

The End of An Age (Part III)

The sand shifted as four individuals stepped over a high dune. The view quickly changed from dunes and endless sands to a castle so close yet so hidden in the desert surrounding it. It was still dark although the night was almost at its end. The four walked adjacent to each other each caring of their footing aware of their surroundings. The first wearing a blue hued armor, shiny in appearance he was a Knight, his name Galek. Next to him was a girl, she wore a dress, white, she was a Priestess her name was Salene. To her side was another female, a warrior, her armor covered less of her body but it was to her advantage, she was an Atalanta, her name was Ceria. Another male opposite the knight, he a Mage, his robe covering all but his hands and face, his name Kigam. Each had a weapon of choice, the knight, a sword and shield, the priestess, a wand, the Atalanta, a javelin and shield, the mage, a wand as well.

As they approached the castle they noticed that a horrible battle had taken place there. Bodies all of them creatures of stories told to scare children, ugly, vile, evil. As they picked their way through the maze of death the knight whom was leading noticed two bodies that stood out. Calling out he ran ahead jumping when a severed extremity got in his way. As he came upon the first body he could tell without doubt it was human, like he, a man, a fighter. Kneeling down beside the fallen man he reached out and closed his eyes. The other joined him and lowered their heads they all wondered the same thing, who was this man, his armor was nothing they had seen before. As Galek stood the priestess yelled.

“Another, he’s alive!” Salene yelled as she ran past the others toward another fallen man whom she could sense was alive.

As she came near she moved his hands together as a purple light expanded beneath her and a slight wind ruffled her dress. The man was bathed in a blue light, the cuts on his face closing and the larger wounds pulling together. The only sign that any wounds had been dealt was the damage to his armor. The others joined her and looked down at the man, his eyes were still closed. Before anyone could speak she moved her hands again and the man was bathed in blue one more time this time he reacted.

Vage opened his eyes they didn’t feel as heavy as they had when he had fallen backward feeling so very tired. His eyes adjusted to find a woman leaning over him, at first he thought it was Rain but he soon realized it was not.

“Who?” Vage sat up quickly but before moving to stand he noticed the three others and became still.

“We are allies, at least we can assume you do not fight with these beasts?”

“I do not. I fell in battle fighting these monsters those there did me in.” Nodded toward the castle the other turned to see two piles of empty red armor.

“Tough for something that is hollow.” Vage shook his head as he stood and looked around for his mace, which was just behind him. As he bent to pick it up Galek pulled his sword from his back. Turning Vage noticed that he might have made a slight mistake and quickly lowered his weapon and with a smile began to explain what he and his friends had been through.

During the conversation Vage replaced his mace to his back as did Galek soon after. When he got to the part about he and Kovan he stopped and looked around.

“Speaking of Kovan...is he?”

Salene looked away from Vage as she nodded, the others lowered their heads.

"Its ok. It is sad that he has left us but he died in battle as a true warrior defending what he believed and loved and that to him is the highest honor." Vage whipped his eye before a tear could form.

"I think it best if we entered this castle and destroyed whatever remains of this evil." Galek turned bringing his sword before he beginning to take steps toward the entrance of the castle stepping over a severed cyclops head.

"I don't know if that is the best of plans." Vage objected although he knew that he had no chance to change the minds of these new allies who came as he had with his group with a mission. The others followed except Salene who watched Vage as he brushed sand off his armor shaking his head.

"Oh...I didn't thank you." Vage caught Salene in the corner of his eye and felt like he owed her something.

"Its ok. I chose to do this so it's my responsibility." With a smile Salene walked past Vage toward the others.

Vage rubbed some sand from his chin and with a sign he too followed.

"Strange, I can sense a magic here." Kigam stopped before the sand turned to stone and began looking around.

"Do you feel it Salene?" Turning around he faced the priestess.

"Not until just now." Salene responded walking up beside Kigam.

"So what does that mean exactly?" Ceria spoke as she pulled her Javelin from her back.

"Well it could mean a few things but its not important now lets keep moving." Kigam didn't seem worried oddly more curious then anything.

"Agreed." Vage said as he moved up behind Galek who slightly nodded and began moving forward.

