"Legends of the Fallen"

Episode 1

"Report"

"The Kolarans have broken through the outer perimeter."

"What? If they reach the central perimeter, Heaven will fall!"

"That's not going to happen. My men and I will keep them from reaching it."

"The numbers are too great. Lucifer if you and your men try to stand in their way alone you will all be killed."

"Then I guess he'll need some back up."

"Somehow, I knew you would be coming with me Jericho," Lucifer said to him.

"You didn't think I was going to let you have all the fun, did you?"

"Alright, Lucifer and Jericho will take their battalions to protect the central perimeter while we launch our offensive against their central core," Michael told his angels.

"Piece of cake, we should be home for dinner," Lucifer jokingly said as he, Jericho and their men headed to their posts.

It was just before dawn and the Kolaran forces were advancing quickly on the central perimeter until they were met by Lucifer and Jericho. They were outnumbered but the two best fighters in all of heaven knew that with them by each other's side that numbers didn't mean anything. Blood and death smothered the landscape. Angels and Kolarans were dying but heavens forces

were gaining the upper hand when the Kolarans unleashed their most powerful weapon.

"My God, what is that?" Jericho asked. He and Lucifer stood there as they watched what looked like a large almost 20-foot creature as it laid waste to their army. More battalions had joined them and like a swarm of bees the angels took to the sky and attacked the creature like fighter pilots on a suicide mission. The swarm seemed endless but so did the creature's inability to show mercy. With every angel that flew at him he swatted them away killing them with every blow.

"He's killing them all...," Lucifer said under his breath.

"Nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!" Lucifer took to the sky, hovered in the air, stretched his hands out on either side of him and lit up the sky like the sun. It seemed as if everything stopped, as if time stood still. "This ends now!" He yelled at the creature. In a flash of light, the creature was engulfed by a plume of energy, collapsed to its knees, and from above Lucifer came down and projected his entire body through the large creature's heart killing him. Jericho Gabriel, Goberesh, Azreal, and a host of others couldn't believe what they had just seen. None of them had ever witnessed power like that in their years. The only one that they knew of that had so much power was their father God.

"Victory," Michael yelled from a distance. "Victory, the Kolarans are retreating. I don't think we are going to be seeing them again. That was quite a display of power Lucifer; you were the deciding factor in the war. You gave us light at the dawn, when things looked the bleakest a **morning star** that ended the war. My brother, my friend, and our hero Lucifer!

"Michael was right that was quite a display of power. How did you do that?" Jericho asked.

"I just saw all of our brothers and sisters dying and I couldn't let it continue. Something came over me and I had to react."

"Well I have never seen anything like that before and I didn't think it was possible for anyone to have so much power like that other than our father."

"You're too modest Jericho; you too have shown power that no one thought possible. Does it bother you brother?"

"Does what bother me?"

"The fact that we all put our lives in jeopardy to protect this kingdom while our father sits by and does nothing...we take all the risk."

"Lu, I don't think you should be questioning him. You know that he has rules that he has laid out, rules that must be followed. He leads by example and if he does not follow the rules that he has put forth then there would be no reason for anyone else to follow either."

"We were given free will, free will to choose what we want so why should we sit by and allow him to sit at the top of the mountain while we sit at his feet like animals and serve him?"

"Lucifer you are overstepping your bounds. God has done nothing more than give us everything that we could ever need and talk of overthrowing him is ridiculous."

"No, defending him is ridiculous! Jericho, we have been friends for a long time, how can you not see that we should not be treated as servants? Well I am

tired of it, tired of taking all the risk while he does nothing. All of our fallen friends that have died fighting for our home and he has the ability to bring them back to life and he won't." Lucifer argued.

"Lu please you know that he can't do that."

"Can't or won't?"

"I will continue to protect this place because it is our home. I can tell you that I don't know how long I will sit by and watch as our brothers and sisters die for squabbles between so called deities."

Jericho was able to calm Lucifer down and the two of them headed off to the celebration of the end of a war that last over 1,000 Earth years. When they arrived every angel in attendance rose up and applauded and yelled out Lucifer's name in praise.

"We are here to celebrate the end of a long war with an evil that will never threaten us again. We are also here to celebrate the hero of that war my brother Lucifer. He showed resolve and caring for his fellow angels and for our home and finally after so long peace has finally come."

Lucifer was asked to speak to the many that were in attendance. He stood up and began to speak. He thanked Michael for his kind words but also told everyone to remember those that lost their lives in the long conflict. He then turned to his best friend and brother Jericho.

"I know that you all are praising me for what I did to end the war but let us not forget that I would not have been able to do that if it were not for this man here. Jericho and I have always stood side by side with each other and hopefully that will never change. This man has saved my life many times over during this war and if anyone should be praised it should be him. What I did to end the war was surprising indeed even for me however what he has done since the beginning has been nothing short of astonishing. I remember being overwhelmed by a thousand Kolarans and almost beaten when he came and single handedly defeated them all. That friends is power, that is courage, and caring for your family; I hope that all of you hear can take from what he has done over the years and from what I have done and remember to stand always with your family."

It would be with that speech that Lucifer would begin formulating his plot to take control over Heaven as his emotions bubbled inside him like a volcano ready to erupt. Michael was correct peace had finally gotten to Heaven after everything that had happen and it would stay that way for almost 100,000 years but a lot can happen in that time.

Lucifer was a warrior and the need for battle was eating away at him just as much as his belief that he should be ruler of Heaven and not God! It was just

that while others agreed with Lucifer and what he was saying their beliefs were kept secret from everyone. Over the years he had spoken to too many about the possibility of a different life but to question God meant to question your existence. Nevertheless, over all the years that peace had settled in Heaven he continued to train himself and his army for battle. He continued to find followers that answered only to him and would only follow the orders of others if Lucifer commanded them to. The time was drawing near, and he was almost ready to put his plan into motion. He had made his decision, the time for talk and preparation was over. He had the followers that he needed to carry out his place however he was just missing one piece of the puzzle...Jericho!

Later that night Lucifer stood and spoke to one of his generals about what was to come next in secret.

"The time is almost upon us, soon Heaven will be mine and all of our brothers and sisters will be free."

"Lucifer, you know that we will have resistance to this no matter how your plans unfold."

"I am aware of that, but don't worry we have the numbers and the followers to succeed. There are a few more that are questioning their decision, but I should be able to convince them with little persuasion."

"Michael, Gabriel and Jericho"

"No. Michael and Gabriel will stand go against God no matter if they believe that he is wrong or not."

"What about Jericho, will he stand with you?"

"He and I are brothers; unlike you and the other angels Azreal, Jericho and I were created from the same energy. While you all call each other brothers and sister, he and I truly are siblings and he will not stand against his own family."

"True but God is our father and if Jericho believes in family he will not stand against his father," Azreal told Lucifer.

"God is not our father! He is our creator and not true family, there is the difference. That is why God doesn't understand what we are going through because he is not a part of us. We may not all be true brothers and sisters but with everything that we have all been through we have all formed a bond that cannot be destroyed. What I do, I do for the betterment of all my family and when we are successful I will be the true father that they have never had. Jericho will stand by my side on that day."

"As will I, my lord."

"No Azreal you will not."

"What do you mean I will not?"

"If we fail I know that we will be banished from here and I will need someone to stay behind and inform me of things to come. You will stand by God and the others no matter what."

"Lucifer if you wish me to do that then that would mean that..."

"That would mean that when I begin this war you must fight against the others and me. You will do this, and you will fight with determination and resolve for God. If you have to kill any of us, then that is what you will do. I don't worry about me, keep your sights set on everyone else and you will never be suspected

Lucifer went off to talk to Jericho so that he could tell him what he has been planning.

"You are not seeing what I am seeing, you are not seeing the bigger picture Jericho," Lucifer told him argumentatively.

"No, I am not. Your arguments are empty."

"How can you say that?" Lucifer asked.

"Have we ever been treated unfairly?"

"Yes!"

"When," Jericho asked.

"Every day of our so-called lives J; we can't call ourselves free. This is the right thing to do and I know that you will stand with me my friend."

"I don't know if I can stand by you with this. This is not about freedom and fairness it seems to me that this is an issue more of greed."

"Watch your tongue! Friend or not if you don't stand with me then I won't hesitate to put you in your place. If you won't stand by me then stay out of my way!"

It was hard for Jericho to hear what Lucifer had been saying because he loved his God but at the same time he felt that he could not turn his back on his brother either. Lucifer had told him that no one would be hurt and that he would make things fair and right for everyone. Jericho told him that he would go with him before God and the counsel to present his cast but that he had plans in fighting anyone, Lucifer agreed. Jericho believed that all Lucifer wanted from him was to walk with him to present his case however evil and geed had already consumed him and everything that he made Jericho believe was a lie.

The day had come, the day that Lucifer had been waiting for and the day that Jericho had been dreading. Although he understood where Lucifer was coming from he did not agree with it at all. He believed that God was fair and that all the angels were free and treated right. However, he did say that he would stand by his brother while he presented his cast but what was about to happen was something that he would have never expected.

It played out strangely...God had allowed an audience with Lucifer, Jericho and all the angels of Heaven. It was rare for all the angles to be assembled in the Presence of God at the same place. Lucifer went before God who was only noticeable as a light to present his case. He had begun to speak and while everyone was fixated on him his followers had begun to take positions in and around the hall where the meeting was taking place.

"My Lord, I do not come here to patronize you, nor do I come here for myself. I come here on behalf of all our brothers and sisters. We have followed you and we all love you and we have defended this place with our lives. Yet, that is the problem here. We have defended your kingdom with our lives and there are so many of us who are no longer here today. These forces came and attempted a takeover and when you called upon us we were ready and willing. With all due respect my Lord, if you are as powerful as we all think that you are then you should have been able to stop them without our help. If you wished us to fight for you, then the least that you could have done is brought back those that fell in battle for you. But no, you will not! Because of the rules that you yourself have set forth you will not interfere, but you will let us die. Perhaps you will not interfere because then it will show that you are weak and have made a terrible mistake by sending us to fight."

Jericho had stood by Lucifer in this because he believed that he would be pleading his case for what he believed in and he wanted to stand by his brother. Although, what he was hearing was nothing like what he had expected. What Lucifer was saying did not seem like a plea but a challenge for leadership and mockery of their father.

