

# Spider-Man 71

## Chapter 71: Chaste Calls

The entire dinner with Fury was awkward. He never got his answer as to what Peter was doing in his daughter's bedroom, and Peter wasn't going to volunteer an answer.

While they were eating, MJ continued to ignore her father, but that got harder and harder as she thought of the gift she received from him.

Fury didn't think his gift could compete with Peter's, yet it's the one that occupied her mind the most. Though Peter didn't mind. He hoped MJ and Fury could repair their relationship after all.

When the night came to an end, Peter and May took a cab home, leaving Fury alone with his family. Thankfully, the snow stopped and the streets were being cleared.

MJ and Grace wanted them to stay longer, but it was getting late and they wanted to give the family of three some alone time together. It was Christmas and that's how it should be.

Fury seemed to pick up on this and gave Peter and May a thankful look before returning to his usual scowl. He would never admit it, but he was grateful to his daughter's boyfriend.

'Maybe I should have him killed painlessly?' Fury thought jokingly as he hated the word 'boyfriend'.

When their taxi arrived, MJ walked out with Peter and May, taking any moment to stay away from her father that she could get. As they finished loading up the car with their gifts, May hopped in first to give Peter and MJ some privacy for their goodbyes.

"You should stay." MJ says for the fifth time now. "I don't know what to do with him..."

"You mean your dad?" Peter asks with a smile.

"Yeah..." She answers reluctantly.

"You should go in there and yell at him. Isn't that what you wanted? To go right up to him and say how you feel? Make him understand what you and your mother felt when he left?" Peter says some words of encouragement.

"..." MJ goes silent as she turns to see Fury watching them from the window.

"You'll never be able to have a relationship with your father again if you don't let all of your grievances out. You need to sit him down and open the flood gates. Your mother should probably do the same. Just don't let him run off until you've both finished." Peter continues as he looks over her shoulder at Fury in pity.

"You're right!" MJ says as she goes from sad and quiet to angry and determined.

"Good." Peter says as he grabs MJ by the waist and pecks her on the lips. "Now get in there and give him hell."

Turning around, MJ walks inside like a lion stalking her prey. She was ready to tear into her father and Peter was all for it.

As she walked inside, Fury was still glaring at Peter. He didn't like seeing his daughter kiss someone, so if glares could kill, Peter would be dead over a thousand times already.

"Good luck." Shrugging off the look he's getting, Peter says some quick words to Fury before hopping in the car and driving off.

'Good luck?' Fury was confused as to what that meant, as he can easily read lips.

That confusion didn't last long as MJ stormed into the house and slammed the door closed, locking it behind her.

Screams filled the house as Fury was enlightened as to what Peter meant by good luck.

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As the car was pulling away from MJ's house, Peter smirked as he could hear the yelling from down the block with his enhanced senses.

When he and May returned home, Peter relaxed with his Aunt and watched some old Christmas movies. While they were watching Home Alone in the living room, Peter's ghost phone started ringing.

At first, Peter thought that it was MJ calling him, as he expected her to give him the details about what happened with her father, but when he checked the caller ID it was just a random number.

"Pinky's Porno Palace... what's your pleasure?" Peter answers the phone, shocking May with his stupid joke.

"Is this the man that released Tsubaki?" A gruff voice speaks over the phone, ignoring Peter's dumb line.

"I don't know any Tsubaki..." Peter replies and thinks for a moment. "Do you mean that woman from the Chaste?"

Peter only gave his phone number to a select few people, so it was easy to figure out who was calling.

"Yes, now what do you want?" The man on the other end asks gruffly.

"Well, the Hand is currently under new leadership. So, I thought it would be best to call a meeting between two age-old enemies and come to a ceasefire, so to speak." Peter says as May pauses the movie to listen in.

Peter didn't have anything to hide so he just smirked at her and put the phone on speaker, so she could hear better.

"What do you mean when you say under new leadership?" The man on the phone asks. "What about Alexandra and the other scum?"

"Well, I'm currently at the top of the top when it comes to the Hand. They tried to attack me so I took over. The five founders are currently imprisoned. I'm not sure what to do with them yet." Peter says causing the man on the other end to go quiet for a moment.

"...You should kill them and incinerate the bodies." He says after a moment of silence.

"Maybe..." Peter answered thoughtfully. "So, is the Chaste interested in making peace with the new Hand? I'd like to have a meeting with you and whoever else is in charge."

"Prove it." The man states simply.

"Hmm, how would you like me to do that?" Peter asks back.

"Hand over the five fingers and I'll believe you." The man answers.

If this was a trap, then he would never hand over the supposedly imprisoned founders, but if it's not...

That's where they're willing to roll the dice and hope for the best.

"Let me call you back." Peter didn't know how to answer just yet. "I need to think. I'll call this number again with an answer."

Without giving the man any time to answer, Peter hung up the phone and looked out the window in thought.

Should he just hand them over?

"What are you going to do?" May asks, breaking Peter from his inner thoughts.

"I'm not sure."

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In order to clear his mind and think about what to do, Peter went out to patrol as Spider-Man once May went off to bed.

While swinging through the city, Peter was lost in thought. On one hand, he could just hand over the founders of the Hand and be done with them. On the other hand, he could try to turn them to his side and have some fairly strong subordinates.

Though, is it really worth having people who have probably murdered thousands of people as his subordinates? Peter has nothing against killing when it's deserved, especially after his experience in Afghanistan with Tony, but he knew that they didn't follow the same thought pattern as him.

The Five Fingers of the Hand were cold-blooded murderers who would slaughter children if it would get them one step closer to completing their goal.

'Can people like that change for the better?' Peter thought questioningly.

The answer was that it's not likely. It's hard to teach an old dog new tricks, and these dogs might as well be ancient by this point.

Peter could work with people like Charles and Erik, as they aren't nearly as old and were once the best of friends, but these people may just be a lost cause.

Not to mention the many enemies that would become his should they work under him. The Chaste and K'un-Lun are the two major problems here, but there have to be others that Peter doesn't know of yet.

'They just aren't worth it...' Peter came to this conclusion fairly quickly.

The problem now is the fact that they know Spider-Man is in charge of the Hand. Though everyone in the Hand knows that.

Of course, Peter ordered Scythe to make sure that knowledge stays in house. Though he knew that it may leak at some point, the Hand is a very secretive organization so the chances are incredibly slim.

If he were to hand them over to the Chaste, they would most likely be interrogated about the new Hand Leader's identity and powers. It wouldn't be the end of the world but Peter would rather keep his involvement with the hand under wraps. At least for the time being.

'I can't hand them over alive...' Peter thought as he returned home.

There wasn't any crime that night, which he should have known since it was Christmas. Even criminals spend the holidays with their families, so Peter just ended up swinging around the city.

As Peter was hopping into bed after changing his clothes, his phone chimed and a text from MJ popped up.

## Chapter 72: Stick

After texting MJ for a couple of hours, Peter went off to sleep. He had to deal with the former leaders of the Hand and the Chaste tomorrow so he needed his sleep.

MJ gave him every last detail as to what happened with her father. Apparently, he tried to leave after MJ started yelling at him, but she blocked the door and just kept letting the words fly.

By the time MJ ran out of words to speak, Fury was holding her and apologizing, yet he still refused to say why he left. That didn't matter to MJ though. She knew all about Nick Fury thanks to Peter.

Sadly for Fury, the second he thought that the Storm was over, another brewed on the horizon.

Once MJ was finished yelling, his wife opened up the flood gates as well thanks to some encouragement from her daughter. Fury's emotional damage was at nuclear levels by this point.

During all of this, MJ guarded the door so her father couldn't run off. When even her mother got it all out, the whole house was silent.

In the end, Fury wound up shedding a few tears, which surprised Peter as he never thought a character like Nick Fury even had the ability to cry in the first place.

'Maybe I should have stayed...' Peter thought as he would pay big money to see Nick Fury cry.

Fury had apologized to each of them a hundred times and was speechless by this point as well. The family of three didn't know what to do after this, so they just sat on the couch in the living room and watched whatever was on the TV, which was Frosty the Snowman.

MJ and Grace didn't want Fury to leave and the man himself didn't have the heart to walk out the door after hearing all of that, so they just sat there quietly. When it got late and everyone was tired, Fury ended up sleeping on the couch.

MJ was happily surprised that he would be spending the night, but she knew that he would be gone by the morning. He may not want to leave but his job would sadly require it, which ruined her mood as she lay in bed that night texting Peter.

Peter did his best to cheer her up though. Reminding her that her father would have to come back after tonight's festivities. He may not stay to live there but there's no way he has the heart to ditch them for a long period of time again.

Peter guessed that Fury would visit them at least once a month from now on, which is good for someone as busy and cautious as he is.

Though they would have to wait and see.

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The next day, Peter woke up to a text from MJ, saying that her father left. What was surprising is the fact that he stayed for breakfast but left soon after.

Peter didn't expect that, as Fury seemed more like the kind of guy to slip out before anyone woke up.

'I guess they really got through to him...' Peter was happy for MJ as she seemed to be in a good mood.

After texting MJ for a few minutes, Peter got ready for what will probably be a very long day. Once he was clean and dressed, Peter called back the same number that called him last night.

\*Ring Ring...\*

"What?" The man on the other end answered in an annoyed tone.

"I'll hand them over." Peter gets straight to the point. "What part of the world are you in right now?"

