

# New Game Plus

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volume 9  
Disciple







SO... Y'ARE HEAD'D SOUTH? IT'S JUS' THA' I'M GOIN' THA' WAY, AN' IT'S MUCH NICER T' TRAV'L INNA GROUP.



WELL, WE ARE HEADED SOUTH. BUT-

WE'D RATHER NOT TRAVEL WITH A CERAPH CLANNER.



AH. WHY IS THA'?



NO OFFENCE MEANT, MA'AM. BUT WE'VE GOT PROBLEMS WITH A FEW DARK POWERS. THAT'S A LITTLE OVER THE HEAD OF AN ELEMENTAL, I WOULDN'T THINK YOU'D WANT ANY PART OF THAT ANYWAY. WE WOULDN'T WANT TO BRING YOU PROBLEMS.



OH. RIGH'. YEAH, THA' DOES SOUND BAD. SORRY T'HEAR IT.



...BUT I DON'T HAVE T' GET INVOLY'D IN ANY FIGH'S OR NOTHIN'. I'M HAPPY T' PLAY TH' PACIFIST.



OH?





SURE. I MEAN, I'D HATE T' SEE YER GET HURT, BUT GOSH I COULDN' STAND UP T' ANY'A TH' GODDESSES SERVAN'S.



WELL OKAY THEN. IF YOU COULD "PLAY THE PACIFIST" I THINK THAT COULD WORK.



DARK-!!



I'VE HEARD THAT YOU ELEMENTALISTS HUNT TRICKSTERS. AS A DARK POWER, I'VE NO QUARREL WITH THEM.



SEE, ALTHOUGH I'M A DARK POWER, I AM A PACIFIST. I DESPISE BLOODSHED. IF YOU CAN AGREE NOT TO KILL ANY TRICKSTERS, YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US.



...HUH.

A BLACK-WINGED PACIFIST... AN' Y'SURE YER A DARK POW'R? ...SEEMS MIGHTY SUSPICIOUS.



COME ON, CERAPH CLANNER. NO TRICKSTER'S DUMB ENOUGH TO PLAY A FOLLOWER OF A GODDESS. BESIDES HE CAN PROVE IT.

UH, BUT NOT WHILE IT'S DAYTIME...



HM. WELL. IT'D BE AWKWARD TAKIN' TH' SAME ROAD PRETENDIN' WE WEREN'T TRAVELLIN' TOGETH'R. TELL YA WHA'. I'LL DEFEND M'SELF IF I GET ATTACK'D, BUT I WON'T GO STARTIN' NO FIGHTS WITH TRICKST'RS.

DEAL.

...NOW.





OH, Y' GUYS DIDN' GET T' MEET UP  
WITH THA' FIREND Y' WERE TALKIN'  
ABOU' LAS' NIGH'?



...NO, HE DIDN'T  
SHOW UP.

I KEEP TELLING YOU, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT DARK,  
WE'LL SEE HIM FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD.



HOW ARE YOU  
SO SURE...?



ART'S CRAFTY, HE'LL BE FINE.

... "ART'S CRAFTY"? GOOD LORD I  
CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT.



SO TELL ME ABOU' YER  
FRIEND ART!



HE'S ANOTHER FEATHRY,  
A LIGHT POWER. HE'S...  
REALLY NICE.

YER FRIENDS WITH A  
LIGH' POW'R? ...HUH. WELL,  
I AIN' SEEN ANY LIGH'  
POW'RS LATELY.



GOOD.

...GOOD? BUT  
ARTHUR-

WAS HIDING HIS  
HAND MARKING. AT THE  
LEAST, THAT MEANS ALASTAIR  
ISN'T ON OUR TRAIL.



EXCUSE ME.







I CAN' HELP BUT NOTICE Y' DON' SEEM T' LIKE ME, MIST'R ZACK.



IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL, CERAPH CLANNER. I JUST DON'T LIKE ZEALOTS.



IZZAT SO? AN' YET YER HANGIN' AROUND WITH A DARK POW'R AN' A BALANCE PRIEST?

I PREFER 'MONK'...



OH. UM...



YES.



D' Y' JUS' HAVE A PROBL'M WITH ELEMENTALS?

CERAPH CLAW, PLEASE DON'T-

WHA'S TH' MATT'R? ONE OF OUR GUYS KILL YER DAD OR SOMETHIN'?



