

THUS SAITH THE MOST HIGH!

3504 ""Hear and know the lies and deceptions of the Demons of Socialism; for they expound much of toleration, until they are empowered of the fools, whom they tolerate not!

3505 ""Hear the lies and deceptions of toleration at your own peril, for there is never any ending of that which exudes of their toleration. Were there no toleration of violation of My Holy Law there would be no need of any other toleration.

3506 ""Slay not the Demons of Socialism at your own peril, for whosoever is possessed of the Demons of Socialism is possessed of their own self, and their destruction is upon their own head.""

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

LUCIFER, SON OF THE MORNING

JUST ONE ENCOUNTER

3507 The Song of Eternal Worship was being chanted. All the preparations were complete, for this was the Day of Council. The Sons of God came before The Most High, and Satan was there among them.

3508 His infernal presence was a sore item, and his glowing beauty and aire of high majesty did little to reduce the displeasure. (Everything Lucifer stands for is hated in The Holy Presence and nothing is more despised than his own person.)

3509 As the Sons of God passed by in review, gave their requests or received instruction, Lucifer took his place according to his rank and station. Because he held greater authority than some of the other Sons of God, he was early in the line and soon before The Supreme Holiness.

3510 Aku stood at his station before the Great Veil, flanked by Seraphim and Archangels, watching as the Sons of God entered The Holy Presence and braced for fire when Lucifer made his entrance. Aku should not have bothered, for even though The Most High made his counsel between himself and his sons a secret thing, he did not conceal the conversation nor the vision of his encounter with Lucifer. Those standing by could and did hear and observe the whole proceeding, being given vision through the Great Veil, The Most High appearing like a bright ball of light.

3511 As Lucifer entered it was obvious The Most High was angry, in no uncertain terms! Here was a being before him who once was second only to himself in authority, power and majesty, and now had become the epitome of all things detestable.

3512 The seven Seraphim and seven Archangels pulled their slaying weapons, and Aku reached for his great sword, but Seraphim Amatraelonael shook his head, nodding for him to take up his lance.

3513 Pegasus floated gently and silently beside Aku, who mounted, pulling the lance as he prepared. Aku wanted a crack at Lucifer, but Lucifer had to satisfy Immanuel on the Field of Honor before he could accept a similar challenge. However, should he get himself killed in some act of perpetration, he was paid for!

3514 Aku should have known Lucifer would never let himself get tricked into a situation where he would have to meet Immanuel before the time or expend himself more than necessary. Lucifer fully intended to win this eternal episode with The Most High, and he intended to be around to enjoy it! Having achieved such power and high station, he certainly was no fool!

3515 Lucifer is an extremely beautiful creature, lovely beyond words. In comparison to the horrendous Seraphim and Archangels, he is majesty personified to those who think physical appearance is indicative of anything more. This is one of his strongest points. That is why we tend to judge a person by their looks instead of the quality of their person. Beauty in itself is not evil, but anything used for deception is evil, regardless of its appearance.

3516 And Lucifer is a Past Grand Master of deception!

3517 He looked at Aku upon his arrival, his displeasure showing without restraint because Aku had killed Aeshmodeva, one of Lucifer's General Staff. He was thoroughly offended when he saw the Star of Elohim on Aku's bandoleer, and the crystal firelance. Aku's battle ensign being unfurled didn't improve the situation.

3518 Lucifer approached as close as he dared, for there was no doubt in anybody's mind that if he approached too close Aku was going to separate many parts of him from many other parts with the business end of that new firelance.

3519 Lucifer was not unobservant. Aku stood his ground, giving not a speck, and Lucifer took good note of the stand before speaking, "Well, Little One, I see your luck still stands!"

3520 "It should. It's built on a foundation of exceptional skill!" Aku replied calmly.

3521 That infuriated Lucifer. His colors blinked ever so slightly that only the very elite could have detected any

change, although he otherwise held his composure. Lucifer, like all phonies, held a gentle smile in his attempt to underrate Aku's victory over Aeshmodeva and his escort. But Aku had seen such snide remarks from his kind before. In fact, his phony kind are the only ones that ever talk down to another.

3522 "Touche!" Lucifer said with a light bow. "I could use a good man like you."

3523 "I don't like being 'used!'" Aku hissed back at him.

3524 Lucifer's anger was complete now, but there was nothing he could do about it. Bowing an adieu, he remarked as he turned, "It's not over yet, Aku!"

3525 "I can wait." Aku answered, looking him direct in the eye until he turned to enter the procession.

3526 Once before the Great Veil, Lucifer was the object of full attention, his voice sweeter than dripping honey as he addressed The Most High, "Mighty One of the Ancients, hear the supplication of your servant and grant this thing that I ask before the time appointed when I will be unjustifiably punished, along with my faithful ones!"

3527 ""What do you want, as if I didn't know?"" The Most High thundered, making Lucifer present his proposal to all others in The Presence.

3528 "Only to serve in matters where I am well qualified, that glory might be perfected, and this rift between us be accepted as a test of great value and accomplishment."

3529 ""Don't stand there and lie to me! Get on with your damnable request!"" The Most High roared again.

3530 "Very well then: that I might test your Anointed, as I have been permitted to do in the past." His voice was smooth and level as calm oil.

3531 ""And just what do you intend to prove that is not already known and established?"" The Most High replied impatiently.

3532 "Whether he is qualified to perform this Commission you have given him. If he passes the test, I will never approach to test him again in all the Heavens. But if he fails, then I am to be given more time than that presently under consideration." Lucifer was playing heavy trump cards of which he had too few.