"Hmm, I'm in Japan still." The man answered easily. "Tokyo."

"Alright, hold on..." Peter says as he looks up an address in Tokyo. "I just texted you an address, I'll meet you there at midnight. Don't keep me waiting."

Before he could get an answer, Peter hung up the phone. Switching to his spider suit and turning it black, he opens a portal and walks through to find the five fingers of the Hand sitting around with contemplative and defeated looks on their faces.

As soon as they heard some foreign footsteps, each of the five founders launched to their feet and turned to see Peter and the portal behind him closing.

"Hello, how have you all been." Peter greets them as he notices Murakami's condition.

Murakami has been here the longest and hasn't drank or eaten anything for far longer than what's healthy. His clothes were disheveled and he looked noticeably weaker compared to the other four around him.

"This place is... interesting." Alexandra was the first to speak. "We hope to be released soon, my Lord. I know this is a punishment but we've sworn ourselves to you. Please allow us to serve."

Alexandra uses her silky words to persuade Peter and kneeled on the ground. The others followed her lead, hoping to get the hell out of this desolate dimension.

"Okay, I'll take you all out." Peter says as he waves his hand.

Instantly, a spell circle is drawn in the air and splits off into five smaller symbols. These symbols split off toward the five kneeling fingers and smack them on the forehead.



As the symbols appeared on their foreheads, each of them fell to the floor like puppets with their strings cut.

"Sigh..." Peter sighs as he checks the time on his phone.

[9:57 AM]

'One hour until midnight in Tokyo.' Peter thought as he opened a portal.

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As every working clock in Tokyo struck 12, an aged blind man with white hair walks down a dark and empty street with his walking stick tapping along the ground the entire way.

[Insert picture of MCU Stick here]

"I told you to leave, Tsubaki!" Stick stops in the middle of the road and yells out.

Suddenly, the same woman that Peter freed from the Hand walks out from behind a building.

"This could be a trap and I refuse to leave you to die alone." Tsubaki says as she walks over. "It's my fault if you die, so I might as well be there alongside you."

Stick took this mission upon himself alone for a reason. If it is a trap, then he would be the only casualty, as the Chaste can't afford to lose anyone.

At one point, the Chaste was an equal enemy to the Hand, but these days that's all changed. The Hand recruits with any means necessary and use those recruits to hunt any Chaste member and location with no mercy, so they have been on the losing end of this war for about 10 years now.

This is why Stick is so willing to walk into a trap. If the Five Fingers can be eliminated, then a ceasefire with the 'new' Hand would do wonders for their organization.

The Chaste could use that time of peace to bolster their ranks in case the 'new' Hand takes after the old. After all, the Hand, no matter who was in charge, will always be an enemy of the Chaste.

Whether this new leader would turn the Hand into something good was impossible in their minds.

"Fine..." Stick grumbles and starts walking down the street once again, tapping his walking cane along the road.

Following behind him, Tsubaki and Stick arrive at the front of a closed morgue. The building was locked up and all workers were gone for the night as working hours ended 5 hours ago.

"How foreboding..." Tsubaki mutters as Stick ignores her and walks inside after somehow picking the lock while blind.

Walking the halls of the empty morgue, Stick uses his enhanced hearing to navigate straight toward Peter, who was waiting in the incinerator room, where the dead bodies are cremated.

"Hello." Peter greets as the two elderly Chaste members enter the room to see him in his blacked-out suit. 'Oh, it's Stick!'

Peter was a fan of Stick and just realized that's who he was talking to over the phone. He liked the man's grumpy personality and always thought he was one of the cooler characters in Daredevil.

On the floor beside Peter are the unconscious former leaders of the Hand. Each of them has a small mark on their foreheads from the spell that's keeping them from waking up.

As soon as Tsubaki saw the bodies in the room, she froze in shock. This sudden action caused Stick to freeze as well.

It would be impossible for him to identify the bodies, as he's blind, which was a big reason why Tsubaki was so adamant about joining him.

"You weren't lying, huh?" Stick reads the room with his advanced senses and speaks.

"Of course, I have no reason to lie." Peter answers as Tsubaki walks forward to inspect the bodies more closely.

"It's really them!" She says excitedly.

"Yup, it's good to see you again by the way." Peter nods as she looks up at him in shock.

"Wait, what's this mark on their foreheads?" Tsubaki asks in confusion.

"I don't know." Peter says with a shrug. "They had it when I met them."

"We'll take them and be on our way..." Stick says, ready to get out of here and interrogate his enemies.

"I'm afraid not..." Peter interrupts before they could move the bodies. "We'll be incinerating them here. After all, isn't that what you told me to do on the phone yesterday?"

## Chapter 73: Dust to Dust

"We'll be incinerating them here. After all, isn't that what you told me to do on the phone yesterday?" Peter says, surprising the two Chaste members.

"That wasn't what you told me over the phone..." Stick says, sounding more grumpy than usual.

"Well, plans change." Peter says with an uncaring shrug. "Let's be honest here. You're going to interrogate them and I'd rather that not happen. They know a bit about me and a lot about the Hand. I'd rather that information stay hidden. At least for now."

"..." A staring contest somehow began between Stick and Peter even though one of them couldn't see.

Stick couldn't sense a single person in or around the building besides Peter and Tsubaki, so he wondered where this man's confidence came from.

He would be lying if he said the idea of simply killing Peter and taking the five fingers alive didn't cross his mind. Though a bad feeling tingled down his spine after thinking that.

Stick has enhanced senses thanks to his blindness and training, so he tended to trust those senses instinctively.

Something told him that he and Tsubaki would die if they tried anything against this man, which caused him to look in Peter's direction with a bit more caution than he originally had.

"Fine, as long as they're dead, I'm happy." Stick was the first to break the silence.

"Thank you for understanding." Peter says gratefully.

Loading the bodies up one by one, Peter allowed the Chaste members to do the honors and press the ignition button for each fingers death, burning their unconscious bodies one at a time.

Peter didn't feel bad as he watched them burn. If they were innocent, things would be different and Peter would have never handed them over like this. Sadly for them, this wasn't the case.

When the last founder of the Hand burned into nothing but ashes, Stick turned to Peter and motioned to the piles of ash that they collected from each body.

"Can we at least take the ashes with us?" He asks.

"No, I'll be spreading those ashes in some undisclosed locations. After all, the world is more mystical than many would believe. When I choose to kill someone, I'd like them to stay that way." Peter says, not trusting them with the ashes.

The Chaste follows K'un-Lun and he doesn't know what either of them is willing or capable of doing. For all Peters knows, resurrecting someone from just their ashes is something that K'un-Lun has the power to do.

Peter didn't even know if the Dragon Bone Elixir could be used to resurrect someone from ashes, so it was best to stay safe and carefully dispose of his enemies' ashes. Especially since he now lives in a comic book world.

Comic book villains and heroes tend to come back from the dead, as writers can't just leave the good characters dead forever. Sometimes they even get a nice power-up after their death as well.

'Yeah, no thanks...' Peter thought as he planned to dispose of all enemies carefully. Especially the more powerful ones like Thanos.

"..." Stick and Tsubaki looked displeased but didn't voice any complaints.

"I guess that we'll take our leave then." Stick says as he starts walking toward the door.

"Wait, we aren't finished yet." Peter says, stopping Stick in his tracks.

"What?" He asks in annoyance.

"We need to talk about our ceasefire. We don't want more deaths on either side, do we?" Peter asks.

"What's there to talk about?" Stick asks back grumpily. "We won't attack you. You won't attack us. There, it's done."

"No, it's not that easy and you know it. We have to talk if we want to keep this peace for a long period of time. Communication is key." Peter says, causing Stick to sigh in annoyance.

He knew that Peter was right, but he wasn't sure the peace would last long either way. Once the Chaste has its numbers replenished, the leaders may decide to attack the Hand once again.

After all, it's all they know. For thousands of years, they've fought the Hand. Making peace with their enemy isn't something anyone in the Chaste is remotely interested in.

"Well, I'll start then." Peter says, seeing as neither of them had anything to say. "The Hand will be going through some major changes in the years to come. One of the most important is that we will be acting as a sort of vigilante group across the world. Sort of like Spider-Man minus the superpowers of course."

"?!" Both Stick and Tsubaki were shocked and beyond surprised by Peter's words.

"The Hand is going to fight crime and save people?" Tsubaki mutters in surprise.

"Yes, like I said. This is a new Hand." Peter says with a shrug. "I don't care for K'un-Lun or immortality. The Hand made a grave mistake when they attacked me, which most definitely ruined all of their plans."

Hearing Peter's words, Stick refused to believe that this man wasn't at least interested in immortality. Why take over an organization such as the Hand if you didn't want their dragon bone elixir?

He would be correct too. Peter was interested in studying the dragon bone elixir, but that doesn't mean he's interested in taking it. At least not until he studies it enough to learn the consequences or the possible alterations he can make to it.

'I should really speak to Scythe soon...' Peter thought.

"That's hard to believe." Stick voices his inner thoughts. "Truthfully, it sounds like bullshit."

"Well, I guess the new Hand will just have to prove it to you over time."

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There wasn't much more to talk about after that, as neither Stick nor Tsubaki could believe the words that Peter was saying. A good Hand is something that nobody could comprehend.

When they left the Morgue empty-handed, Peter bagged up the ashes of each founder and opened a portal to the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Using some wind magic, Peter spread each person's ashes in a different direction.

