

**Darkbolt: Belriert's Legacy Duology**  
**Part 1: The Orbs**

"So she is dead?" He asked.

"Yes, Lord." She answered.

"And that is why I am no longer in my inter-dimensional prison?"

"Yes, again, Lord."

"How did she die?"

"I suspect the Demons, Lord."

"Are they not trapped in their orbs?"

"No, Lord."

"Then we must go before it is too late."

Naoko, Ikkou, Mariko, and Yun all enjoyed a peaceful time after Yasha was defeated. Whether they should of was still under debate.

"What did Fushi mean that the Tenma would always be a torn in our side?" asked Ikkou, sitting on the porch of the temple. Yun and Mariko were practicing sword play. Naoko sat beside Ikkou, she was a bit further away but Ikkou closed the distance.

"How should I know," Naoko replied, almost defensively, as if trying to stand up for Fushi.

"No need to get angry, Naoko," Ikkou said raising up his hands. "I'm just worried about the future.

Naoko was going to say something but someone else cut her off. "You have no idea," came an unknown voice. They looked around until Mariko finally noticed a man in a gray tunic and pants with black knee high boots and white gloves floating in the air. He had long white hair and was young looking. His red eyes burned into Naoko's eyes. Who was he?

Beside the man floated a smaller blue-skinned, large green eyed ... thing. Now who was he? He chuckled, "Master Belriert is going to smash the humans. Smash the humans. Smash the humans!" He began to laugh wildly.

"Hush, Zarcy!" commanded the white-haired man. The small blue-skinned guy quickly shut up. "Good boy." He lowered himself to be in-between Mariko and Yun with Naoko and Ikkou in front of him. "Who would have thought that humans would be the ones to control the Demons," he said with a smirk. The grass and trees began to blow in the wind, but the wind seemed to be coming from this frightening man. "So the prophecies were true. Earth would be the center for the downfall of the Tenma. My beautiful Tenma. You ruined it for me." His eyes narrowed on Naoko. She could feel his rage burn into her very being.

Naoko shut her eyes, tightening them, but couldn't get rid of the feeling of what he was doing. *Darkbolt*, she thought, *who is this guy?*

"Belriert, Son of Yasha," he replied.

That made Naoko's eyes widen and she shouted, "Yasha's son!?"

As the other hosts' head bolted towards Naoko, Belriert's smile widened. "Yes, Darkbolt knows me. As does War, and Death, and Destruction." Zarcy was going mad with laughter, this time Belriert didn't stop him.

"Master Belriert's going to crush the humans, crush the humans, crush the humans, crush the humans!!" Zarcy continued the words fast like that over and

over. Until finally Belriert held up his hand to him.

"Crush us'?" Ikkou laughed. "We're controllers of the Demons! How do you expect to 'crush us'?"

Belriert drew in a long breath from his nose. He formed his lips so he could whistle, and did. The sound was so high pitched glass shattered to pieces. Naoko and the others clasped their hands to their ears and yelled in pain. After a few moments he stopped.

"Is that all," Ikkou said rubbing his ears. "A loud noise like that won't end a Demons life, or ..." He felt his chest, he was in extreme pain. He looked under his shirt at his orb. It was going deeper into his torso!

"Zarcy does his job well!" the little creature shouted, from behind Ikkou with a finger pointed at his back. "Taking orb, taking orb!" He laughed again. Ikkou shouted and tried to move. Yun ran up with his sword and did a thrust into Zarcy's side. "Zarcy no hurted." The small guy pulls the sword out and hurled Yun away onto the side lawn.

Mariko and Naoko transformed. Naoko rose her hand to Zarcy who was grinning at her. "Dark--" Belriert slammed her through the wall of the temple.

"Warblade!" commanded Mariko, throwing the spinning saw disk at Belriert. He held up his left hand at it and caught one of the jags on it, stopping the attack.

"Do you know why my mother never let me deal with you children when I have this kind of power?" he asked. "Because she feared me!" Zarcy pulled the orb from Ikkou and held it up to Belriert. "Excellent!"

"Belriert!" came another new voice from the trees.

