious link that all Argarians have with each other. They share memories and experiences. It seems the link is the key to all the Argarians power. After a few minutes I was bored of this line of thought so I searched out a computer terminal to find any reference to me. It showed only one place in the museum. It had better be a good one, if they only had one monument to me. I didn't bother to take one of their bubble rides, that is for kids and tourists.

The place that mentioned me was housed in one of the side facilities. The network of museums was quite extensive and had to be housed in many different buildings. My destination was a small room that explained the attempted invasion by the dark Guardians a few years ago. Etan and I were not allowed to speak about the intraversal bridge or the intravese. At the bottom of the display it listed Etan and I having contributed to the Guardians victory in that conflict. What? That was it? I saved the entire universe, I deserve better than this. I want a parade and a few statues. This will not do at all. To top all that, no one in the museum recognized me. I decided that the next time I saw him I would tell Selar that he needed to correct this grievous oversight. Everyone needs to fear the Reaper.

On my way out I realized I might be able to speed up the process of getting my way. I just needed to take some valuable item and hold it for ransom. Most of the museum here were just stupid plaques and displays but I know I've seen a few items on pedestals somewhere. As I was searching I spied a crowd gathered around one spot while a lecturer explained whatever boring subject he was teaching. On a pedestal near him was a fruit sized clear crystal. Maybe this was a trophy of war. It should be just valuable enough to hold hostage and just the right size I could carry out of here and hide it. Swiping it turned out to be easy; no one even looked my way. Ok, next on my list show this off to Etan.

Storms and surges

Etan's view

Selar grabbed me by the collar on my shirt and teled me to the shuttle bay. He pushed me in the shuttle, Reaper was there. "Take him back to earth. Drop him off to the place I have indicated on your instructions. I will come get him and take him back to his time later." We lifted off and Reaper didn't say anything to me for awhile. This wasn't right, I didn't care what they said, what I did was a good thing. I was straining my brain trying to think of some solution to this.

Reaper cheering me up "Hey look what I got from a guardian museum." He held up some kind of glowing crystal. Ordinarily I would have fussed at him for his theft, but right now I didn't care. We were about half way back to earth when we were attacked. There was a one man fighter behind us and closing, fast. Reaper did a good job of avoiding most of the shots but we couldn't avoid them forever. We were forced to land on nearby planet.

It was a stormy world, barren and barely breathable. We landed and looked out the window. The whole sky was filled with swirling clouds. According to the computer records this planet was sometimes used as training grounds for silvers, though we were the only ones here right now. A dark flash appeared behind us. There was a black cloaked man. "Well, well, well, what do we have here?" I see an amateur assassin and a little boy playing God." Reaper puffed up "Who are you calling an amateur you pompous wind bag?" I looked at Reaper, offended "What about my part?" He shrugged "He had your part right." he said smiling, something's never change.

"You have been a lot of trouble to me." The man said. Reaper looked at me with amusement. "Etan you get that a lot, have you noticed that? Two alternate versions of yourself and an alternate me said that to you too. You must be a real trouble maker." I thought really, did he just say that. "If I am it's all your fault. You've been a bad influence on me." I jabbed him back. "Well thanks, good to know you're not completely hopeless anymore." he said back. The man was listening to our conversation the whole time and seemed amused by this. He held his hand out and shot me with dark energy. And then shot Reaper with some other type of energy. He could have killed me right then and there but was obviously playing with me. "If you're wondering how I knew you were here. I've had an agent following you for some time. I have been waiting on the right situation to trap you." Reaper spouted off with "You puffed up, second hand super villain. Why don't you go take on a full guardian or are you too scared?" He really knew how to turn a phrase. Second hand super villain, I would have to remember that one for later. The man didn't get riled over reaper's insult; instead he just laughed a dark cackle.

Matt reminded me of the crystal Reaper stole. I needed to remind Reaper without the man in black catching on. "It's too bad you didn't bring along any useful weapons from home world. Not that Argaria has many weapons. But knowing you, I bet you would have stolen one if there was." I hoped he would get the context. The crystal was actually just a light battery, but it would do. The man shook his head. "A weapon wouldn't have done you any good anyway." He fired near us a few times making us jump out the way. He didn't seem to be trying to hard very hit us.

