

The Rise of the Legions

Chapter One: The Rally

~By Kaden Cheung

In all their tribal battle robes and majestic armour of gold and steel, the Fire and Earth legions assembled at the Shrine of the Mystics—the sacred meeting place where the Gods always commissioned their legions on holy crusades in the mortal world. The shrine was composed of ancient stones engraved with ancient symbols of the Galuthrian people who lived before the great reset. The pedestal before the monoliths was lit with an eternal blue flame. Soldiers, veterans, and citizens would often come to leave offerings, thanking the gods for the trust they were given extraordinary power during The Great Reset.

The Fire and Earth legions had been no strangers to God-given battle orders since The Great Reset, when the gods gave them the sacred, legendary weapons to restart humanity and bring peace to their people. Together, these two great nations had already worked to eliminate evil from their new earth. The Fire and Earth soldiers worshipped their two great Kings—the strongest military generals in the RMA (Royal Mystics Army)—who fought beside their men in every battle. Terravane ruled the Zythari Earth people, the mountain tribe, while Edric ruled the Vorintha Fire people, the best weapon smiths, whose military creations harnessed the sun's power.

Surrounding the holy Shrine, they camped for five days, waiting for the impending message. The gods discussed whether they should trust the legions or descend to earth and fight for themselves. After all, if the earthly warriors lost, the solar weapons would fall into the hands of the enemy, and untold hordes of evil could reign again. Finally, the golden-winged messenger, Caelus, was sent to retrieve the two armies.

As he descended to the altar, Caelus flapped his tremendous wings with extraordinary force. He covered the armies in rays of blinding blue and yellow light that lifted the legions heavenward, piercing the clouds and placing them on the horizon of Kythril before the city of the gods. As the legions landed, they saw the jewelled city of high towers that competed with the mountain tops. Marching in their squadron formations, they finally arrived at the golden gates. The heroes were escorted through the vast castle filled with many ancient items the legions had never seen before: warrior portraits, winning weapons, and sculptures dating back before The Great Reset.

As they entered the meeting room, the legions were hit with a staggering yellow light that crashed onto glistening marble columns, gold leaf ceiling mouldings, and rich paintings that symbolized the great battle stories throughout the eras of these gods. The gods' tribunal was at the centre: all deities sitting on gold and diamond thrones. Immediately, the legions took a knee, showing their reverence for these mighty beings. The commanding god, Prometris, stood up from his golden chair.

Whenever Prometris spoke, his words echoed through the tribunal room and throughout the kingdom below. "Rise, my heroes, for this is your final test of loyalty. Secure your place in our kingdom by wielding the sacred and solar weapons to protect your people from the wrath of the demon king, Bellizrath. He has threatened our world by stealing the sacred, legendary trident of the seven seas and now has the power to manipulate water." Prometris adjusted his armour and sword before showing a very worried expression.

Detoruis, commander of the RMA, spoke, "You have made an oath to fight for the greater good of our world. This is a time of crisis. Bellizrath seeks to destroy the very soil you stand on. Our scouts have told us that the trident is located in the depths of the Kater chasm."

He continued, "Bellizrath is too weak to wield it, so he attacks our coastal cities, syphoning jewel power, and bides his time. As we know, our enemy hoards are vulnerable; we must attack before they reach full strength. We need the wielders of the legendary weapons to lead the charge and kill the demon king before it is too late."

Terravane and Edric stepped towards the centre of the tribunal. They raised their weapons high, then laid them at the gods' feet, showing they accepted the mission. The gods raised their hands in unison and launched a ray of light, burning a mark on each of the heroes' hands, showing that after their service in battle, they would be given an honorable discharge.

Addikus, general of the Royal Airborne unit, had no medals on his golden breast plate as he hated drawing attention to his glory. His robes were made out of the finest, simplest silk, and he spoke with a menacing tone, "Before we rush to conclusions, we must accept that no mistakes with legendary weapons can ever be made. One small error could lead to Bellizrath having three legendary weapons." The gods around the room nodded in agreement.

Detoruis, in his blood-red robes and chest plate of diamonds, rose from his throne and raised his hand, shushing the crowds. "Even though the risk is high, who else will face these demons? We must invade the enemy base and destroy their fortress. I propose our main priority is to take control of the Great Wall, which will allow my portal to be stationed there, transporting new troops to the front lines every few minutes.

After hearing this, the gods agreed that this was the only option; Prometris and all the other gods raised their hands in approval.

Addikus tried to protest, but it was too late already. The gods had chosen what would happen next, although Addikus despised the plan of using legendary weapons in this battle.

Over 10 thousand soldiers marched alongside Terravane and Edric's battalions as the army left the tribunal of the gods. Prometris raised his hand and cast a spell over them as they marched down the holy mountain, back to the shrine. When they arrived, all the soldiers were transported through Detorius's spirit portal, landing them on the battlefield, where the fate of the world was to be decided.