After floating for a while, the ashes descended into the salty water below and dissolved into nothing within seconds. Marking the end of the ancient Founders of the Hand.

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-Time Skip - Sophomore Year-

Many months passed since the deaths of the five Fingers. Peter's freshman year came to a close and the summer flew by quickly. Since then a lot has happened.

The Avengers was approved by the United Nations on the day after Peter met with the Chaste, which was a happy day as Peter and Fury put a lot of work into the Avengers initiative.

Tony didn't do much to help, but he was excited as well.

Speaking of Tony, he moved to NY a couple of weeks after and hasn't regretted it ever since. The top of Avengers tower became his home.

That's right, the Stark Industries tower was renamed earlier than in the movies as Tony became excited about their new organization. Pepper had some complaints as the building was used for Stark Industries, but sadly for her, she lost in the end and the sign was changed to the iconic Avengers logo.

In the past months, the Avengers has completed its council as well. The meeting with Charles was far easier than the one with Erik just as Peter thought it would be.

The more interesting meeting was the one between Charles and Erik during the first official council gathering of the Avengers.

-Flashback-

For the first Avengers council assembly, they used the new Avengers Tower in New York City. Tony especially had a meeting room made for their gathering, which Peter was ecstatic about.

It felt like everything was coming together.

Seated at the head of the table, Peter, who was dressed in his spider suit, waited for the arrival of everyone but Tony, who was drinking a glass of liquor in the chair next to him.

"Do you think they'll fight?" Tony asks as he takes a swig of his dark aged liquor.

"No, I think they're old enough to hold themselves back." Peter says thoughtfully.

-Ten minutes later-

Yelling filled the room as Charles and Erik were in a heated argument. The second Charles rolled into the room and saw Erik sitting beside Tony, Peter, and Fury, a look of realization filled his face.

"Please tell me this is a joke..." Charles said as his first words.

It didn't take long for Charles and Erik to begin arguing and throwing barbed words at one another, but soon enough Fury stepped in.

"Shut the f\*ck up!" Fury yelled in frustration and the room goes silent. "We're here to talk about official business, not squabble like temperamental children. Get over yourselves and get your heads in the game. We have work to do!"

Fury was already annoyed before the meeting started, as the World Security Council has been on his a\*s ever since they found out about the Avengers Initiative being separated from Shield. He has had to deal with enough lately and this just threw him over the edge.

"That's right, we have much to speak about, so table your childish behavior and act like the elderly men you are." Peter nods, agreeing with Fury's words.

Without another word, Charles reverses his chair from the table and rolls out of the room. He didn't sign up for this after all. Nobody said that Magneto would be on the Council as well.

-Flashback End-

## Chapter 74: Recap

After the first meeting of the Avengers Council, Professor Xavier didn't speak to Peter for a week. Peter tried to contact him but later decided to give the man some space to think for a while.



That didn't last long as Peter noticed that this plan was going nowhere and decided to be persistent. He bothered the hell out of Charles, who cracked after a couple of weeks and returned to the Avengers tower for a much more calm and orderly meeting than the last.

During the time that he was annoying Professor X into coming back to the council, Peter had about 10 more encounters with Logan, who attacked him instantly for the first 5 of them.

After beating Logan into unconsciousness 5 more times, Peter decided to deploy a new strategy for dealing with him.

-Flashback-

After beating Logan for the sixth time that week, instead of knocking him out, as usual, Peter tied him up in web and forced Wolverine to hang out with him.

Once Wolverine was tied up, Peter dragged him to the living room and dropped Logan on the couch.

"What do you want to watch?" Peter asks as sits next to him and kicks his feet up, grabbing the remote to flip through the channels.

"Let me go!" Logan shouts as he shakes side to side, trying to break free.

"I'll just pick..." Peter mutters as he ignores the angry man beside him and puts on Jerry Springer, which seemed to only anger the man further.

"I knew he was the father..." Half an hour in, Peter started making small talk with Logan.

They watched TV for almost two hours before Peter had to get home, leaving an angry Wolverine tied down on the couch with Wheel of Fortune on the flat screen.

Peter repeated this treatment for his next few visits to Professor Xavier's mansion. It got to a point where Logan started avoiding him because watching TV with Peter was worse than losing a fight. At least he enjoyed fighting, losing or not.

Of course, Peter wouldn't allow him to get away. After he was done bothering Charles about rejoining the council, Peter would hunt down Logan and force him to hang out and watch TV.

This got to a point where a sort of friendship formed between the two.

"He has to be the father." Logan says as he and Peter watch another episode of Jerry Springer.

"No, look at the baby's eyes. Neither of the parents has blue eyes. It's not his." Peter points out with a shake of his head.

"Look at the nose, you idiot! They're exactly the same." Logan yells and gestures to the TV with his free hand.

By this point, Peter didn't need to tie Wolverine up in order to watch TV anymore. He would still have to find him, but after that, Logan would 'reluctantly' come to hang out.

"In the case of baby Stacy. Nick, you are... NOT the father!" The host of the show announced, causing Peter to smirk victoriously in Logan's direction.

"Told you..."

-Flashback End-

Peter didn't expect to become friends with Wolverine, as their past meetings have been filled with nothing but fights. At some point, Peter thought that this world's Logan was a lot more animalistic than his movie counterpart, but that wasn't the case.

They just seemed to have a bad first encounter, which devolved into a grudge that Logan formed against him. Peter didn't help either as he goaded Wolverine on during almost every encounter.

Back to the Avengers, Peter delayed their first meeting until Charles returned. When he finally did return, they mainly talked about future plans and recruits.

Those future plans unfolded in the many months that passed since then.

The Avengers tower was renovated and the bottom half was allocated toward Stark Industries, while the top half became the official headquarters of the Avengers.

Since they were a fairly small organization, they didn't bother expanding further than the Avengers tower. At least for now.

The Avengers Headquarters has a bunch of sections that were perfectly planned out by Peter and Tony.

First, there are the apartments that take up multiple floors. These apartments are about normal size but they come with the latest in home tech, design, and a view that anyone would pay millions for in this city.

The apartments are for those that join the Avengers and are either visiting from out of town or simply have no home of their own. Though after the first-months paycheck, any Avenger could easily afford to rent a high-end apartment.

They're also for the future Avengers that come to America for training. They would be given an apartment for the duration of that training before heading back to their home country upon completion.

Every council member currently has their own penthouse apartment as well, so they could come live in the tower whenever they wanted to.

However, the only one to move in beside Tony was Magneto. Fury was all over the place with his Shield duties. Peter has Aunt May to live with and a secret identity to keep and Charles had a school to run.

Other than the Apartments, the tower has a giant cafeteria with some very well-trained and accomplished chefs running the show. Only the best for Tony Stark after all.

Then we have some meeting rooms followed by the Council room where the Avengers council has their important assemblies.

Followed by that is the training floors. Since Peter emphasizes how important it would be to properly train their members before allowing them into the field, Tony took that seriously and went all out when purchasing training equipment and allocating space.

Tony made sure to add some fun and leisure areas as well. The Avengers have their own bowling alley, basketball quarter, Olympic swimming pool, game rooms, and more.

Since all of this would have to be maintained, Tony and Peter spent some spare time creating specific robots to clean and fix things should they be needed.

An army of Roomba-like machines to both vacuum, mop, and polish the floors. Self-cleaning windows, sort of like how windshield wipers on cars work, but far more effective and complicated.

If it needed cleaning, Peter and Tony found the perfect robot or machine to get the job done. They did this to avoid the need for a staff of employees to maintain everything, as at least 1% of that staff would most definitely be there to spy on them.

As the tower was being renovated, Fury brought in the two Shield Agents that he talked about wanting in the Avengers.

Those being Natasha and Clint Barton, also known as Hawkeye. These were some of the few members of Shield that Fury still trusted, and he wanted to keep them close by.

During their first appearance together, Tony had a rude awakening.

-Flashback-

"You can't be serious..." Tony mutters in dread.

"I'm afraid that training is mandatory for all Avengers that want to do field work." Peter says, getting a nod from every council member in the room.

"Don't worry." A handsome white man with brown hair and eyes says with a disarming smile. "I'll go easy on you... at first."

He stands next to Natasha with black combat clothes and a bow and arrow draped over his shoulder.

[Insert picture of MCU Hawkeye here]

Clinton Barton is an extremely skilled marksman and a special agent of Shield. He's known for his use of the bow and arrow as his primary weapon and an extremely keen eyesight and accuracy that earned him the codename Hawkeye,

"Why am I the only one getting forced to do this? What about you guys!" Tony points the finger at his fellow council members.

"Well, I'm already being trained by Natasha here." Peter says as he gestures toward his beautiful trainer. "As for the rest, Fury has more training than he needs and the other two are a bit old for combat training. Charles can't even walk after all."

Tony couldn't find a single word to argue against Peter's logic, so he just stood there brooding about his impending muscle ache.

"Don't bother using your Iron Man suit as an excuse either." Peter says, not giving Tony a single inch to form an argument. "Without it, you're nothing but a smart walking meat bag. You need to know how to defend yourself without the suit just in case."

"Yeah, don't worry. It won't be that bad." Clint says with an excited look on his face.

He gets to train the famous Tony Stark personally so Clint was looking forward to seeing the spoiled billionaire go through his hellish boot camp.

"Web-head, I don't like the look on his face..." Tony says as a frightening shiver runs down his spine.

"Eh, you'll be fine."