Turning his head in that direction Belriert again smiled. "Toru." The former prince let out a small chuckle. "I see you've finally should up.

Toru and his faithful servant Riana emerged from the shadows of the trees. "That is right, Belriert. I was afraid you'd get here before I could. But it doesn't matter now I suppose. Even if these children are no match for you, Riana and I can take you *and* Zarcy on. With the help of the Demon controllers you'll be stopped for good this time!"

"So you think, Toru." Belriert stepped down from the porch. "But I have a little more of a plan this time." He pulled the Orb of Destruction to him from Zarcy. "Come, Zarcy, we'll leave these heroes to themselves now." With a wicked, evil laugh he vanished, Zarcy too. Ikkou fell to his knees from finally being released from the little alien's control.

Toru walked to Ikkou's side and knelt down to him. Holding Ikkou's hand he put energy into the boy. Riana went to Yun and revived his strength as well. Being hit by someone like Belriert without any powers could seriously harm you. Ikkou got up, a little wobbly, but fine. "Who are you?" she asked.

Toru looked at her with easy, cool, bright blue eyes. "I am Toru, greatest enemy to Belriert these days."

*A long time ago, about 8,000 years, Yasha had a son who she named Belriert. Yasha, having bonded to Evil, gave this child with strengths no Tenma had ever seen. Power beyond power, abilities reserved to a Demon given to a small boy. When he was only eight years old he began to catch up to his teacher, a man named Dakuu. It was thought Dakuu was the strongest of the Tenma next to Yasha, but Belriert was proving to be stronger than both. And with his strength the boy had thoughts of taking the thrown*

*away from his mother, but his rebellion was premature. At 1,000 years old he was the strongest mortal in the universe, but when up against Evil herself, his powers were brought down. However, the young prince escaped the wrath of his mother the Queen and began a rampage throughout the Tenma Empire for two thousand years.*

*It was thought without catching up to him that the powers of Queen Yasha were no use. Until another man appeared before Belriert. A man of unquestioning power, a power of an Angel yet still mortal. The two fought for days, taking each other's powers down so low that they could both be imprisoned by the Demon Evil. And that is what happened.*

*For four thousand years they were trapped in different dimensions until Yasha decided to free them or Evil died. Until recently that seemed impossible, but the ever power-hungry maniac, General Dakuu, did the impossible and got Yasha and Evil killed. Though not as the general wanted... With Evil gone, though, the two warriors are free to do battle again...*

"And that's the story, children," Toru concluded. "Being frozen in that dimension has slowed my powers a bit, but Belriert seems to be as strong as ever. And with Zarcy by his side they can take all your orbs, but why I don't know for sure."

"Interesting," Mariko said. "So, you're that other warrior who he fought... Can you beat him?"

"Our powers are practically equal, but he has a bit more of an edge over me. Now with Destruction he might gain another ally, a Demon."

"What do you want us to do?" asked Yun.

"Nothing," replied Toru. "You just have to keep Zarcy from stealing your orbs, what ever he has planned is sure to be hard to counter." Ikkou stared down at the floor of the temple where they sat and discussed Toru's past. "You, Ikkou, if I remember, are upset about losing Destruction?"

Ikkou looked up, but didn't answer. "I wish I never even had Darkbolt," Naoko said after a while. "If I was host to Destruction then I'd be worried about killing myself or something. All the pain he must cause."

This struck something in Ikkou. "You have no idea," he said under his breath.

"What was that?"

Ikkou rose to his feet, eyes narrowed on Naoko then to Toru. "Yes I am upset about the loss of Destruction, he made me feel so.. so powerful inside. Like I could do anything."

"That's what Demons try to do, boy," Toru spat back his eyes locked with Ikkou's. "They try to pollute your mind, with Destruction it's times 10!" He gestured for Ikkou to sit back down. "Relax, we'll get through this, Ikkou."

"I don't know you, so don't tell me what to do." He turned and headed for the door. Riana was there to stop him, angry at how he had treated her master.

"My Lord, Toru, has told you to sit back down! Show some respect!" she ordered.

