

Date Unknown...

I Can Do What?!?!

As the light vanished, I saw nothing but sand. We must be in a desert. I turned and looked down to see Gelmat appear next to me.

“Care to explain to me what I’ll learn here?” I asked.

“Here you must learn to control the spiritual powers. If you can master these, then you will be ready for the next lesson.”

“But how do I use powers I don’t even know if I have?” I inquired. Gelmat laughed, at least I think he did. It sounded more like a gargling.

“You have always had the power to do this. You must simply search yourself and find them.” I shook my head. This couldn’t be easy.

“Ok, I’ll try.” I closed my eyes and focused. I seek the power within. I wish to control it. I want... It was then that I felt a very light tingle. I opened my eyes, and I could see not only sand, but everything living. This wasn’t a desert, it was actually a small town in a desert. I could see children running, a farmer tending to his camels, and a lady carrying water.

“I can see what really is here.”

“Excellent. You have learned to see the living world from the spirit world. You can see what others cannot. If you concentrate enough, you can do this from the Living world as well. But this is not anything special. Its what you will do next.”

“And what is that?” I asked. Gelmat pointed a finger at the lady carrying water.”

“In a few moments, she will drop the water, spilling every last drop. This water is needed by her family to survive. You must learn to interact with the living world while you are in this one, but you cannot give away your presence.”

“Why not?” I asked.

“If people know this world exists, it could turn the world into a nightmare. People will be afraid of it, and some will try to control it. This could very well destroy the existence of, well... everything.” I nodded.

“I see,” I watched the lady. She stopped suddenly. I saw the kids running at her. I see, I thought, they are going to run right into her. I ran forward, unsure of what I was going to do. I got to the lady and tried to grab the large vase she was carrying. My hands phased right through it.

“Believe that you can touch it, and you will.” Gelmat coached. I took a breath, and tried again. I am going to grab this vase, thought. My spirit hand touched it, and I felt it. I put both hands on it. Just at that time, the kids that were running ran right into the lady. She toppled backwards. I looked at my hands, it was still holding the vase.

“Quickly Caius! Put it down! Don’t let them see!” Gelmat hissed. I set the vase in the sand. The lady sat up, still in shock.

“I’m really sorry.” I heard one of the kids say.

“I am fine, child. Please be cautious.” The lady said. She looked at the vase, which was standing in the sand next to her.

“Oh, thank goodness it didn’t spill out!” She rejoiced. I smiled. I can still do good, even if I’m dead.

“Well done, Caius. I must say, you are extraordinary! It has taken others many attempts to do what you can do instantly!” I looked at Gelmat.

“Others?” I said.

“Yes, there have been others that can do the things you can, but none of them have been this successful.”

“This is swell and all, but what’s next? I kind of have things that need to be done.” I thought about Lady Tso getting away. And what if Talis returns and finds my corpse in his house? I don’t think he can handle seeing me almost dead a second time.

“You now have the ability to interact with the real world. Next we must train you to use your Spiritual powers in the living world. What you did when you fought and lost control. That is called your Shadow Form. Simply put, if done the correct way, you can disperse into pure Shadow Energy, and be untouchable, but be able to interact in the real world. Basically, what you did here, do it in the living world, but become what you are now.” I nodded, kind of excited at this. Now I can fight, even while a Spirit.

“When do we start?” I asked. With that, there was a flash of light, and we were back in Talis’ house. I saw my corpse, still unmoved. Only now, I could see everything in the house too. I saw the bed I was originally on, the mess I made, and the table I must have rolled into.

“Now, before I tell you how to return to your body, you must master the Shadow Form art. Now, however you did it last time, do it again. But this time, think about it, and hard. Become the power you needed, but in a spiritual form.” Gelmat instructed. I nodded, unsure of how to do this. I closed my eyes, and reluctantly, relived the fight with the Draco Disciples.

“What did I tell you? If you hurt her, I would kill you. AND NOW I WILL!!!” That was the reason that I went berserk in the first place. They killed Lady Snowfire. I watched as I charged at the Draco’s. I could see everything so clear. The sight of me killing was not pleasing.