-Flashback End-

Tony hated every minute of his training in the beginning, as he never worked out to this degree before, so the soreness and combat injuries were truly excruciating.

After a couple of weeks, Tony started getting used to the new addition to his schedule and the soreness wasn't as bad as it was at the start.

He didn't love the training and he probably never would, but Tony could get through it without constantly whining about everything now.

Luckily for him, Tony has no superpower that needs training, so he only had to learn martial arts and a few other skills before his time with Hawkeye came to an end.

Although the other council members were excused from the physical training, they were not excused from the learning portion of that training.

Each member of the Avengers, new or old, is given a sort of rule book, outlining how they should handle most situations. They don't have to follow every rule perfectly, as each situation would branch off into infinite possibilities.

The book mainly mentions the need for preservation of life, protection of innocent civilians, teamwork, public image, and much more.

Peter wanted to be sure that everyone understood as some people needed these obvious things outlined for them.

#### Chapter 75: Recap 2 Electric Boogaloo

Once the Avengers Tower was fully renovated, the Council started its first round of recruitment.

Sadly, the only person on Fury's list of people to recruit that they didn't already know about is Bruce Banner, also known as the Hulk.

Thor hasn't been banished to Earth yet. Captain Marvel is off-planet most likely fighting the Kree. Captain America hasn't been found in the ice yet.

Though that should be happening soon.

Scarlet Witch and her brother Quicksilver haven't unlocked their powers yet. Vision hasn't been built yet. Ant-Man, Falcon, and War Machine haven't received the tech that makes them into heroes either.

Thankfully, the X-men exist in this world as well, or the Avengers wouldn't have much to recruit from this early on.

Saving Hulk for later, as Bruce Banner's alter ego would be hard to deal with, they all decide to start with meta-humans instead.

They first started with the teachers at Xavier's school, as they were the easiest to deal with. Wolverine, Nightcrawler, and Storm were all brought in and put on the payroll.

Though that wasn't all. Peter met someone that he didn't encounter during his many trips to Xavier's school.

-Flashback-

As the members of the X-men were arriving at a meeting room in Avengers Tower for the first time, Peter noticed another blue animalistic man besides Nightcrawler.

The new meta-human looked like a big blue hairy gorilla. Of course, he was clothed in a normal human outfit and even had glasses, which made him look like a gorilla that someone stole from the zoo, painted blue, and dressed up in nice clothes.

[Insert picture of Dr. Henry McCoy or Beast here]

"Who this? I thought that I met everyone from your school." Peter asks Charles, who sat with all of the other council members around Peter.

"This is Doctor Henry McCoy but we like to call him Beast. He's in my humble opinion, one of the smartest people in the world and has six PhDs, including one in biophysics, and happens to be a world-renowned biochemist. Making him a leading expert in the X-gene, far superior to even me." Charles introduces the man, who became a bit self-conscious due to the attention suddenly being shifted on himself.

As a founding member of the X-Men, the intelligently gifted Dr. Henry "Hank" McCoy has been fighting for the peaceful coexistence between mutants and humans for most of his life. Born with a physique, strength, and muscular structure greatly resembling an ape, giving him the nickname Beast.

"The reason you haven't seen him until now is that Hank here practically lives in his lab. If we didn't deliver him food every day, he'd probably starve to death before coming out." Charles explains with a laugh.

"Hey, I'm not that bad!" Henry says with a deep British accent.

"..." Every member of the X-men looked toward Beast with a look that said 'Yeah... right', causing Henry to scratch his hairy neck embarrassedly.

-Flashback End-

Beast wasn't the only new face that Peter met during the recruitment process for the Avengers.

After taking in the X-men, who were pleasantly surprised by the new paycheck they would be receiving every month from now on, and scheduling their training, the next group of meta-humans was a bit more unruly than the last.

-Flashback-

On the day after the X-men signed their contracts and were accepted into the Avengers, the Council welcomed the members of the former Brotherhood of Mutants as well.

Magneto threw away that name after Peter introduced the meta-human name into the world. At first, he didn't know what to rename themselves, but that problem disappeared with his appointment to the Avengers Council.

Now he can just say that they're Avengers.

As every subordinate of Magneto strolled into the meeting room, they all looked like the typical villains they were once meant to be.



'They're gonna need a higher level of training than the rest will get. I have a feeling that the rule book won't be enough for this group...' Peter thought as he watched what appeared to be a group of delinquents enter the room.

The other members of the council had these thoughts as well. Charles was especially doubtful about having them join the Avengers.

Though he did smile warmly upon seeing a certain blue woman with orange hair.

Six people walked into the room and Peter only recognized two of them. Those being Mystique and Sabertooth. The other four happened to be a group of young teenagers that were probably around the age of Cyclops.

One was a green and slimy-looking kid, who saw a fly in the room and caught it with his extremely long tongue, eating it in front of everyone without an ounce of shame.

[Insert picture of Toad here]

As his name implies, Toad possesses almost all of the traits and abilities of a common toad, most notably his superhuman jumping and leaping abilities.

Next was a big obese-looking boy that seemed to have been overfed for every waking moment of his life.

[Insert picture of Blob here]

Blob's mutant physiology grants him several abilities, such as incredible superhuman strength, endurance, and invulnerability.

After that was a dark-haired kid dressed in all black with a scowl on his face. He certainly gives off a very edgy vibe.

[Insert picture of Avalanche here]

Avalanche has the power to generate powerful seismic waves from his hands, which he can use to highly destructive effects. These seismic waves can cause any form of inorganic matter to shatter or crumble to dust.

Lastly is a blonde kid with a cocky smile plastered on his smug little face. He eyed all of the flammable items in the room with an almost manic look on his face.

[Insert picture of Pyro here]

Pyro is a mutant with the psionic ability to manipulate fire to increase or decrease its size, intensity, and heat. He can then control and mold that fire to take on any form he can imagine, even living creatures.

"What are we doing here!" The edgy teenager amongst the group speaks up first.

"Yeah, I have games to play..." The fatty spoke next.

"Can I burn this place, boss?" Lastly, the pyromaniac of the group speaks and takes out a lighter from his pocket.

The green boy just stood behind them and continued eyeing every inch of the room for any more flies or other bugs to eat.

"As I've explained multiple times already, you're here to join the Avengers. The new group I've taken a leadership role in. If you listened to the last five times I've told you this, then you'd know." Erik was already fed up with these unruly kids.

"Sigh, this is worse than I thought..." Peter mutters and gets nods of agreement from everyone in the room beside the kids, Magneto, and Sabertooth, who just didn't care.

Shooting a web at the fire happy kid, Peter snatches the lighter before the tower was set on fire.

"Hey! That's mine!" The angry blonde kid yells.

"Well, it's mine now. You're far too young to be allowed something like this." Peter says as he puts the lighter aside. "Now, please be quiet while the adults are speaking."

None of the teenagers liked hearing this and sent dagger-like glares in Spider-Man's direction as if Peter isn't only a few years older than them.

Though no one in the room knows that.

"Erik, we can't have children joining the Avengers," Peter says what everyone else was thinking.

"Yeah, they can join when they're older but maybe a psyche evaluation will be needed as well..." Tony whispered the last part so the kids couldn't hear what he said.

"I agree, these children need to be in school, not whatever you've had them doing, Erik." Charles sends a disapproving look toward his former rival.

"..." Erik was speechless as he didn't think of this.

He treated every member of the former Brotherhood of Mutants as subordinates no matter what the age, but now that he saw Charles' reaction, maybe he was going about things a bit mistakenly.

"I agree, which is why they will be enrolled in Xavier's school." Peter says and gets a nod of agreement from the man himself.

"I'll gladly take them." Charles says.

"You want us to go to school?!" The pyromaniac of the bunch yells questioningly. "F\*ck that!"

He was already p\*ssed off about his lighter getting taken away, so this just launched him over the edge. After all, he can't start a fire with his ability and needs his lighter for that very reason.

The other children were going to join in but they all noticed a very threatening glare coming from the man that they fear more than anyone else, Magneto.

Each of them was rescued from different facilities that exploited them for their mutations, but they all had something in common.

The last day in those facilities was accompanied by agonising screams and the blood and guts of every person that held them captive. All of this was done with ease by the man himself, Magneto.

Even the loudmouth Pyro shut his mouth and hid behind Blob's huge form upon seeing Eriks displeased face.

"Uh... We'll go to school, sir." Avalanche spoke for the group that was cowering from their leader's pointed glare.

"Good, then that's settled."

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After that day, it was decided that all meta-human children that didn't already have loving and supportive families would be relocated to Xavier's school. Those that did have families who cared for and wanted them needed more finesse.

Charles would have to visit the parents or guardians and try to enroll them just as any other boarding school.

Speaking of Xavier's school, the United Nations agreed to fund them, but sadly, didn't agree to allow children from their countries to attend said school.

Why would they?

After all, each meta-human child will be a goose that lays golden eggs for their respective country. They would be idiots to send them all to America without at least instilling some national pride in them first.

Charles was definitely bummed out about this, but as the Avengers gain more notoriety and power, maybe something can be done to guarantee these children's safety.

Who knows what the future holds?

## Chapter 76: Hand Recap

Although Charles wasn't allowed to recruit for his school in foreign countries, the American Government happily encouraged him to do so within their borders.

When both groups of meta-humans were getting settled into their Avengers training, Peter and the rest of the council started the second half of recruitment, if you could even call it that.