"I'm human. I don't answer to aliens." He made his hands into fists and gritted his teeth. Riana didn't move.

"Let him go, Riana, if he truly wishes it," Toru let out with his hand raised to her. And so she did, then Ikkou stomped out of the room. Apparently no one wanted to go after him.

Elsewhere, on board a massive ship called *Tenma* was the long white-haired man known as Belriert sitting in the throne room created for a member of the Royal House of *Tenma*. *It's a good thing I went to pick up this ship to travel in instead of using my own powers to move through space to get to Earth. I would have arrived at the same time as Toru, that fool,* thought Belriert. *Soon my powers will be full strength as will his.* He rubbed his forehead. *Unbelievable. Just using my whistle has weakened me.*

Zarcy appeared before Belriert just then with as big a smile as ever on his face. But that's not what attracted Belriert's attention, but the small purplish ball he had floating above his hand. "Zarcy do good job again," he said like a child. "Find ruined orb's pieces and put them back, put them back, putthemback."

"Good work, Zarcy," Belriert said as he used his powers to pull the small ball towards him. "Hello, Mom and Evil."

*So I don't have Destruction anymore,* Ikkou thought. *Big deal! This Toru doesn't want us doing anything anyway.* He looked out over the ledge. Just a short time ago that place was where it all started. Back when Dakuu was in charge of the *Tenma*'s mission, when Naoko first got Darkbolt. Back without the knowledge of Fushi. Ikkou would sometimes wonder what Fushi meant to Naoko, and what Naoko meant to Fushi. He'd remember what Fushi had said before he left for the future. Did he mean...?

There was a picture he knew of, but no one ever let him see it.

The sun was beginning to set. He had been there, staring out across the city for hours and no one had come to talk to him. He grunted. "Fine! I don't care about them then!"

"About who?" came a voice from behind.

"Huh?" Ikkou twisted his head around. "Shiori?"

"That's my name," she said, the sun light making her face sort of orange.

"What are you doing here?" Ikkou wondered.

"Just went for a walk."

"And ended up at the temple?"

She looked around. "Well, this *is* the temple's area so, I guess I did. Now, what's wrong with you?"

"Nothing," he spat bitterly. "I'm fine."

Shiori just stared blankly at the back of his head when he turned to face the city again. She walked to his side and sat beside him. "You're upset," she began but got cut off by Ikkou.

"I am not!"

Shiori continued her sentence, "...about losing Destruction."

Ikkou's jaw dropped and he slowly turned his head towards Shiori. "How... How do you know about..."

She stood up. "Johji and I know the time has come for us to reveal ourselves." She got into a fighting stance and transformed into her Time Elemental outfit. "We're what is called Time Elementals, a race hidden from the rest of the universe, only spoke of as a legend. But we're real, Dakuu knew it, Yasha knew it, the Demons knew it." She turned her head to the city. "Toru in there knows about us. Maybe not that there are Time Elementals on this planet but he knows of us." She looked down to Ikkou again, but

couldn't find anything to say because of his weird stare. Until, "Stop looking at me like that!"

Ikkou jumped and shook his head to rid himself of some shock. "Sorry. It's just I had no idea that you guys had powers."

"Well that's okay." She knelt back down to him and brought herself face to face. "Now," she began, "I just wanted to tell you that you don't need the powers of Destruction anymore." Ikkou again looked funny at her. One angry look from Shiori changed that. "Listen, now my brother and I can freely use our powers to deal with things here. Belriert won't succeed in his plan." She stood up, walked to the edge of the cliff, and flew off; faster than Ikkou could ever go with Destruction's powers. And again, Ikkou looked stupid.

Toru turned his head to the side with his eyebrow lifted upwards. "Now what was that..?" he wondered aloud. "Riana?"

Riana shook her head. "No clue. But it felt strong, not evil, though."

"I guess we'll find out sooner or later." He stood up and walked to the door. "Riana will watch over you for now, to make sure that Belriert and Zarcy don't try anything."

"Uh," Mariko managed. "Just her? No offense, miss, but that Belriert is mighty strong."

