

Chapter 54: A Dangerous Mission

((**Note:** This section is not canon to the RP.))

Bolz and Drake flew down and landed before the Blazing Tiger Martial Arts School. The riders stayed on this time as Minerva began to tell the electric dragon about it, "This is our fighting school, Bolz. It's where Ronan is going to train his students in swordplay and even dragons are allowed to participate here. They can be trained how to fight alongside human partners."

Bolz looked at the building with interested. He replied, "Wow, really? That's one heck of a school you guys have. So what do you do here, Minerva?"

"Me?" asked the woman. "I guess I'll be the front desk receptionist, taking payments for the classes."

The electric looked at her confused and said, "You'll be? But I thought you were already working here."

Minerva explained, "We haven't actually gotten started here yet. I mean we just had it built by stone dragons today and there's nothing inside."

Ronan told him, "We're still working on getting this place set up. Once this place is done, I'll be sure to show you around."

Bolz smiled, "Sweet! So when you guys think it'll be done?"

Minerva answered, "Well we still got to register the business and order supplies for the building. It'll take days, but we'll be getting there eventually."

Bolz said, "Okay, well I hope this school of yours goes great."

Ronan smiled and replied, "I'm sure it will, Bolz. Minerva, Drake and I will be working to make this one of the best places in town." He looked at the woman and his dragon friend, who both smiled back at him.

The electric replied, "I'll probably have to visit this place someday."

Then Minerva asked, "It'll be great to see you there, Bolz!" With the sun having set to the point where an orange line of the sky was on the horizon, she asked, "So, are we ready to go home?"

Ronan nodded. "Yeah, I think so."

"Mmm," Bolz said. "Wait... I think I'm too far away from my home to make it back. Can I stay here?"

Minerva smiled generously and said, "Sure, you can stay over at my house. I'm sure Drake would love to have company with him when Ronan and I aren't around." Then the two dragons took off and head for her home.

Kathia taught her students two new spells, which were for combat, and let them practice it for a bit. After the training session ended, the girl turned to see that the search party has just returned. Jason came up to her, smiled and said, "Well well well, looks like our favorite redhead is back here alive in one piece. I heard you had a run-in with that necromancer and got away."

"I sure did," said Kathia. "I got out while he wasn't looking. It took me a while to get back here. My legs were killing me." Her face pretended to be in pain to prove a point of how slightly tiring her journey was.

The archer laughed a bit before saying, "That must have been a long walk back here. That guy didn't do anything to hurt you, did he?"

The girl shook her head and answered, "No, he wanted to remove me, so that he could sleep in my tent for the night." She switched the concern from her to the campers as she asked, "Did he hurt anyone here?" Knowing what a dangerous man Spinx was, she wouldn't be surprised if the necromancer did attack someone here.

Jason replied, "He sure did, the guy must have ran the hell outta here when we heard he killed one of our guards last night. We would have made him pay too once we catch his ass."

That poor night guard, it was a shame that he got murdered on the job. The guard's family, if he had any, must have been grieving over his death. Though as tragic as this was, at least the camp had to have his grave somewhere, so that she could teach her students the spell to see ghosts. Kathia grumbled, "I've had enough of that necromancer trying to kill us. Next time we see him, he's going down! I'll be learning and teaching more spells to the whole camp, so that we can all defend ourselves."

Jason nodded with the same desire to see Spinx dead, "Damn right! And we'll use my training to shoot him down, too. No more killer in the woods!"

The men behind him all pumped their fists into the air and cried, "Yeah!"

The archer continued, "And speaking of training, I think it's about time I give everyone new lessons. I haven't been teaching anyone since morning. We were spending a whole day looking for you."

Kathia was amazed at the search party's determination. "A whole day?!"

"Yeah, and we didn't even eat lunch, too. That's how determined we were to find you."

The girl smiled, "Wow, I'm flattered. You guys spent so much energy into looking for me. You're a hero!"

Jason shook his head and said, "Heh heh, thanks Kath! But I think you should be called that, since you saved yourself."

The girl modestly replied, "Nah, you deserve it more than me. All I did was escape, while you had a hunting party with you to fight that evil jerk. I think I should only be called that if I had been strong enough to kill him and save us all the trouble."

"Well don't trouble yourself over him. I doubt one man alone would be enough to kill him. You know how it is with mages."

"So true," nodded Kathia.

"Anyway, I'm going to let everyone here rest and eat dinner before we do some quick training."

