

OUTER WORLD

R E S O L U T I O N



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"What do you think happened, Davari?" Samir asked his older brother.
"What could have destroyed the world?"

"I don't know. But I sure do have my suspicions." He replied.

The two boys found themselves in a piece of the world they were forbidden to ever see. One where there were once signs of thriving life. Skyscrapers stood tall with blown-out windows in most of the structures. Those that still stood almost seemed like they were leaning.

"We have never gone this far away from the colony before. I think we should head back." Samir said as his wide eyes scanned the environment for danger. He reached up to wipe the sweat from his head, glad he had just recently gotten a haircut to keep cool. The day's heat was sweltering, causing the heatwaves to ripple everything in sight.

Samir was a small kid. He didn't have as much height as his older brother, Samir. The two boys appeared as if they hardly ever ate. Their clothes, drenched against their light-brown skin. Samir pulled on the leather strap that went across his chest, hoisting a canteen to his face. He gave it a vigorous shake to check its contents. But it was empty.

"We can't go back yet," Davari said to him.

"Why? We might run into some big trouble out here, brother!" Samir tried to reason with him.

"Mother Lindus thinks she can keep embarrassing me like that! I might just find somewhere else to go!"

"Where, Davari! Look around you!"

Davari's head fell as he found a spot in the shade and sat down. Samir followed and sat next to him. They looked out into the ruined city in front of them in silence.

"I often imagine sometimes what happened here," Davari said.

"The teachers told us what happened. God came and destroyed mankind because of their sins." Samir said to him.

"Nobody can give us any details, though. Where are the details?"

"I don't know."

Samir started to think about his brother's question. He knew Davari had a point. Up until now, they were told that God destroyed Earth. But Samir had other ideas of what happened. Unfortunately, he had no proof.

"Samir, you ever wonder where we came from?" He asked. Samir could do nothing but stare at the ground.

"I do." He finally answered.

"We were told that our parents left us at the colony."

"It's been nine years."

"We need to find them. But Mother Lindus has been keeping their identities away from me."

"Why would you even want to find them?"

"Because something doesn't add up, Samir!" He barked as he jumped up from the ground. "I can't think of one memory of our parents!"

"Maybe you were just too young."

Davari ran his fingers through his shoulder-lengthed hair in frustration.

"I'm fourteen, Samir. Don't you think separating from one's parents and being dropped off in Karaan is traumatic enough to remember?"

Samir did not entertain with an answer. He looked away as if he was ignoring him.

"If God did this, why are there forbidden text in the colony?" He asked. Still, Samir didn't say a word. "I think Mother Lindus is hiding something."

"Please, Brother, not this again," Samir said as he got up and walked back toward the colony.

"What do you mean, not this again?" Davari said as he ran around his little brother.

The two boys stared at one another, both angry.

"Your conspiracy nonsense is the reason you are in this situation," Samir said to him.

"Really," Really, brother? How dare you?" Davari said.

"Davari, I can't keep running into danger with you every time you become upset with our reality! I think it's time to accept what is!"

"This is not reality, Samir! Can't you see they are lying to us?"

"Maybe. But they also feed us and protect us from the beasts. That for some reason we keep leaving the protection to see!"

Samir walked away from his brother again. Davari just held his head in shame, contemplating the reasons to go back. Until they both heard a hissing howl from the city. Davari's eyes grew wide. Samir looked back at him with fear in his expression.

"That's a new one," Davari said. "And it sounded close."

"Davari, let's go!" Samir demanded.

"No, I have to see it. It might give me the answers I need."

Davari ran toward the sound.

"Davari, what are you doing? We gotta go!" Samir yelled. Unfortunately, his older brother would not listen. Davari ran to the intersection and found it on the next street.

"HEY UGLY, OVER HERE!" He screamed into the city. Samir's heart sank into his stomach as he slowly walked backward, watching his brother. Suddenly, he could hear footsteps. Whatever approached them was huge.

"Davari, please! You've proved your point already!"

"Samir, hang on! It's almost here!"

Suddenly a giant blade came darting down to the ground behind a building in the distance. It hit the ground so hard that it tremored, and debris popped up into the air. A second landed shortly after, followed by dark arms that were physically attached to the ends of the scythe-like blades and the head of the most enormous demon the brothers had ever seen.

Its huge snake-like body came from behind the building. It had a cobra-like hood and a mouth as tall as Davari, lined with razor-sharp teeth. Its eyes glowed a bright red color they could still see despite the harsh sunlight. Its body was covered in shiny black scales and a yellow glowing mark that seemed to start at its forehead and travel along its back.

"That one's new!" Davari said with excitement.

"Run!" Samir chimed in as he tugged on his brother's arm.

The two ran away from the beast. Davari taunted it as they fled. The monster slithered after them at a speed neither of the boys assumed it could move. As they ran through the ruined streets of the city, the beast inevitably caught up to them. They tried to cut around a corner as it approached but was immediately cut off. The blade of its arm slammed down directly behind them, and the shattering pavement around Davari's feet made him fall.

The kid rolled over and looked up at the beast. The sun shining in his eyes only made the beast appear as a silhouette. It roared as it lifted its other arm, prepared to slam it down into Davari. This had become real all of a sudden. What started as fun and games had quickly turned deadly.

Davari screamed as the blade came crashing down toward him. But Samir quickly grabbed and pulled him away.

"Come on!" He yelled at his older brother. The two boys continued as the beast had to pry its blade out of the ground. It roared as they proceeded to get away.