"Don't worry, Mariko," Toru replied. "Riana was my personnel student before I was captured. She'll be enough to hold off what Belriert throws at you before he himself decides to strike again."

"Why won't he attack us himself?"

"He doesn't like to get his hands dirty unless he really has to. And in cases like this he'd rather drag it out for a time." He walked out of the doorway. "Well, I'm off now." He began to go down the hallway, into the main room, and out the door. Where he lifted to the air and glided in the direction of Shiori. *I must find out who that was.*

Ikkou had decided to leave after Shiori flew away, along the way to his dorm the same questions repeated in his head. *Shiori and Johji have powers? "...my brother and I can freely use our powers to deal with things here,"? What the heck is going on now?* He came to the front of the dorm building and walked inside. Climbing the stairs to his dorm room he still thought about those questions. He finally got to his door just as Katsu was walking out.

"Hey man," he said to Ikkou. "What's going on?" Ikkou just walked past him, deep in thought. "What's wrong with you?"

Ikkou turned around, apparently didn't notice how rude he had been. "Oh, sorry, Katsu. I was just thinking." He went to his room. "I'm kind of tired right now. I'm going to sleep. See you in the morning."

Katsu looked at the clock and tilted his head. "7:40, man. Let's go some--" The door slammed and Katsu just decided to leave Ikkou to himself.

Just laying on his bed, staring at the ceiling, Ikkou found himself seriously down. He couldn't stay that way for long, though, because there was a pecking noise at his window. "Chou?" he said sitting up and walking to open the window. The little phoenix-like bird flew in and perched himself on Ikkou's desk chair. "What is it?"

But across town, there was a small blue-skinned alien commanding three other

humanoid creatures. "Hehehehe," Zarcy chuckled. "Karni, Jeep, Jungi, hehehe! We going to make Master happy! Hehehehe! Go, distract humans for Zarcy to steal orbs! Hehehehe!"

Naoko, Yun, Mariko, and Riana silently walked down the sidewalk, darkness falling, to their homes. Suddenly, though, a figure appeared from around a corner. Coming into the light you could see he was like a clown. His face was painted white, his nose red, and around his eyes were blue. No hair, white gloves, a large blue trench coat over a clown outfit, and high purple boots. "Good evening, you four," he said.

Tilting her head to the side, Mariko asked, "Can we help you?"

"Perhaps," said another voice. This time from a woman who jumped down from a roof behind the four. She had red hair spiked all around, was dressed like a wrestler, brown wrist bands, and purple pupils. She had a faceless expression, cold, emotionless.

Mariko and Yun both got into fighting stances. "These are definitely Tenma related people," Yun said.

"Good guess," a third voice announced. Walking up, coolly, from behind them came a man with green hair drooped over his eyes and face. How could he see like that no one really wanted to know. Dressed in a black jumpsuit, he was most likely the stronger of the three. "But, I'm not sure if we really are Tenma," he continued. "You see, the Tenma is gone now. Only Belriert remains of the royal family, and Evil is dead so the whole empire has flipped back to their old selves."

"But you're still bad guys aren't you?" asked Naoko.

"We've always been 'bad guys,' Girl," replied the clown. "We're some of the worse beings in the universe, and we've never been under mind control. We never needed it."

Riana pointed to the clown. "Karni." She moved her finger to the red-haired woman. "Jungi." Then to the black jumpsuit man. "Jeep." The three looked at each other strangely.

Jeep pointed his own finger at Riana. "Mind reader. A Psi-woman. I haven't seen one of you for centuries," he said coldly.

"You, Jeep," Riana replied, "are worried. You're afraid of me. Why?" Jeep made a fist and gritted his teeth. "You're trying to hide it. But I've already found it. A Psi once nearly killed you. That's why you hide your eyes, to hide the scars that will always remind you of that man."

