

~ Heart of a Zora

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Chapter 5

The crowd scattered back to their respective business while Link and Sidon walked across the landing overlooking the courtyard. Link's Sheikah Slate was actively scanning for any sign of Zora's Sapphire. The moment it detects it, it'll emit a series of beeps.

"So do you know the scanning radius of your tablet?" Sidon asked.

Link shook his head. "Not precisely. I do know this much. It's detected shrines from about as far away as the relative space this village occupies. So I can tell you for sure that the stone doesn't seem to be here within Zora's Domain. We'll have to travel in a grid-like pattern. My map can assist with that."

"Sounds great! Allow me to gear up real fast." Sidon said as he hurried back to his room to gather his weapons.

Once he returned, Link smiled in spite of himself.

"What is it, Link?" Sidon chuckled at Link's expression.

"Oh nothing. You just look...handsome" Link said.

Sidon reacted a little sheepishly. "Y-You think so? Because I can certainly say the same about you. You're every bit the strong Hylian I believed you to be. Your skills on the battlefield are greater than my own."

It was Link's turn to react that way. "Aw, shucks! Well, let's say we get going then."

"Right!" Sidon made his familiar gesture while flashing his pearly whites.

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Sidon let Link lead the way. He decided to cover Ploymus Mountain first. Donning his Zora armor, Link jumped into the water and swam towards the giant waterfall behind the domain. Once they reached the base of it, Link and Sidon swam up the waterfall all the way to the summit of the mountain.

Naturally, Sidon sped up faster than Link and was already at the top when Link was three quarters of the way up.

As they made their way further in, Link paused.

“We’ll need to watch ourselves. The Lynel that Laflat warns people about still lives up here, and he’s none too happy to see me whenever I pass through his territory.” Link warned.

But Sidon took out his Lightscale Trident and held it. “I say let that beast appear. He has been a blight upon our people in the past.”

Link wasn’t sure what to say. He vaguely remembers a young Sidon bravely facing down a Lynel a hundred years ago, before Mipha scolded him for his recklessness and then praised him for said bravery. That same Lynel led an attack on Zora’s Domain that was halted only thanks to Mipha’s successful command of Vah Ruta. Seeing King Dorephan in battle was quite a sight to behold, given his enormous stature. He makes the Sidon of today look quite small by comparison. On the other hand, Sidon has a much more muscular physique. He has never seen him in actual battle; and he’d be lying if he said he wasn’t curious. However, Sidon means a great deal to him and it would be selfish to risk seeing Sidon put in harm’s way just to satisfy this whim of his.

“Link. You know how the blood moon happened as a result of Ganon’s magic?” Sidon asked.

“Zelda told me about it, yes. Why?” Link asked.

“If we were to eliminate that Lynel, then he’ll never revive again to terrorize us, yes? I realize it isn’t part of our quest, but I have a score to settle with him. Will you back me up, in case I need you?” Sidon asked.

The coincidence was quite strong with this one. Link had never seen Sidon look angry or determined like this. He couldn’t bring himself to say no, however. After all, there are still a fair few monsters that remain out there, including Lynels, Hinnoxes and Stone Taluses. Word has it their aggression has somewhat lessened, now that Ganon’s dark influence is no longer affecting them.

Regardless they still see Hylians, Zoras and Rito as their sworn enemies and will most likely attack on sight.

Resigned to the inevitable, Link nodded. "Yes. But please, be careful."

"Don't worry. I've been practicing my battle skills while you were away. I also brought some electro elixirs with me to help protect me from shock arrows." Sidon said.

"Then let's do this." Link said.

The two made their way to the place where the Lynel was usually at. Sure enough, he was spotted on the far end of the field. Link took up position near a large boulder with a vantage point and watched closely as Sidon went in, trident at the ready. He took out one of his elixirs and drank it, activating its shock resistant effects. Soon enough, the Lynel spotted him and upon seeing Sidon's fighting intent, immediately drew his bow.

Sidon took evasive action as the Lynel fired a round of shock arrows at him. The first batch of arrows missed him, but the second batch caught him from behind. Despite the elixir's shock resistance, Sidon still felt that. He charged in, knowing that he had the best chance at close quarters combat. Likewise, the Lynel stowed his bow and pulled out his large sword and shield.

Link had faced many Lynels and knew their attack patterns well. One strike from that sword was enough to knock off a large chunk of one's lifeforce. Sidon went on the offensive and managed to land several precision strikes with his trident. The Lynel countered with a wide swing of his sword, to which Sidon leapt back to avoid. Unlike Link, Sidon's legs were proportionately shorter and thus it was unlikely he could backflip away from him in a perfect dodge, which was the only way to both avoid the Lynel's attack and perform a flurry rush.

Nevertheless, Sidon got a few more good jabs in with his trident before the Lynel ran in a sweeping arc around him, charging in with his sword raised. Sidon made to sidestep the attack, but he moved a split second too late. The Lynel got him that time, knocking Sidon off his feet.

