



FANGS OF ZARKON

THE THRONE CAN WAIT

Demon Emperor Zarkon's throne stood empty because one son had banished him.



Damon came to drag the truth from Jaco.



Jaco smiled because the truth was already a weapon.



Only one brother could rise from the court and call the empire his.



The Reality Splitter
did not merely
cut flesh.



Every stroke opened
a wound in distance
itself.



Crescent portals
flew like blades
across the
throne court.



Damon braced
with the Pathfang.
His path was narrow,
but it was real.



If Damon misread
one angle, the empire
would inherit
a corpse.



Damon's eyes found
the one path where
death had not arrived.



His fang blade
pulled him along it.



For one breath,
the floor forgot
friction.



Jaco's portals missed
by inches because
Damon could see
where survival waited.



Damon thought
sight made him
untouchable.



Jaco did not argue.
He borrowed
the moon.



White fire filled
Damon's eyes.



The path disappeared,
and the impossible
warrior stopped.



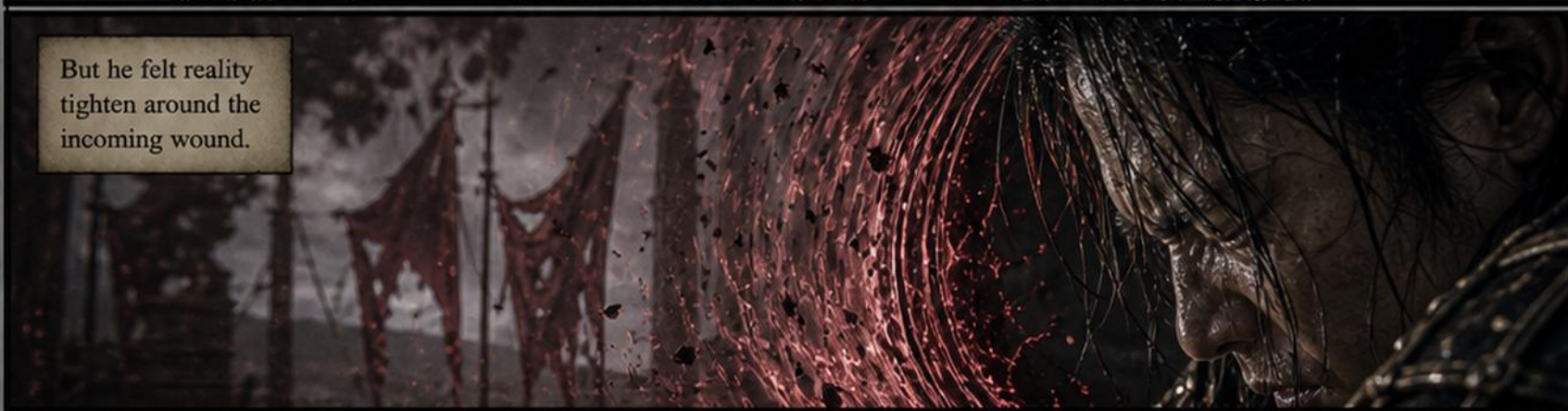
Jaco struck
before Damon's
sight returned.



Damon could not
see the path.



But he felt reality
tighten around the
incoming wound.



Zarkon had taught
him that a warrior's
last sense was trust.



Damon moved blind,
and death passed
close enough to cut
his armor.



Damon answered
blindness with blindness.



His blade tore
the sand into a storm.



Jaco laughed until
dust filled his throat.



One cough gave Damon
all the direction he needed.



The succession ended
with a single cut.



The Reality Splitter
could open the road
to Zarkon.



The throne could be
Damon's before the
dust settled.



Power waited behind
him. His father waited
somewhere beyond the
wound in space.



Damon chose the father
who had made him before
the empire that wanted him.



Zarkon returned
ready to thank the son
who found him.



For one heartbeat,
Damon was only a child
in his father's arms.



Then Zarkon saw
the son who would
never rise.



His fury searched for
someone to punish.



It found only a father
who had raised princes
into weapons.



Zarkon took the blade
before Damon understood
the choice.



He would not rule over
the grave his family
had made.



The rift closed with
Damon reaching for
a father who refused
to stay saved.



With his brother dead
and his father gone,
Damon became emperor.



His first command
to himself was not
to rule. It was to
find Zarkon.