"You will watch your words Lucifer" Michael said to him. God rarely spoke and if he needed his words to be conveyed he did it through Michael. "He knows why you have come and I can tell you that I am surprised at what you wish to do here. He says not to waste time and get on with it if you are truly going to do what you plan. As always the choice on what you do is yours!"

"Very well," Lucifer replied. He raised his right hand into the air and then quickly clinched it into a fist and the first scream let out. From the back-left corner of the hall an angel fell. His silver blood ran out of his body like a river and then another and another. Jericho turned and looked around and

couldn't believe what he was seeing. All of Lucifer's soldiers had almost simultaneously murdered several angels. "Bastard," the angel Goberesh screamed as he pulled out his sword and lunged toward Lucifer. Jericho turned and immediately pulled out his sword and intercepted his attack on his brother. Goberesh looked at him, "TAITOR!" He screamed and began attacking Jericho with a fury. Goberesh was a good soldier but he was no Jericho. As they continued to fight one another the war broke out and every angel on either side was now in battle. The battle seemed even bigger than the past wars against outside forces that they had been involved in. Still two of the angels had not engaged in battle yet. No, Michael and Lucifer stood facing each other with their weapons drawn, staring each other down.

"There will be no forgiveness for this treachery Lucifer." Michael said to him. "I promise that I will end your life before you see the death of our father." He said in reply. "He already knows how this is going to end and the one who saves us will crush you!" A civil war to end all civil wars! A was with cosmic implications and to the victor the reward would be the thrown to rule all!

"No one can stop me know! The battle between the two began, their swords struck each other with a force unlike anything ever before. The sound of the two swords rang out over the sounds of the war that was now engulfing all of heaven. Meanwhile Jericho was doing everything that he could to fend off Goberesh's attacks without hurting him. Jericho's skill was unmatched by anyone even Michael or Lucifer. After a few moments he was able to knock Goberesh's sword away from him and put his own sword away in kind.

Although Goberesh no longer had his sword he was not done trying to fight Jericho. He punched, kicked, and used everything that he could to beat the man that he called a traitor. Even then Jericho was the best in hand to hand combat and in just a few seconds brought the fight between the two to an end. "What are you waiting for traitor, do it?" Goberesh yelled begging for Jericho to hurry and end his life.

"I'm not killing anyone. I didn't know that this was going to happen. I didn't know that Lucifer was planning this. If I would have known I would have never stood with him," Jericho told him.

"Lies, you will suffer just like your brother will for all of eternity!"

Jericho realized that what Goberesh had said was true and that ignorance to what Lucifer was planning was not an excuse. He looked around and saw the bodies of fallen friends on both sides. Something came over him, a rage inside that he had never had before and would not have again for some time. He let go of Goberesh, rose to his feet and ran into the battling crowd. He surveyed the battle looking for a way to put an end to it. Unlike Lucifer's followers the angels did what they could to beat their opponents without killing them. Once one of them was defeated they were taken prisoner, while those on Lucifer's side killed any angel that they could.

Meanwhile the battle between Michael and Lucifer waged on and it was a glorious battle. Their swords still striking one another, while their fits and legs aided in the fight; both men were ravaged, bleeding, cut open and in pain but the fighting continued. Many of the others on both sides that were fighting had stopped and were now looking on at this incredible battle. Jericho could not see the battle as he was trying everything that he could to help stop both sides from fighting. He had not truly taken sides as he was trying to stop both the angels and Lucifer's followers from fighting each other. He fought with both alike which made him a target on either side. The angels couldn't believe that he was fighting them, and Lucifer's followers had believed that he was with them. He was fighting a losing battle because the only way that he could stop them from fighting each other was to defeat them all one at a time and that would be impossible. He then realized that there was only one way to stop the killing and the civil war and that was for one of the two generals to fall. Jericho knew that the role that he played; standing by Lucifer while he made his speech, fighting everyone and not taking a side would bring down upon him an unbelievable punishment if Heaven did not fall. However, punishment or not there was no way that he was going to allow his brother to prevail!

By the time he reached where Michael and Lucifer where they were already heavy in battle. Out of all the angels the five arch angels which consisted of Michael, Gabriel, Azreal, Jericho, and Lucifer were the most verse in fighting with Lucifer being the best. Michael was a powerful warrior and solider, but he was third on the list of the five, Jericho was second only to his brother. They fought heavily and by this time many of secondary battles were coming to an end with Lucifer's army successful in almost every battle. They had taken prisoners in the angels of Heaven while the other two arch angels in Gabriel and Azreal were holding off any advancement toward God.

The fight between Michael and Lucifer seemed almost at a stand-still. It seemed as if Michael had been working on his technique which not only surprised Lucifer but those around him as well. Although Michael was a powerful warrior they did not believe that he could be Lucifer let alone stand toe to toe with him. Jericho was still attempting to get through the small cells of battles that were taking place to get to Michael and Lucifer. Just as Jericho was able to get through the crowd, Michael was struck, and his sword knocked out of his hand. Lucifer now stood over him with his sword pointed at him and uttered three words, "Die you fool!"

He raised his sword above his head and then swung it down with such force that the wind was screaming with pain as it cut through it. Now that it was about to pierce Michael's skin another sword hit away from his target. He looked up to see who had come to Michael's rescue and the look of shock on Lucifer's face was indescribable.

"This ends now Lucifer," Jericho said to him as he raised his left hand releasing a blast off energy that through him to the ground.

"How can this be, how can you do this?"

"This is over and so are you. You brought me here under false pretenses, you told me that you wanted to plead your case not start a civil war."

"You fool this was always about taking his seat as ruler of everything. I will not be denied!"

Lucifer attacked Jericho and the two best warriors in Heaven did not disappoint the audience that was now watching their battle. Lucifer was the best with a sword, but Jericho was the best in hand to hand combat. Their sounds of their swords cried into the heavens like thunder. "You are my brother, how could you turn your back on me, you traitor?" Even so Jericho did not answer. He continued fighting until he saw his opening.

When Lucifer was shot to the ground his landed hard slightly injuring his right hip. Even though he was not at 100% he was still a formidable force. Since Jericho was so good at hand to hand combat, he was trained to look for weaknesses in his opponents and this was no different. Meanwhile, Michael was able to pick himself up, holding his left arm where Lucifer had struck him, picked up his sword and continued to look on as all the others were. The sounds of thunder and the flashes of light that were filling up the ground and the skies was amazing; it was something that no one would have ever seen if these two had not met in battle.

The opening had arrived, and Jericho was waiting. Lucifer, with his sword in his right hand swung hard at Jericho. He returned the motion with the same force, pushing Lucifer's sword away. In the same instance, Jericho put his left hand above his head, moved it in circular motion all the way down toward Lucifer's left leg, letting out a small beam of energy that swept Lucifer's legs from under him. He was flipped over on his stomach and lost his sword. When he went to reach for it Jericho stood on its blade keeping him from taking it. He turned over and saw the wounded Michael standing over him with his sword pointing at him in almost the same position that he was standing.

"This is over, and you are defeated," he said the fallen warrior and then yelled out to the rest. "This war is over, you leader is defeated, lay down your weapons and surrender." He looked at Jericho "you too Jericho. Although I am grateful for saving me and defeating Lucifer you are not innocent in this." Jericho complied, laid his sword on the ground and surrendered. The rest of Lucifer's army did the same and the remaining angels took them prisoner. From the ground Lucifer spoke to Jericho.

"See my brother, you stand with them and help defeat me and they will show you no mercy. You will face the same fate and punishment as all of us. You should have stood by me!" Jericho said nothing, nor did he look Lucifer's way. Michael spoke to Gabriel, Goberesh, Azreal, and a few more of his generals and ordered that the prisoners be taken and placed in seclusion until God could decide what to do with them. They agreed but before Gabriel could walk away and carry out his orders Michael stopped him.

"Don't put Jericho with the others; make sure that he is put somewhere safe. Tend to whatever wounds he has, get him some food and drink, and make sure that he is comfortable."

"Of course," Gabriel did not argue this point because he agreed that Jericho should not be put with the rest. He knew that if he were to be imprisoned with Lucifer and the rest of his followers that Jericho would be most certainly killed. In both Michael and Gabriel's mind there had been enough killing and they owed Jericho for ending this conflict. Michael remembered what God told had him and what he said to Lucifer. "That the one who saves us will crush you," of course God was talking about Jericho. He had stopped the war and crushed Lucifer, but it was not in battle that God was referring to when he said that it would crush him. The war for Heaven was over but the trial for Jericho's fate was about to begin.

"This will not end here," Lucifer screamed from behind a cell. "This is only the beginning."

"I cannot believe that we are in here...You told us that Jericho was with us, that we would see victory. Look at us, locked up in this cage and who knows what our father will do to us."

"He is not our father; don't you ever say that in my presence again Tomar or I will cut out your tongue!"

As Lucifer and his second in command continued arguing the outer door to their cell opened and in walked Gabriel. He yelled that Lucifer and the others stopped their bickering and informed them that God had decided on their fate. "Where is my treacherous brother," Lucifer angrily asked Gabriel.

"That is not your concern traitor!" Gabriel said to him. "If I were you I would be more concerned about what is going to happen to you rather then worry about Jericho."

Nonetheless, Lucifer could not stop thinking about Jericho. Lucifer clearly had found the upper hand against Michael and if it weren't for Jericho he would have succeeded. With Michael down the rest of the angels would have surrendered. He had anger, sense of betrayal, and hatred for the man that he could no longer consider his brother.

A few days passed and the outer door to the cell opened again, but this time Gabriel was not alone. He had been followed inside by a group of guards that lined all the way to the outside of the structured jail. Lucifer and the others were told to walk out one at a time. As each of them stepped out of their cells they were shackled and then all led outside and to the hall where they initiated their attack. They were all lined together with Lucifer being the last to enter and set in the front of his followers. As he entered the great hall he saw Jericho standing off to his left just a few feet away from Michael also shackled. He

started at his brother with murderous intent, but Jericho did not look back.

Jericho stood there with his head down in shame. He wasn't ashamed at turning his back on Lucifer but for the small part that he played. As Lucifer took his place Michael once again spoke for God.

"Lucifer, you and your army here have attempted to overthrow our father and take over this kingdom. You were unsuccessful and now it is time for a punishment to be imposed upon you all. It is the will of our father that since you wish a kingdom of your own so much he will grant one to you." Everyone was in shock and amazed at what they just heard, and Lucifer stood there with his eyes wide open and the beginning of a smile escaping his lips.

