

Dynasty Steel

~By Kaden Cheung

Human Year 45 AD
Everlasting year 12 DA

Dear Saturn, God of our Time Realm,

Of course, you know about the raging hundred-year war between the Fire Nation and the Water Nation. And of course, you know I am on the human side, the Fireside. Five days ago, I was deployed in a search and salvage crew to hunt and collect resources for the army division. Our job was to travel through Titan's passage on upper earth to retrieve the Titan's forge—where the most powerful and ancient weapons were made—and bring it back to the Fire Nation. These weapons would allow us to turn the tide of this endless war.

While walking through a forest with my comrades, I was distracted by massive trees and a strange glow surrounding me as I hurried along the path. The ground shivered under every step I took and the flaring sun poisoned my skin. *This forest must be haunted*, I thought. Then I saw something strange—a light, but not just any light, it was a light fused with darkness. This dark light created a vibrating shimmer as I walked towards it. It became so colourful and bright that the surrounding flowers rapidly bloomed, moss flourished on the rocks, and the woodland creatures joyfully danced to the peaceful rhythm of the light. The joy I felt watching it was impeccable and astonishing. Then the glow started to shrink. The light finally vanished. Beneath it lay the dead darkness. All those peaceful moments lay like a wet towel, the darkness swallowing them. I stepped back hoping to find a way to get out of this nightmare darkness. I looked and listened for my comrades. I searched. Soon I realized I was lost, the light mesmerized me and I did not know where I was, or what time it was.

Down a dark lane of gargantuan trees, I could see red eyes glowing in that pitch, and with an eerie smile, whatever was stalking me lunged at me with full force. I was blown back and knocked out. When I woke up on the forest floor, I wondered, *was that a giant skeleton spirit like the ones I had heard about roaming these long-lost places?* My comrades told stories of skeleton spirits at night, saying after a massive war dead gods wandered in these parts. Until now, I never believed them. Yet, I ignored these thoughts and decided to continue.

As I emerged from the forest and saw a deep ravine, and across it, the Titan's Shrine lay on a mountainside. It was surrounded by massive spikes and clouds hovering over mountain peaks. Luckily there was a bridge connecting the two sides. I crossed carefully because the ropes looked old and creaked like old guitar strings.

I scrambled up the mountain rock face and reached the front of the shrine. There was a huge stone pedestal and a sword stuck into it. *Could this be the sword that might turn the tides of the war?*

I was told a fallen Titan's rib cage would surround the shrine but instead, a mini temple was surrounded by a wall with carved battle scenes. I saw the terrified faces of fallen soldiers dying all around the shrine's walls.

I walked up to this sword in the stone and saw ancient patterns along the side of the pedestal and on the sword's blade. I knew the patterns were linked to a blood activation seal. I bit my finger until I could taste metallic blood. I dripped blood over the engraved patterns of the sword and rubbed blood on the pedestal. The blood began to flow on its own and slowly traveled to the middle of the seal. All the patterns glowed as blood traveled to the pictures,

lighting them until the whole shrine was bright. I heard a deep voice in my head tell me a grave story, "During the Titan's war, so many lives were lost, and the end of the world was near. But while the chaos was swirling, a boy named Spock, the son of Saturn, was called by the humans to help stop the war before the Titans were extinct. He agreed and offered to use his ancient weapon to split their dimension and banish the Titans to a parallel dimension. But the Titans refused as this was their holy land and they did not want half of their world to be cut off. In anger, Spock plunged his sword into this stone and opened a gateway sending the Titans to another dimension forever. But slowly little cracks at the dimension's gate started to form and evil seeped out spreading evil to the human side." Suddenly, the story stopped.

I walked to the sword examining it wondering if I could pull it out with all my force. I tugged the sword and the metal blade was quickly surrounded by the dark light I saw earlier in the forest. The power of it travelled into my body. I started to feel intense greed and an aching kind simultaneously.

The shrine said, "You are Spock's brother. Take your rightful place.

I fell back with the sword in my hand. His legacy was mine!

I looked back at the stone and saw dark vines creep out of the ground and evil started to spread, a black tar oozed from the cracks of the shrine. The portal must be breaking down even more! I ran to the stone and tried to plunge the sword back into its place. But I could not.

I ran back to my base camp with incredible strength in my legs. I hid the sword and I write to you now. I write to you because I now know you lead me to the stone with that dark light. I know I'm your son. I need a teacher to help me control the sword of Azarth and I know you can teach me. Father. Please help me.

Your son,
Eastwood