

Spider-Man 301

Chapter 301: Interrogation

Upon arriving on Ego's planet, Peter and the Guardians were amazed by the psychedelic landscape.

Ego's planet resembled a fantasy world with majestic waterfalls, towering cliffs, rushing crystal clear rivers, lush flora and fauna of all colors, and species of animals and bugs which the Guardians have never seen before.

"It's so beautiful..." Drax muttered in awe.

Everyone else nodded with a similar awestruck look on their faces.

'Ego may be an egotistic maniac hellbent on universal domination, but at least the guy has good taste.' Peter thought as every aspect of this planet was sculpted by Ego himself.

As they grew closer and closer to Ego's palace, which appeared to be made of some sort of bronze metal and green crystal, Peter was starting to wonder whether he should somehow preserve this planet.

'Ego obviously has to go, but the planet itself would make a good vacation spot to bring the family...' Peter thought.

He couldn't help but imagine waking up with MJ and watching the sun rise over the extraordinary scenery.

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"Welcome, everyone, to my world." Ego says with open arms as the ship landed at the front of his palace.

"Wow, you have your own planet?" Quill asked as he expected some sort of home world with a bunch of other aliens present.

As they stepped out of the ship, Ego smirked as he seemed to enjoy his son's shock.

"Come on. It's no larger than your Earth's Moon." Ego gives a minor brag.

"Humility..." Drax mutters with an approving nod. "I like it. I am extraordinarily humble as well."

"What race are you, again?" Peter starts asking some questions in order to get the ball rolling.

"I'm what's called a Celestial." Ego answers proudly though he sounded narcissistic from Peter's perspective.

"A Celestial, like a god?" Rocket scoffs in disbelief.

"I am Groot." Groot didn't seem to believe him either.

"Believe what you will, though it's a small 'g'. At least on the days that I feel as humble as Drax." Ego joked as he escorted them into the palace, where a large screen awaited them.

"I don't know where I came from exactly. The first thing I remember is flickering..."

Instantly, the screen lit up and showed the image of a giant brain floating in the darkness of space. The only light was the distant stars and the blue energy that the brain illuminated into the surroundings.

"Adrift in the cosmos utterly and entirely alone. Over millions of years, I learned to control the molecules around me."

As he spoke the image changed, showing an entire planet growing around the brain into what it is today.

"I grew smarter and stronger. And I continued building from there. Layer by layer, into the very planet you walk on now. But I wanted more. I desired... meaning."

Once again the images on the television changed, showing a man matching Ego's current appearance standing in a field.

"I thought, 'there must be some life out there in the universe besides just me'. And so, I set myself the task of finding it. I created what I imagined biological life to be like, down to the most minute detail."

"Did you make a penis?" Drax blurted out his question without a second thought.

"Dude!" Quill snapped his head to the side with a look of disgust.

After all, no man or woman wants to think of their father's penis...

"What is wrong with you?" Gamora asked as she unintentionally thought of her own father's private parts.

Somehow, her face turned a darker shade of green than usual as she felt an intense urge to puke.

"If he is a planet, how could he make a baby with your mother? He would demolish her!" Drax argues as he didn't understand why they were upset.

"I don't need to hear how my parents... you know." Quill reluctantly argues back.

"Why? My father would tell the story of how he impregnated my mother every winter solstice." Drax reveals without shame.

"That's disgusting." Peter mutters.

"It was beautiful. You Earthers have odd boundaries." Drax looks between Peter and Quill in both confusion and pity.

"Yeah, it's us who are the weird ones..." Peter scoffs.

"I am Groot..." Groot shook his head from his place on Peter's shoulder.

Ever since he shrunk down to his current size, Groot has stuck close to Peter. Whether for safety reasons or whatever, he seemed to grow accustomed to riding on his Captain's shoulder.

Though Peter didn't mind.

"Yes, Drax, I made a penis." Ego admitted in amusement.

"Ha!" Drax laughed as he pointed at both Peter and Quill. "I told you so!"

"We never said you were wrong." Quill slaps his palm against his forehead in exasperation. "We just didn't want to hear about it."

"It's not half bad." Ego continued with a confident smirk.

"Did your dad just brag about his d*ck?" Peter whispered to Quill.

"..." Quill seemed to deflate in defeat.

He only hoped that remaining silent would stop the current conversation from continuing.

"I've also got pain receptors, a digestive system, and all of the other accompanying junk. I wanted to experience what it truly meant to be human as I set out amongst the stars..."

The images changed again, showing planet after planet, filled with all sorts of alien creatures and peoples.

"...until I found what I sought. Life. I was not alone in the universe after all."

"When did you meet my mother?" Quill asks curiously.

Instantly, the image on the screen shifted into Ego standing alongside a beautiful blonde-haired woman.

Quill was instantly enamored with the image, as it has been a long time since he saw his mother.

Before this, he could barely remember what she looked like.

Only the songs on his Walkman could remind him of his loving mother, and even then it was still impossible to picture her fully.

"Not long after. It was with Meredith that I first experienced love. I called her my river lily. And from that love, I have you." Ego turned to Quill and smiled warmly. "I have searched for you for so long. And when I heard the news of the great Star-Lord, Peter Quill, I knew you must be the son of the woman I loved."

"If you loved her, why did you leave her?" Quill asked, eliciting a frown from his father.

But before Ego could speak, Peter cut into the conversation.

"I'll give you one better..." Peter spoke and all eyes turned his way. "If you loved his mother so much, then how could you not know that she had cancer?"

"!" Quill's eyes went wide as he turned to his father, questioningly.

"I..." Ego didn't know what to say.

"After all, you made this entire planet and all of its inhabitants, not to mention the body your consciousness currently inhabits, yet you didn't check to see if the love of your life had any ailments that needed curing?" Peter asked incredulously.

Though he spoke from experience.

As soon as he had the money and resources, Peter was sure to test his family and friends for all types of ailments, diseases, and disabilities.

He wanted to spend a long life with them, so it was crucial to make sure they could accompany him the whole way.

Immediately, all eyes turned back to Ego, awaiting his answer.

"I-I didn't think of that..." Ego stuttered out his makeshift excuse.

It was the best he could do, as he couldn't admit to what really happened...

"Maybe you didn't love my mother as much as you claim..." Quill watched his father in suspicion.

"Peter(Quill)..." Ego sounded heartbroken, though nobody was buying it.

"Listen, I'd love to believe all of this, I really would. But you left the most wonderful woman ever to die alone, while everyone around her thought you were just a delusion!" Quill started to get heated.

"I didn't want to leave your mother, Peter(Quill). If I don't return regularly to my planet and the light within it then this form will wither and perish." Ego explained.

"How long does it take to get to Earth from here?" Peter cut in once again and asked.

"..." Ego remained silent this time around, though he was sure to glare hatefully in Peter's direction.

"How long?!" Quill repeated his captain's question.

"It can't be more than a few days with how fast that ship of his is." Peter adds as their ship still hasn't arrived yet.

"So why didn't you come back? Why send Yondu? A criminal, of all people, to come and fetch me?" Quill asks though that wasn't all. "Actually, how haven't I met you? I grew up without a father around, so you purposely stayed away, didn't you?!"

"I loved your mother, Peter! I couldn't stand to set foot on an Earth where she wasn't living! You can't imagine what that's like!" Ego starts shouting back.

"I know exactly what that feels like! I had to watch her die!" Quill screamed at the top of his lungs.

As the argument seemed to pause for a moment, Peter found the perfect opportunity to poke yet another hole in Ego's story.

"How did you know she was dead?" Peter asked pointedly.

"What?" Ego asked, hoping to buy time to come up with an answer.

"I said, how did you know that your sweet little river lily was dead?" Peter repeats his question with a bit more emphasis this time. "After all, you abandoned the family that you claimed to love. You weren't there, so how did you know?"

"..."

Chapter 302: Insert Cool Title Here

"After all, you abandoned the family that you claimed to love. You weren't there so how did you know?" Peter's words seemed to strike a major nerve in Quill's father.

Though instead of shouting, attacking, or even refuting Peter's claims, Ego reigned himself in and turned to his son.

"Over the millions and millions of years of my existence, I've made many mistakes..." He says as he steps forward and grabs Quill by the hands.

As soon as their hands met, Quill's eyes went wide as they glazed over with the image of a starry night sky.

"Please give me the chance to be the father that your mother would have wanted me to be. There's so much that I need to teach you about this planet and the light within. They are a part of you, Peter."

"What do you mean? What's happening..." Quill asked in awe of what he was seeing.

Sort of like a dumbed down version of the 'Open your mind' thing that Peter went through, Quill's sight was thrown across the universe and into infinity and beyond.

"Hey! What are you doing to him?!" Gamora exclaimed as she drew her knives and stepped forward.

And she wasn't the only one.

Everyone drew their weapons and were just about to pounce on Ego, but before they could...

"Don't interfere." Peter spoke up.

"But-" Surprisingly, Rocket was the first to object, as he glanced worriedly at Quill, who looked like a zombie at the moment.

"Just wait a minute." Peter tried to sound reassuring, though they still looked antsy about the whole situation. "I'll interfere if it gets out of hand, but for now let's just watch."

'Come on, help Quill activate his powers already...' Peter thought impatiently.

As they heeded Peter's words, Ego took the opportunity he was given and got right back to work.

"Now, you need to readjust the way you process life. Everything around us, including your friends, are temporary. Only we are forever." Ego explains as he gives the Guardians a sideways glare.

"..." The crew glares back as they wait for Peter to say the word, so they can attack.

Meanwhile, Mantis stood off to the side without a clue as to what she should be doing.

"I told you how all those years ago I had an unceasing impulse to find life. But what I did not tell you was that, when I finally did find it, it was all so... disappointing. And that is when I came to a profound realization. My innate desire to seek out other life was not so that I could walk among that life. Son, I have found meaning. Meaning for the both of us!"