That being the enrollment campaign for Xavier's School.

Ever since the UN meetings in Japan came to an end, the contents of those meetings became public knowledge, so everyone now knew about meta-humans and the start of the Avengers.

Peter's video with the interview showcasing Charles, Kurt, and Scott's stories and powers certainly helped spread the word as well.

They could have gone a more Shield-like route when it came to forming the Avengers, hiding it away from the world, and acting in the shadows, but that just sounded like a lot of work for no good reason.

The Avengers would be found out anyways, so why hide it?

All of the fans of Spider-Man were a buzz with excitement after finding out that he would be starting a superhero organization.

Every news channels had the best month of their lives. When they run stories about Spider-Man or Iron Man, ratings would go through the roof. Big Spider-Man news and information about new super-powered people entering the world brought them hundreds of millions of views in only days.

While the news was at its peak at this time, Peter released a YouTube video alongside Professor Xavier regarding his school.

-Flashback-

"Hello, everyone," Peter says to the camera with a casual wave.

He and Charles were in the backyard of the school. In the background of the two, the camera recorded happy meta-human children playing on jungle gyms, slides, swings, etc.

"This is Professor Charles Xavier." Peter motions toward Charles and continues speaking. "You all know him from the last video I put out. What you don't know, however, is that Charles here is a high-level member of the Avengers. An organization built by me and few others to protect the world in times of need."

"Hello," Charles says, not knowing what else to say.

"I've brought him in again because this school is open for enrollment to all Meta-human children. I'll let him talk about that." Peter shuts his mouth and lets Charles do the rest of the talking.

Charles went through all of the normal talking points as to why these children need to attend his school, but the main focus was safety.

Safety for the child and those around them. Any child that unlocks their X-gene doesn't know how to control that power yet. They could easily hurt themselves, their parents, friends, pets, teachers, and the list goes on and on.

The fact that it was completely free enroll was probably fairly tempting as well.

Though his main selling point was that he and the teachers of the school know from experience what it's like to wake up one day with crazy powers. They've been through it all before and can guide the students through the transition process.

"...We're not trying to take your children from you. This is just like a normal boarding school. They would return on holidays and summer breaks and can contact you at any time. We just want to help." Charles says with the utmost sincerity.

"Speaking of that." Peter finally speaks. "Tony Stark happens to be another high-level member of the Avengers, so we're very well funded. I've spoken with him and we're currently planning to build an apartment complex close to the school for parents. Once your child has a good grasp of their

powers, you can move into an apartment and your child can live with you instead of the school dorms."

Charles nodded in agreement alongside Peter and they both closed out the video. Peter would upload it the next day.

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After that video went out, the large majority of people supported the idea while some had other things to say.

"...Spider-Man is STEALING our children!"

J. Jonah Jameson was certainly the leader of every anti-Spider-Man campaign that has ever existed, so why not jump on this too? What's sad, is the fact that he has even been saying some anti-meta-human speech lately as well.

"...How do we know that these Mutants, because that's what they were called before Spider-Man came along, aren't some alien race sent here to take over our planet?"

Peter got a pretty good laugh out of that one, but it doesn't help that he and all of his followers now exclusively refer to meta-humans as Mutants.

Moving on from the crazy clout chaser, Charles was invited on multiple news broadcasts after the video went out. He didn't want to attend all of them, but the publicity for his school was too tempting.

In the months after these interviews, Xavier's School would welcome almost fifty new students ranging from ages 7-15. Many of these children's parents were waiting for the apartment building to be built, so they could be closer to their kids. Some of the more wealthy families simply bought a house in the area and moved in, waiting for their sons or daughters to control their powers so they can live together.

Everyone, especially Charles, was more than happy with how this portion of the recruitment went. The majority of the public also seemed to favor meta-humans, though that didn't mean they didn't have any opposition.

Religious groups, racist groups, and other organizations such as the Friends of Humanity began to rear their ugly heads. Luckily, Peter's interference has caused these groups to not have as much influence as they would have had originally.

Tony has these groups on a watch list that Jarvis overlooks, so the Avengers will step in if they try anything funny.

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While all of this was going on, Peter was dealing with his newly acquired ancient ninja clan, the Hand.

Scythe, the person Peter put in charge, constantly supplied him with information through texts, calls, and face-to-face meetings when Peter had the time.

Firstly, some people in the Hand didn't like this new leadership coming out of nowhere and the rules that came with it.

They didn't believe in the Black Sky or didn't believe that Peter was the Black Sky, so before these people could cause trouble or leave the Hand, Peter had Scythe arrange a death match between himself and every person that wished to oust him.

1 vs. 1000. Peter would fight however many showed up at the same time. They could use any weapons as well.

Once it was set up, Peter arrived at a very large dojo and found around 600 ninjas, give or take, waiting with weapons ready. Surrounding these ninjas were those that wanted to watch the spectacle, either rooting for the Black Sky or the hundreds of deadly ninjas.

Shocking everyone in attendance, Peter slaughtered all of them mercilessly. He knew that people like this would cause trouble later on if he kept them alive and wanted to make a statement as well.

That statement was extremely clear to those watching the blood, guts, and screams fill the air.



'The Black Sky doesn't like people questioning him.'

Once every ninja that Peter faced was dead on the ground, he turns to the crowd that surround him.

"This is a new Hand!" Peter shouts without an ounce of blood on his blacked-out suit. "The sooner you understand that, the better..."

As Peter finished speaking, each ninja fell to a knee and bowed in his direction.

"Good, because things are going to change a lot from now on."

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That change happened fairly quickly, using Scythe as his conduit, Peter made many changes to the Hand, remaking them into something almost unrecognizable to their former selves.

First, the Hand had a money problem.

Without their illegal businesses keeping them afloat, the Hand was too large to coast by on the money they had stashed away. Seeing this problem early on, Peter instructed Scythe to sell everything except land and priceless items, like Dragon Bones.

Once the Hand sold everything away, Peter instructed them to buy Stark Industries Stock as well as a few others, but that wasn't all. Peter also had them short sell some stock from companies he knew would have a hard time in the future, like Hammer Industries.

Short selling is pretty much betting against a stock, so the worse that company's stock does, the more money the Hand would make. It's complicated but even the Hand has a few ninjas that handle stock market transactions so Peter and Scythe just left it to them.

Seeing as it would take a while for these investments to bare fruit, Peter started another of his plans for the Hand a bit earlier than he expected.

In each major city around the world, Peter placed cells of Hand ninja. These ninjas would gather information on every major criminal organization and launch an attack on them, stealing their money and leaving them for the police to find.

Of course, Peter has already sent notices to all Hand ninjas that killing was prohibited unless the person met certain criteria. He had Scythe place some trusted ninja in charge of every city that way he knows if they follow the new rules or not.

Within months, the Hand got a huge injection of funds from drug dealers, arms dealers, gang members, and all forms of criminals.

A portion of this money was saved for expenses, but most of it was invested for future profit.

Of course, these groups of ninjas in every major city didn't leave after completing this mission. No, they stayed behind to fight crime as vigilantes just as Peter explained to the Chaste.

## Chapter 77: Dragon Bones & Elixer

With Red garbed ninjas appearing in every major city around the world, the news picked up on this fairly quickly and began broadcasting any information they could gather.

That information being groups of ninjas that patrol the streets, stopping crime and saving those in need. The whole world was divided on their opinion of this new group of vigilantes.

Some loved them and others hated them. A few cities mobilized their entire police force trying to catch them but the Hand is just too skilled and slippery to be caught by some undertrained police officers.

It certainly didn't help that the Hand isn't afraid to kill the more hardcore and unredeemable criminals, and steal money from all of their 'victims' as well, which would only fuel the opinions of those that hated them.

Though Peter didn't mind.

He has the Hand in these cities to stop crime, not win over public support or anything of the sort. As long as his subordinates stick to the rules and do their jobs, Peter is happy.

Speaking of the rules, Peter knows that although he killed many who opposed him, there are still some in the Hand that are unhappy with the new regime so to speak.

Malik and those that followed the now deceased Sowande being one group of them.

Peter has Scythe keeping these people watched and listed down. They may not rebel as Peter thinks, but it's always best to keep a lookout. Who knows, maybe after some time passes they would come to like the new Hand.

He'll just have to wait and see.

Other than the Avengers and Hand business, nothing much has changed in Peter's personal life.

He's still dating MJ, friends with Ned, and lives with his aunt May.

MJ has been seeing her dad a lot after that Christmas night. Fury comes to visit her and her mother Grace a couple of times a month now, which they were happy about.

MJ knows that her father has a very busy and secretive job so she was just happy to see him. Their relationship improved enough in the past months to where she calls him dad and he gets a hug every time he shows up now.

Peter sees him every now and then but he usually likes to give Fury some space when he's with his family. He has all the time in the world to spend with MJ but Fury doesn't.

Not to mention the fact that Peter sees Fury a lot as Spider-Man already, so he didn't need to spend more time with the man. Especially since Fury doesn't exactly like Peter as he's dating the his daughter.

'When he finds out that it's actually Spider-Man that's dating his daughter, I wonder how he'll react?' Peter thought.

As for Ned, he's still working on that video game that he started making shortly after they released Candy Crush. Peter offered to help multiple times, but Ned refuses to allow anyone to even look at it, as he wants it to be a surprise.

Peter didn't mind not being involved. He was busy with the Avengers and the Hand anyway.