"Do not jump so quickly to happiness. This kingdom will be a kingdom of fire and brimstone, of suffering and despair, and a kingdom of eternal damnation. It will be here that you will rule these others that stand here before us. Once there you will feel suffering like never. Since you cannot follow the rules here in this kingdom you will be free to make your own within that one however there will still be rules that you will follow outside of your empire. If these rules are not followed their will be consequences that you will not want to endure. Among you demons only one will have power over you all other than God and that is Lucifer. Due to this betrayal only, the arch angels will have the power to carry the holy blades. Despite that because you will be king of this empire you and you alone will have the power of death without the use of weapons as ordered by our Lord. It is now time that you see your new home and be cast out of this paradise to your perdition."

The ground opened and revealed a horrid landscape of fire and evil.

They were all each taken by the arms and thrown into the pit. As each of them fell into the pit of fire the screams of each cried out unlike anything that anyone in heaven had ever heard before. As they pulled Lucifer he could still see

Jericho standing there with no one intending to lead him to the pit. "Why is my

brother, the traitor not joining me? He no more innocent than I, bring him here with us and throw him into the pit."

"Silence, he isn't going anywhere," Michael said to him.

"This isn't over Michael; I will make all of you suffer for this, and as for you Jericho dear brother, when I get my hands on you I will rip your fucking heart out!" Lucifer continued yelling that to his brother as he fell into his hell.

"Now it's your turn Jericho," Michael told him.

- "I'm ready whenever you are," Jericho told him.
- "I'm not going with you Jay."
- "What, no one sees Father without you.

"You're about to; he requested that you see him alone and I am to wait out here until your meeting is over."

Jericho couldn't believe what he was hearing. Although all the residents of Heaven have seen God at one time or another many of them never see him again. Every angel, saint, and soul that passes for judgment in Heaven passes forth before God. However, once they have seen God they may never see him again. To have God request that you see him alone was both rare and strange but after what happen Jericho was not one to question anything. Michael escorted Jericho to where he would have his meeting and told him to head in. Once he entered the incredible large room he was in awe of its magnificence.

The last time Jericho saw God he was sitting on his thrown (which rumor had it that he did not enjoy doing) passing judgment on Lucifer. When he entered the room, he had expected to see some sort of thrown at the end of the room but there wasn't. The ceiling was made out of the whitest and bluest clouds he had ever seen, the walls were littered with images of all of his angels, the floor was a shiny off-white marble, and at the end of the room was a quaint little table with two chairs. Jericho made his way toward the table but was stopped by the emergence of a familiar voice.

"You put me in a very difficult position Jericho," the voice said. Jericho turned around only and saw Michael standing there.

- "Michael; I thought you said that you were supposed to wait outside?"
- "Michael is outside Jericho," he replied.
- "I don't understand," Jericho said to him.
- "Jericho it's me, Father."

Jericho stood there with a stunned look on his face.

"Jericho no one except for Michael can hear my true voice. If anyone else were to hear my true voice they would cease to exist. So, to talk to you I needed to take the form and voice of someone else. I chose to appear to you as Michael because other than me he seems to be the only one left that you trust and the only one other than I that trusts you."

"Forgive me father for my ignorance for not knowing it was you and for everything that I have done," Jericho pleaded with him as he bowed before him.

"Get up Jericho, I know that you are sorry and there is no need for you to bow or apologize. "Jericho did as he said and stood up. "However, what you did cannot go unpunished. Although you did not follow Lucifer as he tried to take over you did not choose a side until Michael's life was in danger. You did attempt to stop the battle by fighting both sides but that was not what you were supposed to do."

"I didn't know what my brother was going to do..." Jericho said to him as he was interrupted.

"Brother," he said with a short pause. "Out of all the angels I chose the two of you to be linked in that way."

"Why father, why were we the only two created like this? Why were he and I the only two that were truly linked as brothers?"

"He is no longer your brother; he lost that title when he did what he did, just as he lost the title of my son. The two of you were chosen because I foresaw what was ahead. Although I loved him it pained me to know what he would become, and I needed someone who could and would be willing to stand against him."

"Willing to stand against him?" Jericho asked.

"Yes; you see when I was creating all of you I knew what your roles would be but something was different about Lucifer. I could see what he would do if the lust and greed for power were to overtake him. Because of that I decided to create another from the same energy. This other angel would be his opposite, his rival, and the one that could stand as his equal.

I know that this is a lot to take in, but it is what you were created for. I love all of you so much even Lucifer, but he is beyond saving. I know that you wish that things could go back to the way they were, but that time has passed. You are needed for something more, something bigger than you could have ever imagined."

"What is it Father, what is it that you need me to do?" Jericho asked.

"As many of you know I have created another world that will sustain life but those that will inhabit this planet will not be like the others. They will be fragile, and they will need protecting. I have separated myself from Lucifer's thoughts, but his intentions are clear. He will do whatever he can to make the people of this new planet suffer because he knows how important they will be to me. It will be your job to help protect them from him and his evil."

He told Jericho that he would have to prepare for a while for what was ahead of him and once he was ready he would be sent down to Earth. Once there he would have to live with the people that would first inhabit it. Not with standing, he did not tell Jericho that these first people would be not be the Earth's permanent residents. Jericho agreed to do whatever his Father asked of him no matter what it was because he felt that no matter what he did it would never be enough.

"I did not give you a choice when I created you my son, but I will this time.

To fight against him and against evil you will have to be willing to do anything;

even if that means that what you do is met with resistance and anger. You will have to do things that others will dislike you for, but it will have to be done. I also want you to understand that if you do choose this life as the protector of these people you can never return home. You will come and see me once a year, but you can never life amongst again. There will also be rules that will be set forth that you must try and obey as best you can. If you chose not to do this, then you will live a life of seclusion, but you be here with us. The choice is yours my son. I will give you time to decide."

"I don't need time; if this is your will then I will then it is what I will do."

He made Jericho aware of what he would be giving up if he chose this because he wanted him to make sure that this is what he wanted. Jericho once again told him that it was what he wanted. He believed that doing this would be a way to repay his Father for his mercy and forgiveness. He believed that if he chose not to do this that he couldn't do anything to serve his God.

He emerged from the room where Michael was waiting. He said nothing to him and headed back to his room. When he passed him, he could see the blank look on Jericho's face and followed him in hopes of finding out what happened.

"Jericho, why didn't you say something to him, why didn't you tell him that you didn't want to do this? Why didn't you tell him that 4,000 years in Purgatory was punishment enough?"

"It would have been longer than 4,000 years, I couldn't say no to him Michael."

"Why not," Michael asked.

"I made a mistake that I have to make a mend for."

"You already made a mend. 4,000 years is a long penance don't you think?"

"No, I don't, I had a choice to either take this responsibility or that 4,000 years would have never ended. When he spared me from the same fate as Lucifer I pledged to do whatever I needed to pay for my sin and loss of faith."

"It was you he was talking about when he told me that he had already chosen someone. How can you think that being sent to Earth to fight Lucifer's army on your own isn't a punishment worse than that of Lucifer?" Michael asked.

"This is what my God wants and this time I will not turn my back on him.

Besides it's not like he is sending me down there powerless. I will still have all my powers and according to him more."

"Yes, but the fact that you aren't an angel means that you can't come back to Heaven unless someone invites you and you know that that won't happen. You would need a unanimous vote from the Council of Angels just to take one step within the gates. You also won't have the protection that an angel has; you'll be vulnerable. Immortal or not your enemies could find a way to kill you even without the divine weapons. It means that you will have to protect yourself."

"I know what it means Michael but with the absence of divine intervention he gave me something else," Jericho replied.

"What?" Michael asked.

"I don't know."

"What do you mean you don't know?" Michael asked. "How can that be? How could he send you to Earth and tell you that you will have more power than that of an angel but not tell you what it is? How are you supposed to protect yourself?"

"I know that you aren't happy with that Mike but it's what he wants."

"What about what you want Jay?" Michael asked him.

"This is what I want; it's my fault that I'm here Mike."

Michael argued with him telling him that it was Lucifer's fault that he was in the situation that he was in not him. Still, Jericho let him know that he tried to convince Lucifer that they were free and that they had the freedom to choose between right and wrong. He had a choice to stand with Lucifer or tell God and the others what was happening, and he made the wrong choice. "The only person I must blame for this is me," he said to Michael. Lucifer may have made the choice to rebel, but Jericho could have made the choice to stand against him before the end.

God told Jericho that there would be hard choices that he would have to make and things that he would have to do that some may not be happy with. He told Jericho to remember that he was to do anything that he had to do to protect the Human race form evil, no matter what, no matter who approved or not. He was to answer to him alone and that although he was not able to step back into Heaven that he wouldn't be bound by some of the same laws that angels and demons had. Jericho only wanted one thing and that was not to fail his God.

"How are you supposed to know what to do when you get down there anyway?" Michael asked.

"The time that I spend with the Solathians should help and get me prepared for when humans are created."

"You'll never be able to come again, you know that don't you Jay?"

"There is always a chance," he replied.

"Father wouldn't let me take this job because it was a job that no one would be able to come from, no one. Once you take on this responsibility this will no longer be your home."

"Then I will have to make my home in one of Father's other creations. It is what he wants and what I want my friend."

Michael was angry and upset. He left Jericho's room and walked through the kingdom on his way to speak to his Father. Michael was not someone that many saw in despair or rage but this time it was visible. He entered his Father's chamber and spoke.

"Why, why would you condemn him to a life like this; how could you make him do this?"

"It was a choice; I did not force him to do anything." A voice rang out in Michael's head.

"How can you say that he had a choice? He had already spent 4,000 years in Purgatory repenting for his sin and now you have put him directly in the path of the storm. Lucifer will kill him the first chance he gets."

"Those 4,000 years in Purgatory were not Jericho's punishment; they were his preparation." Michael looked stunned at what he had just heard. "All this time Jericho had unknowingly been preparing for this. He will be more than Earth's protector, he will be something more. Jericho was created for a reason just as all of you have and next to you my son he is the most important.

His time there will prepare him for what is ahead. He will have to make a choice soon on whether to cut his ties to home or to do what he must to keep his promise to me. The choices that he will have to make will shake his very foundation and change him from who he is to who he must become to protect those people down there. We will be fighting a new war Michael; a war that will be never ending. With this war Lucifer will become powerful and he will stop at nothing to win. If Jericho makes the decision that I think he will make; he will be the one that will always stand in Lucifer's way. He will find love and he will experience heartache in a way that he has never felt. It will be what he experiences from the time that he arrives for the rest of eternity that will make him who he is."