"Both of us..." Quill repeated back in his dazed state with the infinity of space still flashing over his eyes.

Instantly, the monitor in front of them changed again, showing planet after planet alongside the image of Ego planting a large glowing seed.

"I call it the Expansion. It is my purpose and now it is yours as well. Over thousands of years, I implanted extensions of myself on countless worlds. I need to fulfill life's one true purpose. To grow and spread, covering all that exists until everything is... Me!" Ego ended his villainous monologue with a bit of excitement.

"This nut job is seriously insane, huh?" Rocket comments as he took aim at Quill's father.

"I am Groot!" Groot agreed as his tiny vines began whipping around threateningly.

"Are you sure we shouldn't do something?" Gamora asks worriedly.

"No, we wait." Peter shook his head.

As he wasn't a Celestial yet, Peter didn't know how to activate or train Quill's powers, so he thought it best to let his Dad give him a helping hand before his timely death.

"I only had a single problem. One Celestial doesn't have enough power for such an enterprise. But two Celestials... Now, that just might do."

Ego looked toward his son with hope-filled eyes as he reached out...

"Here. Hold your hands like this. Now, close your eyes and concentrate." As Quill complied with his father's words, he felt an odd sensation in his body. "Take your mind to the center of this planet..."

Though he was still in a bit of a fog, Quill continued to comply as the image of a giant brain inside what appeared to be a cave flickered into his mind.

"Yes!" Ego exclaimed in joy as he watched a ball of blue energy appear between Quill's outstretched hands.

"Whoa..." Quill muttered in shock as he felt the energy in his hands, which partially broke him from his foggy state of mind.

Even the Guardians were shocked, as Quill never showed any sort of energy-related powers before today.

"Out of all my labors, the most annoying was attempting to graft my DNA with that of another species. I hoped the result of such a coupling would be enough to power the Expansion. I even had Yondu deliver them to me."

In all of his excitement, Ego seemed to forget that he needed to lie and started to blabber as most bad guys tend to do.

"It broke the Ravager code, but I compensated him generously and to ease his conscience, I said I'd never hurt them. I mean, that was true. They never felt a thing. But one after the other, they failed me. Not one of them carried the Celestial genes. Until you, my son. Out of all my progeny, only you carried the connection to the light."

'Wait... are Quill's powers connected to his father?' Peter wondered as he put the pieces together based on Ego's words this far. 'It's times like this that I wish I watched the Marvel movies multiple times...'

Ego's words replayed in Peter's mind.

'...If I don't return regularly to my planet and the light within it then this form will wither and perish... There's so much that I need to teach you about this planet and the light within... They are a part of you, Peter... take your mind to the center of this planet... only you carried the connection to the light...'

'This makes things complicated...' Peter thought, as he now needs to keep Ego alive somehow if he wants Quill to keep his powers.

As Peter was thinking to himself, Ego seemed to grow even more excited, spreading his arms wide with a wide smile on his face.

"For the first time in my existence, I AM NOT ALONE!" Ego shouted like a madman as he noticed a frown on his son's face. "What's the matter, Peter(Quill)?"

"My friends." Quill muttered as he turned to look toward the Guardians, his mind still partially clouded.

"You see, that's the mortal in you." Ego grabs his son by the head and forces him to look at him, face to face. "We are beyond such things."

"..." Quill remained silent.

"Now..." Ego turned to Peter and the Guardians, ready to make quick work of them...

"But my mother..." Quill asked as his face began to harden. "You said you loved her."

"I did. My river lily who knew all the words to every song that came over the radio. She was a sight to behold..." Ego said with a far off reminiscent look in his eyes. "I returned to Earth to see her three times, and I knew that if I returned a fourth, then I'd never leave."

Soon enough, that far-off look resembling a mourning man looking back on his long-lost love disappeared, and a resigned almost uncaring expression took its place.

"The Expansion... The reason for my very existence would be over. So, I did what I had to do." Ego said as a melancholy frown flashed onto his face for a brief moment. "But, it truly broke my heart to put that tumor in her head..."

"...what?" Quill sobered up in an instant as his eyes returned to normal.

The murderous look he sent his father would send lesser men fleeing in fear.

"Now, now, all right..." Ego holds up his hands, as he knew that was something he shouldn't have revealed. "I know that sounds bad-"

pewpewpewpewpew...

Without a second of hesitation, Quill pulled his pistols and opened fire on his father in a silent fit of rage.

With each shot, parts of Ego's body disintegrated, revealing a ghostly blue figure underneath.

"Haha! Are we finally shooting?!" Rocket yelled happily as he pumped his large cannon-like blaster and joined Quill.

Though when the shooting died down...

"Who..." Ego muttered in shock though he soon snapped out of it. "WHO IN THE HELL do you think you are!?"

"YOU KILLED MY MOTHER!" Quill yelled in a furious rage as the Guardians formed up behind him, ready for battle.

Of course, Peter didn't stop them this time. He already got what he wanted.

"You know, I tried so hard to find the form that best suited you..." Ego says as he heals himself in a matter of seconds. "...and this is the thanks I get? You really need to grow up!"

'Dude, you just admitted to killing his mom...' Peter rolls his eyes at Ego's behavior. 'Don't act like you're the victim.'

"I wanted to do this together." Ego laments as he sends his son a deadly glare. "But, I suppose you'll have to learn by spending the next thousand years as a battery!"

Without hesitation or sympathy for his own son, Ego whips a hand forward and shoots out a tentacle of blue energy, aimed right at Quill's chest.

"!" Quill and the Guardians saw the attack coming but none of them were fast enough to do anything about it.

Except...

Slap!

Appearing in front of his Vice Captain, Peter wound his hand back and swatted the blue tentacle aside like a true Chinese Young Master from a novel.

As the ethereal energy tentacle crashed into the monitor, which exploded into sparks and flickered off, Peter and Ego eyed one another dangerously.

"Only one person is allowed to beat my Vice Captain and that's his Daddy." Peter says with a smirk under his mask. "And since Yondu ain't here right now, I'll have to whoop your a*s in his place."

Chapter 303: Fighting A Planet

"Only one person is allowed to beat my Vice Captain and that's his Daddy." Peter says with a smirk under his mask. "And Yondu ain't here right now, so I'll have to whoop your a*s in his place."

Upon hearing Peter's challenging words, Ego's face hardened as he looked his opponent up and down.

"Kid, just because you could go toe to toe with the Mad Titan doesn't means you can fight me." Ego scoffed incredulously. "I'm on a whole other level compared to that purple annoyance. I am a G-"

"Yeah, we get it. You're a god. How can I kill a god?" Peter interrupter sarcastically as he brought his hand to his chin in thought. "Oh, wait... You already told us, didn't you?"

As Peter finished speaking, he waved his hand and opened a portal on the floor between them, revealing a huge brain trapped inside a cramped cave.

The brain pulsed physically and luminously as it filled the cave with a dull blue light.

"!" Egos eyes widened as he stared down at his own brain.

"What the hell is that?!" Rocket shouts in both disgust and curiosity.

"I am Groot?" Groot questioned.

"Is that?" Quill uttered in shock.

"It's his brain..." Gamora revealed.

"It's beautiful..." Drax admitted in awe.

"?" Every Guardian turned to Drax in confusion.

Meanwhile, Mantis looked down at her master's brain, completely shocked by the scene though she had no idea what to do with herself.

"You shouldn't have given us that whole welcome introduction." Peter says with a shake of his head as Ego stood stunned across from him. "I mean, come on. Who would give a whole presentation about how to kill them? I guess that your name isn't just for show. You really do have a big ego, don't you?"

"Wait! Let's not be too hasty." Ego's earlier haughty attitude completely disappeared.

"I don't think it was us that were the ones being hasty." Peter says as he snapped his fingers. "Sadly, I can't kill you or else my Vice Captain will lose his new Celestial powers so instead let's do this..."

Suddenly, a giant metal cube appeared above Ego's head.

"Huh?" The Celestial grunted in confusion before the cube fell on his head.

Splat... Squish...

The impact of the giant cube flattened Ego's human figure in an instant, swiftly turning him into a puddle of blood and meat paste.

"Is he dead?" Rocket asks dumbly.

"Nope, all that did was make him angry." Peter turned to his crew as the brain below began to wriggle and pulse in fury. "I'll figure out how to deal with this."

Peter points to the brain as Ego's avatar begins to reform behind him. Though this time instead of the handsome fatherly figure that he originally showed, Ego now looked quite horrifying.

He wasn't able to reform his body just yet, so he appeared as a giant ghostly blue figure, like some sort of angry poltergeist.

"All you guys have to do is distract Quill's dad." Peter says as if it were the easiest job in the world.

Meanwhile, Ego floated menacingly behind him.

""What?!" The Guardians shouted.

"Good luck and don't die!" Peter waved cheerfully as he hopped backward and fell into the portal.

"Aaarrgghh!" Ego's deep scream shook the palace as he quickly scrambled to grab Peter.

swoosh

Sadly for him, the golden portal swiftly snapped itself shut as his hand crashed into the palace floor, cracking it in half with ease.

"No!" Ego bellowed as he tried I run off to catch up to Peter but...

Boom!

Just as he was about to fly out of the palace, a small object flew into his path and exploded, momentarily dispersing the blue energy of his body.

"Hehe, I knew bringing those bombs would come in handy..." Rocket smirked as he held another two similar explosives in hand.

As he spoke, Ego began to reform yet again, though this time he took the time to create his fleshy body as well.

"Son, I know your upset with me, but we can't allow your friend to meddle with my brain. I'm your father, Peter(Quill). Don't just abandon me over some past mistakes and a simple disagreement." Ego's voice sounded warped as he slowly regrew his entire body, floating only a few meters away.

