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ACT 1

In the Present Time...

In the crisp morning air Han is standing in a garden within a forested area of Von, remembering the last conversation with his father just before his death years ago:

Han: Father I wish you peace on your journey. Is there anything else I can do for you now?

Elder Zorn: I will miss you, Han. I am sorry that I must put the burden of Goliath's destruction on your shoulders. But he must be stopped.

Han: It's OK dad, I understand. I will try my utmost. And so will the rest of the defense guild. Thank you for teaching me the ancient ways. I am honored to follow in your footsteps.

Elder Zorn: [*smiling proudly at Han*] Take care of yourself my son.

Han: I don't understand why you must leave the shadow world so soon. The other elders lived much longer lives.

Elder Zorn: This is not for us to question. I pass my strength to you and Tara. Take care of each other. Live well. And always remember, Han, that it is an honor to serve. All living things were created to serve: Shadows serve humans

and each other. Humans serve their God and each other. And nature serves use all. [*Zorn Expires. Han allows a few tears of grief to roll down his face as his father's shadow vanishes, in the form of smoke, to join the other dead elders.*]

Tris walks up to Han from behind while he is in the garden thinking.

Tris: What are you thinking about Han?

Han: [*Keeping his back towards her but now smiling*]: I'm thinking about the sweet voice of one who captured my heart many years ago; one who grew from a frightened child to a capable woman. How did you manage to do that?

Tris: [*Judo flipping him playfully across the grassy field.*] I practised.

Han: [*Remaining in the flipped position on the ground as Tris joins him*] Ah so that's it. [*He smiles and looks into her eyes while they lay facing each other*].

Tris: What were you really thinking of Han?

Han: My responsibilities.

Tris: You must have faith, my love. It'll be OK. We shall all see.

Han: [*Kissing her softly*] I do have faith.

Tara is seen riding towards them from a distance. Seeing her, Tris instinctively bids Han goodbye so that he and Tara can speak in private. The women greet each other as they pass by.

Tara: Greetings big sister.

Tris: Greetings Tara, be well. [*Tris then disappears into the woods*]

Tara greets Han as he stands up from the ground.

Tara: My favorite brother.

Han: [*teasing her*] your ONLY brother. [*They hug briefly.*]

Tara passes through his body to understand the full depth of his emotions and psychological state.

Tara: You are troubled, my brother. I felt your emotions.
And your thoughts are all about him.

Han: Goliath is a strong opponent.

Tara: You are just as strong.

Han: Father was strong, yet he couldn't stop him.

Tara: Our father was a 300-year-old shadow when he died; he was tired from years of battle and sacrifice. You are a younger version of father; as strong as he was and deeper in shadow spirit. You WILL defeat Goliath.

Han: Such confidence in your brother.

Tara: Confidence which is well deserved.

Han: Goliath's anger makes him unpredictable. But our task will be accomplished. All threats will be destroyed. We are the keepers of both the shadow world and the human world. We must persevere.

Tara: Yes, we must. The shadow elders' memories must be honored and both worlds must be kept safe.

[They both go back to the city's inner parameters together, each riding their own motorcycle.]

AFTERNOON

Salender is finishing a training session in mental reasoning with a group of young shadows. In a tree above the training center, Tara watches through a window.

Salender: *[addressing the large group of teenage shadows within the classroom]* Young shadows, what are the principles from today's lesson?

Young shadows: *[collectively]* Try to help the human produce healthy thoughts. Try to help the human find inner peace.

Salender: Excellent. Class dismissed!

Salender goes into the garden behind the center to practice some ninjustu techniques. Tara watches him from up in the tree, observing the neatness of his form and the strength of his technique. Salender suddenly throws a huge dagger in

Tara's direction, cutting the branch on which she is standing and causing her to fall gently to another branch then to the ground. He walks over to her.

Tara: Your weaponry skills are impressive Salender.

Salender: Thanks. But if you would spend more time practicing YOUR skills, you would have been able to detect my awareness of your presence.