"And I'll be checking up on my guest to see how he's doing."

Jason asked, "The guy with the silver hair or that halfling freak you took as a prisoner?"

Kathia answered, "The guy with the silver hair. He's hurt and I need to make sure he's alright." Then she went back to her tent to check on Azera. Just as she was nearing her tent, the halfling who now has larger wings suddenly sprinted out and ran past her in full spring like a bullet. The woman was very nibble on her movement. Kathia was caught in surprise by how hard and fast she went close by her. It almost felt like she could have been hit by the halfling's body, but thankfully that didn't happen. "She's escaping!" she cried out for someone to hear and hopefully try to capture the halfling. The girl can't let her go; Azera needs her. And if she is not around, the swordsman might wake up and do something stupid again. The few guards tried to stop the halfling, but they were unable to nab her in time as she cleared the camp rather fast for her size and disappeared into the woods. Kathia's head strained itself with anger at her prisoner's escape. She clenched both her teeth and fists, and then stomped her foot on the wet grassy ground. She let out a frustrated groan before she noticed Azera at her side. The man looked like he was well again; the cure poison spell had done its trick.

Azera seemed calm as he asked, "Kathia, thank you for your help. But I have one slight favor to ask. Can I borrow a horse and mind tagging along for a bit, like no more than a day?"

The girl put some thought into this decision. Somebody has got to make sure he does not run into trouble again. So she answered, "Alright sure. We'll take my horse." Then she wagged her finger as she told him, "But no Spinx; I've already gotten into trouble with him and I'm still training with magic."

Azera nodded his head in agreement and said, "Ya, Spinx is not the one I am after at the current time; it's her. There's something puzzling about this whole thing, something that just does not feel right."

Kathia was relieved that he wasn't going to risk their lives like this. "So you're after the halfling. Good, so am I. I kept her prisoner because I needed her help to keep you out of danger. But now she's gone off and escaped." She just remembered that the halfling's soul was bond to Azera's. The girl regretted thinking about letting her die from poison, because that would have killed the man if that happened. Fortunately, he was fine now, but the halfling was still poisoned. Kathia needed to go out there and find her quickly before she succumbs to the venom. She thought angrily, *'Damn it, why did you have to run away, stupid half-beast?!'*

Atlas and Akil walked down through the street. As they went, the woman looked around to see if anyone was hiding around in this mess of a city. She didn't want to encounter anyone loyal to the evil lords for they would ruin their mission. The only lifeforms she saw so far were the cockroaches hanging around a fallen trash bin they passed. One of them that was on the street even scurried away from Akil when they approached. As they continued to walk, Atlas stepped on something that cut her foot. She winced through her teeth and stopped to look at the damage. At the bottom of her shoe, which is organic as it's attached to her body, was a piece of glass. The woman glared at it and cursed the lords of Shadow Wind for not getting this city clean. Her daughter stopped and looked back at her. With a small hint of concerned in her voice, Akil asked, "What did you just cut yourself on and where?"

Atlas answered, "On the glass, it's on my foot." She showed the dragoness the glass shard embedded on the bottom of her foot.

Akil sighed at her, "Okay it's just shoes; should not explain why you are bleeding though your shoes in the first place."

Atlas asked, "What? Are human shoes supposed to be harder than that?" She knew humans always put on their shoes and take them off whenever they need to, but she never once thought that they were actually protective wear from obstacles like the glass shard. Maybe she should have made the bottom of her feet hard as a rock to prevent accidents like this from happening.

Akil nodded her head, "Ya they are harder than human skin, but they also mend to whatever they are stepping on sometimes." She continued, "But the question is: are you still able to walk without leaving a blood trail behind us, or eventually passing out from the cut?"

Atlas took a good look at her foot to see the answer. She pulled the glass shard out and saw blood oozing out of the wound. Akil was right to be concerned about a blood trail being left for the enemy to see and smell. If the bad guys caught Atlas's scent, then they would it to track her down and foil the mission. Since there was no healer around to fix the wound, the woman was just going to have to use

her own saliva as a healing agent. She answered, "I don't think so. I think we're going to have to find somewhere to hide until my foot stops bleeding."

Akil laid down on the ground in front of Atlas. She said calmly, "Get on and no childish running off. As long as you still have that protection around your neck best, you just stay in human form. Two, you need to slow down the bleeding and for you to walk and do that is impossible."

