



# Yezukh'ay

*a story from the Sharpheart universe*

BY CREATIVE SPARK DRAGON

# Chapter 1: Leaping into the Void



I am Yezukh'ay of the Suyen people.

Life was hard on our land. I had to be hungry a lot. Everyone did.

A big thing would come by from out in the empty. Mom called it a vessel. A smaller vessel would come out of the big one and crossed the empty to our land. A lone visitor would meet with the elders. They would not let anyone else talk to the visitor.

I would watch from a hiding spot when the visitor came by. Why were the elders so rude to the visitor? He was always so friendly and patient with them. He looked so pretty with his nice clothes. He looked like he never had to be hungry. Mom told me we would all go hungry forever without the visitor's help.

The elders and their pride. They hate outsiders. Even the one that keeps us alive. Some asked the elders if some boys could leave with the visitor. They said the boys have to return to the land like everyone else. It did not seem right. My brothers had to return to the land so early. Not many boys grew up to become elders.

One time the visitor saw me as he was leaving. He stopped and looked my way. I was scared that I was in

trouble. But he smiled at me. A big happy smile. He then looked sad and he walked away. Was he sad he could not visit with me?

I decided to do something. Next time the visitor came by I would be ready.

The vessel came back. I was not in the usual hiding spot. I was at the empty's edge.

I pulled my limbs of sticks and leaves out of the sand where I had hidden them.

I waited for the small vessel to return to the big vessel. Less likely to be caught.

It was time. I jumped from the edge out into the empty. Goodbye old life.

I fell down. I fell up. Over and over. It made me feel a little sick.

The up and down stopped. I spread out my arms and pushed forward with the limbs.

I was getting closer. It looked like the big vessel was starting to move. I pushed harder.

I was getting so tired but I was so close.

I made it! I grabbed a piece of the vessel and held on. I lost hold of the limbs.

I could barely breathe. I tried to rest there but my arms got tired. I had to let go.

There was a spot where I would be held against the vessel and not be left behind.

Ouch! I hit that spot hard. My breath was knocked out of me. But I was safe.  
I slept.

---

“Doing all right, Jalae?”

The short Suyen that just entered the pilot’s deck had a scowl that answered that question all on its own. They answered, “I don’t know, Ven. Sometimes I regret ever deciding to help those people.”

A twinge of guilt crossed their face and they continued, “If I give up on them now, though, I would have to live with knowing that I killed them all. So I’ve trapped myself into a commitment.”

Ven shook his head slowly. He asked, “They know they won’t survive without our supplies, right? And yet they are still stubborn and rude to you after all these years? Have they ever shown you any appreciation?”

Jalae scoffed and answered, “Their circle of male leaders have not, and they don’t let me talk to anyone else. The only time I felt *somebody* appreciated me was on the last visit. I saw a girl peeking out at me from behind some rocks. I did not have the chance to talk with her, but the look in her eyes was enough. I hoped to see her again this time, but she wasn’t

around. I hope she didn't get caught and punished for the crime of looking at me. It seems they would go that far, I fear.”

Ven snorted his disapproval. “That’s unfortunate. It seems so out of place, too. Every Suyen I have met was friendly and generous to a fault.”

“That has been my experience, too. But barely surviving alone out on the Voidplane can change people.”

After a mutual and moody pause, Ven turned the conversation to business. “I assume you are ready to get moving, then. Green on all stations.”

Jalae flopped a pack of paperwork on the table and commanded, “Yes, proceed onward.”

Ven, who had been stationed at the vessel’s controls during the entire conversation, pushed the main throttle control forward. A vibration and the sense of forward acceleration soon followed.

He could see the sour mood on the other’s face and let them be alone with their thoughts. He looked to the side and watched the sad little island pass by, soon to be mostly forgotten for another year.

Ven suddenly perked up. He turned and spoke with some urgency, “Jalae, something is approaching us from the landmass.”

Jalae joined Ven at the controls and pushed themselves

up on a panel to look over the side of the pilot's deck.

“Oh, good eyes, Ven. Let's see what is up.”