“Stop him. Kill this fool!” Lady Tso screamed. The look on her face was priceless. I watched as I continued to kill.

“Caius, I must say I’m impressed at how much stronger you’ve gotten. But you remember, you cannot harm me, the Gem of Souls will reflect everything you throw at me.”

“I haven’t forgotten, Tso.” I heard myself say. I was kind of surprised. It didn’t sound like me at all. Then I heard myself chant the spell.

Power of Darkness, All through the Night,  
Give me the power to win this fight.  
Unstoppable might, Submit no Ploy,  
I command thee, Dark Force, come forth and destroy!

That's it! It was the spell that unleashed me. This is what I must do, even if it means reliving the horrors I have seen.

"Power of darkness, all through the night, Grant me the power to..." I was cut off.

"What are you doing?" Gelmat said.

"I am using the spell to make me go Shadow power or whatever its called." I explained. He laughed again. I swear, it reminds me of gargling.

"You don't need a spell to use your powers. You simply must think of it, will it out and it will happen."

"I can do what?!?!?" I said. All this time, I've been reciting spells, mere poetry, and all I had to do was think it?

"Seriously?" I said, kind of peeved it didn't tell me this in the first place.

"For the most part, yes. You don't need to say a word. This also gives you an advantage because mortals cannot hear you, therefore unable to prevent you from casting it." It explained.

"Ok, whatever you say." I was still mystified that I didn't have to speak spells anymore. So with that, I focused and thought to myself, "Disperse into the Shadows." I immediately felt the change. I could feel myself getting lighter, and my body turned into a black smoke. Similar to the Shadow King. I retained the shape of a human, but I wasn't human anymore.

"Wonderful. Now, I must warn you. The longer you stay in this form, the more it may consume you. You must learn to control it, but you have to figure that out. I cannot help you there." I thought about my normal self, and immediately, I resumed my human form, as if I was put back together like a puzzle.

"Wait. I think I figured something out." I said. Gelmat looked up.

"I'm listening." I took a deep breath, if it was breathing, and began.

"A long time ago, when I was first taken over by the shadow king, he was in a form similar to what I just was. Could it be possible that the Shadow King was merely like me, and lost control inside the Shadows, therefore becoming what he was. What I am now?" Gelmat nodded, and I think he kind of grinned a little.

"Caius, you have just learned everything that I can teach you. I will be here, to help you on your way if you should need it. But I'm fairly sure you will be fine." I was confused. How could I know everything. I just had a theory about the existence of the Shadow King.

"But I..." I began, but was cut off again.

"You know who you are, now do the right thing this time." Gelmat said, and faded out of sight. I don't understand. You know who you are. Do the right thing this time. That makes no...

Then it clicked. I realized it. This power, I didn't get it from the Shadow King. I AM the Shadow King. But how did I get back in time to give myself these powers? That part I didn't understand. I turned to my corpse, and suddenly, I knew what to do. I knelt over my corpse, and waved a hand across it. Thinking about healing to myself, I watched as my body healed. The large gash

on my side healed. The red Lump on my face where I was hit disappeared, and my robe was whole again. I looked it over. With a nod, I completed the healing. Then, I touched my corpse, and willed myself back into it. I felt a force like no other, and everything was black again.

I opened my eyes. I could see. And this was the real world, I could tell. Nothing was fuzzy or foggy. I jumped to my feet, re-energized. I felt like I was a new man. Well, I kind of was. I looked around. With a thought, everything in the house was cleaned and repaired. Just as it was when I first got here. I looked up suddenly. I heard voices. They were far away, but I could tell of their intent. There was a female, whom I've never heard her voice before, and the friendly voice of Talis. Ah! He's returned. I turned and began walking to the door. This shouldn't take long. I'll explain to him what I am to do, and what happened, then I'll be off. I smiled to myself. My new knowledge was shocking, yet not the hardest news I've had to swallow. All I know is that if I really was, or am, the Shadow King, I have to do the right thing. Whatever it turns out to be. I opened the door without even touching it, and walked into the bright sunlight of the new day.