"Yeah, yeah I know that," said the woman. She began to limp over to her daughter by hopping over on one leg while holding the other by the foot. Then she climbed up over to the top of Akil's shoulders and winced as her movement strained the wound. After she was on, Atlas waited for the dragoness to move to a hiding place.

Akil got up off the ground and said quickly, "Hold on." She started to move rather quickly, but yet quite for her size and strides she was doing. Atlas did her best to hold on to her daughter as they rode through the city. In the time it took them to move one block through the city Akil had already moved four blocks in total. Each time she came up to a block she would peak around each corner quickly before dashing across the road. They soon came across an empty warehouse that could be used as a shelter and provide cover if they need it, too. The dragoness got down and Atlas climbed down from her to the floor. When the woman accidentally set her wounded foot on the floor, she hissed through her teeth in pain and jerked up her leg. She needs to remember to be careful with that foot until it is healed. Akil told her, "Find something to tie around your foot to stop the bleeding."

"Alright, got it," said Atlas. She looked around at the spacious room they were in. It was practically empty; how was she supposed to find something here? Turns out there was a door in this room that could very well lead her to something she could use. But before she could go there, Atlas looked down to her foot and turned its bottom up for her to see. She spat on it and rubbed the saliva on the wound to start getting it to heal. Then she went to hop on her unharmed foot to get to the door. The way she was going was much slower than walking on two legs and going on all fours as a dragon. It must have taken a minute or two for her to reach the door. She noticed the round iron handle on the door and knew that it was one of these doors that a human turns the knob to open it. Atlas turned the knob and tried to pull the door towards her, but it didn't budge. She kept the knob turned and pushed instead, which made the door swing open. The woman saw not another room or a hallway, but the outside where there was a patch of ground with a few small debris on the ground. There was nothing she could use to tie around her foot. Atlas closed the door and sat at the side of the wall. The only thing she could do was wait for the saliva to finish its job on her foot.

Akil turned and looked at the twilight sky as night approached. Then she went to the side of the warehouse door and slid it close as quickly but quietly until the door caught on something under the door frame. She stopped her motion, leaving only a few inches left of an open gap. She turned and went back to Atlas. She said, "Sadly, we are going to have to stay here for the night. Best thing I can say stay away from the view of that gap and sleep on the side of it. You should be fine to change into dragon form for the time being, but we are going to rotate watch cycle to be safe about it."

The woman wasn't sure if her daughter is right about the suggestion to transform in this city, but Akil did know more about the city than Atlas did. As the woman took off the collar, she said, "I'm not so sure if those guys will pick up my magic energy at a time like this, but whatever you say." Then she transformed back into a dragoness.

Akil then turned around and found a corner out of view in the right. She curled up and volunteered, "I'll keep first watch so you better get some rest."

Atlas replied, "Alright, I will. Tell me through telepathy if you see anything fishy." Then she went to the left side from the gap and fell asleep.

Aeolus woke up to find the members of his team, who helped him against Tavurth and his teammates, all unconscious. Sargoth was still lying on the ground from his paralysis, but Tavurth and the spring dragoness were gone having moved elsewhere. The horde leader wondered how long he had been out since the brute struck him. His thought was cut short when he heard one of his honeycomb pygmy soldiers telling him, *'Aeolus, Juna has just changed the objective.'*

'She did?' asked the leader. *'What is it now?'*

The pygmy answered, *'Apparently, we have to capture this human friend of hers she brought with her.'*

'We do now?' asked Aeolus. *'What happened to Mekarth? I thought our game was to capture him.'*

'We were, but he got badly hurt by a curse, so Juna labeled it an inconvenience and we're to go after the human instead. This change is just now in case you wanted to know when. I'll show you what he looks like.'

Aeolus got the image of a cloaked human carrying a purple-bladed sword. He said, *'So this is our new target now. Thank you, Silas. I'll be sure to tell the rest of our group about this right away.'*

Silas replied, *'Okay, but don't tell Bron, Rever, and Hewey this. We already know what he looks like.'* Grateful to the honeycomb for the convenience, the horde leader began to share this info with the rest of Group 3.

The cousins were just arising up from sleep. After Bam and Meubu were fully on their feet, the navy blue said, "Man, I can't believe we got jumped by Evony. What the heck was that all about?"

Meubu shook his head and answered, "I don't know. He probably mistaked us for Mekarth I guess?" Then he realized the stupidity of his guess and retracted, "No wait, that wouldn't make any sense since we're not black and there's three of us."