Jalae dropped back down, cupped their hands in front of their face, and stood still in heavy concentration.

After a few moments they dropped their arms, revealing a look of surprise on their face.

“Oh, it's that child! She's using some sort of makeshift wings to cross the void. It looks like she is trying to escape over to us. I knew there was something about her.”

Ven noticed the positive turn in Jalae's disposition. He also noticed but refrained from commenting on Jalae's subtle pulling back on the main throttle.

The two watched the small creature struggle across the span. Eventually they lost sight of her from behind the bulk of the vessel. Jalae returned their hands to their face.

They commentated for Ven, “She has made it the ship at the hangar window. She has latched on to one of the mooring rings. Oh, but I don't think for long. She seems to be losing her grip pretty quickly. She will probably wind up against the engine bridge. Yes, there she goes.”

They cringed backwards and gasped. “Ouch! She hit the bridge rather hard. Hmm, I think she knocked herself out.”

Jalae removed their hands, then pressed some buttons on the vessel's controls. A voice responded, "Machine room, Lindsay here."

"Lindsay, there is a Suyen child currently lying against the fore of the right engine bridge. I need them pulled out of there. Ven will be down to collect them."

There was the sound of confused surprise at the news followed by, "Yes, Jalae!"

Jalae pressed another button to end the communication and turned around. "Ven, please bring her up to my room. I will remain at the controls until you return. I'd go myself, but I have the feeling you will be able to carry her much more easily at the moment."

He simply nodded and made his exit.



Yezukh'ay awoke. She found herself lying on a comfortable bed. It was by far the most comfortable bed she had ever experienced. She sat up and looked about the most beautiful room she had ever witnessed. A lot of the items were unfamiliar to her, including a large shiny sphere beyond the foot of the bed. She must be on the vessel. They must have found her and brought her in while she was unconscious. After ample time to take in her surroundings, she

heard a door to the room starting to be opened. She instinctually panicked and rapidly jumped off the bed. There was enough room underneath it for her to slide under and hide.

She watched someone enter the room, though all she could see were their feet. These feet moved from the doorway over to the sphere and started to take off clothes. She inched forward to better see what they were up to. She recognized that it was indeed the visitor. Why were they getting undressed by that sphere?

As soon as the clothes were set aside on a nearby table, the visitor... jumped into the sphere?!

She crawled forward and confirmed that the other person did in fact disappear into that big shiny ball. For a few moments she remained still and simply let her breath and heartbeat slow down.

Suddenly, a strange arm, definitely not belonging to a Suyen, emerged from the sphere, followed by another. She gasped and pushed herself back. Soon two feet dropped to the floor, each with two purple clawed toes, much different than those that had entered the sphere earlier. She held her breath. The other stood there for a moment.

Then at once a face appeared before her, with two large red eyes looking right at her. She shook and



whimpered at the sight.

An alien but soothing voice called out to her, "Please come out from under there. You are in no danger, little one."

"Sorry, I was scared."

"I understand that. I think I understand why you decided to escape your island, as well. You are welcome here."

Yezukh'ay came out from her hiding place and got back on the top of the bed. She stared at the being in front of her, the first person she had encountered that was not a Suyen. The other patiently allowed her to take her time to look.

Yezukh'ay finally spoke, "I like your horn."

"Thank you. Your horns are cute, of course. Typical of a Suyen."

"Your eyes are strange, but they are also big and kind."

That comment caused a smirk and then a gentle smile to form on the listener's mouth.

The girl then added, "Oh! My name is Yezukh'ay."

The other answered, "Greetings, Yezukh'ay of the Suyen. I am a being called a Lurin. Right now I am in my 'natural' form, but as you have seen I can also take on the form of a Suyen when I visit your island. I can take on many different forms, which are called my

Aspects, by entering that ball there, my nest sphere.” Yezukh’ay seemed a bit overwhelmed at this information, but eventually asked, “What can I call you, though?”

“Oh, right. I have many names, but I am most well known as Obmunjalae, which means the Master of the Empty.”