"You killed my mother..." Quill stared firmly.

"Soon enough, the two of us will be all there is so why must you think like a human? You're a god! Act like it!" Ego countered as the palace began to quake showing his unending fury.

And as the Guardians tried to stabilize themselves through the shaking, Ego dashed over in an instant and grabbed his son by the neck, lifting him high into the air.

"Peter(Quill)!" Gamora screamed as the palace floor collapsed, sending her and the other Guardians tumbling down into a dark pit.

"I told you... I don't want to do this alone. You cannot deny the purpose that the universe has bestowed upon us." Ego preaches as he squeezed down on Quill's neck. "It doesn't need to be like this. Why are you trying to destroy our chance?"

"Aaah... Kah..." Quill clawed at his father's outstretched arm as he choked for air.

"Stop pretending that you aren't what you are. One in billions. Trillions. Even more. What greater meaning can life possibly have to offer?" Ego asked as he peered downward and found his son's Walkman strapped to his waist as usual.

"Your mother gave you this, didn't she?" Ego asked as he snatched it off of his belt and pressed play.

♪♪Brandy; By Looking Glass plays♪♪

"My life, my love, and my lady is the sea..." Ego muttered fondly before cruelly crushing the Walkman between his fingers.

"!" Quill's watched in horror as the only connection to his dead mother was destroyed before his very eyes.

"Ahhhhh!" The sounds of screaming echoed in the air as Drax, Gamora, Mantis, and Rocket fell down a winding cavern.

Luckily, instead of free-falling to their inevitable deaths, they instead slid down a rough spiky cavernous slide, which cut them up on the way down.

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After sliding for about a minute, the four of them crashed down into a cave that was thankfully illuminated by a small hole in the ceiling.

"Ugh..." The group groaned in pain as they picked themselves up.

"Is everyone alright?" Mantis asked worriedly as the Guardians turned to glare in her direction.

"Should we kill her?" Rocket spoke everyone else's thoughts.

"No, we need her to guide us back to Quill." Drax denied as he and everyone else watch Mantis cower away from their sharp glares.

"W-What is this place?" Gamora stuttered as her horrified eyes surveyed the cave.

"?!" Following her gaze, everyone's eyes widened in shock at what they found.

The whole cave seemed to be filled with an uncountable number of skeletons. Some of the older ones seemed to be infused into the walls and entangled into the large roots of the planet, showing just how long they've been there.

"The bodies..." Mantis spoke in sadness as they all turned to her. "...are Masters children."

Instantly, Yondu's words wrang out in all of their minds.

'I found a pit, filled with hundreds of skeletons... All of them kid-sized...'

"I think I'm going to puke..."

Ascending down into the cave, Peter landed on the glowing brain with a wet squelch.

"Eww..." He groaned as he lifted his shoe, dragging along a thick layer of mucus that was now stuck to the bottom of the sole. "Luckily my suit cleans itself, or else I would have to scrub this off myself..."

Ignoring the brain buggers under his boots, Peter eyed the target below him as he pondered to himself.

'How should I do this?' Peter thought as he needed a way to either get Ego under control, trap him, or kill him whilst keeping the brain intact and alive.

After all, unlike the movie, Peter wants Quill to keep his powers after all of this.

And since he's only half Celestial, Quill can't produce his own Celestial energy or Light, as Ego would call it, so he has to piggyback off of his father's energy.

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"...Let's try that first." Peter muttered after a moment of thought.

Thrusting both hands forward, Peter gripped the air as golden spell circles appeared in both hands.

Usually, he could do his spells without any sort of exaggerated movements, but this spell would take a bit more effort than the rest.

Each spell circle seemed to grow and twist as Peter turned his wrists in opposing directions.

"Hopefully this works..." Peter muttered as he slammed both glowing hands down on the brain below. 'Eww... It's in between my fingers...'

Peter winced as he felt Ego's brain mucus stick itself to his once clean hands.

Meanwhile, the cave below lit up in a golden light as countless spell lines drew themselves along the huge brain and onto the hard rocky walls in its surroundings.

"I am Groot?" Peter could hear a small voice from his shoulder.

"?!" Peter nearly jumped as he turned to see Groot sitting on his shoulder. "Have you been here the whole time?"

Chapter 304: Father & Son

"!" Quill watched in horror as the only connection to his deceased mother was destroyed before his very eyes.

As the broken bits and pieces of his Walkman fell from Ego's hand and disappeared down the large hole that swallowed up the Guardians only moments ago, Quill's eyelids began to droop downward as he found himself getting lightheaded.

Up to this moment, Ego hasn't released or eased his grip on his son's neck, so the lack of oxygen was seriously starting to become a real problem.

And just as Quill was about to pass out, a voice shouted from the entrance of the palace.

"Hey, there, jackass!"

Instantly, the sound of heavy gunfire filled the area as a hail of energy bolts of all sizes and colors shot across the room.

"?!" Ego turned just in time for the barrage of gunfire to collide with his body, tearing it apart and revealing the blue ghostly figure underneath once again.

And soon enough, the rain of blaster bolts collided with his outstretched arm, tearing it off and releasing Quill, who immediately plummeted down toward the dark hole below whilst simultaneously gasping for air.

Whistle

A whistling sound filled the air as a blue figure flew across the spacious hall, hanging by the glowing arrow in his hand.

"I got yah." Yondu said reassuringly as he caught Quill with his free hand and slowly descended back toward his men, who never stopped shooting at Ego.

"Haha!" After realizing what happened and catching his breath, Quill couldn't stop himself from laughing.

"What?" Yondu asked in confusion as he held his arrow above his head.

"You look like Mary Poppins." Quill commented jokingly.

"Is he cool?" Yondu asked hopefully.

Quill couldn't help but smirk, as he found Yondu's cluelessness both funny and endearing at the same time.

"Hell yeah, he's cool." He nodded with a warm smile.

"T'M MARY POPPINS, Y'ALL!" Yondu yelled proudly.

"You guys figure out why Ego wants you here?" Yondu asks as they land near the other Ravagers, who still haven't ceased firing at Quill's father.

Meanwhile, Ego was constantly growing his body back whilst taking what's seemed like an unending amount of damage.

If they planned to buy some time, then it was working, but sadly, they wouldn't be doing much else.

"Something about my genetic connection to this light thing. He basically wants to destroy the universe." Quill says with an unknowing shrug. "He mind-controlled me for a minute and showed me how to control it."

"So, could you?" Yondu asked curiously.

"A little." Quill says as he held out his hand and squinted his eyes as if he were constipated.

Suddenly, a small ball of light appeared in his hand.

"A ball?" Yondu didn't look very impressed. "Does it explode or something?"

Quill dejectedly shook his head back and forth.

"I thought as hard as I could. It was all that I could come up with. This is only my second time." He reasoned.

"You 'thought'? You think when I make this arrow fly, I use my head?" Yondu whistled and showed off his glowing arrow, which circled around his body.

"Argh! ENOUGH!" Ego screamed in rage as vines grew out from under the group of Ravagers.

""""!"""" The Ravagers panicked as sharp thorn-covered vines wrapped around their legs and dug into their skin. """"Aaaahh!""""

"I don't use my head to fly the arrow, boy! I use my heart..." Yondu explained further as he let out a loud whistle.

Instantly, the arrow shot from his hand and rushed toward his men before tearing through the vines, freeing them in a matter of seconds.

"I don't want to do this, but it's time to take the kid gloves off..." Ego spoke as he reformed his flesh body and slowly floated forward. "Let's start with him."

Ego turned to Yondu before pointing a single finger forward.

Instantly, a blue energy formed at the tip of his pointer finger before launching forward in a long beam of light.

"No!" Quill screamed as the beam impacted Yondu's chest, drilling a hole straight through his body and out the other end.

Quill froze in shock as the blue beam died down and Yondu fell backward onto the cracked palace floor, gushing blood.

"Remember..." Yondu croaked out as he coughed up a mouthful of blood. "I use my heart..."

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Complete and utter silence filled the palace entry hall as Quill stared in shock at his adoptive father's bleeding body.

"...You shouldn't have killed my mom and squished my Walkman." Quill turned to his biological father with a venomous glare.

But before Ego could reply, his son shot into the air as a blue ethereal energy covered his entire body.

Rushing forward, Quill collided with his Celestial father and grabbed hold of him, bashing his back into multiple pillars.

As they flew together, Quill's hand morphed into a thick metal fist, which he then used to hammer his father in the face over and over again.

...

"Argh!" After taking one too many hits to the face, Ego finally retaliated, launching Quill away and into the ceiling with a powerful kick.

Boom!

Quill's body smashed into the roof before luckily coming to a stop, though he didn't stay still for long.

After a hate-filled stare-down between father and son, the two shot toward one another, both summoning materials to their body as they did so.

Ego simply called brown rocks to himself, which covered his entire body in an earthy set of armor.

Meanwhile, Quill, on the other hand, summoned yellow pieces which all came together like legos to build a giant 3D Pac-Man.

And when the two finally collided, Quill's Pac-Man snapped its mouth shut on his father, breaking the rock armor with ease.

After Ego's armor exploded, sending him tumbling to the palace floor, the yellow Pac-Man crumbled away, revealing an exhausted Peter Quill.

heavy breathing

Quill descended to the ground tiredly as he stood over his father's beaten body.

"!?" Suddenly, Ego's eyes shot open as he started to panic out of nowhere.

"What's happening?!" He shouted like a madman as he scrambled to his feet. "I don't... We need to stop it. Stop. Stop. Listen to me! Don't let him do it!"

Quill watched in shock as his father's body began to crumble like sand.

"NO!" Ego bellowed one last time as his form collapsed into a pile of mushy sand.

Not even the blue ghostly figure of his father was left behind...

Although he had some questions, Quill quickly remembered something as he turned and rushed across the rubble-filled hall.