With his right hand he let lose an energy bolt that knocked Reaper back to the shuttle. He drained me to the point where I couldn't stand. "Since you have been so much a pain, I'll make you my slave. Let you work off your debt to Me." the man said. He walked over to me and picked up my limp body and said "now let's practice saying yes master." While he did this, Reaper came up behind him with the light battery. The man turned around and hit reaper hard for a second time. The battery cracked and exploded in a light compression wave. The man in black was knocked out this time. Reaper grabbed ahold of me, and drug me to the shuttle. He fired the shuttles weapons on the man, dispersing him. Hopefully that would delay him long enough for us to get away.

After a few minutes I recovered enough to stand. "Too bad you don't have the Prime matrix anymore; you could have beaten that guy easy." Reaper commented. "Yeah that was fun, when I had it; I could do the same stuff as a Regent." I replied. Then it hit me, I knew what I had to do. I searched through the navigational computer for what I was looking for. "Change course, were not going to earth anymore. Go to these coordinates." I said pointing to the display. Reaper was always up for defying the guardian council's wishes. I had Reaper bring me within sight of the disk of a black hole. I calculated that it would take just over three minutes for me to reach the event horizon. Black holes were as dangerous to space as volcanoes were to planets. I entered into the escape pod and told Reaper if I didn't return in ten minutes he should, because I would be dead anyway. I tried to be as prepared as possible. I brought along a time altering device

that was used when dealing with black holes or other similar phenomenon. Nearly all transports have them to counter the time warping effects.

"As soon as the escape pod was away Matt finally spoke again. "What are you doing?" Perfect I had him worried. "You know very well what I'm doing. I'm not going back to earth and have my time reset. The only way out of this is if you put me in contact with the prime matrix. Your apart of it, I know you can." Matt would not budge. "I can't do that" he said. "I responded with confidence "I'm ready to die. Are you? All the things we have been through can't you grant this one thing, this one time." I could sense Matt's annoyance "What your planning won't work." he answered. "I don't care; I want you to do it anyway." "Fine, but you'll see I'm right."

The prime matrix spoke in my mind. Its voice carried power. It made my whole body shake. "I am the Guardian core." Then it paused reading my mind "what you want will not work." I wasn't about to give up that easy "I want to do it anyway." I said being very determined. "I could give you the knowledge but you don't have the power. And the place where you are, no guardian can access the light stream. Black holes disrupt the process. "I didn't know that actually, but that might work in my favor too. I continued on "Then you will have to come here, and join with me. If not in a few minutes this part of you will die and so will I. And I know not even guardian can go into an event horizon." "Your being very foolish." it said. I knew I probably was, but this gamble had to pay off. It was all or nothing. "I have less than 30 seconds to go before the event horizon and even if you tell Selar now, I doubt he will reach me in time." I stated defiantly. I was planning to join with the prime matrix and create a time anchor so no one could move me out of this time. It would keep them from undoing what I had accomplished before. "That is where you're wrong he is already there." The prime matrix stated. He uncloaked, just sitting in a chair on the other side of the pod. He waved his hand and we were transported away.

The council

Reaper and I were standing in the crystal chamber of Selar's palace. The commander was on a throne and so were Selar and Rigel. He was also a regent just like Selar. While Selar wore wizard style robes, Rigel's style was that of the Grecian culture. I have only had a chance to speak with him once or twice but he seemed to be a likable person.

The commander focused on me. "Now we can finish that discussion we were having earlier." Reaper had a look that said what? What did I miss? "What do you have to say for yourself?" Selar asked. I was really ticked off "What I have to say is you have no right telling me that I can't train any more. How many times have I proven myself over and over? I will be a good guardian? I care about people. I am willing to learn. I am willing to sacrifice myself for the cause. What more will it take?" Selar sighed "There is more to being a guardian than just that. Look at yourself, your shaking with anger, is that anyway for a guardian to act?"

