

Legend of Zelda: Rise of Heroes

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. HYRULE CITY- SKY- NIGHT

It's the STORM to top all storms. The sky ROARS with powerful gusts of wind and rain-- blowing in every direction. Streaks of LIGHTNING pound the Earth at an almost constant rate, while the BOOMING OF THUNDER inevitably follows.

We TRACK AN OWL-- heroically making the journey through this nightmarish weather. And with every streak of lightning just narrowly avoided, his venture becomes all the more epic. This is no ordinary creature.

FROM THE SKY we begin to look down to the ground-- a VILLAGE in utter chaos. EXPLOSIONS OF FIRE erupting from seemingly nowhere-- entire buildings are ablaze. All the while, the CIVILIANS frantically scatter through the streets-- desperate to escape the madness. Their SCREAMS of terror reach us in the sky.

We spot a woman fall to the ground and get TRAMPLED just before the Owl elevates to higher skies.

CUT TO:

EXT. HYLIAN TEMPLE- BALCONY- NIGHT

ON THE OWL-- finally reaching his destination-- landing on the balcony of this three-story TEMPLE. And with one quick TWIRL, this owl suddenly TRANSFORMS INTO A MAN! Amazing.

The Man quickly enters the Temple through the balcony doors--

CUT TO:

INT. HYLIAN TEMPLE- CONTINUOUS

And as the Man enters, we get a better look at him. He is--

RARUU(unknown age)-- an older man. As rich in wisdom and nobility as he is in weight. A marvelous WHITE BEARD drapes to his chest.

Raruu joins TWO OTHER MEN-- older gentlemen who appear as wise as Raruu. They are PAMREN(63) and BEIL(59).

Both men PERK UP upon noticing Raruu. They looked surprised to see him--

PAMREN

Raruu! By the grace of the goddesses, you've returned!

BEIL

And what news of the other sages?!

Raruu firmly shakes his head-- a look of utter defeat and frustration-- his fist clenched. He BRUSHES past the men and

continues on through the temple. The men follow eagerly--

BEIL

Raruu--

RARUU

It's no use. The conflict between
the six sages has grown too strong.
Our hearts are no longer unified.

A beat. You can see hope DIMMING in the other men. Then--

PAMREN

And what of the Princess? Does she
not intend to make a final stand?

Raruu shakes his head once more-- this time letting out a
SIGH of frustration.

RARUU

If only that were the case. ...But
the Princess is nowhere to be
found.

More dimming hope.

BEIL

Then all is lost... The Kingdom
will fall--

PAMREN

Calm yourself, Beil! We cannot
concede to the darkness just yet.
We must do whatever necessary to
hold off until the return of the
Hero. Right, Raruu?

BEIL

Fool! There will be no return!
Can't you see destruction is nigh
upon us! The Kingdom is soon to be
in ruins. Yet the Hero remains
absent.

PAMREN

We must not surrender our hope! He
is the only one who can sleigh the
Dark King. Just as the prophecy
foretold--

BEIL

If that holds true, then where
be-ith the coward now?! What hole
doth he sleep in--?

PAMREN

Hold your blasphemous tongue, Beil!

BEIL

Why? It matters not what I say in
the final hours--

PAMREN

I will make this your final
minutes!--

RARUU

Enough!!!

And the arguing suddenly HALTS. Raruu STOPS-- turns to face
them.

RARUU(CONT)

Now is not the time for internal
warfare.

(to Beil)

We WILL NOT concede to darkness.
Not again.

(to Pamren)

Nor can we wait for the Hero to
return.

PAMREN

But Raruu--

RARUU

You misunderstand the prophecy,
Pamren. It foretold that the Hero
of Time would sleigh the Dark King
once. And once only. And so he did,
five years ago. However, no one
could've imagined that the Dark
King would return. ...The Hero will
not save us now.

PAMREN-- defeated.

RARUU(CONT)

The fate of the Kingdom hangs in
the balance. We must act
accordingly.

WIDEN to reveal Raruu standing behind a HUGE DOOR. On it, a
SYMBOL-- three golden triangles interlocked(the symbol of
the Tri-force for those of you that aren't familiar with the
games). And we suddenly realize that Raruu didn't stop just
to silence the argument. This was his destination.