"Shut up!" He waved his arm across the air and Naoko, Yun, and Mariko all vanished. Along with Karni and Jungi. Not just them, but the whole surrounding street had gone away. Jeep had teleported them to another dimension. Riana's head moved around wildly. She couldn't get out of there, but why? "In order for someone to leave, there can be only one person here," Jeep notified her. "One of us has to die." He lowered his head, then threw it back up again, his face revealed. Running diagonally across his eyes and face were three large, deep scars. "And that would be you!" He charged her. Riana going to a fighting stance. Just as he got but a few feet in front of her he turned into a blue "lightning bolt." This was the power of a Zai, a creature like a Psi but uses a darker form of power.

Riana threw up a psychic force field, but when Jeep hit it, he broke through and struck her. *Crap!* She thought. *This dimension gives him a boost of power. I have to figure a way to nullify it.* As Jeep was coming around for another pass she put up her

palms and concentrated. Around her formed a circle of wards. She pushed her arms outward and they all spread out around the area they were fighting.

Jeep didn't stop. He continued rushing towards Riana. He picked up speed and got there surprisingly fast to Riana. She had barely enough time to put up another shield. This time it worked and Jeep was stopped. He changed back to his original form, a little wobbly. *What just happened?* he thought. He was worried now, as he looked around at the wards. Was he done for, by a Psi? He didn't want to let that happen. So he charged again. This time he formed a bolt of energy in his right hand and took a swipe at Riana.

Riana was caught off guard but countered with her own special attack. "Swirling Storms!" she commanded.

In the strange dimension appeared powerful gusts of wind. Jeep was soon flying around in a tornado-like attack. But that was only the first part. "Zeus's Armageddon!" A large lightning bolt crashed down close to Jeep. He was lucky that it missed, but more followed. Bolt after bolt struck in the area being blown around by the winds Riana had created. Soon one bolt hit Jeep dead on. He screamed in agony, and in the short second the lightning had struck he was sure to die.

The attack ended and he slid onto the ground hard. Twitching, filled with pain, he laid there. Grunting and groaning at the damage he had taken. Eventually struggling to his feet. With arms hanging limply in front of his, his hair over his eyes again, he gasped over and over. "You," he said seething, "won't beat me."

Riana crossed her arms unimpressed.

The two were reading each other's minds, hiding their next move from the other. With blood dripping from his mouth, Jeep smiled. He had his idea. Riana just stood there.

Bringing himself upright, Jeep shouted, "Mind's Fear!"

Riana's eyes bulged. He and the whole dimension vanished. She was somewhere she didn't want to be: planet Kurse. She twisted her head back and forth. She couldn't be there, no way. But she was on that empty desert world. A place with nothing but billions of large scorpion-like animals, that control a power similar to Psi's, called Sypios. A small speck of terror in the universe, but enough to keep people away from it.

Her worries grew as she saw Belriert walk up, hiding something behind his back. His horrible grin as wide as ever, wind blowing his hair to the side. Followed by those Sypios she didn't want to tangle with.

She got into her stance as Belriert came within ten feet of her, then he stopped. She didn't move, she just stared at him. Then he showed her what he had behind his back, the head of Toru. He tossed it to her feet. She screamed and backed away holding her head, eyes clenched shut. "No!" she cried, not believing what she was seeing. "It's a trick! You're tricking me, Jeep!" She opened her eyes and saw Jeep's punch coming. It was strong enough to make her fly back a long way. She wondered how he healed so fast.

"You're fears healed me," he answered her, even though Riana didn't say a word. Jeep formed another energy bolt in his hands, Riana got up and created a bow and arrow out of energy, aiming for Jeep. The two stared each other down for a few moments. The next move be either one could decide what happens. The each were putting tremendous amounts of their energies into their "weapons." Riana then realized the pain of the punch she had received and allowed herself to put her hand on it, which was a mistake.

Jeep's bolt rushed at her with tremendous speed. It closed the distance to fast to move without some injury. But Riana's speed was great, and she moved her head quick



enough to only receive a deep scar on her left cheek. She re-grabbed her bow and arrow and let the arrow fly. Its own speed more than Jeep had expected. He tried to jump, but was still struck in the abdomen. It entered, pushed through his muscles and left. He immediately fell back down to a knee.