May was the same as always. She still worked part-time at the hospital, thanks to the millions Peter is now making from Parker Games.

Something big that happened to May and Peter was moving out of their old apartment. Their landlord saw the news clips about Peter making Candy Crush and being the sleazy man that he and many landlords are, he raised the rent by almost double, which is illegal by the way.

May was the first to find out and freaked out, cursing the man's name for hours. When Peter found out as well, he just shrugged and said 'why don't we just move?' And so they did.

May found a nice house nearby for a bit less than a million dollars. They bought it after some inspections and moved in a month later. They had to wait about a month for a couple of repairs and redesigns to be completed.

If they were going to have their own house it had to be perfect. Especially since they now had the money to make it that way.

Their old landlord was swiftly reported to the police after the move. If he would do this now, he has likely done it before, so the police simply asked the residents of the building and found multiple cases of this happening.

The landlord was arrested shortly after their move, which was good news for all of the other residents.

Peter's spare time after the move was mainly spent on building his A.I. and studying the Dragon Bones and resurrection elixir that the Hand had stashed away.

He made sure to have Scythe gather all of the bones and Elixir the Hand had, not trusting it in the hands of others.

The A.I. was something Peter started working on before the United Nations meetings started. Peter has high requirements for his Artificial Intelligence so it's going to take longer than a few months to finish making it.

Peter wants his A.I. to not only help him with his company, heroic duties, and side projects but also watch over and assist the Avengers and the Hand. As a watchful eye, keeping Peter informed about any wrongdoings, as well as a way to assist both separate organizations during their duties as well.

There are so many ideas and expectations in Peter's mind when it comes to this A.I., like the ability to access millions of cameras around the world and use that to report crimes, but making something with that kind of power will take time.

As for the Dragon Bones and Elixir, Peter found that he was out of his depth when he received them. When studying the bones, all he saw was an old dinosaur-looking bone. He could feel some energy in them, which he thought was probably Chi, but no technology that he had access to was useful when it came to mystical energies.

Using modern science and technology, Peter found that these bones were old and fossilized. Other than that he couldn't study the energy inside them, so he went to Kamar Taj to find a solution.

Peter had a similar problem when it came to the Resurrection Elixir as well. The black substance had large amounts of the same energy the bones had, but none of his equipment could get a read on it. All he found out was that it was a mixture of fossilized bone dust and human blood.

Looking at the manufacturing process that Scythe gave him, Peter confirmed his findings. The Hand would use both the bones of Dragons as well as human blood to make the black liquid that would keep their former leaders alive.

They would often force human subjects to provide most if not all of their blood reserves to create the substance, killing them in the process. The combination of the two elements was done so in almost a ritualistic manner, which Peter wasn't sure was necessary.

Peter didn't plan on kidnapping and sacrificing people for more power, so he would need to figure out a way to alter the recipe so to speak.

Yeah, he could get unlimited longevity, an upgrade in his powers, and the means to return from death, but at what cost? He wouldn't sacrifice his morals for something so little. Especially when Peter could use the Mystic Arts to alter and maybe even enhance the Elixir.

When he returned to Kamar Taj for help with his studies into the Dragon bones and Elixir, Peter was once again told that the Ancient One was busy.

Ever since he brought up her possibly joining the Avengers, the Ancient One became distant all of the sudden. He knew that she was torn between the plan she formed for her future with the Time Stone's help, or saying 'f\*ck it' and joining Peter to change everything.

Peter would give her some time to think before confronting her about it again.

Seeing that she was hiding from him, Peter went to the library and started researching Chi and mystical ways to study objects and substances.

Chi is a mystical form of energy that is present in every life form. From insects and fish to brainless animals and humans. Anything that is alive has Chi. Some ancient groups with mystical knowledge have learned how to channel chi, using it for both therapeutic and martial arts purposes. As a weapon, chi is capable of generating an internal force that removes the need for charging momentum into attacks.

Although Chi is mainly an internal energy, it can be used externally if you have enough reserves to wield outside of the body. A good example of this would be the iron fist, Danny Rand, and any other that came before him.

With the Chi boost from completing the Trial of Shou-Lao, the mythical dragon of K'un-Lun, and the origin of the Iron Fists power, Danny would have so much Chi that he could use it externally for things such as healing others and the generic Chi blasts.

Sadly, the 5 founders of the Hand are nothing but dust, so Peter would have to learn how to manipulate Chi from the books in Kamar Taj.

After looking for a while, Peter found a few practice techniques for using Chi and a handful of spells that can be used to scan items. He even found one spell that breaks things down to their base ingredients.

If he were to use this spell on the Elixir, the bone dust and blood should separate from one another but he would have to test it to find out.

## Chapter 78: Green Arc Begins

Every spell he found in the library of Kamar-Taj was helpful, but sadly, Peter hasn't had enough time to alter the Resurrection Elixir to his liking.

Though that doesn't mean that Peter didn't figure some things out about the Elixir. In fact, he knows everything about it now.

With the help of the spells that could scan things magically, Peter could finally get a read on what the Dragon Bones supply to the blood that somehow gives the resurrection Elixir all of its amazing properties.

After using the spells on the Dragon Bones and Resurrection Elixir, he knew way more than what today's technology could tell him.

First, the Dragon Bones not only have the overwhelming amount of Chi left behind from the dragons they once belonged to, but also a small portion of their life force.

Dragons could live for thousand and thousands of years, so it stands to reason that an Elixir with their bones as the main ingredient would give effects such as resurrection and unlimited longevity, though that longevity would run out after a while if the Elixir isn't taken every few hundred years or so.

The physical enhancement that's seen in those that take the Elixir can also be explained now.

Dragons are naturally far stronger than humans, so a very minuscule amount of that power is being transferred from the bones as well.

'If I had some muscles or other parts of a dragon, then I could probably make the strength enhancement far stronger...' Peter thought, but sadly all dragons are long dead beside Shou-Lao in K'un-Lun.

Though Peter would never go and kill such a majestic creature, especially since he's that last of his kind. Maybe some bartering can be done later down the line?

'I could offer him something and get some blood in exchange? That should be enough to boost the Elixirs properties by a lot.' Peter thought hopefully.

The fossilized bones of a dragon simply mixed with blood could already do so much. Peter was excited to see what the blood from a living dragon could do instead of human blood.

His chances are slim but he could always try. Being the leader of K'un-Lun's biggest enemy, the Hand, certainly won't help his chances, but he could always visit as Spider-Man instead. There should be no line connecting the Hand to Spider-Man after all.

Unless someone from the Hand has loose lips, but he can always worry about that if and when it happens. Until then, Peter can only do his best to keep it quiet.

After testing the bones, Peter moved on to the already created Elixir. Once that was tested, Peter found something odd, to say the least.

The Elixir contained everything the bones and normal human blood would have, but it also contained human life force, which proved Peter wrong about the ritual.

He thought that the ritual to create the Elixir was just some old-fashioned tradition or something but it seems to have a purpose.

That is to extract some of the life energy from those who 'give' their blood for the ritual.

Peter would have never found anything like this without his Mystic Arts powers.

In order to figure this out, Peter went over the ritual that the Hand used and found no runes, spell circles, or other markings that could explain this.

They simply had their walking blood bags restrained and slowly bled them into something that held the ground up dragon bone dust. Other than mixing it every so often, Peter didn't see anything that explained the life force being present in the blood.

Upon running some tests, Peter found what was happening.



Using the other spell he found, Peter was able to separate the Elixir into two parts. The blood and bone dust.

Upon scanning each of them separately, Peter found that both ingredients contained exactly what they were supposed to, but that changed in a matter of minutes.

Testing both ingredients again after 10 minutes time, Peter found none of the human life force left in the blood whatsoever. It was all gone.

Finding this odd, Peter tested a small amount of his own freshly extracted blood.

His fresh blood had a very high level of life force in it. Far more than the blood he tested earlier, but that's probably because of his enhancements compared to normal human.

After waiting another ten minutes, the amount of life force in his blood sample halved. Better than normal human blood but still a lot for only 10 minutes.

Why was this?

Well, Peter concluded that all living creatures have life force in their blood, bones, organs, etc. but that life force dissipates over time after these things disconnect from the body.

This probably happens to dragons as well, but they have so much life force that it takes far longer for it to dissipate, or maybe the bones hold life energy better than blood?

Peter wasn't taking out his bones to test that theory though. He could look into it in another way and at another time.

This does make sense for the Hands ritual though.

They needed the blood to be fresh when it was mixed with the dragon bone dust. The human life force in the blood seems to stick around after mixing with the dragon life force in the bone dust. Peter doesn't know why but the two seem to reinforce each other in a way.

'Maybe a mix of dragon blood and human blood with the bone dust would be better than using just dragon blood...' Peter thought as he planned to enhance the Elixir before taking it himself. 'My blood seems to have far more life force than a normal human so I should use mine somehow...'

Peter could also give this enhancement to his loved ones as well. They would be better equipped to protect themselves, which would lift a huge weight from Peter's shoulders.

They may have the protections he gave them but it's better to be safe than sorry.

He would just have to make sure the Elixir is 100% safe before even bringing it up to anyone, especially MJ. She's would be impatient and want the Elixir as soon as possible.

Peter knew that she wants to help him, but he would only allow that if she was safe about it.

As for Ned, he would be happy to get a power-up for sure. May on the other hand wouldn't really care much. She hasn't shown any signs of wanting any power up, unlike Ned and MJ.