BEIL

Raruu. What would you have us do?

Raruu looks to both men-- a hardened but trustworthy
expression-- as if to say: "This is it. All or nothing."

RARUU

In these final moments, we have no choice but to appeal to the creators. They crafted this world. ...Surely they will not let it fall to darkness.

Raruu turns to face the door. Placing both hands on it-- ready to push.

RARUU(CONT)

We must pray to the goddesses!!

Pamren and Beil exchange looks-- NOD-- both in agreement with Raruu.

RARUU(CONT)

The will protect us! They will empower us! The will deliver us--

JUST THEN--

The ground suddenly starts SHAKING! An earthquake? No. Something more. Raruu and the others TENSE UP-- struggling to stay on their feet.

BEIL

It's the Dark King! He is nigh upon us!!

We suddenly hear the CRIES of several civilians-- it makes for a twisted melody of terror.

CUT TO:

EXT. HYLIAN TEMPLE- BALCONY- NIGHT

Raruu and the other BARREL OUT of the Temple-- searching for the cause of the commotion. And what they discover goes far beyond their every expectation.

TIGHT ON RARUU-- a look of utter astonishment.

RARUU

By the goddesses...

REVEAL--

AN ENORMOUS WAVE. More than a wave, a TSUNAMI. A tsunami on steroids! It towers so high into the sky that the clouds themselves contemplate running away. Even the terrible storm seems miniature in comparison.

And as this biblical wave rises to it's peak--

RARUU

Din. Nayruu. Farore. ...Could this be our...deliverance?

One more look at this monstrous wave-- CRASHING DOWN-- before--

BLACKOUT.

A WOMAN SUDDENLY BURST OUT of her sleep with a loud SCREAM! Now she's sitting upright in her BED. Heart racing. Breathing fast. In a cold sweat. All the symptoms of a nightmare.

The Woman is PRINCESS RUTO(23)-- and she's by no means a normal woman. She's a ZORA-- an aquatic-like, humanoid creature with BLUE SKIN(again for those who haven't played the game). Long, elegant FINS flow out the back of her forearms like wings on a bird. And despite her un-human characteristics, she's gorgeous.

Just then--

THREE MALE ZORAS barrel into the room-- combat ready. They're armed with their forearm fins, which, unlike Ruto's, are as sharp as blades. Now we realize we're in--

INT. RUTO'S CHAMBERS- NIGHT

The Soldiers survey the area-- cautious, but slightly confused. Probably because there's no threat. Or at least, not one that they can see.

SOILDER #1

Princess, are you harmed?

A BEAT as Ruto calms herself. Slowly making the transition from the nightmare to reality. Then--

OFF RUTO--

RUTO

(commanding)

Summon Kale!

INT/ESTAB. ZORA'S DOMAIN- NIGHT

SUPER: ZORA'S DOMAIN

The Domain of the Zora's is BREATHTAKING. In itself, it's simply a massive CAVERN. However, a collection of waterfalls that run along the walls of the cavern, which GLOW with a beautiful BLUE AURA, give the domain a majestic feel.

INT. ZORA'S DOMAIN- ROYAL LIBRARY- NIGHT

FOLLOW RUTO-- navigating through this uniquely arranged maze of BOOKSHELVES-- each holding hundreds of books.

Ruto occasionally stops to skim through a book, only to toss it to the ground seconds later-- clearly unsatisfied with its contents.

Following close behind Ruto-- and picking up after her-- is KALE(27)-- a male zora, mature beyond his years.

As he picks up another one of Ruto's discarded books--

KALE

A wave, you say...? And
it...touched the clouds?

RUTO

I hear the doubt in your voice,
Kale. Do you not believe me?

KALE

Quite the opposite, your majesty. I
believe you completely. ...All the
more reason to accept it as the
simple nightmare that it was.

RUTO

The same nightmare for seven days
straight? Does that not strike you
as odd?

Ruto skims through yet another book-- then tosses it. This time Kale catches it before it hits the ground.

KALE

Re-occurring dreams are not
uncommon, your majesty. Would you
like me to recite the definition?

RUTO

I'm well aware the term, Kale. But
this is so much more than that.
Just once, try to open your mind up
to something greater than what's
around you.

A beat. Kale looks up. Then around. Scratches his head.