Riana, meanwhile, had commanded the wards she had created to enclose around Jeep. When he landed she forced them on him. He was going to lose. The wards paralyzed him, then shocked him, and he fell flat on his face; smoke sizzled upwards. Riana knew the job wasn't done, though. Jeep had a bit of life energy left, so she walked over and stood above him. Wards still stuck to him, Jeep grunted. "Okay. Finish it..." And so she did.

As Riana and Jeep conducted their battle in the other dimension, Naoko, Mariko, and Yun were to face Karni and Jungi. "Now then," Jungi said. "I'll take her first," she pointed to Mariko.

"OK," replied Karni. "I'll fight the boy then."

Mariko and Yun took the liberty to transform, even though they were out in the open. But no one was around, and no one they knew was watching. Right after that, though, for Mari, the whole area changed. She and Jungi went from the street to a wrestling ring. She moved her eyes around. The new place was nothing but blackness, except the ring which was lit by a light that seemed to just float above.

It all made no difference, she thought. The point to it all was the same. Jungi was a wrestler, and that's what she planned to do. So, Mariko went to her own karate stance as Jungi went to hers. "I hope you know how to fight well," Jungi said very cocky-like.

"You picked the worst person to fight," Mariko answered slyly.

Jungi laughed and launched herself at Mari. Their arms locked to each other as they both stared coldly into the other's eyes. Jungi took advantage of their height differences by bringing her knee to Mariko's chin. Their locks were released and Mariko flipped backwards onto the ropes. She quickly pulled herself back into the ring onto Jungi's shoulders.

She tightened her legs around Jungi's neck. Then clasped her hands together in the air, and brought them down onto her opponents head. Jungi wobbled and choked. Finally she managed to pull Mariko off and onto the mat. But she got back up and tripped Jungi. "Warblade!" she ordered and the spinning saw appeared and moved towards the downed women.

Jungi managed to move out of the way and the warblade dug into the ring. She tripped at first but got her balance back. "Boxing Is Only Good For Punching Hard!" she growled.

*What?* Mari wondered. But she was answered as a dozen boxing gloves appeared and struck at her. She was hit over and over. Glove after glove, jab after jab, uppercut after uppercut. Would they stop? She was being beat down by one attack already? No way. "Iron Phalanx!" The shields appeared and stopped the gloves from striking her again until they finally disappeared. Mariko let her shields vanish and looked Jungi in the eyes from across the ring. Her face was sore now, she could feel it. Her whole body was, actually. She wiped her mouth and looked at the blood in her hand. "Not bad, I guess."

"I'm just warming up."

“That makes two of us.” Mariko extended her hands towards Jungi. “Blood Bound Link!” The chains of War wrapped around the spiked-hair women and tightened. Jungi grunted and twisted around. Mari lifted her into the air and brought her around. She forced her to spin round and round. Then brought her slamming down onto the ring. Mariko laughed when Jungi tried again to get loose from the chains.

“Steal orb, steal orb, stealorbstealorb!” Mari’s stomach sank and she turned her head around to see Zarcy, his hand and fingers the same way they were with Ikkou. She screamed in pain as the Orb of War was being pulled from her body. Sparks danced, the chains of the Blood Bound Link diminished, and her transformation ended. The orb left through her back then and she fell flat.

Jungi got to her feet. “I wish I would have gotten more time to fight her!”

“It matters none,” Zarcy said looking at the orb. “Take her to Master Belriert. We leaving now.”

Yun and to fight Karni in another dimension too. Once there he took notice to his surroundings. He was in a circus tent. There was a tightrope, a ball, three rings on the floor, and Karni doing some trapeze moves in the air.

Transformed to Death, Yun stared intently on the clown. “Why not come down here and fight me already!” he demanded. Karni just ignored him and went for the tightrope. Watching him balance up high, Yun became frustrated. “Death Soul!” From the ground emerged the giant grim reaper of the Death Soul attack. It rose to the rope with Karni standing with his pole for balance, rose it’s scythe and took a slash downward. Using the pole, Karni blocked it.