The five moved into the dark hall slowly, it was quiet unlike the last time Vage had been there.

"Expect everything your not and be very wary these things are big, strong and fast." Vage turned and checked the entrance one last time remembering that the monsters were heavily located outside when they were in battle. Galek lead next to him was Ceria, followed by Kigam and Salene who were both looking around sense the magic growing as they moved deeper. Vage kept pace but dropped back now and then to listen for any ambush that could come from behind.

"I suppose that the magic will continue to grow until we reach the source, that portal you spoke of right Vage?" Kigam stopped drawing the attention of the others.

"Yes that seems right. Its also where they immerge so we have to be careful." Vage threw his shield up as it was covered in a yellow glow, the hall was only getting darker and many of the torches were no longer burning.

Just as Salene wanted to speak a noise erupted from the darkness before them. It sounded like some of the stones fell from the ceiling but it came again and again then a large stone foot came into their light.

"Its that giant made of stone!" Galek shouted as he ran past Kigam and Salene.

The giant came into full view with two more crashing steps, the grinding of its joints echoing down the hall. Before anyone could attack a fireball flew over their hands and smashed into the giants face.

Vage was the only one who turned to find Kigam smiling before he moved his hands to fire another. Galek ran forward slicing at the creature's legs, pieces of stone chipping away. Ceria threw a javelin but it only made a chip before falling to the ground. Ceria threw another javelin this time it glowed purple and burst through the giant. Vage now lit in a blue hue brought his mace hard into the leg of the stone giant opposite Galek.

Salene held her place she knew she could only offer support but she did move her hands and release a number of small white shapes that arced out and curved back before hitting the giant. The giant's fists lifted and came crashing down seconds after Vage and Galek moved back. They both gave a quick attack to each arm before it was raised again. Another fireball exploded on the giant's face giving the others a break, the creature if it had eyes would be blinded but no one could tell.

"We have to shatter it!" Vage yelled as he smashed the leg again finally seeing a crack making its way to the other side. Turning he brought his mace to his other side and smashed again. Galek having a sharp weapon tried separating the stones in the leg of the monster succeeding in breaking a large piece away. Another javelin burst through the back of the giant as one of its legs began to crumble. Raising its hands one last time its head exploded as the last fireball impacted. The giant fell apart, its body looking no different than piles of rock.

"Now we have to climb over it to get past." Ceria commented as she began scaling one of the larger pieces.

"At least it didn't bring the ceiling down on us." Kigam spoke and he rubbed his hands together then grabbing his wand again.

Vage waited for Salene to approach before offering a hand to help her over the rubble she took it with a smile.

Galek waited until everyone was over before going himself, he took the time to wipe the dust from his blade and to check for any damage to it.

"The only good news I can offer is that that was one of the hardest we had fought." Vage said when Galek finally joined them.

"So what was the hardest then?" Galek said with a smirk like that battle was nothing to him.

"That red armor you saw...lets just hope we don't see it again." Vage said seriously not returning Galek's smirk.

Ceria broke the odd silence, "well lets keep moving."

They moved away from the fallen giant of stone deeper into the ruined castle. Kigam mumbled a few times shaking his head something about what someone said and how it couldn't be.

"Stop for a moment." Kigam spoke as he turned to Salene.

"Vage we didn't tell you everything about why we came here. Much like your group we were sent to put a stop to what was happening. In our case though some of the elders the magic users at least sensed the portal and its original attempt to open it." Vage tilted his head and wondered what Kigam was really getting at.

"You see, for someone to sense a magic so far away it has to be powerful or very concentrated and now I believe it is powerful and not concentrated as I did before. So I think it would be in all of our best interests if we hurried to it and attempted to close or destroy it before it can expand."

Vage was about to question Kigam's explanation when Salene interrupted.

"You see the portal if left open for too long being as powerful as it is will expand having no one to hold it or stop it." Salene spoke to the group but was looking directly at Vage as she did.

"If its in our best interest then perhaps we should move now and not waste anymore time?" Galek spoke loud stamping down any further discussion or objection. Turing he took a step forward as gray skinned creatures emerged from the darkness. They were as tall as the group their faces tight and hard, teeth protruding up out of their lower jaw drool covered their lower lips. They carried large wooden shields with smaller metal cleavers. The numbers were unknown only about six were visible in the darkness.