"YONDU!" Quill yelled in worry as he rushed toward his adoptive father. "No... No!"

As he dropped to his knees at Yondu's side, he couldn't tear his eyes away from the gaping hole in his chest, which was leaking blood like crazy.

Opposite to Quill's, who was on the verge of tears, Yondu smiled upward.

"What are you crying for, boy?... Quit being a p*ssy..." He spoke weakly.

"Shut up, you idiot!" Quill lashed out as he quickly pulled off his coat and covered Yondu's wound.

"That ain't gonna do much..." Yondu laughed lightly as he turned his head to see the pile that once was Ego. "You know... he may have been your father, boy... but he wasn't your daddy... I'm sorry I didn't do none of it right... I'm damn lucky you're my boy."

"NO!" Quill screamed as tears fell from his eyes.

He watched as the light slowly draining from Yondu's eyes could do nothing about it...

"NO! NOOOOO!" Quill screamed and cried as he applied pressure to the wound.

...

"What the hell are you screaming about?" A voice spoke from behind.

Turning around, Quill watched as Peter casually stepped out of a golden portal with Groot on his shoulder as usual.

"Captain..." Yondu uttered, though it was getting hard for him to speak at this point.

"Yondu... He..." Quill tried to speak but the words wouldn't leave his mouth.

"Huh? Oh... Don't worry. I got this." Peter said without worry as he waved his hand.

Suddenly, a golden spell circle appeared above Yondu's bloody body.

"There, all better." Peter shrugged as his newest crew member started to heal at a visible pace.

"..." Quill watched in awe as signs of life returned to his Daddy's face. "Thank you..."

Quill sniffled as he wiped his tears away.

"No problem." Peter said as he rested a hand on his Vice Captain's shoulder. "What kind of Captain would I be if I let my men die so easily? After all, you have a long life of grunt work ahead of you."

Chapter 305: Titles Are Hard Sometimes...

"Is that him?" Peter asks as he points over to the pile of pale mushy sand.

"Yeah, I beat his a*s and then he started screaming random nonsense." Quill turns away from Yondu for a moment and looks his Captain in the eyes. "I'm guessing that was your doing?"

"Yup." Peter nods.

"What did you do?" Quill asks.

"Hmm, before we get to that, can you still use Celestial energy?" Peter asked curiously.

"Uhh..." Quill grunted as he held his hand out.

Instantly, a faint blue light flowed between his fingers before forming into a mini Transformer, which seemed to move on its own.

Optimus Prime to be exact.

"Autobot's Roll Out!" The small Optimus exclaimed before crumbling into bits, falling through Quill's fingers like bits of sand.

"Good, Megatron is cooler, but we all can't have good taste." Peter shook his head in disapproval.

"What?! How could you possibly think-" Quill started to argue, but his Captain interrupts.

"Come with me." Peter waved his hand, conjuring a golden portal.

"Wait!" Quill shouted as he glanced back at Yondu, who passed out moments after the spell began healing him. "What about him?"

"His men can keep watch." Peter says as he glances at the nearby Ravagers.

"You can leave Yondu to us, Captain!" One of the bigger Ravagers with the face of a deformed ball sack excitedly stepped up.

No doubt hoping to curry favor with their new Captain.

'What's that guy's name again? Laser Head? No, that's not it...' Peter wondered.

"Good, just keep watch until we get back, and don't touch anything." Peter ordered as he and Quill walked through the portal, leaving them behind for the time being.

...

"Why are we here?" Quill asks as the portal snaps shut behind them.

In front of them was Ego's glowing blue brain, though that wasn't what drew Quill's attention at the moment.

"What the hell is that?" He asked in awe as he eyed the golden engravings, which lined the entire cave and even crawled up onto Ego's brain as well. "I don't remember this being here earlier..."

"That's because it wasn't." Peter shook his head. "Since flat-out killing your father would make you lose your power, I had to get a little creative. "

"You did this? What does it do?" He asks curiously.

"It's a combination of a few spells that I've learned over the years. Basically, I took a normal mindwipe spell, which could barely erase about a day's worth of memories from someone's mind, and overcharged it to a crazy degree with the help of a few other spells." Peter explains plainly.

"..." Quill stared dumbly between Peter and the golden spell that filled the entire cave. "You're really a Magician, aren't you?"

"Are you just starting to realize that?" Peter laughed.

"So, what? My dad's pretty much a vegetable now, right?" Quill asks as he eyes the giant wriggling brain.

"Yup." Peter nodded.

"Then why is the spell still here? If the job is done, shouldn't it be gone?" Quill asks further.

"Well, since your dad is a Celestial, I decided to be cautious and keep it active." Peter explains further in depth. "Right now his mind is completely blank, but as time passes a new consciousness could be born and I'd rather not have to deal with that."

"So... the spell is just gonna keep wiping his mind over and over?" Quill guessed the rest.

"Bingo." Peter nods as he gives his Vice Captain a thumbs up. "This way, he's all but dead and you get to keep your powers. It's a win-win scenario. I was thinking of transferring your consciousness into your dad's brain, but doing so would trap you on this planet just like him."

"He was trapped here?" Quill asks in confusion.

"Did you not pay attention to anything Ego said?" Peter sighed in exasperation. "He may have been able to leave this planet, but he always had to come back to recharge himself or else his human form would wither and die. You, on the other hand, most likely won't have that weakness, though you probably won't be as powerful when you're off planet."

"Cool..." Quill stared down at his hands, which began to glow in a blue light. "...I wonder if I could use these powers to bring my mom back?"

Peter couldn't help but frown as he heard his Vice Captain whisper to himself.

"I'm sorry, but that's not something you would be able to do." Peter shook his head sadly.

"How do you know?" Quill asks a bit defensively. "If my dad could make a body for himself, can't I just find her grave and fix her body? Starting her heart shouldn't be too hard either..."

"Yes, you can do that but you'd be defacing the grave of your mother for nothing." Peter explained vaguely.

"What do you mean by that?" Quill asked pointedly.

"Let me show you..." Peter says as he steps up to Quill and thrusts his palm forward.

"What the-" Quill's eyes widened in shock as he tried to dodge, but he was far too slow.

Before he could even move an inch, Peter's palm slammed into Quill's chest, roughly knocking him backward.

"Hey! What the hell was that for!" Quill shouted as he glared in his captain's direction.

"Look down, dumba*s." Peter says as he points to the ground.

"?" Quill reluctantly peered downward. "What the f*ck!?"

On the floor was Quill's sleeping body, which fell in an odd position, leaving his face smushed against the floor and his a*s held high in the air.

"That is your physical body..." Peter explained as he summoned a mirror in front of Quill. "And that is your astral body, where your soul and consciousness are kept."

"!" Quill's eyes began to panic as he stared at his transparent form. "Y-You killed me... I'm a ghost! How could you kill me?! I haven't even asked Gamora on a proper date yet! She barely wants to be with me as a living guy! How the hell am I supposed to win her over as a f*cking ghost?!"

"Seriously?" Peter didn't know whether he should laugh or feel annoyed. "You aren't a ghost. I'm just trying to show you something. Relax."

"Really!?" Quill's idiotic whining disappeared as he floated over to Peter with hope-filled eyes. "I'm not dead?"

"No, now shut up and listen." Peter said in annoyance. "The reason that you can't revive your mother is simple. When any living being dies, their astral body leaves their physical body. You can reforge your mother's physical body, but that's it. She won't have her Astral body."

"...and the Astral body is where her soul and consciousness are." Quill seemed to understand after a moment of thought.

"Yes, she would be nothing but an empty husk." Peter made sure he understood.

"Where's her astral body?" Quill asks with a determined look in his eyes.

Peter couldn't help but reluctantly respect his Vice Captains love for his mother.

He would do anything to bring her back, yet Peter hasn't even thought of his parents...

'Meh, I never knew them and I'm a transmigrator. It's not the same.' Peter shrugged uncaringly.

"That is a question that goes far over my pay grade. I don't even think my teacher would know something like that, and she's the most powerful sorcerer in this universe... At least, that I know of." Peter had no clue.

Quill frowned sadly before floating back into his body and picking himself up off the floor.

And as he rose to his feet, Peter caught a glimpse of determination return to his eyes.

"Well, as a Demi-God, I'll make it my mission to figure that out." He says as he turns his attention to the Brain in the room. "My mother didn't deserve to die like that. If my father wasn't such a genocidal maniac, then she would still be alive today."

"Yeah, but you wouldn't be born either." Peter says with a shrug. "Nor would we have met and formed the Guardians. Not to mention Gamora. Who knows what would have happened to her without you. Sometimes you have to look at the bright side of life."

"But-" Quill tries to interject, but Peter continued.

"I'm not saying that you can't try to revive your mom. If that's what you want to do, then I'll support you as your Captain, but I'm telling you right now that the odds are heavily stacked against you." Peter didn't sugarcoat his words.

"..." Quill remained silent for a moment before staring Peter square in the eyes. "That's fine. Nothing worth doing is ever easy, is it?"

"No. No, it's not." Peter nodded as he smiled under his mask. 'Maybe I can revive her with the Infinity Stones, though I would have to be careful not to mess up the timeline...'

Of course, Peter didn't have all of the stones yet, so this wouldn't be happening anytime soon.

As for the timeline, he didn't want to revive Quill's mom and in doing so cause some sort of catastrophe or ruin Quill's life in some odd way.

It just wouldn't be worth it.

Peter could try using the Dragon Bone Elixir, as that seemed to bring people back from the dead in the Daredevil TV show, but he didn't want to risk any unknown side effects occurring.

After all, Quills mom has been dead for over 25 years...

Also, Peter doesn't have enough Dragon Bones to share.

At least not yet.

And just as he was about to open a portal back to the Palace, Peter suddenly remembered something.