He jumped from the rope. Still in the air he called an attack. “Three Ringed Move!” Around Yun formed three red rings. They closed the distance and trapped Yun in and Karni landed. He hopped onto the ball and began to roll around. Soon he ball grew in size and was nearly five times Yun’s size. Karni began to roll slowly in Yun’s direction, picking up speed gradually. Eventually it was going really fast and Yun couldn’t move with the ring around his legs.

Squirming around he had to think of something. If he didn’t move he would be crushed by that ball. “Spirit Wall!” He managed to stop the ball for the moment, but Karni backed up and was rolling around to try again. This time he commanded the rings to tighten around Yun even more. He could feel the bones cracking in his arms, ribs, and legs. He lowered his head, gritted his teeth and grunted. “Soul Release.” His body dropped to the ground and his “ghost” emerged.

“What’s this!?” Karni demanded.

Soul Release was a strange attack but one that could always be of great use. If Yun was actually the Demon of Death he could stay like that for thirty minutes, but since he was just a human with partial powers of the Demon, it was only good for ten. It allowed him to fight someone without getting any damage to “himself,” meaning his spirit. One downside is that the body is defenseless and could be destroyed or really beaten. But that wasn’t on Yun’s mind. Karni didn’t know that and he wouldn’t be able to get close enough to Yuns body.

So Yun’s spirit charged at Karni and his ball. “Soul Spike!” he commanded throwing his right arm into the air. A burst of spirits emerged from the ground, spun upwards around Yun, and immediately at the giant ball. They popped it, and Karni went

crashing to the ground as the ball flew around the tent.

Karni rose to his feet, obviously hazed from the last attack. He cracked his neck and showed his yellow teeth in a wide grin. He jumped into the air, extended his arms and bent one leg at the knee, keeping the other one straight. "Walk of Doom!" Nothing happened. Yun looked around, his body was gone. "So, you in that form won't be affected by any of my attacks? What about your body? Can I rough that up?"

Yun's head bolted up at the tightrope and saw his balancing in the middle. "Damn!" he cursed. He decided that he'll have to stop the Soul Release early. His spirit disappeared and his eyes opened while on the rope. He looked down, he was really high. The last time he was that high was on Tokyo Tower, fighting Destruction. He discovered, quickly however, that he couldn't move. "What is this?"

"My Walk of Doom is when I control what my opponent's body does," Karni replied. He appeared next to Yun and took a step in the air. Yun's body copied it. He spun around on one leg, flipped, hopped, ran, until he finally decided to stop the game. He released his control of Yun's body, but Yun wasn't ready for it. He lost his balanced and fell.

He hollered as he fell from the rope until he abruptly stopped. Someone had forced him to stop moving. He turned his head around to see Zarcy, with a smile as wide as ever. Just like what happened to Mariko and Ikkou, Yun lost the Orb of Death and changed to his regular clothes.

"This good day for us," Zarcy giggled. "Master Belriert will be happy, happy, happy!" He let out his frightening laugh and it was over...

Naoko was waiting on a rooftop for someone to return, anyone. Friend of foe. Riana was the only one. She told her what had happened and guessed that Yun and Mariko had been captured. In less than an hour the Earth stood almost defenseless against Belriert and his minions.

They needed to get somewhere safe. Somewhere that if they are found they can defend themselves without worry of harming other people. What better place than a volcano. So that's where they went, Mt. Fuji.

"This is quite disturbing," Toru admitted. He had sent Riana to get Ikkou so they were all there. His face showed signs of worry. "I still have no idea who that power I felt earlier belongs to."

"What power?" asked Ikkou, wondering to himself if he knew the answer.

"I felt a power sometime after you left before," Toru replied. "It was strong, not as much as Belriert I don't believe. Nevertheless, I would rather not deal with something I don't have to."

Ikkou thought for a moment. "Maybe," he finally said, breaking the silence the room had had. "Maybe it was Shiori."

Naoko spun her head towards him, her face as puzzled as everyone else. "Shiori? What would she have to do with this?"

Ikkou leaned forward with his elbows on his knees. They were hanging around a clearing in the woods. There were a few downed trees being used as seats. In the center was a small fire since it was becoming dark. A few animals would pass by but wouldn't stay for long.