"So, I am supposed to just be ok with this and watch as my most trusted and dearest friend suffers?"

"You are to do as I ask. I have given all of you free will to choose your own paths and you have the right to question me. However, even if you do not like what he will go through you have no choice in the matter. He made his choice and from this point on every choice that he makes is with my full support no matter what it is. He is the only one that can so what needs to be done. He will keep all the powers that he possessed as an angel and he will possess powers that not even you have. He will continue to evolve and become stronger, but it will be his other qualities and emotions that will serve him more than his power or his strength. Steadfast my son, he will surprise all of us even me."

Although he still did not agree with his father, there was a soothing feeling that came with what he said. Sometime had passed and the time for Jericho to go had arrived. Only Michael was to take him to the gates and to watch him leave. They said their goodbyes and Michael told him that he would see him soon. Michael open the gates, Jericho took his step out and began to fall to what would become his new home.

Jericho landed at the top of what would be later known as Mt. Everest, but he was barely conscious. He could hear footsteps approaching and voices in the background, but he didn't understand the language that was being spoken. He laid face down in the snow, catching just gasps of oxygen; something that he never had to do before. He could tell that the footsteps stopped just behind him, but the voices did not. He could hear three distinct voices; two men and one woman but again he did not know the language that was being spoken.

One of the men grabbed his left arm and shoulder and turned him over. Jericho could tell that it was daylight with the attempt of the sunlight to penetrate his closed eyelids. Jericho had fallen hard and fast leaving a crater in the spot where he fell. He also broke several bones in his body and ruptured a lung, evident from his difficulty breathing. He also had other internal injuries but miraculously he was still alive. He finally sir came to his injuries and passed out.

The two men and one woman could easily see how bad his injuries were and carefully took him back to their village. For the next three days Jericho was tended to by the people in the village but most notably by the woman that helped find him. He still could not move physically feeling the pain that he was in and still could not open his eyes although he could feel himself getting stronger.

Jericho had been in many battles in his lifetime. Being one of the arch angels and heads of Heaven's forces he ran into battle many times. He helped fend off armies of other deities trying to take over his father's kingdom. He had felt pain before but nothing like this. Being that he was not a physical being the pain that he felt as a full angel and the pain that he was feeling now was very different. This pain was more; it was harsh and deadly. He had felt pain in

places that he did not know existed and he had hoped that he would never feel that kind of pain again. Yet as he lay there, and thoughts raced through his mind he knew that this was only the beginning.

His father had told him about the physical form that he would have to take to live on Earth, but he never knew that he could feel like this. He couldn't understand what had happened. He remembered falling and he even remembered the initial impact. What he could not understand was the pain that he felt when he hit the ground. He was told that he would be immortal and that he would retain all the powers he had as an angel. He was also told that he would have other powers as well. Powers that no other angel would have but if that was the case then why was he laying there recovering from almost dying?

It was the beginning of the fourth day and for the first time since he arrived on Earth he was able to open his eyes. He looked around this small hut that he was in and could see the skins of animals lining the walls to help keep out the cold. A cold that he had felt in abundance the first three days but a cold he couldn't feel at all now. He moved his head around and finally felt the strength in his body to move. He was not just able to move but to move as if he had never been injured. His entire body had healed and at first, he didn't know if it was because everything that his father had told him had happened or from the care that he received.

Something else had happened as well. He could hear voices coming from outside his hut but this time the language was not unfamiliar. The words that he did not understand for the past three days suddenly made perfect sense to him. Once he was able to understand them he knew what had happened.

Everything that his father had told him had come true. Some of his angelic powers had returned. He knew that not all of them had returned. Although he could understand this new language that he had never heard prior to three days ago and he was fully healed; he was still a bit weak. For human standards he was a strong as an ox but for angel standards he was still frail. With every second that passed and with every breath that he took he could feel himself getting stronger. Just as it took those three days to give him the strength to wake up and move he knew that it would take more time for his strength and power to return to 100%.

He could see off to his right a set of clothes that he assumed, and hope were for him. When Jericho fell to Earth, whatever clothing he was wearing during his approach burned up before he landed. He picked himself up from his makeshift bed and got dressed. Since Jericho couldn't feel the cold he was unaware that the clothing that he had assumed was his was nothing more than garments that were used for sleeping and not used to protect against the elements. He failed to see the animal hide that was just off to the left of those clothes that resembled the same hide that had been keeping him warm on his bed. He put on the pants and shirt both of which sat loosely on his body and opened the cloth made door to his tent.

No one had noticed that he had pulled back the shade from his door but they did notice him once he walked out of it. He was a stranger and other than a few people no one had seen him before. However even those that had never seen him before knew who he was. One of the townspeople ran off to tell the town leader who just so happen to be one of the men that saved him.

Jericho walked out of his temporary home and out into the village. The townspeople were looking at him strangely and not just because they had not seen him before. He had walked out with no shoes on and at that time of the

year temperatures would fall to an alarming degree. No one could understand how he could be walking on the freezing ground without showing any signs of discomfort. Still the townspeople were not the only ones that were surprised. As Jericho walked he saw things that he did not know were possible anywhere else.

Some of these people were causing objects to levitate in air, creating fire out of their hands, making object disappear and reappear at will. Many of the things that he was seeing were things that he had only ever seen angels do but he knew that these people were not angels. However, he deduced that he had arrived where his Father told him he would.

It was no secret that his Father had plans to create this world and to place upon it being for which to live. When it was Jericho's time he was told that he would be spending time with the first inhabitants of the planet a group of people known as the Solathians. He could only assume that these were that group of people. All the angles were told that these people would resemble them and that they would be close in power to angels as well but that they would harness what his Father called a body.

This was something new for him and for the angels to hear or understand because they had never heard of a body before. Despite that while other angels would have to take their time learning what this frail concept was Jericho was told by his father in detail what it was. He knew that these people were not like him or his brothers and sisters. He knew that they were fragile, but he also knew from what he was told that they would also be powerful.

"Welcome back to the world of the living. Now perhaps you can tell us who the hell you are and what the hell you are doing here!"

Jericho recognized that voice, he had heard it before. The first time he had heard it was the day that he was found on the mountain. That voice it would seem had belonged to the person in charge of his retrieval. He turned around and saw a middle-aged man. This man was about 5'10" tall, olive skin, he was husky but in shape, the rugged features on his face were perfectly complimented by his graying beard and hair. He was not alone when he approached Jericho. Alongside him was a woman, a woman that Jericho believed was one of the most beautiful creatures he had ever seen. The woman was 5'6" tall, she appeared to be in her early twenties; she had flowing red hair, olive skin, an athletic build, and the greenest eyes he had ever seen. He stared at her; it was the first time that he had ever reacted to someone like this. He believed her to be more beautiful than anyone female angel he had ever seen. He did not answer the man's questions because he was too busy staring at the woman, so the man spoke again.

"You; can you hear me or are you deaf?" He raised his voice to Jericho.

"I'm sorry what," Jericho responded after snapping out of staring at the woman.

- "Who are you and what are you doing here?"
- "My name is Jericho," he replied.
- "Jericho what," the man asked.
- "I'm sorry; I don't know what you mean?"
- "What house are you from, are you from one of the other clans?" Jericho still answered him in the same manner telling him that he didn't know what he meant. "You only have one name?"
 - "Yes; why should I have more than one?"
 - "What are you doing here?" The man asked him.
 - "I was sent here," he told them.

"Sent here; sent here by whom?"

"I was sent here by my Father."

"I thought you said that you didn't know what I was talking about when I asked what house you were from. Who is your father?"

"My father is the creator of all things," he replied.

They stood there in awe, this time staring at him. They did not believe that he was lying to them considering they had seen him fall from the sky and what they saw when they found him.

"The creator is your father?"

"Yes," he replied in an innocent tone.

"Did he send you here with a cure; did he send you here to save those of us who are sick?" The man asked him.

"I am sorry, but I don't know what you speak of. I was sent here to help protect the people of this world, but I know nothing of a cure or the sick. May I ask a question of you?" He asked and the man in which he replied in turn with an affirmative nod of his head. "May I ask who you are?"

"My name is Haden, and this is my daughter Celeste of the house of White. I am the head of this clan and leader of the village."

"This clan," Jericho asked in a curious tone. The three of them began walking through the town.

"There are four clans of people that live in these lands; we are as far as any of us know the only beings on in this world."

"You spoke of the sick, what is going on here?" Jericho asked.

"For the past few months many of the people in the four clans have been becoming erratic and seem to be losing their minds. Many of them begin to experience horrific visions of horrible and evil images. They become physically ill for a short time and then they become mad; killing either themselves or some of the other people from the villages."

"How much of the population has been affected?" Jericho asked.

"This clan has been lucky. Only 1/4 of this clan's population has been affected however I do not believe that we will continue to be so fortunate. The other clans have seen more than half of their population affected."

"How does one become affected by this disease?" Jericho asked him.

"We can believe that it is nothing more than exposure to others that are affected that it can be passed on. A small group of our townspeople seem to be immune to this disease. My daughter Celeste and I are included in that small group. Since we seem to be immune we travel from clan to clan using our knowledge and our power to try and help those who have been affected."

"Have you had any success in treating the sick?"

"Unfortunately, the most that we have been able to do is slow the progression of the disease. We can help with the physical illness that the person experiences, but we cannot stop the visions or the madness. Despite all that, it seems that in treating the physical illness it slows the onset of the visions and the inevitable loss of the mind. Treating the physical illness has stopped people from having the visions that cause them to lose their minds for months and in one case just over a year. No matter what was tried the same result occurs eventually. We are always trying new things and experimenting with new spells and magic but nothing so far."

"You said that some of those that lose their minds have killed themselves; but what of the ones who have killed, what becomes of them?" Jericho asked.

"Come with me," Haden told him. They walked to just outside what looked like to Jericho to be the city limits. They approached what looked to be a seemingly harmless cave but looks can be deceiving. Just as they reached the entrance to the cave a group of people began running toward the cave entrance in a frantic state. Jericho looked at both Haden and his daughter but

there was no look of concern on either of their faces. Just as this group of crazed people reached the entrance they were stopped by some sort of magical seal preventing their escape.

"You have them here; they don't seem to be attempting to kill each other."