"Wait... where's the rest of the crew?" He asked as he didn't remember seeing them earlier.

"Oh, sh*t!"

"Where the hell are we?" Rocket muttered as he and everyone else followed Mantis through the winding cave system.

"It's just this way... I think..." Mantis directed them with a lost look on her face.

"..."

Chapter 306: Drax's Fetish

After getting the whole gang back together, which took a few minutes as half the team somehow got themselves lost in a labyrinth of caves, the Guardians set up base in the palace.

Of course, Quill used his newfound powers to fix what was destroyed during the battle, though it took him a bit to get everything right.

When everything was settled, Peter invited Mantis to a meeting with the crew.

Quill, Gamora, Drax, Groot, Rocket, and Yondu, who was now fully healed, were all in attendance.

As for the Ravagers, they don't count as members of the crew. They're more like grunts, as they technically fall under Yondu's command.

"What's she doing here?" Rocket asked as he and everyone else besides Drax glared in her direction.

'Didn't Drax have a thing for her in the movie?' Peter wondered if his crew would be filled with couples in the future...

Gamora and Quill.

Mantis and Drax.

'Now I just have to find a furry companion for Rocket and another plant for Groot...' Peter thought in amusement.

"I-I..." Mantis stuttered as she cowered away from the many harsh stares.

"I invited her." Peter smiled warmly in Mantis' direction, though nobody could see it. "She has a few words to say."

"..." Mantis froze as all eyes pierced into her.

"Well, get on with it, girl. We ain't got all day..." Yondu spoke impatiently.

He wouldn't give any assistance to the follower of the man that tricked him into breaking the Ravager's code and almost killed him.

"I-I want to apologize for not telling you of Ego's plans..." Mantis built up the courage to speak. "I won't make any excuses. There were a few times when I could have spoken up and I didn't. I'm terribly sorry for that..."

As someone who is used to serving others, Mantis gave a deep bow to show her sincerity.

"That ain't good enough." Yondu said uncaringly as he let out a whistle.

Instantly, his glowing arrow unholstered itself and flew forward, hovering menacingly over Mantis' exposed neck.

"I agree, Let's just kill her and be done with it." Rocket spoke up in agreement.

"Let's not be too hasty." Peter cut in as Yondu's arrow disappeared and reappeared in between his hand.

Twirling the glowing arrow between his fingers, Peter could see the tears welling up in Mantis' eyes.

"How would you like to join the Guardians of the Galaxy?" Peter asks as the room descended into chaos.

Everyone besides Drax and Groot, who was snacking on chips in the corner without a care for what was going on, vehemently disagreed with Peter's invitation.

"I refuse to split our profits with another person! Especially one that tried to kill us!" Rocket yelled as he stood on his chair for some added height.

Most of the crew voiced their agreement as well.

The Guardians may be heroes, but money is always their top priority...

"Then I'll take her as my subordinate!" Drax spoke loudly, silencing the crew's complaints.

Mantis' large eyes widened even further as she heard his declaration.

'I knew this would happen.' Peter smirked under his mask.

"What? What the hell could you possibly need her for?" Quill asked incredulously.

"It better not be for anything perverted..." Gamora glared menacingly in Drax's direction.

"It's none of your business." Drax glared back.

Before chaos could descend once again, Peter spoke up.

"Good, this solves everything." Peter nodded in approval. "Similarly to Yondu and the Ravager, Mantis will fall under Drax, making her a member of the crew without receiving the split that we all enjoy."

"I will gladly serve Master Drax..." Mantis blushed as she spoke.

Drax calmly nodded in agreement, though Peter could see a small unnoticeable tint on his cheeks as well.

'Love is in the air...' Peter thought as some more objections were shouted, though Peter simply waved them off. "Welcome to the Guardians of the Galaxy, Mantis."

"Thank you for having me, Captain." Mantis bowed once again before taking her place at her new master's side.

'I never knew Drax had this kind of fetish...' Peter felt as though he found a kindred spirit.

...

Once everything calmed down, the crew was about to leave, but Peer said something that caused Quill to turn a challenging glaring in his direction.

"What did you say?" Quill asked as his glare intensified.

"I said, I'm thinking of taking this planet as a vacation spot. Why? Do you have a problem with that?" Peter stared back.

The greed of both the Captain and Vice Captain clashed at that moment.

It is a beautiful planet after all.

"Let me get this straight." Quill stood up from his seat and looked down at Peter. "You want to take the planet that my father owned? The same one that I need for my Celestial powers? You do understand how messed up that is, right?"

"..." Peter looked away and cleared his throat. "How about we come to a middle ground?"

Although Peter felt a bit embarrassed to keep pushing for this, he had a dream that needed to be fulfilled.

And that dream was vacationing in the summer with MJ and Lily, enjoying the sights by day and spending some Mommy Daddy alone time at night...

"..." The whole crew looked in Peter's direction in amusement.

After all, they understood his greed fairly well.

Especially Rocket.

"I don't know why you're fighting over this..." Rocket said as he stepped forward and joined the two of them with a smirk on his face. "Because, obviously, this planet already belongs to me!"

"I am Groot!" Groot spoke up in support of his furry friend.

"!" Instantly, the room was filled with yelling as everyone wanted a piece of the beautiful pie that was Ego's planet.

...

Soon enough, the yelling came to an end, and a negotiation was had.

"Okay, let me lay this out so that everyone is on the same page." Peter drew everyone's attention to himself. "The planet will be the property of the Guardians of the Galaxy to use at their own discretion. As long as nobody breaks the few rules that we set in place."

He explains as everyone nods in agreement.

"Furthermore, Quill will be the sole owner of the planet's core, as that is the source of his powers. Though, everything else is split equally between all of us. If you want to build a house or a palace, then go for it. Just follow the rules." Peter said, receiving satisfied nods from everyone in the room.

As for the rules, they had to be put in place to stop a certain raccoon.

"I don't get why we can't sell this rock..." Rocket spoke up with an annoyed look on his face. "Can't you at least let me open a mine? I saw some Brood Silver in the caves earlier. That stuff is worth a fortune, you know? And who knows what other priceless stuff we could find."

At first, Rocket wanted to sell the planet for a quick buck, or at least his portion of it.

Of course, his idea was quickly shut down and now he wants to harvest the planet's resources, which wasn't such a bad idea....

"Sure, if you can figure out a way to mine the planet without destroying it, ruining its scenery, or delving into the core, then you can mine all you want." Peter nods as Rocket smirks greedily. "Though, since the planet is the property of the whole crew, you would be splitting your profits with the rest of us."

Rocket's greedy smirk instantly disappeared as all seven Guardians seemed to steal his smile away for themselves.

"Wait, we can talk about this..." Rocket tried to speak though everything was already decided.

Each Guardian gave him some encouraging words as they got up and walked off.

"That was a good suggestion, Rocket." Peter nodded.

"Work hard." Quill gave him a thumbs up.

"Your contribution to the team is appreciated, my friend." Drax said as Mantis followed him out.

"Thanks, Rocket. I've been meaning to order a few knives so this helps me out." Gamora joined in on the fun.

"Thanks for the free money, Rat." Yondu laughed.

"There ain't no way I'm sharing my profits with you, lazy freeloaders!" Rocket screamed as the room cleared, leaving only him and Groot behind.

"I am Groot..." Groot said as he climbed up and patted his friend on the shoulder in sympathy.

Chapter 307: 2nd Evolution

Once everything was settled on Ego, which was now the official name for the planet Headquarters for the Guardians of the Galaxy, Peter left the Guardians and returned to Earth for the time being.

Although Ego was a crazy egomaniacal maniac, who wanted to pretty much destroy the universe, he was still Quill's father and the architect behind the entire planet so they kept the name out of respect.

Before leaving, Peter made sure to do two things.

First, he and Quill took a day to go to the pit where his siblings were dumped.

Of course, they planned to turn the haunted-looking pit into a proper burial sight.

Quill was a bit emotional throughout the whole process, but at least he was hell-bent on giving his family a proper grave.

Which was something his father should have done, especially since he was the one to kill them.

-Flashback-

"That should do it." Peter said as the two of them stood in the center of a lush field with a huge pillar-like gravestone stood before them. "Do you want to say a few words?"

"..." Quill remained silent for a moment before speaking up. "...I have to admit, I was a little shocked to find out about you guys. I mean, I always wanted siblings and I'm sure alien siblings would have been even better. I can't help but feel like I missed out..."

After speaking for a bit, Quill fell silent once again and stared at the gravestone in a trance.

He wanted to say more but sadly couldn't find the words to sum up everything that he was feeling.

Peter, on the other hand, stayed for about an hour before giving his Vice Captain some alone time.

Quill would have probably stayed there the whole night if not for Gamora, who forced him to return to the palace so that he could get some much-needed rest.

Though the two of them seemed to disappear into the same bedroom~

'I guess Quill needed some comfort...' Peter thought in amusement.

-Flashback End-

As for the second thing he had to do...

-Flashback-

On the day that Peter was leaving, he met with Quill and handed him a small black box.

"What is this?" He asked as he held the box to his ear and shook it, like a child trying to decipher his Christmas presents.

"Open it and find out." Peter smiles under his mask.

"?" Quill curiously lifted the lid and found a sleek handheld device inside. "What is this?"



"It's an iPod," Peter says as he reaches over and turns it on. "See this?"

Tapping the touch screen a few times, Peter scrolled through a long list of songs and played one of his favorites.

🎵What is Love, by Haddaway plays🎵

'...What is love?

Oh baby, don't hurt me

Don't hurt me

No more

What is love?

Oh baby, don't hurt me

Don't hurt me

No more

Whoa, whoa, oh

Whoa, whoa, oh...'

Quill's eyes widened as he heard music that's never graced his ears before, though he knew one thing for sure.

This was from Earth!