That argument wasn't good enough for me. "Ok, fine I got some more growing up to do, but that doesn't mean you can just kick me out." Selar shook his head sadly. "I'm sorry to tell you but I have seen failure in your future." I couldn't accept that explanation, Selar can only see what can happen not what will happen. So I boldly stated "I don't accept that, I might die in the fight but I will live or die as a guardian, period." I told him "Sorry but that's not what your futures say." He stated. "Well, you're wrong this time." I said defiantly. "You tell them pebbles." Reaper chipped in helpfully. He got a look from Selar that said shut up. They had backed me in the corner, so I went for broke. "Tell you what" I said "Then, lets fight. Give me the Prime matrix so were on even ground and I'll wipe the floor with you. If I can beat Reapers sneakiness I think I can take you. When you lose you have to let me stay, deal?" Reaper looked shocked and said whispered to me "OMG you just challenged Selar to a fight. I don't know if you're brave or stupid but I like it." Selar and the commander looked at each other in disbelief. Apparently that was not in a timeline they expected. Then the commander changed to a look of amusement. Selar shook his head and smiled. Cronos Rigel chuckled and stated "It takes me and the other two Regents to take on Selar. " Was he serious? Did he just say it would take the three other Regents working together to match Selar. Dang! He is more powerful than I ever knew. I spoke again "Then give me some way to earn the right to stay. Whatever it takes I will do." Selar closed his eyes and concentrated on something. The commander looked at him and asked "Has it changed?" Selar nodded yes.

Reaper looked just as confused as me. So I asked the question "What are you guys talking about? Selar answered "Sometime back I had seen that in the future you would be discouraged and leave. A Guardians life is a hard one. Sometime no matter what he does a Guardian can be hated or blamed for trouble. It was important that you over come certain problems now before that happens. There are several situations that you will do that are for the good of the people but they will hate you for it, for a time. When you took on some of Argyles spirit you also took on some of his timedness. But now you have over come that." So what about when I helped the trainee's?" I asked. "It was fine" Selar answered "But it gave us an opportunity to put you in a situation that was unfair to you. You fought for what's right and never gave up." Rigel still seemed amused by all this. "I particularly liked his black hole strategy. If Selar had been preoccupied at the time, it could have actually worked." Selar himself was still trying to hide a slight smirk.

"So I'm not actually in trouble then?" I asked again. Rigel walked over and said "No, it was a way to force you to over come a tendency for self despondency. I felt very relieved. "We cannot teach anyone anything; we can only make them think." Rigel said to me. I had heard that quote before. It took me a second to remember where. "That was almost an exact quote from an earth philosopher called Socrates." I shared this with Rigel. I loved history so I knew some of his famous quotes. "Yeah I remember him, who do you think he got it from?" Rigel stated causally Naturally, I thought, I should have guessed. More and more I realized over time much of our culture throughout history had come from the Guardians. "I'll have to remember to tell Celestial, Vortex and Lt thanks, for their help and support. Reading my mind again Selar said " Their here too." Celestial and vortex walked up from behind. But Lt wasn't with them?" Selar stated with a smile. " LT is already here, I was him. Someone had to guide you in the right direction." Yet another surprise "So you were both my Judge and my advocate?" I asked out of habit. Reaper apparently found that funny "Yeah he played both sides of the field on that one. Got you good pebbles." he said smiling.

I only had one more item to take care of. "Here you can take this wretched thing back" I grabbed the matrix and held it out. "It's a fair weather friend, it is only helpful when times are good, but is silent when I need it the most." But he zipped back inside me of his own accord. "Then he said internally "I am silent only when it is in your best interest to be so. I am here to help you, even when you don't understand." Selar smiled understandingly "You might as well accept him, he's not going to leave, and he is there to stay." The council disappeared and then Selar teled everyone else away leaving just me and him. " Etan I know this was hard to go through. But I did it for your long term benefit. It may be difficult to believe right now, but it's true. Now that I had vented all that built up anger I felt numb and didn't know what to say. Selar saved me the trouble of asking what's next.