KALE

I don't understand.

Ruto SIGHS-- rolling her eyes. She skims through another book. Tosses it.

RUTO

Kale, did you know that when great
evil approaches, nightmares come to
those that are sensitive to it?
When Princess Zelda was a child,
she had dreams of a dark cloud
that loomed over Hyrule. And a
light that emerged from Kokiri
Forrest, dispersing the cloud.

KALE

Aw yes, I remember. If I recall,
the cloud symbolized the Dark King,
Ganandorf. And the light was
undoubtedly the Hero of Time.

RUTO

Correct. My point being, Zelda's
dreams were a premonition.
Predictions of events to come.
(a beat)
As I believe are my nightmares.

Now Ruto's skimming through another book--

KALE(O.S)

A phenomenal woman, wouldn't you
say?

And we see Ruto TENSE UP-- something Kale said.

KALE

Zelda, that is. Truly a symbol of
hope for the land. Who knows where
the Kingdom would be without her.
...And to think, soon she'll be
more than a princess. She'll be the
queen--

The book Ruto was holding suddenly HITS THE GROUND. Kale
PERKS UP--

KALE(CONT)

Your majesty...? Are you okay?

Her back is to Kale. He can't see her face. Nor can we. But
if we could, we might be concerned.

Ruto slowly recovers the book-- and for the first time puts
it back in its place on the shelf.

RUTO

I'm fine. Let's keep moving.

Ruto's off. Kale struggles to keep up.

KALE

Your majesty. And forgive me if I
speak out of place, but... If you
are truly sensitive to impending
evil as you say, why did you not
share Princess Zelda's dreams
eleven years ago. Why does the gift
of premonition come to you now of
all times?

Ruto STOPS-- so sudden that Kale is surprised. A beat. She's
in deep thought.

RUTO

I'm...unsure. Perhaps the gift was awakened when I became the Sage of Water... Or maybe it has more to do with the influence of age.

(gripping her head)

These nightmares...they're so vivid...

Kale sees the position he put her in. He suddenly KNEELS-- head bowed.

KALE

Forgive me, Princess. Twas not my place to ask. This is clearly all on a level too complex for someone like me. I am but a simple soilder...

Ruto turns to face Kale-- first an expression of shock. But it quickly changes into annoyance.

She STORMS OVER to Kale-- forces him to his feet.

RUTO

Stand up, kale. I told you I hate it when you kneel to me.

KALE

But your majesty--

RUTO

And I told you I hate it when you call me, "Your majesty" or "Your Highness" or "My Princess". For the love of Nayruu, just call me Ruto.

A beat. And the two of them are standing close. Very close. Kale SIGHS--

KALE

If your father heard me call you that, he'd have my head.

RUTO

(a devilish grin)

I don't see my father anywhere around here. Do you?

Another beat. Ruto stares Kale down with a look that says "I'm waiting".

KALE

(hesitant)

R-Ruto. ...Ruto.

RUTO

There. Now was that so hard? Cause after all, friends are suppose to be on a first-name basis.

KALE

You misunderstand, Princess. I am simply your guardian. Sworn to protect you since the day you became the Water Sage. A humble soilder like myself could never be considered a friend of roya--

RUTO

(cutting him off)

It is you who misunderstands, Kale.
(then)

Ever since the day I met you... You've been so much more than a guardian. You've become someone I can depend on. Someone I can trust. The only one I can trust. For Nayruu's sake, I tell you things I could never tell my father.

And Kale gets a CHUCKLE out of that. Some kind of inside joke.

RUTO

Good friends are hard to come by. Trust me on that.

(playfully bowing)

So I graciously ask thee, sir Kale, of the Zoran army. Will thy accept the Princesses offer of friendship?

Kale is slightly uncomfortable, but mostly amused. So with a BIG SMILE--

KALE

If that is the wish of the Princess--

RUTO

(try again)

Kale--

KALE

(laughing)

Yes, okay. I humbly accept your offer. ...Ruto.

Ruto straitens.

RUTO

Good.

And for a short beat they exchange warm smiles. Could this be a romantic moment? Then--

Ruto suddenly GRABS Kale's arm-- yanking him through the library.

RUTO

Now come on! We don't have all night!

KALE

Your majesty--I mean Ruto-- slow down!