"I heard that your dad destroyed your Walkman, so I picked this up for you." Peter said as he enjoyed the awestruck look on his Vice Captains face. "It has all of your favorite 80's songs, but I thought that you might want to update your playlist, so I added some of my favorites as well."

As Peter spoke he reached over and swiped the screen, skipping to another song.

🎵 Short Change Hero, by The Heavy plays 🎵

"Oh, this is such a good song..." Peter muttered.

'...This ain't no place for no hero

This ain't no place for no better man

This ain't no place for no hero

To call home...'

"I made sure to give you music from all sorts of genres across the many years that you've missed. From Frank Sinatra to Tupac, you have it all."

"Holy sh*t..." Quill muttered as his eyes began to water. "I-I don't know what to say..."

"A normal thank you is more than enough." Peter shrugged as Quill rushed forward and wrapped his arms around his Captain.

"Thank you..." Quill said wholeheartedly.

"You're welcome." Peter nods as they separate. "You know, I'm really jealous right now."

"Huh? Why?" Quill asked in confusion.

"You get to experience all of the best music I know for the first time. If I could erase my memories, I would spend weeks just listening to the songs on that iPod." Peter said nostalgically. "After all, it's so hard to find good music these days. Most of the songs on the radio are just factory-made pop garbage."

Quill couldn't help but laugh as Peter sounded like a grumpy old man.

-Flashback End-

After handing over his gift, Peter said his goodbyes and portal'd off.

...

Stepping out through the portal, Peter arrived in his penthouse, which looked much different than before.

All of the equipment that he used to make Lily was gone and replaced with all sorts of ornate furniture and decorations.

The place looked like some sort of Arabian Palace.

"What the..." Peter muttered as he caught sight of a blue figure across the room.

"He's behind you! Turn around!" Genie yelled at the TV as he watched some random horror film.

"I see that you've made yourself at home." Peter walked over and spoke.

"Ahhh!" Genie jumped out of the couch in fright and smacked into the ceiling.

"Seriously?" Peter asked incredulously.

"M-Master?" Genie asked as he fell back down onto the couch.

"Yo."

...

After talking with Genie for a bit, Peter got straight to business.

There's a reason that he came here before heading home, and that's to evolve for a second time!

"Who's blood do you think I should use?" Peter asked as he stared down at the many vials in his collection.

Even Ego's blood was an option now.

"Nightcrawler!" Genie spoke up for his brother in blue.

"..." Peter swiftly ignored him and reached over to a vial labeled in green.

[HULK]

After all, the only thing that Thanos can beat him in is strength, so solving that issue was of the utmost importance.

'Though even the Hulk couldn't overpower Thanos in the movies...' Peter thought with a shrug.

Still, increasing his strength was a must nonetheless.

"Isn't that a bit too risky?" Genie asks worriedly. "Isn't the Hulk supposed to be the incarnation of anger or something?"

"Nah, the wishes should protect me. What I'm worried about is the pain and the damage to the surroundings..." Peter says as he loads up a syringe.

The reason that he didn't inject multiple vials the last time he evolved was simple.

The pain was excruciating...

So, Peter planned to space out each evolution so that he doesn't go insane.

'Maybe if I can find a good numbing agent or ability, then I can do this more often...' Peter thought as he waved his hand and opened a portal to the Mirror Dimension.

Stepping inside, he turned back to Genie for a moment.

"You want to watch?" Peter asked.

"Sure, one second..." Genie nods as he morphed into the form of a balding scientist with a lab coat and clipboard. "Let's proceed with the procedure."

Shaking his head, Peter moved further into the mirror dimensions followed by his eccentric assistant.

And as the portal snapped shut, Peter reluctantly stabbed the syringe into his arm.

"I really should have added some sort of stipulation to my wishes that nullified pain..." He muttered as he pressed the plunger, injecting one of his most powerful blood samples in an instant.

Same as last time, the pain didn't start immediately.

Instead, Peter felt the tingling, which still plagued his every waking moment, ramp up as his entire body vibrated with power.

"And here it comes..." Peter muttered in apprehension as his teeth ground together. "Ugh!"

The familiar body-shaking pain wracked his body, sending him thrashing to the cold hard ground of the Mirror Dimension.

"Aaaaaahhhh!" He screamed in agony.

Though it didn't end there.

Peter's entire body seemed to wriggle and pulse as every fiber of his being began to expand.

Arms, legs, torso, everything expanded into a giant Hulk-like appearance.

"F*CK!" Peter screamed in a morphed tone as he felt everything.

Thankfully, the spider suit that the Ancient One made for him didn't rip.

In fact, it expanded perfectly, making it look like the Hulk stole Spider-Man's clothes.

"Hey, pal..." Genie spoke worriedly as he floated over to his Master. "Are you alright?"

"Aaaaauugghh!" Peter bellowed in rage as he swiped his hand forward.

And with all of the power of the Hulk, he slapped Genie away like a fly, sending him soaring across the dimension.

Chapter 308: Inner Battle/Evaluation

As Genie was slapped across the Mirror Dimension, Peter lost consciousness and found himself in a dark space.

"Where am I?" He spoke curiously as he wandered across the pitch-black void.

Of course, he could remember everything clearly.

Injecting the blood.

The excruciating pain.

Feeling his entire body expands into a giant Hulk-like monster.

He even remembered backhanding Genie, but nothing after that...

After walking for what felt like hours, Peter found nothing whatsoever.

He seemed to be in a flat black space with nothing in the surroundings but a smooth unbreakable floor.

Not even his enhanced senses could find anything but open space.

"This has to be my subconscious mind..." Peter guessed as he brought his hand to his chin in thought. "...but where are my memories? It shouldn't be this empty and dark."

Although Peter wasn't exactly sure, as he never entered his subconscious mind like this, it was his best guess at the moment.

Suddenly, deep angry breaths filled his surroundings.

It sounded like an enraged dragon was huffing and puffing.

"?" Peter spun around and found nothing.

But just as he thought that the sound was gone, a hot steaming breath tickled the back of his neck.

"?!" Whipping his head around, Peter turned just in time for a red fist to impact his left cheek.
"Ugh!"

He grunted in pain as he flew across the black space.

Of course, this wasn't his first fight.

Peter twisted his body in midair and landed perfectly on his feet, surveying the area as he waited for his attacker to show himself once again.

And when the dragon-like breathing filled his surroundings once again, Peter was shocked to realize that he couldn't sense its position.

Though he should have known that since his spider senses didn't save him from that attack earlier.

"Show yourself, coward." Peter called out into the void.

After those words left Peter's mouth, a deep growl could be heard as an intense heat emanated toward his back.

Dashing to the side, Peter narrowly dodged another giant red fist.

And now he could finally see his attacker.

A giant red Hulk with glowing yellow eyes stood across from him.

"You aren't green..." Peter commented in interest.

"Shut up!" The Red Hulk screamed like an angry child before rushing forward.

"Hey, let's just calm down, Okay?" Peter tried to settle this peacefully as he dipped under yet another punch.

Though his opponent didn't give up.

Instead, he flailed around like an aggressive little boy, trying to land a hit in any way possible.

"Stay still!" Red Hulk screamed in annoyance as Peter sidestepped his fist.

"You won't be able to beat me like this." Peter commented as he kicked off of the ground and sent a knee into his attacker's face.

"Augh!" Red Hulk grunted as he tumbled backward.

Sizzle...

"Hmm?" Looking down, Peter found his clothed knee burning from the impact. "Your face is really hot. Do you have a fever?"

"RAUGH!" The Red Hulk roared as his yellow eyes brightened.

Peter watched curiously as power seemed to fill his adversaries eyes before two beams of fiery yellow light shot out in his direction.

"Interesting..." Peter muttered as he waved his hand and formed a spell circle between himself and the attack.

As soon as the fiery laser beams struck the spell, his magic jump right into action, absorbing the attack with ease.

"Yeah, that's Gamma radiation..." Peter muttered as he deployed a separate spell in order to identify the energy.

"Uhhh?!" Red Hulk grunted in confusion as he found his attack doing absolutely nothing to his opponent.

"That's a pretty cool ability. Why don't I try it next?" Peter said as he reached into the spell and pulled out the collected Gamma radiation. "Hehe, I have a good idea..."

Cupping both hands over the yellow Gamma radiation, Peter spread his feet farther apart and brought the energy to his side.

"Kame... Hame...HA!" Peter spoke the noble words of Master Roshi as he swung both hands forward and shot out a thick yellow pillar of Gamma radiation.

Instantly, Peter's pillar and Red Hulk's two eye beams collided and fought for dominance.

The collision of the two powerful attacks brightened the dark space with a blinding yellow light.

Of course, Peter could have done this whole attack without the movements and the words, but where was the fun in that?

"AAAAHHH!" Red Hulk screamed in anger as his eyes grew brighter, which in turn increased the power of his attack.

"?" Peter watched in interest as his Kamehameha was overpowered, though thankfully the absorption spell was still up, saving him the trouble of dodging. "Do you produce more Gamma radiation when you're angry?"

Now that he said that, Peter could feel that the heat had increased by a large margin since they first started fighting.

He could even see the waves of visible heat radiating off of the Red Hulk's body from all angles.

"Hmm..." Peter hummed as the red hulk gave up on his attack, as it seemed pointless. "Want to fight again?"

"Raaugh!" His opponent roared for the hundredth time before leaping forward.

"Let's see if you can heal like the Hulk as well." Peter wondered as he pulled on the remaining Gamma radiation.

Pointing his finger up to the red figure above, a yellow light gathered at the tip of his fingernail before firing in a bright beam.

"..." Red Hulk seemed calm as the beam impacted his chest and disappeared into his body.

The attack didn't leave a single mark either.

"Energy absorption too?" Peter commented as he felt the surroundings grow hotter once again.

Not only that, but his opponent's eyes brightened as well.