Galek being the closest lead the attack sword first taking the arm from an unaware goblin it howled and lashed out with its cleaver but found the same sword deep within its chest. Ceria's javelin flew splitting the head of another goblin causing panic; they didn't run however rather they charged. The numbers were clearly now more then expected. A fireball set one goblin's shield and body ablaze it fell tripping another who caught on fire well both writhing and screaming in pain till death.

Vage smashed ones face then turned and tore the next from another who leaned back trying to avoid the attack. The third used its shield to defend the blow but Vage kicked it back into another then followed with a crash from above hitting its exposed abdomen. Salene threw blue orb of energy out to each that avoided attack or came past the others toward her. One such goblin thought her an easy target finding its eyes blasted away then its life.

Galek sliced ones leg causing it to fall and lower its shield opening its head for the killing blow. The numbers seemed endless but the five cut them down as fast as they came, the bodies soon causing a slow in the charge the goblins tripping or climbing over their fallen brethren. Soon only three remained, they stood back to back their eyes darted from one enemy to the other. Ceria wasn't one to wait, her purple javelin ripped into the chest of one its face twisted before it fell forward. The other two turned to run, one found itself ablaze a second later, the other had its head taken clean off.

Galek used some of the cloth of the fallen goblins to wipe the blood from his blade. Kigam knelt next to one of the bodies studying it before he stood.

"They don't seem to be that stupid, I mean they aren't smart but they do have armor and crafted weapons." Kigam was about to make another point.

"Nothing like ours though, I doubt they figured they'd run into us." Galek said plainly motioning to all to continue. The tight conditions were much different then Vage was used to fighting in, it had it advantages but he preferred openess. Vage knew the end was coming close the hall should be ending in the shattered door. The group stopped simultaneously when they heard a growl from ahead.

Before anyone could prepare thin, tall and long yellow creatures rushed forward out of the darkness. Galek sliced ones neck causing it to snap down biting at his arm, it missed only slightly. Vage threw a bomb into the darkness and as it exploded killing one of the creatures it revealed many more some were even trying to scale the walls. Kigam starting hurling fireballs much the same way each time it seemed more appeared as one or two fell. Salene knew she was limited indoors but she still unleashed the spells she could more then prepared to heal anyone. Ceria's javelins easily tore through the small bodies of the creatures but one didn't stop most.

Galek sliced legs, hacked arms and beheaded creatures before him, to his side, and even one above trying to ambush him. Ducking he narrowly avoided a bite that might have clasped his neck. Charging his attack Galek's sword glowed blue a moment before he rapidly brought his sword up the blue energy leaving the sword moving forward. The blue sliced through one creature into the next taking down one more before dissipating. A charging creature left Galek only one opening, to jump. Leaping upward he avoided the creature but it past under him also avoiding his counter. Before landing however he was able to split the head of one curious monster that arched and looked up toward him.

The monster that ran underneath Galek was heading for Kigam but found his mouth full of fire as his head exploded. Kigam continued tossing fireballs past the others into the mass of yellow beasts that seemed never ending. He contemplated using other spells but wasn't sure of their effect in such tight quarters. Besides him Salene threw multiple white sparks into the fray taking down only one at a time but she didn't want to drain her energy when someone might need her later.

Vage hit one creature's head into the wall crushing and killing it while using his shield to block the teeth and claws of another. Pushing with his shield he made an opening but from behind he was struck. Forced forward Vage used his mace to jab the monster before him to break his fall. The mace tore into the creature as Vage fell onto it to the ground. Spinning over he quickly raised his shield in time to block the kicking feet of the creature but found the one he had landed on wasn't quite dead. Blocking one last kick he moved his shield and threw out his mace to catch the belly of the creature. Jumping back the creature only aided the mace in tearing its abdomen open. Vage stood as the yellow beast he landed on tried to gain its footing, he planted his mace in the back of its head.