Tara: That's true. Although I did practice for an hour today.

Salender: [*sharply*] One hour is not enough. You are a fierce warrior, Tara. But your potential far exceeds your present skill. Practice, little sister, perfect your craft. To honor your parents' memories, you must reach your full potential. Now go, practice!

Tara: [*sighing*] You're right, Salender. Annoying but right. Thank you. A fine afternoon to you.

Salender: And to you, young one.

Tara: You act like you're father Abraham from the human's bible. You and Han are the same age which means that you're only older by three years.

Salender: [*smiling*] Still older. Now go!

Tara: [*rolls her eyes*] Going.

[*Tara exit*]

ACT TWO

Han goes to the highlands of the shadow world alone to search for Goliath and finds him meditating near a stream.

Goliath: *[still sitting in his meditating position]* I expected the wise one, not you.

Han: Do you think that Salender is the only one who has wisdom?

Goliath: Your lone presence here might suggest exactly that.

Han: I came to talk Goliath, not fight.

Goliath: Speak, son of Zorn.

Han: From one shadow to another to another, I have come to ask you, Goliath, to abandon your plans of destruction. Stop this! Return to the lowlands. Re-join the guild. Please come back brother.

Goliath: *[takes a moment before he stands and faces Han]*
Thank you for coming alone- there's much honor in that. But I can never again be a warrior of the guild. I've chosen my path and there is no turning back.

Han: My father was the last elder. He, as well as all the other elders, wanted us to save the human world, not destroy it.

Goliath: *[with a sudden burst of anger]* Your father's

judgement was clouded, as is yours! He initially made the right decision but was too weak to follow through.

Han: [*speaking with conviction*] The judgements of all the elders were sound and you know that!

Goliath: I know nothing except the rules and fallacies which I was made to put faith in as a child. I'm no longer a child. I've come to see humans for what they really are: unredeemable. And, they WILL be destroyed!

Han: Not while I have breath!

Goliath: I remember two of your warriors, Shan and Jayden, who uttered similar words...they're dead now.

A flashback occurs: A year prior, two guild warriors and descendant siblings, Shan and Jayden, go to the highlands to try to ambush Goliath while he is alone. Realizing that they are outmatched by his strength, Goliath gives them a chance to leave unharmed. When Jayden threatens Goliath's horse to show that they are serious, he kills both siblings cruelly; first he disables Shan's four limbs and forces him to watch as he kills his sister. Then he kills Shan by piercing him straight through the heart with his shadow sword. Afterwards he nonchalantly guides his horse to another location as the dead shadow bodies form smoke and disappear into the air.

Han: [*speaking angrily*] I won't be so easy to dispose of. And neither will the rest of the guild.

Goliath: Do not return to the highlands Han. A warrior of

the defense guild has no place here. And if you try to stop me, I shall be forced to kill you; all of you.
[He turns and starts walking away from Han]

Han: What happened to you Goliath? You were the guild's best warrior. The elders trained you well. I idolized you in my youth. I wanted to be just like you.

Goliath: *[stops walking]* I woke up *[continues walking, crosses over the stream and disappears into a cloud of mist]*

Han resists the urge to follow him and begins his journey back down to the low lands of the shadow world. At the edge of the highlands, he meets Salender climbing upwards.

Salender: Why did you do this Han? Why didn't you tell me you were coming here? Was I not welcomed to accompany you?

Han: I'm sorry brother. I thought it more advantageous to come alone this time because I came to talk, not fight; I wanted one last chance to reason with him.

Salender: And what was the result?

Han: He can't be reasoned with. I must destroy him before he causes the end of the human world.

Salender: Correction my friend, WE must destroy him. *[He summons his shadow sword and initiates practice]*

with Han.]

Han: The highlands are as good a place to practice as any
[*He forms his shadow sword*].

[*The two friends spend the rest of the day practicing at the edge of the highlands then, at six in the evening, go down to earth to pair with their human counterparts.*]