"You have some cool powers, My Friend." Peter says as he takes a few steps back.

And just in time, Red Hulk comes smashing down where Peter once stood.

"Not friends!" He yelled childishly.

"Whatever you say, pal." Peter shrugged as he planned to slowly win his inner Hulk over. "Now let's check your healing ability..."

Snapping his fingers, Peter called forth a portal, which opened and deposited a long black spear into his hand.

And without further ado, Peter kicked off the ground and launched forward.

"?!" Red Hulk's eyes widened at his enemy's speed as Peter dipped under his guard and sliced at his right knee. "AAAHH!"

Corvus Glaive's spear managed to cut Red Hulk's tough skin like a hot knife through butter, severing his leg from the knee down.

Peter stepped back as his legless opponent fell where he stood, screaming in agony.

After all, this was probably the first time he received such a severe wound.

Though it didn't last very long...

"Huh? That's way faster than wolverines healing factor..." Peter commented as Red Hulk's entire leg grew back in a matter of seconds.

Peter and Wolverine could regrow parts of their limbs, like this, but the amount of time that would take was astronomically longer than this...

From the bones, tendons, muscles, etc., everything morphed and grew until a brand new leg was formed, leaving Peter astounded.

'Can Hulk even heal this fast?' Peter wondered as he never got to test the Hulk, since Banner is too afraid to do anything.

"?" Even Red Hulk was left shocked by his own healing factor.

Though that shock soon turned to anger, which was swiftly projected straight at Peter.

"What? You started this fight. Don't come crying to me. If you didn't want to get hurt, then don't attack others without good reason." Peter lectures the giant red child like a pro.

After all, he had practice with Lily.

Of course, Peter's words didn't have the effect that he was hoping for.

"!" Red Hulk stomped to his feet and immediately closed in on his enemy. "Die!"

"Okay, I think that's enough for now." Peter muttered as he sidestepped a hot red fist before leaping up and tapping two glowing fingers on the giant man-child's forehead. "Sleep."

Instantly, Red Hulk's eyelids dropped downward and closed shut as he toppled over and snored into a peaceful sleep.

"I'll either need a meditation or sealing technique to deal with you." Peter muttered to himself as he stared down at the colossal figure. "Hopefully, the meditation route works. I'd rather not seal what's basically a child away. That would be sad."

Suddenly, Peter's vision blurred and shifted.

And once he could finally see clearly again Peter found himself laying in a pile of rubble somewhere inside the mirror dimension.

"You finally decided to wake up?" A familiar voice called out.

Lifting himself to his feet, Peter turned to see a heavily bruised and bandaged Genie held up weakly by two crutches.

"What happened while I was out?" Peter asked as a Genie clone appeared, dressed as a cop. "?"

"Is this the guy?" Policeman Genie asked his wounded self.

"Yes, Officer..." Genie answered his own question in a pitiful tone.

"Sir..." Policeman Genie pulls out a pair of handcuffs as he steps forward. "You're under arrest for assault and battery. Please lay flat on the ground with your hands behind your head."

Chapter 309: Lily's Choice

Once Genie was done impersonating a peace officer, Peter dropped him off at the Penthouse and portal'd over to Kamar-Taj.

Although he has a very well-protected mind, thanks to the technique that the Ancient One imparted onto him, as well as a few extra spells, that only protected him from outside intrusions and manipulation.

And since Red Hulk is a part of him, Peter needs a way to connect with his new alter ego while also protecting himself.

In the movie, Banner was able to achieve this through simple meditation.

He came to an understanding with his Hulk, and soon enough, they merged into one being.

This merger seemed to give Banner the best of both worlds. He kept his genius mind, whilst also keeping the strength of the Hulk.

Though Peter didn't want to do this.

At least not in the same way as Banner.

'I'd rather not turn into a red-skinned giant with glowing yellow eyes...' Peter thought with a shake of his head. 'The public would call me a demon...'

After all, he had a life outside of being Spider-Man, and the transformation that came with a merger would certainly ruin that.

Of course, that didn't mean a merger was off the table.

Peter has to simply find the best way for him to achieve his goals.

"Is the Ancient One around?" Peter asked an elderly master as he portal'd into Kamar-Taj.

"No, the Sorceress Supreme left to deal with an issue in a small hell dimension. Can I help you with anything?" The man answers respectfully.

After all, Peter's position in Kamar-Taj is very high thanks to being their leader's only disciple.

"Thanks, but I'll be fine." Peter gave a quick bow and walked off toward the library.

Although his position is technically higher than just about everyone else, it's always best to show respect.

Especially when you could be dealing with an ancient master.

After all, there are ways to extend your lifespan when it comes to the Mystic Arts, so there are masters in the temple who are far older than they appear.

...

Seeing as he couldn't ask the Ancient One for advice, Peter ransacked the library of Kamar-Taj for a good meditation technique.

'...Heavens Breath... Primordial Body and Mind... Earth Evolution... Wandering Lotus Meditation...'
Peter poured through book after book, trying to find what would suit his situation best.

And while this was happening, the old librarian kept a watchful eye.

The last time Peter came to the library, he lied and used the Ancient One's name to take books from the forbidden section...

Now the poor librarian is forced to suspiciously surveil his every move...

Thankfully, meditation techniques aren't something that are considered dangerous, so Peter didn't have to steal anything this time.

"Oh..." He muttered as he read through an old worn leather book. "This could work."

[Sun and Moon Scripture]

This meditation technique was made by a master named Lin Feng, who seemed to have Dissociative identity disorder.

Apparently, he went through some sort of crazy trauma as a child, though the book didn't mention any details.

And due to this huge trauma, his mind fractured.

In order to cope with this, multiple personalities were formed, which plagued his everyday life.

In one moment he could be studying in his library, and the next, he wakes up completely naked in an alleyway.

Basically, his other personalities would take control of his body and do whatever they wished.

Tired of the constant craziness, Lin Feng went on a journey in search of a cure and found Kamar-Taj, similar to Dr. Strange's origin story.

And after becoming a master, he was able to create his own meditation technique.

The Sun and Moon Scripture.

'It sounds very Wuxia but it should work...' Peter thought to himself.

Using the Sun and Moon Scripture, Peter would, hopefully, be able to meld his mind with the Red Hulk's and become one, while keeping control and leaving the two bodies separated.

At least until he could find a way to assimilate the Red Hulk's body into his own without becoming a giant monster for the rest of his life.

Of course, the Red Hulk wouldn't be dying in this scenario.

They would simply merge.

After all, Red Hulk is merely the personification of Peter's anger. He was already a part of him from the very beginning.

In the end, he would simply return to where he originated from.

'I should practice this every night before bed...' Peter thought to himself as he checked the book out under the librarian's watchful eyes. 'It should take about a month to finish the merger...'

Of course, Peter would make sure to be diligent in his meditation.

Because even now he can feel the simmering anger of his alter ego waiting to be released.

If he were to become too angry, Red Hulk would surely use that opportunity to take control and wreak havoc.

Though it wouldn't last long, as Peter could easily put him to sleep again.

The only reason he took his time before was that his physical body was inside the mirror dimension.

There, Red Hulk could go as crazy as he wanted without harming anyone.

Well, except Genie though he was faking those injuries from the start.

"Thank you!" Peter called out over his shoulder as he portal'd out of the library with his new book in hand.

Stepping into his bedroom, Peter found Lily sitting at his desk with his Ghost Laptop wide open.

She seemed to be trying to turn it on, but no matter what she did, the screen wouldn't light up.

"Ahem!" Peter cleared his throat as he loomed over his daughter's shoulder.

"Ahh!" Lily squeaked as she leaped up off the chair and stuck to the ceiling using her spider powers. "...Dad?"

Lily peered down at her father, who instantly swapped his clothes to a normal outfit, revealing his face.

"I clearly remember telling you that my laptop was off-limits." Peter says as he reaches out and closes it. "And I also remember saying that you should regulate the use of your powers. If others see, then maintaining a normal life will be hard."

"Sorry, Daddy..." Lily pouts as she falls from the ceiling and lands perfectly on her feet.

"The daddy's always come out when you're in trouble, don't they?" Peter chuckled as he leaned down and gave her a warm hug. "So, why did you need to access my laptop?"

As they separate, Peter places the Sun and Moon Scripture on a nearby bookshelf for the time being.

"You weren't here and I needed to call you." Lily answered with a smile.

"Well, I'm here now. What's up?" Peter asks as he takes a seat on the corner of his bed.

"I made my decision..." Lily spoke excitedly. "I want to help you with your work!"

Peter raised a brow as his daughter declared her decision.

"Are you sure? Your grandma's didn't seem too happy about that." Peter said as he knew they would complain.

"Yes, they talked to me about it, but in the end, it's my decision to make, not there's." Lily crossed her arms and huffed obstinately.

"Well, if it's what you want then that's fine." Peter nodded as he whipped out his phone, dialed a number, and put it on speaker.

Lily looked confused as she waited to see what her father was doing.

"Yes, Black Sky?" A male voice answered respectfully.

"Scythe, have you found my Dragon Bones yet?" Peter asks.

"!?" Lily seemed to perk up in excitement as she heard the word Dragon.

Based on her knowledge, Dragons and other mythical creatures never existed.

"Yes, but getting to them is the problem. Either we waste time and do things slowly, or we can destroy Hell's Kitchen and take them quickly." Scythe explains.

"Okay, I understand." Peter says as he looks over at Lily. "I'm placing my daughter in charge of the excavation. The Hand will follow her orders as if they came from me. Is that understood?"

"O-Of course, Black Sky. We would gladly follow the princess." Scythe stuttered in shock as he never knew that his leader had a daughter, but he complied nonetheless.

"Good, she'll call you soon enough." Peter said as he hung up and looked toward Lily.

"What was that about?" She asks in confusion. "I didn't know that I was a princess..."