Link, currently wearing his Champion's Tunic, could see the life force of both Sidon and the Lynel he's facing. His own life force is maxed out at 120 HP from his time building up his strength to fight Ganon. Sidon has just over half of that, totalling 70 HP. This Lynel, of course, has a whopping 2000 HP. Of course, Link had fought Silver Lynels, which pack an insane 5000 HP. The key difference is both he and Sidon benefit from armors that help mitigate a lot of damage while also carrying health-restoring food and elixirs.

Nevertheless, that attack knocked Sidon's HP down to 30. Unlike Link, however, Sidon was quick to get back up. The Lynel's own HP was below 1000 at this point, thanks to his repeated hits while showing impressive evasive skills. Sidon decided to adjust his strategy, switching out his Lightscale Trident for a Zora Sword and Silver Shield.

'Good strategy,' Link thought. 'He needed a means to defend himself, since he wouldn't survive more than a couple direct hits at best. The downside was that the sword was lacking in power.'

Sidon landed a few more hits with his sword, but as predicted, they chipped only a little of the Lynel's HP. The Lynel ran back to put distance and stowed his weapons away. Sidon didn't seem aware of what he was about to do, but Link certainly did.

"Lookout, Sidon! He's about to charge you!" Link shouted.

But it was too late. The Lynel's powerful legs propelled him with enormous speed, bowling Sidon over and sending him crashing to the ground. This time, however, Sidon wasn't so quick to get back up. Link began to worry. Sidon's HP was very low. One more hit would likely finish him. He began to run over, but Sidon shot him a look. It was a look that told him he had this.

"You'll die!" Link pleaded.

"I will not be the one who falls here!" Sidon yelled in defiance.

The Lynel had turned back around and drew his sword and shield back out. Sidon held his own sword and shield at the ready. He had a plan. Reaching

in, he took out another elixir and drank it. Link watched Sidon's lifeforce become fully restored with an additional 30 HP added, totalling 100. Link breathed a sigh of relief.

The Lynel charged in with his sword held out. Sidon held his shield up, waited for just the right moment, and swung it! The Lynel's sword was not only successfully knocked back, but he actually dropped it as well. Link couldn't believe his eyes. In all his time fighting the strongest of Lynel's, he has never been able to knock one's weapon from their grasp.

The Lynel reacted by swinging his powerful fist at the Zora, but Sidon caught his wrist. He swung his other fist at him, but Sidon caught *that* as well! The two were locked in a contest of strength! Link's jaw almost dropped when he saw just how huge Sidon's muscles bulged, particularly his biceps! This Zora, though nearly twice as tall as Link, was still overshadowed by the towering Lynel, a Lynel with the biggest muscles of the three; to say nothing of his physical strength! Yet, here Sidon was, matching it!

Sidon's biceps surged, his triceps took on incredible size and crazy definition, his traps swelled and his quads ballooned in size and crazy definition! Link had always known Sidon packed quite a musclebound physique, but where was he hiding all that muscle mass?

The Lynel seemed to react as well, unsure of what to do against a smaller opponent that was matching his strength! Sidon had one chance to make this work. He threw the Lynel's wrists to the side, stunning him for just a second. But that second was all Sidon needed to grab his sword and throw it right in his face, breaking the sword while scoring a critical hit on him, leaving him stunned and unable to move for a moment.

This was Sidon's chance. He stowed his shield, took back out his trident and began wailing on him. Link watched with genuine amazement as Sidon brought the Lynel's HP down to below 100 HP before the towering centaur was able to recover. However, this enraged him as he let out a fierce roar that Sidon could feel in the air.

Link had let his guard down, believing Sidon was well on his way to defeating him, that by the time he tried to warn Sidon of what the Lynel was about to do, it was too late. Sidon had backed away, believing he could easily dodge whatever he was trying to do with his sword. He was badly mistaken when the Lynel hit the ground with such explosive force, that it knocked Sidon's lifeforce down to critical in one hit!

"Sidon!" Link yelled.

Sidon struggled to get back to his feet. There was blood trickling down from his mouth and some down his left arm. By the time Sidon was back up, the Lynel had pulled his sword out of the ground. Sidon's only recourse was to act fast before his enemy could fell him. His left arm ached badly as he swung his trident at the Lynel as hard as he could, chipping away his lifeforce until it too was almost gone.

The Lynel took a great leap back and began charging a large fire attack. Unlike the explosive attack from moments ago, Sidon recognized what was coming and stumbled back, tripped and falling down. He realized one of his legs was also wounded. He tried to get back up, but the effort was too great for him to get back up in time to avoid what was coming.

Without warning, a cluster of electric bolts struck down upon the Lynel, stunning it once more. Sidon had no time to process what just happened. With a surge of adrenaline, he was back and and charged in with a yell of fury as he ran his Lightscale Trident through the beast's flesh, delivering the killing blow as he disappeared in an explosion of purple energy and leaving behind his sword, shield, several shock arrows, a Lynel horn, a couple hoofs and guts.

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