Ceria was having fun; she even managed to take down two of the yellow things with one javelin. Throwing her shield it spun striking one, two, three and even four creatures before returning to her they all stood stunned one bleeding from its eye. She followed the stunning attack quickly with four javelins that dropped each of them. She noticed with the glow of one her javelin attacks that one was on the ceiling trying to move while keeping its drip, aiming in the dark she left fly. The monster growled then fell toward Salene who was aware and skidded out of the way as the body hit the ground where she stood.

The last of the monsters fell with growls and snarls. The five looked at each other as Salene went from one to the other checking if she could help. Galek was busy wiping blood from his sword as Salene approached.

"I'm fine check the others, I think you should save your energy for now." Standing he gave her a grin that showed he wasn't being harsh.

"The hall isn't much longer we should soon see the shattered door that leads to the room where we first saw the monsters.

"Good." Was all that Kigam added before they once again stepped over the bodies of their fallen enemies walking deeper into the darkness. The hall was starting to get brighter as they neared the door and origin of these horrible creatures. Vage knew something was wrong when he couldn't see anything past where the door was. As they approached it soon be obvious.

“I don’t believe it.” Was all Vage could say as he looked where once there were stairs leading to a large room with a pit. Now he saw that the stairs barely intact lead to a few stones then sand.

“They broke right out of the room, right through the stone?” Vage took a few steps down the stairs as he spoke looking around. The other four who had never seen the room couldn’t understand the dramatic change they followed Vage down the stairs. Kigam looked to Salene who nodded they both felt the magic increase dramatically when they entered this area. Neither of them could see a portal or anyway the monsters could enter their world but they knew it was there it was unmistakable.

“I believe either too many came through at once or perhaps a worse case, a much larger one that broke free out into the night.” Kigam tapped his wand into his hand as he spoke wondering which of these two or more was most likely.

“Either way its not going to end like we thought.” Ceria added with some pleasure hinted in her voice. Galek continued to scan the area; the sun was going to come up soon but at the moment the cover of dark was against them.

“Maybe it was one of those giants made of stone?” Salene noted as she tried to find the source of the magic. The others nodded accepting it as very possible but no one knew for sure. Vage moved ahead toward the sand to find too many tracks to comprehend, they all overlapped some even burying multiple prints in just one. He knew more then just one came this way.

“My best guess is that they come through in large groups most go this way,” pointing out into the night, “but some as we have seen go that way,” turning he pointed up toward the stairs. “Unfortunately we don’t know how many have gone that way.” Vage once again pointed away from the ruins.

“That’s very true, this portal or of some such magic is expanding as I had predicted, its very odd but its also very dangerous, the larger it gets the more it will allow through.” Kigam twisted his wand over and over in his hands his mind flying with ways to stop and close the portal.

“I know what you’re trying to conclude Kigam and I believe the contrary and severe truth of it is that the portal at this point can’t be closed by the two of us.” She approached Kigam as she spoke, he didn’t turn her way.

“I know Salene, I know, if only I were more powerful then maybe but as of now out goal is to warn Morion and perhaps prevent further tragedy and destruction.” Now turning to Salene he had no smile, no smirk, just a grim tightlipped look, and his eyes ablaze.

“Quite, I think I heard something.” Galek during the conversation had moved far past the others near a large stone that might have once been part of the structure behind him. He crouched and tried to listen for the sound again, but only silence. As the others approached quietly from behind the culprits who made the noise marched in toward the group. Vage recognized them right away, tall ugly and carrying huge axes or swords, they grunted and their bulging eyes twitched.

“Watch for those weapons they can take your head off.” Vage commented as he renewed his blue and yellow hued glows to aid his protection. One of the tall monsters jogged out ahead reaching with its long sword it tried to cut down Galek. Responding Galek ducking with only inches to spare he stood again and ran ahead when it passed over him.

A javelin popped the bulging eye of one of the beasts; it lurched back with a deep painful grunt but didn't fall. Ceria threw her shield to stun a few as she blasted open the head of the one with the exploded eye. She dropped the four that were stunned one at a time, their heads splitting or their necks bursting. From the side an axe nearly took her arm but she slide just in time, turning she sent a javelin into the arm causing the monster to drop its only weapon as it turned to pick it up with its other good arm a javelin penetrated its ear.