"No, they aren't. For whatever reason they only prey on those that are not affected. They wish to kill and make the ones that they are killing suffer. It is as if they have become pure evil. We bring them food and water and whatever they would need to survive."

"Why have these people not attempted to kill themselves as some of the others have?" Jericho turned to Haden as asked.

"We don't know, this disease is mysterious," he replied.

"Are you certain that they cannot escape?"

"There is no reason to concern yourself Jericho, you are safe."

"I am not concerned, I doubt that they could hurt me but if all Solathians have these powers how then how can they not release themselves?"

"You know the name of our people? Of course, you do, if you truly did come from the creator then you would know. When the first of these people killed someone, the high priest of the clan Mocar had found a way for us to take their powers away and then began imprisoning them in here."

Jericho slowly moved closer to the cave entrance. The people who were imprisoned in the cave had begun moving back away. Jericho wanted to see these people close so that he could observe what was happening to them. He wanted and needed to be close to them to see why they had lost their minds. He needed to know what and why they had become sick. He was always the curious one among the angels and always the one that could deduce any mystery. He knew that there was only one way to get the answers that he needed so he did what no one else could do. He walked right through the

powerful barrier that kept the killers from getting out and anyone else from getting in.

Haden and his daughter couldn't believe what they had just seen. The barrier that had been placed at the entrance of the cave was powerful and they didn't know of anyone that could get through it. However, the fact that he was able to go through the barrier wasn't their only concern. They had seen what those infected were capable of and were concerned about Jericho safety.

As Jericho passed through the barrier the infected in the cave had stopped screaming and advancing toward the entrance. As he moved toward the group of infected they had begun to move away from him. They all seemed like scared children as he approached them. Their screams had turned to whimpering as the once group of killers had seemingly turned to cowards.

Jericho continued to advance as he wanted to see one of the infected up close but with every step he took they all took several steps back. Slightly frustrated, Jericho stopped moving and in turn so did the others. His interruption in movement was only temporary. Once the others stopped moving in less than a blink of an eye Jericho had moved so fast that he was now standing directly in front of one of the infected.

The one that Jericho had moved in front of was surprised but at the same time terrified that he was there. He looked at the infected woman's face. She had abrasions on it, bruising, and pieces of skin that appears to have been torn off. He assumed that she had inflicted this upon herself as she was picking a pulling at the remaining pieces of skin that had not yet fallen off.

He looked at the rest of her body and saw basically the same injuries all over however something seemed off about it. Other than the fact that these people had lost their minds and had been killing each other and themselves something struck him about these people. The disease that had infected them had different effects on different people. Some would kill themselves while

others would kill; in Jericho's mind that didn't make any sense. While he was standing outside of the cave with Haden and his daughter he was told that the ones who were infected to kill would not kill each other. He couldn't understand why this was the case. One of the things that seemed to throw his off about that belief is that this woman had injuries in places that she could not had done.

She had injuries on her back like the ones on her face. She also appeared to have bruising in places that would take tremendous force to inflict which she could not have done. He also had to consider that she could have done this to herself by running into rocks or other objects. That was a possibility, but Jericho didn't think so. Why would these people who were willing to kill anyone not attack or attempt to kill each other? As far as he could see there was nothing different from them than from those not infected and nothing should prevent them from murdering each other.

Jericho turned away to leave but just as he did something caught his eye. On one of the walls of the cave written in the Solathians language and in blood were the words "He is coming!" He looked around and saw what looked like the tool that was used to write those words. Jericho knelt to look and what he found was even more confusing. The words on the wall were written in blood however they seemed to have been painted on (although not very well but legible) and not written by using just a finger. What he found explained why it looked the way it did. He had found a small piece of an artery with the blood on it and on the wall still fresh.

Jericho stood up and looked at the others. As he entered they had been steeping back from him but none of them scattered to hide. There were afraid of him but stayed together in numbers. Jericho could think of only two reasons why they would do this. The first reason he thought could be because they had strength in numbers and even those that have lost their mind would result to basic survival instincts. Like wolves and other predators although they will kill they stay together in packs and they were doing the same. The second reason that they had stayed together while he approached them could be to keep him from going further into the cave. Perhaps there was something in the cave that they did not want him to see. The only problem with that was if these people who were infected had lost their minds they would not have the cognitive ability as individuals to this let alone as a group. Predatory animals would do this if they were most likely protecting their young, but this was different.

Jericho needed to move deeper into the cave but just as before his path was blocked. He had again begun to move forward but again they continued to move back together. He had no choice; he needed to see what was in the rest of the cave. He knew that no matter what he did other than hurting these

people that they would not move for him to pass but he also needed them to continue to be fixated on him as well. Jericho stopped moving and in turn so did they. They continued to stare as him. It's what he wanted them to do but he was doing something else that they could not see.

While his body stood their facing them his soul had fazed down into the ground of the cave and remerged a dozen feet or so behind the mob of infected. He moved through the cave searching until he noticed a light coming from one of the caverns. His soul moved to that cavern only to discover something that he did not expect. Throughout that small cavern were pieces of body parts and blood scattered all over. They were body parts from other infected people, same injuries, abrasions, and wounds as those that were alive at the front of the cave.

They had been killing each other. They were not immune from killing each other as the rest of the population had believed. Still, something was keeping them from committing mass murder. From the position of the parts and what looked like an alter in the middle of the room it seemed as if one of them had sacrificed themselves to keep the others at bay. As for the light that had illuminated the room was something that looked like a large pearl imbedded in the ceiling of the cavern releasing a tremendous amount of power.

"What in God's name is going on here?" He said to himself.

After making that statement a large explosion rang out in the air like thunder, followed by smaller explosions. Jericho exited the cave where Haden and Celeste were waiting.

"What is going on?" Jericho asked them.

"The village," Celeste said as they all turned in that direction. Smoke and fire could be seen rising into the air. Although Celeste and her father could not hear it, the screams coming from the town were deafening to Jericho. Without telling them where he was going he took to the air and started flying toward the village as fast as he could. Within seconds he had traveled so far that he was nothing more than a spec to Haden and Celeste.

It didn't take him long to reach the village and the scene up close was more horrible than he could have imagined. Homes were burning, people lie dead on the ground and in the middle of the village was another one of the infected Solathians. When Jericho landed he could see many of the villagers were using whatever powers they had to try and put out the fires.

Jericho landed in front of the infected man and spoke. "It time to stop and time for you to go back with the others."

The infected man didn't understand what Jericho was saying and did what his instincts told him to do and that was attack. He jumped at Jericho, knocking him down to the ground and attempting to bite him. He couldn't understand why this man who was infected was not attacking like the ones in the cave. Those in the cave kept their distance from Jericho but this one did not. He was full of rage and anger and he still had all his powers.

They struggled, and Jericho was holding him off. The man was salivating and snarling as he attempted to sink his teeth into some part of his body. Jericho was holding the man's arms pushing him off however he had still not fully recovered. As a result, the enraged infected man bite Jericho in the right shoulder ripped a portion of it off. He screamed out in pain and used his left and punched the man in his face which forced him off him.

Jericho had felt pain before but nothing like this. Although he was immune to many things the fact that he had not yet fully recovered his body was vulnerable. Even though he is still having the power of an angel however for him to do his job he needed a solid form. Still the power of an angel does allow him to heal himself but in his weakened state his new injury would take some time to heal.

He slowly tried to get to his feet but the infected Solathian was running toward him again to attack. Jericho disappeared just as the infected man reached him causing him to stop in his tracks. He stood there continuing to snarl and salivate until he felt a poke on the back of his left shoulder. "Surprise," was the one thing that Jericho said to him as he turned around. With a clear shot Jericho punched the infected Solathian dead center shattering his entire chest cavity. The force of the punch pushed him several feet away and labeled him unconscious on the ground.

Haden and Celeste finally reached the village and saw how much destruction had occurred. The fires were too much for the villagers to put out on their own, so Haden acted. He raised his arms into the air and let out a flash of energy from his hands into the sky. The clouds darkened, the air temperature fell, thunder roared, a flash of lightening filled the sky and a downpour of rain blanketed the countryside.

"Nice trick"

"It takes years of practice, only the leaders of the four villages and Mocar have the power to do something like that," Haden replied.

"Where is Mocar," Celeste asked but the answer to that question would have to wait. Someone had collapsed in front of the entrance to the village. A couple of the villages rushed to the man and then called over to Haden. He, Celeste and Jericho rushed over to see what had happened.

"Philip," Haden called out. He said it again as he rushed to his knees next to him. The man was covered in blood and he had pieces of flesh barely hanging on to his body. He was covered in in dirt that was being washed away by the rain.

"Philip, what happened?" Haden asked him. Although he could barely speak he gathered enough energy to tell them that his village was being attacked by a group of infected people and that they were destroying his village and killing everyone.

"Which way is the village?" Jericho asked.

"East," Celeste replied. In a matter of seconds Jericho was now in the air headed east to the other village. "Philip, Philip," Haden yelled but no amount of yelling would bring him back; Philip had died from his injuries. "Something is very wrong here my daughter. To have an attack on this village and another almost simultaneously cannot be a coincidence. If two of the villages have been attacked, then we need to check on the other two in hopes that they have not felt the same sting as we have."

Haden and a small number of men headed north while his daughter Celeste took her group south to the other villages.

As Jericho approached the second village the site was even worse than that of the other. There were as least five infected Solathians destroying the village and with the power that these people had the destruction was extensive. Jericho's strategy against these infected would be different this time. He didn't land but flew directly at one of the infected and tackled him into the side of stone wall. The impact from hitting the wall was only a small reason for the infected to be knocked unconscious. Jericho had tackled him with such force that he had almost passed out before hitting the side of the mountain wall.

The attention of the others was drawn away from the village and its villages. The other infected now all had their sights set on Jericho and the one thing on all four of their minds was ripping him apart.

They all took positions surrounding him to make sure that he had no way of escaping. One of them jumped into action at Jericho but he caught him in the air and threw him at one of the other infected men; knocking them both to the ground. Another charged at him, but he dropped himself to the ground and then kicked the infected man with his right leg hurling him into small cottage. The last attacked but this time he was using more than brute force. He did everything that he could to punch, kick, and bit Jericho but when that didn't work he shot Jericho with energy blasts from his hands.

This one wasn't fighting like the others. Jericho knew that they still had their powers; that's how they were able to cause so much destruction but this one was fighting more like someone who wasn't infected with the disease. Although he was feeling better and much of his power had returned he was still not back to full strength. The blasts of energy hurt, and they were powerful, but something just wasn't right with this one. His powers seemed to match that of the leaders of the villages, but he knew that it couldn't be one of them because all of them were immune to the infection.