Bam got confused, trying to make sense of this, and asked, "Then why did he attack us?"

Before the geode could make a response, they heard their cousin chief speak, *'Group 3, Juna has recently just changed the objective. Due to the inconvenience of Mekarth being now unsuited for the exercise, we're now to look for a human in the sector and bring him to Juna.'* As Aeolus spoke these last words, the cousins received a telepathic image of what the human looks like. *'I don't know if he will fight back. But if he does, treat him as you would a formidable foe, for he may have magic. That is all.'*

Bam got puzzled about this news as he asked, "Mekarth unsuited? What happened?"

Meubu replied, "I don't know. I guess we'll have to ask later. Come on, let's go find that human." Then the two cousins went off to search.

Aeolus went inside one of the nearest buildings to see if the human was inside. The building had only one floor and it was very spacious with only two smaller rooms. He went to check each room for human scent, since there was nothing to see in the large room. With nobody here, the disaster dragon left the building to next its neighbor. As soon as he was halfway there, he was met with a surprise appearance of Kekul teleporting in front of him. Aeolus asked, "Kekul, what is the meaning of this? You know I can report you to Juna for breaking the rules."

Kekul replied, "Oh don't worry. I'm not doing any rule-breaking. In fact, Juna wanted me to bring you over to her."

Aeolus looked at the magi skeptically, wondering if this was some kind of trick to distract him. Then again, he could be telling the truth given what happened with Mekarth and the change in objective announced by Juna. Just in case, he telepathically asked the dragoness, *'Juna, Kekul claims you have need of me. Is this true?'*

Juna replied, *'Yes, now hurry up and get over here. Also, tell Group Five they have one hour to come back, and the other groups in case word has not spread about the change in targets. Forgot to tell Kekul to do so.'*

Aeolus replied, *'Very well, I'll tell this to everyone.'* Just when he thought that he may have fewer groups getting in the way of the competition, Juna had to go tell him to announce the news to them. It was no use keeping this a secret anyway as an opponent dragon might find Mekarth and then learn the news from Juna, who would be mad to find out that the horde leader withheld that information the whole

time. He telepathically told the other groups about who they would be searching for now. After this, he began to tell Group 5, *'Attention Group Five, Juna is giving you one hour to come back with the foods you have found.'* He noticed the specific time he mentioned and realized that the other groups may have the same time left needed to find the human. They better hurry up or no one might get declared the winner. But if no one wins, who would eat first? He shrugged off the concern about food and said to Kekul, "Alright then, send me over to her." Then the magi teleported himself and Aeolus over to Juna. Aeolus noticed that Rainstorm was here too as was Hewey, who busy tending to the wounded Mekarth.

Juna looked at the two and the gray first before she looked at the ground. She painfully said, "I have zero room to ask this, but Mekarth may not survive if we cannot retrieve what he needs. I need a part of Axle, more blood than meat, to reverse any permanent damage the curse may have cause during those last few days. Both Axle and Mekarth have the same blood type and due to Axle having high than normal healing in his bloodline. It's the best chance Mekarth has at surviving, so please can you do this for me? I can't bring myself to do it."

Remembering the silver's warning about Axle going berserk back at the lake, Aeolus understood that they would have to fight him in order to retrieve his blood. He said, "Very well, we'll do it. We'll keep him alive as we take a piece of his flesh off. But I won't guarantee that we won't hurt him too badly. Tearing off a part of your body is indeed extremely painful after all."

Rainstorm asked, "Wait, we're going to fight Axle? But isn't he on our side?" She, unlike the others, had no clue as to what happened back at the lake.

Kekul said to her, "He is, but some suppression spell that's been keeping his bad side down is wearing off and now he's gone crazy."

Aeolus said, "We're going to have to get ourselves ready for anything now that Axle's become dangerous. If he's able to bring his sister to near death, he can do the same to us." This team is going to have to take precautions when dealing with this aggressive white dragon, lest they get themselves killed. "Kekul teleport us over to Axle."

"Got it," replied the magi. Then he teleported himself and the other two horde members over to Axle's location.

Bam and Meubu entered one of the buildings to explore and see if the human was inside. The place was large and wide with a lot of space, making it seem like it was a store of some kind. Bam commented, "Man, this would be a neat place to sleep in tonight. I would have all this space to myself."