Galek sliced the knee of the brute whose head he couldn't reach without jumping. Looking down it brought its sword up to strike Galek but had its other knee damaged casing it to loose its balance giving Galek a chance at a killing blow. Ducking and moving to the right Galek avoided an axe that even managed to hit its now dead comrade. Moving fast Galek used the monsters heavy weapon against it, he brought his sword up and rammed it into the face of the creature. Sliding his weapon out he noticed that he was surrounded by three more. Streaking his weapon up he released a blue streak that halved one of them, the other two struck. Waiting for the right moment he rolled forward as the two weapons collided and sparked leaving both attackers momentarily surprised. Using this short opportunity Galek jumped and managed to behead one of them as the other readied its weapon.

Vage smashed knees then faces as the monsters fell around him. He blocked a few attacks but they left his arm tingling. A grunt alerted him to a rushing attack from behind that he met with a quick move and followed up with a crushing blow to the arm. The monster dropped its weapon and growled at Vage before his mace caved its face. Quickly moving away he lured four of the creatures away before using a bomb as cover throwing it at their feet. Two of them reached up to cover their eyes the other two just grunted and turned. Vage ran up to one who had turned and thrust his mace up into the monsters groin or so he guessed. The howl that followed confirmed his guess as the monster bent cupping its wound; Vage broke its jaw and face. One of the other still somewhat blinded tried to swipe at Vage but only managed to deeply slash another. Vage moved around hitting one behind the knee it easily fell he then cracked its spine. The other two hurt each other enough for Vage to simply give each a quick killing blow.

Salene was now outdoors and she knew she could use a spell she was limited too before so she moved away from the others not wanting to interfere with their tactics. She led unaware five of the creatures with her, but as she turned she wasn't at all afraid. Bringing her hands together she called upon one her best skills, below an aura surrounding her then five streaks of lighting came forth from the sky and struck each of the monsters. They all cried out in pain as they burned then fell to the group their weapons hot and some even melted. She ran past beginning to lure more her way.

Kigam as well was much less limited but the open space; he had three to one side and two to another. His aura glowed as a blue tornado appeared in the center of the three tearing into them, the other two began a charge to the delight of Kigam as he moved one had before him and a green beam launched forth. It burst through the first monsters and into the second before either knew what had happened. Holding just a few more seconds Kigam moved it upward slicing them nearly in half before it dissipated.

The last monsters fell then the silence entered again. As they regrouped Salene healed them even through the objections of Galek.

Vage welcomed it he never quite felt that way after fighting such a battle, yes his tribe had mixtures and vials that when drunk would heal the body faster than usual but nothing like this. The sun was starting to come up now, it was peaking and the darkness was starting to recede. As they wondered where to go from here they heard clip clops from behind them back toward the ruins. They all turned nearly in unison to the sound to find more than a dozen four legged creatures, they carried swords or lances and had odd bodies, their faces ugly and their teeth long and blackened. As they trotted forward, more appeared behind them from nothing, through the invisible portal.

“There is certainly no telling how many their are.” Kigam remarked as he moved back to the left climbing a semi-large dune for a higher vantage point. Salene moved to the right and toward the back leaving the front to Galek, Vage and Ceria. These monsters were either intelligent or very wary, they moved forward in flanks six wide deep into the portal which seemed to have no end in sight to the dismay of the group of five. Suddenly as if a signal had been given they stampeded forward.

Kigam released a few tornados in the ranks behind the first that was moving to fast to properly aim. He followed it by hurling fireball and fireball to the lines even farther behind. Realizing he was draining his energy he knew that soon he'd have to sacrifice a part of him to replenish it, he just hoped that Salene would notice and heal him. He hurled another fireball before placing two more tornados in the lines that were about to charge then he knelt and began to rest.