Jericho decided to fight fire with fire, so he used his power in retaliation. He was more than holding his own but as a result he realized that they were causing more damage to the village. He needed to end this, so he pulled up as much power as he could and blasted the last infected man with so much force that he fell to the ground. The battle was over, but he could hear something coming from the infected that he had just beaten.

He walked over to that man and could hear him begging for help.

[&]quot;Please help me," he said in weakened voice.

[&]quot;We're doing everything we can to help you," Jericho said to calm him.

- "Kill me please," the infected man replied.
- "I'm sorry I can't do that, I'm not a killer. I need you to hold on; we're doing everything we can to find a cure for this disease."
- "You don't understand," he said to Jericho. "This isn't a disease."
- "What,"
- "The only way to help me is to kill me, please I beg you."
- "I told you, I'm not a killer."
- "You have to stop him," Jericho looked at him confused. "If you don't stop him then he will kill us all."
- "Stop who, what are you saying?"
- "He created this disease to kill us all and take our powers. If you don't stop him then he will succeed."
- "Stop who," he asked as he leaned in closer to the man's face. He whispered something into Jericho's ear and then died. Jericho knew that he had not inflicted enough injuries to kill him and that assumption was fortified when the others died as well.

Jericho got up and headed back to the main village. Once he arrived he was told that Haden and Celeste had gone to the last two remaining villages to make sure that they were safe. As he was preparing to leave, Haden returned with corpses in tow; followed closely by Celeste.

"Jericho, are you alright?" Haden asked him.

"I'm fine. I take it you didn't kill these men?"

"No, we didn't. In the middle of battle, they all just collapsed. When we checked their bodies, we saw that they were all dead. I don't understand how or why they died. The battle had just begun and there is no way that we would have killed anyone, infected or not."

"The same thing happened with the ones that I was fighting. Haden, we need to talk about this so-called disease. We should have the other leaders join us."

"Alright, I will tell them to join us immediately. Ah, there is Mocar with Celeste I will have him join us as well."

"Don't bother," Jericho said to Haden and then headed over to where Mocar and Celeste were.

He approached them, and Celeste had a smile on her face; happy to see that Jericho was all right. She said his name which in turned caused Mocar to turn around and acknowledge him.

"Jericho," Mocar said to him as he got closer.

Jericho didn't say anything in response to what was said but raised his left arm and shot a beam of energy directly at Mocar. He was thrown half way across

the village. Haden and Celeste screamed. Haden ran over to Jericho and both he and his daughter questioned what he had just done while a couple of other villagers tended to Mocar.

"What in God's name is wrong with you Jericho?" Haden asked.

"This isn't a plague or a disease Haden," he replied.

"What are you talking about?"

"The only disease that's infecting all of you is Mocar; he caused all this."

"What," Haden and Celeste said in unison. "Mocar has been trying to help us put an end to this since it began."

"He has been fooling all of you since the beginning. He is controlling the so called 'infected' to infect others. He uses this fake disease to put fear into everyone. He wants all your powers. The only way he could take any of your powers was if you were weakened in some way. Creating something that plays on the mind and makes your people lose the ability to control their own powers he takes them."

"It can't be; Mocar and his family have been loyal to all of us for generations."

At that moment an explosion arose from the site where Mocar landed. Mocar had emerged from the rubble and screamed three words. "Jericho, you're dead.

"You better get everyone out of here."

"Jericho, why would you do that?" Celeste asked.

"I'll explain later, get everyone out of her now!"

Haden turned to his daughter and instructed her to do as Jericho had said. They began to gather everyone to lead them out of the village. At that same time Mocar charged Jericho; his eyes were filled with rage and his face had no intention of hiding both his anger and frustration.

Mocar threw a series of punches and kick which at Jericho dodged. He didn't immediately fight back because he wanted to make sure that everyone had gotten out. Unable to hit him, Mocar pulled back and readied himself.

Mocar threw a ball of energy at Jericho. It was moving well over 100 mph. Jericho braced himself; placing his right leg behind, his left arm in front in a blocking pose like a shield, and his open right hand in Mocar's direction. The ball of energy found its target creating a large blinding light and the dirt rose form the ground creating a large thick dust cloud to form where he had been standing.

The cloud was too thick to look through and Mocar was becoming impatient waiting for it to clear. He began walking toward it but abruptly stopped when light had begun to flicker from the cloud. It was more than a flicker it was a like a thunder cloud fighting for supremacy against the lighting. The flashes became brighter and faster. From either side of the cloud; what looked like lighting shot out and them circled around until they hit Mocar.

He screamed in pain and fell to the ground. Jericho emerged from the cloud unharmed. He began walking toward Mocar. As he had gotten closer Mocar raised his right arm at Jericho and a barrage of roots shot out of the ground and began attaching themselves to him. Within seconds Jericho could no longer be he was completely wrapped in the roots like a mummy.

Mocar got to his feet and walked over to the now mummified Jericho.

"How the mighty have fallen. Did you think that you could put a stop to what is happening here? Soon everyone will be infected and those that are immune to the infection I will kill personally."

"Why are you doing this to these people?" Jericho asked through a small opening in his mummified prison.

"This is an experiment, one that will be quite beneficial to our father."

"God would never cause pain like this to anyone and he would never experiment on these people."

"Who said I was talking about God?"

- "God is the only father I have," Jericho said to him.
- "You have no idea what you have walked into. When father arrives, nothing will survive including the one you call your father."
- "Do you know what I hate?" Jericho asked him.
- "What might that be?"
- "Arrogance," Jericho said from Mocar's left side. Mocar turned and was punched in the face breaking his jaw.

Mocar fell to the ground once again. Jericho picked him up but as he turned him around a bright light blinded him forcing his release. Mocar touched his chin with his left hand and repaired the damage to his jaw while simultaneously hitting Jericho with his right. The force pushed him back about ten feet on to the ground.

Mocar raised both of his arms in Jericho's direction and began shooting beams of energy at him. Jericho looked up and saw the beams heading right toward him. He grabbed some of the dirt from the ground and threw it above his head. As the dirt fell back down on top of him he disappeared, and the dirt fell back to the Earth.

Mocar couldn't believe what he had just seen. He knew angels and the powers that they possessed. However what Jericho was showing him was unexpected and unconventional. Mocar said that he knew Jericho but perhaps he didn't know him as well as he thought. Michael is considered the most powerful of all angels but Jericho's skill in battle was second to none.

He looked all over the town for him but there was no sign of him.

"You are out matched Jericho. I am more than what these people know."

"So am I" Jericho's voice echoed through the village.

Mocar looked around again trying to see if he could tell where the voice originated. He still couldn't find him however Jericho's whereabouts were about to become prevalent. The skies darkened, thunder began to roar, and a flash of lighting illuminated the area right above Mocar. Out of that light Jericho appeared and attacked Mocar. He was out, the fight was over; Mocar was defeated. Although the fight was over Mocar was one of the most difficult battles to date.

Mocar had been in control of the infected Solathians and putting him with the others would not be wise. When he regained consciousness, he could instruct others to attack the towns again. There would only be one place where someone as powerful as him to be detained. Jericho called to the angel Michael and asked if he and the council could take him into custody.

Jericho took Mocar to the outskirts of the village where he met with his good friend Michael.

"Jericho we are not in the habit of taking prisoners."

"We've taken prisoners before Mike."

"Yes, we have during times of war but once the war was over and peace reigned again they were released. You're talking about a permanent prison for this man."

"I can't put him in the prison that they constructed for the infected people. He was controlling them, and he still has his powers. If he is put into the same prison as them; there is no telling what he may be able to do or have them do for that matter."

"You know as well as I do that we do not have permanent prisons." Michael told him again.

"What about purgatory where I was for all those years before I came here or send him to hell. Have Lucifer deal with him." Jericho told him.

"I can't do that; this person has a physical form and unlike you no one else can be taken to purgatory, hell, or heaven unless they have lost their physical form first."

"Come on Michael there has to be something that you can do; there has to be a place where you can take him. If he stays here he will continue to threaten these people."

"I need some time to speak to the council before I can make a decision. How long will he be unconscious?"

"Don't worry about that, I will make sure he doesn't wake up but try and make it quick."

Michael disappeared, leaving Jericho and Mocar alone. Hours passed and Mocar had begun to regain consciousness. He had opened his eyes and began to mumble. He wanted to know what happened. Jericho moved right into his line of site and spoke.

"This," Jericho said as he punched Mocar in the face once again labeling him unconscious. One whole day had passed before Michael returned.

"I was starting to wonder if you would ever come back."

"I'm sorry J but it took months of discussion to agree to take Mocar into custody."

Jericho was happy to hear that they would take Mocar away from the people that he had been systematically wiping out. Jericho's work in that and the surrounding villages were not yet over; he intended to help them rebuild. That may have been the case but the unfinished business he had to tend to had nothing to do with helping rebuild.

It has been a year since Mocar and the disease that plagued the Solathians was gone. In that year the villages were almost completely rebuilt and life among the people had return to normal for the first time in over two years. Also, in that year Jericho and Haden's daughter Celeste had become close and their relationship had grown beyond friendship. Jericho had never been happy like this and suddenly his punishment didn't seem so bad. The couple decided to take their relationship to the next level and a celebration of the announcement that they were to be married was about to take place.

This would be the first celebration that the Solathians would have since the end of Mocar and his dreaded disease. Everything was set and with peace and serenity across the land all the members of all the other villages made their way to the celebration. The sun had just begun to set, and the celebration was now underway.

A few hours passed, and the air was filled with happiness, love, and laughs. The couple was asked to speak to the people about their engagement. They stood up on a boulder in the middle of the village hand in hand. Celeste spoke first and talked about the love that she felt for Jericho. Jericho took a deep breath, looked into Celeste's eyes and began to speak.

No matter what his words would not be heard. A flash of light erupted into the air from the direction of one of the other villages. The crowed was stunned and understandably they all turned in that direction to see what that flash of light was. As they turned to see the flash another burst flew into the sky from the direction of another village and then a third. The flashes quickly turned to smoke and blanketed those areas with flames.

The people began to panic. No one knew what was going on and many worried about their homes. From where they were standing Jericho let go of his fiancée's hand and shot straight up into the sky. Once up there he could see that all three villages were now engulfed in flames and that the fires gave no hope that anything could be salvaged.

