

Page 2

"He gave his life to give us a good one. He made sure we knew right from wrong. He instilled in us, the values we use to this very day serving Asuka. What would the Princess do if she found out what you were contemplating Ashlyn?"

Ashlyn went to respond, but no words came out. She couldn't respond. Her hand rested upon her stomach scar.

"What does it matter? She won't stick beside us the moment it becomes politically disadvantageous. We're just refuse to be tossed aside. I've said it for many years, we did our best work ever for everyone when we were actively hunting."

The Viera didn't know what to do, she didn't know what to think. Her mind was swirling as all of these thoughts kept assaulting her.

"Don't fall for it Ashlyn, please! We can still do good. So what if they see us as mon-"

Ashlyn couldn't take it anymore.

"Why do we do it then Regret? Isn't the path of redemption, one for us to not be seen this way anymore? Why do we torture ourselves? Why do we keep pushing on? Why... don't we just listen to Justice... maybe she's had a point all these summers..."

The ruby eyed spectre merely nodded her head.

"...No Ashlyn... no this isn't... this isn't right..."

The Viera did her best to keep her calm. She did her best to keep her cool for everything. Yet, as she stared into her own reflection, she saw an ugly thing. Scarred, deformed, truly, a monster. Why then, should she....

"Ashlyn please! Listen to me! Please! This is not the path you want to go down!" Regret cried out.

Unheard to the Viera, the door unlocked and opened. Boots stepping inside as a very tired Xaela enters.

Ashlyn's fist slams into the mirror before her, shattering it into pieces. Fracturing the ugly visage she saw before her into the malformed entity she truly felt inside. Blood began to drip down her hand from a few small cuts. She could only stare into the thousand fractures of her.

"...if we are to be seen as an animal... a monster... why not...?"

Right then, the bathroom door knocked. "Ashlyn? Is everything okay...?" The sound of the Au Ra came through right as the door swung open.

There, Ashlyn stood, hand bleeding, her spectres visible for only a second. Sapphire eyes widen as they disperse.

"...Leizi..."

Revision #1

Created 2025-11-21 14:23:11 UTC by Ashlyn Ishina

Updated 2025-11-21 14:23:18 UTC by Ashlyn Ishina