Meubu concurred, "I agree, we can even use any building in this sector as our dens. That way, we won't be crowded up in these village caves with the rest of the horde. I'm sure Juna won't mind." Then they

found some double doors and pushed them through to get to the other side. There, they found something surprising. Tavurth and a spring dragoness with him were both lying on the floor unconscious.

Bam dropped open his mouth and asked, "What the? What the heck happened to them?"

Meubu smelled a particular scent and looked to where it was coming from. Without taking his eyes off from there, he said, "I think he happened to them."

The navy blue looked to what the geode was seeing and discovered a robed man. He cried out, "A human! That's the one we're looking for. Let's get him!"

Just as Bam began to charge towards the man, Meubu quickly stopped him by grabbed his tail with his mouth. He cautioned telepathically, *'Wait Bam! Remember what our cousin said. Treat him like a formidable foe.'*

The navy blue stopped moving and looked to his cousin to ask, "So what do you suppose we do?"

Meubu advised, *'Let's just blow our breaths at him. A safe distance keeps you well-protected.'*

"Okay, got it," Bam replied, thinking this idea was good. The two cousins breathed out fire and a volley of rocks at the human. The man seemed to have been completely turned to dust because there was no evident of him ever being there.

The two dragons were surprised by the human's sudden disappearance. The geode asked, "Where did he go?"

Bam asked, "You don't think we killed him, did we?" Meubu doubt they did and assumed that the human must have magically warped himself away. Then he noticed an odd pink flower petal on the ground and was bewildered. When did that get there?

The moment Aeolus's team got there, they were met with a horrifying sight that disturbed them. There were blood and guts of multiple animals torn to shreds; a human cut into 3 strips; and most gruesomely, a dead dragon in black armor with his wings torn off, spine removed, legs broken, an eye removed and his tongue torn out. There was also another dead human, whose body was one in piece, leaning against a tree, but his death was nowhere near as ghastly as the others. The horde members' mouths dropped open as Kekul murmured, "Oh TJ..." Rainstorm let out a terrified gasp. She knew that the dragon and humans were recent kills, given how fresh their blood smelled. Axle must have killed them all at the same time. If this was how dangerous he was going to, then the gray dragoness did not want to fight him. She could very see her death at his claws.

Aeolus gritted his teeth and knew that Axle's suppression spell must have completely disappeared. This was no ordinary white dragon; he was indeed a living breathing weapon. The horde leader wasted no more time looking at the corpses as he began to watch for the white dragon before he attacks them. The leader found Axle walking away and telepathically said to his soldiers, *'He's behind us. Kekul, get ready to cover us with your barrier spell. I'm going to attack him now.'*

'Right,' replied the magi as he and the gray looked behind to see the white. Aeolus charged up his volts to a level where it was just enough to leave Axle unconscious. Then he released his lightning breath at the white.

Axle was struck from behind and he buckled under his weight. He fully hit the ground and the horde leader took a step forward, but then a sudden surprise happened. The white dragon got up quickly and turned his head right towards the horde with one of his eyes now an eerie black color locked right onto them and he looked angry as ever. "What?!" gasped Aeolus who was taken aback by this. He could have sworn he had enough voltage to subdue Axle, but the white just got back up like it was nothing.

Axle turned his whole body towards them and flung out his wings. He started to say, "You really want to embrace death that quickly? I will be happy to-" He was interrupted when a quick little silver light flew across his chest, drawing blood as a deep gash suddenly appeared. A small pygmy rolled into view covered in little razors blades across her black armor. She was growling at Axle, but her eyes caught Aeolus and the group before she saw the dead spineless dragon. She snapped her head back at Axle just in time to see his talons slash her straight into a tree behind her. Her razor blades acted as ice picks as she got lodged into the tree behind her. She was upside down and there was blood dripping from her armor as Axle has crushed the side of her chest piece, piercing her side. "Annoying pest, I will deal with you later," he said as he never took his eyes off Aeolus's group. "Now where was I? Oh yes, think fast," he said as he spun rather fast flinging all the blood and deer shreds on him in a full 360 degree around him splattering blood on everything.