He landed and told Haden and the leaders of the other villages what he had seen. The first thing for them as the leaders of the perspective villages was to calm the people as much as possible. Haden and his daughter Celeste gathered their separate forces and they and Jericho all headed toward different villages. With Jericho's ability to fly he reached his target first.

This was no ordinary fire. Everything was covered in flames. Every home, structure, animal and land in the village was on fire. Even as high as he was in the air he could feel the heat coming from the flames and it burned hotter than anything he remembered. He did have the power that Haden had and did not know how to make it rain so he had to choose a different method to put out the fire. Deep beneath every village was an underground water supply. Jericho flew straight into the flames and through the ground as far deep as he could. He reached the underground spring, flew out of the hole that he had just created, and the water erupted covering the village. Nevertheless, the water had no effect on the flames.

Jericho couldn't understand what was happening. Why were the flames not dissipating and how did the fire start? The first question would have to be answered later but the second become prevalent once he landed in the middle of town. He could feel that something was there but he couldn't pinpoint it but he wouldn't have to. Silhouettes of people started to appear through the flames surrounding him.

The sound of growling and snarling were all too familiar to Jericho, but he couldn't believe it. The last time he heard sounds like this was almost a year ago. The sound of madness that had plagued the Solathians had been gone and the man responsible for it was imprisoned. Those facts wouldn't matter when they attacked.

They all jumped out of the flames onto him, smothering him with almost no means of escape. Not only were there more infected than before but they were stronger than his last encounter with them. It seemed that this time they were prepared for Jericho's power but what they didn't anticipate was that in that year Jericho also become stronger. With one blast from within the dark refuge of the pile up all the infected were thrown off and Jericho now stood there ready for battle.

Meanwhile Haden was battling a fire of his own in the south village, but he too had no success with his attempts either. He did notice that something was different in the west village were Celeste had gone. While all the villages had appeared to be under attack; this one seemed to be untouched and serene. Celeste didn't understand. They had all clearly seen the evidence in the sky that all the villages were in danger and that is why they had all gone to investigate.

She turned toward her men, but they were no longer behind her. All of them had vanished and a familiar but unwanted voice spoke to her.

"I had always hoped that I you would stand by my side while waited for his arrival."

She knew that voice. Fear and anxiety filled her from within. She knew that she had to turn around to confirm that it was who she believed it to be. She had hoped that if she turned around that he would not be there and that it was nothing more than her imagination but that was not the case. She turned around, let out a gasp of air and then was silenced.

Jericho was fighting them off successfully but no matter how much he seemed to hurt them they kept coming. Suddenly, the attack stopped. The infected stepped backwards into the flames from where they came and disappeared. The fire disappeared with them leaving the village in ruin.

From behind Jericho heard a thud and went over to investigate. One the Villagers who was at his engagement party lay dead on the ground. He heard another thud and another. He turned once again to the middle of the village; one by one the bodies of the Solathians began to fall from the sky including the body of the woman he loved at his feet!

"Celeste," he screamed in agony when he saw her. He fell to his knees and took her in his arms and sobbed. While he held her, he tried to use all of his power and prayed to his father to bring her back to him, but he could not release the grip that death had on her. As he sat there with her he heard someone whisper the words "help me."

Due to all his focus being on Celeste he had no idea that someone was still alive. One the bodies that had fallen from the sky had survived. He closed his eyes and concentrated until he could pinpoint where this person was. He laid Celeste down gently and walked in the direction of the voice. There he found Haden. He was battered, bruised and on the brink of death.

"Haden," he called.

"Jericho," answered back. "I protected them, they are safe for now, but they will not be for long. You must stop him before he wipes us out of existence."

Jericho wanted to ask Haden who he meant although he had a good Idea who was responsible. Before he could that the infected that he had battled just a few moments ago had returned. Jericho looked back at them and then remembered the plea that the first infected that he fought asked him to do. He asked Jericho to kill him, but he refused. Nevertheless, he knew that the only way that these people would be free was to do just that. There was no way of saving them and giving them the lives that they had before their infection.

Jericho was so full of anger and sadness that he had no illusions of the type of mercy he was going to show. They attacked, and he gave them what he thought he should have done a long time ago.

He ripped through them like an animal to its prey. It only took a few minutes but every one of them was dead and Jericho stood there covered in their blood.

"Jericho," a voice called to him.

He turned around and saw his friend the arch angel Michael. In an instant he moved fast over to him, grabbed him by his throat and spoke.

"Look Michael, look around you; this is your doing." Michael did look around, but he didn't say a word. "I asked you to keep him locked away that if he stayed here or was free that this would happen. The infection returned, he killed them and most importantly he killed Celeste."

"I don't know what happened; none of us know how he escaped." He looked around at the carnage that Jericho inflicted. "You killed them."

Jericho let Michael go and looked at him but said nothing in response to his statement.

"How could you do this?" Michael asked.

"It had to be done. This was the only way that they could be saved and Mocar is next!"

"You've crossed the line; there is no way back home for you."

"This is my home," he replied.

"Killing these people and going after Mocar makes you no different than him."

"You're wrong about that, we are different; I'm worse!"

"Jericho," Michael called to him as he watched his longtime friend walk away. "Jericho," he yelled again. This time Jericho stopped and put his head into his chest and starred at the ground. Michael looked at the back of his friend in relief that he stopped.

Jericho didn't stop to listen to anything that Michael said at least not at that moment. He stopped for another reason...

"The Jericho that you know is no more. I loved these people; especially Celeste and he took them away. She and her family were taken from this world too soon. I will carry on my father's work and protect this world, but I will also carry on the name of the woman and family of White that took me into their home and hearts. You can call me Jericho White and let all those that hear that name know that I fear no one. I will protect this world, hunt evil in all its forms, and when need be kill the guilty. Wrath, vengeance, rage, and death are my companions now and they are just as pissed off as I am!"

Jericho took to the skies so quickly that not even Michael so follow his movements. Since Jericho was no longer an angel his whereabouts couldn't be tracked by the council either. Michael couldn't believe what he had heard Jericho say but he knew that from this day on things with his oldest and dearest friend would never be the same.

After losing sight of Jericho, Michael returned to heaven; when he arrived, he was immediately called to the council by the other members. Michael was head of the council, but he could not ignore the request from the majority for his appearance. When he arrived, they were all waiting for him and he was verbally ambushed by Goberesh.

"You were there, and you saw what he did and what he plans to do now," Goberesh said to Michael. "He was sent down to Earth to learn to live among those that were different from us; against our better judgment I might add and this happens. He slaughtered those people and now plans to exact revenge against the man he believes is responsible for what happened."

"Mocar is responsible for what happened. He was responsible for the spread of the plague and as a result ended the lives of those he infected. He sent them to kill and, in the process, killed someone that our brother loved," Michael responded.

"Don't you dare call him our brother," Goberesh exclaimed. "He ceased being our brother when he didn't stand at our side while his brother and his so-called army tried to conquer us. How is he on Earth for the right reasons if it is revenge that he seeks? We don't work that way and he should be stripped of this position and sent down to live out eternity with his own brother."

Just as Goberesh finished his statement a loud thunder rang out. It was their father letting know what his feelings were in this matter. Once the loud thunder and rumbling stopped Michael spoke once more.

"This is not a choice that this council has any authority over. Jericho was appointed by our father and according to him Jericho answers to only him. Our father wants us all to know that he chose him to protect the Earth for a reason and whatever choices he makes that helps in its protection has our father's full faith. He is above the laws of this council and unless he is charged and convicted of crimes so horrible that he can no longer be in the service of our father he is not to be interfered with."

Goberesh knew that he couldn't question what Michael had just said because he knew that these words were not his but God's. Michael had always spoken for their father and he was making sure that God's words were heard loud and clear. However even with the words of their father, they had the freedom for opinions and debate and this was only the beginning of these when it came to Earth's guardian.

After Jericho left Michael he went to check on Haden's condition but by the time he got there, Haden was already dead. There was nothing that he could do to help Haden. Jericho used whatever power he had to help him but every attempt was met with failure. The power that had injured him was something that Jericho did not understand.

He walked over to the lifeless body of the man he considered his surrogate father, kneeled beside him and began to cry. It would be one of the few rare occasions that Jericho would shed a tear. He put his left hand upon Haden's head and suddenly a voice began to speak in the room followed by a vision of a healthy Haden.

"Jericho, if you are hearing and seeing this message then I am gone; the last of a race that is now gone forever. I tried as much as I could to save who I could and to mend while you were gone but I needed to make a choice. Did I use what power I had left to try and save myself only to be alone without my people forever; or do I do what I can to ensure that Mocar could not win?" The image of Haden lifted his left hand that possessed one of the most beautiful pearls in history.

"You know what this is my boy, this pearl is what Mocar used to house the power and knowledge of every Solathian that was murdered or has died. When my life leaves me my knowledge and power will join theirs. The combined power and knowledge of all of our people is a powerful force. So much so that no one; not even those with the best intentions should possess. I have tried to destroy it but without success. Since I cannot destroy it I must ensure that no one can possess it. I have learned that only someone that has defeated death will have the ability to destroy it and at this time it will not be me. Death is a difficult power to defeat so I will send this power somewhere that it cannot be found. I trust that this world and the people that take our place are in good hands with you.

I do not know if it will stay hidden forever but where I am sending it will make it difficult for anyone to obtain. Although I trust you with all my being I cannot even tell you where it will be. If anything were to happen to you and someone was to steal the knowledge of its whereabouts the world would be in danger. Since you are our world's guardian I believe it would be best if you didn't know. My life is leaving me. I hope that what you have learned from us serves you well including my most important lesson to you. Do what you have to my boy to protect this world and don't let anyone stop you. Celeste loved you my boy as do I..."

The voice died down, and the vision disappeared. Jericho wiped the tears from his face, stood up, walked out of the small hut, raised his hand behind him and engulfed it in flames. Jericho's face was riddled in tears and in anger. He wanted to find Mocar at all cost but after Celeste's murder, Mocar seemed to have disappeared.

With the Solathians gone the Earth had no inhabitants except for Mocar and Jericho. It would be almost a year before he caught up with Mocar, ironically in the same place where he first arrived.

"I have been waiting for you. I knew that you would eventually find me and this was as fitting of a place as ever. This is where you were born to this world so to speak isn't it?"

"I didn't come here to talk!" Jericho told him.