Yuzukh’ay struggled to repeat the name, “Oh-buh-maj-uhh...”

This garnered a chuckle. She said it out slower, “Ohb-mun-jah-lay. But you can just say ‘Jalae’, Yezukh’ay. Most of the crew uses that.”

“Okay, Jalae. Uh, you can just say ‘Yezu’ for me, if you want. I am sorry I snuck on board your vessel. Are you going to return me...”

Jalae scoffed and replied, “You are not sorry. You made your case to leave your land and come on board the Obmunjalae, and I have decided to accept it. We are already well on our way away from your land and I do not plan to upset our travel schedule.”

Yezu seemed a little disoriented. Jalae realized one contributor to that and explained, “Oh. Sorry, this vessel is also called the Obmunjalae, so that does get a little confusing sometimes. Hence why you should just call me Jalae.”

“Thank you for letting me be here, Jalae.”

“You are welcome. I do expect you to earn your keep while you are on board, though. I don’t allow freeloaders on my vessel.”

“Of course, of course! I will work very hard for you. I hope I can be useful.”

Jalae could tell the girl was unsure if she *could* actually be useful. They reassured her, “Don’t worry, you’re still a kid so we won’t expect too much of you, and I’ll see to it you get all the training and education you may need to do a good job.”

“Thank you so much, Jalae. Can I hug you?”

Jalae had the look that they weren’t expecting that kind of request. But they nodded and picked up Yezu to fulfill it. They held an embrace for a while. Jalae could tell Yezu was crying a little.

Jalae eventually commented, “Um, you look... and smell like you need to bathe. And get your clothes washed,” but then after a brief look at those clothes, whispered, “Actually, brand new outfits would be a better idea.”

Jalae plopped Yezu’s feet down to the floor and asked, “Do you mind if we go the shower room next?”



Jalae placed Yezu’s clothes, which consisted only of ratty shorts and an undergarment, into a storage box.

The Suyen girl seemed utterly captivated by the device that was spraying water on her. Jalae had to smirk at how delighted Yezu was with something so mundane. She was practically dancing in there. Jalae couldn't help but join in on the giggling Yezu started producing. However, Jalae then frowned and reached a finger out, touching upon Yezu's prominently exposed ribs.

They painfully commented, "You're so malnourished, child. After this, we can get you some food. I think you're going to be shocked on how good food can taste."

Yezu replied, "Oh yes, I am getting hungry. Well, especially hungry."

She turned off the shower. After a few moments she gasped in surprise. "I am already dry! How?"

"Oh, this is a magical shower. The water only lasts a short while and then it simply disappears."

Yezu quizzically asked, "What is 'magical'?"

Jalae smiled broadly and replied, "You are going to be learning a lot here, little one."



Some time later, Jalae and Yezu entered the pilot's deck together. The man at the controls turned his head to see who had entered, then his whole body to face

and bow his head slightly towards Jalae.

Jalae then made introductions, “Yezukh’ay, this is my second in command, Vangeren. He goes by Ven most of the time though. Ven, you’ve already met Yezu in a fashion.”

The little Suyen stared upwards for a while. Ven stared back. He may have been a little surprised to see her out on the deck only wearing a towel.

Yezu finally spoke up, “Wow, he’s tall.”

Jalae interjected, “Yes, he is a Felcae and they are the tallest of the ‘mortal’ races, and you are of the shortest.”

After another pause, Yezu added, “His tail is really cute. It’s really... I don’t know what to call it.”

She made a few hand motions trying to convey the concept.

Jalae guessed, “I think ‘fluffy’ is the word you want.”

Ven gave a hard glance at Jalae and flatly said, “Did she just describe my tail as ‘fluffy’?”

This caused Jalae to crack a smile and answer back, “Oh that’s not all, she called it cute. You know my Lady Aspect would definitely agree to that assessment, Ven. Yezu, please have a little patience with him, he is not used to having children on board. And you will need to learn a new language to speak with him and the others eventually. I am the only one

here that can speak with your Suyen tongue.”  
Yezukh’ay nodded, but her eyes were fixed on Ven. She started to look fascinated but also intimidated by him and moved partially behind Jalae. Ven started to notice this and moved his attention away from her and up to Jalae.