The horde roared and turned their eyes-closing heads away from being pelted with nasty bits. Aeolus could even feel some of the blood touching the edge of his mouth. He would have to lick it away later after this. Before Kekul could cast the barrier, Axle pounced on him and began to bite down on his neck. Aeolus and Rainstorm heard the magi let out a pained roar and opened their eyes to see him getting attacked. The dragoness was about to rush at the white to attack, but the horde leader stopped her instantly with his talon grabbing onto her shoulder. He told her, "Stop!" If she were to attack Axle like that, she might have accidentally made Axle either sink his teeth in further and rip the flesh off the magi's throat. Then he looked at Kekul and telepathically told him, *'Warp yourself to Cirrus and get that neck healed quickly!'* It was urgent that the magi did or else he would die. Then Kekul teleported away to his healer gray dragon friend and the white's mouth clamped shut at the now empty space. With their comrade gone, Aeolus and Rainstorm went to attack Axle with their lightning breaths. The white saw their bolts, but he did not react fast enough to dodge them as he took one lightning attack and barely being missed by the other. He landed hard on his wing as he rolled a bit on his right side and back onto

his feet. The burn mark from the gray's bolt was visible for a few seconds before it disappeared from his body. He looked dead at the dragoness and she knew that he was going to hurt her. He made an immediate dash for her. The two dragons blew out their attacks, but Axle zigzagged to avoid them. Immediately, he was pretty close to her and frighteningly so, because now it looks like she was next to getting butchered. Rainstorm shrieked and jerked her head back in panic. But at a pretty lucky last second, Aeolus tackled the white and bit him on the back of his neck, but not on the throat which would kill him.

Axle growled at Aeolus before he yanked his neck downwards to remove his neck from the disaster's grasp, but in doing so, a large piece of his neck was torn off and left in Aeolus's mouth, where he tasted blood. They got it; a piece of Axle's flesh needed to heal Mekarth. But that's just only one of the requirements; this flesh must also have lots of blood more than the amount of meat on it as well. Aeolus would have to check it later, because right now they were still in the presence of a ferocious killer who flared his wings out and roared loudly at them. Clearly, he was not playing around with them anymore. They needed to escape from him now. Axle was about to charge at them before something came across the ground that made him stop. A large shadow came across them from above as everyone looked up and saw what it belongs to. A dragon descended down as his shadow got darker on the ground. He landed in between the fighting dragons. The pygmy was dislodged from the tree by the sheer wind from the gust the newcomer unintentionally made as he landed. She landed on her side.

The dragon's armor was a silver color and fully armored to the teeth. As for the pygmy, her armor set barely provided enough protection to be considered armor. Only her back, tail and top of her head were armored, leaving the rest completely exposed. It was less than that of the dragon that was killed in a gruesome death and he wasn't fully armored like the new dragon. Axle took one step back and he was met with a giant swipe to his side that was flown through a few trees from just the sheer force. This dragon was double the size of the white and was touching the tops or even passed tops of trees just by sheer height. He paid no mind to Aeolus and Rainstorm as he turned his head slightly to the pygmy, who got to her feet. She turned to the dragon, sat down and kept her head looking to the ground. He said to her, "Worthless. I will deal with you later after this is clean up-" She went to interrupt him with what sound like a plea. He stomped his paw down hard on the ground which made the ground shook and sound like thunder. Aeolus and Rainstorm made startled cries as they felt themselves nearly losing their footing. The quake also knocked the pygmy's helmet off her head and revealed a collar, but not like one that Akil had. It looked more a slave collar. A closer look on the pygmy showed that her armor was not just providing little defense, but it was also permanently stuck on her body, minus the helmet. There was also one more thing as well: she had wings, but they met the armor's back piece and just at the joint she could spread them and glide. But flying was not going to be possible as it made it impossible for her to fly without flapping her wing. The armored dragon snarled at her, "Silence. I have already taken your flying and your freedom for your last outburst. Keep this up and I'll turn you into a living ornament."

He turned his attention back to Axle, who was back on his feet, but he was covered in his own blood from the newly open wounds. It was clear he was at his limit now as he had aggressively healed his wounds from the horde members and the dragon he brutally killed. However, Axle turned and tried to

make a mad dash away from this dragon, but somehow ended up coming from behind Aeolus and Rainstorm. He was slammed into the ground by the newcomer and sounds of breaking bones could be heard. Then he was airborne all of a sudden and was hit straight into the chest with more bones in his body breaking from the shear impact alone and hit the ground and slide into a tree with a hard impact to his back. At this point it was clear where this group came from. It was also clear that Axle was not going to get back up after that short three hit bone breaking combo he just took. Aeolus thought, '*Shadow Wind dragons.*' They and the dead he saw must have come here to kill Axle.