No, Jericho was all business and he showed Mocar just how serious he was. He attacked Mocar, tackling him to the snowy ground, punching him and kneeing him in the ribs repeatedly. Mocar was trying as hard as he could to fight him off

but he was physically unsuccessful in his attempt. As a result, he turned to his other attributes and used his power to blast Jericho away.

Jericho hurtled high into the air. Mocar picked himself up and jumped into the sky after him. As he reached the height where Jericho was about to come falling back down he speared him in the back. The bones in Jericho's back could be heard breaking instantly. He let out an incredible scream that could

Be heard for miles. Jericho was head back up after the spear with tears in his eyes and pain in his body. He had felt pain like this before fighting side by side with his brothers and sisters, but this was something new. His body was that of a man and although he possessed invulnerability to normal things; those with powers like Mocar or even the demons that he was sent to protect the world against could still hurt his physical form.

Mocar realized that he had been successful with his last attacked and regrouped to do it again. He flew straight into the sky as Jericho fell and prepared to spear him in the back again. As he flew higher and closer to Jericho, he suddenly disappeared.

Since Mocar was not and had never been an angel or a demon he couldn't see one of them if they decided to hide. Jericho did just that. He made himself unable to be seen by Mocar and quickly moved out of the way of his attack. Mocar looked around in confusion as he hovered there wondering where he had gone.

He had eluded Jericho for so long for a reason. He wanted him to follow him on his trek around the globe or at least that is what he wanted Jericho to think at first. Mocar was in search of one thing; the thing that he had worked so hard to compile over the years and that was the pearl of Solathia that contains all the knowledge and power of its entire people. He had made Jericho believe that he had fled to another part of the world to get Jericho away from what was the Solathians main village.

With the last Solathian in Haden dead and Jericho away, Mocar would be free to search for the pearl at his leisure. For the first few days he searched not leaving any stone unturned when he realized that it was no longer in any of the villages. He believed that Jericho either had the stone or knew where it was.

Mocar fled the village and composed what power and knowledge he did have to confront Jericho face to face. In that year he mastered his power like no one else. You see unknown to Jericho; Mocar was not a Solathian but something else. The power that he possessed was great, but he needed the power of the Solathians for something else, more specifically for someone else...the one he called his father!

Jericho reappeared out of nowhere and hit Mocar with a taste of his own might. He hit Mocar with an uppercut so hard that he flew even higher into the air; then fell into the side of a snowy mountain. He was hurt but flew back out and the two punched, kicked, elbowed, and whatever else could be thought of on one another.

The battle seemed like it was evenly matched when something began to change for Jericho. As the battle ensued his hands began to glow in a bright blue aura. Once they were fully illuminated, Jericho hit Mocar with such a force that it dropped him down onto the snowy ground. Jericho looked at his hands with surprise in his eyes at what he had just done and the power that he could feel resonating from his hands.

He waited for Mocar to emerge but he didn't. He knew that he was still alive he could feel it but for whatever reason he wasn't coming out. Jericho yelled to him telling him that he couldn't hide. He threatened to tear the mountain apart if he didn't get back out and continue the fight. Mocar had no intention of going back out into the open. He underestimated Jericho and the force behind the power that he showed was too much even for him. Mocar was afraid for the first time in his life. He could feel death on the doorstep, but he had no intention of letting her in.

Mocar thought to himself that he would hide and slowly move through the mountain using the snow as cover. He knew that Jericho could detect heat signatures, so he used his own power and set his body temperature to match the snow. That way Jericho wouldn't be able to track him, and he could escape. He slowly moved through the snow while he could hear Jericho blasting different parts of the mountain in search of him. He was able to move quickly undetected and the sounds of the blasts also moved father and father away.

Jericho knew that he was wasting time. "If Mocar is in here he's probably found a way to get out of here without me noticing" he thought to himself. Since Mocar changed his body temperature to match the snow of the mountain there was no way that Jericho would be able to find him; so he decided to get rid of his camouflage.

The blasts stopped and Mocar believed that Jericho had given up trying to find him but he couldn't be farther from the truth. Jericho had flown into the air above the top of the mountain and shot and beam of energy straight down at its peak. The blast engulfed the entire peak and ran down it like lava. As the blast ran down the mountain so did the melted snow. From the peak to the base Jericho had systematically melted away Mocar's blanket of concealment.

Jericho spotted Mocar from above and dove right toward him. Mocar put up shield four feet from himself surrounding him. Jericho hit it with tremendous force but did not get through, but he did weaken it. Mocar changed his strategy and went on the offensive since his defense wasn't effective. He hit Jericho with everything he had. From physical to powered attacks he was beating him down. He has cracked all of Jericho's ribs, fractured his skull, and blasted him with so much power that he had a large wound on his stomach that was bleeding profusely.

"I told you Jericho that there would be nothing that you could do to stop me from getting what I wanted. Now tell me where the pearl is."

Jericho was gasping for air but said nothing. He was lying on his right side and every time he didn't answer Mocar's question he was kicked incredibly hard in the abdomen. Mocar once again repeated the question and didn't care how

much pain he was in or how much air he was getting in his lungs. However, with every kick two things were happening. One it was making it harder and harder for Jericho to get any air; and the second he was really pissing Jericho off.

He kicked him again and then asked the question of where the pearl was one more time. This time he heard a mumble come from Jericho's mouth. "What did you say?" he asked again.

Again, Jericho mumbled but again Mocar didn't understand him. He kicked him again and again he mumbled. Mocar had no choice but to lean in to hear what he had been saying. When he leaned in he told Jericho to repeat what he had said or this time he would kill him. Jericho did exactly what he wanted:

"I said you just pissed off the wrong guy!" Jericho backhanded him with his left fist. Mocar flew into the air and into the side of a giant boulder nearby. Jericho rose to his feet; he was clearly still injured but this time the injuries that he had sustained weren't affecting him at all. The pain that he was feeling, the air that he was trying to inhale, the torture that he had just endured were now nothing more but added fuel to the fire that he was feeling inside.

He began walking over to Mocar who was now slightly unconscious on the ground near the boulder. With every step that he took his anger and hatred grew and while anger and hatred was speeding up his healing. He turned Mocar on his back and yelled for him to wake up. Mocar opened his eyes so filled with fear that the only word that came to Jericho's mind was pathetic.

"You understand now don't you Mocar? You understand that I am not like the others. Not anymore. I have made too many mistakes. I made a mistake that put me here; a mistake to try and lock you away; and a mistake to trust that anyone other than me could make sure you never hurt anyone again.

After all of that I was the same person until you made the biggest mistake of all...You killed Celeste! Even after everything that you did, if she were still alive then you would be too..."

Jericho quickly raised both hands into the air and brought them down on Mocar's chest like two hammers. Mocar's life instantly left his body. Mocar's soul began to rise out of his body and away but was suddenly stopped.

"Where the fuck does you think you're going?" Jericho said to Mocar's soul as he reached out and grabbed it. Mocar's soul had no way of speaking. Only the look of surprise and fear could be seen on it.

"This isn't over yet Mocar!" Jericho had no intention of giving him the opportunity to be taken to hell since he knew that there was no way that he was going anywhere else. With Mocar's soul in hell, Lucifer could make him even stronger. If Mocar's soul went to hell, then he would be able to return in time and there was no way he was going to let that happen.

The soul is nothing more than energy and after a while after the body has died can begin to communicate, appear and disappear, move objects and even take over other bodies. That energy which releases from a person's body after they die that is their soul takes the form of who they were before death. Jericho pulled down Mocar's soul by the neck. The light from his hands engulfed

Mocar's soul and in an instance, it was gone. Jericho had not only put an end to Mocar's life on Earth but ended his chance of having a life after death.

"Jericho" A man said from behind him.

There was no need for Jericho to turn around; he knew who was standing there...Michael.

"What did you do?" Michael asked but Jericho said nothing in return. "I told you that if sought revenge against Mocar that there would be consequences and I have no idea how you killed his soul."

The Finale

"I did what needed to be done. Mocar should have been in prison and if you weren't able to put him in a prison that he couldn't escape from then you should have killed him yourself."

"Angels don't kill, nor do we pass judgment on anyone. It was not our place to do this," Michael said to him.

Jericho finally turned around, looked straight into Michael's eyes and spoke.

"Well then it's a good thing that I'm not an angel anymore. Take your beliefs, your rules, and your thoughts and bury them when you're around me. You are and always will be my friend Michael, but things have changed. I'm not an angel anymore and frankly I'm glad. I know what's coming and trust me an angel wouldn't be able to handle it.

If I were still an angel, then I wouldn't be able to do what I must to protect the people who will inhabit this world from all the evil shit that is going to reign down on them. You live by your rules and the rules of the Council...I don't! I told you that father had giving me something that no other angel possesses, and I guess killing a soul is it. You want to continue being my friend; fine I'll accept that but from this day on not only am I this world's protector; I am going to be every evil son of bitch's judge, jury, and if necessary their executioner!"

Jericho walked away and then there was a bright flash of light in that air.

Jericho landed at the top of what would be later known as Mt. Everest, but he was barely conscious. He could hear footsteps approaching and voices in the background, but he didn't understand the language that was being spoken.

He laid face down in the snow, catching just gasps of oxygen; something that he never had to do before. He could tell that the footsteps stopped just behind

him, but the voices did not. He could hear three distinct voices; two men and

one woman but again he did not know the language that was being spoken.

"Ha, ha, ha, I have seen these a thousand times and I never get tired of it."

Jericho was right back where everything started on the top of Mt. Everest and

barely conscious.

"Jericho will never see the light of a new day ever again!"

"My Lord, what happens if he realizes what's happening or if his friends realize

what happened and frees him?"

"You don't seem to understand my old friend. Jericho is caught in a time loop

that will never end and because I chose this time to trap him he doesn't exist to

anyone. It took a long time for me to have enough power to reach into his

world and do this and I have no intention of letting anyone stopping it. As far as

anyone on Earth knows Jericho doesn't exist and to those in heaven; Jericho

abandoned his job as Earth protector after this time in history.

All the things that Jericho has done, all the people that he saved, all the evil that

he destroyed are all erased. Whoever would have thought that one man could

have so much influence in the way the world was shaped? It is almost time;

time for the world to see me, for the world to know me, for the world to meet the

ruler of all....

Chaos!

The End...or is it?

For the answers to this and the true finale, can only be read in the "Awaking"

Saga"!