



Reflection of the Renegade

Prologue

“The brainless human believes he can outwit me. What do you think about that?” The question was not posed expecting an answer.

Barney turned his grubby head around in a semi-circular motion managing not to drip any of his oily excretions on the Jinn. Lucky for Barney, he would live to see another day.

“The doltish fool is actually ruminating on possible ways to prevent the inevitable. Unbelievably amazing how ludicrous that is, don’t you think?” He pounded his fist against the wall of the small tight compartment that could be considered more of a jail than a room.

Barney pecked at his slimy undercarriage oblivious to the Jinn’s building malevolence, while one of his thickened, horny, hooklike claws became temporarily pinioned under his left long, pointed wing.

“What kind of imbecile would try to impede progress? What manner of lamebrain moron would believe they could hold a candle to our brilliance? The Captain could turn him to dust with the flicker of an eyelash. He could pulverize him with one mere word!”

“Changes are coming, I’m saying and they are coming quickly. No ordinary human can stop them. And that outdated monstrosity of flesh and metal that calls itself Teacher and King will soon discover he has outlived his time.”

The Jinn continued to froth and fume as he added the final finishing touches to the gloomy, abysmal chamber that would soon house his prey.

“The Captain will be a ruler like none other, mark my words. His queen wife will adorn him and compliment him as the prize that she is. The People will finally understand what they have been missing and how exposed they have become. The Captain will lead them out of the

darkness and when he *finally* makes me whole, I will be anointed prince. I will sit at his right hand upon the throne of gold. What do you think about that?"

Barney's red, beady eyes blazed ---- providing the only light in the midst of the darkness.

With his claw finally untethered he was now wired for sound.

"Brawck," he squealed.