"We've got a few more hours of charity to do then your free for the rest of the stay here." he said " what's the work this time" I wondered. "He smiled and said "well, you said you wanted to wipe the floors with me, so floors it is." Now I felt a bit embarrassed over the whole situation though I did ask him" How do you know it would take all three regents to equal you?" He chuckled and said "you and Reaper are not the only ones to spar. Sometime they win, some times I do, but most of the time it's an even match." I knew he was powerful but I had no idea he was evenly matched with three regents at the same time. As we set off he chuckled to himself slightly and said "Wipe the floors with me, that kills me." I thought, man I'm never going to live that down am I?

Dark swarm report

Both Primary goals achieved. Lifeform added to main water supply and phase one of solar inhibitor in place. While Selar and the others were concentrating on guiding thier new guardian trainee we were able to slip in unnoticed. It is unfortunate that the secondary goal of taking out the Guardian trainee was not achieved. Kane clone 3 got over confident and waited to long to act. The Reaper body guard had some kind of Guardian weapon that dispersed the clone entirely. We will have to wait until another opportune moment to catch him unprepared. Now that the Guardians are over confident in thier previous victory it is time to begin project land mine. Only phase cloak able ships are to be used in thier deployment.

Part two

One big family

Alsea's journal

I've only been to the Argarian home world a few times. It still takes my breath away. I was invited to a cultural exchange meeting on the second day. I introduced all the girls to the make-up, cosmetics, and the accessories I had gotten from earth. If earth ever joins the planetary alliance, it should be a very popular shopping and vacation spot. There is one thing strange though. I kept getting the feeling I was being watched everywhere I went. I couldn't catch anyone staring or following me, but it was really creepy. On a better note I went to Selar to insist he find a way to help poor Etan considering what they were putting him through. After he explained the situation I had to agree but I still didn't like it. Selar already had a plan to help Etan in secret by disguising himself as a silver guardian. He would secretly give him advice to set him in the right direction. I swear that man thinks of everything.

Reaper comments

The last week on Argaria was interesting but I'm ready to get back in action. It was odd though, I could swear I was being followed. I cloaked a few times and looked around but didn't see anyone suspicious at first, if someone was following me their good, very good. The last day I was there I caught a glimpse of someone in a grey coat eyeing me. After a little investigation there were several others scattered about in the same gray coat. That would not have been odd except all the men looked exactly alike. Obviously clones of some type. When I reported this to Selar he was already aware of thier presence.

I's comments

While I was enjoying a break I kept a close eye on Reaper, I knew he would find some way to cause trouble. The little rogue stole a Guardian item out of a museum. I started to go get it back but Selar stopped me, he said he had placed it there for him to take. While trailing Reaper, I discovered one man in grey trailing him. I walked over to see what this was about and he turned around and disappeared in the crowd. He obviously used some type of transporter to get away, I find it strange no one noticed or remembered him. I asked several people but no one knew who I was talking about.

Selar's conversation

While Selar was meditating on the newly forming timelines a shadowy figure appeared before him. "Well, well, well, you think you're so smart don't you?" Kane said. Selar wasn't about to get provoked by that feeble attempt "What you do want this time Kane?" Selar asked. "Just that saving Etan now won't matter. Since he won't quit I'll just have to kill him myself. "Selar eyed him" you try a head to head confrontation with him and I'll stop you myself. You've tried that before remember?" Selar said. Kane wasn't intimidated " No matter how may times you delay us, we will keep coming back. Eventually you'll slip up and we will take over the galaxy." Kane bragged. Selar responded with "According to the timelines now, in just over 500 years you get defeated by Etan, so the clock is ticking. When he defeats you will never be a dark guardian again."

"I can play that game too" Kane said "I'm not as good as you on seeing the future but I know its not set yet, just possibilities. And that's assuming he makes it to a guardian. A lot can happen in 500 years you know. He he." Selar shook his head "You know our deal. You can't take him on personally until he gets to be a full planetary Guardian, or else I come and eliminate you myself. I know exactly where you are right now, or do I need to pay you a visit?" Kane stopped in his tracks "No need to be rude" Kane said backing away from Selar. Then Kane continued "We have other means, he got lucky this time, but luck is a fickle thing. Just remember this, no matter what plans you stop, we have 1000 other plans in action around the galaxy, even you can't be everywhere at once." "Be gone foul demon, before I find a reason to be on that side of the galaxy." Selar stated. Kane looked angry but left anyway.

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