INT. ZORA'S DOMAIN- SMALL CAVERN- NIGHT

A small, circular room. It's completely empty. Only a small POND in the center. The water from the pond GLOWS BRIGHT-- lighting up the entire room.

RUTO AND KALE ENTER. Only now does Ruto release Kale's arm.

KALE

Princess, I must protest. Have you any idea where we are standing?

RUTO

Of course. I wouldn't have come here if I didn't.

Ruto APPROACHES the pond. Looks down at it--

RUTO(CONT)

Just a short swim away is the Archives of Elders.

KALE

And no commoner has ever laid eyes on the Archives of Elders. It's taboo.

RUTO

Do I look like a commoner to you?

KALE

(well said)

...None the less, the Archives are strictly forbidden to ALL. By decree of the King, your father. To even set one foot in that pond is treason.

Ruto casually, and teasingly, dips her toe into the pond.

KALE(CONT)

Princess!

RUTO

Look, I won't find the answers I need in those public books. Any knowledge of actual importance was
(MORE)

RUTO (cont'd)
 removed during the Seven years of
 Darkness. ...But perhaps the
 ancient Archives will shed some
 light on my nightmare. It's at
 least worth a try, is it not?
 Besides, why have archives if not
 to read them?

Kale folds his arms-- turns his head-- stubborn.

KALE
 Do as you wish, Princess. But I
 will not follow you beyond this
 point. There are some lines I
 simply will not cross.

A beat. Kale stands like a statue. Meanwhile, Ruto just
 smiles-- a devilish plot awaiting.

RUTO
 Fine. Stay here if you want. I'll
 go on my own.
 (beat, trickster)
 It's just... It's been so long
 since anyones seen to the Archives.
 Years maybe. I sure hope it hasn't
 been inhabited by some kind
 of...viscous monster.

KALE
 (not budging)
 Absurd.

RUTO
 I sure hope so. Because if I were
 to be injured in any way, goddess
 forbid, killed on your watch...
 Treason would be the least of your
 worries.

Kale can't help but to TENSE UP at the thought. Ruto shoots
 him one last fiendish grin before JUMPING INTO THE POND.

A BEAT. And Kale grows more nervous by the second. His feet
 rapidly tap the ground as he struggles to keep his
 composure. Finally--

KALE
 (jumping in after her)
 Princess, wait!!

UNDER THE WATER

A truly amazing spectacle. The water glows as bright as the
 sky. RUTO AND KALE swim through it with more beauty and
 grace than any fish could-- their bodies flowing with the
 water as if they and it were one entity.

As they swim through a NARROW PASSAGEWAY--

Ruto turns to face Kale-- now she's swimming backwards. She BLOWS HIM A KISS that takes the form of a BUBBLE. It hits Kale smack on the forehead. If Zora's could blush, he would be. Ruto giggles before turning back around.

CUT TO:

INT. ARCHIVES OF ELDERS- CONTINUOUS

Another circular room-- only this one is TEN TIMES the size of the first. Along the perimeter of the room are a collection of LARGE STONE TABLETS-- each covered in CARVINGS-- pictures and text.

Just beyond the Tablets, ONE BIG WATERFALL-- lining the walls of the room-- glowing bright as ever.

RUTO AND KALE EMERGE from the only entrance accessible-- a small pond in the center. And they're instantly blown away by the setting.

RUTO
(wide-eyed)
...The Archive of Elders.

KALE
(also wide-eyed)
I never dreamed I'd see it...
It's...magnificent.

They climb onto the surface. And without noticing, begin to wander off in different directions-- in complete awe of their surroundings.

Ruto skims through the Tablets-- still determined to find the one thing she's been searching for. Then--

SHE FINDS IT!

A Tablet with carvings of a WAVE that towers above what looks like a city.

RUTO
Great Din! This is it!

But when she attempts to read the TEXT below the carving, she runs into a problem--

RUTO
No! What cursed luck! It's the language of the Elders. I can't read a word of it...

Strange symbols that almost resemble CHINESE CHARACTERS. This is the language of the Elders.

Kale suddenly appears behind Ruto-- observing the Tablet.

KALE

But I thought all members of the Zoran royal family were required to learn the language of Elders.