He asked, “Did she get some food at least? She looks like she’s going to need a lot.”

“Yes. I started with something basic, just some bread and fruits. Still, by her response I think it was the most luxurious meal she ever had. She ate it so slowly, almost like she could barely handle the flavor. She got used to it, though, and ate a good sized meal in the end.”

“Good to hear. It will be good to see her well fed, too. It’s... painful to see her in her current state.”

Jalae briefly frowned, but nodded in agreement. They turned about and addressed Yezukh’ay, “I think that is enough distracting Ven from his work for now. Let’s return to my room. We need to get you measured up for new clothes. We shall leave you be, Ven.”

Ven had already shifted his attention away from the others and back to the controls. However, Yezu did catch a few swishes of that fluffy tail that seemed rather deliberate.

As they exited the pilot’s deck, Jalae turned to

Yezukh'ay and playfully asked, "So... is my tail also cute?"

Yezu snickered and replied, "Yes! It is very much a cute ball. It looks like your nest thing."

"That is true, I guess."

"Is it okay if I touch it?"

Jalae turned and countered, "I don't know, would it be okay if I touched your tail?"

Yezu thought about it for a short time before countering back, "Well, is my tail also cute?"

"That wide flat paddle of a tail? Yes, of course, just like the rest of you."

"Aww!"

Jalae smirked and returned to opening her room's door. Yezu gently placed a hand on their ball of a tail and followed them back into their room.

---

Yezukh'ay eventually showed the telltale signs that she needed to sleep. She was returned to the bed she had awoken from. This time, Jalae pulled back the covers and guided the girl under them. After getting tucked in, Yezu's face started to show a significant amount of anxiety. Jalae noticed and asked, "Is something wrong?"

Yezukh'ay replied, "Oh, it's just that I've never slept

alone. I always had mom and my aunt and sisters and cousins with me. In a bed smaller than this one. It feels so empty. Oh, but I'll work on getting used to it! You don't have to stay. I won't be a burden."

Jalae grumbled, unable to ignore the look they were getting. They went over to their nest sphere and jumped in. A few moments later they emerged as their Suyen Aspect.

They told Yezu, "I think I have enough time to stay with you until you fall asleep. Do you think me being in this form would help? Is something still wrong?"

Yezu explained, "Oh, it's just that you're a male Suyen. Male Suyen sleep alone."

"Oh. Well, I'm not really a male... but okay, never mind."

Yezu reached out and yelped in protest of Jalae starting back for the sphere. "No! You're right. That was an unfair rule anyway. Thank you for your generosity. I think it will help me adjust."

Jalae joined Yezu and allowed her to snuggle up against them. They then handed her something.

"What's this?"

"Just a little sweet bedtime snack."

"Ooh!"

Yezu greedily ate it up and gave a polite thank-you. She then asked, "Do you have another one?"



Jalae looked a little surprised at the audacious request. Yezu pleaded her case, “You said I need to eat a lot, right? Also it was really tasty.”

Jalae rolled their eyes at the Suyen smiling theatrically at them, but also handed her a second one. Yezu made a point to eat this one more slowly and appreciatively. Jalae was surprised how quickly Yezu fell asleep on them, much sooner than they had allotted for on their time table. They did their best to exit the bed without disturbing her, and were successful. Yezu was already completely out.

Jalae walked over to a cabinet, unlocked it, and pulled an orb off a stand. They then walked over to the nest sphere and put a hand into it. Moments later they pulled out another orb out and set it down on a nearby stand. They then hopped into the nest.

They emerged as a new Aspect. This one bore some similarities to a Suyen including the similar pair of horns, but they were much taller, had a longer tail with a large spearhead tip, and green spotted skin. They also had a shape much more in the form of a humanoid woman.

They swiftly dressed and exited the room. A crew member happened to be passing by and acknowledged them, “Greetings, Lady Obmunjalae!”