"She does have power," Ikkou explained. "Really we shouldn't be surprised, she

did have that Crystal of Time thing.”

Toru jolted up to his feet. “You mean to tell me that a piece of the Crystal of Time is here!?” he shouted, almost frightening Ikkou and Naoko.

“No,” Naoko answered. “It shattered when Fushi went back to his time.”

“Fushi?” Toru quickly wondered to himself but kept speaking to avoid being brought into a different conversation. “Well, anyway, if part of the Crystal of Time was here then that means Time Elementals are here as well. This Shiroi must be one of them.” He silently thought for a moment. Thinking whether or not it was possible for ones such as the Time Elementals to go to Earth. “If they *are* here,” he finally continued, “then something extremely horrible is going to happen to Earth and the rest of the universe and time.”

Ikkou’s hand crept up. Toru lifted an eyebrow at him. “Excuse me,” Ikkou said, “but who are the Time Elementals (that’s what she said by the way) and what did you mean by ‘piece of the Crystal of Time’?”

“The Time Elementals are a powerful race of peaceful people. They have the ability to bend time and space and use pieces of a huge crystal to travel back and forward in time. When these pieces have fulfilled their purpose they brake. But they never do anything unless it is extremely serious. Something must be happening that will affect all peoples. I’m guessing it’s Belriert’s fault.”

“That does it!” Naoko shouted. “We take care of Belriert now!”

“You don’t know what you’re messing with girl,” Riana replied.

“I don’t care,” Naoko spat back. “My friends are missing, these Time Elementals are here because of something that happens in the future, my whole world is at stake!”

Toru stared out of the corner of his eye at her, unsure of what he should do. “Very well,” he replied. “We shall fight him. Just allow me to find him.” Naoko asked how long. “It shouldn’t be too long since I have only one place left to look; space.” He closed his eyes and began to reach out, with his thoughts, into the universe. Just as he said it didn’t take long, he found Belriert’s ship floating out there in the vast darkness twinkled with bright specks of stars.

He came out of his trance, with a stern face, still deep in thought.

Zarcy looked over the two captured humans with much excitement. Hooked into the walls with some kind of biological material from the waist down, they were helpless and asleep. In front of each spot where a captured creature would be held was a small pillar. Floating above these pillars were the Demon Orbs in front of where their former hosts were to be.

Appearing behind the small little alien was Belriert. He walked about beside him, their sizes making Belriert seem like a towering being, while Zarcy was made like an insignificant insect. The truth, though, was that without Zarcy, none of this would have happened.

“Only one more, my friend,” Belriert stated. “That and the two humans we haven’t brought back.”

“Yes, Master. Zarcy get them. No worry. Zarcy do good and make Master happy.”

“I know you well, Zarcy.” He patted the small creature’s head like he was a pet. “And then my plans will *really* begin.”

“It’s just sitting out there in space,” Toru said. “Floating around with the Earth. And I could feel the energies of your friends, but not bonded to the Demons.”

“Can we get inside it?” Ikkou inquired.

“Yes, but I don’t know what Belriert plans with the orbs. It’s been easy for him to get Destruction, Death, and War, and it should be easier for him to free them. He hasn’t though. I could feel them there too, along with another...”

“What? What do you mean another, Master Toru?” asked Riana.

“Evil.”

Ikkou and Naoko both gaped at the statement. “No, no,” Ikkou finally said. “We defeated Evil. We blew her to bits. I know, I did it myself!”

“I don’t know how, Ikkou. She’s alive. Or as much as she can be. She’s trapped in the orb with Yasha. Perhaps, with Zarcy’s psychic powers, they put her back together.”

From away from the group, in the forests behind Ikkou, came a male voice. “That’s exactly what happened.” From the trees and brush emerged the Murasaki’s, in their Time Elemental uniforms. “We’ve been watching you kids, for a long time. For a while we were getting impatient, but now we can finally do what we were meant to do.”

“What’s that Johji?” Ikkou asked full of contempt. They all had risen to their feet when they heard the voice.

“Prevent DWEDD.”

To be continued...