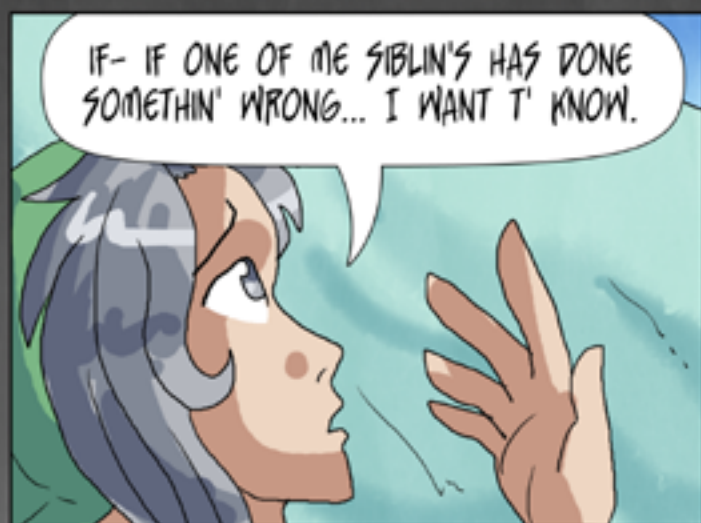
...NOT MY FATHER.





















WHEN I GREW UP, CERAPH TALON CAME TO TOWN.



APPARENTLY THE VILLAGERS DECIDED ZACHARY WAS SUSPICIOUS. HE USED TO LIVE IN THE VILLAGE, BUT... HE DIDN'T FIT IN THERE MUCH. BUT THEY FIGURED HIM LEAVING, LIVING HERMIT-LIKE... TOO SUSPICIOUS. THEY TALKED TO CERAPH TALON ABOUT IT...



APPARENTLY THEY THOUGHT HE WAS A TRICKSTER ALL ALONG. WITHOUT EVEN A TRIAL, THEY...



THEY STRUNG HIM UP.



I WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR THE ROPE TOO... BUT I HAD A FEW FRIENDS IN TOWN WHO VOUCHED FOR ME. SAID I WAS UNDER ZACK'S THRALL, THAT I WAS STILL JUST A KID.



AFTER THAT... I HAD NO REASON TO STAY THERE.



I'M SORRY, BUT-



I'M GONNA STOP YOU RIGHT THERE. YOU DO NOT WANT TO FINISH THAT THOUGHT.





LAST TIME I TOLD THIS STORY TO PEOPLE I TOOK AS FRIENDS, THEY USED IT AS PROOF I WAS A TRICKSTER. I ENDED UP TIED TO A TREE AND LEFT TO DIE.



I'M VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE TRUER FRIENDS, NOW...

ZACK... I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW.



WELL LIST'N, I'M SORRY TOO.



IF YER FRIEND WASN' A TRICKST'R, IT'S A TERRIBL' TRAGEDY THA' ME BROTH'R LET THA' HAPP'N.



AND IF HE WAS A TRICKSTER?



I RECK'N A TRICKST'R WAS RESPONSIBL' FER KILLIN' ME LAS' NIGH'. SO FORGIVE ME IF I'M LESS TH'N FRIENDLY T'WARDS 'EM.



≡SIGH≡ I REGRET THAT WE HAVE SOMEHOW BEEN JOINED BY PRO-MURDER PEOPLE.

...WHY? WHO ELSE RECK'NS KILLIN' IS ALRIGH'?









....A REMOTE TOWN, WHERE NEITHER LIGHT NOR DARK POWERS HAVE EVER LIVED? THAT'S MY TOWN.



WHAT? YOU- AND WHEN WERE YOU GOING TO TELL US?



I TRIED TO TELL YOU GUYS. REMEMBER WHEN WE FIRST BEGAN TRAVELLING TOGETHER? IN THAT FOREST. WHERE YOU ASSAULTED ME FOR MENTIONING IT, HAHA.



I THOUGHT YOU WERE LYING.

I KNOW. I WASN'T.



THAT'S WHY I TOLD ART TO HEAD SOUTH TO MEET UP WITH US.



THEN- YOU'RE LEADING US THERE NOW?

YEAH, MAN.



FIGURED I OUGHT TO TELL YOU BEFORE WE GOT THERE.

