

Mirror, Mirror¹

Marick Tyris idly twirled a slender knife between his fingers. Thin strands of raven hair whipped across his face as repulsor engines roared and the transport shuttle lifted off from the landing pad. Too-blue eyes followed the shuttle until it disappeared on the horizon, leaving the Voice of the Brotherhood alone on the ruins of Antei with the whispers and ghosts of the past.

“Why does it feel like night today?”² Marick’s lilted words turned lyrical without him fully realizing it. He was too focused on why he had come to this place, but continued to sing-speak to no one in particular. “Something in here’s not right today. Why am I so uptight today? Paranoia’s all I got left...”³

The Dark Side permeated from the abandoned void of a planet. Marick kept his guard up. He heard a shuffling of footsteps from behind him and quickly whipped around and hurled the knife in his hands into the would be target. The blade whizzed through the arid air like a silver bullet, clattering right through a shadowy apparition that took the form of a humanoid with long hair and a lean figure.

The Force Wraith was all twisted shadow and dark hues. It’s eyes, however, were a fluorescent violet that glowed with hatred. When it spoke, it’s voice radiated like a ballad on the wind.

“You’ve been...crawling in the dark, looking for the answers,” the ghostly voice exclaimed.. “Is there something more? Than what you’ve been handed?”⁴

Marick called the molded hilt of his lightsaber to his hand and snapped the ultraviolet blade to life. The Wraith mimicked the motion, a similar blade of pure darkness forming.

The Hapan darted forward, his strikes careful and measured as he began to circle the Force Wraith. It’s motions once again mimicked him as it started to circle in the opposite direction. When Marick struck, the Wraith parried. When the raith riposted, Marick parried.

“It’s like you’re my mirror.”⁵

“Wo-oh!”⁶ the Wraith wailed. As it continued to copy Marick’s movements and attacks.

“My mirror...staring back at me⁷,” the Adept intoned as he tried to think of a strategy that would

¹ “Mirror Mirror” - Casey Lee Williams

² “Papercut” - Linkin Park

³ “Papercut” - Linkin Park

⁴ “Crawling In The Dark” - Hoobastank

⁵ “Mirror” - Justin Timberlake

⁶ “Mirror” - Justin Timberlake

⁷ “Mirror” - Justin Timberlake

help him defeat this darker, mirrored version of himself. This was the rival he had to face? That he had seen in his visions? If he could figure out a way to fight back against it, perhaps he would be able to sleep again at night.

Anger and frustration poured out of the Adept as he fell into the Force, letting the Dark Side fuel his muscles to hasten his movements.

*Faster, Faster. Gotta go faster*⁸, a voice sung in his head. Marick continued to attack and spin and whirl and slash.

*Power...get more power!*⁹

His fury swelled as he felt as he struck a power chord in his heart and let it roar from the depths of his chest.

“AND I WILL NEVER KNOW, MYSELF UNTIL I DO THIS ON MY OWN,” Marick’s lilted voice bellow in defiance. “AND I WILL NEVER FEEL, ANYTHING ELSE, UNTIL MY WOUNDS ARE HEALED. I WILL NEVER BE¹⁰...” his voice trailed off as understanding washed over him.

“Anything, until I break away from me. And I will break away, and find myself today...” Marick Tyris felt the revelation course through his bones. He felt a certain weight lift from his shoulders. He breathed.

When he looked up, the Force Wraith was gone. He was alone on what remained of Antei. He had put the past behind him, and was ready to move along¹¹.

⁸ “Gotta Go Faster” - Sonic X Theme Song

⁹ “One Punch Man Theme Song (The Hero)” - Jonathan Young

¹⁰ “Somewhere I Belong” - Linkin Park

¹¹ “Move Along” - All American Rejects