The boys found the hidden passage between two buildings that led them inside the colony's exterior walls and made their way through it. The beast tried to follow, even reaching its blade inside to get them. However, it was far too large. Eventually, it gave up and left.

"Where is it going?" Davari asked.

"Who cares? As long as it's not behind us!" Samir responded as they continued running down the alleyway. In the end, they approached the colony's perimeter. They were now close enough to not be spotted by the guards up top. The boys ran between the building and the wall to reach a set of steps leading to an access hatch. All they had to do was make a run for it and get to the access hatch.

The boys ran towards the steps. This left them vulnerable and out in the open. They heard the monster roar, and before long, it turned the corner and headed for the fortress. The guards on top of the wall had opened fire on the beast at this point. It was enough commotion for the boys to rush up the steel steps without getting noticed. The beast roared as the bullets seemed to hold it back for a moment.



The creature stopped for a moment and leaned backward as it held its blades up. The kids got into the access hatch and watched it.

"What is it doing?" Davari asked.

"Dying, I hope," Samir said. Suddenly, the creature spouted a black, liquid substance into the air. As it splashed onto every surface in front of it, the gunfire slowed. The sound of men screaming pierced their confidence in making it out alive. If this creature were to infiltrate the colony, hundreds of innocent people would be killed. Thus, making Davari and Samir the reason another colony dies.

The monster tried to make a run to the colony again. This time, the gunfire was more plentiful. The beast seemed to be affected by their efforts. Yet, still, it drew near. The two boys screamed as it approached, seemingly coming straight toward them only. Suddenly, something big was shot at the beast. On impact, its entire head exploded.

Its internals landed on everything in front of its body. Davari shielded his little brother from the ooze. The gunfire had stopped, and the remains of the creature's body slammed to the pavement below. Samir felt his brother trembling.

"Davari, you okay?"

"We got his ass!" A soldier up top cheered. The other soldiers joined in his cheer as they all removed their helmets.

"Alright, anyone gets hit by the goop?" He asked. A few men nodded.

"Anyone hurt?" Everyone shook their heads.

"Mostly armor damage, chief." Another man answered.

"Good job, men."

"Hey, what the hell is happening?" A man asked as he looked over the edge of the wall onto the monster's body.



The creature they just killed had a black, smoke-like substance emerging from it below.

"It looks like it's decomposing." A man said.

"Quick, somebody get the doctor!" The chief called out.

Moments later, after the doctor arrived and took notes on what he saw, the creature's body burst into black smoke and vanished. Nothing else was left of it. None other than the tracks in the ground from its deadly blades. The man and chief descended from the tower to discuss what they saw.

"Dr. Porter, what did you think of that?" He asked the doctor.

"I'm so glad you called me up here, Mr. Cohler! I have never seen a species such as that one! Especially not that big!"

The chief removed his helmet from his head and wiped the sweat from his forehead. He held an uncomfortable grin on his face as he looked off into the distance.

"I have to say, Doc, if they get any bigger, we are gonna have a problem." He said.

"I understand." The doctor said as he looked down at his notes.

"If these things keep popping up, we are going to run out of artillery. I don't think I have to tell you what happens next." The large rugged man said as he approached the doctor. He was a caucasian male with a muscular physique. The strongest in the whole colony, actually. His jawline was even stronger than most men's entire bodies. The white-haired, mustached man looked up at Chief Cohler with annoyance in his expression.

"No, not at all, my boy. I can only do what I can." The doctor said to him.

"Yeah, same."

The doctor stepped around him and gave him a gentle tap on the arm. Chief Cohler turned around, seeming desperate.

"Doc, talk to Mother Lindus. If we can get her to sign off on it, we can open up a supply route to the next colony. I hear they build the product there." Chief requested.

"You know that Mother Lindus will not budge on that." The doctor said as he looked down to the floor.

"She has to! Do you people think this is a joke?"

Out of frustration, the doctor turned around and approached Cohler again with rage in his eyes.

"Boy, I need you to understand how this works! You don't go to Lindus for anything!" Dr. Porter said.

"And why not? Is that not what it means to be a Colony Leader?"

"Watch your tongue Cohler!" The man wagged his finger at the chief. Cohler smiled as he looked down at the small man.

The doctor calmed himself, popped the collar on his white lab jacket, and stood back.

"Why are you so determined to have this?" He asked the chief. The chief reached into his vest pocket and pulled out a photo looking at it longingly. He passed it over to Dr. Porter, and he lifted his glasses to his forehead to look.

"I want answers too." He told the doctor.

"And God will give you the answers you seek when you're ready, son."

"And who on Earth judges when I'm ready?"


Dr. Porter stepped away.

"All I want to know is where I came from, Doc," Cohler said to him. The old man stopped walking for a moment.

"Don't we all, son... Don't we all." Porter said as he started to walk again

"It's been nine years now. When will we admit that this way isn't working?"

"Whenever we are told to." Dr. Porter said as he walked away from him.



Upset, Cohler snaps and punches the sheet metal wall repeatedly, making a dent in the wall. He looked down at the picture once more, and a tear fell from his eye.

"I will figure out who you are and where you are. I promise." He placed the photo back into his vest pocket and wiped his face. He headed to the ladder close by and climbed back up to the top of the wall. Meanwhile, a listening Davari and Samir sat in wait, listening to everything that was said. Samir looked at his older brother that seemed a bit out of it for a moment.

"You still consider what I said as nonsense, brother?"

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