Galek moved ahead determined to prevent the numbers from overtaking him. As he rushed through the ranks sand splashed like water in his face. He moved his sword from side to side slicing and cutting the legs of the beasts. He slowed as one moved to block him but didn't stop, moving his sword ahead of him he thrust it into the monsters hide. It whined and reared back kicking up its legs but his sword came free letting him loose the monsters innards onto the sand. Galek stepped back quickly moving, his only strategy at that moment was to stay mobile. He jerked to a halt as he approached one of Kigam's tornados, turning he meant to go back the other way. A lance nearly tore half his face from him; a line of blood marked his cheek.

Vage didn't want to follow Galek's lead because he wasn't sure if Ceria would be ok if she were left without anyone near her. He lost no action for it however as seven of the beasts stormed toward him. Teasing the first monster he didn't move till the last second allowing it to lean down with its lance hoping for the kill. Vage moved as it slid past him harmlessly he used his mace to drag along the creature as it ran past causing it fall. Another, the next swung its sword at him but his shield knocked it away while his mace came around striking it in the leg. The monster heard a snap before it realized it could run nor support its own weight as easily. Vage would have finished it off had another not ambushed him from behind.

Ceria had three down so far and another bleeding from a chest wound. She threw her shield to two that were near before she put down the one she started. Two quick throws killed one and injured the other in the neck as it burst forward. Another javelin flew forward but was caught in the side of another beast that was running past; turning it faced its new target. She let fly three more javelins before it fell but the one she wounded wasn't behind. As she glanced around she observed a few that was arcing around her as did another group to her other side. She became aware of the wounded one as it came diagonally at her from the side she had just turned from; it fell dead at the next step.

Salene passed by six smoldering bodies as she looked for other stragglers that she would lead her way. A group larger than she had intended to attract took notice of her and gave chase. She ran near to where she last led the group but she knew she couldn't kill all nine of them in one attack. They fanned out before her as they closed in but not before she began to bring forth her attack. Six of the beasts were struck down by the blue lighting as the other three came forward toward her. She moved as soon as she could hoping the six that she jolted had died. The three were closing in, she knew she didn't have time to stop and use the same spell again so she had to get more time. Abruptly turning she let loose a blue energy ball that flashed and burned the face of one but the other two still came.

Galek was knocked back but a lance that clashed with his shield. He jumped back up as fast as he could with just enough time to avoid the next attack. Going past the lance he moved beside the beast stabbing it deep behind the leg. It kicked up almost pulling his sword from his hand before it tore free. As the monster came back down Galek cut across, a spray of blood splattered his armor. Spinning he ran on toward the next group of four legged creatures. He jumped at ones back with his sword down before him, a loud crack ended its chances for a counter. The other immediately reached out with their weapons but Galek was already moving around about to sever another's leg. As his sword cut throw cleanly he stepped back giving the ugly thing room to fall. It did just as he thought before him where he removed its head.

Ceria didn't like running but she had to she knew it at least for just a little bit. Turning and falling into a roll she avoided the stampeding beasts behind her. As she stood she threw her shield and stunned four of them. Turning she dropped two stragglers that weren't far behind. A sword slashed near her as he jumped back throwing a javelin into the monsters body, it stuck near its shoulder. Another flew into the creatures face faster than it could bring its sword back. The four that were stunned looked about as one of them fell, the back of its head revealing a javelin. The other three went for Ceria as she loosed one after another hitting each less targeted than before because of the promptness of the attackers. Two fell before reaching her the third having taken four in the upper body slowed but was still able to reach with its lance. The lance caused Ceria to move but she managed to use her shield to strike it before she fell to side, getting to her feet she placed one last javelin to rest in its eye.

Vage blasted another into death with a swift crush of his mace, he had taken a few hits here and there but his aura helped with that. He noticed only three more of these creatures around him; if more were behind he didn't care to look. Rushing forward he tossed a bomb that exploded just low of its mark hitting below the neck of one. Two lances and one sword came out at him as he charged ahead taking a minor hit on his left shoulder. Two quick strikes hit one leg then another of two different monsters dropped both to one knee. Spinning about his mace broke ones neck before he revered and came around hitting the others sword. Surprised but not interrupted Vage used the spikes on his mace to force its sword down then with a push, pull and an upward motion he brought his mace up then down to finish it off. The last trotted around across from him digging one hoof into the sand. It seems to Vage it wanted to charge, so he figured he'd do the same. Running forward only a second after the monster did they meet half way crashing into one another, Vage lead with his mace and shield the monster its lance.