3533 ""He has proven all these things with the death of Aeshmodeva! However, since there would be unanswerable questions if your test were not put forth and exposed, I must grant this evil thing! But this know for a fact: if you harm him or any of his in any way, I shall declare your time at an end, and your punishment and the punishment of all your followers will begin in that instant! And, if he passes your damnable test, then I will establish a new and better covenant with Mine Anointed, that he shall be a Blessing unto all the earth and a great beacon to all Israel, and an Angel of great comfort to all Ishmael!"" The Most High was emphatic.

3534 "It is accepted. With your leave . . ."

3535 ""Get from before me, you vile thing, and until That Day when I shall judge All the Heavens and All the Earths, do not venture into My Presence again!"" The Most High was boiling.

3536 "Very well." Lucifer turned from The Majesty and departed the Great Veil. Waiting outside the great gathering until the others emerged from The Most Divine Presence, he again approached Aku. Pegasus braced for a charge, but Aku held his reins. It was not a good idea for Lucifer to come too close, and he didn't. Ignoring the Seraphim, he was the very picture of confidence when he again spoke, "Well, Little One, we have a date that should prove interesting." he purred contemptuously.

3537 "Especially if you get over it with any hide left! Oh, but you don't have the guts to try me yourself, do you?" Aku began to harass, "I forgot all about the fact you're too gutless to do your own dirty work, and too bankrupt to send anyone else with any real ability! You can't afford to lose any more of that half-baked staff, and the rest of you aren't worth a good fight put together!" Aku had hit a raw nerve.

3538 Lucifer's countenance glowered, he bowed ever so slightly from force of habit, and left the area, vanishing instantly.

3539 "Careful with him, Aku, he's the very essence of treachery!" Amatraelonael warned in genuine concern.

3540 "I know. I might need your assistance, if it can be given."

3541 "I doubt we'll be able to do anything but protect you and yours from his spiritual trickery! As for what he'll do to test you, only he and The Most High know, and Lucifer will not commit himself until the very last instant!"

Amatraelonael was in all earnest.

3542 "Can he really operate on that short notice with any degree of effectiveness or intelligence?" Aku was already preparing.

3543 "He sure can! And don't think for one instant he's not effective! Lucifer sells himself as being a bumbling, weak-kneed idiot, that with any intelligence would get lost looking for himself! But that is just so much smoke screen! In a great many ways, his deception makes him appear so close to equal with The Most High, it takes an expert of our category to tell the difference!"

3544 "Well, it looks like I've got my work cut out for me!"

3545 "You sure have! But beware! In full-blown scrap Lucifer could give good account against all fourteen of us here, and bend you up in the process! Any of us seven Seraphim and seven Archangels would be hard pressed to hold our own with him by himself! He is extremely powerful and violence is his favorite pastime!" Amatraelonael was trying to convey the gravity of the situation.

3546 "With any luck I just might make him wish he had another hobby!" Aku was, is and will remain unimpressed with Lucifer under any and all conditions.

3547 "Even so! Be careful! He'll trap you if he can, and destroy you regardless of the cost!" Amatraelonael was nonsense.

3548 From behind the Great Veil came The Voice of The Most High:

3549 ""Aku, come before me!

3550 ""Amatraelonael, bring forth the Host of My Presence!""

3551 Entering in Order of their Rank, the company took up their positions, and when all were on station, Amatraelonael cracked a Holy Salute, "As ordered, Sire!"

3552 The Most High spoke:

3553 ""First, I will attend to My Beloved Aku:

3554 ""Beloved Son of Fire, I would that these things were not of such great importance! However, if I did not permit you to be tested, Lucifer and his followers would profess grounds to promote doubts, and therefore you must stand the test as he gives it!

3555 ""Is there anything you want from me in preparation?""

3556 "Just that he cannot test me unknowingly. I don't want him to have the advantage of surprise."

3557 ""It is done!""

3558 The Seraphim and Archangels began to worship. Aku raised his hand in salute. The Most High granted:

3559 ""Dismissed, My Tiny Fright to Hell!""

3560 Aku turned Pegasus and rode for several spans through the drifting light of the spheres, listening to their indescribably beautiful music, remembering his earthly father, James Howard Cunningham, often used the term fright to hell. He was glad The Most High had remembered his father, but did not understand the remark to be an instant answer to his request. The Most High had already handed Lucifer the defeat, but at the time, only The Most High knew it!

3561 A great distance away he spotted a fragment of a space gem, supposedly the hardest substance in existence in addition to the fact it is protected by its force field so strong even in the Heavens, it's used for armor. It takes a great deal of effort to mold even the force field into usable shape.

3562 He reined in Pegasus, he caught the target, and charged, blazing through space at incredible speed! When he was about the distance of an ordinary throw, some 600,000,000 statute miles, he hurled the lance, first to check accuracy, and its untried tip and structure.

3563 The firelance hit dead center; the force field had no effect whatsoever. The fragment shattered like cheap crystal. The lance flew on unabated for several thousand lengths of the strike, still dead on trajectory. It would do in a scrap with Lucifer, or anyone else!

3564 Aku was certain he'd soon get a chance to find out.

THUS SAITH THE MOST HIGH!

3565 ""What manner of prayer is this, where you are consumed with want, bereft of knowledge and devoid of vision? Yea! You seek me only in your need and troubles, and not as My Beloved Akurians who pray but once! Yea, My Beloved Akurians whose every breath is a living prayer of True Service unto Me! Therefore, I hear not scheduled and vain repetitions of the vile and the vain, for I hear only the continuous single prayer of My Beloved Akurians: their every thought and their every deed of every breath as they live!""