RUTO

(ashamed)

Yes...that holds truth. However, I was young at the time. And the idea of sitting in a classroom just didn't suit me. So I kicked and screamed and cried until my father waived my lessons. ...Permanently.

Kale SIGHS-- disappointed in the woman he's sworn to protect. Then he turns his attention to the Tablet.

KALE

Very well then. Let's see what we've got...

RUTO

(amazed)

Kale, you can read the language of Elders?!

KALE

(modest)

Well I wouldn't exactly call myself an expert. However...

SEVERAL BEATS as Kale reads-- mumbling to himself as he goes. And we see the change in his facial expressions. From confused...to disturbed...to astonished.

KALE

(under his breath)

I don't believe it...

RUTO

What!? What is it!? What does it say?!

Kale POINTS to the top of the stone tablet-- a carving of PEOPLE STANDING IN THE MIDST OF CLOUDS.

KALE

According to this text here... there was once a time where all life lived in the sky...

RUTO

...The sky? How could such be possible? Did they have wings?

KALE

(shaking his head)

Doesn't say.

A short beat. Now Kale moves down the tablet a little further-- the carving of A MAN STANDING BY A HORSE.

KALE

But look. This one here speaks of the present. Or at least, the present as the Elders saw it. ...Man lives on the surface.

Kale moves down a little further-- now we're back to the carving of the WAVE.

KALE

And this one here...

A beat. Kale's expression turns GRIM. Ruto notices--

RUTO

Kale? ...What does it say?

KALE

(hesitant)

To cleanse the land of darkness...the goddesses will call forth water into the heavens...and drop it onto man. And the Kingdom...will be no more.

Ruto covers her mouth-- astonished. Meanwhile, Kale moves downward to one more carving-- the same Man and Horse from before, now engulfed under water.

KALE(CONT)

The entire world will be covered in ocean...

A beat of deathly silence. Ruto reviews the tablet once more--

RUTO

Wait... Is that it? That can't be all it says. I mean, what were the Elders trying to tell us? That the world will end with this wave. Impossible. There must be a way to stop it!

KALE

Princess, clearly the Elders were confused. Life in the sky? Preposterous. There's no reason to take any of this to heart.

RUTO

And I suppose that my seven days of nightmares is also preposterous, correct?

KALE

Princess--

RUTO

(pointing to the tablet)

Look at it, Kale. The wave that I've seen so many times while I sleep. It's right here. It's been here for centuries. Will you call it a coincidence?

Kale opens his mouth to speak, but no words come out. Unable to come up with a response. There's no arguing her logic. A beat. Then--

KALE

Okay. Let's say it holds truth. And the world is destined to be covered in ocean. Is that not a Zora's paradise? Perhaps the Elders are telling us that Zora's will soon inherit the world--

RUTO

(exploding)

Open your eyes, Kale!!

Now she points to the carving of the Man and Horse under water--

RUTO

Even IF the Zora's survive the wrath of this wave, look at the other nations. The Hylia's, The Kokiri, The Goron's. Even the Gerudo's! They'll die! Everyone will die!!

A beat as that sinks in. Kale has given up trying to reason with her. Meanwhile, Ruto continues to search the tablet-- looking for anything that could lighten this new burden she feels.

KALE

Princess, you came here in search of answers...and answers you found. Now it's time to leave. Once the royal guard discover your absence--

Ruto suddenly SPOTS something on the tablet. The carving of a small, STICK-LIKE TOOL. It resembles a music conductor's baton. How did she miss this? Language of the Elders below it.

RUTO

Wait... Kale, what's this say? Here.

Kale leans in-- squinting his eyes-- struggling to make sense of the text. A beat.

KALE

Strange. ...I'm almost certain that I'm translating this incorrectly.

RUTO

(eager)

I don't care. What does it say?

KALE

The...Waker of Wind? What nonsense do the Elders spout now? As if the wind could be awoken.

Ruto ignores Kale's ignorance-- intensely focused on her latest discovery. In fact, her entire demeanor has changed.

RUTO

(commanding)

Kale! Ready my escort!

She promptly makes her way back to the pond from which they emerged--

KALE

(caught off guard)

Y-yes, your majesty. At once.

But...where to?

Ruto STOPS. Turns.

OFF RUTO--

RUTO

Hyrule Castle!