Once Peter knew how the Elixir worked, he ran a few more tests but didn't find a way to enhance the Elixir without a new ingredient.

With the power to separate the ingredients back to their base form, Peter could constantly test the dragon bones and blood without fear of running out, but soon enough the blood ran out of life energy.

Though he didn't use all of the Elixir for his tests, as he wanted to keep some for emergencies.

It's not like he had to use anymore anyway.

Peter knew exactly how the Elixir was made and worked by this point. He only needed to find a way to enhance it.

Using his own blood was his best bet.

Sadly, the ritual needs a lot of blood.

When you take the Elixir, it's not a drink, lotion, or whatever. No, you're unconscious and submerged in the black substance for a long period of time. Therefore a huge amount of blood is needed for every batch.

Peter may be enhanced, but losing that amount of blood in one sitting would kill him long before the Elixir was finished.

Thinking that he could make it in small batches, Peter tried mixing a small amount of his freshly extracted blood with a small pinch of bone dust, but that didn't work as he hoped it would.

Even to this very day, he didn't know why this was the case. It should have worked yet it didn't.

Peter's only guess was that the mixture needs to be done in large batches for some reason. Possibly because only a portion of a dragon bone won't do the trick and the whole thing is needed?

He has no idea, but that was the best answer.

'Maybe I can use the Mystic Arts to solve this?' Peter thought as he saw the time.

It was almost morning and he had his first day as a sophomore in high school tomorrow. Packing away everything safely, Peter hopped into bed and called it a night.

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Near the landing strip of a military airfield, two men can be seen discussing something. One of them is a blonde man with blue eyes dressed in military garb. He seemed to be in his 50s, and from the markings on his clothes, a very high-ranking man in the military.

[Insert picture of Lieutenant General Thaddeus E. "Thunderbolt" Ross]

The man standing a cross from General Ross was a dark-skinned bald man with even more markings on his military clothing.

[Insert picture of four-star General Joseph "Joe" Greller here]

"I got you who I could. Short notice, but they're all quality. I pulled you one ace though. Emil Blonsky. Born in Russia, raised in England, and on loan to SOCOM from the Royal Marines." Greller says as he hands over a file.

"I know you cashed in some chips for this, Joe. Thank you." Ross says as he accepts the file.

"Glad I could help but this scientist better be as good as you say." Greller says as he walks off.

Seeing the higher-ranked General off, Ross' face squints in discomfort for just a moment. He lied to his superior about the purpose of this mission and felt bad about it.

Pushing those feelings away and steeling his resolve, Ross walks over to a waiting military plane, which soon takes off with him aboard.

-Hours Later-

"This is the target and the location. Snatch and grab, live capture. You'll have your dart clips and suppression ordnance, but live fire is for backup only. We got locals out there, but we want it tight and quiet." A soldier on board the plane says as he hands out photos of a man in a white lab coat.

[Insert picture of Bruce Banner here]

"Is he a fighter?" An experienced soldier with brown slicked back hair asks as he accepts the photo.

[Insert picture of Emil Blonsky here]

"Your target is a fugitive from the US government who stole military secrets. He is also implicated in the deaths of two scientists, a military officer, an Idaho state trooper, and possibly two Canadian hunters. So don't wait to see if he's a fighter! Tranq him and bring him back." General Ross says as the plane begins to land.

## Chapter 79: Hulk

Dressing nicely for his first day of school, Peter ate breakfast with May in the kitchen of their new house before heading off to school.

Although he's a fairly wealthy person now, Peter still takes the subway to school every day. He's used to it and enjoys the walk by this point.

Though that doesn't mean he won't get a car sooner or later.

In fact, he has his learners permit, meaning Peter could drive a car with the supervision of someone with a license. He has been practicing for his driver's test with May every so often.

May still has her car from before they were rich and refuses to get an upgrade, so Peter has been practicing in her old Toyota Corolla.

He'll convince her to buy a new car some day.

On the subway, Peter scrolled through his phone, looking at cars that he would possibly buy upon getting his license. The more Peter looked at cars on his phone, the more he wanted to buy an old car and completely upgrade it into something almost futuristic.

He had the capabilities and the money to do so after all.

That would be more fun than buying some random sedan or SUV, and Peter would have something fun to work on in his spare time.

After looking through all of the possible cars, Peter was torn between either the 1965 Ford Mustang or the 1963 Chevrolet Corvette.

[Insert car pictures if you want 🧑🏻]

Both cars are esthetically pleasing in Peter's opinion. The engine, breaks, handling, and other specs didn't really matter to him. Whichever car he gets would be gutted and turned into a futuristic Tesla powered by magic anyway.

His choice was solely on which looked better.

While contemplating this, Peter arrived at school and strolled in with all eyes glued to his figure. Ever since Candy Crush became one of the most popular mobile games all around the world, Peter's status in school has risen dramatically.

Before, Peter was a sort of loner that would be bullied, but now he's considered one of the 'popular' kids. Though that doesn't mean he hangs around anyone other than MJ and Ned, so he's still a bit of a loner.

A popular loner.

The fact that Peter would give out free in-game currency to the people in his school probably helped his rise.

Even the teachers and staff of the school looked at him differently now. After all, he gets perfect grades and makes enough money for his schooling to be pointless at this point.

Though Peter enjoys school as it gives him time to spend with MJ and Ned, so he wouldn't drop out or skip grades.

As for being popular now, he doesn't care one bit. Nothing has changed besides the way his peers treat him, which didn't bother Peter at this point in his life.

After happily spending the school day with Ned and MJ, Peter was going to invite them over to shop for cars online with him, but suddenly his phone buzzed.

Bald Pirate: Code green

As Peter checks his phone, the expression on his face morphs into that of surprise, excitement, and worry.

"Sorry, I gotta go." Peter says as he pecks MJ on the cheek and waves to Ned. "I'll explain later. Let's look at cars tomorrow."

Before either of them could reply, Peter ran off to a secluded location and portal'd to the Council room in Avengers Tower.

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After landing the plane in Brazil, General Ross and his small army of soldiers geared up and entered a small town.

"Camera." Ross orders over the radio as a soldier pushes a wire with a camera on its tip underneath a house's front door. "Here we go!"

Being the high-ranking General he is, Ross is currently outside of the town in a safe location, excitedly watching this all play out through body cameras.

Sadly for him, the General's excitement was ruined by a dog that noticed the camera and bites it.

"Get rid of the damn dog." Ross orders in annoyance.

The soldiers retrieve the now broken camera and begin putting explosive charges around the door.

"Take him." Ross orders and the charges blow.

**\*Boom!\***

The soldiers, who are being led by Blonsky, enter the house. They shoot tranquilizer darts at a small bed, only to find that it was empty with just a pillow and another blanket underneath.

"Target's on the move." Blonsky calls out over the radio as he shoots a dart at the poor dog that wouldn't stop barking at them.

"Where is he?" The General asks over the radio.

"He's on the ground." Blonsky replies as he catches sight of Bruce Banner ducking into a nearby alley from the window.

"Let's go! Go! Move, move!" As the soldiers give chase, searching the entire town for their target, said target was racing through the street in a sweatshirt with the hood up, trying his best to blend into the surrounding crowd.

Sadly, Bruce is a scientist and not a spy. His movements are easily readable to a trained soldier like Blonsky, who instantly notices him.

"There he is! Go, go, go!" He says and the chase begins once again.

"Do not lose him!" General Ross eagerly says over the radio.

A messy chase ensues, where Bruce has the upper hand as he has lived in this small town for a while now. He knows all the side alleys and back doors to slip through.

Every time Banner would lose one group of soldiers, another group would catch sight of him, starting the whole chase over again and again. It certainly didn't help that his watch was beeping, signaling that his blood pressure was rising to dangerous levels.

Taking a chance, as he doesn't want to change and hurt anyone, Banner hides quickly to lower his heart rate, catching his breath before he continues running again.

After running for a while, Banner manages to lose the soldiers hunting him, but sadly that luck doesn't last long.

While running, Bruce bumped into a few local gang members and didn't have the time to apologize for such disrespect. Not that they would have let him go with a simple 'I'm sorry' anyway.

While he may have lost the soldiers, for now, Banner was currently being followed by a whole separate unsavory group.

"Where is he?" Ross calls out over the radio.

"Target acquired." Blonsky answers after seeing Banner run into an abandoned building with at least 6 men on his tail.



Bruce intended to hide here for a moment and calm down as his watch was beeping rapidly by this point, but that was soon interrupted.

"Gringo!" The lead gangster yells as he and his men enter the building.

Cornered by the tough guys that came out of nowhere, Banner was confused as they snatched his laptop from him like the criminals they are.

"Please! No! Not the computer! I need that for my research!" Bruce calls out pitifully as he's pinned up against the wall.

"Not so tough now, huh?" The leader calls out as they all start wailing on Banner.

It started with punches but soon devolved to stomping as Bruce fell to the floor, taking each hit with gritted teeth as an angry expression slowly morphed onto his face.

"Stop. Please. Me ... angry ... very bad." Banner tries to reason with them but they didn't understand, nor did they care to.

"Yeah? Well, I very bad angry too." One of them jokes as they all laugh and continue beating him.

"Oh, no. You don't understand!" Bruce says as his skin begins to turn green, shocking the gang members around him.

"What the..."

"Is he sick..."

"What's wrong with him..."

"Ewww..."