"That was the Hand..." Peter says as he explained everything. "...you'll be starting off with them since I don't have the time to micromanage everything."

Of course, Lily wouldn't be leaving the house, as she's far too young to be out on her own.

But that doesn't mean that she can't order them around from the safety of her bedroom.

After all, she's an AI. The sky is the limit.

"Okay, should I start now?" Lily asks excitedly.

Ninjas and Dragons? What kid wouldn't be excited?

"No." Peter shook his head. "First, you need a code name."

It's not that Peter didn't trust Scythe, as the man has faithfully served him for a while without any trouble, but keeping Lily's identity a secret is very important to him.

'Otherwise, her Granny's would kill me...' Peter didn't want to deal with angry Grandmas.

"!" Lily started hopping up and down in excitement. "Do I get a cool suit like you and Mom?"

"Maybe later but for now we need a name." Peter said as Lily started thinking to herself.

...

"Princess is fine..." Lily admitted with red cheeks. "I always wanted to be a princess and they already called me that..."

"Sure, Princess it is."

Chapter 310: Demon Princess

After explaining the ground rules to Lily and telling her how he wanted things to go with the Hand, Peter gave her Scythes number and she excitedly ran off to her bedroom.

Ninjas and Dragons awaited her.

...

When Peter walked out into the hall, May, Grace, and MJ were laying in wait for him.

While MJ didn't seem bothered, the same could not be said for her the two Granny's.

May and Grace frowned in his direction, very clearly making their feelings on the situation known.

"Did you have fun eavesdropping?" Peter smirked as he leaned on the door frame.

Their glares only seemed to intensify, though May was a lot less angry than Grace.

"I don't agree with this, but Lily made her choice so we won't complain." May sighed as Grace remained silent. "I just hope she's ready..."

"You know, I never said you guys couldn't watch over her?" Peter says as their eyes widen in realization. "After all, Lily isn't allowed out of the house for this, so you guys can help her all you want. At least in the beginning. This isn't as bad as you think it is."

"..." Silence filled the hall as MJ smirked alongside Peter.

"Right..." Grace muttered as she turned around and made her way to Lily's room.

"We'll just check to see how she's doing." May smiled as she followed behind her fellow grandma, leaving Peter and MJ alone in the hall.

"Hello, beautiful." Peter wrapped his arms around her waist.

"Hello, handsome." MJ mimicked him as she peered up into his eyes.

"Since everyone else is so busy, why don't we spend some alone time together? And I can tell you all about the new vacation spot that I found for us..." Peter whispers.

"I'm all ears-" MJ tried to answer but Peter sweep'd her off her feet.

"Sorry, but I'm a bit impatient today..." He says as he carries her into the room and closes the door with his foot.

...

In Lily's bedroom.

"...I just sent you the blueprints of the area where the Dragon Bones are supposedly located, did you get them?" Lily lay snugly on her bed as she kicked her legs in the air.

"Yes, Princess." Scythes voice could be heard from the phone, which sat on the bed in front of her.

It was extremely easy for Lily to hack into the city's public records and download the blueprints.

And as Lily spoke, the blueprints appeared on the screen, though she didn't even touch the thing.

Glancing at them for a second, Lily swiftly made some changes. Illustrations alongside all sorts of plans and instructions appeared.

Yet she still hasn't touched her phone a single time.

"Good, I just edited the blueprints, do you see it?" Lily asked again.

"Yes, but something like this would take a lot of manpower and equipment. We won't be able to hide it for long..." Scythe raises his concerns.

"That's okay." Lily said as her phone changed again.

This time, it flashed between all sorts of government websites and databases before finally returning to normal.

"You should have some emails from the New York Department of Construction, Engineering, and Urban Planning. There should also be one from the City Clerks Officer as well." Lily says as Scythe goes silent for a moment.

"...Umm, how do you know my email?" He asked in fear.

As far as he knew, even the Black Sky himself didn't know his email.

"Don't ask silly questions. Do you have them?" Lily asks again.

"Yes..." Scythe answers as he reads through the emails. "How did you-"

"That's not important." Lily cuts him off.

"You have the digital permit to begin construction and the physical one will arrive by courier in a few days. The address is the same one that I marked on the blueprints. It's an abandoned building. I just took 13.7 million dollars from one of the Hand's bank accounts and purchased the property, as well as the neighboring properties. Did you receive everything? It should be in your email."

"Y-You... How?" Scythe was speechless at this point.

At first, he was immensely impressed by the Black Sky's daughter.

She was able to grasp the situation and build out a plan through the blueprints, which she seemed to acquire herself.

But then things got crazy...

Forget about knowing his email, just the fact that she could hack into the government so easily and even take money from the Hands bank account as if she were simply picking flowers was mind-boggling.

Both Impressive and scary...

"You really like to ask stupid questions, don't you?" Lily huffs into the phone.

"M-My apologies, Princess!" Scythe quickly apologized.

He soon realized that the apple didn't fall far from the tree.

If there was one man in the world that inspired fear in him, then it was the Black Sky.

Yet another contender has appeared.

"Hehe..." Lily giggled as she enjoyed being treated like royalty.

But as soon as Scythe heard that laugh, he broke out into a cold sweat.

'Scary... They're both monsters...' He thought.

"Okay, that's it for today." Lily says as she picks up her phone and rolls onto her back. "I want construction to start by tomorrow. Only members of the Hand can be used for this."

"Yes, Princess." Scythe replies dutifully.

"Oh, and I also want everyone working on this to strap their phones to their chest. That includes you." Lily adds.

"Why?" Scythe asks in confusion.

"So I can watch, silly." Lily says as she hangs up the phone.

knock knock

"Lily, can we come in?"

Hand Base, New York.

"..." Scythe stared at his phone in silent fear. 'Can she see me right now?'

It's safe to say that although Lily didn't mean to do so, she made one hell of an impression on the leader of the Hand.

When dealing with cold-blooded assassins, it's always best to make them fear you to a certain extent.

Peter did it and now his daughter followed in his footsteps.

Though she didn't even know it...

After spending the day with MJ, leaving her passed out on his bed, Peter whipped out the Sun and Moon Scripture and got to work.

The notes left behind by Lin Feng said that he used the technique once a night for a single hour before bed.

And so Peter cracked the book open and followed its instructions.

Unlike your average lazy meditation, where Peter would be sitting in a certain position whilst controlling his breathing in one way or another, this one was all about body movement.

Meditation, controlled breathing, and erratic yet gentle movements were the key parts of the Sun and Moon Scripture.

After reading everything, Peter was ready to begin.

Though once he finally got started, it didn't take long to realize that his room wasn't big enough for this...

Instead, he would have to use the basement.

The backyard was an option as well, but Peter didn't want to risk his neighbors seeing and labeling him as a crazy person.

Descending into the basement, Peter didn't waste any more time.

And when he finally started practicing, Peter thanked whatever god was out there that he didn't use the backyard.

Although Peter knew that the movements would be odd, to say the least, he didn't think that it would be this bad...

'I just have to power through and do it.' Peter thought to himself. 'It's only a month. After that, I never have to do this again...'

The next morning...

Peter woke up ready to get some work done. He made a promise a while ago and was ready to make good on it.

The Guardians of the Galaxy distracted him for long enough.

Donning his spider suit and portaling into his office in the Avengers Tower, Peter was instantly greeted by Jarvis as usual.

"Welcome back, sir."

"It's good to be back, Jarvis." Peter says as he takes a seat at his desk. "I need you to do two things for me."

"I'm happy to be of assistance." Jarvis replies dutifully.

"Good." Peter nods as he leans back. "First, I need you to call a Council Meeting. If anyone asks why, tell them it has to do with Emil Blonsky."

"I'm contacting each Councilman now. Please continue." Jarvis said readily.

"I want you to call Dr. Banner to my office. We'll have to wait for everyone to get here, so I'll have a talk with him in the meantime." Peter orders.

"One moment..." Jarvis says as he goes quiet for a minute. "...Dr. Banner is on his way. Will that be all, sir?"

"Yes, thank you for your hard work as always." Peter says.

"It's a pleasure, sir." Jarvis responded in a happy tone.

'Did Tony upgrade him recently?' Peter thought as he never heard Jarvis change his tone like that before. 'Is he trying to compete with Lily?'

knock knock

"Come in!" Peter calls out as Banner came walking in with dark rings around his eyes. "What the hell happened? You look like Rocket."

"Who's Rocket?" Banner asks as he tiredly dropped into a seat across from Peter.

"That doesn't matter. Why haven't you been sleeping?" Peter asks as the signs of sleep deprivation were clear as day. "You look exhausted."

"I've been in the lab for a few days." Banner answers with a yawn.

"And are you any closer to getting rid of your big green friend?" Peter asks as a frown forms on the doctor's face.

"...no." Banner admitted.

"Have you tried meditation?" Peter asks as Banner rolls his eyes. "I'll take that as a no."

Even now he refused to take the hints that Peter gives him...

"No offense, but I highly doubt something like this can be fixed by meditation. What's next? Should I buy shungite or wrap tinfoil around my head?"

Peter sighed in exasperation as he heard this.

"Fine, how about this? I'll give you two options." Peter held up two fingers. "One, you can try to meditate as I've been telling you, or two, I can extract the Hulk from you myself."

"Y-You can do that?" Banner stuttered in shock.

"Not now, but I can whip something up." Peter shrugged.

Either Kamar-Taj would have something or he would make his own spell.

"Isn't it dangerous to let it out?" Banner asked in fear.

"The Avengers can easily subdue the Hulk." Peter answered with yet another shrug. "And even if they couldn't, I can handle him alone."

"I-I..." Banner turned quiet as this was an important choice to make. "...I'll do it."

"The meditation or the extraction?" Peter asks for clarification.

"Extraction."