Vage was thrown back but not before his mace could shatter the bones in the beasts chest piercing its lungs. He lay in the sand breathing hard his two auras faded; he just hoped that the battle was no over.

Kigam having rested enough to rejoin the battle noticed as he stood that the battle was over, the last four-legged monster had just fell before Galek now he was wiping his blade on its hide. He looked around for the others that are when he noticed Salene was running over to Vage who was sitting up in the sand. He sighed and started down from the dune toward the others.

"I'm ok you should save your healing for someone who needs it." Vage said with a wave and a smile to Salene as he ran to his side taking his arm as he stood.

"I don't care what you say I'm healing you." As she spoke her aura surrounded her. Vage just continued to smile, he did enjoy the feeling but he worried about her draining herself, he wasn't familiar with such magic's.

"I think we should go back to the ruins and return to the new settlement where I can fill Cane and Rain in and you can send word to your tribe." Vage spoke seriously not wanting an argument from Galek who just joined them with a grim face trying to clean off his armor.

"I agree." Was all Galek said as he momentarily looked up to Vage. He tried rubbing the blood off but it only made it worse.

"I'm sure you can get some cloth soon to clean your armor Galek lets get moving while we can." Kigam said as he nodded to Vage passing him heading back toward the ruins. The sun had come up now the sand would get hot soon and the monsters wouldn't have the cover of the dark. They walked up the stairs they had descended not too long ago. Going through was the best idea since going around could bring any sort of confrontations and they knew they cleared the way already.

"I felt that did you Salene?" Kigam stopped and turned swiftly.

"I did, something just came through the portal something big or perhaps a large number."

"I didn't feel it last time though when those four-legged things came trough." Kigam looked worried for a moment.

"Lets go we can check it now were this far and it might be more then just us five can handle." Turning back and starting to walk again he hoped he had made the others choices for them. No one objected as they continued down the hall stepping over the bodies of the fallen that they had killed earlier. Vage was last in line on purpose, although the others had no idea. The light at the end of the hall was beginning to become visible but another sign from behind also let them know they weren't out yet.

"GO!" Vage yelled as he turned to face whatever was coming at them. They all turned but before anyone could object.

"Kigam when all of your are a safe distance from me I want you to use to attacks to bring down the ceiling and walls around to block this hall. NO PROTEST! I should have died with Kovan out there, let me die as I should." Vage conjured up his auras as he yelled, he wanted no argument he had seen this before.

"Yes, lets go no protest, you do as he told Kigam." Galek respected what Vage was doing and understood where he was coming from. Kigam, Ceria and Galek continued down the hall at a faster pace but Salene didn't move.

Half turning Vage could see Salene hadn't moved.

“Please go...” Vage’s voice was soft and sweet, he looked at her a moment before he turned back again.

“I understand but let me make you fight at your best.” As she spoke a purple aura surrounded her with golden wings appearing behind her. Vage felt the healing like the last time but now it was much more powerful he could feel his energy return as well as his endurance. Before he could thank her Salene ran off down the hall after the others tears trailing.

“Thank you Salene. I’m sorry I couldn’t get to know you better before I passed from this land.” Vage blinked and readied himself, he had faced his before but he wasn’t sure of whom he’d face, it didn’t matter really. Kigam placed a tornado in the center of the hall to aid in the collapse, with six well-placed fireballs two to each supporting side the walls and ceiling buckled blocking the path. Turning regretting his actions he faced the other, they all had the same face of regret but they knew it was for the best for their tribe.

“Let’s go, we must try to make it back quickly to give the news to the tribes.” Galek’s voice almost cracked as he spoke. The four ran out of the ruins never looking back, as they finally caught sight of the settlement, they noticed that it was indeed that same one they had passed on their way here. They didn’t interact with it for fear of arriving late at their destination. As they neared they saw a woman wearing red armor she had a bow on her back, she was sitting in the sand staring out in the direction of their approach. Galek went first giving the grim news of what had occurred at the ruins, the fates of Kovan and Vage and the uncertain future of their tribes.