This shock didn't last long as silenced darts are shot from the windows of the building and hit each of the gang members. They all fall to the floor and pass out at the same time, but sadly, it was too late.

Banner's watch was beeping crazily by this point. As he lay on the floor covered in bruises, his BPM hits 200, causing a loud angry roar to escape his lips.

"ARGH!!!"

After the earth-shaking roar is heard, Bruce's body expands and grows into a giant muscle-bound green monster, destroying every bit of clothes he was wearing besides the pants, which turned into tight underwear that barely covered his privates.

[Insert a picture of the Hulk here]

"Anyone else seeing this?" One soldier asks in fear.

Not even bothering with the soldiers yet, the Hulk picks up the unconscious gang members one by one and throws them across the room, killing them as they impact the hard wall.

"We've got a bogey of some kind. Please advise?" A soldier asks fearfully over the radio, unsure of what to call the monster before him.

"That is the target! Use every tranq you've got! Do it now!" Ross orders without a care for his men's safety.

Following orders, as they've been trained to do, the commandos opened fire on the Hulk, only for their darts to bounce off of his skin.

Feeling his skin itch, Hulk turns to see the soldiers with weapons drawn and charges at them in anger.

"Go live! Go live! Go live!"

"Get out of the way!"

"Move!"

The commandos begin to panic as the giant green monster closes in on them.

Grabbing a soldier in his giant hand, Hulk squeezes him like a tube of toothpaste, killing him instantly and tossing him aside like a used toy.

After seeing this, the frightened commandos open fire with actual rounds, causing him to only grow angrier and stronger with every bullet that impacts his skin.

"It's behind us! Move! Move! Get him! Shoot! Shoot!"

The soldiers spread out in and around the building and try their best, but nothing seems to break through the Hulk's skin.

Seeing that bullets were of no use, Blonsky throws a grenade at the Hulk, temporarily stopping him for only a moment.

"Leave me alone." Hulk yells like an oversized and angry child.

That grenade was the last straw. With an angry grunt, Hulk rushed around the building slaughtering the many soldiers with the ease of a child playing with their dolls.

Wherever the Hulk would appear, blood and screams would soon follow close behind.

"No! No!" General Ross yelled over the radio as his men were dropping like flies.

Blonsky, being the smart and experienced soldier he is, instantly saw that this was a losing battle and scurried away, which saved his life.

The rest weren't so lucky...

Chapter 80: The Council Convenes

Walking through a portal into the Council room at the top of the Avengers Tower, Peter and Professor Xavier were met by Fury, Tony, and Magneto, who were sitting around waiting for their arrival.

Peter always has to pick up Charles for meetings like this. He is the only one that doesn't live in the city and the X-men don't have their cool jet just yet.

"Yo!" Peter calls out as the portal closes behind him and the Professor.

"Good, you're both here." Fury says as he plugs a flash drive into the table and taps a few buttons.

Instantly, a hologram appeared in the center of the table. Videos begin to play, showing body cam footage of a battle between heavily armed soldiers and a giant green monster. The massive muscle-bound green giant was decimating the soldiers with ease.

It was more of a massacre than anything else.

The soldiers were either torn apart, clobbered to death, or thrown away at speeds that would surely kill them upon impact.

Suddenly, the video froze on a close-up picture of the green monster and a window popped up next to it. This window showed a picture of Bruce Banner with a lot of text below.

"For those that don't know, this is Doctor Robert Bruce Banner. He's a renowned scientist who is highly respected for his work in biochemistry, nuclear physics, and gamma radiation." Fury starts but Peter picks up where he left off after taking a seat.

"Banner was commissioned by the United States General Thaddeus Ross to recreate the Super Soldier Serum that created Captain America. However, Ross elected not to inform Banner about what he was creating. During the experiment, Banner was exposed to dangerous levels of gamma radiation."

"As a result, the mild-mannered scientist found that when angered, provoked, or excited, his body and brain would transform into a huge, rage-fueled, primitive-minded creature known as Hulk. For five years, Banner remained on the run from the United States Army with the Hulk under control.

Though it seems that they clashed recently, based on this video." Peter says shocking Charles and Erik who knew nothing of this.

"You would be correct. Ross lied to his superior and went down to Brazil to capture Banner. As you can see that operation failed horribly, like many that involve Thaddeus." Fury throws a small dig at the Generals history.

"It sounds like you knew about this for a while. Why haven't we dealt with this yet?" Charles asks and gets a nod of agreement from Erik.

"The Hulk is a strong opponent to face and the Avengers was still new." Peter says with a shrug.

"He seemed to have the Hulk under control as well. It wasn't like he was in Brazil rampaging or something. This incident only occurred because Ross and his men tried to capture Banner." Fury clarifies.

"Should we mobilize some Avengers to take care of it?" Erik asks, thinking this was a strategy meeting to kill Banner.

"No, Banner is a future member of the Avengers." Peter puts a stop to this line of conversation.

"Why?" Charles asks confusedly. "You said it yourself. When in this state, he's a rage-fueled and primitive-minded creature. Just look at the footage. I'm not saying we have to kill the man, but recruiting someone like this seems like a liability to me."

No one could argue with Professor Xavier's words. Especially after watching the slaughter from the body cams of the soldiers so easily defeated.

"So, how should we handle this?" Tony asks with a glass of dark liquor in his hand. "Maybe sedate the guy before he can turn and bring him back for testing? With enough time I could probably come up with some type of cure."

"I say we just kill the thing, but I know none of you would agree. Well, Fury might but he's surprisingly sentimental at times..." Erik says defeatedly.

"Huh?" Fury grunts in confusion.

"How about this." Peter says with a sigh, as he knows that none of them see things his way. "I admit that Banner's power is unpredictable and possibly uncontrollable, but I believe that Hulk can be reasoned with."

Erik rolled his eyes at this, while everyone else in the room looked at Peter doubtfully. Even Fury was doubtful and it was his idea for the Hulk to be an Avenger in the first place.

Ignoring the looks from his colleagues, Peter continues speaking.

"We'll approach Banner and try our best to speak to him without the Hulk appearing. Though, if the Hulk comes out, give me time to talk to him too before we start fighting. That's all I ask." Peter says and no one had it in them to turn him down.

"Do we even know where he is now? There's no way he's still in Brazil after this." Tony asks as he gestures to the hologram.

"His current location is unknown, but we know that his last heading was north." Fury says as he presses a button and a video of the Hulk leaping off the ground and launching over a jungle plays. "I have a lot of resources looking for Banner as we speak."

"Do we know where General Ross's daughter lives?" Peter asks, confusing everyone but Fury.

"Hmm..." Tony taps the table and a holographic keyboard appears for him to use. "Betty Ross currently lives in Virginia, why?"

"Then that's where we'll find Banner." Peter says with a nod. "Fury, send Natasha and Clint to watch her. Banner will show up soon enough."

Without asking any questions, Fury took out his phone and sent out two separate text messages.

"Done." He says and stashed his phone away once again.

"Why do we believe he'll show up for this girl? Revenge against the General perhaps?" Erik asks curiously.

"No, Banner isn't the type." Fury says with a shake of the head. "They were dating before the accident that made the Hulk, so it stands to reason that there's still somewhat of an emotional attachment."

"Not only that." Peter says as he sees the doubtful looks on everyone's faces. "She also worked with him on the super soldier serum, so Betty could help him find a cure for the green guy. As a scientist, I'm positive that Banner has tirelessly spent these five years trying everything to fix himself. Her input on that would be invaluable to him."

"Okay, I'm convinced." Charles says as he and everyone else see their reasoning now. "Who should we send when he's found?"

"That's right!" Tony exclaims as he jumps to his feet excitedly. "This will be the Avenger's first real mission!"

"Did you just figure that out?" Fury mutters with a roll of his singular eye.

"Oh, shut up. This is exciting!" Tony responds with a grin.

Even Fury's snide comments couldn't bring his mood down right now.

"This seems like something that Charles would excel at." Erik says as he looks toward his old rival.

"How so?" Charles asks back.

"Can't you simply put this Hulk to sleep with your telepathy? If it truly has a primitive mind, then putting the thing to bed should be child's play for you." Magneto says as if it would be the easiest thing in the world.

"That could work, but we shouldn't count on it." Peter says, knowing it won't be that easy. "Let's call that plan B. Plan A is me speaking to Banner or Hulk. Plan C will be fighting."

"I don't think that many of the Avengers will be able to handle something like this." Tony says after a moment of thought. "Storm is the only one that comes to mind. Kurt can act as support but that's about it."

"We may have to handle this ourselves..." Erik says with a thoughtful look.

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-Chiapas Mexico-

A tired, dirty, and, disheveled Bruce Banner could be seen walking the dirty streets without any clothes whatsoever, not even shoes. Thankfully, he still had what remained of his pants, which were mangled and didn't fit anymore, holding them over his private parts.

Tired from his journey from Brazil, Banner took a seat in a crowded market with arms outstretched and his hands palmed together.

After resting for a while, most people would see him and grimace in disgust before turning their heads away, thinking that he was just a beggar.

Out of nowhere, a little boy runs over and drops a handful of pesos onto the ground in front of him. Before Banner could thank him, as everything he owned was either destroyed or left back in Brazil, the kid ran off and disappeared into the market's crowd.

With his new funds acquired, Bruce first bought himself some clothes before filling his stomach and continuing the trek toward America with a tired but determined look on his face.